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‘Aden. Antiquities.’

Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Reference	IOR/F/4/2087/96930
Date(s)	22 Dec 1842-31 Dec 1844 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 item (12 folios)
Copyright for document	Public Domain



About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence, consultations, memoranda, resolutions, and minutes cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay [Mumbai]. The main correspondents are: the Government of Bombay; the Court of Directors of the East India Company; the Military Board of Bombay; Captain Stafford Bettesworth Haines, Political Agent in Aden; and the Geographical Society at Bombay.

The item concerns the discovery at Aden of an inscription in Himyaritic, investigations into Himyaritic, and the future display of the inscribed stone.

Further information on the circumstances surrounding the finding of the inscription appears in IOR/F/4/2005/89508. The item contains a contents page, and the title page of the item contains the following references: ‘Draft 291/45, P.C. [Previous Communication] 4747’.

P 84747 96.930
d/t 29/1/45

Collection N^o. 2. of N^o. 101.

Bombay:
Political Department.

Paras: 18419 Letter from, dated 31. December 1844:

Aden,
Antiquities.

Examiner's Office

(1003)

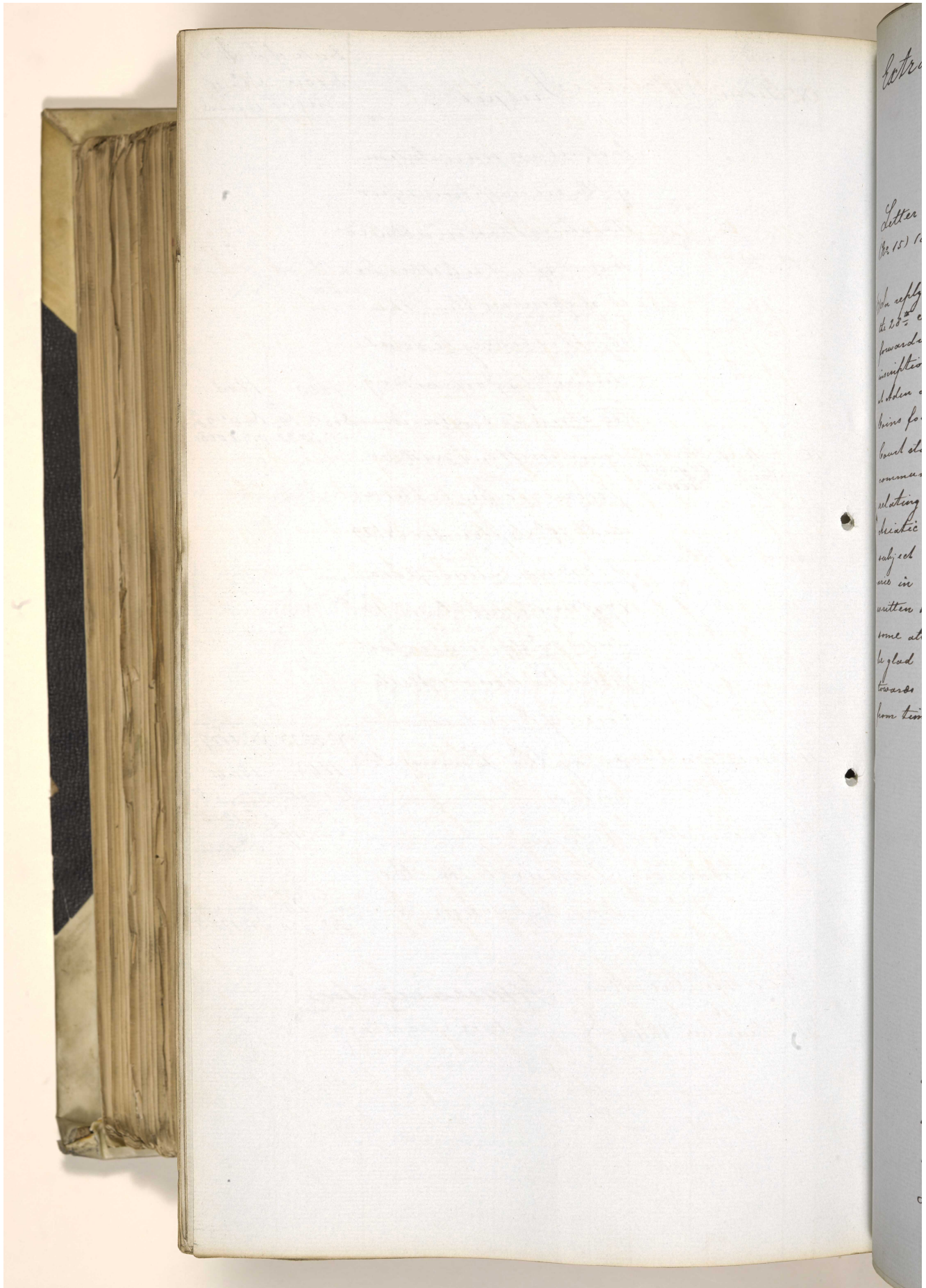
Table of Contents.

