Mēlappaḻuvūr, Agastyeśvara temple, time of [name lost], year 22

Valérie Gillet and Emmanuel Francis

Authors of digital edition: Valérie Gillet, Emmanuel Francis

Identifier: DHARMA_INSMelKil00015

Repository: Mēlappaḻuvūr & Kīḻappaḻuvūr (tfa-melappaluvur-kilappaluvur-epigraphy)

File path: DHARMA_INSMelKil00015.xml

Language: Tamil [Grantha, Tamil]

Commit: 2026-09-29 11:09 (3c1804e), last modified 2026-09-29 11:09 (3c1804e)

Summary

AIM, southern shrine; on the westernmost wall section of the southern façade of the *ardha-maṇḍapa*, upper inscription; 22nd regnal year of [...] rivarman = probably Āditya I (*circa* 893 A.D.); the *puḷḷi*s (the dots added above the letter to signify that the vowel is dropped) are marked, which would confirm a date in the 9th century; the western part of the inscription is built over by the wall of the *mukha-maṇḍapa*, but we can restore some words because the inscription is similar to INSMelKil00013 and INSMelKil00014.

Edition

〈1〉 [...] **ripammaṟ**ku yāṇṭu Irupattiraṇṭāvatu〈2〉 [...] **Avanikanta〈r〉ppa-Īśvaragṛha**ttu **mahādeva**rkku ce〈3〉 [...] **mahaṣivaśe**ttu **kṣatri**yaṉ potukaṉ perumāṉ〈4〉 [...] yuṭa paḻuvēṭṭaraiyaṉ kumaraṉ maṟavaṉ **prasa**〈5〉 [...] naṅ kiṭanta **bhūmi**yaik kalli Eṭṭu māc cey nīr〈6〉 [...] la pōkaṅ koṇṭu Iraṇṭu taḷiIlum Orō nan〈7〉 [...]

koṇṭōm Ittaḷip paṭṭuṭaiŌm Ēḻuvōm Ivvi〈8〉 [...] ntaṟpapurattu nakarattār I**ddharmma**m ra**kṣi**ppār aṭi En〈9〉 [...]

Translation by Gillet 2024

[...] This is the twenty-second year of [Kōvirājakesa]rivarman. To Mahādeva of the temple (*gṛhattu*) of the Lord (*īśvara*) 〈of〉 Avanikantappa [...] Mahāṣivaśettu the Kṣatriya, Potukaṉ Perumāṉ[1] [...] by the grace (*prasa[dāttiṉāl]*) of Paḷuvēṭṭaraiyaṉ Kumaraṉ Maṟavaṉ [...] having worked (*kalli*) on the land (*bhūmiyai*) which lies (*kiṭanta*) [without enjoyment] (*apōhanan*), 〈Mahāṣivaśettu the Kṣatriya, Potukaṉ Perumāṉ, gave〉 eight *mā*s (*eṭṭu mā*) and one *cey* of wet land (*nīr[nilam]*) [...] with (*koṇṭu*) the produce (*pōkaṅ*) [of this land], [we will have to burn] one perpetual lamp (*nan[tāviḷakku]*) in each (*orō*) of the two temples (*iraṇṭu taḷi ilum*) [...] we, the Paṭṭuṭaiyārs of this temple, we the Seven, have taken (*koṇṭōm*) [the produce to burn the lamps]. The Nagarattārs of [Avanika]ntaṟpapuram will protect (*rakṣippār*) this endowment (*iddharmmam*). I am a servant (*aṭi-en*).[2]

Commentary

The beginning of the lines is built in.

There is probably a 9th line, covered by a later wall, that would be followed on the same line by the beginning of INSMelKil00016. The inscription would conclude with the usual formula “The feet of he who protects this pious donation are on my head.”, exactly like in INSMelKil00014

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1923–24 (ARIE/1923-1924/C/1924/355).

Edited and translated in Gillet 2024, based on autopsy and photographs (by Valérie Gillet, 2016-2018).

This digital edition by Valérie Gillet and Emmanuel Francis.

[1] Probably the donor.

[2] This is probably the beginning of the final expression “May their feet be on my head” (*aṭi y-eṉ-talai mēlaṇa*). However, this would mean that there is a 9th line engraved under the wall, but the following line belongs to another later inscription, INSMelKil00018. The latter would then begin after the final expression of INSMelKil00015, in continuation of the 9th line.

Primary

Gillet, Valérie. 2024. *Minor Majesties: The Paḻuvēṭṭaraiyars and their South Indian Kingdom of Paḻuvūr, 9th-11th centuries A.D.* New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780197757710.001.0001. [URL]. Page 149, item 15.

Secondary

ARIE 1923–24. *Annual report on South-Indian epigraphy for the year ending 31st March 1924*. Edited by G. Venkoba Rao. Madras: Government Press, 1925. Page TBC, appendix C/1924, item 355.