

(1) Number of pages 52

(2) Date of repair 28-6-46

(3) Initials of the Referencer GP

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1151-1152	Press Min
<i>Original</i>	
Dated 12-6-	1883.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archaeological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ramesvaram, 5th February 1883, No. 13.

I have the honor to inquire when the sculptures that were packed at Amaravati last season may be expected in Madras.

2. It will be remembered that, after the Madras Government had decided to have them removed, the Government of India requested that they should be left at Amaravati until Major Cole could visit the place. This, I believe, he has done some time ago.

3. It was my intention to have completed the materials collected last year by photographs and drawings made from the stones I had packed as soon as they arrived at Madras and to use the whole in the first volume of the Reports of the Madras Archaeological Survey, which I might have prepared during next monsoon. The delay that has occurred will necessarily prevent my completing the materials for this volume during the present season. And, as the work done during one working season has all to be inked in and finished during the following monsoon, it will be impossible to have this present season's work ready for publication before the middle of 1884. And, owing to the very small number of native assistants I have been able to obtain, I am not sure that it will be desirable to publish this season's work by itself. The season is not finished yet however, and I can hardly form a correct estimate of what the total outturn of work may yet be.

4. It is, however, most desirable that I should be furnished with full information respecting the Amaravati Marbles, that I may arrange accordingly for the completion of the materials for my report upon them.

No. 395.

Referred to the Collector of Kistna for early report with reference to G.O., 6th November 1882, No. 1325, Miscellaneous.

16th February 1883.

(Signed) E. S. LAFFAN,
Acting Under Secy. to Govt.

From Captain H. H. COLE, R.E., Curator of Ancient Monuments in India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 2nd December 1882, No. 711.

I have the honor to submit a memorandum on the present condition of the Amaravati Tope containing suggestions for promoting its security and for conserving what remains of its historical sculptures.

ENCLOSURE.

Memorandum on the Present Condition of the Amarāvati Tope, dated Masulipatam, the 24th November 1882.

1. I have just returned from a careful inspection of the Buddhist ruins at Amarāvati and have had the advantage of conferring with Mr. Horsfall, Collector of the Kistna District, who superintended the excavations ordered by the Duke of Buckingham in 1880. I also met Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector, and Mr. Grant, the Executive Engineer, at Amarāvati itself, and am now able to give a description of the remains of the tope and its sculptures, and to offer an opinion on the best means of preserving them.

2. Paragraph 7 of the accompanying report on Amarāvati and the panoramic sketch attached to it will explain the condition of the tope after the excavations of 1880 had been completed.

3. Since then Dr. Burgess, Archaeological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, spent upwards of a month, between December 1881 and January 1882, in examining the tope and in selecting and packing those sculptures which he considered worthy of removal to the Madras Museum. These stones—numbering 175—were carried to the bank of the river Kistna, about half a mile north of Amarāvati, where they now are in a fenced enclosure and under the care of a native custodian. It is scarcely necessary to say that the stones comprise the finest sculptures and the most important historical records of the great tope. They appear to me in good condition and undamaged by the recent floods. They had been taken out of their cases to be freed from the straw which enveloped them, and, as far as I was able to judge, the action of the water had beneficially cleaned the carvings.

Number of Sculptures at Amarāvati.

4. The number of stone sculptures at Amarāvati are as follows:—

(a) Sculptures of Dr. Burgess's selection on the river-bank	..	..	175
(b) Sculptures at the Tope—			
In a shed to the north, in boxes	..	..	8
Do. do. loose	..	..	43
In situ	..	..	195
			—
			246
			—
Total	..	..	421

Of those that are *in situ*, i.e., on the circular area covered by the tope and railings, there are several that are undoubtedly in their original places, and from these the position of the railing and that of the mound, which must have been in the centre, can be clearly traced.

5. At the northern entrance nearest to the village of Amarāvati is the shed in which are the stones deposited in 1877 by Mr. Sewell (see panoramic sketch and references in red). His excavations extended from K to L along the circumference, the remainder of which was excavated by Mr. Horsfall in 1880. Passing round to the west, the stone terrace at the parts marked A is still remaining, although a good deal damaged. At B a portion of the outer railing is in its original position. Further round there is another piece of railing in position (D), and the southern entrance (F) may be traced by the pieces of railing and masonry which still remain. Passing round to the east a large slab (G) is erect, and further on is a portion of the outer railing H. Besides these stones, which indicate part of the outline of the original structure, there are various smaller fragments and masonry slabs in position to complete the demarcation of the railing and plinth of the tope itself.

6. Of the 246 stones recorded as being now at the tope, a small proportion go to make up those that remain fixed in position. A good many lie scattered round and about the railings, but the greater number are in the centre of the circle, to which position they were removed for Dr. Burgess's operations.

7. I cannot believe that the shattered condition of the masonry and its carvings can be attributed to the natives of Amarāvati, who are mostly Hindus. It is true that the grandfather of the present Zemindar is known to have removed brick and stone from the central mound to build his palace and for the purpose of adding to the temple close to it, but he would have been simply concerned in getting the material and not in wantonly defacing the sculptures or smashing up the stone blocks. The demolition of the mound as well as the ruin of the surrounding railings and entrances had been effected before we first knew of the tope through Colonel Mackenzie in 1816; I believe that the real destroyers were the Muhammadans, who, under the

Iconoclast Alamgir, conquered the district and established themselves in the forts of Kondapilli and Kondavid in the neighbourhood.

Such destruction as Alamgir was wont to deal on all temples of the hated idol-worshipers would have left the sculptures scattered round the tope. The subsequent demolition of the central mound by the Zemindar would have covered them up with layers of earth and debris, to which the subsequent excavation of the tank in the centre (or more probably digging for treasure) would have contributed. I am assured by Mr. Horsfall that the excavation of 1880 overturned no stones from their original places; that the sculptures laid bare were not injured by the process of excavation; and that the central mound had previously disappeared, and no relic or stone was found on its site.

