

Philologists at Work. The Case of the *Carakasamhitā*

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The transition from the handwritten to the printed production of texts that took place in South Asia – mainly in the 19th century – also involved medical literature in a massive way. Within a few years, the *Carakasamhitā* (the earliest extant text of the Āyurvedic tradition) had been printed in different scripts and translated into different languages. Drawing upon manuscript and printed sources, my paper will delineate specific features of the cultural milieu in which the agents of the transition situated their work, expanding on the nature of their editorial work at the intersection of scholarly praxis with technological innovation. I explore how some editors understood their philological activity, their main concerns with regard to the transmission of texts, and their aims in reproducing ancient scientific treatises in Sanskrit in the context of a large cultural transformation.
