Kuppalnattam copper plate, time of Tirumalai Nāyaka, year Kara

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Summary

A copper plate issued in the Jovian cycle year Kaṟā (that is, Kara) during the reign of Tirumalai Nāyaka, that is, 1651 CE, as this is the only Kara year during his reign (1623-1659 CE). Records a royal order bestowing *nāṭṭāmai* and *māṉipam* to Veṅkiṭṭi Nākkaṉ. Contains a conversation in Telugu, written in Tamil script.

Palaeographic description

Single-curled *kompu*: no distinction between medial vowels *o* and *ō*, *e* and *ē*. *ḷ* is used instead of *l̲*, *ṟ* instead of *r*, and *ṉ* instead of *n*. Orthographic peculiarities and colloquial forms: *nāṭṭāmai* for *nāṭṭāṉmai*, *māṉipam* for *māṉiyam*, *vākkāl* for *vāykkāl*, *nākkaṉ* for *nāyakkaṉ*.

Edition

〈1〉 ൟ rāma-ceyam

〈2〉 kaṟā ൟ Āṉi ൩ 29 ൟ

matuṟā-puri-t-talat=tuk=ku〈3〉 kaṛt=taṟ-ākiya makaṟāca-māṉiyā(r) tiri-tirumalai-(ṉā)〈4〉yakkaṟ-avaṟkaḷ kāḷappaṉpaṭṭi Uḷaṭaiya〈5〉t=til vant' iraṅki y-iruk=kum pōtu kuppalna〈6〉ttam veṅkiṭṭi ṉāk=kaṉ pātakāṇikkai〈7〉 ൮ 3 10 * poṉṉum 4 100 Arici kāy-ka〈8〉ri ney-pāl-uṭaṉē koṇṭu vantu ṟācā〈9〉vai-k= kaṇṭāṉ

ṟācāvukku cantōcam āki n¡i!〈ī〉〈10〉ku Emi kāvelē yek=kaṭavu vit=tivi Eṉa-(k)〈11〉 kēṭṭāṟ

veṅkiṭṭi ṉāk=kaṉ coṉṉatu〈12〉 nēṉu Uṇṭē kiṟāmāṇiki cātiṉappaṭṭa〈13〉yāṉiki tēvaru-vāḷu Uttaṟavu kāvelē〈14〉 y-eṉṟu kēṭṭāṉ

Anta-p paṭik=ku ṟācā-Utta〈15〉rāv' āccutu

- yitark=ku māl cempaṟaṇi El〈16〉laik=k¡i!〈u〉teṟk=ku
- cēṭapaṭṭik= kiṟāmat=tukku ki¡l!〈l〉ak=ku
- vī〈17〉ṟāḷampaṭṭi māluk=ku vaṭak=ku
- pūcāntirak= kiṟāma〈18〉ttuk=ku mēṟk=ku

y-inta nāṅk' el¡k!〈l〉aik=k' uḷppa〈19〉ṭṭa kirāmam kuppalnat=tat=tuk=ku nāṭṭāmai p¿i?〈u〉〈20〉ñcai māṉipam Ūruk=ku teṟk=ku 5 caṅkili ni〈21〉lam nañcai māṉipam ൩ kirāmat=tuk=k' uḷp〈22〉paṟavil naṭuvā〈y〉k=kāluk=ku vaṭakku 4 kāṇi Āka〈23〉 y-ivaḷavum nāṭṭāmai mutamai veṅkiṭṭi〈24〉 ṉāk=kaṉuk=ku contam-āka E(l̲)uti-k kuṭut=ta tām〈25〉pura-cāt¿i?〈a〉ṉa-p-paṭṭayam

y-itaṟkku cācci

- mati〈26〉ppaṉūṟ cūṟappaṉāk=kaṉ
- cēṭapaṭṭi perum〈27〉āḷuṉāk=kaṉ
- pūcāntiṟam ciṉṉa-māya-t-tē〈28〉vaṉ

y-itai yātām orutaṟ aṭi A¡l!〈l〉it=tā〈29〉l mīṉā¿c?〈ṭ〉ci cokkaliṅkaṟ kēḷppāṟ

〈30〉 y-inta-p paṭṭayañ ceytavaṉ matuṟā-puri 「〈31〉mēla-vācal caṇmukam Ācāri

y-inta-p paṭi〈32〉 śrī-kaṛt=taṟ-ākiya tirumalai-ṉāyak=kaṟ-avaṟkaḷ tiru-k〈33〉-karat=til Oppam ൟ

Translation

〈1〉 Victory to Rāma!

〈2〉 Year Kaṟā,[1] month of Āṉi, date 29.

〈3–15〉 At the time the glorious and honourable Tirumalai Nāyaka, *alias* the lord of the region of the city of Maturā,[2] was brought within the premises of Kāḷappaṉpaṭṭi, Veṅkiṭṭi Nāyaka of Kuppalnattam having brought 30 *paṇam*s, 400 *poṉ*s, rice, vegetables, ghee and milk as offerings to the feet of the king, saw him there.

〈9–11〉 The king was pleased and asked "What do you want? How are you?".

〈11–14〉 Veṅkiṭṭi Nāyaka replied that he wanted His Highness to grant him the jurisdictional rights to his village.

〈14–15〉 In that manner, there was a royal order 〈as follows〉.

〈15–18〉 For this 〈village〉, the boundaries (*māl*) 〈are as follows:〉

- south of the boundary (*ellaikki*, that is, *ellaikku*) of Cempaṟaṇi;
- east of the village of Cēṭapaṭṭi;
- north of the boundary (*mālukku*) of Vīṟāḷampaṭṭi;
- west of the village of Pūcāntiram.

〈19–25〉 So that there be, for the village of Kuppalnattam which is comprised within these four boundaries, 5 *caṅkili*s of *puñcai* (dry land), south of the village, and 4 *kāṇi*s of *nañcai* (irrigated land), inside the village and north of the central canal (*naṭuvāykkāl*), (this) is the copper-plate order in which these have been inscribed and granted as ownership to Veṅkiṭṭi Nāyaka, the village chief (*nāṭṭāmai mutaṉmai*).

〈25–28〉 For this, the witnesses 〈are〉

- Cūṟappaṉākkaṉ of Matippaṉūr,
- Perumāḷuṉākkaṉ of Cēṭapaṭṭi,
- Ciṉṉamāyattēvaṉ of Pūcāntiram.

〈28–29〉 This 〈donation〉, if whoever harms it, 〈the gods〉 Mīṉācci and Cokkaliṅkar will punish (*kēḷppār*) 〈him〉.

[1] That is, Kara.
[2] That is, Maturai.

〈30–31〉 He who made this plate is Caṇmukam Ācāri at the west gate of the city of Maturā.

〈31–33〉 In that manner, the signature in the hand of the honourable Tirumalai Nāyaka *alias* the glorious lord.

Commentary

The plate, rectangular in shape (height 23.3 cm, width 15.3 cm), is a typical Nāyaka period copper plate. It was found in possession of Mr. Thiruvenkatasamy in the village of Kuppalnattam/Kuppalnatham, Madurai district, Tamilnadu, who acquired it as part of his inheritance. The existence of this copper plate was unknown to scholars till now. The editor got to know of it through word of mouth.

The village names mentioned in the inscription are still in use today (phonetically intact) except one which had changed to *pūcalapuram* from *pūcāntiram*.

Bibliography

This edition, based on autopsy, and translation by Ramprashanth Venkatakrishnan. Reviewed and encoded by Emmanuel Francis, based on photos.