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ART. I.—*Copies of Inscriptions from the Buddhist Cave-Temples of Kánheri, &c. in the Island of Salsette, with a Plan of the Kánheri Caves.* By E. W. WEST, Esq.

Presented 12th April 1860.

THE accompanying copies of inscriptions include all that have been discovered at Kánheri, so far as they are legible,—with a few from other places. One or two inscriptions have been found to be too illegible to be copied; and a few tablets exist, intended apparently for inscriptions, but upon which no letters have been cut into the rock; these tablets possibly bore inscriptions in plaster or paint, which have long since disappeared.

The necessity for obtaining fac-similes of inscriptions by impression, in preference to copies merely sketched, has been so strongly urged by decipherers, that it appears necessary to state the reasons for adopting the latter plan. Most of the inscriptions are cut into a rough and decaying rock-surface, covered with natural markings, which, even in the original, are difficult to distinguish from the letters, and which would render an impressed fac-simile (or cast) practically illegible. In many cases the letters are so faint as to require much attention, a peculiar light, and the assistance of the sense of touch, to decipher them. Impressions of these would be useless. Fac-similes of most of the deeply-cut and easily-read inscriptions already exist; and the numerous errors found

in the printed copies of these fac-similes (especially in the vowel-marks) do not tend to show the superiority of impressions over copies. Under these circumstances, it was considered that a tolerably practised hand and eye, with some knowledge of the forms of the letters, had a better chance of producing correct copies than any other means that could be devised.

The following is an abstract of the accompanying inscriptions :—

From Kánheri, inscribed on the solid rock ..	50 inscriptions.
Do. do. on detached rocks..	2 do.
Do. do. on stones	6 do.
Do. painted inscriptions	2 do.
From Máhakal (near Kundati), on the rock..	1 do.
From Magathán, on a stone	1 do.
From Jogeshwari, on the rock	1 do.
From Kondana, on the rock	1 do.

Of the 52 rock-inscriptions at Kánheri, copies of 19 are given by Dr. Stevenson, with his paper dated 14th October 1852. Dr. Bird also gives copies of 27 of them, in his "Caves of Western India," as shown in the following table :—

Dr. Bird's Nos.	3 1 3 11 10 0 : 4 6 7 8 9 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
Dr. Stevenson's Nos.	: 3 1 5 19 3 18 4 : 17 0 8 8 11 6 19 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100
Corresponding Nos. of accompanying copies.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

The inscriptions appear to be of very different ages, varying probably from about the Christian era to the 13th century. They may be roughly classified, according to the forms of their letters, as follows :—

41 of the first and oldest class (the most numerous), Nos. 2 to 5, 10, 12, 13, 16 to 29, 31 to 36, 38 to 42, 44, 45, 47, 50, 52, 53, 57, 60, and 64.

2 of the second class, Nos. 11 and 37.

3 of the third class, Nos. 48, 49, and 58.

1 of the fourth class, No. 46.

5 of the fifth class, Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

1 of the sixth class, No. 14.

11 of the seventh and most modern class, Nos. 15, 30, 43, 51, 54, 55, 56, 59, 61, 62, 63.

Nos. 2, 3, 10, and 64 are probably the most ancient of these inscriptions.

In the following notes on the inscriptions, the numbers of the caves refer to the accompanying Plan of the whole group, which has been reduced for publication. The terms "right" and "left" have reference to the sides of a person standing *facing* the object referred to.

No. 1.—An inscription of six short and one long line, situated partly on the left-hand side, and partly beneath a standing figure of Buddha, in one corner of the recess behind the large dagob, in the open cave No. 2. The lengths of the lines are 6 inches and 12 inches. Dr. Bird gives a very incorrect copy of this inscription; it is tolerably distinct where not defaced, but has been injured by the metal scraper employed by some former copyist for cleaning out the letters.

No. 2.—An inscription of two lines, 2 feet 2 inches long, cut into the back wall of the open cave No. 2 (called "the refectory" by Dr. Stevenson), and above a long bench against the wall. This inscription is deeply cut and distinct. The name of the donor mentioned is more probably Nánunaka than Kanaka.

