

यास्क Author of the निरुक्त, a commentary on निघण्टु, the Vedic glossary—the fourth Vedāṅga. This vocabulary tries to explain the meaning of Vedic words and Mantras. Yāska may be taken as the foremost linguist or philologist of India. He is supposed to have flourished in the 8th or 7th century B. C.

युवराज Author of the रामचरित. He was a Keral prince (1800-1851) and resided at Koli-lingapur. His other works are the त्रिपुरदहनचरितम्, रससदनभाण, सुधानन्द-लहरी and some stotras.

रणछोड Author of the राजप्रशस्ति. Only two cantos of this epic are found in an inscription (E. I., Vol. V). This poet lived at the end of the 18th century.

रत्नाकर Author of a Mahākāvya, named हरविजय. He was a Kashmirian Pandit and flourished under kings Jayāpīda (832-844) and Avantivarman (855-884). His poem is a stupendous work of 50 cantos and it relates to the story of the slaying of the demon Andhaka by the god Śiva.

राघव Compiler of the नानार्थमञ्जरी, a lexicon on the lines of the मेदिनी, शाश्वत &c. This work is critically edited by Shri. K. V. Krishnamoorthy Sharma in 1954. The author seems to belong to the 14th century.

राजशेखर Author of many works like the बालरामायण, बालभारत, विद्वत्शालभञ्जिका, कर्पूरमञ्जरी and काव्यमीमांसा. The बालरामायण dramatises in ten acts the entire story of the Rāmāyaṇa. The बालभारत is also called प्रचण्डपाण्डव and is a play on the Mahābhārata story. The कर्पूरमञ्जरी a Saṭṭaka and the विद्वत्शालभञ्जिका a Nāṭikā are smaller works in four acts. The काव्यमीमांसा is a good handbook for poets. He is said to have lived in the first quarter of the 10th century.

रुद्रट Author of the काव्यालंकार and शृङ्गारतिलक. He was the earliest author on Alankāra who had a rational method of classification of Alankāras. His शृङ्गार-तिलक delineates Rasas as developed in poems as opposed to plays. This work is ascribed by some scholars to a रुद्रभट्ट of a later period. Rudrata lived in the 9th century A. D.

रूपगोस्वामी Author of the उद्भवदूत, हंसदूत and other Dūtakāvya. He flourished in the 16th century.

वराहमिहिर A celebrated astronomer and the author of the बृहत्संहिता. Tradition places him as one of the nine gems at the court of Vikramāditya. He has written many books on astronomy and astrology. The बृहत्संहिता is a well-known astrological technical work. Varāhamihira seems to have flourished in the 6th century A. D.

वर्धमान Author of the गणरत्नमहोदधि, a collection of grammatical Gaṇas. He was a Jain Pandit at the court of Siddharāja Jayasinha of the Solanki dynasty of Gujarat (1094-1143). He seems to have written other books like the क्रियागुप्त (where the predicate is concealed) and the सिद्धराजवर्णन.

वल्लभदेव Author of the सुभाषितावलि, an anthology of 3527 verses of different writers. It contains a large variety of subjects like love, the conduct of life, natural scenery and seasons, worldly wisdom &c. Vallabhadeva seems to have lived in the 15th century.

वान्स्यायन Author of the well-known कामसूत्र, a treatise on sexual love. His date is controversial and varies from the 2nd century B. C. to the 4th century A. D.

वामनभट्टबाण Author of the पार्वतीपरिणय, नलाभ्युदय and शृङ्गारभूषण. He is also named अभिनवभट्टबाण, because he imitated the style of Bāṇa. He was at the court of Vemabhūpāla, the ruler of the Trilinga country in the 1st half of the 15th century.

वासुदेव Author of the नलोदय, a story of Nala in 4 cantos. Nalodaya is a Yamaka Kāvya of this Kerala poet and commands numerous commentaries. He has also written three other Kāvya—त्रिपुरदहन, सौरी-कथोदय and युधिष्ठिरविजय. This poet lived at the court of Kulāśekharavarman (of uncertain date, but probably between the 10th and 12th century).

विशाखदत्त Author of the मुद्राराक्षस, one of the great Sanskrit dramas. It is a drama of purely political intrigue; still it well absorbs the mind of the audience by the unique skill of the poet. The date of the author is again subject to much speculation. However, he may be placed between the 5th and the 9th century.

विश्वनाथ Author of the celebrated work साहित्यदर्पण and also a commentator of the काव्यप्रकाश. He wrote a number of other works, such as the राघवविलास, कुवलयानुचरित, प्रभावती, प्रशस्तिरत्नावलि &c. His साहित्यदर्पण was composed in 1384 A. D.

वेङ्कटाध्वरिन् Author of the विश्वगुणादर्शचम्पू. He belonged to the first half of the 17th century. In his curious Champū two Gandharvas take a bird's-eye view of various countries from their aerial car and expose the good and bad manners and customs of the time. The author has also many other works to his credit.

शंकराचार्य The celebrated teacher of the Vedānta philosophy and author of the शारीरभाष्य and of a large number of original works. He is said to have been born in 788 A. D. and to have died in 820 A. D. at the early age of 32. Some scholars put him in the 6th or 7th century. Various Stotras such as आनन्दलहरी, मोहमुद्गर etc. are ascribed to him.