

APPENDIX 7.A
THE TRANSMISSION OF THE TRANSMISSION THESIS

The manner in which history has been written, and still continues to be written, was brought home to me in a rather personal way in the course of writing this book. It would not be appropriate to discuss all aspects of the matter at this stage and in this book—some details have already appeared prominently in newspapers, which can be pursued by those interested. However, given the striking parallels between the transmission of the calculus and the transmission of the transmission thesis, a few facts can certainly be very briefly recapitulated here to illustrate in a striking way the point of the preceding principles of evidence in historiography.

- In 2001 a paper appeared in a little known journal on the subject of the transmission of the calculus from India to Europe.

The trio of authors cited several of my papers; however, they did not cite some key papers, important ideas from which were used in their publication in a significant way, and to which papers of mine the authors undoubtedly and undeniably had access. (See below.)

- Sometime around 2003 an essay by a student appeared on a well-known website (McAndrews) on the history of mathematics. The essay gave the entire credit to the trio for various ideas related to the alternative epistemology and transmission of the calculus, without once mentioning my name. (The misleading nature of the article was, subsequently, brought to the attention of the student, as also those responsible for maintaining the website, but they refused to withdraw it. A physically or digitally signed statement of such refusal was also refused. Nor did they subsequently make it historically more accurate.)
- In 2003 the above paper and student essay were brought to my notice, through a column and letter written by Subhash Kak, which sought to publicize this student essay and what he mistakenly called the work of “three British mathematicians”. (None of the three was either a British national or a mathematician, though they were Christians of various denominations—Roman Catholic, of Portuguese descent, Syrian Christian, etc. None of the trio has a doctorate degree in mathematics—one has no doctorate degree, while the other two have doctorates in physics and Greek classics respectively.)

In the case of the calculus, the principle of epistemological continuity was used above, by pointing out the thousand year old background of the calculus in India compared to its sudden appearance in Europe. Analogously, by 1998, I had already done enough preparatory work in connection with the transmission thesis to obtain a project from the Indian National