

Foreword by Saubhagya Pradhananga

The National Archives of Nepal, established in 1967, functions as the officially designated government entity tasked with the curation and conservation of the nation's archival records. Operating in accordance with the Archives Preservation Act of 1989, it has as its core responsibilities collecting, preserving, and facilitating public access to significant manuscripts and documents. Collaborations with both national and international organizations have culminated in the establishment of a network of partnerships.

A prominent example of such collaboration lies in its association with Germany, which resulted in the successful execution of the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project, followed by the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project. In 2018, the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities initiated the publication series *Documenta Nepalica*, aimed at accentuating the importance of Nepal's document heritage for historical research in South Asia and beyond, thus igniting scholarly interest in the country's abundant archival sources.

This volume constitutes a crucial addition to the comprehension of Nepalese legal history, focusing on the study of the articles on homicide extracted from the 1854 and 1870 *Mulukī Ains*. Accompanied by an analysis of contemporaneous legal documents, the study significantly contributes to the understanding of homicide law during the pre-modern era in Nepal. The National Archives of Nepal safeguards not only the oldest extant manuscript of the *Ain* but also manuscripts or prints of subsequent amended versions. Undoubtedly, this publication will serve as an indispensable resource for those seeking to grasp the intricate role of law in shaping modern Nepal as a nation-state.

Saubhagya Pradhananga

Director General

*National Archives of Nepal**

*Mrs. Pradhananga is now the Director General of the Department of Archaeology.

Published in: Rajan Khatiwoda, *Homicide Law in 19th-Century Nepal: A Study of the Mulukī Ains and Legal Documents*, Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Publishing, 2024 (*Documenta Nepalica: Book Series, Vol. 7*).
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17885/heiup.1276>

