Mēlappaḻuvūr, Kīḻaiyūr, Ireṭṭaikkōyil, Agastyeśvara, time of Parakesarivarman, year 15

Valérie Gillet and Emmanuel Francis

Authors of digital edition: Valérie Gillet, Emmanuel Francis

Identifier: DHARMA_INSMelKil00019

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

File path: DHARMA_INSMelKil00019.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 two wall sections on the eastern side of the niche of Śiva on the southern façade of the sanctuary and on the southernmost wall section of the eastern façade of the sanctuary; c) personally located and read in situ; SII 19, no. 378 [lines 1 to 37]; SII 32, part 2, no. 166 [lines 1 to 37]; *Āvaṇam* 3.2 [complete inscription]; 15th regnal year of Kōpparakesarivarman = probably Uttamacōḻa (*circa* 986 A.D.); the inscription is not engraved continuously: I have given the details in the edition itself. Lines 38–96 record a list of signatures which may have been added later, because the script is slightly different from the first part (lines 1–37).

Edition

〈Zone A〉 〈1〉 **svasti śrī**

kō-p-parakēcari-paṉmaṟkku yā〈2〉ṇṭu 10 5-Āvatu

kuṉṟakkūṟṟattu nāṭ〈3〉ṭōmukku Aṭikaḷ paḻuvēṭṭaraiyar kaṇṭaṉ ma〈4〉ṟavaṉār Ināṭṭu Uṟattūraip paḻam〈5〉 perum paḻaṅ kuṭiyu[m] n¡i!〈ī〉kki karuppūr-u〈6〉ṭaiya vēṅkaṭavaṉ Araṅkaṉ-āṉa cem〈7〉piyaṉ viṟaināṭṭu kōnārkku **janma**〈8〉**bh¡u!〈ū〉mi**-y-āka-k karuppūr eṉṉum pēriṉāl kā〈9〉ṇi ceytu Itukku Āṭṭai-vaṭṭam tāla〈10〉c cemmai poṉ Irupattai¡y!ṅ kaḻañ〈11〉cum **cantrāditya**val nilai 〈〈I〉〉ṟaiy-āvat’ ākavum

nā〈12〉ṭu tarañ ceyyum pōtu Irupattai¡y!ṅ〈13〉 kaḻañcum allatu Ēṟat tarañ ceyyāta〈14〉t’ ākavum

Ipparicu **candrādi**ttavat kāṇi〈15〉-y-ākac ceytu kuṭuttōm nāṭṭār niṅ〈16〉kaḷum Ipparicu ceytu kuṭuṅkaḷ eṉṟ’ aruḷi〈17〉c-ceyya nāṭṭōmum

Iṉṉāṭṭu Uṟattū〈18〉rai paḻam perum paḻaṅ kuṭiyu n¡i!〈ī〉kki karuppū〈19〉r eṉṉum pēyar ākki Āṭṭai-vaṭṭam nilai〈20〉 y-iṟai tālac cemmai poṉ Irupattai〈21〉¡y!ṅ kaḻañc’ ākki nāṭṭōm tarañ ceyum po〈22〉ṉ Irupattai¡y!ṅ kaḻañcum allatu Ēṟat ta〈Zone B〉〈23〉rañ ceyyātat’ ākavum

I〈24〉pparicu karuppūr-uṭaiya vē〈25〉ṅkaṭavaṉ Araṅkaṉ-āṉa〈26〉 cempiyaṉ viṟai¡ṉ!〈n〉āṭ〈27〉ṭu kōṉārkku **janmapūmi**-y-āka〈28〉 karuppūr eṉṉum (pē)yar(i)ṉāl〈29〉 **cantrā**tittaval kāṇi-y-āka A〈30〉ṟai-y-ōlai ceytu kuṭut〈31〉tōm kuṉṟakkūṟṟattu nāṭ〈32〉ṭōm (ci)ṟṟiṟaiyum Aṇa〈33〉[1 illegible line]

〈Zone C〉 〈34〉 Ivai paḻuvēṭṭaraiyaṉ (kaṇṭa)ṉ maṟa〈35〉vaṉēṉ Ivai E¡ṉṉ!〈ṉ〉 eḻuttu [1×] Ipparicu I〈36〉caintō〈m〉 marutūr-uṭaiya kāṭaṉ mā(ṟu)yaṉē〈37〉ṉ Ivaiy e¡ṉṉ!〈ṉ〉 eḻuttu ___