8. Some mischief has, no doubt, been perpetrated by natives using the lime-stone for burning into lime, and some wilful chipping of sculptures has occurred, but I believe that the prime ruin was caused as stated by the Muhammadans. Looking to the comparatively good condition of the unbroken sculptures, which are over 1,500 years old, there is nothing unusual in the climate to cause special deterioration to any of the masonry carvings which Government may seek to preserve on the spot. The question of local custody is easily disposed of by the provision of a substantial wall, an iron gate, and a native custodian to keep the key. The place is now easily accessible to any idle boy who wishes to pass away his time in hammering off carved surfaces, but it is really surprising to me how little evidence there is of damage of this kind.

9. Dr. Burgess's intentions were to have removed the 175 stones—now taken half a mile away to the river-bank—and to have deposited them at the Madras Museum. I do not know where they could be placed at the Madras Museum, which is already far too overcrowded, unless they were displayed in the open grounds. Here, however, they would be subject to the more destructive atmospheric conditions of a town. As I have stated in my note on Amarāvati of the 11th May, casts are as good as originals for all scientific purposes; and, if casting is undertaken, copies can be sent to as many Museums in India or Europe as like to pay the cost of a set. The removal of the stones from Amarāvati has, I submit, but a single argument in its favor, viz., that Amarāvati is at present very inaccessible. Looking, however, to the future, are we justified in supposing that Amarāvati and the fertile Kistna District will always be 150 miles from a railway? It is increasing in wealth, and is now, with its annual revenue of over forty lakhs of rupees, the third richest district in the whole of Madras. Should Haiderabad be connected as proposed with the East Coast, the line of railway must pass near Amarāvati and so make it easily accessible to travellers and savants.

Recommendations for Preservative Remedies.

10. The recommendations I beg leave to submit for the conservation of the Amarāvati Tope are as follow:—

- (1) The masonry terrace-rails and fragments now in their proper positions and described at paragraph 5 of this note should be rendered secure. The existing portions of terrace should be relaid on concrete and in cement. The rails should be supported in their places by a solid foundation of concrete and by using iron bars to prop the uprights and hold them in position.
- (2) All the fragmentary sculptures should be collected and placed under a permanent shed in the centre of the circular enclosure.
- (3) The bank of earth formed round the tope by the demolition of the mound in past years should be gently sloped off so as to prevent the falling in of earth, such as has occurred during the last rains. This will probably lead to the discovery of more stones; two fresh ones had been partly revealed in the bank and were got out during my visit by Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector.
- (4) A masonry wall seven feet high should be erected round the ruins and have an entrance gate at the north under lock and key.
- (5) Near this gate should be a small house for the native custodians.

11. In regard to the 175 carved stones at the river-bank, I should, if free to do what I thought best, take them back to the site of the tope and send casts of them to the Madras and other Museums where Asiatic antiquities are appreciated. This course I strongly commend to Government. The conservation of the structure will not be promoted by still further scattering its component parts, and I do not see what special benefit will be secured by removing the originals to the Madras Museum as proposed. The Amarāvati Tope is the most important and ornate Buddhist Monument known to exist in the Madras Presidency, and this will, I think, be most fittingly acknowledged by having casts of its best sculptures made for Museums in India and in Europe.

Disposal of the Sculptures at the River-bank.

Casts.

12. Any attempt to restore the structure—unless it is possible to ascertain with certainty the former position of particular portions—is most undesirable, but the majority of the stones are easily identified as being parts of the railing or plinth, and their retention at the Amarāvati

Repairs.

enclosure would be an *in situ* preservation even if they were not in their original structural positions and were merely placed on the ground so as to be easily inspected and examined.

13. It would be expedient to have all the best Amaravati sculptures photographed, and, if the recommendations in this note are adopted, completion photographs should illustrate the condition of the tope and the beneficial effect of the remedies. It would, however, be necessary to employ a good professional photographer to take the negatives (which should become the property of Government for printing by a permanent process), as amateur work is usually unsatisfactory and not worth using for purposes of publication.

14. It will be necessary to charge a special officer with the duty of carrying out these suggestions, and the arrangements will, I hope, be undertaken at once. The cost, exclusive of casts and photography, will probably be some Rs. 5,000.

(Signed) H. H. COLE, Captain, R.E.,
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.

No. 451.

Referred to the Archaeological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of opinion on Captain Cole's recommendations, and more especially on the question of preservation *in situ* as opposed to removal to, and exhibition in, a Museum regarded from the point of view of archaeological research.

27th February 1883.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

From J. G. HORSFALL, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Masulipatam, 3rd March 1883, No. 575.

In reply to the Order of Government, Public Department, No. 395, of the 20th February 1883, upon Dr. Burgess's letter inquiring when the marbles now packed at Amaravati may be expected in Madras, I have the honor to state that these marbles were not despatched during the current year, pending Captain Cole's inspection and the issue of specific instructions regarding their disposal. Should the Government so order, arrangements can be made for their removal in June or July next after the Kistna has received a sufficient supply of water.

No. 524.

Communicated to the Archaeological Surveyor of Southern India for an expression of his views in connection with Captain Cole's letter referred to him by endorsement, No. 451, of 27th ultimo.

12th March 1883.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

From Dr. J. BURGESS, Archaeological Surveyor, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Gujarat, 9th March 1883, No. 24.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 451 of 28th ultimo, with Major Cole's memoranda, dated 11th May and 24th November, relative to the Amaravati Tope, and requesting my opinion thereon.

2. Before advertizing to the main purport of the papers, I may notice two points: First—Major Cole has so emphasized his theory that "the real destroyers" of the Amaravati Stupa were the Muhammadans that it may be as well to observe that all the evidence is against him. When Colonel Mackenzie first unearthed the many slabs marked on his plan (which Major Cole has reproduced in the papers under consideration), the human figures were nowhere defaced in the way Muhammadans universally treat such imagery, nor is there a particle of evidence to show that the rails had not been covered over by debris centuries before the birth of "the Iconoclast Alamgir." Again, of the stones excavated and left on the spot by Colonel Mackenzie, we know

from the testimony of his own drawings and of Sir Walter Elliot that all had disappeared between 1819 and 1848. We find others built into Hindu temples and wells that were constructed between the time of the destruction of the Central Stupa by the old Hindu Zemindar in the latter half of last century and the first visit of Colonel Mackenzie. All this and other evidence that I need not here adduce goes to show that Major Cole is quite mistaken in his belief that "the prime ruin" was caused by the Muhammadans.

