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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
ARCHAEOLOGY IN INDIA.

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My dear Luard,

Will you please refer to your D.O. No. 3590, dated the 28th July 1920, regarding the proposed restoration to the Bhopal Durbar of certain antiquities from Sanchi in the British Museum. A list of these antiquities was prepared by me in the British Museum last summer, and supplied to the Bhopal Durbar. At the same time I informed the Darbar that I had arranged with Sir Hercules Read to furnish the Sanchi Museum with casts or duplicate copies of the antiquities in question, and I believe that he is now doing this.

I do not suppose that the British Museum would contemplate for a moment, returning the original antiquities to Sanchi, nor do I imagine that the India Office would give any support to such a proposal, which is directly opposed to the accepted policy of the Museum. Indeed if such a precedent were once established the British Museum would quickly find itself despoiled of half its treasures, which would be demanded back by Greece, Egypt and Italy and a score of other countries. In the circumstances, I suggest, therefore, that the best course would be to drop the matter.

Yours sincerely,

John Marshall

Colonel P.E. Luard,
Bhopal Agency, Sehore.

Issued under P.A.
20/8/20
20/8/20

Submitted for orders.
You may like to speak to the C.S.

M.H. P.A. Draft sublt. 21/8/20

he may write
in his sense to
CS for record
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