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Sarvanand Kaul collection of Indian Manuscripts and Art12444513

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator - Collector:	Kaul, Sarvanand
Title:	Sarvanand Kaul collection of Indian Manuscripts and Art
ID:	12444513
ID:	MS#1829
Date [inclusive]:	1700-1800
Physical Description:	0.5 linear feet 1 manuscript box
Language of the Material:	Sanskrit .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Sarvanand Kaul Collection of Indian Manuscripts and Art; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

The collection was part of a larger family inheritance to Sanjay Kaul's grandfather, a Professor at Banaras Hindu University, who was originally from Kashmir. Sheldon Pollock, the Arvind Raghunathan Professor of South Asian Studies at Columbia University, noted July 2014: "Several of the works come from the Kashmir Saiva tradition of the 18th cen.; others are astronomical texts.

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Summary

The collection consists of 11 books (manuscripts) and 4 paintings. The paintings are not distinguished, but could be important for historians of regional styles. Two of them are pretty clearly from the Ramayana." Risha Lee, Jane Emison Assistant Curator of South and Southeast Asian Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, comments on the paintings: "As for the paintings, the first two are almost certainly 19th century, Pahari style, and the first might be an artistic study. The woman (perhaps a court lady or ragini) is seated against a large bolster. The second painting depicts two noblemen seated in conversation outdoors, while underneath them an older nobleman rides an elephant and carries a trident, possibly a symbol of Shiva. The other two fragmentary paintings are very nicely executed: the first depicts Hanuman attended by his monkey entourage paying homage to some individual, if it is not Rama, perhaps it is the seated Krishna who appears in the second fragment, which depicts a blue skinned male wearing a yellow dhoti, with sages seated underneath him."

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Scope and Contents

Unusually for a Sanskrit manuscript collection, texts relate to the somewhat rare and less collected subjects of astrology, metaphysics, and occult sciences. The manuscripts include: Jyotirvidābharāṇa by Kālidāsa, a work on astrology (41); a Piṅgala Shastra text (42); Karmavipāka saṃhitā, a work of astrology which is quite rare even in published format (43); Sarojakalika by Kavi Ratna, which manuscript (or a similar one) Albrecht Wezler reported locating on a late-1970s tour in the Kingdom of Nepal (45); a commentary on Ramottaratapniya (46); commentary/text on Panchasvara Nirnaya by Gauda Bhattacharya (47); Vartamala by Rāmānuja, probably a Vaishnava text (48); Samudrika Shastra which relates to palmistry and astrology (49); a commentary on Jaiminiya Sutras (50); a commentary/text on Siddhānta chandrikā of Śrī Rāmāsrama (52); and Mumukṣuppaḍīharayasgranthe (53).

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Scope and Contents

The manuscripts are numbered 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, and 53.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

MATERIALS ARE CLOSED pending consultation with conservation. Please contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information. kws 2021-12-03

Processing Information

Collection-level record describing unprocessed material made public in summer 2018 as part of the Hidden Collections initiative.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2016.2017.M080: Source of acquisition--Sanjay and Bela Kaul. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--11/2/2016.

Processing Information

Items placed in individual folders, and rehoused into a manuscript box. kws 2021-21-03

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Controlled Access Headings

- Astrology
- Metaphysics
- Sanskrit literature
- Art
- Manuscripts (documents)
- Kaul, Sarvanand