

# The Authors of *Seven Centuries*

Andrew Ollett

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Two Theories of Textualization

The problem of author-attributions

Matching names to poems

Attributions and the history of the text

Where now?

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## Two Theories of Textualization

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- ▶ *Sattasaī* (Prakrit) or *Saptaśatī* (Sanskrit)
- ▶ 700 single-verse Prakrit poems
- ▶ attributed to Hāla/Sātavāhana
- ▶ probably from the Western Deccan (Godāvarī area)
- ▶ dated between 1st c. and 5th c. CE
- ▶ hugely important for *kāvya* literature

## Verse W3 of *Seven Centuries*:

From among ten million well-adorned verses  
**Hāla**, dear to poets, put together seven hundred.

satta saāim̐ kaīvacchalēṇa kōḍīa majjhaārammi  
**hālēṇa** viraiāim̐ sālaṁkārāṇa gāhāṇaṁ

Rājaśekhara's *Twenty-Four Stories* (*Caturviṃśatiprabandhaḥ*):

Once King **Sātavāhana** asked the Goddess of Speech for a favor. He wanted his entire city to become poets for just a single morning. The goddess did so, and on that day one hundred million verses were produced. They made up the text that is called **Sātavāhanakam**.

ekadā bhāratīm abhyarthayat. sakalam api puram ādyayāmārdham  
ahaḥ kavirūpaṁ bhavatu. tathaivam kṛtaṁ dēvyā. ēkasmin dinē  
daśakōṭyō gāthāḥ sampannāḥ. sātavāhanakaśāstraṁ tatkr̥tam.

From an unpublished commentary on *Seven Centuries* (Weber 1874):

The Goddess of Speech said that she would stay in his camp for two and a half days and then disappeared. Then, the elephanteers and charioteers in his camp started to compose literature in Prakrit prose and verse, and after collecting ten million of the verses they composed, he put together seven hundred well-adorned verses.

... bhāratī sārdham divasadvayam bhavadīyē skandhāvārē  
sthāsyāmīty uktvā 'ntardadhē, atha tatkaṭakavāsinō hastipālāśvapālāḥ  
prākṛtamayaṁ gadyapadyamayaṁ kāvyam kartum upacakramirē,  
tatra ca taiḥ kṛtēṣu kōṭīmitānām gāthānām kadambakam āhr̥tya  
sālamkāraṇām gāthānām sapta śatāni racitāni ...

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# Author-ascriptions in the text

Several commentaries identify the authors of individual verses:

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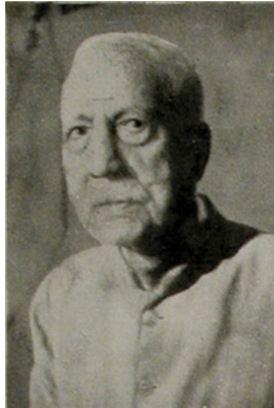
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From two vulgate manuscripts (Weber's  $\gamma$  and  $\psi$ ):

Herewith concludes the anthology compiled by Sālāhana,  
seven centuries in extent, with a strong fragrance  
and composed out of verses that are  
marked with the names of their authors.

ēsō *kaīṇāmaṁki*gāhāpaḍivaddhavaḍḍhiāmō  
sattasaaō samattō sālāhaṇaviraīō kōsō

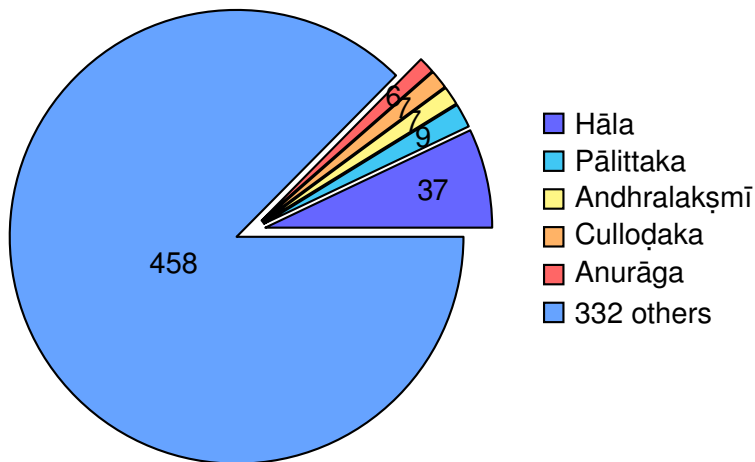




# Bhuvanapāla's attributions

|                                                     |     |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| Number of verses                                    | 597 | 100%                |
| Number of attributions (including <i>tasyaiva</i> ) | 551 | 92%                 |
| Number of attributions (excluding <i>tasyaiva</i> ) | 524 | 88%                 |
| Number of authors named (approximately)             | 392 | (14 women, 378 men) |

