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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.G.O. No. 843Press
Mis.*Original*Dated 28-4- 1884.Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. BURGESS, Esq., LL.D., Archæological Surveys, Western and Southern India, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Hampi, 18th March 1884, No. 70.

I have now the honor to address Government on the question of the final disposal of the sculptured slabs from Amarávati which I selected in the early part of 1882 to be sent to Madras.

2. As is known to Government the number of these sculptures from Amarávati and Jaggayapet is very considerable, and many of them are of great beauty and archæological interest. They are carved on slabs of amorphous limestone of a greenish grey color of great specific gravity and very brittle. Some of the larger also are carved on both sides.

3. On my recent visit to Madras on the 10th and 11th instant, Dr. Bidie informed me that it was his intention to have them placed in the large room on the right side of the museum. I am somewhat doubtful whether so large a number of sculptures can be arranged in this room so as not to be too crowded for convenient examination; but however that may be, the safe carrying up and proper placing of these slabs without injury will be a work requiring no small care and ingenuity and can only be completed at a very considerable expense, perhaps more than Government anticipates.

4. I am inclined to think also that the salt in the atmosphere of Madras may act deleteriously on the surfaces of the stones turning them first to a dead white and ultimately causing the surfaces to become granular and scale off. In view of this it would seem to be desirable that the finest slabs at least should be enclosed in air-tight glazed cases, as has been done with the Amarávati sculptures now at the British Museum.

5. Again, several of the slabs were found broken and the pieces were separately sent carefully packed to Madras. It is very desirable that for these skilled workmen should be engaged to cement the pieces carefully together so as not to show ugly unworkman-like joints; indeed unless the pieces can be united with precision it will be much better not to attempt to put them together.

6. I desire to mention, moreover, that when I selected so large a number of stones for removal I did so with the expectation that Government would be ready to part with a few characteristic examples both for the Indian Museum at Calcutta and for the British Museum where they would be certain to be seen and examined by more people interested in them and able to appreciate their interest in one year than are likely to see them in Madras in a decade.

7. While such was my view, however, the Madras Government is aware that when a proposal was made that the Archæological department should transmit all such objects to the Indian Museum as soon as the papers were forwarded to me by the Bombay Government, I wrote a long minute in support of the claims of Provincial Museums, and it was finally arranged that these claims should be respected.

8. I leave it now entirely with the Government to decide whether any or what portion of the very large collection now at Madras should be allowed to be sent to other museums, or whether provision should be made for the complete exhibition and preservation of the whole series.

9. I have lately had the great majority of the sculptures carefully photographed to scale, and the negatives are now at my Poona office where prints will be taken from them for the purpose of enabling me to work up and publish my report on the two stûpas of Amarâvati and Jaggayapet. When the photographic printing is being done it would be a matter of but comparatively small expense to print off a number of other sets, and I would suggest that Government might consider whether it would not be desirable to present a complete set of prints mounted to such institutions as—

The Government Central Museum, Madras,
Government School of Art, Madras,
The Indian Museum, Calcutta,
The School of Art, Calcutta,
The Government of India,
The Government of Bombay,
The School of Art, Bombay,

and any other institutions or individuals Government might think proper.

10. I may mention that for some years past I have been accustomed to print off some sets of all photographs taken for the Bombay Survey, one of which is always presented to Dr. James Fergusson. And I intend proposing that in future I shall be allowed to print one or more sets of the Bombay photographs for the Government of Madras. The cost of printing will be about Rs. 4½ or 5 per dozen prints, and the mounting will add a little more to the expense. If the number of sets were not very numerous the charge might perhaps be credited to the grant for the survey.

11. The last point I have to refer to is the preservation of the large number of sculptured slabs that still remain at Amarâvati and Jaggayapet. The stûpa at the latter place might easily be preserved without expense and at very little trouble by the deputy magistrate.

12. At Amarâvati the peon in charge might be occasionally visited by the tahsildar or other revenue officers of the district and kept up to his duty. Further excavations I fully expect will reveal many very valuable sculptures at that place, and I hope at some future date to revisit it and make further investigations.

13. Trusting this will receive the favorable attention of His Excellency in Council, I have, &c.

ORDER—dated 28th April 1884, No. 843, Public.

The Superintendent, Central Museum, will report the probable cost of housing the sculptures in the manner proposed in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Dr. Burgess' letter.

2. The Collector of Kistna will report on the proposals made for the preservation of the sculptures remaining at Amarâvati and Jaggayapet, which appear to Government well calculated to effect the object in view.

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To Dr. J. Burgess, Archaeological Surveys, Western and Southern India.
„ the Superintendent, Central Museum.
„ the Collector of Kistna.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 28th April 1884, No. 843.

APRIL.

Archæology.

Passing orders on Dr. Burgess' letter in regard to the final disposal of the sculptured slabs from Amaravati.

NOTE FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

1/4 5
I have added a sentence to the
last para. The order as B.E.
The Governor says yes
to Dr. Burgess' proposals

Also a sentence to the
1/4 para from B.E.'s orders.

The Governor the para
asking for Dr. Bide's opinion
is stated as B.E. The

Governor says it would be well
to distribute the materials

he has to speak to
Dr. Bide on the subject.

2.4.84

18
No. 70 of 1883-84.

(Camp) Kanchi

18th March 84.

