

8th c. Mon inscribed terracotta stupas from Nakhorn Sawan

their Khmer affinities and further forays into
medieval dialectology

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Christian Bauer
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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I. Introduction

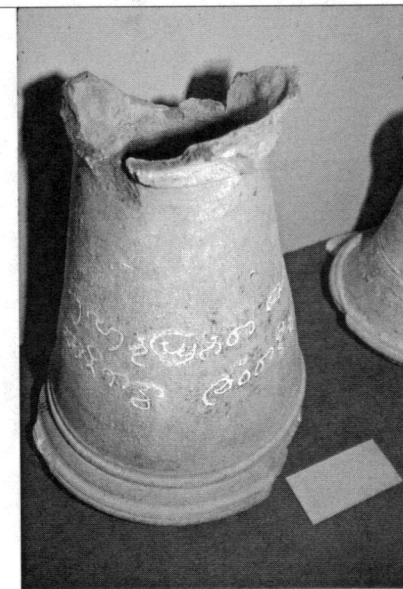
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National Museum
Bangkok

room 303
cupboards 19 and 27

h: 35 cm
Nakhorn Pathom
ca. 8th c. AD

[photo 1983]



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»ye dhammā« formula in Pali verse

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ye dhammā hetuppabhavā	Of things that proceed from a cause
yesaṃ hetuṃ tathāgato āha	their cause the Tathagatha has told
yesaṃca yo nirodho	and also their cessation
evaṃ vādī mahā samaṇo	Thus teaches the great ascetic

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Bangkok Museum stupas

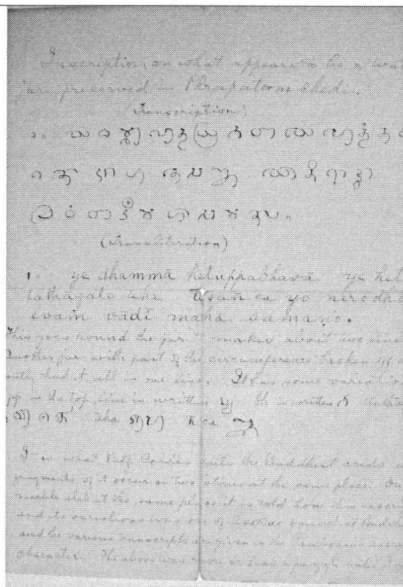
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- known from excavations
 - 23.1.1923 and 24.10.1961 (museum inventory)
- provenance:
 - Nakhorn Pathom and Nakhorn Sawan
- first transcriptions of Pali inscribed stupas:
 - Halliday, undated letter to Blagden (1920s [?])

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Robert Halliday

- 1912-1922 in Nakhorn Pathom
- note to Blagden



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stupa Pali

© catalogue Guimet
2009

National Museum,
Nakhorn Pathom

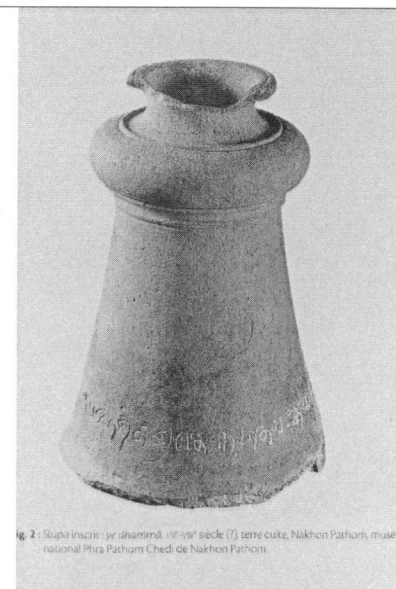


Fig. 2 - Stupa inscribed with the formula 'ye dhammā hetuppabhavā' (1) terre cuite, Nakhorn Pathom, musée national Phra Pathom Chedi de Nakhorn Pathom.

