

Government Archaeological Survey, and Conservation of  
Ancient Monuments in Southern India,

Bengaluru

27<sup>th</sup> June 1892.

1705

No. 260.

From

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

~~Archaeological Surveyor to the Govt. of Madras.~~

To

The Chief Secretary  
to Government,

SIR,

With reference to paragraph 2, of G.O.  
dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 1891, No 674, Public,  
I have the honour to submit a programme  
of proposed archaeological survey opera-  
tions for the year 1892-94.

2. During the first quarter of the  
field-season, I would propose to take  
up some of the more important works  
in the South Arcot District. These are  
noted below:—

Chidambaram.— The taluk head-  
quarters. Railway station. 21 miles south  
of Cuddalore. (Chellumbram.) A very  
celebrated Siva temple containing one  
of the five "lingams of the elements" in  
Southern India. This one is the "air lingam".

there being no image of any kind. The building covers an area of about 39 acres. Mr. Garstin gives a description of the place in the District Manual (p. 400). There are five principal halls or sabhas and two principal temples. The temple of Ganesha is said to contain the largest image of that deity in India. There being no stone in the immediate neighbourhood, all the stone for the temple must have been carried for at least 40 miles to the place, and the labour must have been stupendous. Native writings ascribe the construction of the principal buildings, if not the original temple, to Vira Chola Raja, the date of whose reign is placed at A.D. 927-977 and whom Mr. Garstin calls "Vijaya Raja Aditya Varma," and to his grandson Ari Vari Deva in A.D. 1004. But we want to know more about these Cholas and their dates before any thing definite can be settled on the point. Very little is known as yet previous to A.D. 1023. Mr. Fergusson (Indian and Eastern Architecture, p. 350,) thinks it possible that the inner enclosure may be as old as the tenth century. He ascribes the temple of Parvati north of the bathing pool to the

3  
fourteenth or fifteenth century, as well as the great gopuras and the outer prākāra. The thousand pillared mandapam was built between 1573 and 1685 A.D. (Madras Journal, XX, 15). An outer prākāra was projected but never completed. The oldest thing in the temple, and also the most beautiful, is a small shrine in the innermost enclosure with a little porch of two pillars, about 6 feet high, but resting on a stylobate ornamented with dancing figures, more graceful and more elegantly executed than any other of their class, so far as I know, in Southern India. At the sides are wheels and horses, the whole being intended to represent a car as is frequently the case in these temples. (Mr. Fergusson.) The porch of the temple of Parvati is considered by Mr. Fergusson to be singularly elegant. There is an unfinished hall close to the temple of Parvati, of which the lower member remains. The roof is supported on a number of square highly-sculptured pillars, similar to some in the "Vittalaswami mandapam" at Vijayanagar, and in the "Ajneya mandapam" of the outer Prākāra of the temple in the

Vellore Fort. There are a number of inscriptions, which await decipherment, round the four towers, the prakāra walls, and other places. Dr. Burnell has deciphered one which relates the conquest by Rājendra Chola of the Pāndiyans, their king being Uira Pāndiya, son of Vikrama Pāndiya. This took place about the year A.D. 1064.

There is an old Vishnu temple in the town, with an inscription on the dhaja stambha. In the Śiva temple are some copper-plate grants. In the Sāntarmatham is a copper plate inscription." (List p. 212.)

"Śrīmushnam; - 20 miles west of Chidambaram. (Śrīmushtram.) An old Vishnu temple. Considered next to that at Śīrangam for sanctity. The main part of the building was built by a Nāyakka of Tanjore. "The temple has some very fine carvings in it, in a black stone, probably trap. Among them are some well executed figures said to represent Achuthappa Naik and his three brothers." (Manual, p. 32.)

There is an inscription on one of the walls in Telugu, dated Ś. Ś. 1505 (A.D. 1583) recording a private grant to the

temple in the reign of Śrī Rājga Rāj Deva of Vijayanagar, then living at <sup>50</sup>Ennahonda." (List p. 213.)

Gingee (Sēnji); - 16 miles west of Tindivanam, 34 miles north-west of Pondicherry. A fine hill-fortress. Mr. Garstin describes the place in the District Manual (p. 411). He quotes a grant of the early Vijayanagar sovereign Harihara, dated in A.D. 1383 (Manual, p. 2) in which Gingee is mentioned as giving its name to a province, showing that even then it was a place of importance. It remained in the possession of Vijayanagar and the Nāyakkas till taken by the Mussamans in the middle of the seventeenth century. (Manual, pp. 134-5.) Thirty years later it was captured by Sivaji, the Mahratta chief, but fell again into Muhammadan hands in A.D. 1698. It was taken by the French in A.D. 1750, and by the English in 1761.

