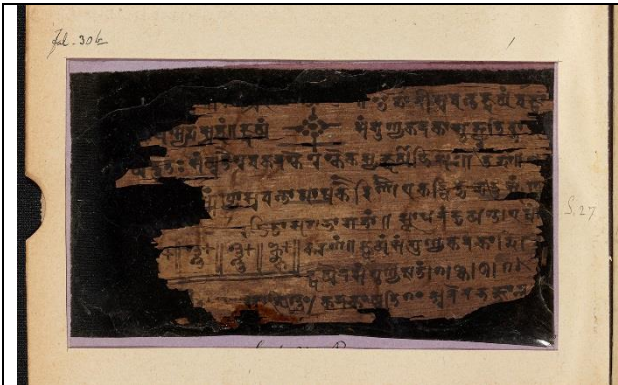


## Bakhshali manuscript

### SELECTED IMAGES OF THE BAKHSHALI MANUSCRIPT

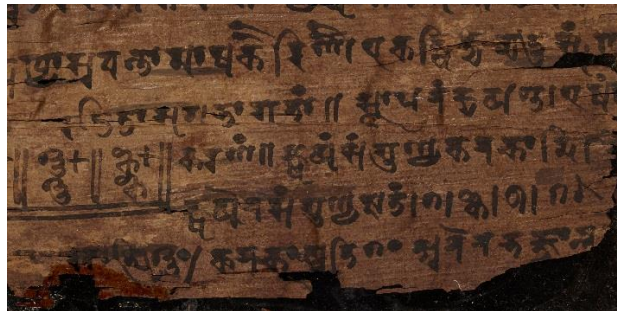
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Carbon dating has revealed that folio 16 from the 70-page Bakhshali manuscript dates from 224-383 AD. This is therefore one of the earliest known examples of the use of zero (written as a dot) used as a placeholder, i.e. the use of zero to indicate orders of magnitude in a number system.

Filename: MS Sansk. d.14 fol. 16v

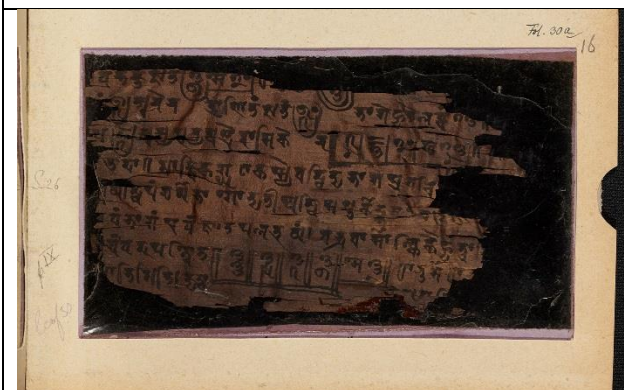
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In this close-up image of folio 16v, you can see the use of a dot as a placeholder in the bottom line. This dot evolved into the use of zero as a number in its own right.

Filename: MS Sansk. d.14 fol. 16v

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The 'front' page (recto) of folio 16 which dates to 224-383 AD.

Filename: MS Sansk. d.14 fol. 16r

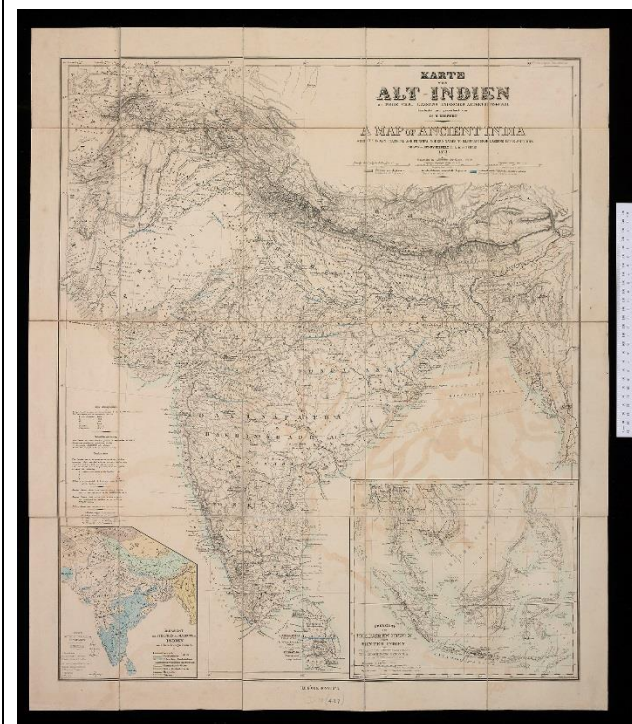
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The 70 leaves of birch bark that make up the Bakhshali manuscript are incredibly fragile and are housed in this specially designed book at the Bodleian Libraries' Weston Library, Oxford. Scholars are able to view both sides of the birch bark through the 'windows' of the book.

Filename: MS Sansk. d.14

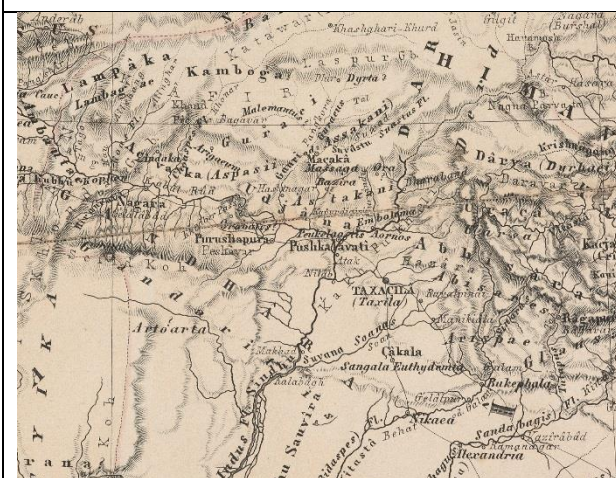
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This 'Karte von Alt-Indien' or 'A Map of Ancient India', was created in 1853 for the Norwegian-born orientalist Professor Christian Lassen (1800-1876). The Bakhshali manuscript was found in 1881, buried in a field in a village called Bakhshali, near Peshawar, in what is now a region of Pakistan.

Filename: D10 (427)

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A close-up of the 'A Map of Ancient India' showing the area of Peshawar where the Bakhshali manuscript was found in 1881. Peshawar is the oldest city in modern day Pakistan and one of the oldest in South Asia, having a recorded history going back to at least 539 B.C.E.

Filename: D10 (427)

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The Weston Library, home of the Bodleian Libraries' Special Collections, where the Bakhshali manuscript is stored.

Filename: Weston Library

Credit to John Cairns  
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The Science Museum where a folio from the Bakhshali manuscript will be on display in the *Illuminating India* exhibition, running 4 October 2017 – 31 March 2018. This is the first time a leaf from the Bakhshali manuscript has ever been loaned to another institution.

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