



CARAKA

CARAKA, the name of an Indian physician associated with one of the major works on Indian medicine (the *Carakasamhitā*), as well as the name of King Kaniṣka's physician according to the Chinese version of the Buddhist text *Sūtrālaṅkāra*. It has been suggested that this Caraka was the same person as the redactor of the *Carakasamhitā*. The *Carakasamhitā* is Caraka's revision of an earlier work, the *Agnivésatantra*. For a full discussion of the evidence for the identification of Kaniṣka's physician with the author of the *Carakasamhitā* see G. J. Meulenbeld, *The Mādhavanidāna and Its Chief Commentary, Chapters 1-10*, Leiden, 1974, pp. 403-06.

(Ronald E. Emmerick)