

Horror Vacui in Sanskrit Manuscripts

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Until recently, only marginal attention has been devoted to edges of South Asian manuscripts. The phenomenon of marginal and interlinear annotation in Sanskrit manuscripts is an almost uncharted territory. Therefore, some terminological and methodological issues are dealt with at the outset, followed by a case study on Northern Indian and Nepalese annotated manuscripts of the *Raghuvamśa*, “The Lineage of Raghu,” one of the most celebrated ornate epic poems (Skt. *mahākāvya*).

Annotations prove to be a mine of information about the production and use of manuscripts in the Sanskritic culture. In the analysis of the manuscripts, a spatial criterion will be applied (which to some extent could also refer to the content): two distinct types of direction in the manuscript will be considered, from the margins to the center of the manuscript, and back from the center to the margins.