

(1) Number of pages 54

(2) Date of repair 27 6 46

(3) Initials of the Referencer Sy

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 301

Press
Mis.

Dated 4-3-

1879.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

N. 1083

Kistna District Collector's Office
Masulipatam 29th May 1877

From

The Collector of Kistna

(District)

To

The Superintendent Government
Central Museum

Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to reply
to your letter N. 25 dated 30th Jan'y 1877

2. There are, besides the 2 stones
of which mention was made in G.O.
dated 1st (December 1872 N. 1639 P.O.),
4 more stones (in the compound
of the late Mr. Alexander's house)
embellished by Annamate sculptures
which therefore are worthy of a place
in the Museum.

3. The stones are very heavy
and, it is said, cannot be moved
to the place of shipment by coolies
or ordinary country bandies. I refer

to

to have a special truck constructed
for the purpose at a cost of Rs 150 or
so and Rs 50 are required to pay to
coolies or bullocks to drag the truck
and for the boat charges.

4. The steamer hire is Rs 15 per
ton measurement or Rs 10 weight.)
All the 6 stones weight weigh 5 or 6 tons.

5. I cannot make an estimate of
the charges required for conveying the
stones from the landing place at Maras
to the Museum.

6. The cost here would probably
be under Rs 200.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant,

Yours truly G. P. Serran,

Collector

1 True Copy

Delivered by Surgeon Major
Lieut Col C. Museum,

141

Government C. Museum
Madras 10th January 1878

From

Surgeon Major G. Bidie M.B.
Suplt Government C. Museum

To

The Chief Secy to Government,
Public Department,
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honour to submit
the following subject for the consideration
and orders of His Grace the Governor
in Council.

2. In the past year Messrs
Arbutnot & Co informed me, that,
there were certain sculptured Marbles

* Fully described
with illustrations
in "Tiger's Den"
"The & Defiant"
"Moralist"

belonging to the now famous
Buddhist Temple of Amravati*

in the Garden of the late
Mr. Alexander at Maoulipatam, which
they had the power to sell, and they
further

Recd 1 with 17

By 12 301

213 76

In P. L. No 48/78

further enquired whether I could care
to acquire them for the Museum.

3. On receiving this application
I took measures to ascertain the
recent history of these Marbles, knowing
that they must originally have been
the property of Government as forming
part of the ancient ruin at Ammanat,
and have now to submit the following
Memorandum:

4. About the year 1830 Mr. Robertson
then Collector of Mesopotamia founded
a Pethah there, and to beautify it
brought over from Ammanat some
of the Marbles, which were deposited
in the square of the market place.
Subsequently as the Marbles were
exposed to injury in so public a place,
they were handed over by Mr. Goldingham,
acting Collector, to Mr. Alexander for
safe Custody, but in a letter under date
the 31st August 1833, now before me,
Mr. Goldingham says, "but so far as
they

they are public property, I had no
power to make them over absolutely, and
Mr. Alexander must be prepared to deliver
them up on the requisition of Government."

5. Some time in 1854 an application
was made to have the Marbles brought
down to the Museum, but Mr. Alexander
refused to give them up. By subsequent
negotiations he was induced to alter this
decision to the extent, that provided
he were permitted to retain 3 of the stones,
he would consent to the removal of the
remainder. This will be found recorded
in Minutes of Consultation, No 486 of
13th April 1855, and His Lordship
in Council in the same Proceedings
rules, that "Mr. Alexander may be allowed
to keep these latter" (viz. the 3 stones)
"provided he agrees ultimately to make
them also over to Government."

6. The next stage of this transaction
is recorded in Minutes of Consultation
No 158 of 15th December 1855, from which
it

it appears, that Mr. Alexander having seen the order of 13th April was induced to claim a permanent right to 3 of the stones in his custody, and to refuse to give up the others unless this claim were satisfied. Accordingly in the same minutes the Right Honorable the Governor in Council considering that the stones had been left in Mr. Alexander's custody "in such a manner as to lead him to look on them as his property, permitted him to retain the 3 Marbles in question, on the understanding that they are a gift on the part of Government"

7. With the exception of these 3 then the remainder of the Marbles, then in Mr. Alexander's custody, were ultimately given up by him and reached the Museum in 1856. There they remained until September 1859 when, with the exception of 2 rather poor specimens now in the Museum, they were under Government Order No. 1143

of 15th September 1858 and Government Order No. 1360 of 5th September 1859 despatched to H. M. Secretary of State for India, and lodged in the India Museum.

