

ORDINARY, PRINTED.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 22-4-92
No. 270.

INDEXED.

First copy sent to Press. 22-4-94

Returned for signature. 12-5-92

Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Archaeology.

Communicating report of
the Superintendent, Archae-
ological Survey, Madras,
of important discovery
of Buddhist relics &
inscriptions at the ruins
Buddhist stupas at
Kattipanolu, Kottana des.
at, & forwarding the
inscriptions to the pro-
tophist—

22/4: 28-3-04 ✓
9-2-12 ✓
26-1-16 ✓
8-3-30 ✓

Camp Bhattiprolu

22nd February 1892.

No. 97.

From

A. REA, ESQUIRE, M.R.A.S.,

To

~~ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYOR TO THE GOVT. OF MADRAS,~~
SUPERINTENDENT,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MADRAS

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of Madras.

SIR,

I have the honour to report to Govern-
ment, an important discovery of Buddhist
relics and inscriptions at the ruined Buddhist
stupa at Bhattiprolu.

2.- The building is of solid brickwork
throughout, and has been as large as the stupa
at Amaravati. A portion of the brickwork
of the base of the dome, and the wall of the
procession-path at the south-east qua-
-drant - where I have dug a trench - remain
intact. The distance of the former from the centre
is 66 feet, and the latter 74 feet. These sizes
make the dome 132 feet in diameter, and the
surrounding basement 148 feet. The
base of the Amaravati stupa was about

(1) Burgess.
Amaravati and Jaggayy-
peta stupas, p. 21.

138 feet⁽¹⁾ in diameter.

Outside the basement

and it is
to have been an early, or

a brick floor, just below ground, on
outer edge of which would once stand
marble rail. Whether any of it at present
exists, can only be ascertained by
digging. A portion of the low brick
wall against which it stood, and
numerous fragments of marble appear
in a trench on the south-east side, at
a distance of 12 feet from the base of the
building. Two octagonal piers, and a
block of white marble, lie on the position
the north-east quadrant of the rail; it
is probable that others exist below ground.

The upper half of the dome, about a quarter
of the mass of brickwork of the outer
radius of the drum on the north, east,
and west sides, and various other por-
tions around the walls of the stupa, were
demolished several years ago, and,
inside the dome was found a casket

^{Remelt.}
(2) Lists of Antiquities.
Vol. I. p. 7

made of six small
slabs of stone dove-
tailed into one

another, measuring

about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 1 foot. Inside
this was a common clay chatty, and
inside the chatty a neat casket made
of 'soap stone' which contained a
crystal phial. In the phial was a
pearl, a few little bits of gold,
64

of and some plates.
3. - I learned that this
casket had been found just above the
summit of the remaining portion of
the brick dome. I ascertained this point
to be 15 feet above the level of the floor
of the procession-path which surrounds
the building. Although this casket
had been found, I considered
that - as the principal deposit is
usually placed down in the centre
near the foundations, or at the level
of the procession-path - there was a
great probability of there being
another. After having found the
centre of the circular brickwork,
which through the demolition, is
not now in the middle of the
mound, but considerably towards
the north, I saw that the bricks
there had not been touched. In the
centre was a narrow well $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches
in diameter, filled with earth.
This hole, it appears, was open when
the top of the stupa was removed,
and was ^{then} sounded with a rope
for a depth of about 15 feet from
the present surface. Around it
were courses of eight bricks ra-
diating from the centre to a
diameter of 3 feet. These bricks
and those in an early or

I removed to a depth of 14 feet, 6 inches.

a. 4. — At that depth I came
ex on a large irregular three sided
slab of blackstone laid on the
w south side of the excavated
n shaft. The two inner sides of the
i stone radiated from the centre,
a its outer side was curved con-
be -centric with ^{the} brick-work, and
be extended a foot into the wall
of the shaft. It would have
lain clear, had another ring
of brickwork been removed, mak-
ing the shaft 5 feet in diameter,
but I did not expect to find
more than one casket, in the
centre. On removing it I found
a rectangular cutting on its
under surface measuring 11
inches by 8 inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch
deep: the length was placed
east and west. Below it was
another similar but thicker
as stone, with a raised rectangular
th rim on its upper surface cut
to fit into the hollow in the
upper stone. The inner sides
of this rectangle slope down into
a circular cavity 5 inches in
depth.

depth. The top surface of the stone is smooth, and cut on all around the four sides of the casket chamber are two lines of an inscription in a character similar to those of Asoka. I send an impression.⁽³⁾

(3) Enclosures

No 1.

