

1106-D1-784

Deepak Basyal* (deepakji@nmsu.edu). *Śiśubodha Taraṅgiṇī: A 1933 mathematics and astrology book from Nepal, its content and backstory.* Preliminary report.

This report is a study of a 1933 book of mathematics and astrology, written in Nepali and Sanskrit, Śiśubodha Taraṅgiṇī, (loosely titled A series of lessons for children), long thought to be lost. By contacting researchers and relatives of the purported author in Nepal, and via investigation of rare book collections in the United States and Nepal, a copy was found. The title page of the book indicates that it was written by Chandrakala Dhananjaya, a female. But again via some searching, it was with almost 100% certainty written by her husband, Tikaram Dhananjaya. It contains about 137 slokas, short “poems” containing mathematical rules and problems, mostly for young learners. I am making a translation of it into English, and I will describe its provenance and its contents, including some atypical problems and their solutions, as well as its connections to other historical works in Nepal and India (e.g., Bhaskara’s Lilavati). I will show how some of the problems are adapted to specific Nepalese cultural and economic contexts. I will also describe the educational/political situation in Nepal in the 1930s and why it may have given rise to the book’s unusual backstory. (Received September 06, 2014)