

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 325

DATED 23.2.98.

12
23-2-98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Copy, with remarks, to the Govt Epigraphist
letter from the Collector of Chingleput on the
subject of the inscribed stones in the Ekamra
natha temple at Coujevaram.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O. No.	Department.	Date.	G.O. No.	Department.	Date.

[$\frac{\text{Pub.}}{29}$]
500-11-1-1

Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 4503

From The *Art. Epigraphist.*

Order

No. 410.

Dated 25th Nov 1897

Received }
Registered } 29th Nov 1897

Enclosures ma.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Reporting that certain
inscribed portions of the
Īkāmranāthā temple at
Kanjivaram have been pulled
down in contravention of a
previous Govt. order.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Rec. No. 446
23. 11. 97

Camp Coorg
21st November 1897

Dear Sir,

I trust you have got my letter of the 19th instant. Yesterday I visited Kûrûm. There are two Vaishnava shrines in the village close to each other viz. Sri Kûratt-âlvâr-kûmâligai and Âdikê-tâvâperumâl. The former contains some inscribed stones built into the walls of the garbhagriha. The architecture of the second shrine resembles

assembles in some respects that
of the Kailāsanātha and other
Pallava temples of Conjeevaram.
The inscriptions, though not in
very good preservation, are all
ancient. I found a mutilated
record of the time of Nandivarman
and one of Kōvijaya Nripatōnga-
vikramavarman. There is also
an inscription of the 40th year
of a certain Parakēśarivarman,
the beginning of which is partially

damaged, but which may
be referred to the reign of Parakēśa
I. This record appears to contain
astronomical details capable
of verification. Another inscription
of the shrine belongs to the time
of the Chōla king Rajarāja I.
I think all these inscriptions
deserve to be copied.

On Friday evening I visited
the Ēkāmanātha temple in order
to

to see how they had disposed
of the inscribed stones. The ^{old} garbha-
ghata and the first prakāra
of the temple, whose walls had
been full of inscriptions, some
of which I wanted to read
through and copy on my present
tour, - exist no longer. In defiance
of the G.O. directing the temple
authorities to ~~the~~ keep the inscribed
stones separate and to arrange
them.

2
them elsewhere in their original
order, so that they might
still be of use to us, these stones
have been disposed of according
to the sweet will and pleasure
of the masons. A few of them
have been utilized here and
there in rebuilding the prakara
wall. Some were presented
by the temple authorities to be
utilized in building a new
temple.

shrine near the Sawatirtham
tank which is nearly 2 furlongs
from the Ēkāmnātha temple.
A very small number of the
inscribed stones remain to be
utilized hereafter as the stone
masons like. This is what has
become of all the inscriptions
which would have been of
immense value to us in
elucidating the history of

Southern India. From enquiry
made of one of the men in charge
of the building operations, it
appears that no P.W.D. officer
ever came into the temple or
took any trouble about the
inscribed stones. Though this
information is not quite reliable,
yet it seems to be certain that,
if any P.W.D. officer was ever
deputed

departed at all, he never
made any attempt to impress
on the temple authorities the
necessity of preserving all the
inscribed stones together in some
safe place. The result is, we
have irretrievably lost more
than two hundred valuable
inscriptions. If the present
takes no action now on the
ground of religious neutrality,

for the liberty I have taken
in writing such a long
letter,

I remain, Yours sincerely,
J. Van Buren

1892	
File	Dept.
Encls. No.	To
C. No.	6583

3
The next prakāra wall,
appears also to contain important
inscriptions, will soon be pulled
down and the inscribed stones
disposed of as the temple trustee
may choose. The inscribed records
found on the walls of other
temples, which may hereafter
be repaired, will also disappear
in the same way. My humble
opinion is that we shall be
guilty of a distinct breach of

