Problems

Coming to the problem of text and illustrations of the manuscript, there are resources on textual material. However, the problems cannot be restricted to an exercise of the identification of an illustration with literary text. The process is indeed far more complex. This exercise of correlating the text and image has so far been largely restricted to an identification problem or at best a descriptive and narrative account. Besides the question of the correlation of the text, whether of the sūtras or of the sāstras, there is the question of the proper editing of the unpublished texts. There is a vast amount of unpublished material available in manuscript form in libraries both in India and abroad. The preparation of a catalogue of these manuscripts and the publication of these texts could be taken up as a better endeavours. This might well be tantamount to drawing up an encyclopaedia of primary textual material relating to palmleaf manuscripts. No doubt, the identification of primary material, its bibliography, its editing and translation, will prove to be a monumental task, but at some point this has to be undertaken.

In the foregoing research there are certain grey areas that still need to be looked into:

➢ Traditional literatures do not amply focus on palmleaf writing
➢ Nonconformity of certain archaeological data with literary source: especially writing materials and instruments
➢ Difficulties in the identifications of writing instruments and scholars' arguments not compatible to each other
➢ Relation between stylus and ink and inkpots

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Finding of earlier specimens on palmleaf manuscripts: prior to 7th century
Not enough inscriptive evidence to support the writing on palmleaf
Lack of iconographical evidence prior to 1st century AD: does not support our arguments of evidence of palmleaf writing prior to that period

**Issues that remain to be taken up**

The main line of investigation ought to concentrate on authenticity of palmleaf writing, which most likely yields the historical significance of palmleaf manuscript from a much earlier context. This requires to be performed on a much more extensive scale than has hitherto been attempted, so as to secure adequacy. It is proposed that an extensive study of the stylus and its varied uses along with other pointed instruments could solve any ambiguity there might be regarding the validity of the chronology of early use of palmleaf as set out in this thesis. There are certain other issues, which remain unanswered and this research theme could be further expanded:

- An extensive survey on the use and importance of palmleaf writing in early literatures could resolve the certainty of its extensive use.

- Further research could clarify the periodisation of palmleaf writing through which one would set in motion a whole chain of hypothesis formulation relating to the dating of manuscripts.
After studying the locational analysis of various writing instruments, a geo-specific approach can be achieved with regard to writing practices of a specific historical period.

Focus on historical significance of vanśīvalī or genealogies could constitute a major step towards resolving age-old controversies, which can only be cleared by extracting manuscript related evidence.

Broader concept of the evolution of scribes and their pattern: particularly about the caste or class concept.

Scribes and their patronage in history: difference of patronage in inscription and palmleaf manuscript.
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Ethnographic Studies of Palmleaf Manuscripts

1. Village_____________ Tehsil_____________ Block_____________ Dist_____________

2. (a) Sex: Male/ Female (b) Age _______ (c) Education ____________________
   (d) Training ____________________

3. Whether (a) Author (b) Copier (c) Artist? ____________________

4. Raw Material Used: 1. _______________ 2. _______________ 3. _______________
   4. _______________ 5. _______________ 6. _______________

5. Source of Raw Material: 1. _______________ 2. _______________ 3. _______________
   4. _______________ 5. _______________ 6. _______________

6. Besides palm leaf, what are other materials you used to write on? _______________

7. Type of Stylus Used: 1. _______________ 2. _______________ 3. _______________

8. Ink Preparation? ____________________

9. Procedure of writing Manuscripts ____________________

10. Time frame of preparing a Manuscripts ______ Days _______ Months _______ Years

11. How do you prepare the framework of the Manuscripts? ____________________

12. What is the importance of Colophon? ____________________
   (a) Do you write your own family history?
   (b) Are you still writing king’s Anka year/ Christian era?


15. Is the writing of Manuscript Religion/ Caste-based? 1. Yes 2. No

   (b) Caste: 1. SC, 2. ST, 3. OBC 4. (other) Sub caste _______

17. How many persons needed to write a Manuscript? _______________________

18. Is the same person involved in preparing the text/art? 1. Yes 2. No

19. If no, specify that why others persons are associated with?

20. Whether the writing of Manuscript is on the contract basis? 1. Yes 2. No

21. If yes, from whom do you get the order? ________________________________

   3. Own Interest 4. To show own skill 5. Others ___________________________


24. Has the content/ subject of the Manuscript changed overtime? 1. Yes 2. No

25. If yes, (a) Past Content ______________________________________________

   (b) Present Content __________________________________________________

26. What is the cost of writing a Manuscript? _________________________________

27. Is your Manuscript Marketable? 1. Yes 2. No

28. (a) If yes, Price of a Manuscript? ________________________________________

   (b) How the price of the Manuscript is fixed? 1. Subject-wise 2. Page-wise

   3. Content-wise 4. Other ________________________________________________

   (c) Is the Manuscript primary source of Income? 1. Yes 2. No
(d) If Yes, Income per day/ Per month from Manuscript ____________

(e) If No, what is your primary source of income? ______________

29. If you are not able to sell the Manuscript (or want to sell), then what do you do with the Manuscript? ____________________________________________

30. By writing on palm leaf do you think your status has increase in the society?
   1. Yes 2. No.

31. If yes, how ____________________________________________

32. How do you preserve the Manuscripts? ________________________

33. Has govt. taken any initiative to preserve/ promote the marketability of Manuscript?
   1. Yes 2. No.

34. If Yes, Please Specify the Policy and benefit you received from govt. ____________

35. Are the manuscripts create interest for tourist? ________________________

36. Would you like your profession to be followed by your children? 1. Yes 2. No

**REMARKS**

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* Name: ________________________________________