8

8

Lopburi Museum

9

- 2x inscribed terracotta stupas
- Thap Chumphol, Nakhorn Sawan
- excavated March 1981

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other collections

10

- Nakhorn Pathom, Museum
- Wat Nong Kradon, A. Muang, Nakhorn Sawan

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terracotta stupas, types

11

- plain (no writing)
- Pali only (ye dhammā)
- Mon and Pali (ye dhammā)

11

sub-types

12

- lid
 - with, without
- → Nitaya Kanokmongkol, Silpakorn Univ., MA, 2004
(art history)
- → Adrian Snodgrass, 1985

12

usage

13

- symbolic
- reliquary

13

inscribed terracotta stupas

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- Nakhorn Pathom (2x Pali only)
- Lopburi/Singhบุรี (2x Pali only)
- Pattani (1x Pali only, miniature stupa)
- Nakhorn Sawan (7x Pali-Mon)
- → unknown elsewhere
- → date: 8th - 9th c.
- → recovered 1923, 1961, 1981-1990s

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terracotta stupas

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- of local manufacture
 - tradition unknown elsewhere in Thailand
 - exc. Yarang (Pattani), different styles, earlier (?)
- from different sites in Nakhorn Sawan province
- writing in different hands

15

stupa traditions, distribution

16

- northeastern Thailand, Laos
 - »spine« on Sima stones
- southern Thailand
 - on votive tablets, miniature stupas in fragments
- central Thailand
 - terracotta stupas

16

text:

17

- line 1: ye dhammā formula
- line 2: donor note:
 - ne' kyāk puñ tarla' x x x x x

17

II. Mon inscribed stupas

18

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Mon text

19

- ne' kyāk puñ trala' jrap wihār
- variants
 - tarala'

19

text

20

- ne' kyāk puñ trala' jrap wihār —stupa
- wo' kyāk puñ trala' jrap wihār —elsewhere

20

questions

21

- ne' — etymology
 - Khmer ?
 - OKhm. neḥ ~ neḥh, MKhm. neh ~ naeh
 - nai
 - AA ?
- OM — how many dialects ?

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parallels

22

- votive tablets
 - Mg.2, Mg.3
 - nai' wo' kyāk puñ ...
- stupas
 - Nw.7, etc.
 - ne' kyāk puñ tarla' x x x x x

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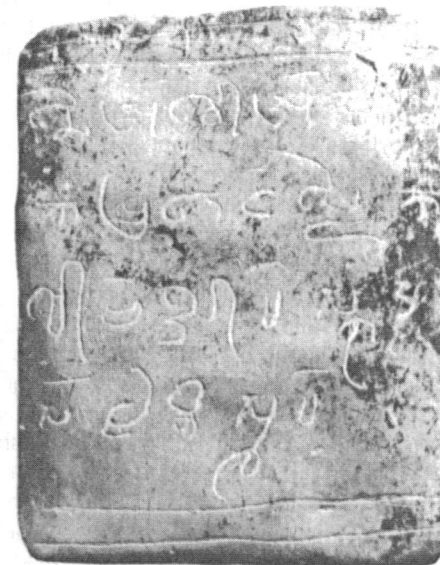
parallels (2)

23

- tarala' ~ tarla', trala' 'lord, master'
- garaliñ ~ garliñ, garluñ 'number, numerous'
 - Sakol Nakhorn, Sima stone

23

photo: FAD Khon Kaen Museum



Mg.2 24

nai' wo' punya

kamrateñ pḍay ka

rom 'or skum da

s jāti smar

24

Mg.3

25

photo: FAD Khon Kaen Museum



nai' wo'

punya kamr

25

a Khmer calque ?

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<i>nai' wo' puñ</i>	Mahasarakham Mg.2, Mg.3
<i>neh gi puñ</i>	OKhm.
<i>ne' kyāk puñ</i>	Nakhorn Sawan stupas
<i>wo' kyāk piñ</i>	Kalasin moulds Ks.1, Ks.2

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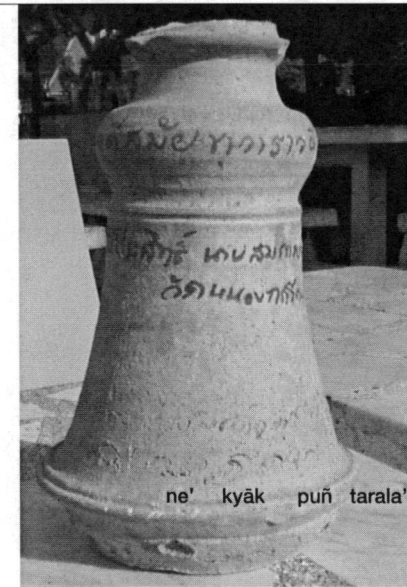
Ila. Samples