duty if we did not try our way in which the author
best to impress on the Government of the Ēkāmānā the temple
the absolute necessity of conserving have disposed of the inscribed
these ancient records. The Government of India have clearly laid down that the primary duty of the State in connection with these ancient monuments, is to conserve them. Under these circumstances, I request that you will invite the attention of the Government to the disgraceful
way in which the author
of the Ēkāmānā the temple
have disposed of the inscribed
these ancient records. The Government of India have clearly laid down that the primary duty of the State in connection with these ancient monuments, is to conserve them. Under these circumstances, I request that you will invite the attention of the Government to the disgraceful
directed by a Government Order
to preserve, and that you will
move the Government to issue
such orders on the subject as
will effectively prevent similar
wilful destruction of ancient
monuments.

Respectfully,
Begging to be excused

CURRENT No. 4503.

Ootacamund,

25th November 1897.

No. 410.

From

Dr E. Hultzsch,

Government Epigraphist,

To The Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

B 11 I have the honour to submit that, in paragraph 13 of my Annual Report for 1892-93, I informed the Government that the trustees of the Ekāmrānātha temple at Conjeeveram, intended to pull down the central shrine and the first enclosure of that temple, and suggested that all inscribed stones might be numbered under the superintendence of a Hindu Officer of the Public Works Department. In their order on my Report (G. O., No. 662, Public, dated 14th August 1893, paragraph 2) the Government approved of my suggestion and communicated it to the Collector of Chingleput. I now enclose a letter from my First Assistant, from which it appears that, in spite of my warnings and of the initiative taken by the Government, the temple trustees have razed the central shrine and.

May C.

CHIEF SECRETARY
27. NOV. 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

and the first enclosure to the ground and scattered the inscribed stones. Mr Venkayya estimates that more than 200 valuable inscriptions have been irrecoverably lost in this manner - a result that is perfectly scandalous. I request that the Government might inquire why these previous orders were so entirely disregarded by the temple trustees. With the help of my First Assistant and of a Hindoo officer of the Public Works Department, it may be possible even now to rescue some of the inscribed stones from the clutches of those ignorant rascals. At any rate the pulling-down of the second enclosure, which seems to be doomed as well, would have to take place under intelligent supervision, and the inscribed stones of that enclosure could be numbered and re-arranged. If the Government Order on this subject were communicated to the trustees of the other large temples of the Presidency, it would perhaps stop or lessen the wholesale destruction of historical monuments which is being perpetrated under the semblance of national religion.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
E. Hübner
Epigraphist.

59

urgent

Public Dept
C No 4503

7/

Encl. No 264773-12-97.
Referred to the
Collector of Chingleput
for report very early
report. The Collector
should also state what action
if any was taken by him
with reference to para 2 of
G.O. 642 Public dated 19th Aug.
1893.

MRL
2
211

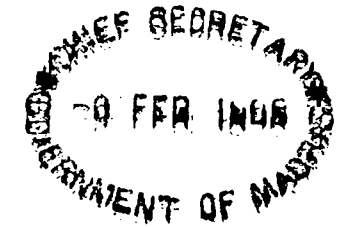
W!
2/12/97

Recd
2/12/97

Col. Chingleput, with
encl paper to be returned
13/12/97

Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 550



From The Collector,
Chingleput Dist.

Order

Ref. No. 3151 of 1897.
Feb 6

Dated 7th February 1898.

Received } 9. 2. 98

Registered

Enclosures ~~4~~ 2 + C. No. 4503
with the above

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Reporting what action
was taken with reference
to para 2 of G. O. No. 12642 Public,
dated 14th August 1893.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
228	24/9/94		
963	20/1/93		
824	9/7/93		
642-43	14/8/93		

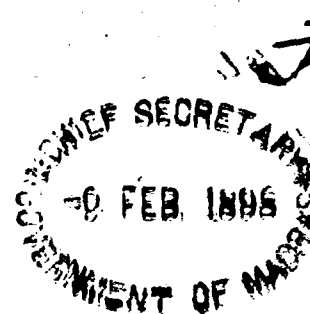
FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Enclosure No 3 to Report 3rd Station G.P.W.

