INTACH

HALMIDI INSCRIPTION

Origin: Kadamba Dynasty

Time period: 450 CE

Museum: Government Museum, Bangalore.

No discussion on Kannada literature is complete without the mention of the Halmidi inscription. Dated between 450 C.E – 500 C.E the inscription is the oldest inscription in Kannada language and script. It was discovered in 1936 in the halmidi village of Hassan by M.H Krishna, Director of Archaeology in Mysore.

Inscribed under the Kadamba dynasty, the inscription gives information on the history and culture of Karnataka. The original inscription is placed in the government museum of Bangalore. A replica has been erected in Hassan.

FUN FACT

the Halmidi inscription is the first to give evidence of the use of Kannada as an administrative language.

Who were the Kadambas?

Extent of Kadamba Empire

The Kadamba dynasty ruled in northern Karnataka and the Konkan region in around 345 CE -525 CE. It is believed that the dynasty had been named after the Kadamba tree. The founder of the dynasty was Mayurasharma. There have been several debates on the origins of this dynasty. Scholars have argued whether the kings of this dynasty were Brahmins or had tribal origins.

The Kadambas minted coins known as Padmatankas or lotus coins.

ACTIVITY:

1. Make an inscription of your own using clay.
2. If you were to mint coins of your choice what would they depict? Draw a sketch below:

REFERENCES:

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http://historyofindia-madhunimkar.blogspot.in/2009/09/introduction-kadamba-dynasty-345-525-ce.html