The fortress consists of three strongly-fortified hills - the Rājagiri, the Krishnagiri, and the Chandrayan Durgam. The Rājagiri is about 500 or 600 feet high, and is almost impregnable.

12  
 the only approach being defended by three strong lines of fortification, while the only entrance is by a wooden bridge over a deep natural chasm. Mr. Garstin attributes the principal work of fortification to the Vijayanagar kings, and he gives reasons in support of his theory. There are several ruins of fine buildings inside the inner fort, two temples, the "Kalyāna mahāl," "gymkhāna," granaries, Idgah, barracks, mandapams, &c., including a great tower of eight stories. Of curiosities on the hill Mr. Garstin mentions the great gun, the Raja's "bathing-stone" (a large slab of granite), and a well in a rock, where it is said that prisoners were thrown to die of starvation. South of the Rajagiri is a hill called "Chakli Durgam," also fortified, but separately. Near the "Arcot gate" of the Gingee fort is a stone with an inscription.

The storming of the fort by the French is graphically narrated in Orme's history. The fate of "Désing Raja" or "Lej Singh" of Gingee, who gallantly met his death fighting the Muhammadans, still forms the subject of a local

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 poetical ballad. His wife burnt herself on his pyre, and it is said that the conqueror, the "Savab Sādat" Ulla Khān, built and named the town of "Rāvipēttai" near a street in her honor.

Colonel Ford, District Engineer, communicated to Government a Report on the Gingee forts, which was reprinted in the Madras Journal XVI, 348. Other papers relating to the subject are to be found in Public Works Consultation Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> October 1858.

Several of the handsomely-carved pillars of the temples on the Rajagiri were carried off by the French to Pondicherry, and are still to be seen there.

On the summit of a hill, a mile north of Gingee, called "Tirunāthar Kunru" are twenty-four Jaina figures carved on the rock. (See Mēlaichēri, Singavaram, which are close by.)" (Hist. p. 207)

Mēlaichēri; - 17½ miles west by north of Tiruvivanam, 2½ miles north-west of Gingee. (Mallacherry.) A ruined fort and palace said to have belonged to the Gingee chief. A temple with inscriptions. South of the village is a rock-cut temple on the top of a small hill." (Hist. p. 208)

The survey of Chidambaram especially should provide a fine series of illustrations. The temple

being of such immense size, the work there will necessarily be somewhat protracted.

3— During the second quarter, I would proceed to the Kistna district to explore some of the Buddhist mounds there. ~~From the~~ catalogue of mounds I would select the following for examination:—

Pedakacherla, Vinukonda taluk.

Five mounds. Two are named Bogu and Bogandani dinne, the appellation usually given to Buddhist sites.

Kanchakacherla, Nandigama taluk.

Four mounds. One is of great size and seemingly contains remains of a building.

Kesavapalli, Palnad taluk.

Two mounds named Chinna and Pedda dhanam bodu. The mound in which was is the ancient stupa at Jaggay gapeta is known by the same name.

These are the principal ones which it is proposed to examine. But as no particulars regarding them are available, they are chiefly selected on the possibilities of their names.

since now, <sup>be depended on,</sup>  
Any of the other numerous adjoining mounds which can be undertaken, will in addition be examined. Probably also, one or two may be left over from the present year, almost entirely <sup>portion of the excavations and objects discovered, and</sup> but, <sup>in the hope of the year, the objects</sup> inspection tours will also have to be undertaken, to examine any ancient monuments, which may be recommended for conservation, by district officers.

I have the honour to be  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. M. M.

1705- 7/8/91 Lett 674 Prod.  
10/11/91 Lett 941/2 - an  
17/2/92 Lett 1124/2 -

Public

From.  
The Superintendent.  
Archaeological Survey.  
Madras.

No 260

Dated 27<sup>th</sup> }  
Resd 28<sup>th</sup> } June 92  
Rysd }

Det. 516  
517 - 26-2-92

Submitting a programme of pro-  
posed Archaeological Survey Operations  
for the year 1893-94.

Proof 167

JULY 1892, No. , PUBLIC.

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 Bangalore, 27th June 1892, No. 260.

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., dated 7th August 1891, No. 674, Public, I have the honour to submit a programme of proposed archaeological survey operations for the year 1893-94.