No. 3.—Another inscription of two lines, 2 feet 9 inches long, similarly situated, but a few feet to the north of the last, and nearer to the tank, which is in front of the cave. This inscription is also deeply cut and distinct.

No. 4.—An inscription of 22½ lines, cut into the right-hand gate-post of the chaitya, or cave No. 3. The right-hand side is imperfect, owing to that part of the gate-post having been built of squared stones, which have been since removed. The original length of the lines was 3 feet 8 inches, now reduced to 2 feet in the upper part and 3 feet 1 inch in the middle, by the removal of the stones. This inscription is deeply cut and distinct, but rather defaced in some of the lower lines. The name "Nagakanda" does not exist in the 18th line, as Dr. Stevenson supposes.

No. 5.—An inscription of eleven lines, originally 3 feet 4 inches long, cut into the left-hand gate-post of the chaitya. The left-hand side of this inscription is imperfect in the upper lines, owing to the outer angle of the gate-post (which in this case has been cut out of the solid rock) being broken off. This inscription is deeply-cut, and, the rock being smoother and of a lighter colour, it is more distinct than the last. Dr. Stevenson's copy of this inscription is exceedingly incorrect; the third line is altogether omitted in the lithograph, though given in the transcript. The letters "rája" occur near the middle of the eighth line.

No. 6.—An inscription of three lines, 2 feet 11 inches long, under a standing figure of Buddha, sculptured on the inside of the outer wall of the verandah to the chaitya, between the left-hand gate-post and the

left-hand colossal figure of Buddha. This inscription is deeply cut and tolerably distinct, though the rock is rather rough. The space between "ká" and "ri," in the first line, seems to contain an "anuswar ;" the large spaces in the second and third lines are blanks.

No. 7.—An inscription of one line, 3 feet 1 inch long, under a small sitting figure of Buddha, sculptured on the back wall of the verandah of the chaitya, above the dancing figures on the right-hand side of the doorway. It is tolerably distinct, but high up, beginning with an ornamental spiral, and ending with a similar one reversed.

No. 8.—An inscription of one line, 10 inches long, cut into the square shaft of a small bas-relief dagob, on the right-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of the chaitya. This inscription is distinctly cut, but the rock is somewhat honeycombed.

No. 9.—An inscription of nine lines, 4 inches long, cut into a pilaster on the right-hand side of a standing figure of Buddha, sculptured on the western wall inside the small chamber, to the left of the entrance to the chaitya. This inscription is faintly cut.

No. 10.—An inscription of three lines and two letters, cut into one side of the square stepped-out top of the dagob, in the small circular chamber No. 4, just north of the chaitya. The lengths of the lines are 2 feet 2 inches, 1 foot 11 inches, and 1 foot 9 inches. Dr. Stevenson's transcript is not very correct.

No. 11.—An inscription of two very long lines, on the back of the recess, over the tank with two openings (No. 5), on the path up the hill. The original length of line was probably 9 feet 10 inches, of which the left-hand, 1 foot 10 inches, is entirely peeled off. This inscription is deeply cut, but much of it is defaced. The first four syllables of "máhakshatrapasya" are plain enough, but the last two are doubtful, and would require some of Dr. Bird's hasty generalisation to make them out. An amusing instance of Dr. Bird's antiquarian zeal overcoming his discretion occurs in "The Caves of Western India," page 10, where we observe the following :—"On one of the legs of the left-hand statue we meet with a cross and inscription, in Roman letters, which might be taken to be not more ancient than the times of the Portuguese, were it not for the Ethiopic or Arabic term *Abuk*, meaning *thy father*, being found here ; and which, accompanied by the date 78, with a resemblance of the cross and the letters for *Kal Buddha, Buddha Sakya*, may indicate its connection with primitive Christianity ; whose spurious doctrines, introduced into India, are supposed, by Wilford, to have given rise to the era of Shalivahana, which dates 78

years after Christ." Again in page 71, these letters are once more brought forward as one proof (!) of the antiquity of the caves.

