# #3. Unoticed and unpublished. EDITION AND TRANSLATION FINISHED.

Inscription dated with the regnal year of Matiraikoṇṭa… on the westernmost panel of the northern face of the ardha-maṇḍapa (added in the unidentified inscriptions pictures file – built over on the western side).

Read on pictures and in situ.

(1) *svasti śrī* matiraikoṇṭakopparakecaripanma[rku] yāṇṭu {built over}

(2) kuṉṟakkūṟṟattu tevatāṉam ˚avaṉikantaṟpapu {built over}

(3) ḷi *śāsa*na*baddha* vaṇṇakkuṭaiya kallaṟai kollattil {built over}

(4) ttaḷip paṭṭu ˚uṭaiyāṉ *˚īśvara* nakkaṉ vi[lai]koṇṭu {built over}

(5) *ra*ṉeṉn ittaḷi vaṇṇakku cetu kaṭamaip paṭ[ṭa] poṉṉukku {built over}

[read with VVG on 6 August 2019 – read with Manu, Uthaya and Nicolas on 11/02/2019]

Line 1: Fortune! Prosperity! This is the XXX year of Kōpparakesarivarman who has taken Madurai;

Line 2: XXX Avaṉikantaṟpapu[[ram]], a *devadāna* of Kuṉṟakkūṟṟam XXX;

Line 3 difficult to interpret:

1) *śāsana baddha*: bound by the charts (this term is found in the lexicon of PY inscription vol. 2, p. 348, and is analysed by VVG as “Share holders bound by the royal gift deed”);

2) *vaṇṇakkuṭaiya*: who/which possesses (*uṭaiya*) the verification of the gold (*vaṇakku*);

வண்ணக்கன் vanṇakkaṉ , *n*. prob. *varṇkā*. Tester of coins; நாணயசோதகன். வண்ணக்கன் சாத்தனார் (நற்.). வண்ணக்கர் காணத்தை நீலமென்றலும் (தொல். சொல். 16, சேனா.).

3) *kallaṟai* literally means “stone chamber”, usually associated with funerary disposal. But it would not make much sense to take it this way. In inscriptions from Kerala (see examples in TAS), it denotes a type of land, perhaps associated with funerary purposes, but again, I don’t know if a reference to a type of land would fit here. Kallaṟai is also a part of the name of a donor of the Ālantuṟai Mahādeva temple: #96. ARE 1926, no. 249; SII 19, no. 238; SII 32, part 2, no. 58. Therefore, it is possible that *kallaṟai* refers here to the name of the donor;

கல்லறை kal-l-aṟai , *n*. < id. +. [M. *kallaṟa*.] 1. Cave, cavern; குகை. கல்லறையி னுழுவை சினங்கொண்டு (தேவா. 1155, 4). 2. Vault, tomb hewn out in a rock, sepulchre, grave; பிரேதக் குழி. *Chr*. 3. Room having stone walls and roof; கல்லாலாகிய அறை.

4) *kollattil*: there are different possibilities of interpretation: 1) in Kollam [not connected with *kallaṟai*] Kollam being the name of an ancient town in Kerala;[[1]](#footnote-1) 2) Kallaṟai Kollam may be 2 parts of a toponym;

கொல்லம் kollam , *n*. [M. *kollam*.] 1. An ancient division of Tamil land believed to have been submerged under sea; கடல் கொண்டதாகக் கருதும் தென்றமிழ்நாடுகளுள் ஒன்று. குமரி கொல்ல முதலிய பன்மலைநாடும் (சிலப். 8, 1, உரை). 2. A town on the west-coast, in Travancore; சேர நாட்டிலுள்ள ஒரு கடற்கரைப் பட்டினம். 3. See கொல்லமாண்டு. (T. A. S. IV, 9.)

Line 4: the Paṭṭuṭaiyāṉ of this temple, Īśvara Nakkaṉ, bought (*vilaikoṇṭu*) XXX;

Line 5: I, XXXraṉ, having checked the gold (*vaṇṇakku cetu* > *ceytu*) of this temple (*ittaḷi*) XXX, for the gold (*poṉṉukku*) which falls (*paṭṭa*) as *kaṭamai*-tax XXX.

கடமை¹ kaṭamai , *n*. [M. *kaḍam*.] 1. Duty, obligation; கடப்பாடு. 2. Tax, assessment, tribute, toll; குடியிறை. (Insc.)

To summary the content of the inscription: Īśvara Nakkaṉ buys something, probably a land. XXXraṉ verifies (?) the gold, and with this gold, the land-tax is paid.

*Vaṇṇakku*, according to YS, seems to refer to an accountant. But in his dictionary, he is the one who checks the quality of jewels and of gold. This is what I followed here.

1. Kollam is also used to refer to an era (see Salomon 1998: 189-90). However, need to check if the formula *kollatil* is used. Salomon mentions *kollantoṉṟi*. But check Kielhorn, IA 25, 1896, pp. 53-56 and 174. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)