~~This and other enclosures are sent separately~~

In the cavity was a small globular blackstone pebble casket. Around the casket, and mixed with some

earth which filled the cavity, were the following articles:-

2. Small semi-spherical hollow copper, or bell-metal⁽⁴⁾ cups, $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter. They can fit into each other. One bears traces of some sort of resin having been inside. On the apex of one is a gold bead, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter. The other has had a gold bead also, which was found in the earth alongside.

1. Copper finger ring and small bits of copper.
1. small bead.
2. double pearls,

and the following articles in gold, weighing collectively $\frac{3}{4}$

and there

in an early or

1. single, and 1 double gold beads.
2. small triangular pieces.
4. lotus flowers in thin sheets, with eight bent petals, each $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches across.
2. triscutis in thin plates, each $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches by 1 inch, hexagonal crystal with slightly convex sides $2\frac{9}{16}$ inches by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, pierced with a hole through its axis. On each of the sides of the prism is lightly traced an inscription in the same character as that on the stone. The following is a copy: *

202
 TSVKXVET
 YXTPVUTZUIC
 40I85
 WYIZTTL6
 NVITLXJL+

* Letters large in the origin

46
The two semi-spherical vessels lay
on the west side of the casket; the crystal
prism, gold flowers and other articles on
the east. The relic casket is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in
diameter by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. The
lid fits by a groove into the lower portion.
Inside, is a cylindrical crystal phial
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in
height. It is moulded on the sides flat
on the top and bottom and has its lid
fitted in the same manner as the stone
receptacle. Inside, is a flat piece of
bone, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across; it is smooth on the
side, and celled on the other; it seems a
piece of a skull bone.

In the stone casket, below the
phial are:-

- 9 small lotus flowers in gold leaf.
- 6 gold beads over $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter,
and 8 smaller.
- 4 small lotus flowers in thin copper.
- 19 small pierced pearls
- 1 slightly blue coloured crystal
bead; and
- 24 small coins or tokens, in a

and some

of the same
as an early or

a light coloured metal, some
what resembling bell metal.
They are plain on the reverse,
and on the obverse have
lotus flowers, trisûlas, feet
with a snake coiled around,
and other emblems more or
less legible. They were laid
on the bottom of the casket with
the smooth sides down - in
the form of a svastika, and
had become fixed to the stone
by oxidation. In the svastika,
nine of the coins were in the
centre rectangle; three on each
of the four arms; and the
other three over the centre. The
flowers and beads seem
also to have been originally
arranged symmetrically.
An example of this symbolical
use of the svastika was
found in the centre of the stûpa
at Pedda Ganjâm.

5. - At a depth of 17 feet, was another
blackstone on the north side of the well,
and like the first, sunk a foot into the
wall. It is roughly triangular in
form, with rounded corners, and
measures about 2 feet across, by 10
inches.

is thick. ¹³ on the ~~top~~ ^{top} ~~side~~ ^{side} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~stone~~ ^{stone} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~12~~ ¹² inches in diameter, raised half an inch ^{by}. The under side is smooth, with a circular hollow 12 inches in diameter, and half an inch deep. The circle is filled ^{it} in with an inscription in 19 lines, while around it is another in ⁽³⁾ two lines. ⁱⁿ ^{the} letters ⁷

(3) Enclosure
N^o 2.

Below it was a stone roughly rectangular, with rounded corners. ^{In it} is a circular hole $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the top, and 4 inches at the bottom. Around its top is a raised rim $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad. On the upper surface, around the hole, is an inscription in two

(4) Enclosure
No. 3.

were filled with Chunam evidently
that they might show distinctly
against the black stone. The cavity
was nearly filled with earth, and
had no inner stone casket. In it
was a crystal phial, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in
diameter by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. Its lid
is moulded like a dâgoba. The top
and bottom were lying separate,
and filled with earth. There was no

sign.

sign of a relic inside. Mined with
the earth in the stone cavity were —

- 164 lotus leaves and buds, 2
circular flowers, a triscala, and
a three armed figure like a
swastika, all in gold leaf.

2 gold stems for the lotus
flowers, one of them attached.

6 gold beads, and

1 small coiled gold ring.

The lotus leaves are of different
sizes, having been fitted
inside each other as in the
flower itself. The beads re-
present the opening buds.

These articles collectively
weigh close on $1\frac{1}{4}$ tolas.

2 pearls,

1 garnet,

6 coral beads, and one bit of the
same material,

1 slightly blue flat oval
crystal bead, 1 pointed
oval white crystal bead;
and

2 green tinged flat six sided
crystal drops. One is $9/16$ and
the other $3/8$ inch in length. They
do not appear to be rock
crystal, and may be beryl.

