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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 473	Press ~~Mis.~~
<i>encl</i>	
Dated	30. 6- 1882

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From Surgeon-Major G. BIDIE, M.B., Superintendent, Government Central Museum, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 23rd June 1882, No. 558.

In continuation of my letter, recorded in G.O., No. 183, of the 22nd March 1882, I have the honor to state that thirty-six packages of marbles and fragments from Amarávati have arrived at the Museum. Beyond ascertaining their condition and dimensions I have not taken any special steps for exhibiting them, as it was deemed advisable to await the arrival of another larger consignment now at Bezváda, which Dr. Burgess informed me will be sent down as soon as the canals are open.

2. The slabs received consist of two or three kinds of marble, one being fine and uniformly close grained and of a very pale grey color, another of coarser grain, unequal quality, and darker color, and a third of a somewhat slate-like structure. All the finer and more elaborate carvings are executed in the first-named stone. It is very durable, but has got highly brittle from age, so that contact with iron or even hard wood causes it to chip, rendering it necessary to exercise great care in handling the slabs. The second kind is not so brittle, but being of unequal quality, the softer parts have got worn down, giving the surface an aged, granulated appearance. The third or slate-like stone appears to be very durable, and the slabs executed in it are those which Fergusson speaks of as having belonged to the lower frieze of the outer rail.

3. The collection of marbles referred to consists, according to the invoice received, (a) of a number of slabs and two statues, all from Amarávati, which have for years been lying in the Bezváda Museum; (b) of a series of Amarávati carvings purchased in behalf of Government* at Masulipatam; and (c) of a small collection called Chinna Ganjam and Pedda Ganjam stones.

G.O. No. 301, of 4th March 1879.

4. Of the whole collection the marbles purchased at Masulipatam are by far the finest and most valuable specimens to hand, and one of them is superior to anything hitherto recovered from the ruins, and is not likely to be surpassed by any future discovery. The invoice number of this valuable relic is 8, and its dimensions are length 6 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, breadth 5 feet $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and thickness 9 inches. It is executed in the compact pale grey marble, the carvings being in bold relief, most elaborate and sharp as those in a piece of Chinese ivory work. In the centre it contains a large figure of a Dagoba, having on each side two pillars of exquisite design. At the top of the slab there is a frieze with a ledge at the bottom bearing an inscription. This unfortunately has been partially removed by rude hasty chipping, the thief having evidently been disturbed before he could complete his act of vandalism, as portions of the inscription still exist at each end of the ledge. The above remarks merely refer to the obverse of the slab, as I have not yet seen the reverse, being unwilling to disturb it, as it is so brittle, until it is finally moved to be set up in the Museum. It may be stated here, in passing, that the idea is to erect it in an antique frame of stone-work,

like a picture, but in a position to allow both sides to be seen and examined. In Plate 75 of Fergusson's *Tree and Serpent Worship* (1st Edition), the figure of a somewhat similar marble is given, and he believes that it formed part of the inner rail of the tope. However this may be, there can be no doubt that this slab was intended to give an exact and everlasting picture of the magnificent Dagoba to which it belonged, and whether contemplated from an antiquarian or architectural point of view its value therefore can hardly be over-estimated.

5. Another stone, belonging to the Masulipatam series, is 9 feet $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by 2 feet 11 inches in breadth, and 1 foot $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. Like the one referred to in paragraph 4 it is elaborately carved and also consists of the fine but brittle quality of marble. It was evidently one of the pillars of the larger enclosing rail, but it is impossible to say what was its original length, as a portion of the top has been broken off. It is with regret also that I mention that in other respects it is greatly injured, the carvings in many places being sadly defaced.

6. The Marble No. 16 on the list is also an interesting one, and in very good preservation. It is made of the coarser weather-worn stone, and has suffered very little from wanton injury. It is one of the stones said by Fergusson to have formed the external frieze of the outer enclosure, and the chief ornament is the long waved serpent-like flower roll, borne by human figures. One of the latter is of the type, so frequently repeated, which Fergusson calls the "dwarf," and is a squat figure of great strength with Negrito-like features and hair. In fact I am inclined to think that these dwarf-like figures, which are so common on the Amaravati marbles, although partly caricatures, are intended to represent the aborigines of the country. In some of these tribes traces of the Negrito-type are still to be seen, notwithstanding the great admixture of races that has been going on for centuries in Southern India.

