



COMMENTATORS OF CHARAK SAMHITA

More than 40 sanskrit commentaries were written on Charak samhita. Out of them following are available partly or in full form .

BHATTARA HARISCHANDRA

- 1) Bhattara Harischandra wrote a commentary on charak samhita by name 'Charakanyasa' which is oldest one.
- 2) The complete commentary is not available and the commentary on 1,2,3,4 & 5 chapters of sutrasthan were published by mastanadha shastry of Lahore.
- 3) A manuscript copy of this commentary in the Madras Govt. library.
- 4) As he was a versatile genius he became popular in the library as well as medical world .
- 5) The literary style and beauty of presentation of Bhattara Harischandra confirmed him a sovereign place among the writers of prose as Bhose , Agnimitra, Kuntidev, Kalidas etc.
- 6) Hence he was also praised by great poet Bana in the beginning of Harsha Charitra.

- 7) The commentary on Charak Samhita by Bhattara Harischandra is considered as best by many scholars like Indu, Tista, Maheshwar etc.
- 8) Tistacharya stated that it would be arrogance on the part of any one else to attempt to write a commentary on Charak Samhita, after Harishandra and Jejjata.
- 9) Maheshwar quoted that Bhattar Harishandra was the Court Physician of king Sahasanka who belong to 375-413 A.D
- 10) Bhattar Harishchandra flourished before the time of Vagbhatta can be proved by fact that Tisata, the son of Vagbhatta quoted Bhattar Harishachandra.
- 11) Bhattar Harishandra also wrote commentry on Kharanada Samhita which was redacted later on by Indra.
- 12) It was available till the time of Arundatta and Hemadri.
- 13) Bhattara Harishandra quoted 42 tantra Yuktis in the begining of his work. But Acharya Dridhabala mentioned 36 only.
- 14) It is really a misfortune of the medical world that his works are not available to the present day generation.

SWAMIKUMARA

- 1) Swamikumara's commentary is known as 'Panjika'.
- 2) As he quotes Bhattara Harischandra in his work, it is inferred that he belonged to a later period of Bhattara Harischandra.
- 3) Only a portion of the commentary i.e. up to the fifth chapter of sutrasthana is available.
- 4) A manuscript copy of this work is available in the Government library, Madras.
- 5) The M.S.S. consisting of two chapters of sutrasthana is available in the Sanskrit library, Calcutta.
- 6) Jejjeta quoted Swamikumara through which one can infer that he might have lived between the period of Bhattara Harischandra and Jejjeta i.e. fifth century A.D.

SHIVADAS SEN

- 1) Tatwachandrika was the commentary on Charak Samhita written by Shivadas Sen in 15th century A.D.
- 2) His father's name was Ananta Sen.
- 3) His native place was 'malanchika', a village in Bengal.
- 4) He was the court physician of 'Barbara Shaha' who ruled over Bengal from 1456 to 1474 AD. His ancestors also worked as Royal physician.
- 5) Only a portion of his work on Charak Samhita i.e. 1 to 27 chapters of sutrasthan is available in the Royal Asiatic Society Library, Bombay.
- 6) Other works of Shivadas Sen ,
 - Shiva Deepika - commentary on Dravyaguna Sangraha.
 - Tantra Pradipika.
 - Ganapathi Samhita

JEJJETA

- 1) Jejjeta wrote a commentasy on Charak samhita known as 'Nirnatarapda vyakhya.
- 2) Next to Bhattara Harischandra commentator, Jejjata became more popular commentator of Charak Samhita.
- 3) He was the son of kaiyyata. The name endingwith 'ta' suggests that he elonged toKashmir.
- 4) As he was disciple of Vagbhata , there is no difficculty in fixing his period as sixth centuary AD.
- 5) The work of Jejjata, revised by Haridatta was available upto the period of Chandrata, the grandson of Vagbhata.
- 6) The commentary of Jejjata, revised by Haridatta was published by Madras Government Oriental Library.

7) The complete work on Jejjata on Charak Samhita i.e. Nirantarapada Vyakhya is not available & only the following sections are available and only the following sections are available at present in Government Oriental Library , Madras.

.Chikitsa Sthan- fifth chapter .

.Kalpa Sthan - 1 to 5 chapters.

.Siddhi Sthan - Second chapter.

8) He also wrote a commentary on Astang Hridaya.

CHAKRAPANI DATTA

- 1) Chakrapani datta is the most famous among famous among the commentators of Charak Samhita.
- 2) The name of his commentary is 'Ayurved Dipika' which is available completely.
- 3) As per colophon present at the end of his work it can be inferred that he was son of Narayan Datta. His elder brother's name was Bhanudatta. Both of them were in the service of Gauda king Nayapala in charge of Royal kitchen. He belonged to 'Londhravali kula'.
- 4) Historians fixed it becomes Nayapala's period 1040-1070 Chakrapani & he belonged to 11th century AD.
- 5) He was the native of Birbhumi district of Bengal. A temple called Chakrapaneewaralay exist there which was built by Chakrapani .
- 6) He wrote a commentary on Sushruta Samhita by name Bhanumati.
- 7) Besides these following other works are ascribed to him.
 - Chakradatta (Chikitsa Sangraha)
 - Dravyaguna Sangraha

8) Shivades sen wrote commentaries on above works. It is also known that he was author of Saira chandrika, Vyakran tatva chandrika, Vyagradaridra, Subhankari, Sarvasara sangraha etc.

9) As he showed his speciality in writing the commentaries on Charak samhita and Sushrut samhita he was honoured as Charak chaturanana and as Sushrut sahasranayan.

YOGENDRANATH SEN

- 1) Yogendranath Sen was the son of Dwarkanatha Sen who was one of the brilliant disciples of Kaviraj Gangadhar Roy.
- 2) He was born in the year 1871, in Calcutta, West Bengal & passed away in the year 1918.
- 3) He wrote a popular commentary on Charak Samhita by name 'Charakopaskar'.
- 4) It was published in the year 1920 (incompletely).
- 5) At present , it is going to be republished by Swami Laxmi Ram Trust, Jaipur.
- 6) In the year 1912 , he was the president of All india Ayurveda Congress, conducted at Kanpur.
- 7) The commentary was written from the 1st chapter of sutrasthana to the 13th chapter of chikitsa sthana only.

KAVIRAJ JYOTISH CHANDRA SARASWATHI

- 1) Kaviraj Jyotish Chandra Sarasawti wrote a commentary on Charaka Samhita by name 'Charaka Depika'.
- 2) It was published only upto Sutra Sthana.
- 3) He also belonged to Bengal region.
- 4) He used to contradict the modern view of Mahamahopadhyaya Kaviraj Gananth Sen.
- 5) In his commentary, in a number of places it can be seen that his views are contradictory to the view of Kaviraj Gananth Sen.