13.
The metal, including lotus flowers, of
per leaf, stems, a miniature umbrella, and
one or more thin sheets folded
flat into about eight thick-
nesses. The metal of the latter
is completely corroded and
extremely brittle: it will lie
impossible to unfold the sheets.
one side is broken, but the
fragments remain. The largest
piece measures 2 inches by
 $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches, and shews some
letters or symbols pricked
on with a metal point.

5.- At a depth of 18 feet a black
stone lay sunk a foot into the wall on
the east side of the shaft. It is an
irregular circular stone measuring
about 2 feet 3 inches across, by 10
inches thick. On its under surface
is a circular space, sunk half an inch,

(5) Enclosure
No. 4.

with an inscription in
eight lines: the letters
were whitened. This

stone lay on the top of
another roughly square in shape, and
measuring 2 feet 5 inches by 2 feet
3 inches by 11 inches. On the upper
side is a circular cavity $5\frac{3}{4}$ inch
deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad at the top.

Top is a rim $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad,
which fits into the hollow in the
upper stone. On the upper surface
of the stone, around the rim is an

(6) Enclosure
No 5
inscription in
one line (6) with
letters whitened.

The cavity was
nearly filled with earth. In it were:—

1 Crystal phial of the shape of that
found inside the second stone
receptacle, but slightly larger.
It measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter
by 3 inches high. The two pieces
were filled with earth, and
lay apart.

Close to the phial, was found
the actual ~~relic~~ casket with
the relics inside. It is made
of a chrysolite (or a beryl?)
measuring $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch in length,
by $1\frac{1}{32}$ inch, by $6\frac{1}{16}$ inch. A
cylindrical hole $9\frac{1}{32}$ inch
in diameter is drilled in
its axis, in which are the
relics, three small pieces of
bone. The hole is closed by a
small white crystal stopper,
with hexagonal bulbous top.
The

- The necking is covered with gold leaf and another sheet of the same material is fixed outside on the bottom. This unique casket had been originally placed inside the crystal phial, but had been displaced probably by shaking of the stone when it was laid.
- 1 Amethyst bead $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long, another smaller, and 1 yellow coloured crystal bead.
 - 1 small hexagonal crystal drop of a slightly yellow colour, and another flat one of white crystal.
 - 1 bone bead,
 - 6 pearls, and 32 seed pearls, all pierced,
 - 30 lotus flowers, a bent two-armed figure, and a quatre-foil in gold leaf.

A piece of seemingly decomposed quartz having the appearance of salt, but insoluble in water.

A few bits of copper, and an iron (?) cinder.

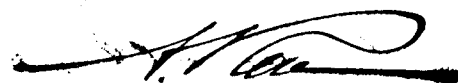
7. - The inscriptions are of importance, as being found in connection with the relics, they must be contemporaneous with the foundation of the stupa and shrouded by an early or

512
I will have the five inscribed
stones sent down to Madras,
where they can be examined by
any scholar who may wish to
see them. The other articles will
be deposited in the Madras
Museum.

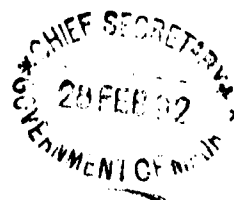
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,



SUPERINTENDENT,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MADRAS.



CURRENT No. 575

Public DEPARTMENT.

From

The Superintendent.
Archaeological Survey

circulated

JDB.
1/13/92

2 March

Very anxious.

The report of inscriptions, &c.
in connection with the stupa.

Lf 8 100 16 March
12/13/92

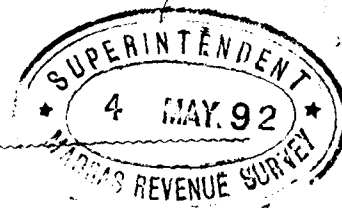
No. 97

Dated 22nd } Feby. 1892
Received 28th }
Regd 29th
Enclosures 5

SUBJECT.

Reporting discovery of
Buddhist relics and inscriptions
at the ruined Buddhist stupa at Bhatia.
Bhatia.

22-6-92



GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camps, Bhattiprolu, Kistna district, 22nd February 1892, No. 97.

I have the honour to report to Government an important discovery of Buddhist relics and inscriptions at the ruined Buddhist stûpa at Bhattiprolu.