No 2813.

Chingleput Division Office
27th November 1893.



From
F. J. Wilson Esq.,
Executive Engineer
Chingleput Division.

To
The Collector,
Chingleput District.

Sir,
With reference to your No. $\frac{3530}{44}$ and $\frac{8734}{44}$ of 28th October and 10th November 1893 respectively, I have the honor to inform you that I have today ordered overseer Chakrapani Row to render what aid he can to the temple authorities at Conjeevaram in the removal and rearrangement of the stones in the temple courtyard as far as he can spare time from his other work but owing to recent damages to irrigation works the overseer has his hands particularly full at this time.

I have been
(Signed) F. J. Wilson
Executive Engineer
(True copy)
I have acknowledged
for the Collector.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Envelope No. 4 to Refuse Superintendent Engineer's Office,
 No. 281 W. 31st St. dated 7-2-94 I Circle, Madras.

From J. C. Larmine Esquire,
 Superintendent Engineer
 I Circle.

To The Collector of Chingleput.

Sir,
 In reference to G.O. 824 dated 5th
 October 1893 and in reply to your No. 1026
 dated 19th November 1893, I have the honor
 to state that it has been reported to the
 Chief Engineer for the information of
 Government that the present strength of
 the P.W. staff in Chingleput would not
 admit of an overseer being specially
 deputed to superintend the temple work,
 and that all that could be done was to
 instruct an overseer to give such occasional
 superintendence, as his other work would
 permit of. Recent flood damage, how-
 ever, still lessens the possibilities of
 doing so.

I have been
 (Signed) J. C. Larmine
 Supt. Engineer I Circle
 (True copy)
 Ch. Acharya Mudun, 108
 Street.

approximate value of
noted, and I

1220

1220

received in 1893
received in 1893

The Collector of Chingleput

Reference to G.O. No. 824 dated 5th October 1893 and in reply to G.O. No. 2647 dated 23rd December 1897. I have the honor to invite attention to this office letter No. 190, dated 26th September 1893, (read in G.O. No. 824, Public dated 5th October 1893) and No. 240, dated 25th November 1893, a perusal of which will show the action taken on para 2 of G.O. No. 642, dated 14th August 1893. The Executive Engineer informed me in his letter No. 2813, dated 27th November 1893, that he had ordered the Overseer Chakrapani Row to render what aid he could to the temple authorities in the removal and rearrangement of the stones, as far as he could spare time. A copy of his letter is

Ref. No. 3151 of 1897
Sub

Chingleput District

Collector's Office,

Saidapet, 7th February 1898.

FROM

D. D. Murdoch Esquire,

Collector of

Chingleput District.

TO

Chief

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Public

DEPARTMENT,

Madras.

SIR,

With reference to the memorandum of Government No. 2647, Public, dated 23rd December 1897, I have the honor to invite attention to this office letter No. 190, dated 26th September 1893, (read in G.O. No. 824, Public dated 5th October 1893) and No. 240, dated 25th November 1893, a perusal of which will show the action taken on para 2 of G.O. No. 642, dated 14th August 1893. The Executive Engineer informed me in his letter No. 2813, dated 27th November 1893, that he had ordered the Overseer Chakrapani Row to render what aid he could to the temple authorities in the removal and rearrangement of the stones, as far as he could spare time. A copy of his letter is

well as that of the Superintending Engineer,
V Circle, No 481 M, dated 24th November 1893.
The Darnakartha of the temple in question
intimated to the Tahsildar that the stones
of the first enclosure of the temple had
been numbered and that he would have
the stones removed under the superintendence
of the overseer. As the then Darnakartha
died 5 months ago, it is not known whether
intimation of the removal of the stones
was given by him to the overseer.