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Nakhorn
Sawan

2001,
Wat Nong Kradon



ne' kyāk puñ tarala'

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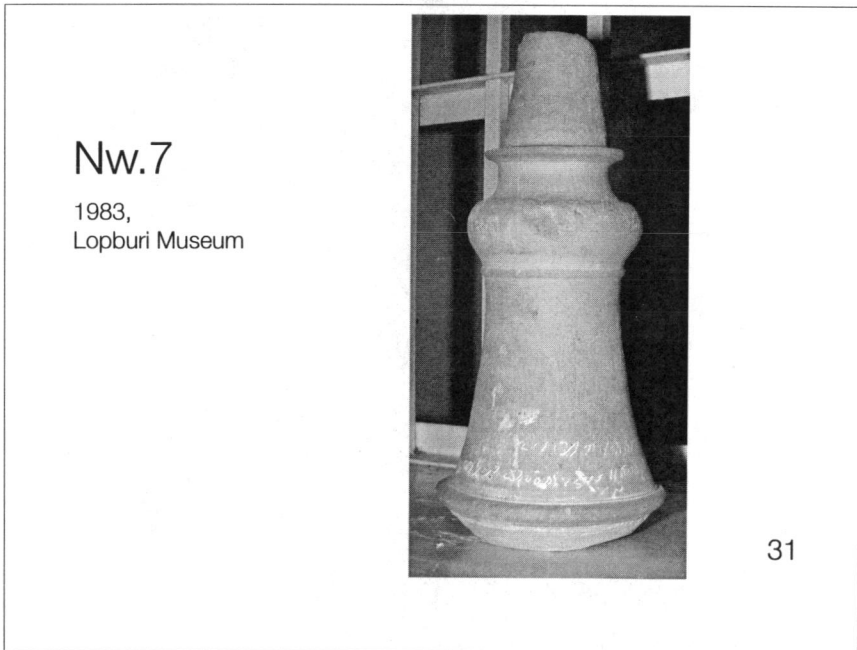


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277/04 - Nong Krot
Bangkok National Museum