No.	From	To	Subject	Date of Docu-ment	Date of Consul
<u>Aden</u>					
<u>Antiquities.</u>					
1	Gov ^l Bombay	Count of D ^o	Acknowledging receipt of the Government letter No. 2809 of 1842, and stating in reply that he will have pleasure in submitting to Government any antiquities similar to those therein alluded to, which may be discovered at Aden.	3 rd Dec ^r (10) 1844	
1A	Political agent Aden	Secy ^y to Gov ^t		1842	1843
				Dec ^r 22 nd 1842	Feb ^r 28 th 1843
				No. 60	No. 560
2.	Military Board	Hon ^{ble} the Govern ^r	Submitting, with reference to Government letter No. 2810 dated 14 th November last, a letter from the Executive Engineer at Aden forwarding a Box containing the inscribed stone found on digging the Commercial Road at Aden.	1843	
				Jan ^y 20 th 1843	No. 302. No. 739.
3.	Minute by the	Hon ^{orable} the Govern ^{or}	conceding by His Excellency the Command ^{er}		

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No.	From	To	Subject	Date of document	Date & No. of Consul.
			Commander in Chief and the Honorable Mr. Anderson	1843 July 10 th	1843 July 12 th No. 740.
4.	Secy to Military Govt	Board	Requesting that the stone alluded to in the above letter may be forwarded to the Secretary to Government in the Persian Department	16 th No. 392	" " " No. 741.
5.	Resolution		Transfer to the Persian Department	" " " No. 393.	" " " No. 742.
6.	Secy to Bombay Geographical Society	Secy to Govt	Conveying the thanks of the Geographical Society for the fac simile taken of an inscription from a stone recently discovered at Aden	" 11 th March 22 nd No. 204.	" " " No. 1213.
7.	Extract		para. 1 st of a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors	Sept. 20 th No. 15	
8.	Resolution		Transfer to the Persian Department	Dec. 19 th No. 3231.	Dec. 20 th No. 607.
9.	Secy to Govt	Secy to Geographical Society	Transmitting the above extract and requesting that the Society will state for the information of Government whether they have been able to		

'Aden. Antiquities.' [1005v] (6/24)



N^o 1

Extract Political Letter from Bombay
dated 31st December (N^o 101) 1844

Letter to, dated 20th September
(N^o 15) 1843

(17) In reply to Political Letter dated
the 23rd November N^o 45 of 1842
forwarding a fac simile of an ancient
inscription on a marble slab discovered
at Aden and seven gold Mohammedan
coins found at the same place, the
Court state that they authorized the
communication of the particulars
relating to the former to the Royal
Asiatic Society and that as the
subject of the character called Hingy-
arie in which the inscription is
written has of late years attracted
some attention in Europe they shall
be glad to receive any further materials
towards its elucidation which may
from time to time be met with

18. We beg
to report that
this stone was
forwarded to
Bombay in
December 1842
by Lieutenant
Curtis the
Executive Engineer
at Aden and
that on its
arrival it was
made over to
the care of

our Persian Secretary who having
shewn it to Major General Gans
Kennedy was informed by that
Officer that he considers there is
a great similarity if not identity
between most of the characters
upon this stone and an inscription
said to be in an unknown character
discovered by Lieutenant Mellet
among the ruins of Nukab el Hajer
and noticed in a work entitled
"Travels in Oman" which was published

by
1006

by that Officer in 1838.
119 At the suggestion
of Major General Kennedy we have
directed that for the present, this
stone be placed for public inspection
in the Museum of the Bombay
Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

7/182
L. De...
4-

Plite
Aden

by
...
...