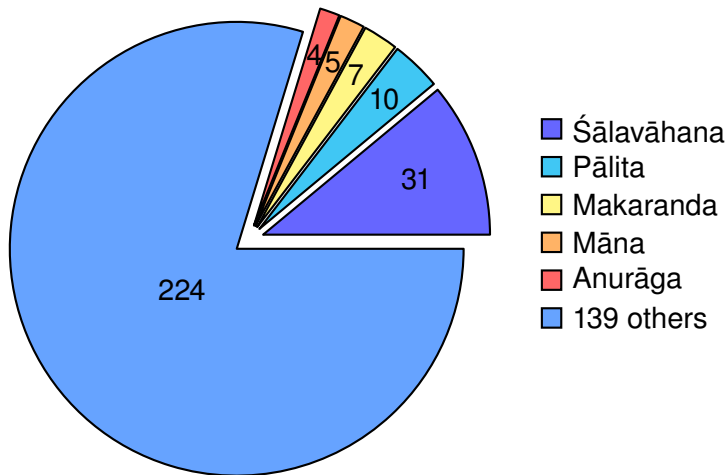
# Bhuvanapāla's MVPs



# Pītāmbara's attributions

|                                                     |     |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Number of verses                                    | 345 | 100%               |
| Number of attributions (including <i>tasyaiva</i> ) | 321 | 93%                |
| Number of attributions (excluding <i>tasyaiva</i> ) | 281 | 81%                |
| Number of authors named (approximately)             | 196 | (9 women, 187 men) |

# Pītāmbara's MVPs



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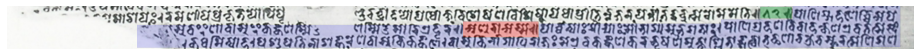
The problem of author-attributions

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Where now?

# Upādhyāya Lakṣmīdhara's attributions



# Ājaḍa's attributions

कीलः। रविरायस्स। सुग्वदरिणा न्योक्ता अथावष्टितं सञ्ज्ञाता अविरयप्रसप्तियं यवहजालं लिपली विप  
वणात्तोऽके सुयवणतिक लिज्जण सुग्वदरिणान् निरुक्कमशत्रुविरतप्रसतत्तलद्वालावली प्रदीपवनात्ताग  
किञ्चकवनमितिज्ञात्वा सुग्वदरिणान् निरुक्कमतितात्तुयनयति। स्थानं एवासीति अर्थः। सुग्वदरिणस्स। सुग्व  
विन्मात्राय रदस्यंवदति निरुक्कमिप्यतदसापि यदुच्चा विर्यन्दुय ररुत्तु जहावलनं सुणात्तात्ताक

# What verse does it go with?

W588

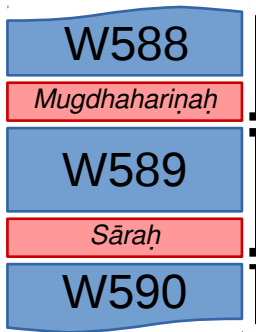
*Mugdhahariṇaḥ*

W589

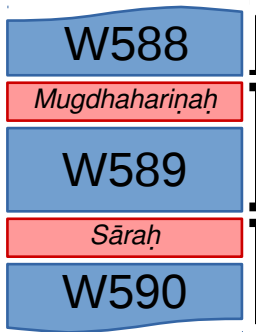
*Sāraḥ*

W590

# What verse does it go with?



# What verse does it go with?



# Index verses: reasonably secure

| No. | Context                             | Attribution               | reference        |
|-----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 25  | ... ekkō vi <b>kālasārō</b> ...     | Kālasāra (Bh+1, P)        | Weber (1883, 17) |
| 383 | ... <b>gaassa</b> hatthe ...        | Mattagajēndra (Bh+1, P+1) | Weber (1883, 17) |
| 589 | ... <b>muddhahariṇo</b> ṇa ṇikkamaī | Muddhahariṇa (Bh, Ā, P)   | Weber (1883, 17) |