2. The building is of solid brickwork throughout, and has been as large as the stûpa at Amarâvati. A portion of the brickwork of the base of the dome, and the wall of the procession-path at the south-east quadrant, where I have dug a trench, remain intact. The distance of the former from the centre is 66 feet, and the latter 74 feet. These sizes make the dome 132 feet in diameter, and the surrounding basement 148 feet. The base of the Amarâvati stûpa was about 138 feet * in diameter.

* Burgess—*Amarâvati Stûpas*, p. 21. and *Jaggayyapeta*

Outside the basement is a brick floor, eight feet below ground, on the outer

edge of which would once stand a marble rail. Whether any of it at present exists can only be ascertained by digging. A portion of the low brick wall against which it stood, and numerous fragments of marble appear in a trench on the south-east side, at a distance of 12 feet from the base of the building. Two octagonal piers and a block of white marble lie on the position of the north-east quadrant of the rail; it is probable that others exist below ground. The upper half of the dome, about a quarter of the mass of brickwork of the outer radius of the drum on the north, east and west sides, and various other portions around the walls of the stûpa, were demolished several years ago, and inside the dome was found "a casket made of six small slabs of stone dovetailed into one another, measuring about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 1 foot. Inside this was a common clay chatty, and inside the chatty a neat casket made of 'soap stone' which contained a crystal phial.

† Sewell—*Lists of Antiquities*, Volume I, p. 7. In the phial was a pearl, a few little bits of gold leaf and some ashes."†

3. I learned that this casket had been found just above the summit of the remaining portion of the brick dome. I ascertained this point to be 15 feet above the level of the floor of the procession-path which surrounds the building. Although this casket had been found, I considered that, as the principal deposit is usually placed down in the centre near the foundations, or at the level of the procession-path, there was a great probability of there being another. After having found the centre of the circular brickwork, which, through the demolition, is not now in the middle of the mound, but considerably towards the north, I saw that the bricks there had not been touched. In the centre was a narrow well, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, filled with earth. This hole, it appears, was open when the top of the stûpa was removed, and was then sounded with a rope for a depth of about 15 feet from the present surface. Around it were courses of eight bricks radiating from the centre to a diameter of 3 feet. These bricks I removed to a depth of 14 feet 6 inches.

4. At that depth I came on a large, irregular, three-sided slab of blackstone laid on the south side of the excavated shaft. The two inner sides of the stone radiated from the centre, its outer side was curved concentric with the brickwork, and extended a foot into the wall of the shaft. It would have lain clear had another ring of brickwork been removed, making the shaft five feet in diameter, but I did not expect to find more than one casket in the centre. On removing it I found a rectangular cutting on its under-surface, measuring 11 inches by 8 inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep; the length was placed east and west. Below it was another similar but thicker stone, with a raised rectangular rim on its upper surface cut to fit into the hollow in the upper stone. The inner sides of this rectangle slope down into a circular cavity 5 inches in depth. The upper surface of the lower stone is smooth, and cut on it around the four sides of the casket chamber are two lines of an inscription in a character similar to those of Asôka. I send an impression.* In the cavity was a small globular blackstone relic casket. Around the

* Enclosure No. 1.

casket, and mixed with some earth which filled the cavity, were the following articles:—

Two small, semi-spherical, hollow, copper or bell-metal (?) cups, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. They can fit into each other. One bears traces of some sort of resin having been inside. On the apex of one is a gold bead, $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter. The other has had a gold bead also, which was found in the earth alongside;

one copper finger-ring and several bits of copper;

one small bead;

two double pearls;

and the following articles in gold, weighing collectively $\frac{3}{4}$ tola and 13 grains:—

one single and one double gold bead;

seven small triangular pieces;

four lotus flowers in thin sheets, with eight bent petals, each $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches across;

two trisûlas in thin plates, each $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch by 1 inch;

one hexagonal crystal with slightly convex sides, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, pierced with a hole through its axis. On each of the sides of the prism is lightly traced an inscription in the same character as that on the stone. The following is a

† Letters larger than the original.

copy:—†

ॐ

ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ

ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ

ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ

ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ

ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ

The two semi-spherical vessels lay on the west side of the casket; the crystal prism, gold flowers and other articles on the east. The relic casket is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. The lid fits by a groove into the lower portion. Inside is a cylindrical crystal phial $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in height. It is moulded on the sides, flat on the top and bottom, and has its lid fitted in the same manner as the stone receptacle. Inside is a flat piece of bone, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across; it is smooth on the one side, and celled on the other; it seems a piece of a skull bone.