3. Secondly, in paragraph 14 (page 4) of his report, Major Cole tries to make out that I advocate different policies in Bombay and in Madras Presidency with regard to the preservation of remains *in situ*. Nothing could be more inaccurate; the best reply to such a charge will be found in my correspondence with the Madras Government with reference to the Govindapuram Fort and the Udayagiri temple.

4. As to the main question, I remark that Major Cole (in paragraph 12 of his memorandum of 24th November) grants that any attempt at restoration of any portion of the Amaravati Tope is impracticable, and, though in paragraph 11) he speaks of "the conservation of the structure," he admits that there is no structure to conserve. On his own showing, therefore, the remains do not come within the scope of his duties any more than the stupas at Sopara or at Bhārhut, or any of the remains excavated by General Cunningham, or even my present excavations here. Such remains are entirely archaeological in character and are best left to the disposal of the Government and the Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey of the Presidency to which they belong. If General Cunningham may arrange what is to be done at Bhārhut or elsewhere without reference to Major Cole, it may be left also to the Madras Government and myself to arrange what is best to be done at Amaravati. This view I believe would be fully supported by the Government of India. But, if Major Cole is allowed to interfere in this instance, it may afterwards be used as a precedent for his interference with General Cunningham's work as well as mine, and, considering the personal animus he has already manifested, this might lead to further difficulties.

5. On the simple ground alone of the remains being purely archaeological in character, Government need have no difficulty in deciding to carry out the operations begun last year under my recommendation. Of their propriety I believe every one at all acquainted with the circumstances—such as the Collector, Mr. J. Horsfall; the Sub-Collector, Mr. G. Mackenzie; the Engineer, Mr. Grant; the former First Assistant Collector, Mr. R. Sewell—will agree without hesitation with me. And, if scientific opinion is required, the Government might ask General Cunningham's.

6. As to Major Cole's proposal to lift the fragments of the old terrace and relay the slabs "on concrete and in cement," I cannot refrain from entering a very strong protest against such a course. It would destroy the only portion of the original still left as the builders laid it down. Moreover Major Cole is not aware that the construction of this terrace reveals a curious chapter in the history of the stupa, and all antiquarians would have cause to regret his ill-considered interference with it.

7. Major Cole's proposed masonry wall seven feet high round the site might, I fear be only a temptation to Telugu boys—natives of a hilly country—to climb over it. I have already informed Government that I intend revisiting and making further excavations at Amaravati, and perhaps this wall might be delayed at least till I have done so.

8. For the preservation, as far as possible, of the slabs left on the site and not *in situ*, I would approve of the suggestion to erect a shed over them in the centre of the area and to protect the place by means of a guardian.

9. A whole year has already been unnecessarily lost, and I would now respectfully submit the following for the approval of Government:—

- (1) That Government should carry out the arrangements previously sanctioned and have the stones packed removed to Madras as soon as the river and canals will permit. The slabs to be removed include those on the river bank, eight in the small shed near the site, and those from Jaggayyapet now at Bezvada.
- (2) The stones should only be unpacked at Madras under my own supervision or orders, as it is my intention to photograph them to scale, and this can best be done, and with least risk of injury, as each is opened out.

(3) If, as Major Cole states, the whole of the slabs to be removed cannot be properly exhibited in the Madras Museum, some of them may be placed in the Government School of Arts, where a few good specimens would be most useful as models. But, if the Museum is to serve its purpose as an educational agency, separate provision will have to be made for the natural products and the antiquarian collections, when there need be no want of space for these slabs.

(4) If Major Cole can induce other Governments to pay the expense of casts for their Museums, these might be made under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Madras School of Arts. They could be made very much cheaper at Madras than at Amaravati, and the possession of the originals will save the Madras Government the expense of casts for their Museum.

10. Trusting that these suggestions will be approved and sanctioned by Government, I have, &c.

LETTER—to Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, R.E., C.S.I., C.I.E., Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India, dated Fort St. George, 22nd March 1883, Mis. No. 64, Public.

From Captain H. H. Cole, dated 2nd December 1882, No. 711, with attached memorandum.
From Dr. J. Burgess, dated 9th March 1883, No. 24.
Memorandum by Captain Cole on the present condition of the Amaravati Stupa dated April 1882.

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the papers marginally noted, and to request the favor of an expression of your opinion on the questions at issue between Captain Cole, R.E., and Dr. Burgess in respect of the Amaravati marbles.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

From R. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, Chingleput, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Chingleput, 29th April 1883, No. 2.

I have the honor to address Government with reference to the preservation of the marbles at Amaravati in the Kistna District.

2. These were mostly excavated more than three years ago under orders of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Those that I excavated have been lying exposed even longer, viz., since May 1877, or for the last six years. About a year ago Dr. Burgess packed some of the more beautiful specimens for transmission to the Madras Museum, and they were removed to the river-bank. They lay there till November waiting for Captain Cole's promised inspection, and meanwhile were exposed to great danger owing to a heavy fresh in the river which swept completely over the cases. Happily no appreciable damage was done according to Captain Cole's reports. But there can be no question that these wonderful sculptures cannot be improved, and on the other hand are almost certainly subject to deterioration by their exposure to the fierce heat of the sun in the present season and the heavy tropical rains of the monsoon. As each year passes by and nothing is done to save them, the process of destruction is steadily going on, and, if this treatment is continued, all the rare beauty of the lately-excavated marbles will be lost by their becoming weather-worn like all the rest previously excavated. I would, therefore, very earnestly entreat Government to take some immediate steps to save them. Their value is incalculable. They are not only beautiful objects and relics of rare artistic workmanship, but they constitute almost the only known record in the whole of India whereby we can learn the manners, customs, costumes, and religious habits of the inhabitants of this country in the early centuries A.D.