7. The other slabs received consist chiefly of portions of upright pillars, pieces of sculpture belonging apparently to the main building, and a variety of discs, some of which are crowded with human figures representing scenes from the life of Buddha, &c., and others ornamented with concentric circles of the "water-leaf" pattern of architects. Although in the latter form of disc there is a certain uniformity of design still the details vary in the most marvellous way, and the outer circle of the whole is frequently ornamented with flowers which can be identified. Strange to say in a large number of instances the central boss of the disc, which is always quite plain, has been knocked out leaving the rest intact. Why the hand of the destructionist should have been specially directed against this part of the disc, it is impossible to divine. Perhaps there was some sectarian idea connected with it, and if so we know to what extent that may inspire those holding opposite views. As already mentioned there are a great many fragments, some of which, however, contain portions of interesting scenes, and are well worth careful preservation.

8. As mentioned in paragraph 1, I have deferred taking any steps towards the display of these treasures, pending the arrival of the remainder of the collection still at Bezváda. In fact it would be impossible to arrange them satisfactorily till the others have arrived. I append a list giving the numbers and dimensions of the marbles which have reached the Museum.

ENCLOSURE.

Measurements of Amarāvati Marbles which have reached the Museum from Bezvāda Library.

Numbers marked in Tar on Stones.			Length.	Breadth.	Thickness.	C. Ft.	C. Yds.
			FT. IN.	FT. IN.	FT. IN.		
9	..	..	3 1	2 1	0 7	3 9	
10	..	..	1 7	1 7	1 1	2 8	
11	..	..	2 8	1 3	0 8	2 2	
12	..	..	2 9	2 4	0 6	3 3	
13	..	..	3 0	2 4	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 2	
14	..	..	5 5	2 8	0 4	4 10	
15	..	..	3 0	2 7	0 9	5 9	
16	..	..	7 0	2 8	0 11	17 1	
17	..	..	7 6	1 10	0 9	10 3	
18	..	..	2 7	2 11	0 10	6 3	
19	..	..	4 4	2 8	0 10	9 7	
20	..	..	2 0	2 4	0 7	2 9	
21	..	..	2 7	3 0	1 0	7 9	
22	..	..	5 4	2 6	0 7	7 9	
23	..	..	3 0	2 9	0 9	6 2	
24	..	..	3 3	2 3	0 6	3 8	
25	..	..	1 9	1 1	0 6	0 11	
26	..	..	2 1	1 3	0 6	1 4	
27	..	..	2 8	2 1	0 5	1 2	
28	..	..	2 8	1 3	0 9	2 6	
29	..	..	1 6	1 2	0 7	1 0	
30	..	..	2 10	1 8	0 10	3 1	
						106 10	3-25

Bezváda Statues.

7	..	..	5 6	2 0	0 10	9 2	0-12
31	..	..	2 11	1 3	0 5	2 3	
						11 5	

Masulipatam Stones (received from Masulipatam).

1	..	..	3 0	1 6	0 5	1 10
2	..	..	4 3	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4	1 1
3	..	..	3 3	1 6	0 5	2 0
4	..	..	5 9	5 6	0 9	23 7
5	..	..	3 0	2 10	0 8	5 8
8	..	..	9 6	2 11	1 0	27 8
6	..	..	4 10	3 11	0 6	9 5
						71 3

2-17

Chinna Ganjam and Pedda Ganjam Stones.
Circumference.

32	..	..	3 9	4 6 Breadth.	..	1 7 $\frac{2}{8}$	
33	..	..	6 0	1 0	0 9	4 6	
34	..	..	1 6	0 9	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{16}$	
35	..	..	2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 9	1 2 $\frac{1}{5}$	
36	..	..	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
						8 2	0-8
							7-8

30TH JUNE 1882, No. 473, PUBLIC.

ORDER—dated 30th June 1882, No. 473, Public.

Recorded.

2. Further action with respect to the exhibition of the marbles will be deferred pending final orders regarding remainder of the Amarávati antiquities.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To Dr. Bidie, Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
„ Dr. Burgess, Archæological Surveyor.
„ Captain Cole, Curator of Ancient Monuments.
„ R. Sewell, Esq., C.S.

Govt. of (1882) Madras.
PUBLIC.

Order, dated 30th June 1882, No. 473.

