

## II

### PROCEEDINGS OF I.A.S.S. MEETINGS



Report on the activities of the IIIrd WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE which met in the Collège de France, PARIS, from the 20th to the 25th June 1977.

The opening session of the IIIrd World Sanskrit Conference was held on the 20th June 1977. It opened with Vedic prayer which was followed by the opening address of the President of the Association, Dr V Raghavan. In this address, the President recalled that in August 1976 the International Congress of Asian and African Humanities met in Mexico and that a panel was assigned to the International Association of Sanskrit Studies; at that Congress the resolutions which the Association had adopted in Turin were reiterated. He also stated that it is a good augury that without any break, the Association was able to have the Third International Sanskrit Conference in June 1977 in Paris. The French Association of Sanskrit Studies of which all the Sanskrit institutions and scholars of France are members, with the co-operation of the Institute of Indian Civilization and the Collège de France, were the hosts of the Conference. There was also some help from the UNESCO. A few of the delegates were assisted by the inviting bodies, but the bulk of the delegates were deputed by their respective countries, either by the Governments or their national institutions. The Conference was attended by about a hundred members including a good number from France itself. Of those from other countries: 3 were from U.S.A., 2 from Mexico, 3 from England, 5 from Switzerland, about 20 from Italy, 9 from West Germany, 2 from Netherlands, 1 from Denmark, 2 from Sweden, 2 from Poland, 2 from Yugoslavia, 1 from East Germany, 1 from Austria, 1 from Hungary, 2 from Soviet Union, 1 from Japan, 1 from Indonesia and 1 from Śrī Laṅkā. The Government of India had officially deputed 3 including a Paṇḍit; the Geological Survey of India 1, and Indian Universities including the two Sanskrit Universities of Vārāṇasī and Darbhanga, were also represented. There were 5 other scholars from India representing various institutions of

research, the Bureau of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies and the International Union of Orientalists. A few Indians who were already working in different European countries also attended the Conference. A Tibetan and a Sinhalese Bhikku already working in Europe also attended.

Then the report of the Secretary General of IASS was read by Professor L. Sternbach and the report of the Treasurer by Professor Colette Caillat. These reports were then adopted without vote.

Commemoration speeches were delivered by Dr V Raghavan for the deceased William Norman Brown, by Professor E. Bender, for S. Radhakrishnan, by Professor Jean Filliozat, for S.K. Chatterji, by Professor G Roth, for A.N. Upadhye; by Śrī R. K. Sharma (Darbhanga) for M. M. Gopinātha Kavirāja, by Paṇḍit Badari Nāth Shukla, for Paṇḍit Rājeśvar Śāstri and by Dr V Raghavan, for Ferruccio Ducrey Giordano, Pierre Roland, Robert William and L. Cyboran.

The President of the Association requested the participants at the Conference to commemorate their memory by one minute of silence.

Dr V Raghavan made then a statement on the new developments in the field of Sanskrit and related fields in India and asked other participants to give similar reports in their respective countries. Prof. J. Brough spoke for the United Kingdom, Prof. J. Filliozat for France; Dr G. Bongard-Levin for the USSR, Prof. E. Bender for the United States of America, Prof. W. Morgenroth for the German Democratic Republic; Prof. G. Roth for the German Federal Republic; Prof. S. Lienhard for Sweden, Prof. J. Tilakasiri for Śrī Lankā, Prof. G. Töttösy for Hungary; Prof. Y. Ojihara for Japan, Prof. T. Pobozniak for Poland, Mrs. E. Pauly for Denmark, Prof. O. Jauk-Pinhak for Yugoslavia, Prof. J. M. de Mora for Mexico; Mr. T. Shivamurthy for Austria, Mr. M. V. Mahashabde for Switzerland and Prof. L. Sternbach for South American countries. The speakers emphasized that in the Cambridge University Library, the Linguistic records of the speech of various parts of India which were prepared by Sir G. Grierson for his Linguistic Survey of India are preserved. It was reported that the strength of the students in the Sanskrit Department in Oxford had shown an increase. Even so in the German Centre of Göttingen (Federal Republic of Germany), where they celebrated last year the 150th anniversary of Sanskrit Studies in the University. In Sweden they are engaged in compiling a dictionary of Iconographic terms. There are six centres of Sanskrit studies in Poland. Special work is being done on the *Sukasaptati* in Hungary. In South America, in places like Uruguay, Argentina, Peru and in Mexico, fresh interest is being evinced in the development of Sanskrit studies on the literary, linguistic and philosophical sides. Similarly in Zagreb (Yugoslavia) there has been growth of these studies, particularly on the philological side with special reference to Sanskrit and Slavonic languages. There has been

a Portuguese translation of the *Hitopadeśa* published in Brazil. The Mongolian version of the *Rāmāyaṇa* has already been published.

