

Four Tamil Inscriptions of the Cōla Period

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ABSTRACT

In Japanese literature little attention has been paid to the history of South India. The author who has been studying it since 1957, translates in this paper four Tamil inscriptions of that Cōla period which record land endowment to the temple and introduces them to Japanese readers with detailed comments and texts.

In the introductory part and comments, the author discusses socioeconomic problems of the Cōla period, putting much stress on the necessity of studying two types of the villages of that period, brahmadeya type and non-brahmadeya type villages. Existence of many brahmadeyas in the Cōla country seems to have had close relation to the nature and structure of its rule. Therefore the brahmadeya study has importance to the understanding of state structure of the Cōla empire. Meanwhile non-brahmadeya villages which are considered to be older than brahmadeya villages in the origin and where ūr is usually found, are of importance to the study of South Indian village communities, especially of their historical development.

The author takes this opportunity to express his sincere gratitude to the Professors of the Departments of Indian History and Archaeology, the University of Madras and the authorities of the Office of the Govt. Epigraphist for India, for their kind help rendered during the period of his stay in Madras and Ootacamund for 1961-64.