In the stone casket, below the phial are—

- 9 small lotus flowers in gold leaf;
- 6 gold beads over $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, and 8 smaller;
- 4 small lotus flowers in thin copper;
- 19 small pierced pearls;
- 1 slightly blue coloured crystal bead; and
- 24 small coins or tokens, in a light-coloured metal, somewhat resembling bell-

metal. They are plain on the reverse; and on the obverse have lotus flowers, trisûlas, feet with a snake coiled around, and other emblems more or less legible. They were laid on the bottom of the casket with the smooth sides down in the form of a Svastika and had become fixed to the stone by oxidation. In the Svastika, nine of the coins were in the centre rectangle; three on each of the four arms; and the other three over the centre. The flowers and beads seem also to have been originally arranged symmetrically. An example of this symbolical use of the Svastika was found in the centre of the stupa at Pedda Ganjam.

5. At a depth of 17 feet was another black stone on the north side of the well, and, like the first, sunk a foot into the wall. It is roughly triangular in form, with rounded corners, and measures about 2 feet across by 10 inches thick. On the top is a circle, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, raised half an inch. The under side is smooth, with a circular hollow 12 inches in diameter and half an inch deep. The circle is filled in with an inscription in 19 lines, while around it is another in two lines.* Both had the letters filled in with white. Below

* Enclosure No. 2.

it was a stone roughly rectangular, with rounded corners. In it is a circular hole $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the top, and 4 inches at the bottom. Around its top is a raised rim $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad. On the upper surface, around the hole, is an inscription in two lines.† The characters are the same as those of the inscription first described. The letters were filled

† Enclosure No. 3.

with chunam, evidently that they might show distinctly against the black stone. The cavity was nearly filled with earth, and had no inner stone casket. In it was a crystal phial, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch in diameter by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. Its lid is moulded like a dagoba. The top and bottom were lying separate, and filled with earth. There was no sign of a relic inside. Mixed with the earth in the stone cavity were—

- 164 lotus leaves and buds, 2 circular flowers, a trisûla, and a three-armed figure like a Svastika, all in gold leaf;
- 2 gold stems for the lotus flowers, one of them attached,
- 6 gold beads, and
- 1 small coiled gold ring;

the lotus leaves are of different sizes, having been fitted inside each other as in the flower itself. The beads represent the opening buds. These articles collectively weigh close on $1\frac{3}{4}$ tolas;

- 2 pearls,
- 1 garnet,
- 6 coral beads, and one bit of the same material,
- 1 slightly blue, flat, oval, crystal bead, 1 pointed, oval, white crystal bead, and
- 2 green-tinged, flat, six-sided crystal drops. One is $\frac{2}{16}$ and the other $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in length. They do not appear to be rock crystal, and may be beryl. A number of bits of corroded copper leaf, including lotus flowers, stems, a miniature umbrella, and one or more thin sheets folded flat into about eight thicknesses. The metal of the latter is completely corroded and extremely brittle; it will be impossible to unfold the sheets.

One side is broken, but the fragments remain. The largest piece measures 2 inches by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and shows some letters or symbols pricked on with a metal point.

6. At a depth of 18 feet a blackstone lay sunk a foot into the wall on the east side of the shaft. It is an irregular, circular stone measuring about 2 feet 3 inches across by 10 inches thick. On its under surface is a circular space, sunk half an

* Enclosure No. 4.

inch, with an inscription in eight lines *; the letters were whitened. This stone lay on the top of another roughly square in shape, and measuring 2 feet 5 inches by 2 feet 3 inches by 11 inches. On the upper side is a circular cavity $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad at the top and 5 inches at the bottom. On its top is a rim $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad, which fits into the hollow in the upper

† Enclosure No. 5.

stone. On the upper surface of the stone around the rim is an inscription in one line,† with letters whitened. The cavity

was nearly filled with earth. In it were—

1 crystal phial of the shape of that found inside the second stone receptacle, but slightly larger. It measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter by 3 inches high. The two pieces were filled with earth, and lay apart.

Close to the phial was found the actual relic casket with the relics inside. It is made of a chrysolite (or a beryl?) measuring $\frac{7}{16}$ inch in length, by $\frac{1}{32}$ inch, by $\frac{1}{16}$ inch. A cylindrical hole $\frac{3}{32}$ inch in diameter is drilled in its axis, in which are the relics—three small pieces of bone. The hole is closed by a small white crystal stopper, with hexagonal bulbous top. The necking is covered with gold leaf, and another sheet of the same material is fixed outside on the bottom. This unique casket had been originally placed inside the crystal phial, but had been displaced probably by shaking of the stone when it was laid;

1 amethyst bead $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long; another smaller; and 1 yellow-coloured crystal bead;

1 small hexagonal crystal drop of a slightly yellow colour, and another flat one of white crystal;

1 bone bead;

6 pearls, and 32 seed pearls, all pierced;

30 lotus flowers, a bent two-armed figure, and a quatre-foil in gold leaf.