8. It now remains to give such further information as I possess regarding the Marbles and other ancient remains collected in Mr. Alexander's garden, and which Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. offer for sale. The following is the description of them forwarded by Captain Richardson, Master Attendant, to Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. "There is another matter that you may not have any knowledge of, and you might unwittingly cause a great loss to the present owner by allowing the purchaser to get possession of some rare curiosities in the compound of the house. Mr. Alexander, the late Master Attendant at this Port, got possession of some of the Annamite carved stones about sixty years ago & spoken of in Walter Elliott's account of the Annamite Marbles. (I send you

a Photo of Two of them taken by Mr.
Hamington our late District Judge;—
which you will be kind enough to return
to me, as they are the only copies I have).
These stones are of more value than the
House, and therefore ought to be excluded
from the sale. There are several fragments
about the ground and two very perfect
figures in Black stone of Two female
Busts with four arms, used as Idols
of Worship in Native Temples. (De la Harpe
told me that those two figures were
very ancient, long before Christ or
Buddhist worship. The very fine
inscription which you will observe on
one of the prominent edges at the upper
part of the square Stone cannot be
deciphered in this Country. The
Language is not Sanscrit nor any
other known language. You will
observe a break in the centre of the
line from damage to the Stone therefore
the Inscription is not continuous;
I will be happy to afford you any
information in any power and
assist

assist you bringing the sale if carried out
to a profitable conclusion for the present owner.
When writing to you yesterday about the
Carved Stones in my Compound, I
forgot to give you the size as depicted in
the Photo. The square Stone is represented
as standing 5 feet out of the ground by
6 feet broad. The tall stone is 7 feet out
of the ground by 3 feet broad. They are
both sunk some distance in the
ground and are both very heavy, some ten tons
or more. On receipt of the above I consulted
the Collector as to the condition of the
Marbles, and was informed in a private
note, that "judging from the Photographs
in the Tree & Serpent worship I should
say they are quite as good as any at
home."

9. From another letter, copy of
which is appended, it will be observed
that besides the three presented by
Government there are on Mr. Alexander's
premises 3 other specimens of Amaravati
Marbles. How these latter came into his
possession does not appear, but I trust
that

that Government will see fit to institute such restrictions as will in future prevent the risk of unauthorized abstraction and appropriation of these valuable remains.

10. In addition to the above there are, as I gather from Capt. Richardson's Memo quoted in para 8, two figures "in black stone of two female busts with few arms used as idols of worship in native temples." Altogether there appear to be 6 Annamite Marbles and the two human figures in black stone, together with some fragments.

11. At an early stage of the correspondence with Messrs Arbuthnot & Co. they were asked to name the price of the several articles. They replied "we do not know what they are worth. We are, however, ready to accept the valuation that may be put upon them by any person competent to estimate their value." Prior to this the Collector had been asked to give an estimate of the probable charges for

for packing and shipping the marbles, in case of their purchase by Government. From his letter which accompanies this it will be seen, that he estimates the shipping charges at Rupees 200, including the provision of a special truck to carry the stones to the boats. He further mentions that the probable weight of the whole will be from 5 to 6 tons, and that freight will be at the rate of Rupees 10 per ton - say Rupees 60 for the entire consignment. The total charges for shipping and freight to Madras would therefore be about Rupees 260, & a further charge would be incurred for landing the stones at Madras and conveying them to the Museum. This would, however, be less than at Masulipatam as there would be no necessity for building a special truck. The heaviest stone is said to weigh 2 tons.

12. I have now the honor to recommend that the Marbles & other antiquities specified be purchased by

by Government for the Museum, and
that in accordance with the arrange-
ment proposed by Major Arthur H. H.
Bell Shaw Stewart, R. E. Mr. Christy
or some other competent officer be asked
to fix their value. If purchased, I would
recommend that before shipment,
each article be closely enveloped with
straw ropes, and that the straw covering
be again secured with a dense outer
network of Coir ropes. This would I
think be sufficient to protect them
from injury during transit, and the
Master Attendant Madras might be
asked to make special arrangements
for landing and transport to
the Museum.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant,

Edie M. J. S. J. S. J. S.
Supt. Genl. Central Museum

Feb. 1898. *W. J. F. and F. W. J.*
W. J. F. and F. W. J.

11

George Meigs Esq. W. Va.
 Dept of Agriculture
 Wash D.C.

The Chief dep. to General
 Meigs Dept of War
 Wash D.C.