3. Captain Cole has reported to the Government of India his desire that the marbles should remain where they are. Dr. Burgess desires to have them removed to the safe custody of the Museum at Madras. May I respectfully request that Government will hasten to apply to the Government of India for definite instructions as to

the disposal of the marbles, and have their destination settled and the sculptures safely housed before the next monsoon sweeps over them.

4. If this has already been done, I must apologize for troubling you.

From Major-General A. CUNNINGHAM, Director-General, Archaeological Survey, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 30th May 1883, No. 24.

In reply to your letter, No. 642, dated 22nd March 1883, with its enclosures, asking for my opinion about the disposal of the sculptures taken from the Amaravati Stupa, I have the honor to state as follows:—

There is so little now remaining on the side of the Amaravati Stupa that I do not think it is worth while to attempt any kind of restoration. I am a strong advocate for the conservation of all ancient buildings that actually exist and also for the restoration of such as can be restored. When I suggested in 1853 that the gateways of the Sanchi Stupa might, with advantage, be removed to the British Museum, my sole object was their preservation, as I was but too well aware of the danger to which they were exposed if left much longer neglected. But, since Major Cole obtained his present appointment, I have been a staunch advocate for the complete restoration of the Sanchi Stupa.

As so many of the sculptured stones have already been removed from Amaravati, I agree with Dr. Burgess in thinking that the best thing that can now be done is to place them under cover in the Madras Museum. There they will be both safe and accessible. There also a certain number of the pillars might be set up with their rail-bars and copings complete, sufficient to show what the building actually was in its original state.

The sculptures now lying at Amaravati might be collected together, as suggested by Major Cole, in the centre of the circle of ruins, under a suitable shed, and placed under the charge of a chokidar. Photographs should be taken of all the finer and more interesting specimens both at Amaravati and at Madras. If casts are to be taken, they could be, as Dr. Burgess remarks, much more cheaply made at Madras than at Amaravati.

ORDER—dated 12th June 1883, No. 1151, Public.

The Government approve of the proposals contained in paragraph 9 of the Archaeological Surveyor's letter of 9th March last. The Collector of the Kistna and the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, will be guided accordingly.

(True Extract.)

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Archaeological Surveyor, Western and Southern India.
" Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.
" Collector of Kistna.
" R. Sewell, Esq.
" Superintendent, Government Central Museum.
Copy to the Director-General, Archaeological Survey of India.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 12th June 1883, No. 1152, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Home Department, with reference to letter hence, No. 1001, Miscellaneous, dated 17th May 1883.

C. G. MASTER,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c., 12th June 1883,
Nos. 1151, 1152.

JUNE.

Amaravati Marbles.

Approving of the proposals made by Dr. Burgess, Archaeological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, regarding the removal of the — to the Government Central Museum, Madras.
Copy to the Government of India.

No 13 of 1883

15 Jan 83

R. Messaram

5th Feb. 1883.

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir.

I have the honour to enquire when the sculptures that were packed at Amarâvati last season may be expected in Madras?

2. It will be remembered that after the Madras Government had decided to have them removed the Government of India requested that they should be left at Amarâvati until Major Cole could visit the place. This, I believe, he has done some time ago.

3. It was my intention to have completed the materials collected last year by photograph and drawings made from the stones I had packed, as soon as they arrived at Madras and to use the whole in the first volume of the Reports of the Madras Archaeological Survey, which I might have prepared during next monsoon. The delay that has occurred

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4 It is, however, most desirable that I should be furnished with full information respecting the Amaravati marbles, that I may arrange accordingly for the completion of the materials for my report upon them.

(I have the honour to be
Sir

Your obed^t Serv^t

W. Burgess

Archaeological Surveyor

Madras

1884

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Public (1883) J. Dehl
(Chandragupta)

From Captain H. H. Cole P.E.
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India

To The Chief Secretary to the
Government of Madras

Dated Madras . 2. December 1882

Sir,

I have the honour to submit a
memorandum on the Present condition
of the Amaravati Dope containing
suggestions for promoting its security
and for conserving what remains
of its historical sculptures.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

H. H. Cole
Curator

Pub- G.O. No 963 & 1215
15/18/82
31/7/82
59578 21/7/82
6/11/82 1325-5000
17/10/82 1201/2

1895

Report to the Collector of
for early report with
reference to G.O. 6 Nov. 1882.
No. 1325. M.S.

Eidam happens

ag. Under Secy.

The Archaeological Surveyor
Western & Southern India

S.O. 12th March 88 No 524 (M.S.)

Recd 9 Feb
Enquiring about the
Amaravati Dope
the reported at Madras -



4. *h*

Enclosure

PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

Memorandum on the Present Condition of the Amarāvati Tope, dated Masulipatam, the 24th November 1882.

1. I have just returned from a careful inspection of the Buddhist ruins at Amarāvati and have had the advantage of conferring with Mr. Horsfall, Collector of the Kistna District, who superintended the excavations ordered by the Duke of Buckingham in 1880. I also met Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector, and Mr. Grant, the Executive Engineer, at Amarāvati itself, and am now able to give a description of the remains of the tope and its sculptures, and to offer an opinion on the best means of preserving them.

2. Paragraph 7 of the accompanying report on Amarāvati and the panoramic sketch attached to it, will explain the condition of the tope after the excavations of 1880 had been completed.

3. Since then Dr. Burgess, Archaeological Surveyor for Western and Southern India, spent upwards of a month, between December 1881 and January 1882, in examining the tope and in selecting and packing those sculptures which he considered worthy of removal to the Madras Museum. These stones—numbering 175—were carried to the bank of the river Kistna, about half a mile north of Amarāvati, where they now are in a fenced enclosure and under the care of a native custodian. It is scarcely necessary to say that the stones comprise the finest sculptures and the most important historical records of the great tope. They appear to me in good condition and undamaged by the recent floods. They had been taken out of their cases to be freed from the straw which enveloped them, and, as far as I was able to judge, the action of the water had beneficially cleaned the carvings.

