Makēntiraravāṭi, time of Mahendra

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Summary

A Sanskrit verse recording the foundation of the cave-temple named Mahendraviṣṇu-gr̥ha by the Guṇabhara (Mahendravarman I Pallava) around 600/625 CE.

Palaeographic description

The stone engraving of Grantha script is not yet fully mastered. This inscription was engraved by a beginner or was one of the early attempts to engrave Grantha script on stone.

Edition

1. Nardaṭaka

〈1〉 mahitatamaṁ satām upa mahendra-(ta)ṭākam ida¡(M)!
〈2〉 sthiram uru kāritaṁ guṇabhareṇa vidāryya śil(āM)

〈3〉 ja(na)-nayanābhir(ā)ma-guṇa-dhāma mahendrapure
〈4〉 maha(t)i mahendra-viṣṇu-gṛha-nāma murār(i)-gṛha(ṁ)

Apparatus

〈1〉 upa ◇ *u(pa)* EI. — 〈1〉 ida¡(M)! ◇ *i(da)¡(M)!〈ṁ〉* EI • The final *(M)* is written between lines 1 and 2, below the character *da*.

〈2〉 śil(āM) • The final *(M)* is written between lines 2 and 3, below the character *l(ā)*.

〈4〉 maha(t)i ◇ *maha(ti)* EI. — 〈4〉 murār(i)-gṛha(ṁ) ◇ *murā(ri)-gṛ(haṁ)* EI.

Translation into French by Brocquet 1997

1.

Objet des plus chauds éloges auprès des gens de bien, solide et spacieuse,
Guṇabhara fit construire au bord de l'étang de Mahendra-taṭāka, en creusant la roche,
En la grande cité de Mahendrapura, cette demeure de vertus qui charment les yeux des hommes :
la maison de Murāri, nommée Mahendra-Viṣṇugṛha.

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This revised edition Emmanuel Francis, based on autopsy and photos (2004).

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