

Mahendra Sūri | Encyclopedia.com

Complete Dictionary of Scientific Biography COPYRIGHT 2008 Charles Scribner's Sons
2 minutes

(fl. western India, 1370)

astronomy.

A Jain and a pupil of Madana Sūri of Bhṛgupura (Broach, Gujarat), Mahendra Sūri wrote the first Sanskrit treatise on the astrolabe, the *Yantrarāja* (1370). He evidently used an Islamic source (see essay in Supplement); in it, for instance, $R = 3600' = 60$ parts; $e = 1415' = 23;35^\circ$. Furthermore, the commentary by his pupil, Malayendu Sūri, lists the latitudes of ā dane (Aden), Makkā (Mecca), Badaṣasāna (Badakhshan), Balaṣa (Balkh), Nayasāpura (Nīshāpūr), Samarakanda (Samarkand), Kāśagāra (Kashgar), and other Islamic cities, as well as “Himsārapirojāvāda which is inhabited by the king Pīroja” (the king is Firūz Shāh Tughlaq [1351–1388], and the place the Hiṣar palace begun by Fīrū at Firozabad, near Delhi, in 1354), and both the Persian and the Indian (Sanskrit) names of thirty-two stars.

There is another commentary on the *Yantrarāja* by Gopīrāja (1540) and a set of examples for the year 1512.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The *Yantrarāja* was edited, with Malayendu' commentary, by Sudhākara Dvivedin (Benares, 1882) and by K. K. Raikva (Bombay, 1936). There are notices on Mahendra in S. Dvivedin, *Ganakataran-ginī* (Benares, 1933), pp. 48–49, repr. from *The Pandit*, n.s. **14** (1892); and in Ś. B. Dīkṣita, *Bhāratiya Jyotiḥśāstra* (Poona, 1896; repr. Poona, 1931), p. 351 in repr. See also S. L. Katre, “Sultān Fīrūz Shāh Tughluk: Royal Patron of a Contemporary Sanskrit Work,” in *Journal of Indian History*, **45** (1967), 357–367.

David Pingree