NO. 1

BĀMANGHĀTI PLATE OF RAṆABHANJADEVA

1. Donor … Śrī Raṇabhañjadeva, son of Śri Digbhañjadeva.

2. Title …

3. Place of issue … Khijjinga-Koṭṭa

4. Date … Samvat 188 Pushya Śu. di 7.

5. Officers …

6. Topography … (1) Khijjingakoṭṭa (Fort)

(2) Koroṇḍiya Vishaya (D)

(3) Devakuṇḍa Vishaya (D)

(4) Timoṇḍirā (V)

(5) Nānkola (V)

(6) Jamvupadraka (V)

(7) Pasantā (V)

7. Donee … Sāmanta Baḍhāka, son of Muṇḍi Sāmanta

8. Authority … Edited by Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh, in J. A. S. B Vol XL, Part-I (1871) pp. 161-167.

9. Remarks …

%%p. 002

TEXT

Overse

(1 .) oṃ<1> sa(sva)sti . sakalabhuvarnekanātho bha-

(2 .) vabhayabhiduro bhavobhavānīśaḥ vividha samā-

(3 .) dhividhijñaḥ sarvajñovaḥ śivāyāstuḥ . āsī-

(4 .) tkoṭyā(ṭṭā)śramamahātapovanāghiṣṭhāne māyūrāṇḍa

(5 .) bhītvāgaṇadaṇḍavīrabhadrākhyaḥ pratipakṣanidhana da-

(6 .) kṣo vaśī(śi)ṣṭhamunipālito nṛpatiḥ .. tasyādibha

(7 .) ñjavanse (vaśe) ripuvanadāvānalaḥ khyātaḥ śuraḥ śuci

(8 .) vvinītojātaḥ śrīkoṭṭabhañja nāmā putrastadā-

(9 .) nurūpaśreṣṭhaḥ śrīmānnarākṣa(asaṃkhya) sāmanta nṛpati śatā-

(10 .) ccitacaraṇo śrīdigbhañjoja(ya)śa anvitaḥ<2> . tasyātma-

(11 .) jaḥ smarasamo valavāmvarīṣṭhaḥ<3> śūraḥ samunyava(nnata) ya-

(12 .) sā(śā) pravijitya śatru[n] rājāyudhiṣṭhira rivāvanipāla-

(13 .) ne ca . nitya[ ]rataḥkuśala karmmavidhau praśaktaḥ khi-

(14 .) jjiṅga koṭṭavāsī haraca[ra]ṇa(ṇā)rādhana kṣayita pāpaḥ

(15 .) śrīma(mā)[na] raṇabhañjadevaḥ . sānunaya[ ]prāhaḥ bhūḥ(bhū)pā-

(16 .) lake<4> khijjiṅga prativaddho uttarakhaṇḍasyāntaḥ pā-

(17 .) tī koraṇḍiyonāmnā viṣayaḥ tathā devakuṇḍa

(18 .) viṣayasamvanaḥ(ddhaḥ) timaṇḍirāgrāmaḥ nāṅkola

%%p. 003

Reverse

(19 .) grāmaḥ<1> jamvupadrakagrāmaḥ pasantāgrāmābhi-

(20 .) retānnapi viṣayaḥ grāmāṇā ayaṃ pūrvvavidita ca-

(21 .) tuḥ sīmā paryyantake mavāṭabhaṭapraveśo ākarī-

(22 .) kṛtāḥ mahāsāmanta mantrīsutaḥ paṭakasya deveśaṃ

(23 .) dṛṣṭvā śāsanīkṛtya pradatto'ha[ ] . yāvat pritho dharmma

(24 .) dākṣiṇyato vā tāvatkāla pālanīyo mavadbhiḥ [.]

