SII 12.17: original edition by V. Venkatasubba Ayyar

Emmanuel Francis

Alternative title: No. 17. (A.R. No. 661 of 1922). MAHĀBALIPURAM, CHINGLEPUT TALUK, CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT. ON THE TOP OF A NICHE IN THE NORTH WING OF THE VERANDAH OF THE ROCK-CUT TEMPLE OF ĀDIVARĀHA-PERUMĀḶ

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Summary

This label in **Pallava-Grantha** characters reads **'Śrī-Siṁhaviṇṇa-pōttrāthirājan'.** It is engraved above a group of sculptures representing a king seated on a cushioned stool and flanked by two standing images of his queens. On a consideration of the palaeography of this label, the late Mr. Krishna Sastri concluded that the king represented here was Narasiṁhavishṇu, 'the conqueror of Vātāpi'. Subsequent writers have, however, identified him with Siṁhavishṇu, the father of Mahēndravarman I. But the name **Paramēśvara-Mahāvarāha-Vishṇugṛiha** applied to this cave in a record of the Chōḷa king Rājēndradēva, proves clearly that it is connected with Paramēśvaravarman I. Since a statue of Mahēndravarman in a standing posture pointing to his two queens the deity inside the newly excavated cave is also found here, it may be inferred that the work on this cave was started by him. If so Paramēśvaravarman after whom the cave was called, must have completed the work started by his predecessor. The statues found

in this cave may, therefore, be taken to represent Narasiṁhavishṇu, 'the Conqueror of Vātāpi' and his son Mahēndravarman II.

Commentary

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Bibliography

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Primary

[SII] Venkatasubba Ayyar, V. & C. R. Krishnamacharlu. 1943. *South Indian inscriptions. Volume XII: The Pallavas (with introductory notes in English)*. South Indian Inscriptions 12. Madras: Government Press. Page 9, item 17.