The mysterious letters in question are given correctly in the left-hand margin; and the letters in the right-hand margin are taken from the western side of the third pillar from the eastern end of the verandah of

A B V J P R R

K B

I R B

I S

78

I SHAW

JOHN BUTPER

ANN BUTPER

K BAKES

1678

cave No. 10 (the Durbar Cave). Comparing these together, we come to the conclusion that these mysterious letters are the initials of *Ann Butfer*, *K. (Katharine?) Bakes*, *John Butfer*, and *John Shaw*, who visited the caves in the year 1678, and left behind them their names, which are now the oldest European names remaining inscribed.

Nos. 12 and 13.—Two inscriptions, one of three and the other of four lines, cut into the rock side by side and about six inches apart, above the two openings of the tank at the left-hand end of cave No. 7. Length of lines in the first is 2 feet 4 inches; in the second, 2 feet 9 inches. These inscriptions are deeply cut and distinct. From the "swastika" at the beginning of the first and at the end of the last, as well as from their general similarity, it would appear that they are to be read continuously, though they may commemorate two distinct gifts. The first letter of No. 13 is certainly "che."

No. 14.—An inscription of 16 lines, 6 feet 4 inches long, with part of another, and two half-lines; on the left-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 10 (commonly called the Durbar Cave), and above a recess over the tank. This inscription is minute, but tolerably distinct where not defaced; but, owing to the complicated character, it is not easy to copy. The following spaces, where the rock is too hard to cut, are blanks: namely, one space in the first part of the sixth line, two spaces in the seventh line, one space in the middle of the tenth line, spaces at the end of the twelfth and thirteenth lines, one space in the first half of the fourteenth line, one space near the end of the fifteenth line, and one space near the middle of the sixteenth line. The thirteenth and succeeding lines are cut somewhat deeper than those above them.

No. 15.—An inscription on the architrave over the verandah colonnade of cave No. 10, consisting of three upper lines 11 feet long, three lower lines 11 feet 7 inches long, and two additional lines 5 feet 6 inches long, to the left of the three lower lines, and on the same level. This inscription is faintly cut, but distinct, and the letters seem to have been formerly painted red; it was first noticed by the present copyist in November 1853, and appears to contain a date and the names of some kings; the name "Krishna" occurs at the end of the first additional side-line. The following spaces are believed to be blank:—two in the first line, about one-third and two-thirds along it; one in the second line, about one-third along it; and one in the third line, beyond the middle. There is a great similarity between this and No. 43 inscription, which is similarly situated on the opposite cave (No. 78).

No. 16.—Two inscriptions of $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$ lines, 5 feet 6 inches in length, one above the other, on the left-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 12, and over a large recess. These inscriptions are deeply cut, and distinct where not peeled off.

No. 17.—An inscription of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lines, 3 feet long, on the left-hand side-wall of the porch to cave No. 19. It is faintly cut, and rather indistinct. There is a blank space near the end of the first line, and another in the third line between "danam" and "sahasa."

No. 18.—An inscription of one line 7 feet 6 inches long, and seven lines 3 feet 1 inch long, on the inner wall of the verandah of cave No. 29, over and between two grated windows. This inscription is deeply cut, on a rough surface, and is tolerably distinct. Dr. Stevenson's transcript does not agree with the original, in the fifth and seventh lines. There is also another short line, over one of the windows, very indistinct, and seemingly a separate inscription. No. 29 is the first in the second tier of caves, and nearly over the chaitya (No. 3).

No. 19.—An inscription of seven lines, 3 feet 8 inches long, on the right-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 36. This inscription is faintly cut, on a somewhat honeycombed surface; and it might be supposed that the lines had originally been 10 inches longer, which portion had become quite illegible; but the word "Kaleyanakasa" being divided between the 2nd and 3rd lines, and the word "negamasa" between the 3rd and 4th, seem to disprove this supposition. The second line contains one or two of the characters recognized by Dr. Stevenson as numerals; these, and similar ones in

the next inscription, appear to be the only instances of numerals at Kanheri in inscriptions of the older class. The fifth letter in the first line may be a blank; the space in the middle of the fourth line is also probably blank; and blanks occur at the beginning and in the middle of the sixth line.

