EIAD 334. Fragment of a railing pillar from Amaravati

Arlo Griffiths and Vincent Tournier

Authors of digital edition: Arlo Griffiths, Vincent Tournier

Contributor: Arlo Griffiths

Identifier: DHARMA_INSEIAD00334

Repository: Early Āndhradeśa (tfb-eiad-epigraphy)

File path: texts/xml/DHARMA_INSEIAD00334.xml

Language: Middle Indo-Aryan [Southern Brāhmī (unspecified)]

Commit: 2026-09-22 13:22 (151ff65), last modified 2026-09-22 13:22 (151ff65)

Palaeographic description

Lettering typical of the 1st century CE.

Edition

〈1〉 vinaya-dharasa Aya-punavasusa Atevāsiniya Uvajhāyiniya samudiyaya Atevāsiniya malayā pādaka〈2〉 (dā)na

Apparatus

〈1〉 vinaya-dharasa H S • Bühler's reading published in Burgess 1887 was *vinayadhirasa*. The estampage published in Burgess 1887 suggests that one must read *vinaya**ṁ**dharasa*, and this idea was defended by Franke 1896. But our photos of the stone do not confirm

this incongruous reading. — ⟨1⟩ Uvajhāyiniya S ◇ *Uvara(ḷa)yiniya* H • Bühler's reading published in Burgess 1887 was *Uvarayiniya*. Lüders 1912 first proposed the reading adopted by Sivaramamurti 1942 that we also adopt here. — ⟨1⟩ pādaka ◇ *pādukā* H; *peṇḍaka* S • Bühler's reading published in Burgess 1887 was *pāḍakā*. Franke 1896 wrote "statt *pāḍakā* lese ich deutlich *pādu[kā]*", but the meaning of his brackets defies us. This reading was accepted by Lüders 1912. We adopt here the reading proposed by Barrett 1990.

⟨2⟩ (dā)na S ◇ *dāna* H • Bühler's reading published in Burgess 1887 was *dāna[ṁ]*.

Translation

The upright is a gift of Mallā, pupil of the preceptor Samuddiyā, (herself) pupil of the noble Punavvasu, a *vinaya* scholar.

Commentary

For the contents, compare EIAD 131 and EIAD 255.

Bibliography

First edited and translated by Eugen Hultzsch (1883). Burgess 1887 cites a reading communicated to him by Georg Bühler. This digital edition by Arlo Griffiths & Vincent Tournier from a published estampage, from photographs and after autopsy of the stone.

Primary

[H] Hultzsch, Eugen Julius Theodor. 1883. "Amarâvatî-Inschriften." ZDMG 37, pp. 548–561. [URL]. Plates 560-561, item 45.

[S] Sivaramamurti, C. 1942. *Amaravati sculptures in the Madras Government Museum*. Reprints 1956, 1977, etc. Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum New Series, General Section, 4. Madras: Government Museum. [URL]. Page 291, item 70, plate XXXV (2).

Secondary

Burgess, James. 1887. *The Buddhist stupas of Amaravati and Jaggayyapeta in the Krishna District, Madras Presidency, surveyed in 1882. With translations of the Aśoka inscriptions at Jaugadi and Dhauli by George Bühler*. Reprint New Delhi 1996. Archaeological Survey of Southern India 6. London: Trübner & Co. [URL]. Page 37, plate XII (3), plate LVI (8).

Franke, R. Otto. 1896. "Epigraphische Notizen." ZDMG 50, pp. 585–606. [URL]. Page 599.

Lüders, Heinrich. 1912. *A list of Brahmi inscriptions from the earliest times to about A.D. 400 with the exception of those of Asoka*. Appendix to Epigraphia Indica and record of the Archæological Survey of India 10. Calcutta: Superintendent Government Printing. [URL]. Page 153, item 1286.

Barrett, Douglas. 1990. "Style and palaeography at Amarāvatī." *Oriental Art* 36 (2), pp. 77–82. Page 78.

Tsukamoto Keishō □□□□. 1996. *□□□□□□□□□□ I, Text, Note, □□ Indo Bukkyō himei no kenkyū I: Text, Note, Wayaku [A comprehensive study of the Indian Buddhist inscriptions, Part I: Text, Notes and Japanese Translation]*. Kyōto-shi □□□: Heirakuji Shoten □□□□□. Volume I, item Amar 82.

Kannan, R. 2014. *Compilation on Amaravati sculptures and conservation and reorganisation of the Amaravati gallery in the Government Museum, Chennai*. Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum New Series, General Section, 19. Chennai: The Additional Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Museums; Department of Museums; Government of Tamil Nadu; Government Museum. [URL]. Pages 176–177, item *147.

Francis, N. J. 2016. *A source book of the early Buddhist inscriptions of Amarāvatī*. Golden jubilee series. Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study. Pages 133–134, item 194.