Mahābalipuram, Shore temple, capital inscription

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Language: Sanskrit [Grantha, Siddhamāṭṛkā]

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Summary

A list of 4 *birudas* on a capital stone found lying around the Shore temple.

Palaeographic description

This is a biscript inscription. The honorific *śrī* is written in Siddhamāṭṛkā, while the rest of the inscription is in Grantha. The double *daṇḍa* is of the type where both *daṇḍa*s are joined.

Edition

〈1〉 śrī-rāja-siṁhaḥ || śrī-kṣatra-siṁhaḥ || śrī-na□rendra-siṁhaḥ || śrī-maheśvara□-cūḷāmaṇiḥ

Apparatus

〈1〉 śrī-na□rendrasiṁhaḥ ◇ *śrī-narendrasiṁhaḥ* L2 • The surface defect seems the best explanation for the space left blank. The image in Lockwood (p. 265) is misleading as it does not represent the blank space between *na* and *re*. — 〈1〉 śrī-maheśvara- □ cūḷāmaṇiḥ ◇ *śrī-maheśvara- _ cūḷāmaṇiḥ* L2 • The surface defect seems again the best explanation for the space left blank. The restoration *candra* suggested by Lockwood is unwarranted, the more so as another blank space interrupts another *biruda*.

Translation

The glorious lion among kings.

The glorious lion of the warrior order (*kṣatra*).

The glorious lion among kings.

The glorious one whose diadem is Maheśvara (Śiva).

Translation into French

Le glorieux lion d'entre les rois.

Le glorieux lion de la classe guerrière (*kṣatra*).

Le glorieux lion d'entre les rois.

Le glorieux dont le diadème est Maheśvara (Śiva).

Commentary

Rājasiṁha is the favourite *biruda* of Narasiṁhavarman II Pallava. The three other *birudas* are attested in other inscriptions: Kṣatrasiṁha in Pallava 68 and Pallava 380; Narendrasiṁha in Pallava 60, Pallava 68, and Pallava 380; Maheśvaracūḷāmaṇi in Pallava 64.

Other *birudas* of of Narasiṁhavarman II Pallava are synonymous with Maheśvaracūḷāmaṇi: Śivacūḷāmaṇi, Candrārdhaśekharaśikhāmaṇi, and Maheśvaraśikhāmaṇi.

Bibliography

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

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Secondary

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