

About the Characteristics of the Copperplates which Help to Know the History of South India

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Abstract: The practice of writing down the messages of a time to pass them down to the next generation has been in practice since ancient times. Copper is a metal plate used in ancient times to record events such as temple donations of kings, genealogies, war records, grants of lands, towns, and other grants to public institutions or individuals, as well as traditional stories. All the Copperplates are ancient government documents containing notes on the actions of the monarchs from the date of their decrees to their execution, which cannot be read easily by everyone. Copperplates help a lot to learn about history. The letters engraved on the copper plate are Copperplates. These are also called charters. Cut in Copperplate is called Darma sasanam. Coppers have been available in abundance since the Pallavar period. These help a lot to understand how the Tamil language was written at the time of its emergence. These are the archaeological evidences of ancient times. Tamil coppers are mostly dated to the early 10th century to the 19th century AD. These mostly belong to the period of the Chalukya Chola Vijayanagara kings and are very valuable in terms of inscriptions for understanding the social conditions of medieval South India. Copperplates do not perish like footprints naturally. Ancient people buried Copperplates in the earth to read and protect them. Copperplates cannot be said to belong to that place only by the place where they are found. Copperplates are also worth mentioning among the various historical sources. We can clearly see the history of South India through Pallavar, Pandya, Chola, Crerar, Vijayanagara Nayakas Sethupathi and others. We will see about their special nature and their characteristics in this research paper.

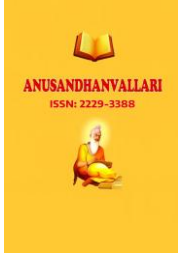
Keywords: South Indian Copperplates, Copperplates, Tamil Language, Copper Plates

Objective Of The Study:

- Coppers found in South India.
- Copperplates on which everything was engraved in earlier times.
- Origin of Copperplates and their history.
- Facts that the inscriptions tell.

Introduction:

The land grants, gifts and concessions of the kings who ruled South India, the orders of the king in this regard will be engraved on copper plates and they will be declared as documents. These copper plates are called copper plates. Although the message of donation is the main focus in these Copperplates, it also gives us a lot of other information. Details of the king, ancestor of the king, successor of the king, victories of the king and many more details can be found in Achapet. These are considered to be the best historical data. The gift given by the king is decided and then the details are written on a sheet of paper, the government officials will check the details written on the sheet and then the details on the sheet will be melted and beaten into strips of copper ingots



engraved on the plates and made into strips. The carvings are complete. Each card will be numbered. Holes are placed on the sides or in the middle of the blades. Copper letters thus inscribed would have the king's seal engraved in copper on the face of the ring, which was drawn into a ring. The Chera, Chola, Pandyar, Pallavas and many other kings issued numerous Copperplates.

The study of Copperplates is important in retrieving the history of Tamil Nadu. Most of the Tamil Nadu inscriptions are in Tamil. Inscriptions cut in the sixth century are also in Sanskrit. In the last 120 years, hundreds of Copperplates have been discovered in South India. The oldest Copperplates are from the 10th century AD. Kanyakumari Copperplates of Yendra Chola has been discovered. Copperplates contribute greatly to the knowledge of the social conditions of medieval South India.

Contents of Inscriptions:

- Inscriptions convey various messages.
- Mention the reason for the donation and the nature of the donation along with historical information.
- Inscriptions are inscribed in local languages.
- Inscriptions are placed in public places so that many people can see them.
- Inscriptions vary according to time and place and the quality of the inscriptions also varies.
- Temple inscriptions also mention information about the walls, pillars, flagpoles and deities in the temple.
- Through the inscriptions, we can find information about the system of government, the names of various officials, jurisdiction, people's lifestyle, culture, religious norms, trade etc.
- Epigraphic messages are stable and primary evidence for historical observation.
- Newspapers also publish news about Yagas like Ashvamedha Yagam Thulabaram Hiranya Garbham.
- Most of the inscriptions mention the date of donation, news about the donation, solar eclipse, lunar eclipse, etc.