3
N^o 105, of 1842. Extract Bombay Political
Political Depart. Consultation 8th February 1843.
N^o 60, of 1842.
N^o 560. - From, The Political Agent, at Aden.

To,
J. P. Willoughby, Esquire.
Secretary to Government,
Bombay.
Dated 22nd December 1842.

Sir,

I have the honor to ac-
knowledge your letter number
2809, of 1842, Political Department,
and shall feel great pleasure in
submitting to Government any
similar antiquities which may be
discovered at Aden.

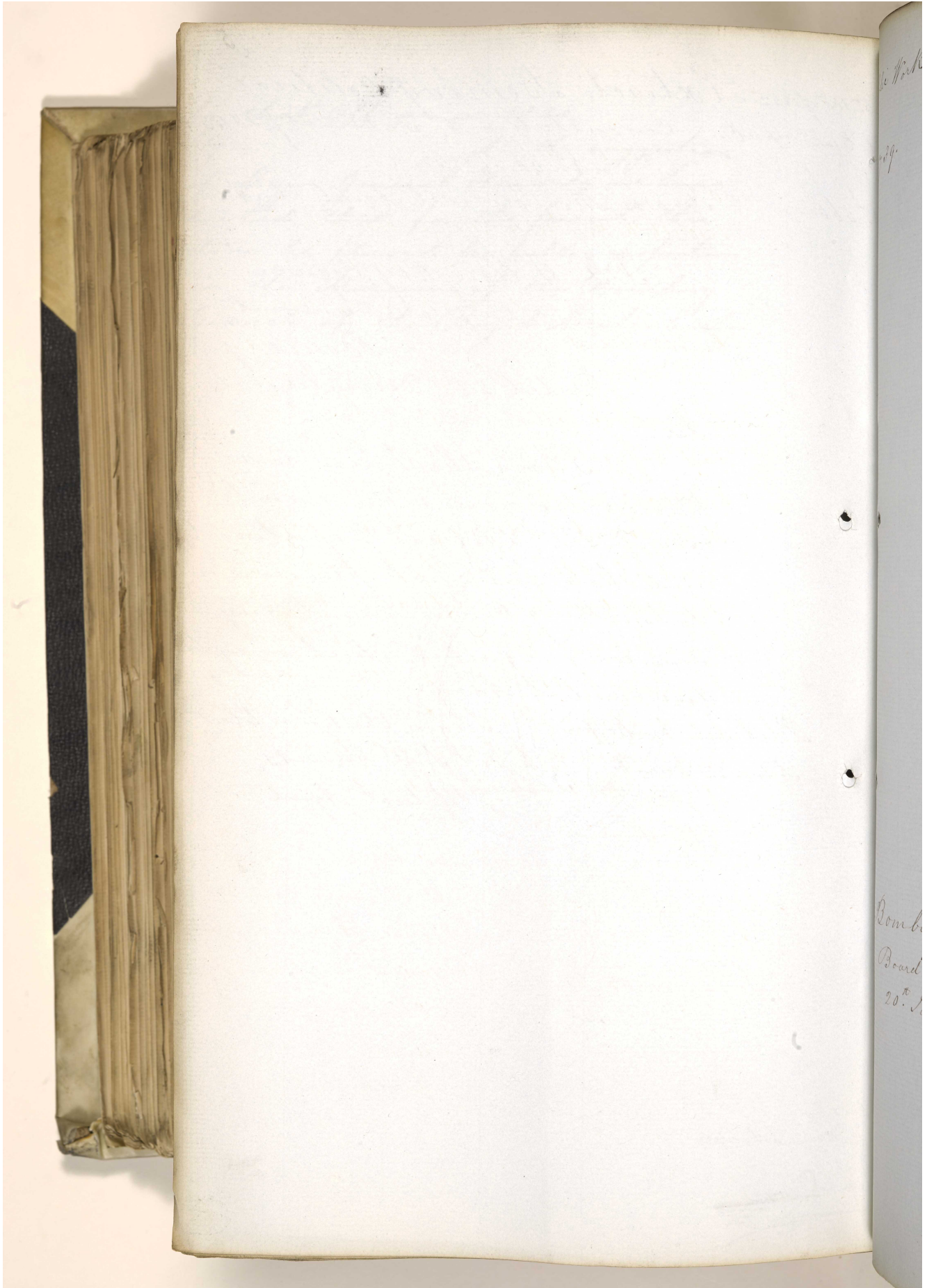
Political Agent's office } I have the honor to be
Aden 22nd December 1842. } signed J. B. Haines,
Political Agent.

