Bronze base for a triad of statuettes (N. 138, ca. 10th c. CE)

Arlo Griffiths

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Edition

〈1〉 || padmasri ya A(ṁ)pu⟦ṇya⟧<<ña>> siliḥ vapuḥ A(y)āṇ(ḍ)a vapāṇḍa ||

Apparatus

〈1〉 ya A(ṁ)pu⟦ṇya⟧<<ña>> ◇ *yaA(ṁ) puṇya* 2011 • In my previous publication, I was unable to offer a plausible justification of the spelling *yaAṁ* and did not yet recognize the character *ña* that I now read and interpret as a substitution for *ṇya*. As a consequence, if *anusvāra* here expresses the phoneme /m/ as it is known to do in some other Old Malay texts too (Clavé & Griffiths 2022, pp. 182, 193, n. 45), we are able to interpret *Aṁpu* as a spelling of *ɔmpu*.

Commentary

Despite progress in understanding since my 2011 publication, the meaning of this text is still rather unclear. Although it seems more likely that *ya* is a pronoun, it might also be interpreted as the final syllable of a name then to be read as Padmaśriya. The following translation options can be proposed:

- Padmasri, he is the owner replacing his/her mother ⟨and⟩ his/her father.
- Padmasri, he is the owner of ⟨this⟩ likeness of his/her mother ⟨and⟩ his/her father.
- Padmasriya. The owner (of this statuette) has replaced his/her mother ⟨and⟩ his/her father.

It is also imaginable that *əmpu* here means "master-craftsman" rather than "owner".

Bibliography

First published by Griffiths (2011), from photographs. This digital edition by Arlo Griffiths (2025), based on the previous publication, with one significant modification.

Primary

[2011] Griffiths, Arlo. 2011. "Inscriptions of Sumatra: Further data on the epigraphy of the Musi and Batang Hari river basins." Archipel 81, pp. 139–175. DOI: 10.3406/arch.2011.4273. [URL]. Pages 151–156.