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Annual Report on the working  
of the Archaeological Museum,  
Mathura for the year ending  
31st March, 1931

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Annual Report on the Working  
of the  
Curzon Museum of Archæology, Muttra

*For the year ending March 31, 1931*



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**Annual Report on the working of the Curzon Museum  
of Archaeology, Muttra, for the year ending  
March 31, 1931.**

1. *Committee of management.*—According to the resolution, Miscellaneous department, no. 28/XII—405-1921, dated January 7, 1922, and as reconstituted by virtue of G. O. no. 1295-G/XV—348-1928, dated December 4, 1929, Education department, it remained unaltered throughout the year, with the exception that Rai Bahadur Pandit Daya Ram Sahni, M.A., resigned his membership of the Committee and Pandit K. N. Dikshit, was appointed in his place, vide resolution, Miscellaneous department, no. 86-G/XV—314-1930, dated January 30, 1931. In view of the impending departure of Mr. W. C. Dible, the Committee in their meeting of March 14, 1931, resolved that the Government be pleased to confer upon Rai Bahadur Pandit Radhakrishna, Vice-Chairman of the Managing Committee for life, the additional title of Honorary Managing Director of the Museum, but the resolution lapsed owing to the sad and sudden death of Rai Bahadur Pandit Radhakrishna on May 4, 1931.

2. *Staff.*—The arrangement of the last year continued in a satisfactory manner, viz., the Chairman held charge of the Museum with the assistance of the Vice-Chairman for life and a clerk, who did his work efficiently and well. The services of the Vice-Chairman were invaluable in the work of arrangement of the exhibits in the new Museum Building in collaboration with Rai Bahadur Ram Prasad Chanda, Superintendent, Archaeological Section, Indian Museum, Calcutta, who deserves the best thanks of the Committee for his kind services rendered ungrudgingly.

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The post of the Sub-Curator was converted into that of a clerk by G. O. no. G-519/391—1926, dated May 29, 1930. Chaubey Jagan Prasad was confirmed in his post of Museum clerk by G. O. no. 922G-/XV, dated August 5, 1930, Education department.

3. Grant for the upkeep of the Museum, viz., Rs. 4,534 was spent in different sub-heads as follows :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Curator's pay .. .. .	82	4	0
Sub-Curator and Clerk's pay .. .. .	490	0	0
Servants' pay .. .. .	444	0	0
Contingencies non-contract .. .. .	1,559	14	1
Total .. .. .	2,576	2	1
Balance .. .. .	1,957	13	11

4. *Special grant for the removal of sculptors and fixing and arranging them in the new buildings.*—Rs. 5,000 was spent in full by the end of the financial year. A consolidated account of Rs. 10,000 spent on this behalf during two years, 1929-30 and 1930-31, is detailed below :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) To cost of cleaning and removing exhibits from the old Museum building to the new by daily labour .. .. .	3,356	0	6
(2) To purchase of material for above .. .. .	304	1	0
(3) To hire of trolleys etc., for above .. .. .	133	12	0
(4) To cost of alterations to flooring of new building for erection of pedestals .. .. .	1,065	12	6
(5) To cost of material for construction of pedestals .. .. .	1,785	14	0
(6) To cost of labour employed in construction .. .. .	829	11	3
(7) To pay of temporary staff .. .. .	191	10	3
(8) To cost of fixing sculptures .. .. .	2,232	9	3
Total .. .. .	9,999	6	9
Balance lapsed .. .. .	0	9	3

Most of the important exhibits have now been arranged on pedestals and benches in the courts and alcoves of the Central Hall and are seen to infinitely better advantage. The Committee recognizes with deep gratitude the debt



of Mr. H Hargreaves, the late Director-General of Archaeology in India, who lent the services of Rai Bahadur Rama Prasad Chanda to assist the Committee in the matter of arrangement of sculptures in the Museum, which was accomplished by his generous gift of time in January and February, 1931.

Mr. A. L. Mortimer, A.R.I.B.A., Consulting Architect to Government, United Provinces, is also worthy of our best thanks for having taken great pains in planning the arrangement of the pedestals and accomplishing the distemperring scheme of the walls of the Central Hall which now display the exhibits in a most pleasant light-effect.

5. *Library*.—Eleven books were added to the Library during the year, a list of which is given in appendix A. Ten of these are Government publications. I have to draw the attention of Government to the urgent need of supplying the museum library with important works on Art, Archaeology and History as a necessary step towards creating facilities for successful classification and cataloguing.

6. *Building*.—The new Museum Building, which is suitable and dignified in design, spacious and well lit, has admirably been able to house the rarest gems of Mathura antiquities which were formerly lodged in ill-furnished and constricted quarters. The Museum is in close vicinity to the city and remains open for visitors at all seasons of the year. The installation of table and wall showcases for exhibiting smaller antiquities, terracottas, brass images in the Central Hall still remains to be done. An estimate for furniture and fittings is under consideration of the Government (on which action has now been deferred as an economy measure). The question of providing a suitable enclosure to the new building stands in abeyance at a similar stage.