Number of Sculptures at Amarāvati.

4. The number of stone sculptures at Amarāvati are as follows:—

(a) Sculptures of Dr. Burgess's Selection—on the River-bank	175
(b) Sculptures at the Tope—	
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Do. do. loose	43
In situ	195
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Total	421

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5. At the northern entrance nearest to the village of Amarāvati is the shed in which are the stones deposited in 1877 by Mr. Sewell (see panoramic sketch and references in red). His excavations extended from K to L along the circumference, the remainder of which was excavated by Mr. Horsfall in 1880. Passing round to the west, the stone terrace at the parts marked A is still remaining, although a good deal damaged. At B a portion of the outer railing is in its original position. Further round there is another piece of railing in position (D), and the southern entrance (F) may be traced by the pieces of railing and masonry which still remain.

Passing round to the east a large slab (G) is erect, and further on is a portion of the outer railing H. Besides these stones, which indicate part of the outline of the original structure, there are various smaller fragments and masonry slabs in position to complete the demarcation of the railing and plinth of the tope itself.

6. Of the 246 stones recorded as being now at the tope, a small proportion go to make up those that remain fixed in position. A good many lie scattered round and about the railings, but the greater number are in the centre of the circle, to which position they were removed for Dr. Burgess's operations.

7. I cannot believe that the shattered condition of the masonry and its carvings can be attributed to the natives of Amarāvati, who are mostly Hindus. It is true that the grandfather of the present Zemindar is known to have removed brick and stone from the central mound to build his palace and for the purpose of adding to the temple close to it, but he would have been simply concerned in getting the material and not in wantonly defacing the sculptures or smashing up the stone blocks. The demolition of the mound as well as the ruin of the surrounding railings and entrances had been effected before we first knew of the tope through Colonel Mackenzie in 1816; I believe that the real destroyers were the Muhammadans, who, under the Iconoclast Alamgir, conquered the district and established themselves in the forts of Kondapilli and Kondavid in the neighbourhood.

Such destruction, as Alamgir was wont to deal on all temples of the hated idol-worshippers, would have left the sculptures scattered round the tope. The subsequent demolition of the central mound by the Zemindar would have covered them up with layers of earth and debris, to which the subsequent excavation of the tank in the centre (or more probably digging for treasure) would have contributed. I am assured by Mr. Horsfall that the excavation of 1880 overturned no stones from their original places; that the sculptures laid bare were not injured by the process of excavation; and that the central mound had previously disappeared, and no relic or stones were found on its site.

8. Some mischief has, no doubt, been perpetrated by natives using the lime-stone for burning into lime, and some wilful chipping of sculptures has occurred, but I believe that the prime ruin was caused as stated by the Muhammadans. Looking to the comparatively good condition of the unbroken sculptures, which are over 1,500 years old, there is nothing unusual in the climate to cause special deterioration to any of the masonry carvings which Government may seek to preserve on the spot. The question of local custody is easily disposed of, by the provision of a substantial wall, an iron gate, and a native custodian to keep the key. The place is now easily accessible to any idle boy who wishes to pass away his time in hammering off carved surfaces, but it is really surprising to me how little evidence there is of damage of this kind.

9. Dr. Burgess's intentions were to have removed the 175 stones—now taken half a mile away to the river-bank—and to have deposited them at the Madras Museum. I do not know where they could be placed at the Madras Museum, which is already far too overcrowded, unless they were displayed in the open grounds. Here, however, they would be subject to the more destructive atmospheric conditions of a town. As I have stated in my note on Amarāvati of the 11th May, casts are as good as originals for all scientific purposes; and, if casting is undertaken, copies can be sent to as many Museums in India or Europe as like to pay the cost of a set. The removal of the stones from Amarāvati has, I submit, but a single argument in its favor, viz., that Amarāvati is at present very inaccessible. Looking, however, to the future, are we justified in supposing that Amarāvati and the fertile Kistna District will always be 150 miles from a railway? It is increasing in wealth, and is now the whole of Madras. Should Haiderabad be connected as proposed with the East Coast, the line of railway must pass near Amarāvati and so make it easily accessible to travellers and servants.

10. The recommendations I beg leave to submit for the conservation of the Amarāvati Tope are as follow:—

- (1) The masonry terrace-rails and fragments now in their proper positions and described at paragraph 5 of this note should be rendered secure. The existing portions of terrace should be relaid on concrete and in cement. The rails should be supported in their places by a solid foundation of concrete and by using iron bars to prop the uprights and hold them in position.
- (2) All the fragmentary sculptures should be collected and placed under a permanent shed in the centre of the circular enclosure.
- (3) The bank of earth formed round the tope by the demolition of the mound in past years should be gently sloped off so as to prevent the falling in of earth, such as has occurred during the last rains. This will probably lead to the discovery of more stones; two fresh ones had been partly revealed in the bank and were got out during my visit by Mr. Mackenzie, the Sub-Collector.
- (4) A masonry wall seven feet high should be erected round the ruins and have an entrance gate at the north under lock and key.
- (5) Near this gate should be a small house for the native custodians.

11. In regard to the 175 carved stones at the river-bank, I should, if free to do what I thought best, take them back to the Disposal of the Sculptures at the River-bank. site of the tope and send casts of them to the Madras and other Museums where Asiatic antiquities are appreciated. This course I strongly commend to Government. The conservation of the structure will not be promoted by still further scattering its component parts, and I do not see what special benefit will be secured by removing the originals to the Madras Museum as proposed. The Amarāvati Tope is the most important and ornate Buddhist Monument known to exist in the Madras Presidency, and this will, I think, be most fittingly acknowledged by having casts of its best sculptures made for Museums in India and in Europe.

12. Any attempt to restore the structure—unless it is possible to ascertain with certainty the former position of particular portions—is most undesirable, but the majority of the stones are easily identified as being parts of the railing or plinth and their retention at the Amarāvati enclosure would be an *in situ* preservation even if they were not in their original structural positions and were merely placed on the ground so as to be easily inspected and examined.

