SII 3.47: original edition by Eugen Julius Theodor Hultzsch

Emmanuel Francis

Alternative title: V.—INSCRIPTIONS AT TIRUVALLAM. No. 47.—ON THE WEST WALL OF THE BILVANATHESVARA SHRINE

Author of digital edition: Emmanuel Francis

Identifier: DHARMA_INSSIIv03p0i0047

Repository: SII original (south-indian-inscriptions)

File path: SII_B_clean/SII03/DHARMA_INSSIIv03p0i0047.xml

Language: Tamil [Grantha, Tamil]

Commit: 2026-11-14 15:07 (85a1dec), last modified 2026-09-29 11:08 (2b36d53)

Summary

This inscription and No. 48 are written continuously, the first few words of No. 48 occupying the end of line 4 of No. 47. At the beginning of No. 47 it is stated that both inscriptions are copies of earlier stone inscriptions, and that these copies were made when the central shrine of the temple was pulled down. This is the reason why the alphabets of Nos. 47 and 48 are more developed than that of No. 46, though No. 46 records a grant by a queen of the same king as Nos. 47 and 48. In No. 47 she bears the title **Vāṇamahādēvī**, *i.e.* 'the great queen of the **Bāṇa** (king).' As the queen mentioned in No. 46, she is stated to have been the consort of the Bāṇa king **Vāṇavidyādhara**. She was the daughter of **Pratipati-Araiyar**, the son of **Śivamahārāja-Perumāṉaḍigaḷ**, who had the surnames **Śrīnātha** and **Kokuṇi**.[1] This word is a variant or a corruption of **Koṅguṇi**, the title of the Western **Gaṅga** kings,[2] and the name Pratipati is a corruption

[1] In No. 48, text line 2, this word appears as *Goguṇidha[r]ma*, evidently a misreading of the copyist for *Koṅguṇivarman*.

[2] See *Ep. Ind*. Vol. III. p. 164, note 3.

or, more probably, a misreading of the copyist for **Pṛithvīpati**. Hence I would identify Pratipati, the son of Śivamahārāja, with the Western Gaṅga king **Pṛithivīpati** I., who was the son of **Śivamāra**[3] and the contemporary of the **Rāshṭrakūṭa** king **Amōghavarsha** I.[4] and of the Gaṅga-Pallava king **Vijaya-Nṛipatuṅgavikramavarman**.[5] The name of the residence of Śivamahārāja was Kuṇilapura according to No. 47, and Nipuṇilapura according to No. 48. Both forms of the word are clearly misreadings of the engraver for **Kuvaḷālapura**, the modern **Kōlār**, which was the traditional capital of the Gaṅga family.[6]

The **Udayēndiram** plates of Vikramāditya II. mention a **Bāṇa** chief named **Bāṇavidyādhara**. This person must be distinct from the Vāṇavidyādhara of the subjoined inscription, because he stood two generations before Vikramāditya I., the contemporary of Vijaya-Nandivikramavarman[7] and consequently of Amōghavarsha I.,[8] while Vāṇavidyādhara was the son-in-law of Pṛithivīpati I., another contemporary of Amōghavarsha I. An inscription at **Gūlgānpode** opens with a Sanskrit verse which attributes to the Bāṇa king **Vikramāditya-Jayamēru** the surname of **Bāṇavidyādhara**.[9] Dr. Fleet[10] proposes to identify this Vikramāditya with the **Vikramāditya** I. of the Udayēndiram plates and with the Vāṇavidyādhara of the subjoined inscription. This identification would suit the fact that Vāṇavidyādhara's queen was the daughter of Pṛithivīpati I.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī** [||] **śrī**vimāṉam I(l̲i)ttuvataṟ(ku) mu(ṉ)puḷḷa (ci)lālekaippaṭiy [||] **sakala-jaga〈t〉(tra)**yā¿d?〈bh〉iva**(ndi)**ta**surāsurā(dhī)śaparameśvarapra**ti**hārīk¿a?〈ṛta〉**mahā**¿va?〈ba〉**likulo〈d〉(bha)**vavā
vāṇa**rā**yar **mahāde**viyār **ko¿ku?〈ṁgu〉**¿ṉ?〈ṇ〉**idha〈r〉mmamahārāja(ku)**(ṇi)**lapurapara**〈2〉**meśvararāṉa
śrī{ri}nā**thaśrīma**¿naśi?〈cchi〉va**mahārāja**pperumāṉaṭikaḷ makaṉ(ār) **pra**ti**pa**tiArai(ya)r
ma(kaḷ)ār vāṇa**mahāde**viyār tīk=kālipperumāṉaṭikaḷuk=ku non=tāviḷak=ku Oṉṟiṉuk=ku
Itt¿ik=k?〈īkk〉ālivallattu **sabhai**yārk=kuk=kuṭutta ce〈3〉mpoṉ Irupatiṉ kaḷa(ñ)cu [|]
Ippoṉṉuk=kuppoliyūṭṭu nicatam Uriy ney Oruviḷak=kuk=ku Aṭṭuvomāṉom **sabhai**yom
[|] Iṉṉey can**¿t?〈d〉rādi**¿t=t?〈ty〉avaṟ muṭṭāmai Aṭṭuvomāṉom [|] muṭṭil **panmāhēś-**