A piece of seemingly decomposed quartz having the appearance of salt, but insoluble in water.

A few bits of copper, and an iron (?) cinder.

7. The inscriptions are of importance, as, being found in connection with the relics, they must be contemporaneous with the foundation of the stupa, and shew it to have been an early one. I will have the five inscribed stones sent down to Madras, where they can be examined by any scholar who may wish to see them. The other articles will be deposited in the Madras Museum.

Order. 22 April '92 K 270.
bound: and the inscriptions
forwarded to the Govt. Epigraphist.
(from orders)

note for C.S.

15 April

It is proposed to send copies
to all the addressees named
in G.D. of 28. x. 91, c. 10, 913.

Exd. A. Raitt.

J.O.B.
13/4

To the Supt., Archaeological Survey 6
 " " Govt. Central Museum 6
 " Dr. E. Hultzsch, Govt. Epigraphist, with inscriptions 6
 " all collectors 173
 Copy to the Secretary, Royal Asiatic Soc., London 1
 " " Secy, Royal Asiatic Soc., Ceylon Branch 1
 " " Secy, Royal Institute of British Architects,
 9, Conduit Street, Hanover Square,
 London, W. 1
 " " President, Asiatic Soc., Bengal 3
 " " Secretary, Madras Literary Society 3
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 -ver for Western India, Poona
 " " Pandit Natesa Sastri, M. F. L. S. 1
 Editors Table

Recd
 12/5/92

Pub. G. O. No. 270
of 22nd April 1892

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Sept 13/5/92

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Camps, Bhattiprolu, Kistna district, 22nd February 1892, No. 97.

I have the honour to report to Government an important discovery of Buddhist relics and inscriptions at the ruined Buddhist stûpa at Bhattiprolu.

2. The building is of solid brickwork throughout, and has been as large as the stûpa at Amarâvati. A portion of the brickwork of the base of the dome, and the wall of the procession-path at the south-east quadrant, where I have dug a trench, remain intact. The distance of the former from the centre is 66 feet, and the latter 74 feet. These sizes make the dome 132 feet in diameter, and the surrounding basement 148 feet. The base of the Amarâvati stûpa was about 138 feet * in diameter.

* Burgess—*Amarâvati and Juggayyapeta Stûpas*, p. 21.

Outside the basement is a brick floor, eight feet below ground, on the outer edge of which would once stand a marble rail. Whether any of it at present exists can only be ascertained by digging. A portion of the low brick wall against which it stood, and numerous fragments of marble appear in a trench on the south-east side, at a distance of 12 feet from the base of the building. Two octagonal piers and a block of white marble lie on the position of the north-east quadrant of the rail; it is probable that others exist below ground. The upper half of the dome, about a quarter of the mass of brickwork of the outer radius of the drum on the north, east and west sides, and various other portions around the walls of the stûpa, were demolished several years ago, and inside the dome was found "a casket made of six small slabs of stone dovetailed into one another, measuring about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet by 1 foot. Inside this was a common clay chatty, and inside the chatty a neat casket made of 'soap stone' which contained a crystal phial.

† Sewell—*Lists of Antiquities*, Volume I, p. 7. In the phial was a pearl, a few little bits of gold leaf and some ashes."†

3. I learned that this casket had been found just above the summit of the remaining portion of the brick dome. I ascertained this point to be 15 feet above the level of the floor of the procession-path which surrounds the building. Although this casket had been found, I considered that, as the principal deposit is usually placed down in the centre near the foundations, or at the level of the procession-path, there was a great probability of there being another. After having found the centre of the circular brickwork, which, through the demolition, is not now in the middle of the mound, but considerably towards the north, I saw that the bricks there had not been touched. In the centre was a narrow well, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, filled with earth. This hole, it appears, was open when the top of the stûpa was removed, and was then sounded with a rope for a depth of about 15 feet from the present surface. Around it were courses of eight bricks radiating from the centre to a diameter of 3 feet. These bricks I removed to a depth of 14 feet 6 inches.