Rare History of South Indian History:

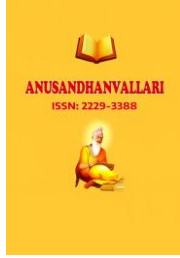
Copper Bars:

Copper shields also help create history. Anbil Pattayam of the Sangam period mentions a Chola king named Senganan. Prakrit and Sanskrit charters of this period clarify the history of the early Pallavas. Also, the Leighton Pattayam of Raja raja I, the Karantha Pattayam of Rajendra I and the Charala Pattayam of Veera Rajendra serve as evidences to know the history of the later Cholas.

Kooram Copperplate

Kooram coppers were found at Kooram in Kanchipuram district. Tamil-Grantham script is found in it. The first cities of India like Moganjdaro and Harappa had all the facilities including baths, underground drains, rain water collection tanks, wide roads and building systems. Similarly, Madurai was built as Bolivuru city during the Sangam period. Just like the streets and rivers, the Parameswara Mangalam is designed with all these special features. The Kooram Copperplate narrates that Parameswara Varman I, who ruled Kanchi between 550 and 560 AD, built the city of Bolivuru named Parameswara Mangalam in his name. Kooram Copperplate consists of seven tables (14 pages).

The Pallava King Parameswara Varman I first selected the 6300-pit area to build the Parameswara Mangalam. First the lake was cut to create the city. A place called Sulai Mettupatti was created for the purpose of making bricks for the constructions. The temple was first built in Polivuru to unite the people through spiritual



festivals. A mandapam for reciting Bharata was established in the middle of the town. It acted as a place to guide the people by telling justice stories and as a media centre to tell the people about the government's decrees and laws. Merchants, goldsmiths, intellectuals, doctors etc. were allocated places in important areas of the city. Safe mechanisms were also made for the world's merchants to trade

Dharugapuram Copperplates

In earlier times, the region was known for its wonderful resources that cooled the mind. The region where kings, refugees and people used to travel to Ilaiparri was on the border of the Chera Chola and Pandya states. Dharugapuram Copperplates is an important Copperplates during the Pandya rule. Dharugapuram Copperplates has been found in a town named Dharugapuram in Shankarankovil circle in Tirunelveli district. Dharugapuram Copperplates has written in Tamil language. This copper refers to the reign of the Pandya king Tenkasi Pandya king Civili Maharaja in the eighteenth-century AD.

Charter of Velvikkudy:

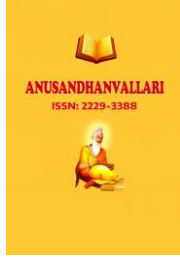
The Velvikkudi Sasana is the most important piece of evidence to help us understand the religious history of the Sangam period. It tells the story of the Pandya King Palyagasali Muthukudumi Peruvaluthi, a Pandya king during the reign of the Sangam king Parantaka Nedunjadayan, who gave the village back to the Brahmins, who was later ruled by Parantaka Nedunjadayan. This indicates the high status of Brahmins in Tamil Nadu.

Uttam Chola Copperplates

The Utama Cholan Copperplates Chennai Central Museum is located in Egmore. Ancient artefacts and art forms from Tamil Nadu and parts of India are on display here, the most notable of which are the Utama Cholan Copperplates. These Copperplates published by Uttamach Cholan contain Tamil and Granthic characters and there are some differences between the inscription and the Copperplates. The epigraphical message contains vernacular characters only in a few places that are in the colloquial language of the people. The message in Copperplate is poetic. The first part of the bilingual inscription will be in Sanskrit and the second part will be in Tamil. The name of the king who gave the donation, the name of the person who asked for the donation, the witnesses, the poet who composed the message, the priest who engraved it, etc. can be found in the septet. Such an arrangement is that if the recipient of some donation has any problem in the future, he should show the kalvetta or septet to the village council for a solution. There are about 250 Copperplates in Tamil Nadu under the control of the government, in which we have found 19 Copperplates issued during the Chola period, and below we can find the news such as their era and the name of the king who issued them.