# Index verses: less secure

| No. | Context                                   | Attribution                           | reference            |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 151 | ... <b>maaparihīṇaṁ sasivimvaṁ</b> ...    | Niṣkalaṅka (Bh+1)                     | Weber (1883, 17)     |
| 167 | ... ṇaīkaraṁja <b>sāhāo</b> ...           | Sthirasāha (Bh+1)                     | Tieken (1983, 77)    |
| 186 | ... <b>kuviasajjaṇahia</b> asaricchāi ... | Niḥkōpa (Bh+1)                        | Weber (1883, 17)     |
| 231 | ... <b>amahilarisaṁ sāhasaṁ</b> ...       | Asamasāhasa (Bh)                      | <a href="#">new?</a> |
| 395 | ... <b>ṇīlakaṁcuabhariuvva</b> riam ...   | Nīla (Bh+1)                           | <a href="#">new?</a> |
| 470 | ... pamhal <b>adhavalāi</b> ...           | Dhavala (Bh)                          | <a href="#">new?</a> |
| 480 | ... pupphavaīdaṁsaṇaṁ ...                 | Niṣiddha (Bh+1)                       | Weber (1883, 17)     |
| 497 | ... malaavāo ...                          | Pavana (Bh+1)                         | Tieken (1983, 77)    |
| 590 | ... <b>sāriāi</b> ullāviaṁ ...            | Sāra (Bh, Ā, P)                       | Weber (1883, 17)     |
| 592 | so ko vi <b>guṇāisao</b> ...              | Guṇāṇurāa (Bh, Ā; P <i>tasyaiva</i> ) | Weber (1883, 17)     |
| 593 | ... <b>devīkao</b> gāmo                   | Deva (Bh, Ā; P <i>tasyaiva</i> )      | Weber (1883, 17)     |

# Mugdhahariṇa and his friends: uncorrected

| Verse | Bhu                       | Ā                       | Pī                       |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| W584  | 569 Pālittaka             | 569 Pālittaya           | 585 Jīvadēva             |
| W585  | 570 Jīvadēva              | 570 —                   | 586 Jyēṣṭhā <sup>1</sup> |
| W586  | 571 Jyēṣṭhā               | 571 —                   | 587 —                    |
| W587  | 572 Roladēva <sup>2</sup> | 572 —                   | 588 Śēkhara              |
| W588  | 573 Śvetapaṭṭa            | 573 —                   | 589 Mugdhahariṇa         |
| [W614 | 574 Vappaka               | 574 Vappairāya          | 615 Bhīmasvāmin]         |
| [W615 | 575 Vindhya               | 575 Vijjha              | 616 tasyaiva]            |
| [W422 | 576 Ravirāja              | 576 Ravirāa             | 425 Rājarasika]          |
| W589  | 577 <b>Mugdhahariṇa</b>   | 577 <b>Muddhahariṇa</b> | 590 Sāra                 |
| W590  | 578 Sāra                  | 578 Sāra <sup>3</sup>   | 591 tasyaiva             |

# Mugdhahariṇa and his friends: corrected

| Verse | Bhu                     | Ā                       | Pī                      |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| W584  | 569 Pālittaka           | 569 Pālittaya           | 585 Cullota             |
| W585  | 570 Jīvadēva            | 570 —                   | 586 Jīvadēva            |
| W586  | 571 Jyēṣṭhā             | 571 —                   | 587 Jyēṣṭhā             |
| W587  | 572 Roladēva            | 572 —                   | 588 —                   |
| W588  | 573 Śvetapaṭṭa          | 573 —                   | 589 Śēkhara             |
| [W614 | 574 Vappaka             | 574 Vappairāya          | 615 Bhīmasvāmin]        |
| [W615 | 575 Vindhya             | 575 Vijjha              | 616 tasyaiva]           |
| [W422 | 576 Ravirāja            | 576 Ravirāa             | 425 Rājarasika]         |
| W589  | 577 <b>Mugdhahariṇa</b> | 577 <b>Muddhahariṇa</b> | 590 <b>Mugdhahariṇa</b> |
| W590  | 578 Sāra                | 578 Sāra                | 591 Sāra                |

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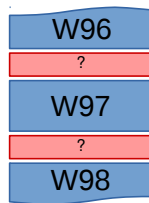
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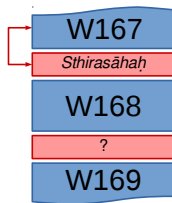
Where now?

