

Bangalore,

26th October 1894.

No. 206.

From

A. REA, ESQUIRE,

SUPERINTENDENT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,

MADRAS,

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of Madras,

SIR,

With reference to G. O., dated 16th October 1894,
No 772 Public, I have the honour to send the
photograph and submit the following note
regarding the virakal at Inulur, Telusavira
- shine taluk, Coorg.

2- The slab is of granite, and measures 4' 6" x
2' 7" above ground. It stands in a house-yard,
and at the time the photograph was taken, was
closely surrounded by hay stacks. This pre-
- vented a fuller picture.

3- The lowest sculptured panel represents
the scene in which the hero was slain. The
second shews him seated in bliss; while
the object of his worship - the lingam - is in
the upper compartment. The worshipper is

3.
ed on one side, and a similar figure on the other; and acolytes conduct the ceremonies of worship. The surmounting figure - not clearly defined on the photo, through reflected light - is a vyali's head, from which droop some scrolls forming a canopy to the lingam.

4.- Monumental slabs of similar design are numerous in the western portion of the Bellary district on the boundaries of Mysore. They generally stand adjoining the Chalukyan temples found there. A number of them are illustrated in my volume on Chalukyan architecture now in the press. In all cases, the subject and arrangement of the design are the same. Spirited treatment is displayed in the grouping and sculpture of the figures in the fighting scenes especially. In them as in those of Coorg, the subject of worship is the lingam. They date from the fourteenth century. The Coorg example under note, may be a century or more later. The Bellary examples are offshoots from the seat of origin in Mysore, and those in Coorg - considering their likeness in all parts, most probably had a similar source.

5.- Mr. Rice describing the Coorg virakals in the Coorg Gazetteer (p. 249) states The front side is generally divided into three compartments, each containing figures in relief, the back-ground being chiselled out, so that the figures are level with the frame of the compartments. As already stated (Vol. I, p. 413) the lowest depicts the battle in which the hero was slain; the Centre compartment represents him in the act of being conveyed to heaven by celestial nymphs: in the uppermost he has arrived at the regions of bliss and is delineated as seated before the peculiar emblem of his religion, generally the lingam, for the practice of erecting such monuments seems chiefly to belong to the sect of Siva.

The heroes, as Linga worshippers, are aliens from the present Coorgs, who know nothing about them; the Hannada Gaudas, in whose countries the stones are chiefly found, claim them as relics of their ancestors,

and annually present before
them offerings of cakes and fruit.
The dresses of all the figures
represented are not in the
Coorg costume but in that
of Hindus of the scantiest
clothing. In north and north-
-east Coorg similar stones,
but with simple and coarse
sculptural figures, are still
erected by relations of influen-
-tial men who met with a
violent death or were carried
away by small-pox or cholera."

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
A. W. M.
Superintendent.

3/37
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, MADRAS.

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,

Madras,

To

THE Chief Secretary
to the Government
of Madras.

Dated 26th

Despd. 26th October 1894.

Recd. 27

Recd 29

ENCLOSURE 120 paged

1 photo (per B.P. separately. No 204)

SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF MADRAS
Sd/-, cct.

Submits photo and
note on a vinakal
at Mular, Coorg.

WITH ORDER

H.M.

Order

23rd Nov 1894 No 8
Copy of the photo.
graph together with
a copy of Mr Ren's
report will be for-
warded to Sir George
Birdwood.

3513
30/10

HR

30/10/94.

Sir George Birdwood
K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

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Sub DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 3rd Nov 1894
No. 828

INDEXED.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Directing that, a copy
of the photo accompanying
an archaeological report
1893-94 together with the
report thereon be
forwarded to Sec Genl
Bendwood