Copied by
Rustamjee Sahangere

[Signature]

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'Aden. Antiquities.' [1007v] (10/24)



Public Works. Extract Bombay Political Consultation ⁵
N^o 2. 18th February 1843.
N^o 302 of 1843.

N^o 739.

From, The Military Board.

To

Colonel the Honble Sir George Arthur, B^t F. C. F. C.

Governor and President in Council.

Dated 20th January 1843.

Honorable Sir,

With reference to Mr. Secretary
Willoughby's letter N^o 2810, of the 14th November
last, requesting us to direct the Executive
Engineer at Aden to have the inscribed
stone found on digging the Commercial
Road at Aden, carefully packed and
forwarded to this Presidency we have the
honor to transmit a letter from the Executive
Engineer at Aden N^o 233, of the 30th Ultimo,
forwarding a Box containing the stone
in question and to request the instructions
of your Honorable Board as to the disposal
of the same.

We have the honor to be &c

Bombay - - - }
Board office - - }
20th January 1843

Sigs/ D. Barr, Major General.
Military Auditor General.
" J. Dickinson, Colonel.
Chief Engineer.
" G. Moore, Lt. Colonel.
Member Military
Board.

N^o

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N^o. 233, of 1842.

To,

The Secretary
to the Military Board,
Bombay.

Sir,

With reference to the letter
from Mr. Secretary Willoughby with
your endorsement N^o. 4340, I have the
honor to inform you that the stone
therein alluded to has been packed
up as directed, and forwarded to your
address -

Aden } I have the honor to be
December 30th 1842 } signed J. A. Curtis, Lieut^{nt}
N^o. 2. } Execut. Eng^r. Aden

Minute by the Honorable the Governor,
Concurred in by His Excellency the
Commander in Chief and the
Honorable Mr. Anderson, dated 10th
February. -

This stone should in the
first instance, be made over to the Persian
Secretary, with a request that he will en-
deavour to ascertain in what characters the
inscription is written, and if possible, to
submit a translation to Government. - The
Persian Secretary should be authorized to
avail himself of any assistance, which
may

may be likely to aid him in this ob-
-ject.

Signed J. Arthur.
" J. W. Mahon.
" J. W. Anderson.

N. 4.

N^o 392, of 1843.

N^o 741-

From, J. P. Willoughby, Esquire,
Secretary to Government,

To, Bombay.
The Military Board.

Gentlemen, Dated 16th February 1843.

In acknowledging the receipt
of your letter with enclosure N^o 302, dated
the 20th Ultimo, I am directed by the
Honorable the Governor in Council, to
request that you will be pleased to
forward the Stone therein alluded to,
to Mr. Pringle the Secretary to Government
in the Persian Department.

Bombay Castle }
16th February 1843. }

I have the honor to be
S^g J. P. Willoughby,
Secretary to Govern^t.

N. 5.

N^o 393.

N^o 742. Resolution of Government in the
Political Department, dated 16th February 1843.