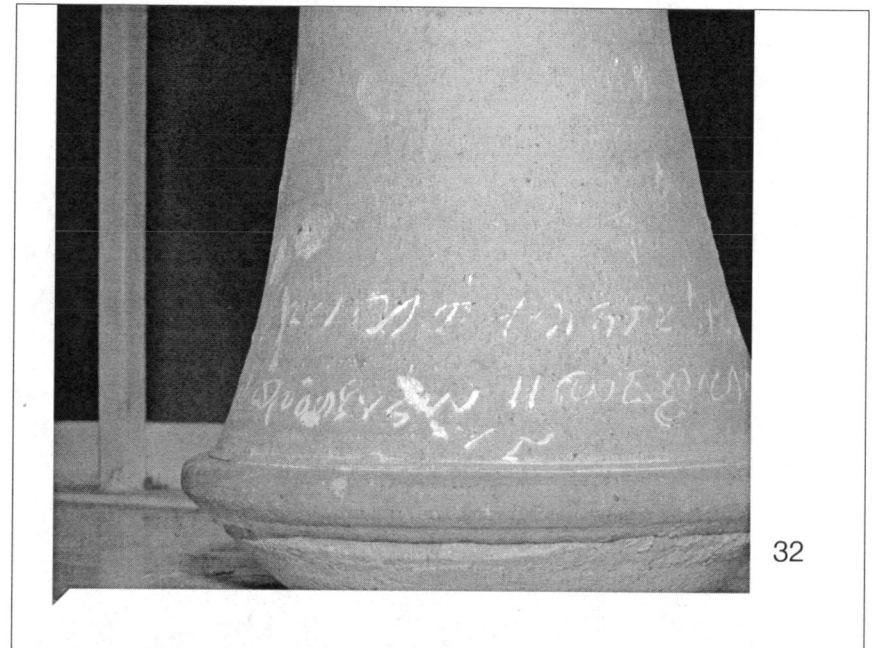
rubbing : FAD

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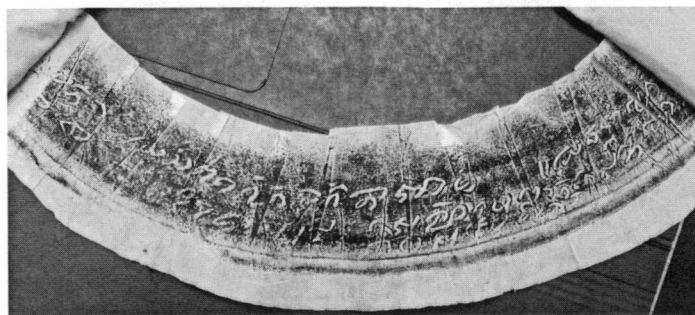


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278/04 - Nong Krot
Bangkok National Museum
(lower part, fragment)

rubbing : FAD

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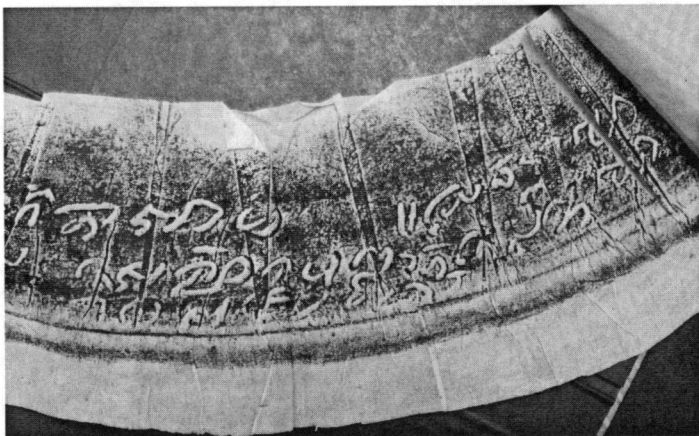


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286/04

rubbing : FAD

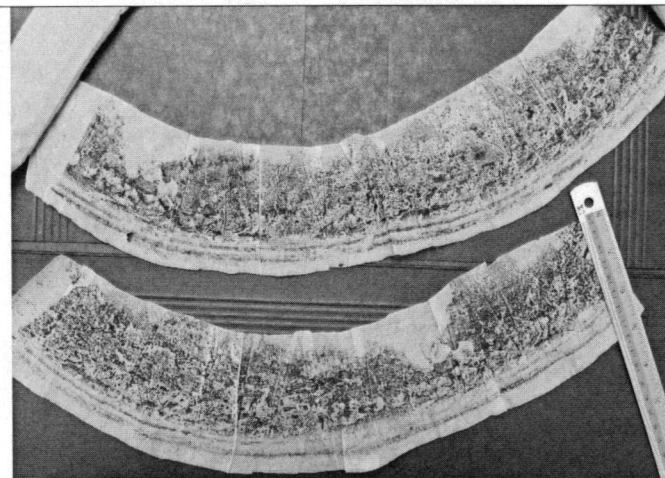
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286/04, detail

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[...]/04, illegible

rubbing : FAD

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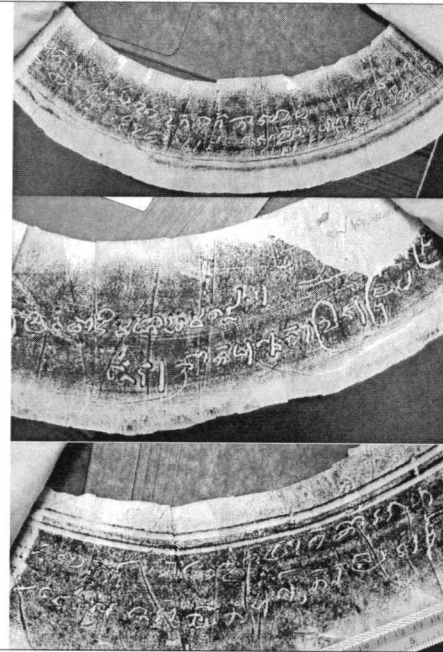