4. At that depth I came on a large, irregular, three-sided slab of blackstone laid on the south side of the excavated shaft. The two inner sides of the stone radiated from the centre, its outer side was curved concentric with the brickwork, and extended a foot into the wall of the shaft. It would have lain clear had another ring of brickwork been removed, making the shaft five feet in diameter, but I did not expect to find more than one casket in the centre. On removing it I found a rectangular cutting on its under-surface, measuring 11 inches by 8 inches by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep; the length was placed east and west. Below it was another similar but thicker stone, with a raised rectangular rim on its upper surface cut to fit into the hollow in the upper stone. The inner sides of this rectangle slope down into a circular cavity 5 inches

in depth. The upper surface of the lower stone is smooth, and cut on it around the four sides of the casket chamber are two lines of an inscription in a character similar to those of Asôka. I send an impression.* In the cavity was a small globular blackstone relic casket. Around the

* Enclosure No. 1.

casket, and mixed with some earth which filled the cavity, were the following articles:—

Two small, semi-spherical, hollow, copper or bell-metal (?) cups, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. They can fit into each other. One bears traces of some sort of resin having been inside. On the apex of one is a gold bead, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter. The other has had a gold bead also, which was found in the earth alongside;

one copper finger-ring and several bits of copper;

one small bead;

two double pearls;

and the following articles in gold, weighing collectively $\frac{3}{4}$ tola and 13 grains:—

one single and one double gold bead;

seven small triangular pieces;

four lotus flowers in thin sheets, with eight bent petals, each $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches across;

two trisûlas in thin plates, each $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch by 1 inch;

one hexagonal crystal with slightly convex sides, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch, pierced with a hole through its axis. On each of the sides of the prism is lightly traced

an inscription in the same character as

† Letters larger than the original.

that on the stone. The following is a copy:—†

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ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ ॐ

The two semi-spherical vessels lay on the west side of the casket; the crystal prism, gold flowers and other articles on the east. The relic casket is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. The lid fits by a groove into the lower portion. Inside is a cylindrical crystal phial $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in height. It is moulded on the sides, flat on the top and bottom, and has its lid fitted in the same manner as the stone receptacle. Inside is a flat piece of bone, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across; it is smooth on the one side, and celled on the other; it seems a piece of a skull bone.

In the stone casket, below the phial are—

9 small lotus flowers in gold leaf;

6 gold beads over $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, and 8 smaller;

4 small lotus flowers in thin copper;

19 small pierced pearls;

1 slightly blue coloured crystal bead; and

24 small coins or tokens, in a light-coloured metal, somewhat resembling bell-metal. They are plain on the reverse; and on the obverse have lotus flowers, trisûlas, feet with a snake coiled around, and other emblems more or less legible. They were laid on the bottom of the casket with the smooth sides down in the form of a Svastika and had become fixed to the stone by oxidation. In the Svastika, nine of the coins were in the centre rectangle; three on each of the four arms; and the other three over the centre. The flowers and beads seem also to have been originally arranged symmetrically. An example of this symbolical use of the Svastika was found in the centre of the stupa at Pedda Ganjam.

5. At a depth of 17 feet was another black stone on the north side of the well, and, like the first, sunk a foot into the wall. It is roughly triangular in form, with rounded corners, and measures about 2 feet across by 10 inches thick. On the top is a circle, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, raised half an inch. The under side is smooth, with a circular hollow 12 inches in diameter and half an inch deep. The circle is filled in

* Enclosure No. 2.

with an inscription in 19 lines, while around it is another in two lines.* Both had the letters filled in with white. Below it was a stone roughly rectangular, with rounded corners. In it is a circular hole $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the top, and 4 inches at the bottom. Around its top is a raised rim $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad. On the upper surface, around the hole, is an inscription in two lines.† The characters

† Enclosure No. 3.

are the same as those of the inscription first described. The letters were filled with chunam, evidently that they might show distinctly against the black stone. The cavity was nearly filled with earth, and had no inner stone casket. In it was a crystal phial, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch in diameter by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. Its lid is moulded like a dagoba. The top and bottom were lying separate, and filled with earth. There was no sign of a relic inside. Mixed with the earth in the stone cavity were—

164 lotus leaves and buds, 2 circular flowers, a trisûla, and a three-armed figure like a Svastika, all in gold leaf;

2 gold stems for the lotus flowers, one of them attached,

6 gold beads, and

1 small coiled gold ring;

the lotus leaves are of different sizes, having been fitted inside each other as in the flower itself. The beads represent the opening buds. These articles collectively weigh close on $1\frac{3}{4}$ tolas;

2 pearls,

1 garnet,

6 coral beads, and one bit of the same material,

1 slightly blue, flat, oval, crystal bead, 1 pointed, oval, white crystal bead, and

2 green-tinged, flat, six-sided crystal drops. One is $\frac{2}{8}$ and the other $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in

length. They do not appear to be rock crystal, and may be beryl. A number of bits of corroded copper leaf, including lotus flowers, stems, a miniature umbrella, and one or more thin sheets folded flat into about eight thicknesses. The metal of the latter is completely corroded and extremely brittle; it will be impossible to unfold the sheets. One side is broken, but the fragments remain. The largest piece measures 2 inches by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and shows some letters or symbols pricked on with a metal point.