The members from the USSR reported that in the Oriental Institutes in Moscow and Leningrad several programmes of research, and editions and translations of Sanskrit works had been undertaken, interest was taken in the history of science in India, there had been a translation of the *Atharvaveda*, a study of the epics, *Rāmāyaṇa* and *Mahābhārata*, and also studies and editions of Central Asian MSS. fragments. Excavations in the Asian areas of the USSR had brought to light vestiges of Buddhistic temples and other archeological materials including Brāhmī and Kharoṣṭhi inscriptions. The researches embodying their findings were published in a special volume called Ancient Bactria. A new translation of the *Mahābhārata* was undertaken and a new Sanskrit-Russian Dictionary will appear soon. A hopeful trend is that young scholars are taking to the studies of Sanskrit in such branches as Sāhitya, Vaiśeṣika and even Vedānta.

The President of the Association referred to the important trends in the activities in the field of Sanskrit study in India, in the Universities, Research Institutes, Manuscript Libraries, etc., and to the assistance being provided by the Sanskrit Section of the Ministry of Education. He made special mention of the new interest that was being evinced in the sciences embedded in Sanskrit literature and the work that was already being done by some scientist themselves in this line. He considered it, therefore, as significant that the Conference was seized by some papers on some of the Sciences in Sanskrit. This was one of the new lines of work in which the relevance and contemporary usefulness of Sanskrit studies could be highlighted. He also emphasized that, at the present time, the basic question of Sanskrit MSS., their collection and survey, called for their most urgent attention.

Dr G. Bongard-Levin proposed that a paper should be prepared on the basis of the information supplied by the participants of the Conference for the next World Sanskrit Conference. This proposal was adopted.

The Board and the Consultative Committee at their meetings of the 21st and 24th May approved the new redaction of the Statute of IASS and authorised the opening of the bank account at the Banque Nationale de Paris, Agence Kleber and gave a delegation to Mrs. C. Caillat, Treasurer of IASS, Mr J. Filliozat, Vice-President of IASS and Mr L. Sternbach, Secretary General of IASS to sign the cheques and any document relating to the activities and financial activities of IASS.

The adoption of the new redaction of the Statute and the above mentioned authorisations were approved by the General Assembly by acclamation.

The Board and the Advisory Council resolved to encourage its members to participate in different International Conferences dealing

with South and South-East Asia. This resolution was adopted by acclamation.

The Board of IASS and the Consultative Committee requested also the General Assembly of IASS to approve for further five-years — in accordance with the revised Statute — the previously elected members of the Board with the exception of the Vice-Presidents from Japan and the United States of America, in view of the fact that Professor N. Tsuji of Japan resigned from his post and Professor J. A. B. van Buitenen did not inform the Association of his acceptance of his election at Torino. To fill the missing post on the Board, the Board of IASS and the Consultative Committee proposed the election of Professor Y. Ojihara from Japan and Professor E. Bender from the U.S.A. To fill the missing posts on the Consultative Committee the Board of IASS and the Consultative Committee proposed the names of Mrs. Soebadio from Indonesia, Purnaharsha Vajracharya from Nepal and Dr. Graciella de la Lama from Mexico as well as Dr. A. Aklujkar from Canada.

These proposals were put to the vote and were adopted by acclamation.

The Board and the Consultative Committee of IASS received, through Professor W. Morgenroth, an invitation from the German Democratic Republic to hold the IV World Sanskrit Conference in Weimar in 1979. The Board accepted this invitation with thanks and proposed to the General Assembly the adoption of Resolution IX.