2. During the first quarter of the field-season, I would propose to take up some of the more important works in the South Arcot district. These are noted below :—

"Chidambaram. The taluk head-quarters. Railway station. 21 miles south of Cuddalore (Chellumbrum). A very celebrated Siva temple containing one of the five 'lingams of the elements' in Southern India. This one is the 'air lingam,' there being no image of any kind. The building covers an area of about 39 acres. Mr. Garstin gives a description of the place in the *District Manual* (p. 400). There are five principal halls or *sabhas* and two principal temples. The temple of Ganesa is said to contain the largest image of that deity in India. There being no stone in the immediate neighbourhood, all the stone for the temple must have been carried for at least 40 miles to the place, and the labour must have been stupendous. Native writings ascribe the construction of the principal buildings, if not the original temple, to Vira Chola Rāya, the date of whose reign is placed at A.D. 927-977, and whom Mr. Garstin calls 'Vijaya Rāya Aditya Varma,' and to his grandson, Ari Vari Deva, in A.D. 1004. But we want to know more about these Cholas and their dates before anything definite can be settled on the point. Very little is known as yet previous to A.D. 1023. Mr. Fergusson (*Indian and Eastern Architecture*, p. 350) thinks it possible that the inner enclosure may be as old as the tenth century. He ascribes the temple of *Pārvati*, north of the bathing pool, to the fourteenth or fifteenth century, as well as the great gopuras and the outer *prākāra*. The thousand-pillared *mandapam* was built between 1595 and 1685 A.D. (*Madras Journal*, XX, 15). An outer *prākāra* was projected, but never completed. The oldest thing in the temple, and also the most beautiful, is a small shrine in the innermost enclosure 'with a little porch of two pillars, about 6 feet high, but resting on a stylobate ornamented with dancing figures, more graceful and more elegantly executed than any other of their class, so far as I know, in Southern India. At the sides are wheels and horses, the whole being intended to represent a car as is frequently the case in these temples.' (Mr. Fergusson). The porch of the temple of *Pārvati* is considered by Mr. Fergusson to be singularly elegant. There is an unfinished hall close to the temple of *Pārvati*, of which the lower member remains. The roof is supported on a number of square, highly-sculptured pillars, similar to some in the '*Vittalasvami mandapam*' at Vijayanagar, and in the '*Agrēya mandapam*' of the outer *prākāra* of the temple in the Vellore Fort. There are a number of inscriptions, which await decipherment, round the four towers, the *prākāra* walls and other places. Dr. Burnell has deciphered one which relates the conquest by Rājendra Chola of the Pāndiyans, their king being Vira Pāndiya, son of Vikrama Pāndiya. This took place about the year A.D. 1064.

"There is an old Vishnu temple in the town, with an inscription on the *dhvaja stambha*. In the Siva temple are some copper-plate grants. In the *Sāntarmūtham* is a copper plate inscription."—(*Lists*, p. 212).

"*Srimushnam*. Twenty miles west of Chidambaram (*Strimustrum*). An old Vishnu temple. Considered next to that at Srirangam for sanctity. The main part of the building was built by a Nāyaka of Tanjore. 'The temple has some very fine carvings in it, in a black stone, probably trap. Among them are some well-executed figures said to represent Achuthappa Naik and his three brothers' (*Manual*, page 32). There is an inscription on one of the walls in Telugu, dated S. S. 1505 (A.D. 1583), recording a private grant to the temple in the reign of Sri Runga Rāya Deva, of Vijayanagar, then living at Penukonda."—(*Lists*, p. 213).

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4. Inspection tours will also have to be undertaken to examine any ancient monuments which may be recommended for conservation by district officers.

N. 1244 5/18/2

order 26 July 92

The proposed programme is approved, and will be commd. to the Govt. of India.

2. The Res. will be requested to expedite the submission of the brief progress report called for by the Govt. of India in para. 2 of its letter commd. to him with l.f. of 7.8.91.

Note. This appears to have been already recd. & disposed of at all. Adres by G.O. of 4.9.91

supd. 30. The Supt. Archt. Survey 83.

Endt. N. 1244 5/18/2

copy to the Govt. of India, Rev. & Agri. Dept, with ref. to N. 1384 archt. of 11.7.91.

25B. 22/11.

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4. Inspection tours will also have to be undertaken to examine any ancient monuments which may be recommended for conservation by district officers.

ORDER—dated 26th July 1892, No. 516, Public.

The proposed programme is approved, and will be communicated to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Superintendent, Archæological Survey.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 26th July 1892, No. 517, Public.

Copy to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department, with reference to No. 1384—27, Arch., dated 11th July 1891.

J. F. PRICE,  
Chief Secretary.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Gobt. of {1892} Madras.  
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c., 26th July 1892,  
Nos. 516, 517.

JULY.

### Archæology.

Approving of the proposed programme of  
Archæological Survey operations for the year  
1893-94, and directing that it be communicated to  
the Government of India.

Back Paper, No.

of 18

READ IN THE ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED  
No.

FORWARD PAPER, No.

1756

of 1893

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|                    | <del>515B</del> 517 |

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Approving of the proposed programme of archaeological survey operations for the year 1993-94 & directing that be communicated to the Govt of India.