

Kashmir:

A Cultural Crossroads of the Sanskrit and Persian Cosmopolises

volume 2

OGURA, Satoshi SAITO, Akane YOKOCHI, Yuko (eds.)



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Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA)
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
3-11-1, Asahicho Fuchu-shi, Tokyo, 183-8534 Japan

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Luther James Obrock, Sunil Sharma, Tomohiro Manabe

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The Making of Hindu Kashmir

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Preface to Volume Two

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ILCAA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (Japan)

Situated in the north-western region of the Indian subcontinent, Kashmir serves as a pivotal contact zone bridging South, Central, and West Asia. Kashmir has been a crucible of diverse knowledge systems throughout the periods in which two linguistic cosmopolises flourished, i.e., the Sanskrit Cosmopolis (c. 400–1400 CE) and the Persian Cosmopolis (c. 900–1900 CE). In terms of religious culture, Buddhism, Vaiṣṇavism, Śaivism, and later Islam, particularly Sufism, thrived and engaged in dynamic interactions. Notably, Kashmir is distinct within Indian subcontinent for its historical chronicles composed in Sanskrit, which persisted under the patronage of various dynasties, even during Muslim rule.

This volume comprises eight scholarly articles exploring Sanskrit and Persian texts pertinent to premodern Kashmir. Most of the papers included in this collection are based on oral presentations delivered at two international workshops held at Kyoto University in September 2015 and March 2018. Additionally, there are also several papers that the editors have newly approached and added to this volume. Of the eight articles, four focus on Sanskrit textual traditions: Saito examines the historical evolution of *Sphoṭa* theory (Chapter 1), Klebanov analyzes *śleṣa* in a twelfth century Kashmiri rhetorician Ruyyaka's work, the *Alaṃkārasarvasva* (Chapter 2), Okita investigates the impact of Abhinavagupta's *rasa* theory on 16th-century Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism (Chapter 3), and Manabe explores the thoughts of Sadānanda Kāśmīraka, an Advaita Vedāntin active in 16th–17th century Kashmir, in particular the concept of *bhakti* (Chapter 8). The remaining four articles analyze Arabic and Persian texts, as well as Sanskrit translations of Persian poetry: Verdon examines descriptions of Kashmir by the 11th-century polymath Abū Rayḥān al-Bīrūnī (Chapter 4), Obrock sheds light on the *Kathākautuka* by Śrīvara (d. after 1505), a Sanskrit translation of 'Abd al-Raḥmān Jāmī's (d. 1492) Persian love story, the *Yūsuf wa Zulayḥā* (Chapter 5), Ogura examines descriptions of the Ḥānqāh-i mu'allā in Srinagar found in Persian hagiographies (Chapter 6), and Sharma explores a Persian travelogue by Mullā Tughrā Mashhadī (d. before 1667–8), a lesser-known Iranian immigrant to the Mughal Empire who visited Kashmir (Chapter 7).