Nākappaṭṭiṉam, bronze label

Emmanuel Francis

Author of digital edition: Emmanuel Francis

Identifier: DHARMA_INSTamilNadu00344

Repository: Tamil Nadu (varia) (tfa-tamilnadu-epigraphy)

File path: DHARMA_INSTamilNadu00344.xml

Language: Tamil [Grantha, Tamil]

Commit: 2026-11-09 18:23 (fbd1441), last modified 2026-09-29 11:10 (5251b7d)

Summary

Label on a Buddhist bronze.

Edition

〈1〉 **svasti śrī ||**

nittaṉ mati-¡ṉ!〈n〉āyakar

Apparatus

〈1〉 nittaṉ mati° ◇ *nittaṉa-mati°* R1.

Translation by Ramachandran 1954

〈1〉 Hail! Prosperity!

〈1〉 The Nāyakar (i.e., Lord Buddha) who was Nittanamati.

Translation

〈1〉 Prosperity! Fortune!

〈1〉 The Lord of/with discernment (*mati*), the supreme being (*nittaṉ*).

Commentary

Ramachandran 1954 comments thus: “The word Nittanamati is evidently not to be taken here as a proper name. It may mean ”one who had set his mind on poverty (wealthlessness).” The words *nittaṉam* and *mati* remind us of their Sanskrit counterparts *nirdhana* and *mati*. And the Buddha was certainly a Nirdhanamati having renounced the world.”

Ramachandran 1954’s interpretation is not fully convincing as it would be the only attestation of *nittaṉam*, whereas *nittaṉ* (from Sanskrit *nitya*) is found in MTL.[1]

Bibliography

Edited in Ramachandran 1954, with a facsimile.

Edited and translated here by Emmanuel Francis (2024), based on Ramachandran 1954 and the facsimile therein.

Primary

[R1] Ramachandran, T. N. 1954. *The Nāgapaṭṭiṇam and other Buddhist bronzes in the Chennai Museum*. Bulletin of the Madras Government Museum, New series, General section 7.1. Madras: Government Press. Page TBC, plate TBC.

[R2] Ramachandran, T. N. 2005. *The Nāgapaṭṭiṇam and other Buddhist bronzes in the Chennai Museum*. Revised edition. Chennai: Government of Tamilnadu. Page 56, plates V, no. 44.

[1] See MTL, s.v. *nittaṉ*: “n. 1. The Supreme Being, as eternal; 2. Śiva; 3. Arhat.”