Saint-Pierre de la Réunion, temple des Casernes, fondation of Māriyammaṉ temple

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Summary

Inscription on a stone-slab (49,5 x 28,5 cm) recording the construction of the Māriyammaṉ temple, that is, the temple currently known as *chapelle des Casernes* or *temple des Casernes*.

Palaeographic description

No distinction between *e* and *ē*, nor between *o* and *ō*. No *puḷḷi*. Spelling *n* instead of expected *ṉ*.

Edition

〈1〉 1000 8 100 (2) 10 7 cit〈2〉tirai (൩) 7 (൲)

m¿a?〈ā〉riyam〈3〉ma¡n!〈n̲〉 kōv¡ī!〈i〉l vē(ṅ)〈4〉ka¡ṭ=ṭ!〈ṭ〉a-reṭṭi(yar) [5×]〈5〉 [2×] tam-mattālē kaṭṭa〈6〉-p-paṭṭatu

Apparatus

〈1〉 1000 8 100 (2) 10 7 • The figure "2" is of an unstandard form, which looks like a *piḷḷaiyār cuḻi*.

〈2〉 (ಬೌ) • Unstandard form.

〈3〉 (ൟ) • Unstandard form.

Translation

〈1–2〉 1827, month of Cittirai, date 7.

〈2–6〉 The Māriyamman̲ temple has been constructed (*kaṭṭappaṭṭatu*) through the pious act (*tammattālē*[1]) 〈of〉 Vēṅkaṭa Reṭṭiyar [...].

Translation into French

〈1–2〉 1827, mois de Cittirai, date 7.

〈2–6〉 Le temple de Māriyamman̲ a été construit suite à l'acte pieux (*tammattālē*[2]) 〈de〉 Vēṅkaṭa Reṭṭiyar [...].

Commentary

〈1〉 The era of the year 1827 is not specified and this millesime is not followed, as one would expect, by a symbol for year. In the context of production of the inscription (colonial La Réunion, antiquity of the Māriyamman̲ temple), it appears that the date is in the common era and not in the Śaka era as one would expect in a inscription from Tamil Nadu itself. It thus appears to correspond, as kindly confirmed to us by Marco Franceschini, to April 18, 1827.

[1]Instrumental case of *tammam*, that is, Sanskrit *dharma*.
[2]Instrumental de *tammam*, c'est-à-dire, *dharma* en sanskrit.

Bibliography

This edition by Emmanuel Francis and Darlini Canabady Moutien, based on autopsy (2025), photos and estampages (E. Francis, 2025). Thanks to Renato Davalos and Margherita Trento for their suggestions.