Nallūr, Vilvāraṇyeśvara temple, time of Rājarāja, year 19

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Summary

It registers the gift of Nallūr and surrounding villages, consisting in 360 *vēli*s of land, as well as the revenue in taxes from these lands, for the food offerings (*tiruppaṭimāṟu*) and the sacred service (*tiruppaṇi*). The donor is the chieftain Āḷappiṟantāṉ Mōkaṉ, alias Kaṭavarāyaṉ.

Palaeographic description

Consonants aligned horizontally rather than vertically in Grantha ligature *sva*. No distinction between Tamil *e* and *ē*, *o* and *ō*.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī**

rāja-rāja-de〈2〉(vaṟ)ku yāṇṭu 10 9 Āvatu

〈3〉 (Ā)ḷappiṟan=tā¡n!〈ṉ〉 mōkaṉ-āṉa kā〈4〉ṭavarāyaṉ-ēṉ nallūr Uṭai〈5〉yār nalla-nāyaṉāṟku tiru-p-pa〈6〉ṇikkum tiru-p-paṭimāṟṟukkum ā〈7〉ka v-iṭṭaṉ

- nallūr Ellai Aṭa〈8〉(ṅ)ka n(i)lam munnūṟṟ' aṟu-[patu vē]li〈9〉yum
- vaṭa-v-āṟṟaṅkarai-t tiru-nan=tava〈10〉ṉam 5 vēliyum
- kāccuva-k-kuṭi〈11〉yil nilam Ai-vē(l)iyum
- vali〈12〉y(ō)caiyil nilam muṉ(ṟu)〈13〉 māvum
- puñcaṉūril nilam $^{2}/_{20}$
- 〈14〉 potu-k-kuṭi nilam $^{3}/_{20}$ (m)
- n¿i?〈ī〉kki〈15〉¡n!〈ṉ〉a nilam ¼ m

Āka In-nilaṅkaḷil

- pā〈16〉ṭi-kāva(l u)ḷḷiṭ=ṭa mākkalaṅkaḷum
- (maṟṟuḷ)〈17〉ḷa Ā[yaṅkaḷum]
- [It-tiru]vellaiy(il) (mā)[k]〈18〉kācu taṟi-(y)-[iṟai U]ṭpaṭ=ṭa kīḻ iṟai-p pāṭ[ṭa]〈19〉ṅkaḷu(m)

Aṭa[ṅka] nalla-nāya¡n!〈ṉ〉āruk[ku]〈20〉 v-iṭṭēṉ

I(tu) [pa]**nmāheśva(ra)-rakṣai**

Apparatus

〈17〉 Ā[yaṅkaḷum It-tiru]vēllaiy(il) (mā) [4+] • Reading based on ASI transcript: *Āyaṅkaḷum Ittiruvellaiyil mā [2+]*

〈18〉 taṟi-(y)-[iṟai U]ṭpaṭ=ṭa • Reading after ASI transcript.

〈19〉 Aṭa[ṅka] • Reading after ASI transcript.

Translation

〈1〉 Prosperity! Fortune!

〈1–2〉 19th year of the king Rājarāja.[1]

[1] Rājarāja II Cōḻa.

〈3–9〉 I, Kāṭavarāyaṉ, alias Āḷappiṟantāṉ Mōkaṉ, have made this endowment, for the sacred services (*tiruppaṇi*) and for the food offerings (*tiruppaṭimāṟu*) to Nalla Nāyaṉār, Lord of Nallūr:

- three hundred sixty *vēli*s of land that comprise the boundaries of Nallūr;
- 5 *vēli*s of land of the sacred garden on the northern bank of the river;
- five *vēli*s of land for the Kāccuvakuṭi,[2]
- $^{3}/_{20}$ 〈*vēli*s〉 in Valiyōcai,[3]
- $^{2}/_{20}$ 〈*vēli*s〉 of land in Puñcaṉūr;[4]
- $^{3}/_{20}$ 〈*vēli*s〉 for the new tenants (*potukkuṭi*), and
- deducting (*nīkki*) ¼ 〈vēli〉 of land.

I have granted for the deity Nalla-Nāyaṉār, 〈the taxes〉 that are included within these lands:

- *mākkalam* taxes[5], including the due for safeguarding the lands (*pāṭikāval*).
- other dues (*maṟṟuḷḷa āyaṅkaḷ*),
- the minor cesses (*kīḻ-iṟai-p-pāṭṭam*), including the tax on loom (*taṟi-iṟai*) and the *mākkācu*[6] levy in this sacred border (*ittiruvelaiyil*).

This is under the protection of the *paṉmaheśvaras*.

Commentary

Āḷappiṟantāṉ Mōkaṉ, also known as Kaṭavarāyaṉ, was a chieftain during the reign of Rājarāja II, which would place this record at approximately 1169 CE. However, this dating would predate the earliest record (ca. 1184 CE) attested at the site (cf. INSTamilNadu00036). Given the fact that another inscription from the 34th regnal year of Kuloṭṭuṅga III (INSTamilNadu00032) explicitly recapitulates the present endowment, it may be suggested that may be a silent copy of an earlier record.

[2]The village is nowadays called Kaccakuṭi.
[3]The village is nowadays called Valacai.
[4]The village is called nowadays Piñcaṉūr. These three villages are contiguous to Nallūr.
[5]Probably a kind of tax that was paid at a specified rate of *kalam* of paddy per *mā* of land.
[6]Probably a kind of tax that was paid at a rate of certain amount of gold coins (*kācu*) per mā of land.

Bibliography

Reported in ARIE 1939–43 (ARIE/1939-1943/B/1940-1941/145).

This edition by Renato Dávalos, Emmanuel Francis, and Margherita Trento, based on autopsy, photos (E. Francis, 2024), and ASI transcript.

ASI transcript consulted in Mysore by Renato Dávalos and Margherita Trento (September 2025) with the kind permission of the Director of Epigraphy.

Secondary

ARIE 1939–43. *Annual reports on South Indian epigraphy for the years 1939-40 to 1942-43*. Edited by C. R. Krishnamacharlu & N. Laksminarayan Rao. Delhi: Government of India, 1952. Page 92, item 145, appendixes B/1940-1941.