The Conference, from the afternoon of 20th to noon of 26th, was occupied with the reading and discussion of papers. There were 53 papers covering all branches of Sanskrit studies including Prācrit-s, Jainism and Buddhism. The papers have been presented in the order indicated in the *Calendar*. As the President of the Association wrote in his report published in the *Adyar Library Bulletin*, in Vedic Language, Mythology, Thought and Concepts there were 8 papers including one on Vedic civilization and Harappa. Most of the participating countries were represented in the Vedic papers. An interesting paper here was on the conception of brother in the *Ṛgveda* showing that the brother was always thought of in relation to the sister and the two went together (India). In Indo-European Philology there was a paper on the similarities between Sanskrit and Slavonic (Yugoslavia). In Religion and Philosophy, there were 13 papers comprising Śaivism, Mantraśāstra (Paris), Saṃkhya and the Sphoṭavāda (Italy), Vidyāraṇya (Italy), Inference in Nyāya, the Nyāya Conception of Mokṣa (India), etc., 4 on Yoga and Meditation and one on the linguistic and mathematical correlation of the term *śūnya* in Buddhism (U.S.A.). On the Epics, one dealt with repetitions, variations, etc. in the *Mahābhārata* due to the oral tradition (Zagreb). There was a paper arguing that the author of the *Rāmopākhyāna* in the *Mahābhārata* was later and quite conversant with the *Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa* (Edinburgh). Another paper refuted Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji's theory of Greek inspiration of the *Rāmāyaṇa* (G. D. R., Berlin).

Also an account was given of the earliest South Indian commentary on the *Rāmāyaṇa*, Uḍāli Varadarāja's. That account highlighted its value for textual criticism and some of its noteworthy interpretations. There were two papers on the Purāṇa-s, one of them on Paraśurāma (Berlin), 2 in grammar (France and Japan), 2 on the Rasa theory in *Alaṃkāraśāstra* (India and Śrī Laṅkā), one on the *Trivarga* background of Āyurveda (Paris); one on *Arthaśāstra* and *Kāmaśāstra* literature (Munich) The tiny insect *Indragopa* (Cochineal) got the most exhaustive and interesting treatment (Sweden) Earth sciences in the Veda, Purāṇa and Jyotiṣa were brought together by the delegate of the Geological Survey of India (Hyderabad) and the remarkable near-precision of the age of the earth as found in the Sanskrit sources was explained. Dharmaśāstra figured in one paper In general literature, poetry and drama, there were nine papers in which Kālidāsa, Śūdraka, Bhāsa, Sanskrit drama, both ancient and modern, Subhāṣita-s, story literature, imagery, etc. were discussed (India, Italy, Poland, Paris, Hungary, U.S.A.). One paper dealt with the Sanskrit texts attributed to Garga and preserved in Tibetan translation (Tibet-Paris).

The peculiar features of the style of Sanskrit Buddhistic texts were discussed by two members (Lausanne and Bachum), and a member of the West German-Nepal project revealed that in addition to the well-known *Jātakamālā* of Ārvaśūra, there were found two other *Jātakamālā*-s by Haribhaṭṭa and Goṇadatta. One delegate from the USSR spoke on the Greco-Roman tradition and the religious and philosophical ideas of the Mauryan epoch. An important communication was about the Kharosthi inscriptions found in Gilgit which revealed that in Kaniska's reign, before the advent of Buddhism, Śaivism was already in vogue there (Strassburg) In Jainism there was a comparative study of Jain and Hindu Mythology (India) On the role of Sanskrit in India and abroad, there were 3 papers. one (from G. D. R.) dealt with the role of Sanskrit in the evolution of the official language of India, the Indonesian delegate dealt with Sanskrit in « Bahasa Indonesia » and there was also one on the role of Sanskrit outside India and the Sanskritization in different cultural fields outside India (France). Two young Italians presented their work in preparing a concordance of Vedic Sanskrit through the computer.

The Pandit from Vārāṇasī who participated spoke in Sanskrit; for half an hour, all the discussions were carried on in Sanskrit. At the reception to the delegates by the Institute of Indian Civilization, there was an exhibition of the latest publications of the members of the Conference and their institutions. At the premises of the Conference (Collège de France) there was also a display of several Sanskrit publications put out by Institutions in India and other countries of the West, as also books brought out by some commercial concerns.

At the closing session, held on the 25th June 1977, the following resolutions approved by the Board and Consultative Committee on the 21st and 24th June were put to the vote and adopted unanimously:

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