7. *Acquisitions*.—The number of acquisitions added in the year under review comes to five, including four terracottas and one fragmentary coping stone of a railing, length 2'—2½" relieved on both sides with two friezes, the upper consisting of a flower creeper and the lower of honey-suckle alternating with griffins. These were presented by the late Rai Bahadur Pandit Radhakrishna and deposited in the Museum as on loan from the Director-General of Archaeology in India. The President thanks him highly for his generosity towards the Museum.

8. *Visitors*.—Remarks of two of the distinguished visitors during the year viz., of Rai Bahadur Ram Prasad Chanda, Superintendent, Archaeological Section, Indian Museum, and Pandit Hiranand Shastri, Government Epigraphist, Dotakamand, are printed in Appendix B.

V. S. AGRAWALA, M.A., LL.B.,	W. C. DIBLE, I.C.S.,
<i>Curator and Secretary,</i>	<i>Collector and Chairman,</i>
<i>Curzon Museum of Archaeology,</i>	<i>Museum Committee,</i>
<i>Muttra.</i>	<i>Muttra.</i>

October 31, 1931.



APPENDIX A.

*Books added to the Museum Library during the year under report.*

1. A Memoir of Archaeological Survey of India, No. 44, Explorations in Orissa, by Rai Bahadur R. P. Chanda.
2. Catalogue of Coins belonging to the Nawab Estate, Decca, Bengal.
3. Annual Report of the Provincial Museum, Lucknow.
4. Kharosthi Inscriptions, Part III, by E. J. Rapson and P. S. Noble.
5. Corpus Inscriptionvm Indicarvm, Vol. II, Part I, Kharoshthi Inscriptions by Sten Konow, ph.D., Professor in the Oslo University.
6. A Memoir of Archaeological Survey of India, No. 37, on an Architectural tour in Waziristan and North Baluchistan, by Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., F.B.A., etc.
7. Annual Report of the Curzon Museum of Archaeology, Muttra, for the year ending March 31, 1930.
8. A Memoir of Archaeological Survey of India, No. 38, Kushan Sassanian Coins, by Ernst Herzfeld.
9. A Memoir of Archaeological Survey of India, No. 42, an Architectural tour in Upper Swat and adjacent hill tracts, by Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., etc.
10. Annual Report of the Archaeological Survey of India for the year 1926-27, by Sir John Marshall, Kt., C.I.E., D.Litt., etc.
11. Epigraphia Indica, Part VII, Vol. XIX, July, 1928, by Dr. Hiranand Shastri, M.A., M.O.L., D.Litt., Government Epigraphist for India.

## APPENDIX B.

1. That the Curzon Museum of Archaeology at Muttra owes its excellence to the efforts of Rai Bandit Radhakrishna Bahadur is too well known. It is a matter of great satisfaction indeed that a suitable building has after all been constructed to house the invaluable collection of this Museum. It is expected that the exhibits will be scientifically arranged and properly displayed and an up-to-date catalogue of them all is prepared ere long. To meet these requirements it is absolutely necessary that a scholarly and trained Curator is appointed as soon as possible.

HIRANAND SHASTRI,

DOCTOR, M.A., M.O.L., D.Litt.,  
*Government Epigraphist for India.*

*January 14, 1931.*

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2. Though I have often visited the Mathura Museum of Archaeology before the transfer of the great collection to the present building, I never before ventured to record my remarks. The old Museum building was so much over-crowded with exhibits that I could not see the trees for the wood, and could not, therefore, fully realize the tremendous historical importance of the collection. This time, through the kindness of Mr. Hargreaves, the late Director-General of Archaeology in India, and through the courtesy of the Committee of Management of the Curzon Museum of Archaeology and its Vice-Chairman for life, my esteemed friend, Rai Bahadur Pandit Radha-



krishna, I have enjoyed the unique opportunity of watching the exhibition of the specimens of outstanding importance in the halls of the new building for over two weeks. I doubt very much whether one can do justice to this collection after studying it closely for even two years instead of two weeks. Yet I must briefly record my impression of the value of this collection and my suggestions regarding its future administration. Allahabad (Prayag) is held very sacred by the Hindus because it is on the Triveni, the meeting place of the three holy rivers, the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the Saraswati believed to be running underground. Beginning from about 57 B.C. when a Saka king established his sway over North-Western India, as far as Mathura and made it the seat of a great Satrap or Viceroy, till the overthrow of the great Kusan Dynasty in the third century A.D., Mathura witnessed the meeting and mingling of three different currents of culture, ancient Hindu, Yavana (Greek), and Iranian (Saka-Parthian-Kushan), out of which emerged in the fourth century A.D. the Gupta or mediaeval Hindu civilization. This contact of three great cultures is fully reflected in the specimens of the Sunga and Saka-Kushan art that form the great bulk of the exhibits of the Curzon Museum, and there is a smaller collection that enables us to follow the development of the Gupta art step by step.

