K. 400.1. Donation to the *saṅgha* by the king of Canāśa, 7th century

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Summary

In one *sragdharā* stanza, this inscription records the gift of buffalos, cows, slaves and possibly elephants to the Buddhist *saṅgha* by the king of Canāśa.

Palaeographic description

The lettering is fairly typical of seventh-century Khmer epigraphs, but the long descending strokes and the *upadhmānīya* make it seem older still. The *upadhmānīya* is particularly large and pronounced, having the form of a large circle containing a cross, raised above the consonant that it precedes.

Edition

1. Sragdharā

〈1〉 [lamba-s]tany(o) mahiṣyaḥ pṛthu-ghana-vapuṣo viṅśatir bbāla[-vatsāḥ]
〈2〉 [pa]ñcāśad dhenavaś ca stana-bhara-guravaḥ puṣṭa-vatsānuyā[tāḥ]
〈3〉 [dā](s)ī-dāsā daśaiva pramudita-manaso 〈’〉ṣṭārddha-saṁkhyā (d)[v]i[pānāṁ]
〈4〉 dattās saṅghāya bodhi-praṇihita-manasā śrī-canāśeśva[reṇa]

Apparatus

〈1〉 [lamba-s]tany(o) ◇ *[2+]t[.]nye* GC.

〈2〉 -guravaḥ ◇ *-guravatḥ* GC • The *t* in Cœdès’ reading seems to be a printer’s error.

〈3〉 -saṁkhyā (d)[v]i[pānāṁ] ◇ *-saṁkhya [˘––]* GC.

〈4〉 dattās ◇ *dattas* GC.

Translation

1.

Twenty female buffalos with pendant udders (*lamba-stanyaḥ*) and having baby calves, and fifty milch cows, heavy with the burden of their udders, followed by their well-nourished calves, ten female and male slaves, happy in their minds, and four elephants were given to the 〈Buddhist〉 community by the king of Canāśa, whose mind was fixed upon enlightenment.

Translation into French by Cœdès 1937–1966

1.

Vingt bufflesses au corps large et replet, avec leurs bufflons, cinquante vaches alourdies par le poids de leurs mamelles avec leurs veaux bien gras, dix esclaves des deux sexes à l’esprit joyeux..... au nombre de quatre ont été donnés à la Communeauté par le souverain de Çri Canāça, ayant en vue l’Illumination.

Commentary

Our English translation follows an interpretation different to that of Cœdès, since it takes into account some improvements to the edition.

Instead of *lamba-stanyo* one could equally substitute some similar feminine plural *bahu-vrīhi*, such as *kuṇḍa-stanyaḥ* or *bṛhat-stanyaḥ*. Instead of Cœdès' conjecture *bbāla-[vatsāḥ]*, one might also conjecture *bbāla-[vatyaḥ]*. The masculine plural *-guravaḥ*, where we require a feminine, is perhaps a case of metrical considerations trumping grammatical ones.

Bibliography

First edited by Cœdès (1937–1966), along with a later inscription inscribed on the same stone (K. 400.2), with translation into French and commentary. Re-edited here from EFEO estampage n. 1366 by Dominic Goodall and Diwakar Acharya.

Primary

[GC] Cœdès, George. 1937–1966. *Inscriptions du Cambodge I-VIII*. Collection de textes et documents sur l'Indochine 3. Hanoi; Paris: Imprimerie d'Extrême-Orient. Volume 6, pages 83–85.

Secondary

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