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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

535

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

4- 5-

1874
196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

57

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th May 1874.*

No. 33. Read the following letter from A. C. BURNELL, Esq., F.R.D., to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Mangalore, 6th April 1874 :—

With reference to G. O., No. 51, dated 13th January last, I have the honour to state that I have carefully gone over the copies of inscriptions (returned herewith) sent me, and am decidedly of opinion that it is useless to get such copies at such a price.

2. One inscription only is of intrinsic interest, as it shows that the last great sovereign of the Vijayanagara dynasty, Krishnaraya, did actually visit Tirunamalai in A.D. 1516. It is certain that he restored most of the great pagodas in Southern India, but this inscription seems to indicate that the South Arcot District was under his rule.

3. The rest of the inscriptions would be interesting for paleographic purposes, were they facsimiles; as they are, they are valueless.

4. I have no doubt that more important inscriptions exist at Tirunamalai, but I am quite certain that no Brahman can be found to read them. Of such inscriptions photographs or estampages only would be of use.

5. I trust that the failure of this attempt will not cause neglect of this very important inquiry. I would respectfully suggest that it should be continued elsewhere, but that only copies made by means recognized by Archaeologists should be procured. All others (like these) are scientifically useless. Repeated experience has shown that copies made by free-drawing, or read off and written in a current hand, are entirely untrustworthy even in the case of legible and modern inscriptions, and still more in the case of those in obsolete characters.

6. I much regret that I have not yet been able to report on the other copies of inscriptions sent to me. My catalogue of the Tanjore MSS. absorbs all my spare time (which is very little), but I hope to do so shortly. Meanwhile, I can only suggest that no time be lost in securing proper copies of important inscriptions, and that Collectors be informed that copies like those already sent are useless as well as fancy translations, several of which I see in the Government Proceedings.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1874, No. 535.

Miscellaneous.

His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to circulate the foregoing letter for the information and guidance of local departments, in continuation of G. O., 14th December 1871, No. 2,108, Revenue Department.

2. For convenience of reference, an extract from Mr. Burnell's Pamphlet on the best way of making and utilizing copies of Indian inscriptions (recorded in G. O., 23rd November 1870, No. 367, Educational Department) is printed below, and the attention of officers is requested to the methods therein described.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th May 1874.*

3. Important inscriptions, such as that mentioned in paragraph 2 of Mr. Barnell's letter, should be copied, if possible, in one or other of these modes if photographs cannot be taken.

4. The Government are much obliged to Mr. Barnell for his letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To A. C. Barnell, Esq.

the Board of Revenue,
the Public Department,
the Public Works Department,
the Military Department,
the Director of Revenue Settlement,
the Superintendent of Revenue Survey,
the Inspector of Forests,
all Collectors,
all District and Sessions Judges,
the Director of Public Instruction,
Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Dept.,
the Superintendent, Government Central Museum,
the Commissioner of the Nilgiris,
the Director Archaeological Survey of India,
the Royal Asiatic Society,
the Calcutta Branch,
the Bombay Branch,
the Madras Literary Society.

For communication to all their subordinates.

Extract from Mr. Barnell's Pamphlet on the best Way of making and utilizing Copies of Indian Inscriptions.

First question, how to make the copies? Many ways have been tried: rubbings by bell or paper, impressions on linen made by a pad dabbed with printing ink, sketched drawings, photographs, etc., etc. Considerable "experience" and a number of experiments have convinced me that all these methods are defective and that only two ways are really trustworthy—one applicable to inscriptions on stone, and the other to those on metal.

2. Engraving inscriptions on stout, unruled paper, such as is now manufactured at Paris for the use of Europeanists. The inscription must, first of all, be quite clear, free of dirt or other obstructions, and that may be best done by a hard clothes-brush. The paper is then to be dipped in a tub of water, and applied to the inscription, and forced into the unevennesses by repeated and forcible strokes with a hard brush. An ordinary clothes brush is as good as any for the purpose. If the stone be clear of dust, the paper will, when dry, take off a perfect mould of the inscription. Paper large enough to cover most inscriptions is easily to be had; in the case of very large ones, it is necessary to lay over the whole of the sheets, and apply a little gum and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th May 1874.*

water or weak paste to them; and also to prevent those sheets first applied from falling and thus spoiling the rest, a few poles or sticks leaning against the corners in large inscriptions, or the gum used for joining will be found enough. When properly dried copies made in this way (in French, "estampages") may be rolled up or put in blank books without the slightest injury, and even will stand damp. M. Mariette-Bey and Dr. Brugsch both assured me in Egypt last year that they never found this plan fail.

3. The second process is applicable to inscriptions on plates of metal: I devised it several years ago, and never found it fail. The plate or plates should be carefully cleaned with a dry brush, and the letters occasionally must be cleared out with a blunt graver. The native process of rubbing the plates with acid and then putting them in the fire to loosen the encrustations should never be resorted to, as it invariably injures them fatally. From the cleaned plate an impression (reverse) is to be next taken by passing a roller charged with ink over the plate, and then printing from it as from an ordinary copper plate. From this impression another may be taken by means of an ordinary copper-plate press; and, with a little practice, a perfect facsimile may be thus obtained, the letters being white and the rest of the plate appearing a dark grey. Photozincography and many other methods exist by which "estampages" and facsimiles made by the last process may be multiplied to any extent.

Edw. F. R. Bantleman.

Mangalore 6th April 1876

From

A. C. Bunnell. Ph.D.

To

The Honble D. F. Carmichael
Chief Secretary to
Government Madras

Honble Sir,

⁺
Returned
herewith

in answer to your Order No. 51 dated 13th

January last, I have the honour
to state that I have carefully
gone over the copies of inscriptions
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2. One inscription only is of
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97/5
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I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt servant

A. Burnell

Esq. Philosopher

cc
cc

S.O. No. 372-540/74

Copy of the
original with the
copy of the translation
sent to the Government
on 10.10.1874

Subd. to the
10.10.1874

Subd. to the
10.10.1874

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10.10.1874

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utilizing copies of Indian inscrip-
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a pad daubed with printing ink,

Of also the remarks of
Prinsep and Keith,
and recently of Dr. Chau-
vignot as to the great
alterations in the
translations required
by improved trans-
cripts of inscriptions
long known and pub-
lished. The great objec-
tion to photography
as a means of repro-
ducing inscriptions
consists in the imper-
fections of the paper
used, and the diffi-
culty for impossibility
of managing the
light.

Sketchdrawings, photographs, &c.; &c.
Considerable experience and a number
of experiments have convinced me that
all these methods are defective, and
that only two ways are really true,
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tions on stone, and the other to those
on metal.

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579
Revenue Department.

No. 535

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 4th April 1874.

Read the following

Order from the
Governor in Council.

Reporting on the incus-
tions forwarded with
G.O. No. 51 of 13th January
last.

H. E. 14th April 1874

His Excellency the
Governor in Council has
subscribed to circulate the pro-
ceeding letter for the inform-
ation and guidance of
local Departments in con-
formance of G.O. No. 15th Com-
for 1874 No. 2108 Revenue
Department.

For convenience of
reference an extract from

62/10

ENCLOSURE

407 Rev

- For Communication & all
Thine Ants or Families —

Received by J. C. Smith & Co. 8th at
Harris on the 12 May 1904 -