

# KASHI PRASAD JAYASWAL (PART-2)

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# LIFE AND WORKS

Jayaswal did pioneering work in deciphering the Hathigumpha inscriptions as well as inscriptions of Ashoka. The other inscriptions studied by him include inscriptions in Bhuvaneshwar Temple, Sunga inscription of Ayodhya, Samudra Guptas's inscription of Allahabad, Rajgir stone image inscription, Kandaha inscription of King Narsimhadeva of Mithila, etc.

In the field of numismatics he wrote articles on Purana coins and suggested numerous new readings for the legends on the coins of the Gangetic valley. He also wrote on the six silver coins of Sungas and expressed the view that some of the punch-marked coins belonged to the Mauryan period.

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He edited with commentary certain hitherto unpublished texts. In this regard reference may be made to Rajanti Ratnakara by Candesswara, a book written in the early medieval Indian history, Bhattasvamin's Commentary on Kautilya's Arthasastra, Gargi Samhita, Adhyardhasataka by Matriceta, Vighrahavyavarttani by Acharya Nagarjuna, Lassen's History of Indian Commerce etc.

But of all these works the most thought provoking, and to some extent controversial, work was Hindu Polity. In this book Jayaswal advocated a number of theories which have been discussed by the foreign and Indian scholars in subsequent years. Some of these theories have also been disproved.

## LIFE AND WORKS

Despite some of his shortcomings of Jayaswal it cannot be denied that his writings gave a rude shock to those scholars and administrators who had assumed the existence of the Oriental Despotism in India before the advent of the British rule and British Constitutional institutions in the country. He stimulated researches into the political and constitutional fields of ancient Indian history. He also made significant contributions to the study of Political history.

