

*Names of writers and engravers*1. *Dhruvaśarman* (No. 10, L. 9, L. 13) :

The lofty pillar (Inscription No. 10), 'firm and excellent' was caused to be made by Dhruvaśarman.

The first part of the name is '*Dhruva*' the Polar star. Pāṇini deals at length with names derived from stars.⁶⁹ The second part of the name is '*śarman*', which is a common surname for a brāhmaṇa.

2. *Gopasvāmin* (No. 21, L. 15) :

The Gayā spurious copper plate inscription of Samudragupta was written by the order of Dyūta Gopasvāmin, the *Akṣapaṭa-lādhikṛta* of another village.⁷⁰ His name has already been explained among the names of Commanders

3. *Hariṣeṇa*⁷¹ (No. 1, L. 32) :

The draft of the Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta which is termed as a '*kāvya*' was composed by Hariṣeṇa.⁷²

4. *Ravila* (No. 32, L. 15) :

Ravila has been mentioned as the writer of the draft of the Mandasor Stone Inscription of Mālava Śaṃvat 524 (A.D. 467).⁷³ It is a name ending in *ila*.⁷⁴ It seems to be an abbreviated form of Ravidatta just as Devila of Devadatta.⁷⁵ Thus it is a name based on the deity Sun and originally signified one given by the Sun.

5. *Śrībhadrā* (No. 29, L. 17) :

He engraved the Dhanaidaha Copper Plate Inscription of Kumāragupta I. Śrībhadrā is the name of a serpent-demon in the Buddhist literature. *Śrī* is goddess Lakṣmī and *bhadra* means auspicious, happy, beautiful, lovely, good or gracious. Thus literally Śrībhadrā means 'one who is (made) happy by goddess Lakṣmī'.

6. *Stha(sta)mbheśvara-dāsa* (No. 29, L. 17) :

He is the writer of the Dhanaidaha Copper Plate Inscription of Kumāragupta I. Stambheśvara is the name of Lord Śiva⁷⁶ and *dāsa* means 'a servant or devotee'. So the whole will literally mean 'one who is a devotee of Lord Śiva'.

7. *Tilabhaṭṭaka* (No. 1, L. 33) :

The Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta was inscribed by *Mahādaṇḍanāyaka* Tilabhaṭṭaka, who is described as