(25 .) uktañca dharmmaśāstre [..] vahubhirvasudhādattā rājabhiḥ saga-

(26 .) rādibhi[ḥ] yasya yasya yadā bhūmīṃ(miṃ) tasya tasya (tasya) tadāṃ phalaṃ

(27 .) mābhūva(da) phalaśaṅkāvaḥ paradatteti pāthivā . svadattā[t]

(28 .) phalamānanta(ntya) paradattānupālane [.] svadattā[ṃ] paradattā-

(29 .) mvā yo harebda (tava)sundharāṃ saviṣṭhāyāṃ kṛmimu(rbhu)tvā pitṛ-

(30 .) bhiḥ saha pacyate .. apica . kṣitiriyañjalameva

(31 .) padmāśrayā<2> hataśarīramidañca vinasmara sukṛtama-

(32 .) dya na cena kriyate dhruvaṃ vipadidhakṣati<3> vonusa-

(33 .) yānalaḥ .. itikamaladalāmvuvindulolāḥ(ṃ)

(34 .) śriyamanucintya manuṣyajīvitañca[.] sakalamidamu-

(35 .) dāhṛtaṃ hi vudhvā na hi puruṣaiḥ parakīrttayovi-

(36 .) lopyāḥ ..0.. samvata 100, 80, 8 puṣpa śudi 7 .

%%p. 004

NOTES

In 1870 the then Asst. Curator of Indian Museum, Calcutta acquired two copper plate inscriptions which he gave to Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh, the then Asst. Secretary of Asiatic Society, Bengal for decipherment and publication . It is stated that the present plate which is one of the two grants, was unearthed from, by a gentleman of Chaibasa in Singbhum District of Bihar. Mr. Ghosh edited the plates in JASB. Vol. XL (1871) pp 161-167. The other plate which was discovered from the same plate, is a grant of Śrī Rājabhañjadeva. The same editor has published a paper on this plate in the above journal pp 168-169 ff.

About hundred years back the convention of editing an epigraphical document, was not as it is at present. So the measurement of the plate are not given by Mr. Ghosh although he has dealt with the palaeography and other minor aspects relating to the inscription. Fortunately the estampages of both the plates are given at the end of the said journal Vol. XL Part-I. The measurement of the plate will be about 85” X 7”. The seal is about 3” in diameter.

At the top of the plate, there is a royal seal in a circular form, the edges being curved out like the petals of a lotus flower.

At the centre the legend is engraved embossed in relief which reads Śrī Raṇabhañjadevasya. Below this, a semi-full blown lotus is depicted while on the top of the legend there is a standing bull before which is placed a trident and above the bull is a crescent moon. Each side of the plate contains 18 lines of writing. According to Mr. Ghosh, the character is Devanagari but alike to the Gauḍiya-type. We have nothing to say, if he means gauḍiya corredponding to that Pancha-

%%p. 005

Gauḍa, including Maithili, Utkali and Kānyakuvja etc. It goes without saying that the script was used in Orissa during the 10th century A.D. So it may be called more appropriately Proto-Oriya than Gauḍiya type of letters.

Mr. Ghosh has not mentioned the number of lines in the text which is also not correctly deciphered in many places.

The language is Sanskrit. But the association of some Prakrit usages spoiled its correctuess in some places. The most important portion of this inscription is its date which is written in the last line of the record as samvat 100,80 and 8 in three distinct symbols, then follows the name of the month and tithi as Pushya, Śu.di 7 i. e; the 7th day of the bright fortnight of the month of Pushya. These symbols are deci-pherable with the help of the chart given by G H. Ojha in his Indian Palaeography.<\*> This Samvat is no doubt the same era which was used by the Bhaumakaras of Toshali. The Bhauma era, according to the calculation commenced from A.D. 736. So this grant should be assigned to A.D. 736+188 – 924 A. D.

Regarding the topographical position of the village granted in Uttara-Khaṇḍa of the kingdom of the Bhañjas of Khijjingakoṭṭa, was lying by the side of Khijjinga, the capital of the Bhañja kings. It is clear that Uttarakhaṇḍa was located near modern Khiching. Most probably the territory of the Bhañja kings of Khijjingakoṭṭa was extended as far as Chaibasa in the Singbhum District where the plates were discovered.

<1. Expressed by a symbol.>

<2. Read śrīdigbhañjojagatpāṭitaḥ .>

<3. Read valavānvariṣṭhaḥ .>

<4. The editor has wrongly read bhūpālake for bhūpālan . >

<1. The letter grā is not identical in comparison to the letter grā in the same line. Before this letter grā there is another symbol which may be read as number 2 denoting the side of the plate.>

<2. The letter appears priyā which conveys no meaning.>

<3. Read vipadabhikṣati . >

<\* Vide G. H. Ojha’s Indian Palaeography Plate Nos. : — LXXII and LXXIII.>