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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	475	Press.
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R.D.
FEB 81

No. 216

Madras
February 1st 1881

To The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George.

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Sir -

In Paragraphs 30.31. of my letter of the 24th December 1877 to Government concerning my First Report on the Antiquities of the Ristna, and printed at the Commencement of G.O. No. 1820 of 1st November 1878, I advocated the removal of certain of the Amaravati Marbles to the Central Museum Madras, and was directed, in Para 4 of the order thereon, to report on the suggestion of His Grace the Governor in Council.

2. I replied by letter No. 52 of 29th Jan^y 1879 from the Ristna, printed with G.O. No. 259 of 24th February 1879 - and proposed to remove certain marbles out of position from the Top at Amaravati, float them by river to Bezwada, add to them the marbles belonging to the Top which lie in the library at Bezwada, and send the whole to Madras by the Buckingham Canal. I proposed to cover the remaining marbles unearthed by me at the Top with earth; and thus, leaving no marbles exposed, dispense with the necessity for retaining the services of a watcher.

3. Now, however, things are altered, and watchers must be employed. I would therefore not propose at present to remove any marbles at all from the site of the Top at Amaravati.

4. When I closed my work in the Ristna I sent in a statement of accounts by which it appeared (G.O. 787 of 20th May 1879. Para 2) that there remained, out of the Rs. 1000 originally granted to me, a sum of Rs. 172.0.11; and Govt. were pleased to direct that the marbles should be sent to Madras, the expense being met from this balance, and no more were added, from the second Rs. 1000 asked for from the Government of India.

5. Some correspondence also took place with reference to the removal of the marbles in the late Gen. Alexander's Compound at Madhavaram, which removal was definitely ordered. Subsequently, however, - I presume because the excavations carried out at Amaravati proved more costly than was anticipated - the removal of the marbles to Madras was counter-ordered. I have not got a copy of this order, but I believe such was the case.

DISPOSED OF

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BY S.O. N.

6. I have now the honour to make the ⁴⁷⁵/₂ following suggestion. It is clear that all the marbles at Amaravati must be allowed to remain here till a competent Archaeologist can inspect them. But there can be no good gained by leaving the marbles already removed, scattered about the country. There are 2 already at the Madras Museum - 2 at Manipal in the late Mr. Alexander's Collection & recently purchased by Government - and ²⁵ at Bezvada. At Bezvada also lie the 2 statues of Buddha in marble discovered early in 1879. (See pgs 55-61 of my "Report on the Amaravati Temple," and the concluding portion of my Supplementary Report now being printed). I recommend that the whole of these, the ²⁷ sculptured stones and 2 statues, be as soon as possible transferred to the Central Museum at Madras. The marbles at Amaravati will undoubtedly follow them hereafter, and they will at the Museum be open to inspection by many who cannot journey to the Krishna District.

7. The cost would not be much if the Engineering Department could provide an iron punt, free of rent, for their removal, and the expenditure could be readily met from the Rs. 15,000 sanctioned for Archaeological Purposes in the current year. The preservation of these marbles, so many of which have been ruined & lost, is of the last importance. We have left to us now only a quarter, if so much, of the sculptures originally in existence; and the value of these is simply incalculable. The marbles at Manipal & Bezvada are mostly in far superior preservation to those in England, & after arrival at Madras they should be accurately photographed to scale and the results sent to England.

8. I would respectfully urge, ^{that} immediate orders be issued to the Collector of the Krishna to place on one of the D.P.W. iron punts the marbles at Manipal, - send them by canal to Bezvada, - there ~~to~~ add to them the 25 sculptures & 2 statues at Bezvada, & send the whole at once by the Buckingham Canal to Madras under charge of a responsible public servant. The canal now contains ample water which it will not do later on; and funds are available.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

R. S. S. S.

(On Special Duty)

2. This sanction does
not authorize any
interference with
marbles

175
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marbles still at

Amravati itself.

147
213.97

R. Sewell Esq. C.
The Collector of Khar

12/1/14
to

Copies by
Rammam

Govt. of {188 } Madras.

To

Dated

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BY G. O. W. 175
[Signature]

Under Disposal Docket.

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X 216 of 1881

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In 23/13
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