

K. 1270. Fragment of Prasat Preah Ko, Ta Keo, 5th-6th century CE

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Palaeographic description

The lettering is characteristic of the fifth-sixth century CE. The *akṣaras* have very long ornamental descenders, as in K. 40 and K. 1515.

Edition

1. Uncertain meter

⟨₁⟩ [...] [1×] (tatra) ś(ī) tyāyam abhūn mahākra[t](u)[h]

Translation

⟨₁⟩ ... this (*ayam*) great sacrifice (*mahākratuḥ*) took place (*abhūt*) using eighty (*aśītyā*) ...

Commentary

The remaining text is compatible with three at least three verse types, namely *indravaṁśā*, *vaṁśamālā* and *vaṁśastha*, the latter being rather common in Cambodian Sanskrit inscriptions.

Epic Sanskrit texts are full of *rājasūyas* and *aśvamedhas* that are described as *mahākratu*. If we assume, despite the problem formulated in our apparatus, that the text contained the word *aśīti* meaning “eighty”, and that this word qualified officiants, or sacrificial victims, it would mean that indeed the text was dealing with a rather large-scale ritual.

⟨₁⟩ It seems impossible to interpret the sequence *ś(i)tyāyam* otherwise than as containing the words *aśītyā* and *ayam*. However, our tentative reading of the preceding *akṣara* as *tra* is not compatible with the idea that the text had the word *aśīti*: we would need *trā*, *tro*, *tre*, *tya* or *tva* before *śī*, but we are unable to match what we see on the photographs with any of those *akṣaras*.

Bibliography

Edited by Arlo Griffiths & Kunthea Chhom, in consultation with Dominic Goodall, from the photographs KPreah Kô - 004 - 029.