

**3. Vincent Smith in Gorakhpur to W. C. Peppé in Birdpore dated 19-20 January 1898, 8 pages.**

*Smith finds Peppé's discoveries 'very interesting'. He hopes he will write a detailed account of his excavations with plans and photographs and asks him to survey the whole site. He warns Peppé that he must report his find officially. He believes the stupa to be 'of early date – anterior to the Christian era'. Continuing on 20 January, he adds that he is busy in court until 26 January but could come out to visit him by train on 27 January.*

Gorakhpur  
19. 1.98

My dear Peppé

Your discoveries at Piprahwah are very interesting. I send you a volume of the new Archaeological Survey Reports which gives an account of similar finds in the Madras Presd .

The great size of your stone chest is remarkable, and I believe the relics were very highly esteemed ones. I suppose there is no trace of any inscriptions.

I hope you will write a detailed account of your explorations accompanied by plans, sections and elevations. I shall have much pleasure in communicating it to either the Royal Asiatic Society in London, or the Bengal Asiatic Society in Calcutta, whichever you prefer. Drawings and photographs of the principal objects found would also be of much interest and might be combined a number together in one or two plates.

Under the Treasure Trove Act you should communicate the find officially to the Collector – Govt possesses a right of presumption to such finds. Possibly you may feel inclined to present the find either to the Indian Museum Calcutta or the Lucknow Provl Museum.

It is desirable to have a survey of the whole site including the parts excavated and those unexcavated. If you choose to add surveys of the other sites near, they will be of interest.

From its shape I believe the stupa to be of early date – anterior to the Christian era – roughly speaking not less than 2000 years old.

The enclosure in the east is evidently a small monastery. You may find in it small stools (*chauki*) and odds and ends. It might be completely excavated with advantage and surveyed. Note dimensions of bricks, and all measurements in detail.

2.

So much I wrote in the morning.

I have been in court and looked over my case list. It is impossible for me to go out at once. We are going to the Eclipse by special train on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and I have Sessions on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and possibly the 26<sup>th</sup>. (By the bye do you know about the Special train on the 22<sup>nd</sup> – start at 7.30 – return from Ekmen [?] at 14.30 – due in Gorkhpur at 19.15. Carlnam [?] gives lunch at Ekmen. Let Walker know if you are coming – fare Rs 11-14). The earliest I could start is the night of the 26<sup>th</sup> reaching your place at say 9 am on the 27<sup>th</sup> after sleeping at Uskar [Uskar Bazaar]. Or I think I should prefer to go out by the morning train of the 27<sup>th</sup> (which is a holiday) Thursday, that would leave Friday and Saturday, and I could return on Sunday.

My wife thanks you for your kind invitation, and unless anything happens to prevent her will be glad to come with me. We are sorry to hear that Mrs Peppé is indisposed and hope she is quite recovered.

You may of course desire to make your trip earlier if so don't wait for me. If you want me to come these are the only ones I can manage.

Remember me to George.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

V C Smith

W. Claxton Peppé Esq