# Reordering with the wrong attribution

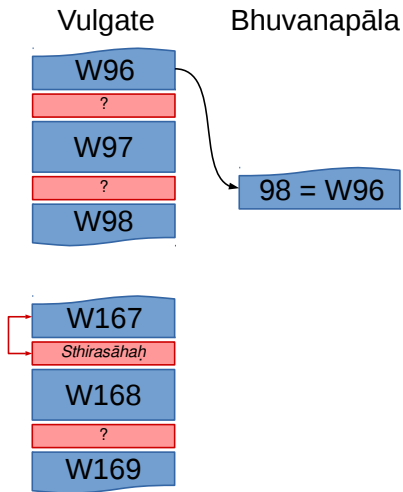
Vulgate



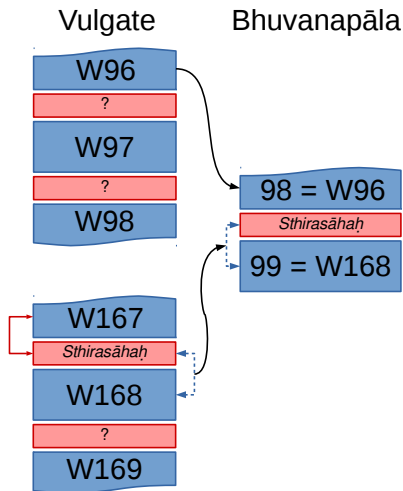
Bhuvanapāla



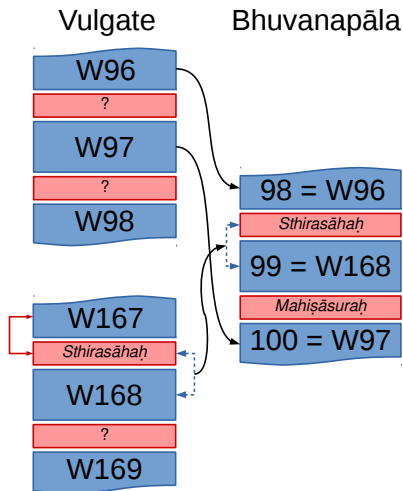
# Reordering with the wrong attribution



# Reordering with the wrong attribution



# Reordering with the wrong attribution



# Reordering without an index verse

| Verse | Pī              | Bhu                |
|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| W85   | 85 Ādivarāhasya | 87 Nighaṭṭasya     |
| W86   | 86 Prahatāyāḥ   | 88 Ādivarāhasya    |
| W87   | 87 Revāyāḥ      | 90 Puṭṭisassa      |
| W88   | 88 Grāmakūṭasya | 91 Revatyāḥ        |
| W89   | 89 Poṭasya      | 89 Pṛthivyāḥ       |
| W90   | 90 Revāyāḥ      | 92 Grāmakuṭṭikāyāḥ |