No. 20.—An inscription of probably eight lines, 3 feet 6 inches long, on the left-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 36, and therefore opposite to the last. This inscription is faintly cut, on a honeycombed surface, and is indistinct. It evidently refers to the same subject as the last; the first two lines being probably a literal copy, and some of the subsequent words being identically the same, such as the combinations “venhuna,” and “úghyeketa.”

No. 21.—An inscription of ten lines, 3 feet long, on the left-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 37, and near the side of a recess over a tank. This inscription is faintly cut, on a rough surface exposed to the weather, and is difficult to copy. It probably commemorates the dedication of a cave, and a tank for drinking and bathing, by some one, a householder, merchant and inhabitant of Kalyan, and by the son of some one else.

No. 22.—An inscription of one line, 15 inches long, on the rock near the entrance to the open gallery No. 38, under the south-western brow of the hill, which appears to have been a cemetery-gallery. This inscription is deeply cut and distinct; and at a little distance below

it, to the left, is this symbol  10½ inches square, and apparently of the same age. The word “parigalita” may be synonymous with “parigrhita.”

No. 23.—An inscription of one line, 6 feet 9 inches long, on the back wall of open gallery No. 39. It is deeply cut, but on a honeycombed surface, and evidently commemorates the dedication of a cave to religious purposes.

No. 24.—An inscription of eight lines, over a tank-opening, on the right-hand of entrance to cave No. 43. This inscription begins with the same words as Nos. 31 and 45, and ends with the same word as No. 21; it appears to commemorate the dedication of a cave and drinking-tank.

No. 25.—An inscription of five lines, originally 3 feet 4 inches long, on the left-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 48. This inscription is distinct, but not deeply cut; the lines are complete at the right-hand end, but the rock has peeled off at the other end; the

upper lines are more indistinct than the rest. In the second line we have "kánhasa deya dhama lena ;" in the third line "pitá akhaya nivi cha diná kábápaná ;" in the fourth line, "bhikhu saghe chivari ;" in the fifth line, "deya dhama . . . akhaya nivi."

No. 26.—An inscription of probably nine lines, which may have been 4 feet long, on the left-hand side-wall outside the verandah of cave No. 49. This inscription is very imperfect, indistinct, and faintly cut. There are only just sufficient letters legible to determine the age of the inscription to be similar to that of the last.

No. 27.—An inscription of probably $9\frac{1}{2}$ lines, 3 feet 4 inches long, on the right-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 52, and above a recess over a tank. This inscription is deeply cut, but on a honeycombed surface; and the upper three lines, and part of the next two, have peeled off.

No. 28.—An inscription of eight lines, 3 feet 10 inches long, on the right-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 53, and above a recess over a tank. This inscription is deeply cut but on a honeycombed surface, and all the centre has peeled off.

No. 29.—An inscription of eleven lines, 3 feet 4 inches long, on the left-hand side-wall, outside the verandah of cave No. 56, and above a recess over a tank. This inscription is cut to a moderate depth, but is not very distinct, owing to the honeycombed state of the rock; and part of the centre has peeled off.

No. 30.—An inscription of $6\frac{1}{2}$ lines, 1 foot 7 inches long, on the pilaster at the right-hand end of the verandah of cave No. 56. It is faintly cut and indistinct; and is of a very modern date, as compared with the last; but a groove has been cut through the centre of it, at a still later date, for the purpose of fixing some wooden framing.

No. 31.—An inscription of two lines, 3 feet long, on the inner wall of the verandah of cave No. 58, and on the left-hand side of a grated window. It is deeply cut, distinct, and perfect.

No. 32.—An inscription of three lines, originally 2 feet 9 inches long, on the back wall of the recess over the tank-opening in cave No. 59. This inscription is deeply cut and distinct, but about five letters in the first line, three in the second, and two in the third, peeled off at the time the fac-simile was taken, from which Dr. Stevenson made his transcript.

No. 33.—An inscription of one line, 5 feet 3 inches long, on the inner wall of the verandah of cave No. 59, and above a small grated window. This inscription is clear, but not deeply cut, and all the letters are perfect; the three small letters, inscribed beneath the line, are also distinctly legible.

