The Lepcha script

According to tradition, the Lepcha (or Rong) script (TABLE 40.4) was devised in 1720 by Raja Phyag-rdor-rnam-rgyal of the Tibetan dynasty in Sikkim (India). It is based on Tibetan writing with some influence from Burmese script (SECTION 42), and exhibits Chinese influence in that it was formerly written in columns from right to left. The 90° turn accounts for the unusual indication of syllable-closing consonants with superposed diacritics rather than conjuncts (Haarh 1959; Chakraborty 1978).

TABLE 40.4: *The Lepcha Script*

ka	kha	ga	ña		kak		kâ
ca	cha	ja	ña		kam		kā
ta	tha	da	na		kal		ki
pa	pha	ba	ma		kan		kī
tsa	tsha	za			kap		ko
ya	ra	la	wa		kar		kō
	ša	sa			kat		ku
ha	a	fa			kVn[a]		kū
					kan		ke

a. Must be used with a vowel sign; for short -a-, the form immediately below is used.

Bibliography

Chakraborty, Ashit. 1978. *Read Lepcha.* Calcutta: Kanakdhara.
Haarh, Erik. 1959. "The Lepcha Script." *Acta Orientalia* (Copenhagen) 24: 107–22.