〈Zone D〉 〈38〉 [1 lost line]〈39〉 (ṉa/ḷa)ṭṭār (A)ṟaiyō [1×] la [2×]〈40〉l eḻutt’ eḻutaṉārai y-eḻutiya〈41〉 [2×] mallūr-uṭaiya caṅkaṉ nāke〈42〉[2×] kamāṉṉ eṉ Eḻuttu(p) puttūr-u〈43〉ṭaiya tū(caṭi) kōṉ{e} E¿ṉa?〈ḻu〉ttu〈44〉 Āṟaṇitallūr-Uṭaiya ceruvan〈45〉 (U)ta co(mi)tēvaṉ cuvāmi E〈ḻu〉ttu〈46〉 cāttaṉūr-uṭaiya tiṇeyāṉ mā〈47〉yilaṭṭi Eḻuttu _ mēlmaru{t}〈48〉ttūr-uṭaiya tiṇaiyāṉ kuṭitara〈49〉ṅki Eḻuttu paṭṭ-uṭaiya (c)iṅka〈50〉ṉeyyoṟaṉ eḻuttu〈51〉 Umapaḷakkāṉattūr-uṭai〈52〉ya Oṉeṉpāmpaṉ eḻu〈53〉ttu Āṇpāṉ cukūru〈54〉ṭaiya cāttaṉ nampaṉ e〈55〉ḻuttu kuṟṟūr-uṭaiyaṉ ṉe〈56〉[1 lost line]〈57〉ttu vākūr-uṭaiya Oṉeṉ〈58〉(pa)mpal eḻuttu (Ali?)mi [1×]〈59〉Uṭaiya ve(li)taraṅki Eḻuttu〈60〉 Āttūr-uṭaiya cāttaṉ tara〈61〉[1×] Eḻuttu (ൟ) kuḷattūr-uṭaiya〈62〉 Aṉaiyaṉamutaṉ eḻuttu〈63〉 varākupāṭi-Uṭaiya māṉtaṉp〈64〉peraiyaṉ eḻuttu ____

〈Zone E〉 〈65〉 (caṅ)kaṇamūr-uṭaiya kāra[2×]mu〈66〉kaṉ Eḻuttu [3×]-Uṭaiya〈67〉 vaṭukaṉ pūti y-eḻuttu ↝ timmi〈68〉y-uṭaiya cuntaracōḻapperunti〈69〉ṇ(ai) y-eḻuttu ↝ puttūr-uṭaiya Ā〈70〉ramālakkōṉ peraiya〈71〉ṉ eḻuttu (pe)raṟconi-y-u〈72〉ṭaiya Araiyaṉāccaṉ e〈73〉ḻuttu || ciṅkaraṉattūr-uṭai〈74〉ya perumāṉ maḻapāṭi y-eḻu〈75〉[ttu] [5×] ppati-Uṭaiya〈76〉 kali(yiva) [3×] y-(e)ḻut〈77〉tu || kūṟaṅ [1×] ṭaiya

maṟava ko〈78〉ṉ peruna [1×] ṇai Eḷuttu〈79〉 kaṟakāṭṭur-uṭaiya vempa〈80〉ṉuḷveli Eḷuttu〈81〉 pokaḷi-y-uṭaiya kaṇṭama〈82〉laiyama[1×]ṉ eḷuttu〈83〉 kiḷiy-u(ṭai)ya nāraṇaṉā〈84〉[1×] ṅkay eḷuttu [3×]〈85〉ṇi-y-uṭaiya kaṇṭap pe [2×]〈86〉ṉ eḷuttu ciṅkaṇamūr-uṭai〈87〉ya paṭaipperaiyaṉa(ddhay)āṟa〈88〉ṉ eḷuttu ‖ Aruṅkarayil-u〈89〉ṭaiya Āccaṉ nakkaṉ e〈90〉ḷuttu _ Āṉaiñallū〈91〉r-uṭaiya nakkaṉ kumaraṉ eḷut〈92〉tu _ vaṭavacukūr-uṭaiya niru(pa/va)〈93〉[1×] kacarama(lai)ya [2×] ṉ (e)ḷu(ttu)〈94〉 mālvāyil-uṭaiya mana〈95〉vakōṉ pe(rai)yaṉ eḷu〈96〉ttu ‖

