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

(१ ।) ॐ<1> स(स्व)स्ति । सकलभुवर्नेकनाथो भ-

(२ ।) वभयभिदुरो भवोभवानीशः विविध समा-

(३ ।) धिविधिज्ञः सर्वज्ञोवः शिवायास्तुः । आसी-

(४ ।) त्कोट्या(ट्टा)श्रममहातपोवनाघिष्ठाने मायूराण्ड

(५ ।) भीत्वागणदण्डवीरभद्राख्यः प्रतिपक्षनिधन द-

(६ ।) क्षो वशी(शि)ष्ठमुनिपालितो नृपतिः ।। तस्यादिभ

(७ ।) ञ्जवन्से (वशे) रिपुवनदावानलः ख्यातः शुरः शुचि

(८ ।) व्विनीतोजातः श्रीकोट्टभञ्ज नामा पुत्रस्तदा-

(९ ।) नुरूपश्रेष्ठः श्रीमान्नराक्ष(असंख्य) सामन्त नृपति शता-

(१० ।) च्चितचरणो श्रीदिग्भञ्जोज(य)श अन्वितः<2> । तस्यात्म-

(११ ।) जः स्मरसमो वलवाम्वरीष्ठः<3> शूरः समुन्यव(न्नत) य-

(१२ ।) सा(शा) प्रविजित्य शत्रु[न्] राजायुधिष्ठिर रिवावनिपाल-

(१३ ।) ने च । नित्य[ ]रतःकुशल कर्म्मविधौ प्रशक्तः खि-

(१४ ।) ज्जिङ्ग कोट्टवासी हरच[र]ण(णा)राधन क्षयित पापः

(१५ ।) श्रीम(मा)[न] रणभञ्जदेवः । सानुनय[ ]प्राहः भूः(भू)पा-

(१६ ।) लके<4> खिज्जिङ्ग प्रतिवद्धो उत्तरखण्डस्यान्तः पा-

(१७ ।) ती कोरण्डियोनाम्ना विषयः तथा देवकुण्ड

(१८ ।) विषयसम्वनः(द्धः) तिमण्डिराग्रामः नाङ्कोल

%%p. 003

Reverse

(१९ ।) ग्रामः<1> जम्वुपद्रकग्रामः पसन्ताग्रामाभि-

(२० ।) रेतान्नपि विषयः ग्रामाणा अयं पूर्व्वविदित च-

(२१ ।) तुः सीमा पर्य्यन्तके मवाटभटप्रवेशो आकरी-

(२२ ।) कृताः महासामन्त मन्त्रीसुतः पटकस्य देवेशं

(२३ ।) दृष्ट्वा शासनीकृत्य प्रदत्तोऽह[ ] । यावत् प्रिथो धर्म्म

(२४ ।) दाक्षिण्यतो वा तावत्काल पालनीयो मवद्भिः [।]

(२५ ।) उक्तञ्च धर्म्मशास्त्रे [।।] वहुभिर्वसुधादत्ता राजभिः सग-

(२६ ।) रादिभि[ः] यस्य यस्य यदा भूमीं(मिं) तस्य तस्य (तस्य) तदां फलं

(२७ ।) माभूव(द) फलशङ्कावः परदत्तेति पाथिवा । स्वदत्ता[त्]

(२८ ।) फलमानन्त(न्त्य) परदत्तानुपालने [।] स्वदत्ता[ं] परदत्ता-

(२९ ।) म्वा यो हरेब्द (तव)सुन्धरां सविष्ठायां कृमिमु(र्भु)त्वा पितृ-

(३० ।) भिः सह पच्यते ।। अपिच । क्षितिरियञ्जलमेव

(३१ ।) पद्माश्रया<2> हतशरीरमिदञ्च विनस्मर सुकृतम-

(३२ ।) द्य न चेन क्रियते ध्रुवं विपदिधक्षति<3> वोनुस-

(३३ ।) यानलः ।। इतिकमलदलाम्वुविन्दुलोलाः(ं)

(३४ ।) श्रियमनुचिन्त्य मनुष्यजीवितञ्च[।] सकलमिदमु-

(३५ ।) दाहृतं हि वुध्वा न हि पुरुषैः परकीर्त्तयोवि-

(३६ ।) लोप्याः ।।०।। सम्वत १००, ८०, ८ पुष्प शुदि ७ ।

%%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 श्रीदिग्भञ्जोजगत्पाटितः ।>

<3. Read वलवान्वरिष्ठः ।>

<4. The editor has wrongly read भूपालके for भूपालन् ।>

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

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

<3. Read विपदभिक्षति ।>

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