[...]/04, script ? — Pali only

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rubbing : FAD

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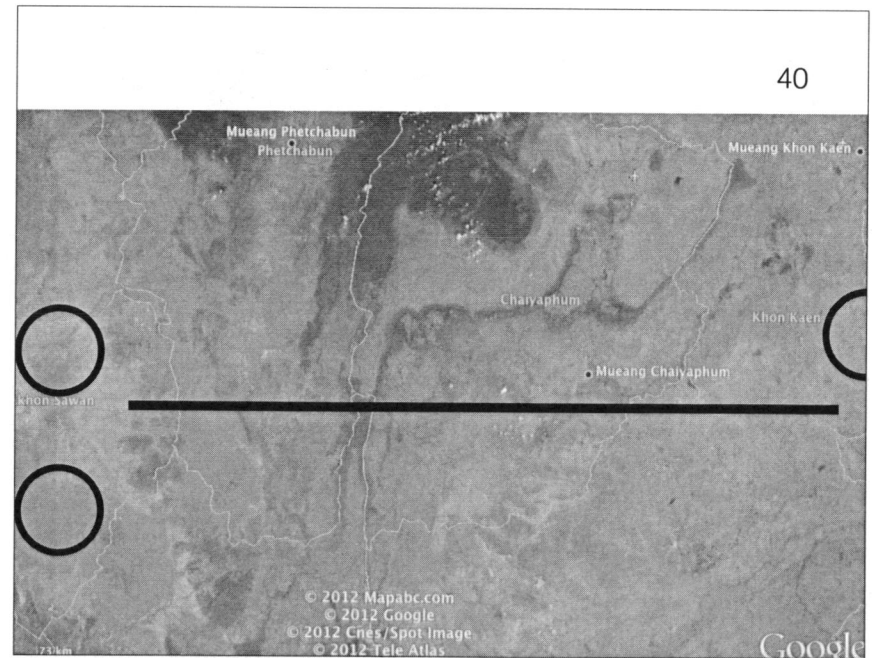
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III. Interpretations

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Khmer-Mon axis (isogloss ?) across Si Thep ?

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- Khmer influence in NE limited across axis to NW ?
 - Mon inscriptions of Laos — all wo'-type
 - Coedès 1958, JA, hypothesis
(K 966, Nakhorn Sawan, Banpot Pisai,
AD 1167, Pali-Khmer inscription)

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Language shift scenario in Nakhorn Sawan

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- Mon > Khmer
- Khmer > Thai (earliest Thai inscription #11 / Nw.1 (AD 14th c.)

- implication: Khmer influence
 - in NW/NC-Thai through Mon speakers
 - in C-Thai direct

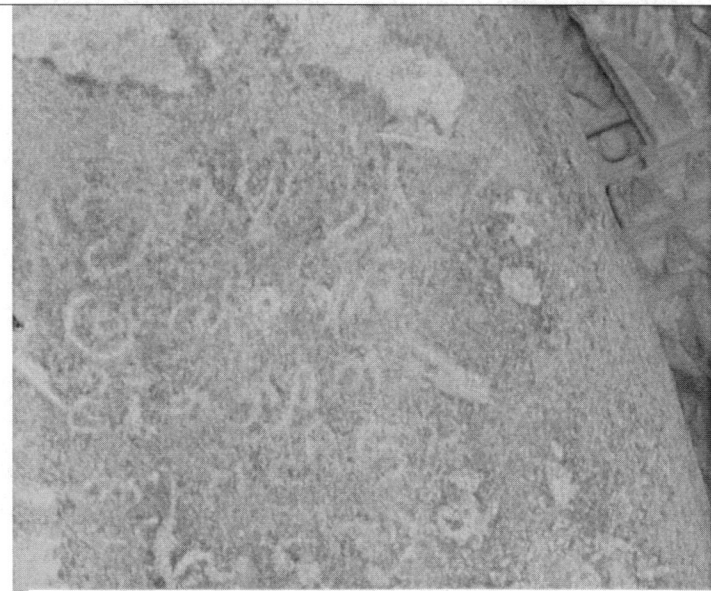
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Ban Thalot



