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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	609B	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29-4-1881.	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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CC 94
Madras
4th April 1881

To S. O. Maclean Esq.
Under Secy: to the Madras Govt.
CURRENT No. 786

I beg respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of your reply to my letter of the 13th ultimo contained in Order thereon No 436 d/29th March 1881; and a printed enclosure of the Proceedings of the Madras Government d/29 April 1880, No 618 touching Archaeology.

2. - With all deference to the opinions therein endorsed I beg respectfully to offer mine, and trust that the liberty taken may be pardoned; my object in giving them is consequent on what I have observed in archaeological investigations.

3. - The 1st point I wish to bring to the notice and for the consideration of the Madras Govt, is the moderate expense I observe in the G.O. para 2 of paying a monthly amount of 1800 Rupees inclusive to establish a Survey Office for such a large extent of area as the Madras Presidency. The 2nd point is that in Archaeological Surveys the taking of inscriptions and drawing up translations, as stated in para 6 of the G.O. in my humble opinion may be dispensed with. That an Archaeological Surveyor is required to do is not all decreencies of inscriptions on stones, coins, &c. of such weight, he should take up; but heavy blocks &c. bearing inscriptions which cannot be so manipulated be copied; both these should be forwarded to London to be examined and reported on by the State Official deputed there to investigate these matters. This system should be adopted which in my opinion combines cheapness with expedition, for the labor

labor account on the side - only but it is wrong to
investigation which through the efforts of a single
officer deputed to the Madras Govt. Government would
extend over a long period of time, and at the
end of 2 years probably nothing of any consequence
to the satisfaction of the Govt. and antiquarian
would come to justify the large sum of money
Rs 15000 + 600 for the period of 2 years.

4. - The Archaeological investigations for such a
vast area cannot be done hastily, & would in
my opinion be next to an impossibility. Such
periodical reports could be submitted in a labor-
factory nature by a single individual, as requir-
ed in para 4 of the G.O., for it is a known fact
that in a work of this nature none but many
transpires are our discoveries are made.

5. - The discovery of ancient coins will occupy
a deal of research: this was what I proposed
to undertake in my last letter. The nature of other
matters of importance.

Taking together all the difficulties which
known are to be met with in Archaeological sur-
veys. I beg respectfully to suggest that instead
of the Madras Govt. deputing a single Officer for
such an important work 5 or 6 be engaged in
distinctive divisions of the Presidency. When also
the expectations of the Government and that of
the antiquarian public will be fully realized
and the amount of money expended in such survey
while within the space of 2 years the valuable
information furnished including the discoveries
made would not only tend to justify the
expense but also enrich the Govt. in every way.

6. - With reference to para 2 of the G.O.
Tombani

6098

Tombani the Govt. of India up to the Govt. of Madras -
"that only the actual expenses incurred could be de-
frayed, no salary being allowed." This in my opinion
is correct, and I feel confident that if several per-
sons were engaged for the above survey the actual
expenses of each of them (say for India) be only Rs 300
inclusive of all contingencies.

7. - With regards to the discoveries of copper
plate inscriptions, measure trees &c., that may
be discovered in old fortresses, buildings, wells &c.,
and about which no information can possibly be ob-
tained from the inhabitants in their vicinity, note
has been said in the G.O.: such will require keen
investigation and individual search, and the
inhabitants, even if they were to know, would not
give any clue or the slightest information.

8. - The Archaeological Surveyor needs not to pos-
sess a knowledge of languages as stated as re-
quired, but in para 3 of G.O. Archaeological
inscriptions are more the comprehension of the natives;
the interpretation of which rests as stated above
by the Official in London who is deputed to exam-
ine, and report on such matters.

9. - I beg respectfully to state that were I depu-
ted to undertake an Archaeological Survey of
H. B. The Vizianagaram dominions in the Deccan - to
explore which is my proposition - which will cost
only a few lines from the British Resident Sir
Mervyn Bates to H. B. Sir Salarjung and the
Regent; their excellencies would be most happy
to accede in the proposal and accede to the
request.

