Kāñcipuram, list of *birudas*

Emmanuel Francis

Author of digital edition: Emmanuel Francis

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Summary

Ekāmbaranātha temple. Pillar inscription recording a list of *birudas* of Mahendravarman I Pallava.

Palaeographic description

There is only one horizontal stroke in the letter *ṟa* (whereas the horizontal stroke is crossed by vertical a stroke, for instance in the inscription Pallava 34).

Edition

Face A = West

〈A1〉 Eṟi

〈A2〉 kucañāṇa

〈A3〉 mahāmeghaḥ

〈A4〉 dṛḍhabhaktiḥ

Face B = South

〈B1〉 Abhimukhaḥ

〈B2〉 **citrakāra**puli

〈B3〉 kuṟṟambu

Face C = East

〈C1〉 curmbu

〈C2〉 vaṁkaṁbu

〈C3〉 vnāṟa

Face D = North

〈D1〉 pisugu

〈D2〉 vambara

〈D3〉 bhrāntaḥ Akari

Apparatus

Face A = West

〈A1〉 Eṟi ◇ SII IP; *Eṟ* B; *Ēthi* L • L (p. 198, 216) in fact hesitates between the readings *vnāṟa* and *vnātha*. There is only one horizontal stroke in the letter *ṟa*, which makes it close to the letter *tha*.

〈A2〉 kucañāṇa ◇ *kucagrāṇa* SII IP B; *kucañāṇa* L.

〈A3〉 mahāmeghaḥ ◇ L; *mahāmegha* SII IP; *mahāmedha* B.

Face B = South

〈B1〉 Abhimukhaḥ ◇ L; *Abhimukha* SII IP B.

Face C = East

〈C3〉 vnāṛa ◇ *vnāṛ(pegu)* SII IP B; *vnātha* L • There is only one horizontal stroke in the letter *ṛa*, which makes it close to the letter *tha*.

Translation

Face A = West

〈A1〉 …

〈A2〉 He whose knowledge is sharp.

〈A3〉 The great cloud.

〈A4〉 He whose devotion is firm.

Face B = South

〈B1〉 …

〈B2〉 The tiger among artists.

〈B3〉 …

Face C = East

〈C1〉 …

〈C2〉 …

〈C3〉 …

Face D = North

〈D1〉 The thunderbolt.

〈D2〉 …

〈D3〉 …

〈D3〉 …

Commentary

The orientation (west to north) of the pillar's faces is given in Jouveau-Dubreuil1919_01 and SII. It is presumably that of the pillar at the time it was found in situ in the Ekāmbaranātha temple. The pillar is currently (2025) displayed at the entrance of the main sculpture gallery in the Chennai Government Museum.

Bibliography

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This revised edition by Emmanuel Francis, based on autopsy (2017) and photos (2017, by Emmanuel Francis; 2024, by Emmanuel Francis).

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