Seminar SAW
Exploring 19th and 20th centuries historiographies of mathematics in the ancient world, 2015-2016

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Historiography of ancient mathematics and astral sciences in India before its professionalization

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Editions and translations of Sanskrit Mathematical and Astral texts in India at the beginning of the twentieth century

Abstract - By the time Datta & Singh published their long lasting manual "History of Hindu Mathematics" in 1937 in Lahore, a certain number of Sanskrit mathematical and astral texts had already been edited, and sometimes translated into English. Who made these publications? Why? What ideas of what an ancient sanskrit mathematical texts should be shaped such publications? Did this have a lasting effect on how these texts were perceived? We will especially focus on two cases, S. Dvivedin's edition of the Brāhmasphuṭasiddhānta (1902) and Rangacarya's edition and translation of the Gaṇitasārasamgraha (1912).