3. The jumasta, the monigar and the
architect of the temple say that the
overseer did not superintend the removal
of the stones; that the stones of the inner
shrine are preserved within the temple
compound; that those of the first enclosure
have been used in rebuilding it; that
some of the stones were found at the
time of removal to be broken and the
inscriptions mostly worn out; and that
the stones used in repairing the walls of
a temple near the Sarvathirtham tank
were stones that had been found buried

in the ground and not those containing
inscriptions.

4. I am asking the Executive Engineer
to instruct his Subdivisional officer to
ascertain from the temple authorities
what they propose to do with the stones
not yet utilized and to arrange for the
superintendence of their re-arrangement.
The Tahsildar is also being directed to
instruct the temple authorities to act
under the advice of the Public Works Officer
who may be deputed for the purpose
in the further removal and rearrangement
of the stones containing inscriptions.

5. The enclosures to the annos are
returned.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

your most obedient servant,

S. S. M. S.
Ag Collector.

[$\frac{G.}{25 A}$]
500-2-2-67.

CS.
HM.

Vandalen

FOR ORDERS.

In para 13 of this annual report for 1892-93 on epigraphical work Dr. Hultzsch suggested that, as the trustees of the Ekamra-natha temple at Conjevaram intended pulling down & rebuilding the central shrine and first enclosure of the temple containing valuable inscriptions, the inscribed stones might be removed under the supervision of responsible Hindu Board officers.

2 after the Collector had consulted with the Dharmakasta or chief trustee of the temple, the Govt directed the P. C. to depute a Hindu officer to see to the matter. G.O. 824 Pubdly 5.10.93. In the go. just quoted and at V in go. 963 Pubdly 30.11.93 will be found the

Σο. $\frac{642 \text{ Vol}}{14-8-93}$

the details of the arrangement
agreed to.

3 With the first of the
curents now under disposal
Dr. Stultzsch forwarded a letter
from his First Assistant from
which it appears that the temple
trustees have raised the central
shrine and the first Enclosure.
and scattered the inscribed stones
whereby it is estimated more
than 200 valuable inscriptions
have been irrecoverably lost.
a result which Dr. Stultzsch
considers perfectly scandalous.
He requested that Govt would
inquire why its orders had
been entirely disregarded by
the temple trustees. It was
not too late, he said, even
now to ~~save~~ ^{save} some of the
inscribed stones and suggested
that if the go. on the subject
were ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~conferred~~ ^{conferred} to the trustees
of the large temples in the
presidency, it would perhaps
stop or lessen the wholesale
destruction of historical
monuments now being

being perpetrated under the
semblance of religious

4 The Collector of Chingleput
to whom the matter was referred
adverts to the correspondence
in go. ^{224 Feb} _{5.10.93} and ^{263 Feb} _{25.11.93}

He also forwards copies
of letters from the Executive
Engineer & the Superintending
Engineer Vth Circle which show
that the P. W. D. staff in Chingleput
being fully occupied ^{at the time} all

that was done was to depute
overseer Chakrapani Rao
to give such occasional
superintendence as his other
work would permit of
and that this possible help
was reduced to a minimum
by flood damages at the time

The Collector states that the
then Superintendent of the temple
had mentioned to the J. A. S. that
that the stones of the first Enclosure
had been numbered & that
he would have them removed
under the superintendence of the
overseer, but that as the overseer

Shardula^{had} died some
five months before the date
of his letter (7.2.90) it was
not known whether intima-
tion of the removal of the
stones had been given to
the Durassers.

On the evidence of the
Jumala, the Durassers
and the architect of the
temple it would appear
1) that the overseer did not
intend the removal
of the stones.