13. It would be expedient to have all the best Amarāvati sculptures photographed, and, if the recommendations in this note are adopted, completion photographs should illustrate the condition of the tope and the beneficial effect of the remedies. It would, however, be necessary, to employ a good professional photographer to take the negatives (which should become the property of Government for printing by a permanent process), as amateur work is usually unsatisfactory and not worth using for purposes of publication.

14. It will be necessary to charge a special officer with the duty of carrying out these suggestions, and the arrangements will, I hope, be undertaken at once. The cost, exclusive of casts and photography, will probably be some Rs. 5,000.

H. H. Cole

Captain, R.E.,
Curator of Ancient Monuments in India.

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

E

6 1/2

Handwritten text in Urdu script, possibly a title or header.

Handwritten signature or initials in the top right corner.

Handwritten text in Urdu script, likely a date or reference number.

Handwritten text in Urdu script, appearing to be a list or a series of notes.

Handwritten text in Urdu script, possibly a small note or signature.

Handwritten text in Urdu script, possibly a signature or a small note.

Handwritten text in Urdu script, possibly a signature or a small note.

Public (1883) DEPARTMENT.
(Archaeology)

From

Capt H. H. Cole R.E.
Curator of Ancient
Monuments in India

No. 711

Dated 2nd Decr 1882.

Recd. 26th Feby 1883.

659.

2.8.1.50.

SUBJECT.

Submitting a memo-
randum on the present
condition of the Amaravati
Tape

7P
Referred to the Archae-
ological Survey of India
in India for an expression
of opinion on Capt Cole's
recommendations, and
more especially on the
question of preservation
in situ as opposed to
removal and to, and
exhibition in a Museum.
(Approved)

~~Submitted for~~
~~approval~~

regarded from the
point of view of Ar-
chaeological research.

27/12/83

No. 575

8P
Kistna District Collector's Office
Masabpatam 3 March 1883

From

J. G. Horsfall Esquire,
Collector Kistna District

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Public Department

Sir

In reply to the order of Govern-
ment Public Department no. 395 of the
20th February 1883 upon Mr Burgess'
letter enquiring when the marbles now
packed at Amaravati may be expected
in Madras I have the honor to state
that these marbles were not despatch-
ed during the current year pending
Captain Cole's inspection and the issue
of specific instructions regarding their
disposal. Should the Government
so order arrangements can be made

for

for their removal in June or July
next after the Tristna has received
a sufficient supply of water.

I have the honor to be,

Your ^{Dear} most obedient servant

J. S. Stronaker
Collector

Order 12th March 83 No 524 (Mis)

Communicated to the
Archaeological Survey of
Southern India for an ex-
pression of his views, in
connection with Capt. Cole's
letter referred to him by
indorsement no 251 of 27th
ultimo.

W.D.
9/3

Public (1893) Department.

From

12 MAR 83

The Collector of Kistna (Mis)
524

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Public Department
Fort Saint George

CURRENT NO. 708

Date ~~12 March 1893~~

Despatched 28.

Received 7 March

No. 575

Stating that the marbles
at Amravati were not
despatched during the cur-
rent year pending Cap-
tain Cole's inspection and
the issue of specific in-
structions regarding their dis-
posal.

DESPATCHED

13 MAR 83

M.S.

Archaeological Survey

12/3

CHIEF SECRETARY
7 MAR 83
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

With order

No 451 108²⁷

K. Dis. Gujarat

9th March 1883

The Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.

Sir
I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of yours No 451 of 28th ult with Major Cole's Memoranda dated 11th May and 24th Nov^r relative to the Amarāvati Tōpe, requesting my opinion thereon.

2. Before advertng to the main purport of the papers I may notice two points: First, Major Cole has so emphasized his theory that "the real destroyers of the Amarāvati stūpa were the Muhammadans" that it may be as well to observe that all the evidence is against him. When Col. Mackenzie first unearthed the many slabs marked on his plan (which Major Cole has reproduced in the papers under consideration) the human figures were nowhere defaced in the way Muhammadans universally treat such imagery; nor is there a particle of evidence to shew that the rails had not been covered over by debris, centuries before the birth of "the Iconoclast Islam". Again -

of the stones excavated and left on the spot by Col. Mackenzie, we know from the testimony of his own drawings and of Sir Walter Elliot, that all had disappeared between 1817 and 1828. We find others built into Hindu temples and wells that were constructed between the time of the destruction of the central stupa by the old Hindu Zamindar in the latter half of last century and that of the first visit of Col. Mackenzie. All this and other evidence that I need not here adduce goes to show that Major Cole is quite mistaken in his belief that "the prime ruin" was ruined by the Muhammadans.

3. Secondly, in para 14 (p. 4) of his report, Major Cole tries to make out that I advocate different policies in Bombay and in Madras presidency with respect to the preservation of remains in situ. Nothing could be more inaccurate: the best reply to such a charge will be found in my correspondence with the Madras Government with reference to the Govindapuram fort and the Udayagiri temple.

4. As to the main question, I remark that Major Cole (in para 12 of his Memorandum of 24th Novr?) grants that any attempt at restoration

11P 21
of any portion of the Amaravati stupa is impracticable, and though (in para 11) he speaks of "the conservation of the structure", he admits that there is no structure to conserve. On his own shewing, therefore, the remains do not come within the scope of his duties any more than the stupas at Sopara or at Bhārhut or any of the remains excavated by General Cunningham, or even my present excavations here. Such remains are entirely archaeological in character and are best left to the disposal of the Government and the Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey of the Presidency to which they belong. If General Cunningham may arrange what is to be done at Bhārhut or elsewhere without reference to Major Cole, it may be left also to the Madras Government and myself to arrange what is best to be done at Amaravati. This view I believe would be fully supported by the Government of India. But if Major Cole is allowed to interfere in this instance, it may afterwards be used as a precedent for his interference with General Cunningham's work as well as mine: and considering the personal animus he has already manifested, this might lead to further difficulties.

a very
unusual
accusation
in a public
paper!

