



REMOVAL OF PLANTS AND TREES FROM HISTORIC BUILDINGS

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Preface

Plants are an integral part of human life. No life can be expected on this earth without some sort of vegetation. However, despite the life sustaining qualities of plants, there is near unanimity amongst conservators that the growth of plants on historic buildings and monuments is undesirable. When present on historic buildings, plants not only affect their aesthetics but may also be responsible for much damage to them in the long run. The problem can be serious in tropical countries like India where climatic conditions are very conducive to the growth of a variety of plants. It is unfortunate that despite the magnitude of the problem, it has not received the attention of conservation scientists to the extent that it deserves.

The present monograph has been prepared so as to collate all the relevant information at one place for the benefit of all those who are entrusted with the responsibility of saving the world's priceless cultural heritage and to stimulate further work by scientists in this important field.

Needless to say, such a work is always based on a number of studies and reports prepared by different workers, to whom the authors are very grateful. We are specially grateful to colleagues from South-East Asia, particularly Mr. Dang Van Bai, Vietnam and Mr. Serafin D. Quiason, Philippines for supplying information regarding their countries. We would also like to place on record our special thanks to Mr. Anil R. Singh, Sr. Photographer, NRLC, Lucknow, for his support in all possible ways.

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