

Features

- ◆ 402 pages
- ◆ Multicolor cover jacket on art paper
- ◆ Text on art paper
- ◆ 32 multicolor plates
- ◆ Hard bound
- ◆ Sanskrit text
- ◆ English translation
- ◆ Commentaries

Original in
Sanskrit by
Hamsadeva

Translator
Nalini Sadhale

Commentaries
Nalini Sadhale

Y L Nene

Editors
Nalini Sadhale

Y L Nene

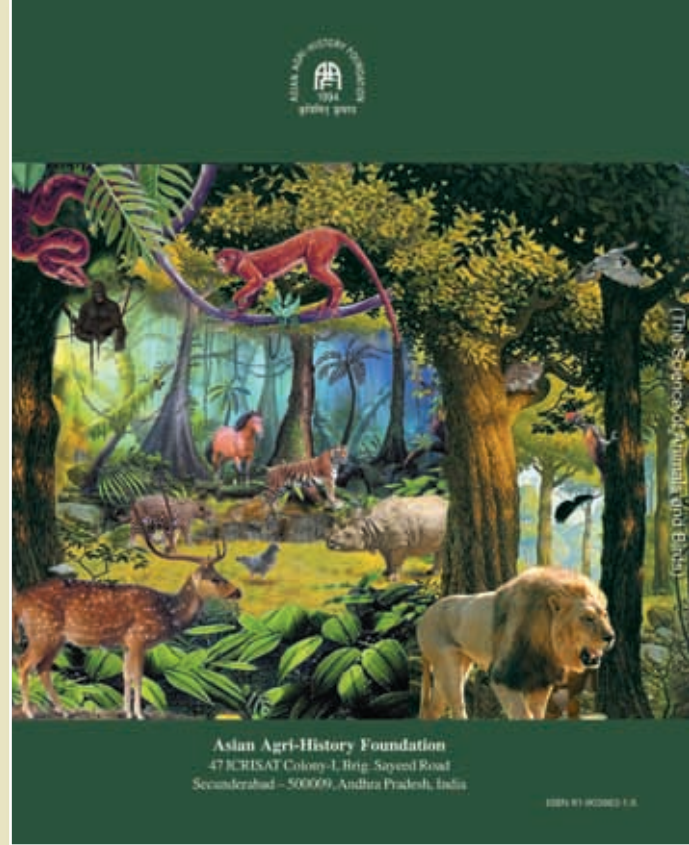
- ◆ Approximately 800-year-old text in Sanskrit
- ◆ Probably the first ever text on animals and birds
- ◆ Rare details of animal and bird behavior
- ◆ Color photographs of animals and birds described in the text

Price
Rs 1200
US \$ 30

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AAHF Book (2008)

International English Edition

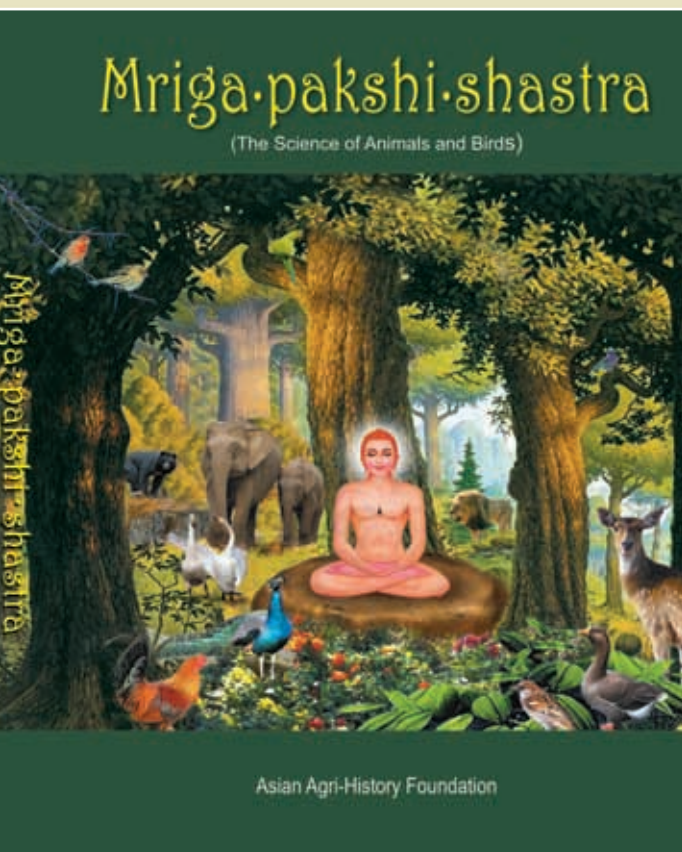


Mriga·pakshi·shastra

(The Science of Animals and Birds)

Text of Mriga.pakshi.shastra first came to our notice in the form of a printed book by Chitampalli and Bhatkhande (1993). This book contained the text along with translation by the learned scholars in Marathi. As the book did not give any clue to the original source of the text and considering the importance of the subject that deserved a wider dissemination, AAHF commenced a search for the original source. This ended successfully with the procurement of a transcript (Accession No. 13516) by Nalini Sadhale from the Oriental Institute, MS University, Baroda (Vadodara) in Gujarat. This was copied by an epigraphist of Tirupati, V Vijayaragavacharya from the original. The transcript mentions 4th July 1930 as the date and Tirupati as the place of its completion.

How the original text of Mriga.pakshi.shastra was saved for posterity is described in the foreword (note) written by T Srinivasaraghavacharlu, a litterateur from Bezwada (Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh). It is stated, "In the 13th century AD, Zoology or the Science of animals and birds was first composed, so extensively, in India by the famous Jain poet, Hamsadeva in Sanskrit language comprising nearly 1700 Slokas in Anushtup metre."



“I think it is not out of place and exaggeration if I am permitted to say that a few authors of the Western countries, Messrs A.D. Imms, M.A., D.Sc., and Alexander Macalister, M.D., and others, have fully described the natural qualities etc., of lions and a few other animals, but none of them have given age limit of animals and birds. It is, therefore, very gratifying to say that Hamsadeva has given age limit to all animals and birds even to hen and other smaller birds. It is also complimentary to note with unbounded joy that this Zoology is an asset to India – in which country this work and myself are born – nay, it is a gem to be adorned by the other parts of the world.”

“The original work was about to disappear from this world, when Pandit Sreeman Vijayaraghavachariar (Epigraphist), who has the broad mindedness to see its translation and original text published and broad-cast in India and other parts of the world, saved it from its death and supplied copies of the original text (in manuscript) to His Highness The Maharaja of Travancore for the use of the State Museum and to Dr. Caseywood of McGill University of Montreal city (in N America).”

The Book describes 22 animals (123 variants or breeds) and 28 birds (95 variants or subspecies). The color plates add to the readability of this outstanding ancient text.