Chola period coppers we have found:

- Udayendram Copperplate I Paranthagan 928 AD.
- Velachery Copperplates I Paranthagan 932 AD.
- Anbil Copperplate Sundara Chola 961 AD.
- Tiruchengode Copperplate Rajakesari 961 AD.
- Tiruchengode Copperplate Chennai Arungatsiyapedu Uthamacholan AD 986
- Large lighten copper Rajendra Cholan 15 AD.
- Thiruvalangadu Copperplate Rajendra Cholan AD 2018.
- Karantich Copperplate Rajendra Cholan 1020 AD.
- Thirukhaghasha Copperplate Rajendra Cholan 1130 AD.



- SRM Copperplate I Rajendran 1137 AD.
- Thirukkala Copperplate I Rajadi Rajan Charatha Copperplate Veera Rajendran 169 AD.
- Small Leyden Copper I Kulothunga Chola 1090 AD.
- Thirukkalath Copperplate first Kulothungan 1098 AD.
- Thirukkala Copperplate Rajarajan II 1162 AD.
- Tirukalachappedu I Kulothungan 127 AD.
- Tripu This town was owned by Copperplate II Rajendran.

Laguna Copperplates

Discovered in the Philippines in the sixteenth century in the Laguna de Bay Lake area in the capital city of Manila. The book is written in Sanskrit, Javanese, Malay and Old Tagalog. This Copperplate is a document that releases the holder Namvaram from the debt he owes. Manila Kuta refers to Tonto, Pila, and Pulilan in Medan, Indonesia. It shows that there were strong connections between the Tagalog speaking people of that time and the Sri Vijaya Empire of Java. It shows that there was a lot of Indian cultural influence. The bronze is now housed in the National Museum of the Philippines

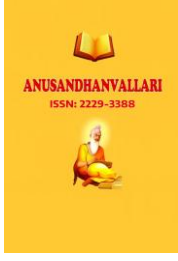
Conclusion

For those who want to see change and revival in today's social history, it is important to know the lifestyle and customs of people of ancient society. Inscriptions are one of the main sources of evidence for knowing history. The characters found in this inscription have varied and evolved over time. There are many types of letters. Ashoka's inscription used Brahmi and Kharosthi scripts. Southern inscriptions are inscribed with Tamil Grantha script and Tamil characters. Before knowing the ancient alphabets, it is necessary to know about the origin of the alphabets. Because man expressed his thoughts clearly through letters, letters became an image of human development. Writing is the expression of one's thoughts through various figurative structures. The development of South India can be easily understood by tracing the origin of writing. Different writing materials were used to write the inscription. They used a variety of writing materials such as stone, stones, mesentery, clay, pottery, tiles, leaves, papyrus, silk cloth, paper, wood, conches, road inscriptions, bronze bells, sticks and strips, strips, bones. Ancient kings inscribed messages on metals such as copper, silver, gold, and brass, which included names of kings, gifts, land grants, town, conquests, edicts, periods, images, etc. On these the letters were cast or carved by means of moulds.

The legendary Bharata Punya Bhoomi was improved in many fields in every era and all of them were recorded by rulers and individuals in many ways. Best among them are the timeless inscriptions. Many types of scripts, forms and languages were used in the inscriptions. So only by reading and studying the inscriptions can we understand the true messages they convey. Inscriptions are very useful to know the historical facts and to know the ancient civilization, culture, culture, socio-economic status etc. Inscriptions and Sasanas can be said to be the primary sources of evidence for knowing history.

Declarations

The authors declare that this article is the authors' original work, has not received prior publication and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere.



Significance Statement:

For historians and students, we need to study inscriptions. Because the primary real evidence of history is the inscriptions, the tombstones. No one can forget or deny this. Therefore, history students, students of Tamil department and researchers should carry out all the studies about the inscriptions and copperplates thoroughly. What was the appearance of language, our culture, our tradition, our system of government. Through this article, I suggest that the inscriptions should be studied in such a way as to realize how it was in the past and how far its progress has reached its peak.

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