Translation by Gillet 2024

Fortune! Prosperity! This is the 15th year of Kōpparakesarivarman. To us, the Nāṭṭār of Kuṉṟakkūṟṟam, Aṭikaḷ Paḷuvēṭṭaraiyar Kaṇṭaṉ Maṟavaṉār 〈ordered〉: having removed (*nīkki*) the old (*paḻaṅ*) cultivators (*kuṭiyum*) and the old (*paḻam*) name (*pērum*) of Uṟattūr of this *nāṭu*, as birth-land (*janma bhūmiyai*) to the chieftain (*kōṉār*) of Viṟaināṭu, lord (*uṭaiyaṉ*) of Karuppūr, Veṅkaṭavaṉ Araṅkaṉ alias Cempiyaṉ, having made it into a *kāṇi* (*kaṇi-ceytu*) with the name (*pēriṉāl*) of Karuppūr (*karuppūr eṉṉum*); to this (*itukku*), every year (*āṭṭai-vaṭṭam*), twenty five (*irupattayaṅ*) *kaḻancu*s of wordly (*tālam*)[1] fine gold (*cemmai poṉ*), as long as the sun and the moon endure, are set (*āvatākavum*) 〈as〉 a permanent tax (*nilai iṟai*); having come (*pōtu*) to make (*ceyyum*) the assessment (*taraṅ*) of this *nāṭu*, the assessment (*taraṅ*) should not be made (*ceyyātākavum*) more than (*allatu ēṟa*, lit. so that it does not rise above) twenty five *kaḻañcu*s; in this manner (*ipparicu*), having made (*ceytu*) 〈it〉 into a *kāṇi* (*kāṇiyāka*), as long as the sun and the moon endure, we gave (*kuṭuttōm*); when he[2] graciously ordered (*aruḷicceyya*, lit. graciously made) "you also (*niṅkaḷum*) the Nāṭṭār, having made (*ceytu*) in this manner (*ipparicu*), you give (*kuṭuṅkaḷ*)" (*eṉṟu*), we, all the Nāṭṭār (*nāṭṭōmum*), having removed (*nīkki*) the old (*paḻaṅ*) cultivators (*kuṭiyum*) and the old (*paḻam*) name (*pērum*) of Uṟattūr of this *nāṭu*, having taken (*ākki*, lit. having become) the name (*pēyar*) of Karuppūr (*karuppūr eṉṉum*), having fixed (*ākki*, lit. having become) twenty five *kaḻañcu*s of wordly (*tāla*) fine (*cemmai*) gold (*poṉ*) for permanent tax (*nilai iṟai*) every year (*āṭṭai-vaṭṭam*), we the Nāṭṭar (*nāṭṭōm*), when making (*ceyyum*) the assessment (*taraṅ*), we should not make (*ceyyātatākavum*) the assessment (*taraṅ*) above (*ēṟa*) that which is not (*allatu*) twenty five *kaḻañcu*s of gold (*poṉ*); in this manner (*ipparicu*), as birth-land (*janma-pūmiyāka*) to the chieftain (*kōṉār*) of Viṟaināṭu, lord (*uṭaiya*) of Karuppūr, Veṅkaṭavaṉ Araṅkaṉ alias Cempiyaṉ, as *kāṇi* (*kāṇiyāka*), as long and the sun and the moon endure, with the name Karuppūr,

[1] *tāla* is clearly legible but it is very difficult to make sense of it here in relation with gold. It means, besides "earth" and "world", "Palmyra tree, metal plate, tongue".

[2] The Paḻuvēṭṭaraiyar is probably the one uttering the order.

having made (*ceytu*) the palm-leaf (*ōlai*) drum-beating (*aṟai*),[3] we gave (*kuṭuttōm*), we the Nāṭṭār (*nāṭṭōm*) of Kuṉṟakkūṟṟam; all small taxes (*ciṟṟiṟaiyum*) [...]

These (*ivai*), I Paḻuvēṭṭaraiyaṉ Kaṇṭaṉ Maṟavaṉ, I have written (*eṉṉ-eḻuttu*) these (*ivai*); we have agreed (*icaintōm*) in this manner (*ipparicu*); I the Lord (*uṭaiya*) of Marutūr, Kāṭaṉ Māṟuyaṉ, I have written (*eṉṉ-eḻuttu*) these (*ivai*).