From
James Burgess Esqre L.L.D.
archaeological Surveys
Western and Southern India

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department
Fort St. George

Sir

I have now the honour to
address Government on the question
of the final disposal of the sculptured
slabs from Amaravati which I
selected in the early part of 1882 to be
sent to Madras.

2. As is known to Government
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3. On my recent visit to Madras
on the 10th and 11th inst Dr. Bidie

(Bull 86368 25.11.1884)

informed me that it was his intention to have them placed in the large room on the right side of the Museum. I am somewhat doubtful whether so large a number of sculptures can be arranged in this room so as not to be too crowded for convenient examination; but, however that may be, the safe carrying up and proper placing of these slabs without injury will be a work requiring no small care and ingenuity and can only be completed at a very considerable expense, — perhaps more than Government anticipates.

4. I am inclined to think also that the salt in the atmosphere of Madras may act deleteriously on the surfaces of the stones turning them first to a dead white and ultimately causing the surfaces to become granular and scale off. In view of this it would seem to be desirable that the finest slabs at least should be enclosed in airtight glazed cases, as has been done with the Amaravati sculptures now at the British Museum.

5. Again several of the slabs were found broken and the pieces were separately sent carefully packed to Madras. It is very desirable that for these skilled workmen should be engaged to cement the pieces

Carefully together so as not to show ugly unworkmanlike joints; indeed unless the pieces can be united with precision it will be much better not to attempt to put them together.

6. I desire to mention moreover that when I selected so large a number of stones for removal I did so with the expectation that Government would be ready to part with a few characteristic examples both for the Indian Museum at Calcutta and for the British Museum where they would be certain to be seen and examined by more people interested in them and able to appreciate their interest in one year than are likely to see them in Madras in a decade.

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large collection now at Maoras
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The Government Central Museum Madras

Government School of Art Madras

The Indian Museum Calcutta

The School of Art Calcutta

The Government of India

The Government of Bombay

The School of Art Bombay

and any other institutions or individuals
Government might think proper.

10. I may mention that for

for
on "reciprocity"
principles.

Let us help
Ferguson in
any way we
can. W.H.

Some years past I have been accus-
tomed to print off some sets of all
photographs taken for the Bombay
Survey one of which is always presented
to Dr. James Fergusson. And I intend
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charge might be occasionally visited
by the Tahsildar or other Revenue offi-
cers of the district and kept up to his
duty. Further excavations I fully expect
will reveal many very valuable sculp-
tures at that place and I hope at some
future date to revisit it and make
further investigations.

13. Trusting this will receive

the favourable attention of His
Excellency in Council

I have the honour to be

Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Burgess. LLD
Archaeological Surveys
Western & Southern India

In Council
21/4/84

Ex.

The Supdt, Central Museum
will report the probable cost
of housing the sculptures in the
manner proposed in paras 3,
4 & 5 of Dr. Burgess' letter. There
would appear to be no objection
to sending to the Museum such
portions of the large collection now
in Madras as can be spared.
The proposals made in paras 9 & 10 are approved.

The Collector of Madras will
report on the proposals made for
the preservation of the sculptures
remaining at Amaravati and
Sesayapet. ^{which appear to be well}
calculated to effect the
object in view.

28/3/84

para 9 & 10. concerning photographs

It would seem advisable
to keep the whole collection in
the Madras Museum if Dr.
Bidie can provide sufficient
room - as it seems he can -
I have added a few words
directing Dr. Bidie to report
on this point.

C 29/3/84

Council Box

CURRENT No. 916

Public

FW

11/4/84

From

Dr. Burgess -
Archaeological Survey
W. S. India

18 March 84

The R. H. M. E. in C. considers that it cannot be
highly probable to despatch some of the marbles
to Calcutta, some to the British Museum, some to the
Museum of the State.

The Hon. Secy. to Govt.
The Right Hon. Secy.
The Governor

Final disposal
of the sculptured slabs
from Amaravati -

It is no part of Dr. Burgess' business to make suggestions as to what we should do with our marbles but I think it would be highly prudent to send some to Calcutta, some to the British Museum, some to the Museum of the State.

with an order

CHIEF SECRETARY
20 MAR 84
GOVT OF MADRAS

[8]

Papers to be read in Proceedings :-

Again G.O., dated

188 , No.

Current No.

of 188 , dated

from

Current No. 916

of 1884, dated 18 March from

Dr. Burgess, Archaeological Survey, W. S. India

Order. 28 April 84 No 843

The Superintendent, Central Museum, will report the probable cost of housing the sculptures in the manner proposed in paras 3, 4, & 5 of Dr. Burgess' letter. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers that it would be highly prudent to despatch some of the marbles to Calcutta, some to the British Museum, and some to the Secretary of State.

This is as settled in Council by H.E. Velfort
FW

2. The proposals made
in paras 9 and 10 are
approved.

3. The collector of Victoria
will report on the
proposals made for
the preservation of the
sculptures remaining
at Amaravati and
Jaggayapet, which appear
to government well
calculated to effect
the object in view.

FM

7/5

To,
Dr. Burgess, Archaeological Survey of India,
The Dept. Central Museum,
The Collr. of Victoria.

12/5/84

OK

CURRENT No.

916 — a

Order
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 month

Star

[1]
PRESS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O. DATED 28 April 1884
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[Despatch Abstract.]

Archeology - Passing order
on Dr. Burgess' letter in
regard to the final
disposal of the sculptured
slabs from Amaravati.