2) that the stones of the inner
shrines are preserved
within the temple compound

3) that those of the first enclosure
have been used in
a building at

4) that at the time of removal
some of the stones were found to
have been broken & the inscriptions
were mostly worn out

Steps are being taken
to ascertain what the temple
authorities propose doing
with the stones not yet

5) In reply to the 7th Act's statement
that some of the stones were presented
by the temple authorities to be used
in building a mosque
near the Sarvathisthane tank
about 2 furlongs from the
Ekamratha temple the
Collector adds that the above
mentioned premises he
says that the stones used
in building
there were found buried in
the ground & were not
those containing inscriptions

*papers tied separately
with white tape

yet utilized and to arrange
for the superintendence of
their rearrangement.
The Collector says that the
Jahardas is also being
directed to instruct the
temple authorities to act under
the advice of the P. W. D.
officer who may be
deputed for the purpose
with the further removal
& rearrangement of the
inscribed stones

As to the duty of
local govt to conserve
(see remarks of Dr.
Hultzsch's Assistant)

A please see go 395 P.W.D.
T 2.6.90 and go. 17 P.W.D.
of 9.1.91

C.W. 14/2/98 The only deft now possible
is, it is submitted, to
ask the P.W.D. to stop the
work at the school made to avoid the
first Assistant in stopping
further damage. Instead of
asking the P.W.D. to stop the

Trustee will object, it may
perhaps be sufficient to ask
him to arrange with them for
Carving on the east of the
work under the First House
superintendence.

MX
14/2/95

It seems to me that when Dr. Hultzsch
learned that the stones were about
to be removed, he should - unless
he already had copies of the inscriptions -
have devoted his full attention to
securing copies of the inscriptions
both before demolition began &
when the stones were ready for
removal. The stones do not
belong to Govt. but to the Trustees
who can do what they like with
them, and Govt. is not prepared
to buy them. If copies are obtained
that is as much as Govt. can
hope to effect.

15.2.98. *MX*
11/10/2198

[G
24
1,0 0-18-9-97.

Public DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings :-

Again G.O., No. 824 Pkt dated 6th Oct 1893.
Again G.O., No. 963 Pkt dated 30th Nov 1893.
Current No. 4503 of 1897, dated 25/10/97 from The Govt. Epigraphist
" " 550 " 1898, " 7/2/98 " The Collector of Chingleput
" " " 189 " " " "

CS

ORDER No 325 of 23.2.98.
his.

who should take early
steps to obtain copies
of the inscriptions, if this
has not already been
done.

The Collector's letter read
above will be sent to the Govt.
Epigraphist. The collector
will be requested to arrange
with the temple authorities
to assist Dr. Hultzsch
in his better
copies of the inscriptions
at the earliest possible
date if this has not
already been done.
The Govt. is not prepared to interfere in
regard to the final disposal of the stones.
(from orders)

MX
18/2/98 21.2.98

CS
19/1/98

Govt Epigraphist 222 a
Collector of Chingleput 2/2/98
Copy to the P.W.D. 2/2/98
} Despatched 25/2/98

When given for copying 23/2
When copied 23/2
When examined 25/2 1898
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

ORDER No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL

A A A A A A A

N.B -
A = Copy in full
B = Not to be copied
P = Copy abstract only
Q = Copy heading only

Public (1898) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 326.

DATED 23. 2. 98.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording from: Resdpt sanctioning the payment of the honoraria amounting to Rs 1889 to the gentlemen who constituted the Board of Examiners for the Provincial Civil Service Exam. held in Dec/97 & to certify them whom the Board appointed to assist in the examination in the optional subjects.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Public (189^s) Department.

CURRENT No. 724

From

The Revenue Department.

Order No. 326 of 23. 2. 98.

Recorded

No. 769 M.S.

Dated 15th February 1898.

Received 18

Registered 19

Enclosure 1

Spare copies

Cir
22/2/98

Note Please see No. 172
Subd. No. 2. 97

SUBJECT.

Sanctioning the payment of the honoraria amounting to Rs. 1889 to the gentlemen who constituted the Board of Examiners for the Provincial Civil Service Examination held in December 1897 and to the gentlemen whom the Board appointed to assist it