〈That which is〉 signed (*eḻutiya*, lit. written) by the signatories (*eḻutaṉār-ai*), having signed (*eḻuttu*) [...] I, lord (*uṭaiya*) of [...]mallūr, Caṅkaṉ Nake[...]kamāṉ, have signed (*eḻuttu*); I, lord of Puttūr, Tūcaṭikōṉ, have signed (*eṉattu* > *eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Āraṇitallūr, Ceruvanuta Cōmitēvaṉ Cuvāmi, has signed (*ettu* > *eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Cāttaṉūr, Tiṇeyāṉ Māyilaṭṭi, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Mēlmaruttūr, Tiṇaiyāṉ Kuṭitaraṅki, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the Paṭṭuṭaiyāṉ Ciṅkaṉeyyoṟaṉ has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Umapaḻakkāṉattūr, Oṉeṉpāmpaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Āṇpāṉcukūr, Cāttaṉ Nampaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Kuṟṟūr, Ne [...] ; the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Vākūr, Oṉeṉvampal, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of [...], Velitaraṅki, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Āttūr, Cāttaṉ Tara[...], has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Kuḻattūr, Aṉaiyaṉamutaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Varākupāṭi, Māṉtaṉpperaiyaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Caṅkaṇamur, Kāra[...]mukaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of [...], Vaṭukaṉ Pūti, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Timmi, Cuntara Cōḻapperuntiṇai, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Puttūr, Āramālakkōṉ Peraiyaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Peraṟconi, Araiyaṉāccaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Ciṅkaraṉattūr, Perumāṉ Maḻapāṭi, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of [...]ppaṭi, Kaliyiva[...], has signed (*eḻuttu*); the Lord (*uṭaiya*) of Kūraṅ[ku], Maṟava Kōṉ Perun[ti]ṇai, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Kaṟakāṭṭur, Vempaṉuḷveli, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Pokaḻi, Kaṇṭamalaiyama[...]ṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Kiḷi, Nāraṇaṉā[...]ṅkay, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of [...], Kaṇṭappe[...], has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Ciṅkaṇamur, Paṭaipperaiyaṉ A*ddha*yāṟaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Aruṅkarayil, Āccaṉ Nakkaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the Lord (*uṭaiya*) of Āṉaiñallūr, Nakkaṉ Kumaraṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the Lord (*uṭaiya*) of Vaṭavacukūr, Nirupa/va[...] Kacaramalaiya[...]ṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*); the lord (*uṭaiya*) of Mālvāyil, Manavakōṉ Peraiyaṉ, has signed (*eḻuttu*).

[3]It is traditionally considered that they were reciting the text inscribed of the palm-leaf along with the beating of the drum, and here*aṟai-tal* should be taken as referring to the beating of the drum.

Commentary

The epigraph is inscribed on 3 wall sections: A and B on the eastern side of the main niche of the southern façade; C on southernmost wall section of the eastern façade. Moreover, it is not inscribed continuously: from lines 1 to 22, inscribed from the middle of wall section A; from lines 23 to 33, inscribed on the bottom of wall section B; lines 34 to 37, inscribed on top of wall section A; lines 38 to 64, inscribed on the upper part of wall section B; lines 65 to 96, inscribed on the wall section C. From the line 34, this is a series of signatures. The editions in SII do not consider the signatures after the line 37. Only the revised edition in *Āvaṇam* includes them.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1923–24 (ARIE/1923-1924/C/1924/356).

Edited (36 lines) in Srinivasa Rao *et al.* 1967 (SII 19.378), in Swaminathan 2012 (SII 32.2.166). Edited (93 lines), in Tiyākarācaṉ 1993 (Āvaṇam 3.2). Edited and translated in Gillet 2024, based on autopsyand photographs (by Valérie Gillet, 2016-2018).

This digital edition by Valérie Gillet and Emmanuel Francis.

Primary

[SR] Srinivasa Rao, G.V., Dines Chandra Sircar & G.S. Gai. 1967. *South-Indian inscriptions. Volume XIX: Inscriptions of Parakesarivarman*. South Indian Inscriptions 19. Delhi: Archaeological survey of India (Manager of Publications). Pages 197–198, item 378.

[S] Swaminathan, S. 2012. *South Indian inscriptions. Volume XXXII: inscriptions of the early Chola kings upto Uttama Chola*. South Indian Inscriptions 32. New Delhi: Archaeological survey of India (Director General). Part II, pages 292–294, item 166.

[T] Tiyākarācaṉ, Ila. 1993. “paluvūrp paḻuvēṭṭaraiyar kalveṭṭu.” *Āvaṇam* 3, pp. 8–10.

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 73, appendix C/1924, item 356.