Resolved that a Copy of the letter
from the Military Board N^o 302, dated
the 20th Ultimo, of the reply thereto of
this date, and of the Minute thereon of
the 10th instant, be transferred to the Persian
Department

(1009)

'Aden. Antiquities.' [1009v] (14/24)

Department for information and
Guidance -

Signed J. P. Willoughby,
Secretary to Government.

copied by
Rattay Lalun
Ed. of the Antiquities of Aden
Bombay
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Extract Bombay Political consultation

No. 22nd March 1843.

No. 204. of 1843.

No. 1213.

From, J. Buist, Esquire,

Secretary to the Geographical Society
Bombay.

To,

J. P. Willoughby, Esquire;
Secretary to Government,
Bombay.

Dated 11th February 1843.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2812, dated 14th November 1842, presenting from the Honorable the Governor in Council, a Copy of a letter from the Political agent at Aden, dated the 29th September 1842. No. 29, and a fac-simile of the inscription therein alluded to, taken from a Stone recently discovered at that place to the Bombay Branch of the Royal Geographical "Society of London."

I am directed to request you will have the goodness to convey the best thanks of the Society to the Honble the Governor for his Excellency's very valuable and acceptable donation to the Society.

Geographical Society
Bombay
11th February 1843.

I have the honor to be
Sir J. Buist,
Secretary to the Society.

Extract para: 17. of a letter from the
Honorable the Court of Directors,
dated 20th September 1843. N^o. 15.

17. With this letter you have
forwarded to us a fac-simile of an
ancient inscription on a marble
slab discovered at Aden, and seven gold
Mahomedan coins found at the same
place. We have authorized the Com-
munication of the particulars relating
to the former to the Royal Asiatic
Society, - and as the subject of the cha-
racter called Harigaratie, in which
the inscription is written has of late
years attracted some attention in
Europe, we shall be glad to receive any
further materials towards its elucida-
tion which may from time to time
be met with. - The coins are also of
interest and have been deposited in
the Cabinets of our museum. -

Transmitting a
letter from the Pa
Agent at Aden
Coins & a fac simile
an inscription.

copied by
Kulliyu Sah
E. J. [Signature]

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19th
N^o. 600

Extract Bombay Political Consultation
 N^o 6007. 20th December 1843. N^o 323 of 1843
 Resolution of Government in the
 Political Department, dated 19th Decr. 1843.
 With reference to the transfer
 N^o 393. made to the Persian Department,
 under date the 16th February last, -
 Ordered that an Extract para. 17 of a
 despatch from the Honorable the Court
 of Directors, dated the 20th September
 last N^o 15. be transferred to that
 Department, with a request that the
 Persian Secretary will report for the
 information of the Honble Board, whether
 he has been able to obtain a translation
 of the inscription upon the stone therein
 alluded to, and if not whether he is
 of opinion that this object is likely
 to be attained by forwarding the stone
 to England. -

Bombay Castle }
 19th December 1843 }
 N^o 9 N^o 3232, of 1843 -
 Sir J. P. Willoughby,
 Secretary to Government.

N^o 6008. From, J. P. Willoughby, Esquire,
 Secretary to Government.

To,
 The Secretary to the Geographical Society
 Bombay.

Sir, Dated 19th December 1843.

With reference to my letter
 dated

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dated the 14th November N^o: 2812 of 1842, I am directed by the Hon^{ble} the Governor in Council, to transmit to you, an Extract para: 17th of a despatch from the Hon^{ble} the Court of Directors, dated the 20th September last, N^o: 15, and to request that you will be pleased to state for the information of Government, whether the society have been able to obtain a translation of the inscription upon the stone therein alluded to, and if not, whether they are of opinion that this object is likely to be attained by forwarding the stone to England.

Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be
19th Decr. 1843. } Sir J. P. Willoughby,
Secretary to Government.

N^o: 10.

N^o: 3233, of 1843.

From, J. P. Willoughby, Esquire,
Secretary to Government,

N^o: 6009.

To, Captain S. B. Hains,
Political Agent at Aden.
Dated 19th December 1843.

