

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, with a focus of China, and the Indian subcontinent: The beginnings of professionalization

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The 'Analytics' and the Indologists: How the history of mathematics shaped mathematics education in Nineteenth Century India?

Abstract - Inspired, in part, by the Scottish mathematician, John Playfair, British Indologists set out in search of the canonical texts of Indian mathematics and logic from the last decades of the eighteenth into the early decades of the nineteenth century. The publications of Indologists such as Davis, Burrow and Colebrooke played an important role in shaping ideas about the nature of Indian mathematics in Britain and provoked criticism in France. The papers of Colebrooke on the history of algebra and mensuration and the history of logic in India were particularly influential within the circle of Indian mathematicians. In this talk I shall try to argue how the reception of these papers within the circle of 'Analytics' subsequently went on to shape the dialogue between British educationists in India and so called traditional scholars; and in fact influenced the choice of books to be translated into the regional languages. I shall in this context like to take up the translation of two books authored by Augustus De Morgan into Marathi and Gujarati.