I beg respectfully to state that I guarantee
that

labor accounts otherwise, and tend to prolong the investigation which through the efforts of a single Officer deputed by the Madras Govt. obviously would extend over a long period of time, and at the end of 2 years, probably nothing of any consequence to the expectations of the Govt. and antiquarians would remain to justify the large sum of Rs. 15,000 + 600 for the period of 2 years.

4. - The Archaeological investigations for such a vast area cannot be done hastily, it would in my opinion be next to an impossibility that periodical reports could be submitted of a satisfactory nature by a single individual, as required in para 4 of the G.O., for it is a human fact that in a work of this nature, months may transpire ere any discoveries are made.

5. - The discovery of ancient coins will occupy a deal of research: this was what I proposed to undertake in my last letter in lieu of other matters of importance.

Taking together all the difficulties which I know are to be met with in Archaeological Surveys, I beg respectfully to suggest that instead of the Madras Govt. deputing a single Officer for such an important work, 5 or 6 be engaged in the expectations of the Government, when also the Antiquarian Public will be fully satisfied, and the amount of money disbursed would be commensurate for the labor expended in such survey, while within the space of 2 years the valuable information furnished including the discoveries made, would not only tend to justify the expenditure, but also enrich the Govt. in every way.

6. - With reference to para 2 of the G.O. touching

touching the Govt. of India up to the Govt. of Madras - "that only the actual expenses incurred could be defrayed, no salary being allowed" this in my opinion is correct, and I feel confident that if several persons were engaged for the above survey the actual expenses of each of them (say for India) be only Rs. 300 inclusive of all contingencies.

7. - With regards to the discoveries of copper & stone inscriptions, treasure troves &c., that may be discovered in old fortresses, buildings, Wells &c., and about which no information can possibly be obtained from the inhabitants in their vicinity, nothing has been said in the G.O.: such will require keen investigation and individual search, and the inhabitants, even if they were to know, would not give any clue or the slightest information.

8. - The Archaeological Surveyor needs not to possess a knowledge of languages as stated in the regulations, but in para 3 of G.O. Archaeological inscriptions are more the comprehension of the natives, the interpretation of which rests as stated above by the Official in London who is deputed to examine, and report on such matters.

9. - I beg respectfully to state that were I deputed to undertake an Archaeological Survey of H. H. The Nizam's dominions in the Deccan - to explore which is my proposition - which will cost only a few lines from the British Resident Sir Stewart Bayley to H. E. Sir Salasjung and the British Agent; their excellencies would be most happy to accede in the proposal and accede to the request.

I beg respectfully to state that I guarantee that

6E 9H
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that our about 10 is the June next. I will
be able to discover and yield up being the
memorial and other antiquated curiosities.
The only expenses need being the 300 in the
some inclusion of all contemporary, and I
stipulate that I be given a reasonable share
of the value of the treasures I discover.

After this, on the same amount, I will
undertake the examination of old fortresses,
temples, grave yards, etc., with a view to the
most real archaeological curiosities in this
domain.

In conclusion I beg that the Indian Govt
will give this letter the consideration it
merits as coming from one who has been
long deeply interested in the subject.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours most obedt servant

Edwin

J. Ed. Stearns

1906-25. 1000
1000. 1000
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Public (1881) DEPARTMENT.
/Archaeology/

Order. 29 April 1881 No. 1000
Mr Edelstein will be informed
that the appointment of
Archaeological Officer in the
Museum's Dominion is not
in the power of the M.D. Jot.

1000
24
1000
1000

From Edelstein
DISPOSED
37
No. 2

Dated 9th April 1881
Recd. 15th

No.
CURRENT No. 706

SUBJECT.

Requesting the ap-
-pointed Archaeological
for research in
offices, ~~but not in the~~
M.D. the Museum's
-museums -

Mr T. Edelstein 29/4/81

Withheld

In 23-4-81
R 24-4-81