Sir,
With reference to your letter dated the 29th September N^o: 29, of 1842, forwarding a fac-simile of an inscription on a stone recently discovered at Aden, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor

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in Council, to transmit for your
information, an Extract para: 17 of a
despatch from the Honorable the
Court of directors, dated the 20th
September last, N^o: 15. on the above
Subject.

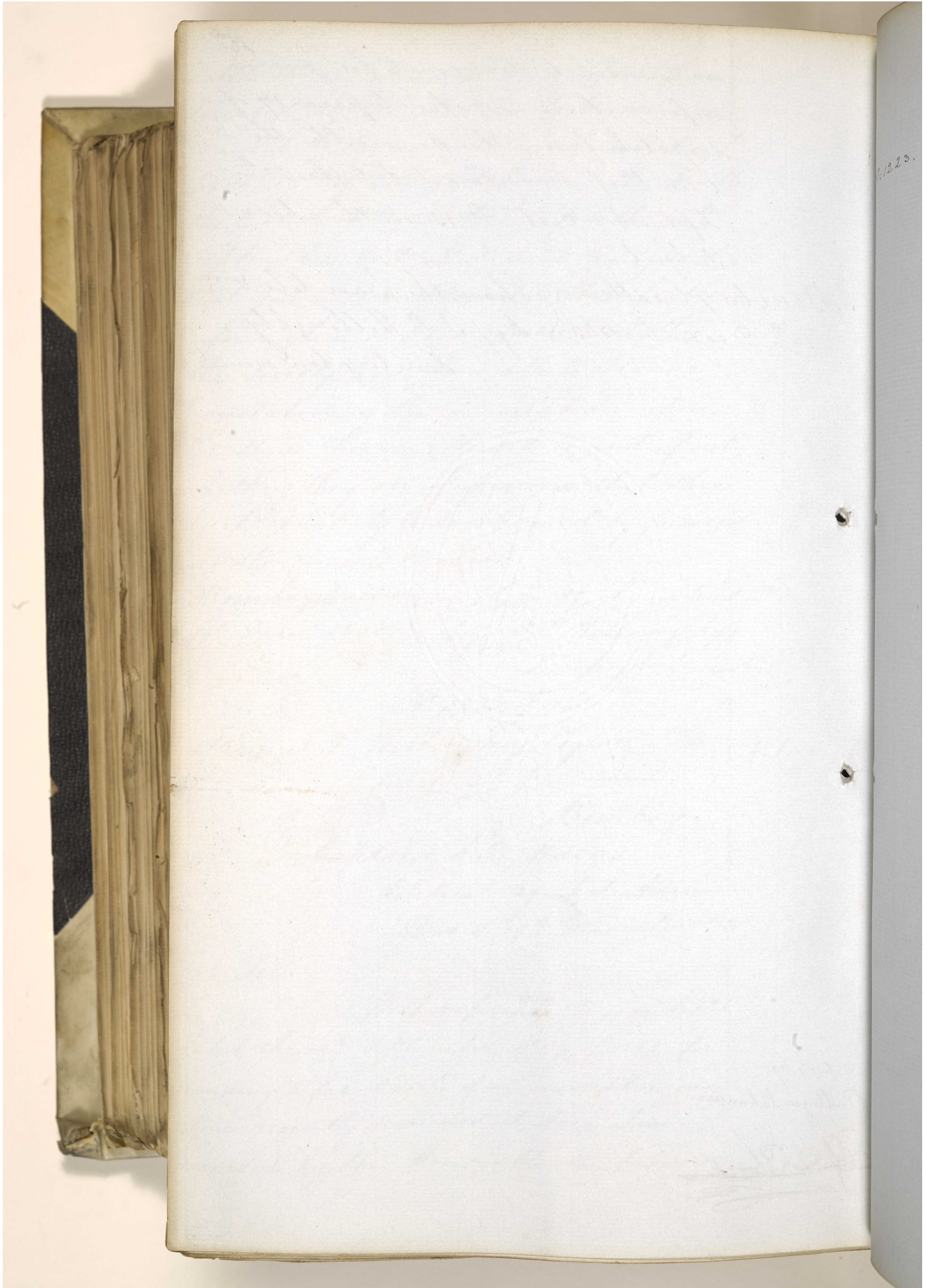
Bombay Castle } I have the honor to be
19th December 1843. } Sigs/ J. P. Willoughby,
Secretary to Government.

copied by
Putterjee, Lahangur

J. P. Willoughby

(1012)

'Aden. Antiquities.' [1012v] (20/24)



N^o. 1223.