The collection of antiquities deposited in the Museum has as yet only been superficially studied. The inscriptions on the sculptures have mostly been deciphered and translated and their subject matter explained. But the type and style of different phases of the art of Mathura have not yet been analysed, the light this art throws on the mentality of the different races who met at Mathura in the



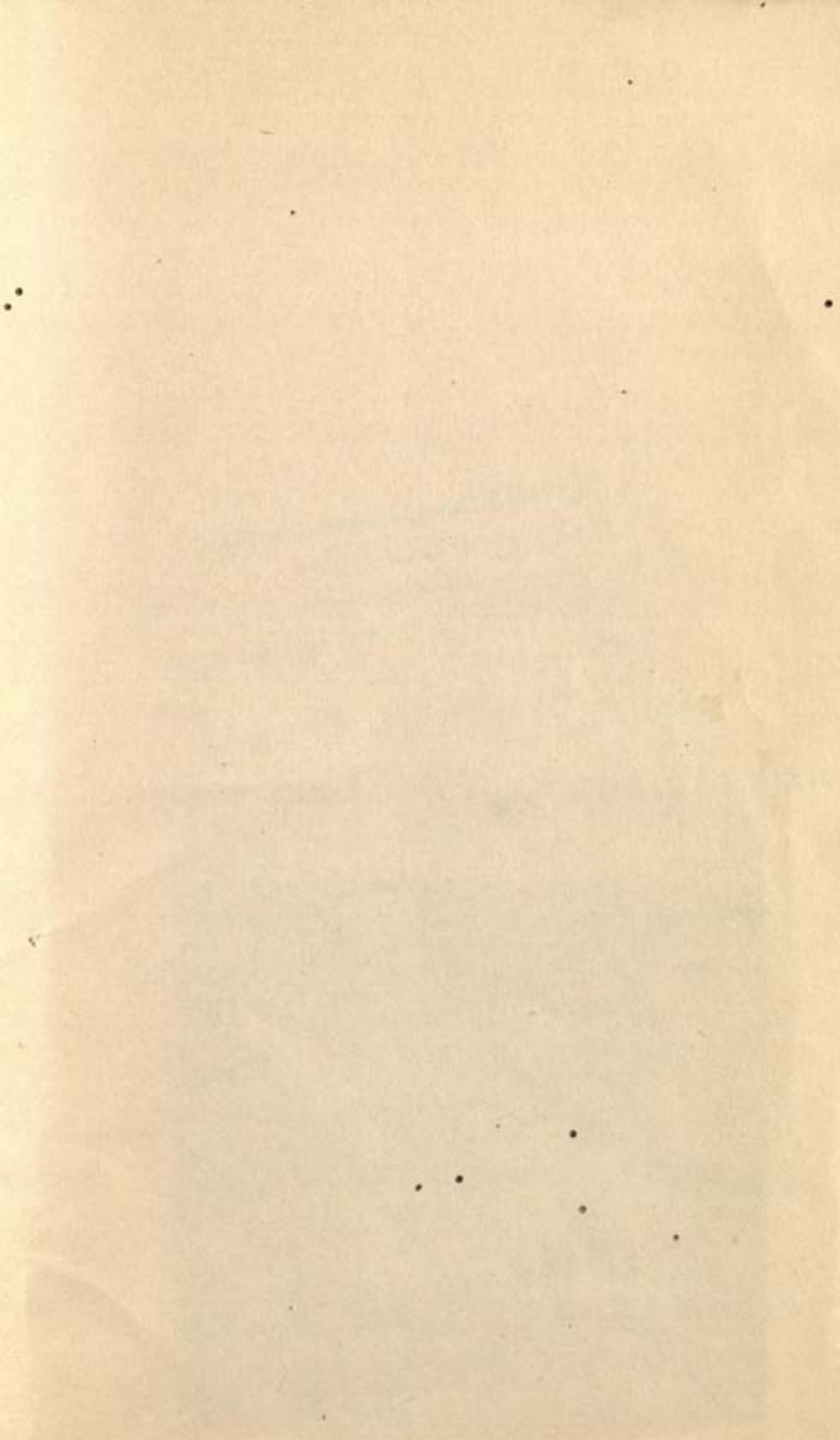
early centuries of the Christian era has not yet been revealed, and the message of the Saka-Kushan and of Gupta monuments to the modern world has not yet been explained. Besides, hundreds of *Tilas* hiding treasures untold still lie untouched by the spade of the archaeologist in the Brij-Bhumi (Muttra district). With all these materials Mathura is therefore the most suitable place in Northern India where a school of Archaeology on the model of the school of Archaeology established by the great nations of Europe and America at Athens and Rome may be founded. . . . I am sure that the valuable services that the present official President, Mr. W. C. Dible, has rendered to the Museum under difficulties will be gratefully remembered by all who are interested in it.

RAMA PRASAD CHANDA,

RAI BAHADUR, M.A., F.A.S.B.,

*Superintendent, Archaeological  
Section, Indian Museum, Calcutta.*

CAMP—MUTTRA :  
*February 13, 1931.*



V.P.  
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