

Editorial

When we reached the original goal of publishing six volumes of SCIAMVS, we decided to aim to complete another six volumes. To be honest, however, due to various reasons, the tenth volume was very difficult to edit by the end of the year.

Now I am very glad that Takao Hayashi, who is one of the editors of SCIAMVS, saved us in this critical situation. Since I knew that he was preparing what he called a ‘makeshift’ edition of the *Bījagaṇita* and that he intended to make it public on the internet, I asked Hayashi to contribute his edition to SCIAMVS Vol.10, knowing that this single article would occupy the whole volume. Of course, e-texts and e-books are very convenient and we are considering the possibility of putting the future issues of SCIAMVS on the internet, but at present we are not ready for this undertaking.

David Pingree’s *Census of the Exact Sciences in Sanskrit*, Series A, Volume 4 (1979), registered more than 160 Sanskrit manuscripts of the *Bījagaṇita*. This very number makes a ‘critical edition’ in the strict sense almost impossible. Even the published texts which claim to be ‘critically edited’ cannot be regarded as such. As I remember, Prof. Pingree once told me that there were no critical editions, neither in the exact sciences nor in any other field of Sanskrit literature. As a person who devoted his whole life to the study of original manuscripts, Pingree was well aware of the difficulty of preparing a critical edition, especially of those works which were popular and frequently copied.

Although Hayashi’s work on the *Bījagaṇita* does not offer an entirely new edition of one of the most popular books on mathematics written in Sanskrit, it can be called the most reliable and most useful edition hitherto published, since Hayashi has meticulously collated the seven most recently published editions and added seven helpful appendices, rich in information. I hope that this edition will be used both by students of Indian mathematics and by the historians of mathematics in general.

Long and high quality articles like Hayashi’s make it worthwhile to continue publishing SCIAMVS.

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