

**1096.**

Ralph Lilley Turner, *A comparative and etymological dictionary of the Nepali language*. London: Routledge, 1961.

Corrected reprint, with new indexes (by Dorothy Rivers Turner) of forms cited from other Indo-European languages.

First published: London: Kegan Paul, 1931. 935 pp.

'Four years of active service in the Indian Army provided me with much first-hand material from ... Nepali'. The dictionary was compiled in the 1920s with the active support of the Maharaja of Nepal. Headwords appear in Devanagari and romanisation; many examples of colloquial usage are given. Brief etymological information is provided: each entry includes a list of related words in other Indo-Aryan languages. The index consists of a series of lists in which Nepali words are set beside related forms in over fifty languages. The Nepali dictionary thus prefigures Turner's *Comparative dictionary of the Indo-Aryan languages* (763).

Turner's Devanagari spellings include two 'reforms' which have not caught on, though they cause no difficulty in consultation. The distinctions between इ *i* and ई *ī* and between उ *u* and ऊ *ū*, which have no relevance to Nepali pronunciation, are dropped, just as they are in the Army romanisation; and all syllable-final consonants are marked with the *halanta* stroke.

From *A Guide to World Language Dictionaries* by Andrew Dalby.  
London: Library Association Publishing, 1998.