6. At a depth of 18 feet a blackstone lay sunk a foot into the wall on the east side of the shaft. It is an irregular, circular stone measuring about 2 feet 3 inches across by 10 inches thick. On its under surface is a circular space, sunk half an inch, with an inscription in eight lines ‡; the letters were whitened. This stone lay on the top of another roughly square in

‡ Enclosure No. 4.

shape, and measuring 2 feet 5 inches by 2 feet 3 inches by 11 inches. On the upper side is a circular cavity $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad at the top and 5 inches at the bottom. On its top is a rim $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad, which fits into the hollow in the upper stone. On the upper surface of the stone around the rim is an inscription in one line,* with letters whitened. The cavity

* Enclosure No. 5.

was nearly filled with earth. In it were—

1 crystal phial of the shape of that found inside the second stone receptacle, but slightly larger. It measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter by 3 inches high. The two pieces were filled with earth, and lay apart.

Close to the phial was found the actual relic casket with the relics inside. It is made of a chrysolite (or a beryl?) measuring $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in length, by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. A cylindrical hole $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter is drilled in its axis, in which are the relics—three small pieces of bone. The hole is closed by a small white crystal stopper, with hexagonal bulbous top. The necking is covered with gold leaf, and another sheet of the same material is fixed outside on the bottom. This unique casket had been originally placed inside the crystal phial, but had been displaced probably by shaking of the stone when it was laid;

1 amethyst bead $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long; another smaller; and 1 yellow-coloured crystal bead;

1 small hexagonal crystal drop of a slightly yellow colour, and another flat one of white crystal;

1 bone bead;

6 pearls, and 32 seed pearls, all pierced;

30 lotus flowers, a bent two-armed figure, and a quatre-foil in gold leaf.

A piece of seemingly decomposed quartz having the appearance of salt, but insoluble in water.

A few bits of copper, and an iron (?) cinder.

7. The inscriptions are of importance, as, being found in connection with the relics, they must be contemporaneous with the foundation of the stûpa, and shew it to have been an early one. I will have the five inscribed stones sent down to Madras, where they can be examined by any scholar who may wish to see them. The other articles will be deposited in the Madras Museum.

ORDER—dated 22nd April 1892, No. 270, Public.

Communicated, and the inscriptions forwarded, to the Government Epigraphist.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent, Archæological Survey.

„ the „ Government Central Museum.

„ Dr. E. Hultzsch, Government Epigraphist, with inscriptions.

„ all Collectors.

Copy to the Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society, London.

„ the „ „ Ceylon Branch.

„ the Secretary, Royal Institute of British Architects,
9, Conduit Street, Hanover Square, London, W.

„ the President, Asiatic Society, Bengal.

„ the Secretary, Madras Literary Society.

„ R. Sewell, Esq., Madras Civil Service.

„ Dr. J. Burgess, C.I.E.

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„ Dr. G. Oppert, Madras.

„ the Archæological Commissioner for Ceylon.

„ Henry Cousens, Esq., Archæological Surveyor for Western India, Poona.

„ Pundit Natesa Sastri, M.F.L.S.

Editors' Table.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of {1892} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 22nd April 1892, No. 270.

APRIL.

Archæology.

Communicating report of the Superintendent, Archæological Survey, Madras, of an important discovery of Buddhist relics and inscriptions at the ruined Buddhist stupa at Bhattiprolu, Kistna district, and forwarding the inscriptions to the Government Epigraphist.

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ORDINARY, PRINTED.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 22-4-92
No. 270

INDEXED.

First copy sent to Press. 22-4-94

Returned for signature. 12-5-92

Despatched in print.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Archaeology.

Communicating report of
the Superintendent, Archae-
ological Survey, London,
of important discovery
of Buddhist relics &
inscriptions at the ruins
of Buddhist stupas at
Kattipanolu, Kotana dis-
trict, & forwarding the
inscriptions to the pro-
cessing.

22/4: 28-3-04 ✓
9-2-12 ✓
26-1-16 ✓
8-3-30 ✓