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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	974	Press. / Mis.
Dated 12. 3. 1979		197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—10.006—19 4 79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

24th February 1879, No. 259.

Archæology.

Read the following paper :—

No. 117. *From R. SEWELL, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of the Kistna District, dated Bezwada, 29th January* 1879, *No.* 52.

I have the honor, as directed by Government in their Order, No. 1620, of the 1st November 1878 (Archæological), on my report on the Antiquities of Bezwada and Undavilly to report as follows.

2. I have consulted with the Executive Engineer, Mr. C. J. Peters, as to the cost of conveying the marbles to Madras. He estimates the cost of one Department Public Works Iron Punt, loaded, from Bezwada to Madras to be (the journey downfull, and up empty) about Rupees 100, exclusive of the hire of the punt, and inclusive of loading and unloading. I leave out the hire which possibly need not be considered, the punt being borrowed for a Government purpose.

3. I respectfully request that the Government will be pleased to consider and pass orders on the following matter.

4. The excavations at Amaravati were as reported conducted in May 1877, the result being the discovery of many marbles so much out of position that it would be harmless to remove them; many overturned and out of position, but lying in positions so near to their original ones that it will be best to leave them where they are till a Draughtsman and Photographer can be sent to fix their positions decisively; and a few stones which it is essential to leave standing, as they are "*in situ.*"

5. For the safety of the stones, and to prevent their being damaged by mischievous people, I was forced to put a peon in charge, at a monthly salary of Rupees 5. This money is being drawn out of the Rupees 1,000 granted to me by the Government of India.

6. Now, it is obvious that the salary of this peon, absolutely necessary to be maintained so long as the marbles remain uncovered, is steadily eating up the grant allowed for the excavations. Over Rupees 100 has been spent up to this date under this head.

7. It appears that some time will elapse before orders can be obtained on the subject of the Photographer and the Draughtsman; and I dare not proceed with the work till I can do so in their company, for reasons specified in Section 13 of the covering letter to my report.

8. I am also very anxious to save money, and I therefore submit the following proposal for the consideration and orders of Government.

9. If permitted I will get an iron flat from the Department Public Works, load on it at Amaravati the marbles so much out of position that no harm can possibly occur by their being removed, float this down to Bezwada, add to them the marbles now in the Library at Bezwada, and despatch the whole to the Central Museum, Madras.

The cost will be less than Rupees 150, I should think.

10. There can be no harm in sending these, and some of them are very beautiful. Also, any one can put them up at the Museum, because being already out of place they are merely so many loose specimens, and their positions *as discovered* is unimportant. I will send full report on them at the same time for guidance.

11. It being all-important to preserve the remainder in their positions and uninjured, and it being undesirable to continue to pay a watcher, I would suggest that it would be well for me to have them loosely covered with a foot or so of earth that can be readily removed hereafter, and then leave them till the Photographer and Draughtsman are sent.

12. It has been found by experience that if the marbles are lightly covered that is really sufficient. The villagers do not take the trouble to dig. Their delight is to destroy and injure what they find ready to hand. They have no iconoclastic feeling. It is pure wanton mischief; so that, if covered as suggested, the marbles would be safe, and the peon's pay would be saved. I would then defer reporting on Amaravati till the work was thoroughly completed, with good photographs, and plans, sections, and elevations drawn by a skilled Draughtsman. Before closing them I propose to take casts of the inscriptions on all the newly-discovered marbles; and submit them with transliteration, and, if possible, translation. Dr. Burnell would perhaps be willing to help me with the Pâli.

No. 365.

Submitted to Government for orders.

MASULIPATAM, *14th February* 1879.

(Signed) W. M. THORBURN, Asst., for *Collector.*

To the Acting Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 118. ORDER THEREON, 24th February 1879, No. 259.

His Grace the Governor in Council sanctions the retention of the peon on Rupees 5 a-month, and also the charge of Rupees 150 for the removal of the marbles from Amaravati to the Central Museum at Madras.

2. The sanction of the Government of India will be sought for an additional grant of Rupees 1,000 for the explorations at Amaravati.

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Kistna.
" Accountant-General.
" Public Works Department.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Revenue Deptt
Mis No 2098

Cobl. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

The COLLECTOR of KISTNA,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated Ootacamund, 24th.

Read 8/5

Rec'd 5th March

G.O., 24th October 1870, No. 939.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 137—140.

Abstract.—The removal of the grant of Rupees 5 annually and of the grant of Rupees 1,000 for the removal of the remarkable Amaravati in the Kistna District to the Central Museum at Madras, sanctioned, and the request of the Government of India sought for an additional grant of Rupees 1,000 for the explorations at Amaravati.

6 Feb 75.

Rec'd No 974

Communicated to the Board of Revenue

12 Mar 75.

Ans No 974