Vallam, time of Kantacēṉaṉ

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Summary

Vedānteśvara temple. Pillar inscription recording the foundation of a cave-temple by Kantacēṉaṉ (Sanskrit Skandasena), son of Vayantappiri (Sanskrit Vasantapriya) and servant of Mayēntirappōttarēcaru (Mahendravarman I Pallava).

Edition

〈Zone 1: Left/South Pillar〉 〈1〉 pakā-p-piṭuku laḷitāṅ·kuraṉ·

〈Zone 2: Right/North Pillar〉 〈2〉 cat(·)turu¡m(·)m!〈m〉allaṉ· kuṇaparaṉ·〈3〉 mayēn·tira-p-pōt·t-arēcaru Aṭiyāṉ·〈4〉 vayan·tap·piri Arēcaru makaṉ· kan·tacēṉa〈5〉ṉ· ceyivit(·)ta tēvakulam· ⇝

Translation by Hultzsch 1895

Kantaceṉaṉ (Skandasena), the son of Vayantappiriarecaru (Vasantapriyarāja), the servant of Pakāppiṭuku Laḷitāṅkuraṉ (Lalitāṅkura) Catturummallaṉ (Śatrumalla) Kuṇa-

paraṉ (Guṇabhara) Mayentirappōttarecaru (Mahendrapōtarāja), caused 〈this〉 temple (*devakula*) to be made.

Translation

〈1–5〉 Temple (*tēvakulam*[1]) caused to be made by Kantacēṉaṉ[2], son of the king (*arēcaru*) Vayantappiri,[3] servant (*aṭiyāṉ*) of Pakāppiṭuku Laḷitāṅkuraṉ[4] Catturummallaṉ[5] Kuṇaparaṉ[6] Mayēntirappōttarēcaru.[7]

Commentary

It is not clear what the relation is between the two discrete inscriptions, each on a different pillar. We read them in succession as Pakāppiṭuku, Lalitāṅkura, Śatrumalla and Guṇabhara are well attested *birud*as of Mahendravarman I. We follow here the interpretation of Hultzsch 1895.

Pōttarēcaru (and its variants, e.g. Pōttaraiyar) is a title of the Pallava kings. Mayēntirappōttarēcaru is Mahendravarman I (r. ca. 580-630).

Bibliography

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Edited in Hultzsch 1895 (SII 2.72) with visual documentation and English translation. Text and summary in Mahalingam 1988 (IP 36).

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

Primary

[SII] Hultzsch, Eugen Julius Theodor. 1895. *South-Indian inscriptions: Tamil inscriptions of Rajaraja, Rajendra-chola, and others in the Rajarajesvara temple at Tanjavur. Volume II,*

[1] Sanskrit *devakula*.
[2] Sanskrit Skandasena.
[3] Sanskrit Vasantapriya.
[4] Sanskrit Lalitāṅkura.
[5] Sanskrit Śatrumalla.
[6] Sanskrit Guṇabhara.
[7] Sanskrit Mahendra + Tamil Pōttaraicar. That is, the Pallava king Mahendra, that is, Mahendravarman I Pallava.

Part III: Supplement to the first and second volumes. South Indian Inscriptions 2.3. Madras: Government Press. Pages 340–341, item 72.

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Secondary

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