(Book 110) } Exam. my 1898
Dec 16 }
(81 One hundred)

No. 48. Dear Madam

Reporting that there is
in the compound of
the late Mr Alexander,
Friendship, certain doubts
in relation to his conduct,
I am informed to sell,
I recommending those
by gone in the Kingdom of
valued by your confident
person, &c.

28
Madras 2^d December 1878

Dr George Bidie
Madras

Dear Sir,

re Estate of W. A. Alexander, deceased

With reference to previous correspondence, we shall feel much obliged if you will let us know whether there is any probability of your making us on behalf of Government, an offer for the sculptured marbles lying at Masulipatanam.

The Administrator of the Estate has closed his accounts some time ago, and we should be glad to be rid of the marbles for what they will fetch.

We request the favor of an early ^{reply} as, if you are not in a position to make us any offer for the marbles, we shall tell the people at Masulipatanam to dispose of them locally.

We are &c

(Signed) Subbuthur

Agents for the Administrator

(True Copy)

Bidie Esq Surgeon Major

British Mount Central Museum

Line 1 in v. 13
P. 8 v. 13 581
m. 3. 79

L. M. H. 25-17/14

N^o 332

Government Central Museum
Madras 4th December 1878

From

Surgeon Major G. Bidie M. B.
Supt. Government Central Museum

To

The Chief Secy to Government
Public Department

Sir,

In continuation of my
letter N^o 11 of the 10th January 1878 I have
the honour to submit a further com-
munication from Mr. Subbuthi & Co.
stating, that if no offer be made by
Government for the sculptured marbles
of Annamati &c. belonging to the estate
of the late Mr. Alexander of Masulipatan
they will be obliged to dispose of them
locally.

2

With reference to this I need
hardly say that it would be an
incalculable loss if these valuable

Budha

Buddhist remains were allowed to pass
again into private hands, as they would
most likely be bought by some specu-
lator and sent out of the country.

3. I therefore take the liberty of
suggesting, that Mr. Sewell Assistant
Collector in the Kistna District,
who takes a great interest in such
remains, be asked to inspect the
marbles and fix their value, and
that Government give the price
named by him. If not convenient
to have them sent to the Museum
at present the stones might then
for the time being be left under the
charge of the Collector of the District.

4. I have further to solicit
early orders to enable me to reply,
to Messrs. Abbott and Co.

Yours truly,
Wm. the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,

Edie Prof. Sargent,

Superintendent Central Museum

Julius 1898 J. Frankfort
Herrmannsd. - Herrmannsd.

10332

John

Stephen May Jr. - 18 Dec. 1888

To the Chief Clerk to Congress
Mr. John C. Calhoun

Oct 14. } Oct 15. }
1875 }
du Godefride

Delivering orders on
previous letter regarding
Awarake bundles for
date of receipt of same.

8/1

157
2
Madras, 26th Feby 1879.

D^r George Bidie,

Sup^t Govt Central Museum

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter of
28th December last, and our reply of
the 3rd Ultimo, we have to inform you
that we have now received through our
Hong Kong correspondents authority
to accept the offer of Rs. 200 which
you have made to us on behalf of
Government for the purchase of the
sculptured Marbles at Masulipatam
appertaining to the estate of the late
D^r H. A. Alexander.

Please let us know how soon
we may expect arrangements to be
made for the removal of the Marbles
from their present position, and for
the payment to us of their purchase
value.

Would it not be well that
some Government Official in the
district

district should be instructed to take
over charge of the stone at once.

We are &c

/Signed/ Arthur Hunt

/True copy/

Didie M. Seymour
Suplt Genl C. Museum.

End 1 in 4019
PE 40 301
4.3.79

2/11/79 4.3.79

1880

Government Central Museum
Madras 28th February 1879

From,

Surgeon Major G. P. Bidie M.B.
Supt. Government Central Museum

To The Chief Secy to Government,
Public Department

Sir,

With reference to your D.O.
dated 23rd December 1878. I have the
honour to report to His Grace the
Governor in Council, that Messrs. Abuttham
have agreed to accept the sum of Rupees
200 for the Annamate Marbles ~~belonging~~
to the estate of the late Mr. Alexander
at Manipalams.

2. According to the estimate of
the Collector of the District the charge
for shipping and forwarding the
Marbles to Madras would amount
to about Rupees 200, & I have to
recommend that they be brought
down as early as possible, as they
have

31
have already suffered damage from
being unprotected.

