

Public (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 1262

Dated 10-11-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Coming to the Govt Epigraphist, and the Suppl.
Archaeological Survey, for information and guidance.
Letter from the G.O. requesting that the
claims of the British Museum may not be lost
sight of when the distribution of Archaeo-
gical finds is in question.

DEPARTMENT.

Public

Paper taken out of the Records from the charge of the Referencer,
Press
Miscellaneous No. 1261 dated 10-11-1899.
Routine

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	Department.	C. No.	Year.			
11/11/99		101	1899		13/12/99	
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BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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Pub CURRENT NO. 2996

1899. Recd 325-10-99
Rego share copies 12

File No. 48 of 1899.

Serial No. 4.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

ARCHÆOLOGY AND EPIGRAPHY.

To

ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

Circular No. 37-48-4.

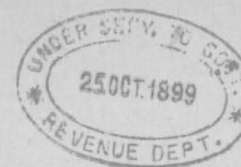
Dated Simla, the 12th October 1899.

Ref
Please put up to no 717 Pub B
26 98 + his notes up to 16 March
Also please see if any Arch. find has
in previous years been sent to the B. Museum
here. I cannot have
any
21/10/99

SUBJECT.

Requests that the claims of the British Museum may not be lost sight of when the distribution of archæological finds is in question.

Circular No. 37—48-4.



FROM

E. MACONCHIE, Esq., I.C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
Archæology and Epigraphy.

Simla, the 12th October 1899.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin regarding the claims of the British Museum to a share in any Indian antiquities that can properly be allowed to go out of India. The question has been referred

Extract (paragraph 1) from a despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 22-Public (Records), dated 20th July 1899, and the enclosure therein referred to (paragraphs 1 and 2).

to the Trustees of the Indian Museum who have intimated that the suggestions contained in the Director of the British Museum's letter of the 28th June 1899 have their strongest support. The Government of India now desire to commend them to the consideration of local Governments, and I am to request that the claims of the British Museum may not be lost sight of in future when the distribution of archæological finds is in question. It is thought that possibly Local Museums may be in possession of duplicate specimens which could be spared and would be acceptable to the British Museum authorities. I am to request that enquiry may be made on this point.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

E. Macconochie

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Extract (paragraph 1) from a despatch from the Secretary of State No. 22-Public (Records), dated 20th July 1899.

I forward, for the favourable consideration of your Excellency's Government, a letter* from the Director of the British Museum, representing the claims of the British Museum to a share in any specimens of Indian antiquities that can be properly allowed to go out of India. I shall be glad to learn what decision you may adopt, and whether you issue any orders in the matter.

Extract from a letter from the Director, British Museum, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 28th June 1899.

The other day Mr. Read, the Keeper of our Department of Mediæval Antiquities and Ethnography, called upon you, and had some conversation with you on the subject of the acquisition of Indian antiquities by the British Museum.

The beginning of our Indian series may be said to be the transfer to us from the India Office of the Amaravati sculptures and other Indian collections. Since that transfer, we have been doing what we can towards completing an Indian series and making it of interest as a representation of ancient Indian Art. The number of Græco-Buddhist sculptures in the Museum has, for example, nearly doubled, but the additions have been of an accidental nature,—by purchases at sales or by gifts from private persons. The British Museum has not been recognised as a place where the Indian Government might present duplicates or redundant specimens from collections at Lahore or Calcutta. Meanwhile, it appears that agents of foreign Museums, especially at Berlin, have been adding largely to the collections of those Museums; and at Berlin they have now series of sufficient importance to enable them to publish elaborate monographs. It seems desirable that some action should be taken by the Indian Government, not necessarily to prevent foreign museums from obtaining specimens, but at any rate to enable the British Museum to have the opportunity of acquiring a fair share of available specimens. It should of course be understood that we should not at all desire to enter into competition with Lahore or Calcutta, where the best collections should be placed; all we would ask is that the British Museum should come next in opportunities for acquiring specimens. I am sure you will do what you can to help us.

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Communicated to the
Govt. Epigraphist and
to the Supdt. Archt. Survey
for information and guidance.

2. The question referred
to in the latter portion of
the letter from the Govt. of
India will be considered
in the Educational Dept.

due Ans. Pr 7.6mll.
 21.10.28 3/11/99 4/11/99

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The Good: Epigraphist } 3/4 of ct
" Supdt. Public Survey } 1/4
" Educational Dept. }

When given for copying
When copied 11/11
When examined 11/11
When signed 11/11

1897
11/11

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189, DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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