Archæology.—Recording letter from the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, reporting on the Amaravati Marbles received from Bezvada.

Measurements of Amaravati marbles
which have reached the Museum from Bezvada
Telouga.

Numbers
marked
on
stone Length Breadth Thick-
ness C. ft. C. yd. Remarks
ft. in ft. in in

9	3	1	2	1	0	7	3	9
10	1	7	1	7	1	1	2	8
11	2	3	1	3	0	8	2	2
12	2	4	0	6	3	3		
13	3	0	2	4	0	5/2	3	2
14	2	8	0	4	4	10		
15	2	0	2	7	0	9	5	9
16	7	0	2	8	0	11	17	1
17	7	6	1	10	0	2	10	3
18	2	7	2	11	0	10	6	3
19	4	4	2	8	0	10	9	7
20	2	0	2	4	0	7	2	9
21	2	7	3	0	1	0	7	9
22	5	4	2	6	0	7	7	9
23	3	0	2	9	0	9	6	2
24	3	3	2	3	0	6	3	8
25	1	9	1	1	0	6	0	11
26	2	1	1	3	0	6	1	4
27	2	8	2	1	0	5	1	2
28	2	8	1	3	0	9	2	6
29	1	6	1	2	0	7	1	0
30	2	10	1	8	0	10	3	1

106-10 3-2

Bezwała statua

7 5-6 2-0 0-10 9-2
31 2-11 1-3 0-5 2-3

Moasulipatam ^{11-5 8-12} Stones (received from Moasulipatam)

1	3-0	1-6	0-5	1-10
2	4-3	0-9 1/2	0-4	1-1
3	3-3	1-6	0-5	2-0
4	5-9	5-6	0-9	23-7
5	3-0	2-10	0-8	5-8
8	9-6	2-11	1-0	27-8
6	4-10	3-11	0-6	9-5
				71-3 2-11

China ^{or} Ganjam and Peda Ganjam Stones
Circumference

32 3-9 4-6 1-7²⁹
breadth 88

33 6-0 1-0 0-9 4-6

34 1-6 0-9 0-4¹/₂ 0-5¹/₁₆

35 2-9³/₄ 0-6³/₄ 0-9 1-2¹/₂

36 1-10¹/₂ 0-9 0-4¹/₂ 0-6¹/₄

8-2 0-8
7-8

Government Central Museum
Madras 23rd June 1882

L. de Nemours & Sons
 Superintendent Genl. Over the
 Mous. in

18
No 558

17
Government Central Museum
Madras 23rd June 1882

From

Surgeon Major George Bidie M.B.,
Superintendent Government
Central Museum

To

The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Cuttackamund.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter, recorded in G.O. No 183 of the 22nd March 1882, I have the honour to state, that 36 packages of marbles and fragments from Amravati have arrived at the Museum. Beyond ascertaining their condition and dimensions I have not taken any special steps for exhibiting them, as it was deemed advisable to await the arrival of another larger consignment now at Peshwada, which Mr. Burgess informed me will be sent down as soon as the canals are open.

2/ The slabs received consist of two or three kinds of marble, one being fine and uniformly close grained and of a very pale grey colour, another of coarser grain unequal quality

quality and darker colour, the third of a somewhat slate-like structure. All the finer and more elaborate carvings are executed in the first named stone. It is very durable but has got highly brittle from age, so that contact with iron or even hard wood causes it to chip, rendering it necessary to exercise great care in handling the slabs. The second kind is not so brittle, but being of unequal quality the softer parts have got worn down, giving the surface an aged, granulated appearance. The third or slate like stone appears to be very durable, and the slabs executed in it are those which Hergusson speaks of as having belonged to the lower frieze of the outer rail.

3/ The Collection of marbles referred to consists according to the invoice received (a) of a number of slabs and 2 statues, all from Amravati, which have for years been lying in the Porvada Museum; (b) of a series of Amravati carvings purchased in behalf of Government at Masulipatam; and (c) of a small collection called Chinnar Ganjam and Peda Ganjam Stones.

