

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Parameśvara of Vāṭaśseri [Parmeśvara I]

Born Ālattūr, (Kerala, India), circa 1360

Died circa 1455

Parameśvara, one of the foremost astronomers of Kerala, came from the village of Alattūr (Aśvatthagṛāma in Sanskrit), and his house, Vāśaśseri, was situated at the confluence of the Nile River and the Arabian Sea. He was a *Rigvedic* scholar of the *Aśvalāyana Sūtra* and belonged to the *Bhrgugotra* school. He was a pupil of Rudra I. He carried out astronomical observations near his house for some 45 years. He also observed a large number of eclipses between 1393 and 1432, which are recorded in his work *Siddhāntadīpikā*. Nothing else is known about the life of Parameśvara

Parameśvara was a prolific writer and authored some 30 works. These include original treatises and commentaries on other works of astronomy and astrology. Among his original works on astronomy, the following might be mentioned: *Drgganita* (1430); a work on spherics, *Goladīpikā* (1443); and three works on the computation and rationale of eclipses, *Grahaṇāstaka*, *Grahanamandana*, and *Grahaṇanyāyadīpikā*. He also commented on a large number of astronomical works, including the *Aryabhatiya*, *Sūryasiddhānta*, *Laghumānasa*, and *Līlāvati*. Many of his works are yet to be published.

Narahari Achar

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