

5a. 'Chit' from W. C. Peppé in Birdpore to Vincent Smith in Gorakhpur, dated 19 January 1898

Written in ink on one side of a narrow oblong scrap of paper with a fold down the middle and torn along the bottom edge. Peppé tells Smith he has found some writing on one of the bowls, adds his transcription in pencil, under which Smith has add his translation.

My dear Smith – this is some writing scratched round the top of one of the bowls – yours W.
C. P. 19.1. 98.

Below this five lines in pencil have been ruled, along which symbols have been drawn in pencil. Under these a transliteration has been added, also written in pencil, but in Smith's hand.

5b. Vincent Smith's reply to 4a. dated 23 January 1898, written in pen on the back of W. C. Peppé's note

Smith tells Peppé that the relics 'appear to be those of the Buddha himself' but cannot make sense of the second half of the inscription.

The relics appear to be those of the Buddha himself – (ie believed to be his) as the beginning of it inscription proves. Salila = Sanskrit sariram "body", the regular word for "relics".

I cannot at present make out the sense of the remainder – probably some of the letters are erroneously copied.

The character and languages are those of the third century B. C., and are substantially the same as on the Rummindei pillar. An accurate copy can be taken by wetting country (badanu) paper, and patting it in with a clothes brush, so as to take a cast, which can be made clear by pencilling in the lines when dry – or by a rubbing.

VCS 23.1.98.