4/ Of the whole collection the marbles purchased at Masulipatam are by far the finest and most valuable specimens to hand, and one of them is superior to anything hitherto

hitherto recovered from the ruins and is not likely to be surpassed by any future discovery. The invoice number of this valuable relic is 8, and its dimensions are length 6 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, breadth 5 ft $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches and thickness 9 inches. It is executed in the compact pale grey marble, the carvings being in bold relief, most elaborate and sharp as those in a piece of Chinese ivory work. In the centre it contains a large figure of a Gajabha, having on each side 2 pillars of exquisite design. At the top of the slab there is a frieze with a ledge at the bottom bearing an inscription. This unfortunately has been partially removed by rude hasty chipping, the thief having evidently been disturbed before he could complete his act of vandalism, as portions of the inscription still exist at each end of the ledge. The above remarks merely refer to the obverse of the slab, as I have not yet seen the reverse, being unwilling to disturb it, as it is so brittle, until it is finally moved to be set up in the Museum. It may be stated here, in passing, that the idea is to erect it in an antique frame of stone work, like a picture, but in a position to allow both sides to be seen and examined. In plate 75 of Hergusson's Tree and Serpent worship

(1st Edition) the figure of a somewhat similar marble is given, and he believes that it formed part of the inner rail of the Sopa. However this may be there can be no doubt that this slab was intended to give an exact and everlasting picture of the magnificent Dagoba to which it belonged, and whether contemplated from an antiquarian or architectural point of view its value therefore can hardly be overestimated.

5/ Another stone, belonging to the Masulipatam series is 9 feet $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by 2 ft 11 in in breadth, and 1 ft $1\frac{1}{2}$ in thickness. Like the one referred to in para 4 it is elaborately carved and also consists of the fine but brittle quality of marble. It was evidently one of the pillars of the larger enclosing rail, but it is impossible to say what was its original length as a portion of the top has been broken off. It is with regret also that I mention, that in other respects it is greatly injured the carvings in many places being badly defaced.

6/ The Marble No 16 on the list is also an interesting one, and in very good preservation. It is made of the coarser weather-worn stone, and has suffered very little from wanton

wanton injury. It ~~was~~ ^{is} the stone used by Ferguson to have formed the external frieze of the outer enclosure, and the chief ornament is the long, waved serpent like flower roll, borne by human figures. One of the latter is of the type, so frequently repeated, which Ferguson calls the "dwarf", and is a squat figure of great strength with Negrito like features and hair. In fact I am inclined to think that these dwarf-like figures which are so common on the Amravati marbles, although partly caricatures, are intended to represent the aborigines of the Country. In some of these tribes traces of the Negrito type are still to be seen, notwithstanding the great admixture of races that has been going on for centuries in Southern India.

7/ The other slabs received consist chiefly of portions of upright pillars, pieces of sculpture belonging apparently to the main building, and a variety of discs some of which are crowded with human figures representing scenes from the life of Buddha &c., and others ornamented with concentric circles of the "water-leaf" pattern of architects. Although in the latter form of disc there is a certain uniformity of design still the details vary in the most

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till the others have arrived. I append a
list giving the numbers and dimensions
of the marbles which have reached the
Museum.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant,

L. E. M. D. Surgeon Major
Superintendent Government Central
Museum.

W. S. D.

antiquities

872
E.C.C.

To D. Bishie Sup^t C. Museum
- Dr. Baileys, Amherst St.
- Capt Cole, Cur. of Ant^h Mus.
- Newell by G.
1 Copy sent to Mr H. Anderton
of India Office 1917

Public (1882) Department
(Archaeology)
From

The Superintendent
Govt. Central Museum
Madras
10/10/18/7

No 558

Dated 23rd June 1882
Recd
Recd 21 June

CURRENT NO.

No

Small

Small

Reporting on the Amravati
Marbles recently received
from Bezvada.
Order 30th June 1882 No 473
Recommended

2 Further action with
respect to the exhibition of the Marbles
will be deferred pending final
orders regarding the removal to the

[Despatch.]

READ AGAIN Order of Government, dated
188 , No. Miscellaneous.

ENCLOSURES.

1-A

CURRENT O. 1475-A

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER, &c. OF GOVERNMENT—A.

PAPERS KEPT OUT OF FILE FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.
(not paged.)

NO. OF COPIES TO BE PRINTED. { Order 60.
Letter
Collection

N.B.—
A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.
R = Print, but not for monthly volume.

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 1882.

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 1882.

PRESS.

Public	DEPARTMENT.
G.O. DATED	30 June/82
No.	473

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Archaeology. Record.
 Letter from the Dept. of
 C. Museum report on
 the amaranthi maples
 received from Berzade