Image of Viṣṇu probably donated by Cōḷaṟaviti

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Summary

Probably the name of a female donor.

Edition

〈1〉 śrī cōḷaṟaviti

Apparatus

〈1〉 śrī cōḷaṟaviti ◇ *śrīcōḷōṟuvṛiti* ARIE • I am not sure whether this spelling indicates that two vowel signs were read or rather simply renders *ṛ*.

Translation

Śrī Cōḷaṟaviti

Commentary

The Annual Report states that the inscription was found "[b]elow the image of Vishṇu carved in the first cave-temple at Bhairavakōna in Bhairavakonda" (ARIE 1921–22, p. 79). It may be the name of the donor of this image. While *cōḷa* most certainly refers to the dynasty, *r̲aviti* may consist of *r̲ava* 'jewel' and the female suffix *-iti* 'woman' (confer Sastri 1969, p. 139). Hence, the name probably means 'a jewel of a woman of the Cōl̲a (dynasty)'. If this is the case *r̲aviti* parallels the skt. expression *kanyāratna-*. The inscription, albeit short, is therefore of a certain importance because it is evidence of a donation made by a woman. Since the dynasty is normally spelt *cōl̲a* or *cōḍa* (with /ḍ/ from /l̲/) and ‹ḍa› and ‹ḷa› are often spelt quite similarly, the intended spelling might have been *cōḍa*. The following remarks were made in the Annual Report regarding the reading therein: "This probably means 'the work or style of Śrīchōḷōr̲u. Might Chōḷōr̲u be another form of Chōḷōju?" (ARIE 1921–22, p. 79). Accordingly, Sastri summarizes the content as: "Records the work of Śrī Cōl̲ār̲u" (Sastri 1969, p. 327), but follows J. Ramayya Pantulu's edition.

Bibliography

The inscription was noted and edited in the Annual Reports on Indian Epigraphy (ARIE 1921–22, p. 79, № 265) and was re-edited by J. Ramayya Pantulu in 1948, p. 17, № 40 with few metadata and without translation.

Primary

[ARIE] ARIE 1921–22. *Annual report on Indian epigraphy for the year 1921-1922*. Edited by G. Venkoba Rao. Madras: Government Press, 1923. Page 79, appendix C/1922, item 265.

[JRP] Ramayya Pantulu, Jayanti. 1948. *South-Indian inscriptions (texts). Volume X: Telugu inscriptions from the Madras Presidency*. South Indian Inscriptions 10. Delhi: Manager of Publications. Page 17, item 40.

Secondary

Sastri, Korada Mahadeva. 1969. *Historical grammar of Telugu with special reference to Old Telugu c. 200 B.C. - 1000 A.D.* Anantapur: Sri Venkateswara Univ. Page 327, item 55.