[3]This name is perhaps a corruption of Śivamārāja, the Tamil form of Śivamahārāja.
[4]Above, Vol. II. p. 380 f.
[5]*Ep. Ind.* Vol. IV. p. 182.
[6]See above, Vol. II. p. 380, note 7, and *Ep. Ind.* Vol. IV. p. 200, note 1.
[7]See page 90 above.
[8]See page 92 above.
[9]*Ind. Ant.* Vol. X. p. 39, No. II.
[10]I am again quoting from a manuscript which he has kindly sent to me; see above, p. 92, note 8.

varare nicati Ai¿ñ?〈ṅ〉kaḷañcu poṉ manṟavoṭṭik=kuṭuttom [|]〈4〉 Ittaṇṭappaṭṭum ney muṭṭāmai Aṭṭuvomānom **sabhai**yom [|] Itaṉṟeṉṟom **geṅgai**yiṭaik=kumariyiṭaicceytār ce〈y〉ta pāvaṅkoḷvār [|] I**ddhanmma**m **panmāheśvararakṣai** [|] I**ddha**〈**r**〉**mma**m **rakṣi**ttāraṭiyeṉ muṭi melaṉa ||൹

Translation by Hultzsch 1899

(Line 1.) Hail ! Prosperity ! (*The following is*) a copy of a stone inscription which existed before the sacred *vimāna* (*i.e.* the central shrine) had been pulled down.

Vāṇamahādēvī,—the daughter of **Pratipati-Araiyar**, the son of **Ko[ṅg]u[ṇ]i**, the righteous *Mahārāja*, the supreme lord of **Kuṇilapura**,[11] *alias* **Śrīnātha**, the glorious **Śivamahārāja-Perumāṉaḍigaḷ**, (*and*) the great queen of **Vāṇavidyādha[ra]rāya**, *alias* **Vāṇarāya**, born from the family of **Mahābali**, who had been made door-keeper by the lord of gods and demons, Paramēśvara (Śiva), who is worshipped in all the three worlds,— gave to the members of the assembly of this **Tīkkāli-Vallam** twenty *kaḷañju* of pure gold for (*maintaining*) one perpetual lamp before (*the god*) **Tīkkāli-Perumāṉaḍigaḷ**.

(L. 3.) (*As*) interest on this gold, we, the assembly, shall have to supply (one) *uri* of ghee per day for one lamp. This ghee we shall have to supply without fail as long as the moon and the sun exist. If (*we*) fail (*to do so*), we agree that all the *Māhēśvaras* (among us) shall pay as fine five *kaḷañju* of gold per day. Though fined thus, we, the assembly, shall (*continue*) to supply the ghee without fail. Those of us, who say that this is not (*so*), shall incur (*all*) the sins committed between the **Gaṅgā** and **Kumari**.

(L. 4.) "This charity (*is placed under*) the protection of all *Māhēśvaras*. The feet of those who protect this charity, (*shall be*) on my head."

Bibliography

Digital edition of SII 3.47 by Hultzsch 1899 converted to DHARMA conventions by Emmanuel Francis.

Primary

[SII] Hultzsch, Eugen Julius Theodor. 1899. *South-Indian inscriptions. Volume III: Miscellaneous inscriptions from the Tamil country. Part I: Inscriptions at Ukkal, Melpadi, Karuvur,*

[11] This is a mistake of the copyist for Kuvaḷālapura; see p. 99 above.

Manimangalam and Tiruvallam. South Indian Inscriptions 3.1. Madras: Government Press. Pages 98–100, item 47.