Palaeographical Development of the Brahmi Script in Ceylon from 3rd B.C. to 7th A.C.

The material from which the accompanying chart has been compiled consists of 72 published (28 without Plates) and 97 unpublished inscriptions which fall into two categories, (A) inscriptions which can be dated from the identities of the Kings named in them, and (B) a few, undated inscriptions whose script so closely approximates to that of the dated inscriptions that they could safely be used to supply missing letters. A full list of these inscriptions is given below:

3rd B.C. Category (A)


2nd B.C.


* The identification of the King is probable, but not certain.
† Inscription of a Ruler of Rohaṇa, probably prior to Dutṭhagāmanī Abhaya.
PALAEOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRĀHMĪ SCRIPT

inscription. A.S.C.A.R. 1911-12, page 97, Cave No. 25, revised*; (5) unpublished inscription at Nuvaragala*.

Lañjālissa.—(1) E.Z. I.*, Plate 18, No. 1.

1st Half of 1st B.C.

Vallagāmāni Abhaya.—(1) 11 inscriptions at Gallena. A.I.C. 2; A.S.C.A.R. 1935, Para 40*; (2) unpublished inscription at Sasseruva*; (3) 3 inscriptions at Nuvarakanda. C.J.S. II. 126, Nos. 529, 530 and 532; (4) unpublished inscription at Kumburuleña*; (5) E.Z. I, Plate 19, No. 3.


2nd Half of 1st B.C.

Kutakamṇa Tissa.—(1) unpublished inscription at Mihintalė; (2) Minvila inscription. E.Z. III, 156, note 5.


1st Half of 1st A.C.


2nd Half of 1st A.C.


Subha.—(1) E.Z. III, Plate 13.

4. Epigraphia Zeylanica.
5. Ceylon Journal of Science Section G.
* The identification of the King is probable, but not certain.
† The primitive letter-forms appearing in the Chart during this period all occur in this inscription.
UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON REVIEW


1st Half of 2nd A.C.


Bhūlikatissa.—(1) unpublished inscription at Ganēkanda; (2) unpublished inscription at Pahala Usgollāva.

2nd Half of 2nd A.C.


3rd A.C.


Goṇahābhaya.—(1) Timbirivāva inscription. E.Z. IV, Plate 22.
PALAEOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE BRĀHMĪ SCRIPT

Mahāsena.—(1) unpublished inscription at Līkolavā; (2) Jetavanārāma inscription. E.Z. IV, Plate 27.

4th A.C.


5th A.C.

Mahānāma.—(1) Vēragadagala inscription. C.A. III, Plate 20; (2) Tissamahārāma inscription. A.I.C. 67, revised.

Khudda Pārinda.—(1) Anurādhapura inscription. E.Z. IV, Plate II.

Dāthiya.—(1) Kataragama inscription. E.Z. III, Plate 23.

6th A.C.

Kumāradasa.—(1) Nāgirikanda inscription. E.Z. IV, Plate II.


7th A.C.

Vahaka Maharaja†.—(1) Veherakema inscription. E.Z. IV, Plate 14, No. 1.

2nd B.C. Category (B)


1st Half of 1st B.C.

(1) 2 unpublished inscriptions at Handagala. Letters, E, Gha and Ḫa; (2) unpublished inscription at Monerāgala. Letters, Kha, Dha and Tha; (3) unpublished inscription at Koravakgala. Letter, O.

† This King is not mentioned in the Chronicles.
2nd Half of 1st B.C.

(1) unpublished inscription at Bambaragastalāva. Letter, Gha; (2) unpublished inscription at Āṇḍiyagala. Letters, Kha, Bha.

1st Half of 1st A.C.

(1) unpublished inscription at Billavagala. Letter, Cha.

2nd Half of 2nd A.C.


5th to 7th A.C.

(1) Diyagama inscription. A.I.C. 85, revised. Letters, I, Ja, Ha and Ḭa; (2) chart at E.Z. IV, Plate 15. All letters.

The chronology adopted is (1) up to the reign of Mahāsena, the chronology of kings appearing at the end of Dr. G. C. Mendis' paper on "The Chronology of the Early Pāli Chronicles" in the University of Ceylon Review, Volume V, No. 1, page 39, (ii) the period 302 A.C. to 409 A.C. for the first four Kings of the Cūlavamsa and (iii) thereafter, Geiger's chronology.

I am very greatly indebted to Dr. S. Paranavitana, the Archaeological Commissioner, who very kindly permitted me to examine and copy the estampages of many unpublished inscriptions. Where no estampages exist, I have had to rely on my own eye-copies and photographs.

C. W. NICHOLAS
## Palaeographical Development of the Brāhmi Script in Ceylon from 3rd B.C. to 7th A.D.

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