discovered late 1960s
photo: 2011

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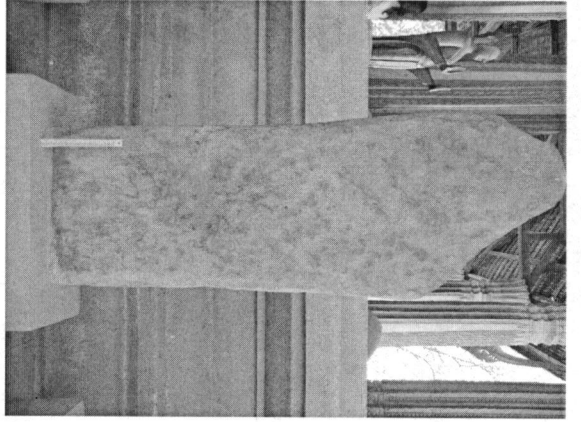
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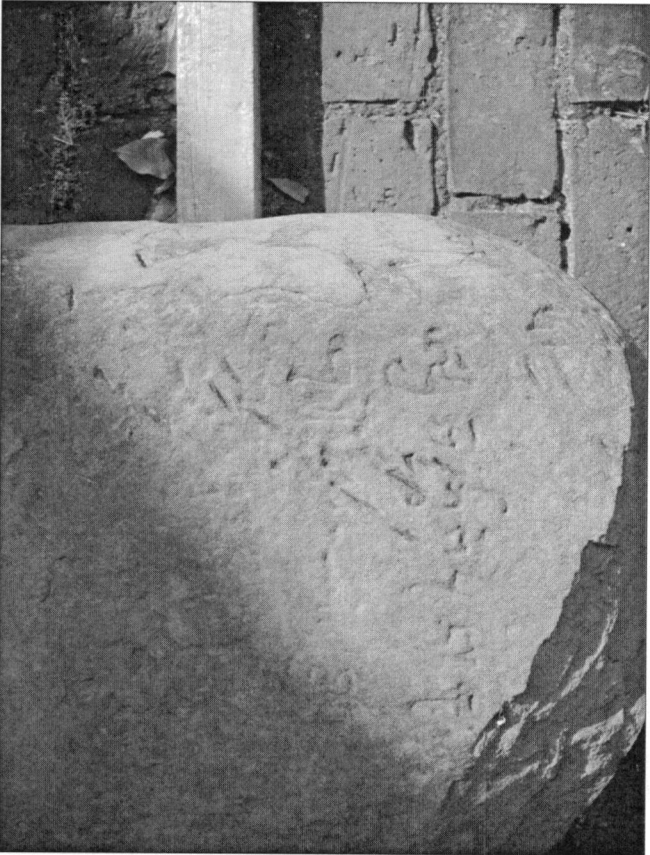
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AA cognates ? — Shorto 2009

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†91 *ni?; *nih *this*.

a: (Katuic, Bahnaric, Khmuic, Khasi, Viet-Muong, Nicobaric) Kuy **ni:**, Stieng **nei**, **ni:** *this, here*, Sre **ne** *there*, Bahnar **?ney**, **?ni:** *that*, Kammu-Yuan **ni?** *this near at hand*, Khasi [ɲ &c.]**-ne**, Muong **ni** *this* (Barker 1966 21), Central Nicobarese **one** *that* (pronoun).

b: (Khmer, Palaungic) Old Khmer **neh**, Middle Khmer **neh** **neh**, **nih** **neh**, Riang-Lang **_ni** *this*.

Bahnar **?n-** in deictic also in following, which compare.; as 1475 ***naay**, 1435a ***?[əy]?** &c. Jakun & Sakai (Lanoh) forms at Skeat & Blagden 1906 T 89 are ← Malay.

Sora **-ne-** in e.g. **ten-ne-** *here*, Kurku **ini** *this*, &c. (Pinnow 1959 337).

proto-Austronesian ***ini** *this*: Malay **ini**, &c. (Dempwolff 1938 69; Dyen 1953 § 133; Dahl 1973 § 15.2). See Benedict 1975 408. (Pou & Jenner 1975 no. 44.)

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AA cognates ? — Shorto 2009

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1475 *n₁aa₁ *deictic*.

a: (Khmer, Khmuic, Viet-Muong) Khmer **ni:ay** *on the far side, over there*, Kammu-Yuan **nā:y** *that*, Vietnamese **này** (beside **nầy**) *this*.

Cf. 91 ***ni?** &c. *this*; original compound, as perhaps 1466

***t₁aa₁** *that...* of 65 ***ti?** &c.? But conceivably ← Tai, cf.

Benedict 1975 408.

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- christian.bauer@staff.hu-berlin.de

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