5 On the simple ground alone of the remains being purely archaeological in character, Government need have no difficulty in deciding to carry out the operations begun last year under my recommendation. Of their propriety, I believe every one at all acquainted with the circumstances—such as the Collector Mr. S. Horsfall, the Sub Collector Mr. G. Mackenzie, the Engineer Mr. Grant, the former first assistant Collector Mr. R. Sewell—will agree without hesitation with me. And if scientific opinion is required the Government might ask General Cunningham's.

6. As to Major Cole's proposal to lift the fragments of the old terrace and relay the slabs on concrete and in cement I cannot refrain from entering a very strong protest against such a course. It would destroy the only portion of the original still left as the builders laid it down. Moreover Major Cole is not aware that the construction of this terrace reveals a curious chapter in the history of the stupa, and all antiquarians would have cause to regret his ill-considered interference with it.

7. Major Cole's proposed masonry wall 7 feet high round the sites might, I fear, be only a temptation to Telugu boys, natives of a hilly country,

128 m
country, to climb over it. I have already informed Government that I intend revisiting and making further excavations at Amaravati, and perhaps this wall might be delayed at least till I have done so.

8. For the preservation as far as possible of the slabs left on the site & not in situ, I would approve of the suggestion to erect a shed over them in the centre of the area and to protect the place by means of a guardian.

A whole year has already been unnecessarily lost, and I would now respectfully submit the following for the approval of Government:-

(1) That Government should carry out the arrangements previously sanctioned and have the stones packed removed to Madras as soon as the river and canals will permit. The slabs to be removed include those on the river bank, 8 in the small shed near the site and those from Jaggaipeta now at Bezvada.

(2) The stones should only be unpacked at Madras under my own supervision or orders, as it is my intention to photograph them to scale, and this can best be done with least

risk of injury, as each is handled out.

(3) If, as Major Ble hints, the whole of the slabs to be removed cannot be properly exhibited in the Madras Museum, some of them may be placed in the Government School of Art where a few good specimens would be found most useful as models. But if the Museum is to serve its purpose as an educational agency, separate provision will have to be made for the Natural products and the Antiquarian collections when there need be no want of space for these slabs.

(4) If Major Ble can induce other governments to pay the expense of casts for their museums these might be made under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Madras School of Art. They could be made very much cheaper at Madras than at Amaravati, and the possession of the originals will save the Madras Government the expense of casts for their Museum.

10 Trusting that these suggestions will be approved and sanctioned by Government,

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Yours obediently

W. S. Burgess

Archaeologist, Madras

Done with [unclear] } 22/3

122

Patli sent

N 642 (mis)

To

Major General A. Cunningham, R.E.,
CIS, C.E.

100320210

Director General of the Archaeological
Survey of India.

100320210
100320210

Sir,

I am directed by the
Government in Council
to transmit to you the
papers marginally noted,
and to request the favor of
an expression of your opi-
nion on the question
issue between Capt Cole,
and Mr Pringle in respect
of the Aurangzeb marble.

From Capt. W.A. Cole 27th Apr 83
No 711 - with attached Memo.
From Mr J. Pringle 27th Apr 83
Memo and by Capt. Cole on the
present condition of the Aurang-
zeb Top - 27 April 1883.

For Mr Pringle }
22nd March 1883

Yours
G. M.

272
280

owing to a heavy fresh in the river which
swept completely over the cases. Happily no
appreciable damage was done, according
to Captain ~~Loole~~ Reports. But there can be no
question that these wonderful sculptures
cannot be improved, and on the other hand
are almost certainly subject to deterioration,
by their exposure to the fierce heat of the sun
in the present season, and the heavy tropi-
cal rains of the monsoon. As each year
passes by and nothing is done to save them,
the process of destruction is steadily going on,
and if this treatment is continued, all
the rare beauty of the lately excavated
marbles will be lost by their becoming
weathered, like all the rest previously
excavated. I am therefore very earnestly
requesting that some immediate steps
be taken to preserve them, as their value is incalculable.
They are not only beautiful objects, and

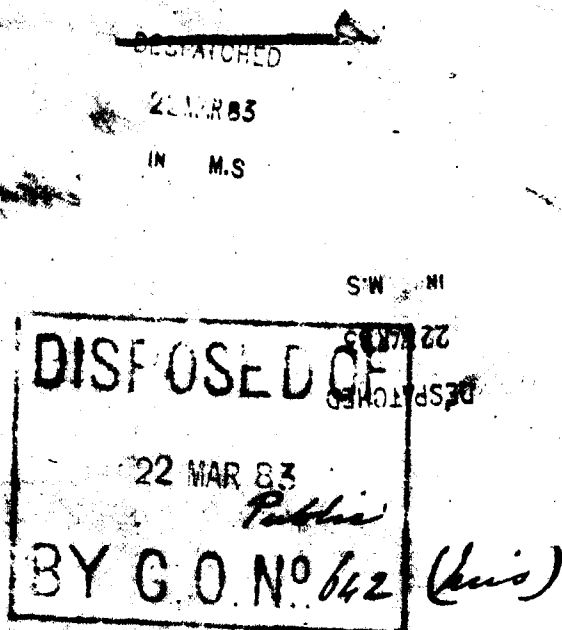
14P
relics of rare artistic workmanship, but they ^{almost} constitute the only known record in the whole
of India, whereby we can learn the manners,
customs, costumes, and religious habits of
the inhabitants of this country in the early
centuries A.D.

3 Captain Loole has reported to the Govern-
ment of India his desire that the marbles
should remain where they are. Dr Burgess
desires to have them removed to the safe
custody of the museum at Madras.
May I respectfully request that Govt.
will hasten to apply to the Government
of India for definite instructions as
to the disposal of the marbles, and have
their destination settled and the sculptures
safely housed before the next monsoon
sweeps over them.

4 If this has already been done

S

Amaravati marbles.



Copies of the M.S.
letters SD 50
originals being retained
last

No 2.

Chingdeput Sub Collector's office
Camp - Chingdeput
29 April 1883

To

Robert Sewell Esq.