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Extracts *Bombay Political*
N^o. 111. Consultation ^{at} 1st March 1844.
 Memorandum by the Persian Secretary
 to Government dated 12th February 1844.
 With reference to the Resolu-
 tion in the Political Department N^o. 3237
 of 1843, the Secretary begs to state for the
 information of Government that General
 Kennedy, with whom he has been in Com-
 munication, considers that there is a
 great similarity, if not identity, be-
 tween most of these letters, in which the
 inscription found at Aden is written, and
 those of an inscription in an unknown
 Character discovered by Lieutenant Walsted
 among the ruins of Mukab el Hojar and
 published by him in 1838 in his Travels
 in Oman. —

As a facsimile has been
 already sent to England, the Secretary is
 not of opinion that any good would
 result from sending the stone also, but
 it has been suggested by General Ken-
 nedy, that for the present at least, the
 stone should be placed in the Museum
 of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asia-
 tic Society, where it would have the best

chance
 (1013)

chance of meeting with some person, able to determine the character in which the inscription is written - This suggestion the Secretary considers should be adopted -

The Secretary begs to annex an Extract from a letter from General Kennedy regarding the Hamyaric language -
Bamby Castle } /Signed/ W. Escombe
12th February 1844. } Secy to Govt.

Extract

"The following particulars, are all that I have been able to ascertain with respect to the Hamyaric language, In the Journal Asiatique of Paris for July 1838, an Extract is given from a letter of M. Fresnel, a French traveller in Arabia, in which he announces that he has discovered the Hamyaric language. In a subsequent letter - published in the Number of December 1838 - dated Jeddah February 1838, he says I am much inclined to believe that there still exist monuments written in the language of Cush / the Hamyaric, but, in waiting until they are found and decyphered, I must represent the words of the language, which is spoken at this day at Murbat and Zhaifar, by a system of

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of orthography borrowed from the Charac-
ters of one of the Semitic languages with
which we are acquainted. - Mr. Fresnel
therefore adapts the Arabic Character for
this purpose. -

In another part of the same
letter Mr. Fresnel says - I much regret
that the English travellers, who have, in
later times, visited Hadramaut and
the Country of Mahrah, have not pub-
lished the result of their researches -
I doubt not but that they have found
monuments of the highest interest. The
Caves / by Poge's / of Bizhah, one of the
most ancient Cities of the valley of
Dawan, at five or six days journey
from Mucallah, should present inscriptions
in the Masnad / Henjaree / Characters. -

True Extract,
/ Signed / W. Escombe.
Secy to Govt.

N. 1224.

Minute by the Honorable the Governor
Subscribed to by the Board dated 19th February.

The Stone may, for the pre-
sent, as suggested by Major General
Kennedy, be placed for inspection in the
Museum of the Asiatic Society. -

2. Copy of the Persian Secretary's
memorandum
1014

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memorandum should be forwarded to the Honorable the Court of Directors, in reply to the 17th para: of their despatch dated the 20th September last N^o. 15 of 1843.

19th February 1844. / Signed George Arthur

" J. W. Mahan

" J. W. Anderson

" J. H. Crawford.

N^o. 660 of 1844.

Resolution of Government in the Political Department dated 24 February 1844.

N^o. 1225.

With reference to the memorandum from the Persian Department dated the 12th February, ordered that the secretary in that Department be informed that the stone therein alluded to, should for the present, as suggested, by Major General Kennedy be placed for inspection in the museum of the Bombay Asiatic Society. -

Bombay Castle }
24th February 1844.

/ Signed J. P. Willoughby
Chief Secretary

True Extract -

J. P. Willoughby
Chief Secretary.

Copied by
Secretary to the
Government