

List of Drawings Enclosed.

Sanchi Series

Plates I. V. XV. XXVII. XXXI. XL. I. XLII. XLIII. XLVI.
XLVII. XLVIII. XLIX. I. I. II. I. IV. I. V.

Total Sixteen (16) Plates Completing the whole
of the Sanchi Series or Plates illustrative of the Report
on the Antiquities of Sanchi.

Signed J. Murray Leitch.

Simla

October 26th 1854.

by Capt. M.S.

On Special Duty.

Introductory Remarks to Lieutenant Murray's
Illustrated account of the Sanchi Antiquities.

The following account of the Antiquities of
Sanchi in the Peshwar Territory was first drawn
up by me during the hot season of 1850, & submitted,
with numerous illustrations, to Gov^o at the close
of that year.

As a second visit to the spot was necessary
in order to complete the Series of Sketches, and institute
a search for Antiquities supposed to be buried there,
the Manuscript was returned to me, with a suggestion
from the Secretary to Government (Sir H. M. Elliot K.C.B.)
that any new matter I might collect should be

incorporated therein to render it more complete. I therefore took the M.S. with me into Camp in the Cold Season of 1850-51. and made some unimportant alterations and additions; but owing to the accidental damage of part of it & its vignettes, I had to recopy it again and it was finally submitted to Government with some of its finished Plates in October 1851.

During this second visit to Sanchi I was joined by Major A. Cunningham, who took great interest in the work on which I was employed and who had asked me to defer my search for relics until he came to join in the interesting work. We therefore together superintended excavations at Sanchi and several other places and were rewarded by the discovery of "trouvailles" of great interest, a paper on which I propose drawing up as soon as I receive translations of the inscriptions now with the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

The completion of the Sanchi Series of Plates was unavoidably delayed, owing to my being with my Corps during the Burmese Campaign, and having so much military duty while in Pegu; but during the past hot season I have had the satisfaction of completing the whole Series, and I can only hope their subjects will possess for others a tithe of the interest with which I have invested them.

In the interval that has thus elapsed since I took the work in hand, Major Cunningham has published a very valuable and interesting book upon the same subject, so that my account, if

published will labor under the disadvantage³ of
being, to some extent a repetition, as, of course, we
both naturally noticed similar peculiarities, and to a
certain extent came to similar conclusions. My view
however of the general subject differs so much from
Major Cunningham's that I still hope to find it
will possess some interest of its own, and perhaps
tend to a more complete elucidation of Buddhist
antiquities than could be effected by a single
publication.

In conclusion I cannot resist expressing a
hope that while the London Crystal Palace is gradually
being enriched by specimens of art from Egypt
and Assyria, a space may yet be allotted for the
sculptures of India, which, both in style and
magnitude in part are so closely allied with the Assyrian
and Egyptian. This connection I hope the following
pages may throw light upon.

Simla
October 26th 1854.

Signed J. Mackay Laird
byth Robt. A. S.

Memorandum.