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The Other Śivasamhitā

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The Śivasamhitā is a prominent text in the Hathayoga Corpus. Many editions and translations of it exist, but a new critical edition of it is a desideratum, as the two previous editions which call themselves critical did not pay much attention to the readings of their many witnesses, or did not even provide a critical apparatus (!). Furthermore, there is obviously more manuscript material around which has not been used by previous editors and which might shed some more light on the history of the text.

The current paper is going to report on some of the findings of a new search of manuscripts of the Śivasamhitā. One item of particular interest is the find of a manuscript of a Tantric text of the same name, but of different content, in the library of the Asiatic Society in Kolkata.

Peter Pasedach is a research associate at the Indological department of Hamburg University. Currently he mostly works on a DFG-funded project on the two mahākāvyas, works of epic court poetry, surviving from 9th-century Kashmir, and their commentaries. Another area of his work is yoga, where he commenced a new digital critical edition of the Śivasaṃhitā and is in the preparatory stages of a project on the Tattvavaiśāradī, Vācaspatimiśra's commentary on the Pātañjalayogaśāstra.

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