Ag. Sub Collector

Chingdeput

To

The Honorable L. G. Master

Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

I have the honor to address Govt.
with reference to the preservation of the mar-
bles at Amaravati in the ^{Kistna} District.
2. These were mostly excavated more
than three years ago under orders of His Grace
the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. That
that I excavated have been lying exposed
even longer, viz. since May 1877, or for the
last six years. About a year ago, Dr. Burgess
packed some of the more beautiful speci-
mens for transmission to the Madras
museum, and they were removed to the river
bank. They lay there till November waiting
for Captain Cole's promised inspection, and
meanwhile were exposed to great danger

12/3/83 No 642. Lins. Feb. 8th/83.
12/3/83 Lins. Feb. 8th/83.

From
The. Ag. Coll. Collect at
Chingloputi
To
The Chief Secretary to Government

Dated 29th April
No. 642. 3rd } May 1883
Revised

No 2.

Requesting that the Government
will apply to the Government of
India for the disposal of
marbles at Amaravati in the
Krishna District and to have
their destination settled.

For the purpose of the
restoration of the Amaravati

CHIEF SECRETARY
7 MAY 1883
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

No 24 158

From
Major General Cunningham
Director General
Archaeological Survey
To
The Chief Secretary
to the Madras Government
Madras.

Amra = 30th May 1883.

Sir,
In reply to your letter No 642, dated 22nd March 1883,
with its enclosures, asking for my opinion about the disposal
of the sculptures taken from the Amaravati Stupa, I have the
honor to state as follows:

There is little now remaining on the site of the Amaravati
Stupa that I don't think it is worth while to attempt any kind
of restoration. I am a strong advocate for the conservation of
all ancient buildings that actually exist, and also for the restoration
of such as can be restored. When I suggested in 1853 that
the Gateways of the Sanchi Stupa might, with advantage, be
removed to the British Museum, my sole object was their
preservation, as I was but too well aware of the danger
to which they were exposed if left much longer neglected.
But since Major Cole obtained his present appoint-
ment I have been a staunch advocate for the complete
restoration of the Sanchi Stupa.

As so many of the sculptured stones have
already been removed from Amaravati, I agree with
Dr Burgess in thinking that the best thing that can now
be done is to place them under cover in the Madras
Museum. There they will be both safe and accessible.
There also a certain number of the Pisars might be
set up

set up with their Rail-bars and Copings complete,
sufficient to show what the building actually
was in its original state.

The sculptures now lying at Amaravati
might be collected together, as suggested by
Major Cole, in the centre of the circle of ruins,
under a suitable shed, and placed under
the charge of a Chokidar. Photographs should
be taken of all the finer and more interesting
specimens, both at Amaravati and at Madras.
If casts are to be taken they could be, as
Dr. Burgess remarks, much more cheaply made
at ~~Amaravati~~ ^{Madras} than at Amaravati.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your most obedient servant

A. Cunningham
Major General

Director General
Archaeological Survey

8/5/83 20935-210
22/3/86 22642-00

Public (1883) Dept

From

To General Cunningham
concerns generally with
D. Burgess suggested
that the latter's pro-
posals be approved
without delay.

S.D.R.
J. B. S.
C.L.L.
L.C. 76

Very truly
yours

How deep the
on C. 11. 83-6.
S.R.
11/6.

There are some
other copies of
the report
in the
files.

From
Major General Cunningham
Director General
Archaeological Survey.

COMMITTEE No. 17/10

Dated 30/5/83
Per: C. J. M. J. M. C.

Stating his opinion
about the disposal of the
sculptures taken from the
Amaravati Stupa.

CHIEF SECRETARY
6 JUN 83
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Pl. 186. 1883, 7/10/83
(Archaeology)

Read again 90. 12th March
to. in 824 (misc).

Read this. (C. in 856).

Order 12 June 1830: 1151

The Govt. approval of
the proposals contained
in paragraph 9 of the
Archaeological Surveyor's
letter of 9 March last.
The Committee of the
Kistna and the
Tributary, Government Gen.
eral Museum, will be
guided accordingly.

Id 602/83 (misc)

From
Dr J. A. Burgess
Archaeological Surveyor

CORRESPONDENCE 856.

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures]

note. The present
contains the expression of
views called for in the
above misc. 8.0. - The
Arch. S. is in reply with
reference to the Govt. to
their letter.

Dated 9. 3. 83.

Recd 13 March
Stating his observations
on Major C. H. Memo. 711-5-82

relative to the Amaraunt

Copy to the Govt of India
H. B. with reference to Desj's letter
hence N^o 1001 Miscellaneous
dated 17 May 1893.
M 17.3
R 11/5
11/6 11/1

27/6



M. 857.
N. 524.

For U.S. Eut
11) May I print all the
papers as now arranged
Yes. in the file. They are
the following -
Current N^o 436 - Dr Burgess
659 - Capt. Cole
768 - Coll. Kistna
856 - Dr Burgess
1461 - Mr. Sewell
1745 - Capt. Cole
Perhaps you had better
see the papers in the
file. I can see proposed paper.

present addition to
 draft order, and
 add that following
 endorsement be
 also added
 Copy to the Govt of
 India, A.D., to the
 reference to the
 letter No. 1001 dated
 17 May 1885

The Archaeological Survey, 3
 India
 Curator of Ancient Monuments
 in India
 Collection of Krishna 6
 A. Sewell Esq. 3
 Sup. to Govt. Central Museum
 Copy to the Director Genl. Arch. & Ant.
 Survey
 India

dated 17 May 1885
 M 17
 11

436
 659 2 End to No 521.
 768 4 End to No 524.
 806
 1461
 1745 - 642 letter to Paul Cuy-pham -
 C. W. H. D. C. H.

PRESS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O. DATED 12 June 1883
No. 1151-52.

First copy sent to Press. 15/6.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Anuravati Marbles

Approving of the
proposals made by
Dr Burgess, Archaeological
Surveyor for Western and
Southern India, regarding
the removal of the
— to the Government
Central Museum, Madras.
Copy to the Govt. of India