## Reconstruction 1

W85

Ādivarāha

W86

Prahatā

W87

Rēvā

W88

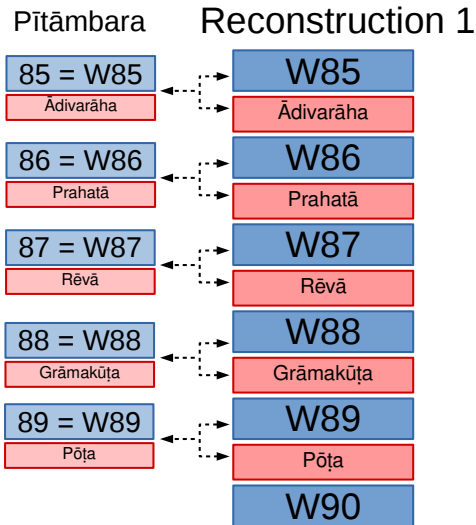
Grāmakūṭa

W89

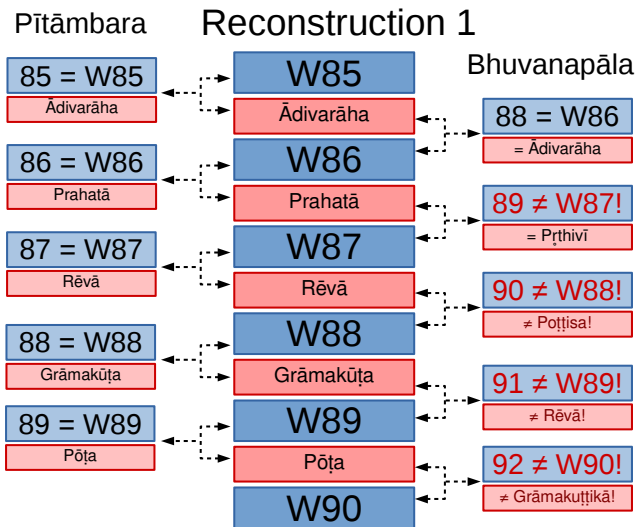
Pōṭa

W90

# Reordering without an index verse



# Reordering without an index verse

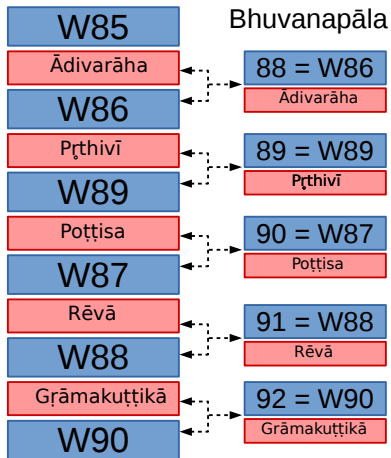


## Reconstruction 2

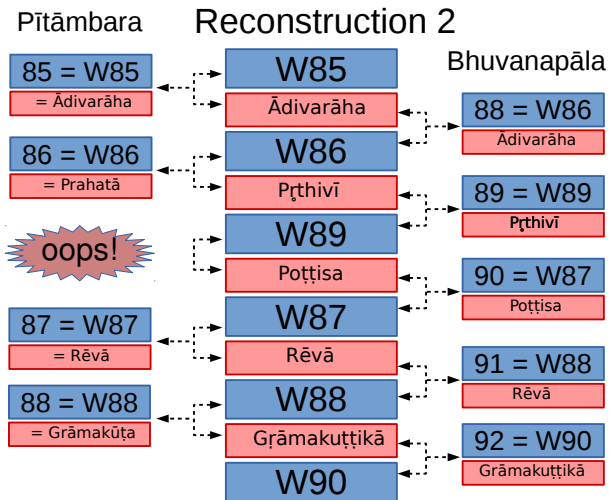
|              |
|--------------|
| W85          |
| Ādivarāha    |
| W86          |
| Ṗṛthivī      |
| W89          |
| Poṭṭisa      |
| W87          |
| Rēvā         |
| W88          |
| Grāmakuṭṭikā |
| W90          |

# Reordering without an index verse

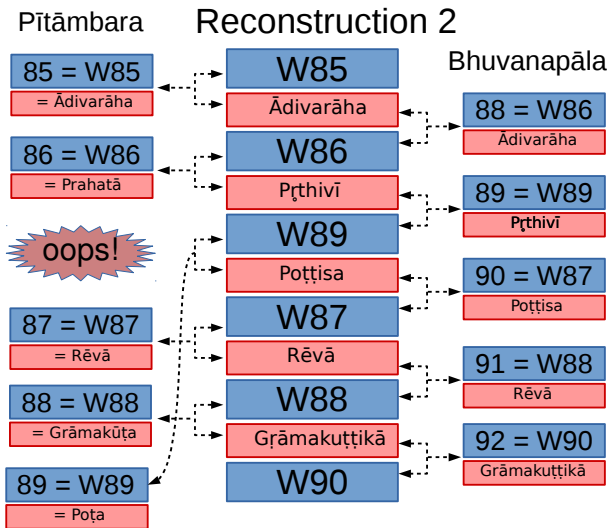
## Reconstruction 2



# Reordering without an index verse



# Reordering without an index verse



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- ▶ find more witnesses (Pītāmbara in Kolkata, Kulanātha in Pune, etc.)
- ▶ reconstruction of the original *sequence of verses* and *sequence of attributions* of *Seven Centuries*
- ▶ determining the history of the transmission of the text

# Interpretive questions

- ▶ what do these attributions actually tell us about the text?
- ▶ what does the phenomenon have to do with similarly ‘paratextual’ attribution in the Tamil anthologies?

# Profiles of individual authors

- ▶ **Poṭṭisa**: traditionally said to be a minister of Hāla; credited with some *praśasti*-type verses.
- ▶ **Pālitta**: a well-known Jain poet, author of *Taraṅgavatī* and *Jyōtiṣkaraṇḍaka*; specializes in imaginative comparisons of scenes from nature.
- ▶ **Jīvadēva**: apparently the author of an independent text; quoted by Svayambhū and praised by Dhanapāla.
- ▶ **Cullōḍaya**: ???
- ▶ **Andhralakṣmī**: ???

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- ▶ **Andhralakṣmī**: ???



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