3. Pending their removal
I have to solicit that the Collector
be asked to take charge of them.

4. The sanction of Government
is now required for the purchase
money viz. Rupees 200, & for shipping
& freight on presentation of bills. a
Copy of Messrs Arbuthnot & Co's letter
is attached.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant,

Edie M. Sengupta,
Supt. Government C. Museum.

No. 48.

From

The Sup^t & Ex^t Central American

Dated

10 Aug. 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

Signature Sultan

there is much work in
buying these specimens
for transport to Madras.

Imagines there are
about 5 specimens still
at Annapolis belonging
to Gov. & State. I
like to see it on the
restoration of the healthy
& true orig. position &
the maintenance of the type, as
there is restoration as

Substantive

1991

Feb 11 1879 A. J. J. J. J.

Government of Prussia

1880

St. Louis,

Surgeon Major G. A. D. H. H.

Smith Cent. C. Museum

My kind regards to Aunt

The U.S. Department of Justice

Dated 28th Feby 1899

Hands Reporting that are

offered to purchase 2000 lbs

the President

troubles have been accepted

My Dear - Schubert has not yet

solidifying directions for

that I have met as well as

Shipping Forwarding

charged

21-11

Chapman

paraprosopon & the
right form
right
get a rubbing of the
inscription from
Barnes - 1/2

35-

No 119

Charger

Purchase of a stone
Sculptured Marble man
at Manly for
the Museum

FOR ORDERS.

31

copy
2/11/11

Changin

Council

Let India or
Ling & Co. to
Black & Co. and
as posted account
for the India
(to be sent to the
(K) the India
and to be

Government Central Museum
Madras 19 Dec 1878

My dear Sir,
In compliance
with your letter of the 17th
inst. regarding the Anura-
tha Marbles now lying
in the Museum, I yes-
terday saw one of the
firm of Messrs. H. & J. H. H.
Hoy, & found that James
I think they would be
willing to accept Rs 200
for the Marbles.

Chapman

which consists of
6 Amurati carved
marbles, 2 figures
in black stone & several
fragments. This I
think would be fair
value for the collection.
The lower of these is
which the artist
has standing & can
be used to a statue.
The lower of these is
very in effect.
The sale stipulated

that the stones should
remain there until
they could be conve-
niently removed.

Yours truly
Diedie

C. G. Martin Esq

Wang

R.D. 2517 to Dr. Bidie

19 Dec 78

Thinks that
Arbutus
is accept Rs
200 for the
Amravati
marbles.

Sanction

Mr 2/12

Arbutus
Arbutus
Arbutus

Crop
23/12

23 Dec. 1878.

My dear Dr. Bidie.

The Govt. authorize you
to arrange for purchase of
the Amravati marbles at
Masulipatam for Rs. 200.
Report officially that you
have done so, and formal
sanction will be given.

Yrs. truly.

Sd/ C. G. Master.

Chicago

22nd Dec
13.6.1878 8.11.10

270 to Surgeon
Major G. Bidie.

8/23/12.

Authorizing him
to arrange with
Messrs. Arthur
Co. for the pur-
-chase of the
Ancient Marbles

Public DEPARTMENT.

No. 2517

From The Supt. of the Central Museum.

Dated 4th Dec. 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

Chapin

had no matter.

for a person

as the matter

the two will

2nd 17/12

FOR ORDERS.

Comme

Public

4 March 1877 No 301

C 14/12

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from

*the Superintendent, Government Central
Museum, D. N. 4 Dec 1878 & 28 February 1879,
No 332 & 80.*

Order thereon, 4 March 1877 No 301.

*His Grace the
Governor in Council sanc-
tions the purchase of the
Amaravati Marbles see
at Masulipatam for the
sum of Rs (200) two
hundred - and also the
estimated charges (Rs 26)
for shipping and forwarding
the Marbles to Madras.*

*2. The collector of
the*

the Kistna District will
be requested to take
charge of the Marbles
pending their removal.

To The Supdt. Govt. Central
Museum
6 " Collector of the Kistna
Dist.
6 " Accountant General.

W.A. 20/2/24

35/- 20/2/24

Obdt. of 1879 Madras.
Public

To

Dated 4th }
Recd. } Madras 1879, No. 301

Nos. 17-20

Museums - The purchase
of the Annavadi Madras
the at Maudipatam for
Rs 200 and also the es-
-timated charges (Rs 260)
for shipping forwarding
the mangles to Madras
sanctioned. *