

ART AND ARCHÆOLOGY ABROAD

A REPORT INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR INDIAN STUDENTS
DESIRING TO SPECIALIZE IN THOSE SUBJECTS
IN THE RESEARCH CENTRES OF
EUROPE AND AMERICA

SUBMITTED BY

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To
SYAMAPRASAD MOOKERJEE, M.A., B.L., M.L.C.
VICE-CHANCELLOR
AND
PRESIDENT, POST-GRADUATE COUNCIL
ON HIS INAUGURATING
THE ASUTOSH MUSEUM OF ARTS,
1936

SENATE HOUSE :
CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY. }

KALIDAS NAG

INTRODUCTION

In January, 1930, I had the honour of being invited by the Institute of International Education (under the Carnegie Foundation), New York, to deliver a series of lectures on Indian Art and Archæology, as Visiting Professor to the Institute for 1930-31.

The same month I received invitations from the League of Nations, Geneva, to study from within the Intellectual Co-operation and other activities of the League as a temporary Collaborator. Simultaneously an invitation came from the Geneva School of International Studies under its learned Director Dr. Alfred Zimmern, now Professor of International Relations, Oxford University.

To fulfil these important engagements, I had to apply for study-leave and also for any financial support that my University could afford to lend me. With a feeling of sincere gratitude I beg to record that the University authorities with their usual consideration and generosity not only granted me leave for one year but furnished me with the wherewithal of the expensive voyage by granting me the Ghose Travelling Fellowship for that year. But for these facilities I would have been obliged to refuse the invitations and forego the pleasure and privilege of speaking about my *Alma Mater* and

about Indology in general before the Universities and cultural centres of the Occident. Years ago in 1924 I was befriended on a similar occasion by my University, then under its illustrious leader Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, enabling me to accompany Dr. Rabindranath Tagore on his Far-Eastern tour and to return to my work after a thorough exploration of the relics of Indian art and culture in China and Japan, French Indo-China and Dutch East Indies. The materials collected in course of that historic tour enabled me to organize the Greater India movement (*vide* Greater India, *Calcutta Review*, 1926) which evoked sympathetic response from most of the Universities of India. The pan-Asiatic character of Indian art and the international trend of Indian civilization which I had the privilege of demonstrating in course of my Post-Graduate courses and public lectures attracted the attention of some of the organizations of Europe and America who accorded their invitations to me. So in course of my second lecture-tour through Europe and America I remember with gratitude the encouragement I received from Sir Asutosh and also from his worthy son Mr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, our present Vice-Chancellor, who is carrying on the noble traditions of our University. It gave me great satisfaction that I was privileged to convey first-hand information about our University and its Post-Graduate activities to many Universities and learned associations abroad (*vide* Index).

The voyage was strenuous and expensive and that I could accomplish my mission was due to the support of the Trustees of the Rashbehary Ghose Foundation to whom I offer my best thanks. I must also thank Mr. J. C. Chakravorti, the Registrar of the University, for his uniform courtesy and kind attentions.

My academic lectures and other public engagements apart, I utilized the opportunity of fresh contact with Occidental savants and specially with my old friends occupying now responsible positions in various Universities, to study (1) the special arrangements and provisions for the collection and co-ordination of the data of arts and archæology, as well as (2) the methods of teaching of those subjects in some of the important centres so far as they may affect favourably the line of training in our Universities. Needless to say my interest in this line of study was not merely academic but that, through personal contacts and conferences, I tried my best to ascertain how our Indian students may benefit by such Institutions abroad and what facilities we may procure for our promising workers in the field of Art and Archæology.

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Polychrome pottery from Nazca, Peru