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History and Aims of the IASS

Nearly forty years ago, because of a perception that the International Congress of Orientalists (as the International Congress for Asian and North African Studies was then called) did not allow sufficient scope for full discussion of Sanskrit and allied subjects, several Indian scholars (from the Universities of Madras, Poona and elsewhere) approached the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare of the Government of India, which as a result helped to convene the first International Sanskrit Conference / Viśvasaṃskṛtasammelana at New Delhi in March 1972. At the 29th International Congress of Orientalists, held in Paris the following year, Sanskritists from various countries met and agreed to form the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, drafting a constitution and electing its first Executive Committee. The main task of the I.A.S.S. was agreed to be the organising of World Sanskrit Conferences at different venues (with the New Delhi conference being recognised retrospectively as the First World Sanskrit Conference) and it takes an active part in their organisation. These have been successful in creating cooperation in a number of common causes, both in defence of the discipline and in encouraging important fields of research, while numbers of participants has increased steadily over the years (with particularly large attendances at the conferences held in India – Varanasi in 1981 and Bangalore in 1997).

The aims of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, through its regular series of World Sanskrit Conferences, are to gather together scholars in Sanskrit and related disciplines from all parts of the world and thereby to facilitate the establishment of closer contacts between specialists in classical Indian Studies, so that,

- firstly, they can exchange and disseminate information about their own research and teaching and may also be encouraged to undertake joint projects whenever appropriate, and
- secondly, they can keep themselves informed about the state of Sanskrit studies throughout the world, act jointly in matters of common interest, and support these studies by calling public attention to their importance.

Use of the term "Sanskrit Studies" by its founders was intended to indicate that the Association, while not exclusively concerned with Sanskrit in the narrow sense, is primarily interested in research work based on solid knowledge of one or more Indian languages and on fundamental textual sources from South and South-East Asia. This remains the intention of the Association.

In addition to the holding of the World Sanskrit Conferences, the Association also publishes an occasional Newsletter (of which this is the ninth) to disseminate information about its activities and has established a web site where basic information about the IASS may be found.

John Brockington

PAST WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCES

Following the 1st World Sanskrit Conference at New Delhi in 1972, subsequent World Sanskrit Conferences have been held as follows:

- 2nd WSC at Torino, Italy, in 1975
- 3rd WSC at Paris, France, in 1977
- 4th WSC at Weimar, German Democratic Republic, in 1979
- 5th WSC at Varanasi, India, in 1981
- 6th WSC at Philadelphia, United States of America, in 1984
- 7th WSC at Leiden, The Netherlands, in 1987
- 8th WSC at Vienna, Austria, in 1990
- 9th WSC at Melbourne, Australia, in 1994
- 10th WSC at Bangalore, India, in 1997
- 11th WSC at Torino, Italy, in 2000
- 12th WSC at Helsinki, Finland, in 2003
- 13th WSC at Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K., in 2006.

The Proceedings of the Delhi Conference were published in four volumes (vols I-III.1, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, New Delhi, 1975-80; vols III.2-IV, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Delhi, 1981), those of the Weimar Conference in a volume entitled *Sanskrit and World Culture* (Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, 1986), those of the Varanasi Conference by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, in 1985, and those of the Leiden Conference in several volumes (Brill, Leiden, 1990-92); the Proceedings of the Helsinki and Edinburgh Conferences are in the process of publication by Motilal Banarsidass, New Delhi. The Proceedings of other World Sanskrit Conferences have been published in *Indologica Taurinensia*, which is the official organ of the I.A.S.S.

MEETINGS OF THE I.A.S.S.
DURING THE 13th WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE
HELD IN EDINBURGH

Minutes of the meeting of the I.A.S.S. Board
Edinburgh, 10th July 2006

Present: Prof. R. K. Sharma (President), Prof. Bruno Dagens (Treasurer), Prof. John Brockington (Secretary General), Prof. Joel Brereton, Prof. Yasuke Ikari, Prof. Yaroslav Vassilkov.

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting held at Helsinki on 15th July 20003 were approved.
2. The Secretary General reported on the 12th WSC held in Helsinki (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 29, 2003, pp. 329-30). He also noted that his main activity had been communications (mostly by e-mail) with the Board and the Consultative Committee, both collectively and individually on various matters, including the venue for the 14th WSC. He announced the substantial grant being made by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, towards the running of the curent WSC and expressed gratitude on behalf of the conference organisers; the Board agreed to put a formal resolution to the General Meeting to express thanks for this grant.
3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances. He noted that they looked sound (9 976,60 euros in our bank accounts at the time of the opening of the 13th Conference) but that was mainly due to the generous grant of the Indian Government given for the organisation of the present Conference, following which the IASS did not need to contribute (for the 12th Conference held in Helsinki, the IASS contribution was 6 000 euros, to which was added a special grant of 2 000 euros from UNESCO, a grant which was not renewed for the present conference). The Association was thus already in possession of a good basis for its contribution to the funding of the next conference; in case of need a part of our present reserves may be of some help for the publication of the proceedings of the present conference. This being the case, our sound finances are not linked with any increase in the number of paid-up individual members which remains very low (even if as usual several members are expected to pay their fees during the conference itself): it was around 60 at the opening of the conference. Due to the lack of effectiveness of the costly reminders send by post, it is proposed to launch a systematic reminder and recruiting campaign by e-mail, using the data-base of the present conference.
4. Election/re-election of members of the Board and Consultative Committee.
 - a) Professor Ram Karan Sharma wished to resign as President, while affirming his willingness to continue serving the Association. The Board thanked him warmly for all his services to the association and decided to recommend his election as an honorary Vice-President to the General Meeting. The Board also decided to recommend Professor V. Kutumba Sastry for election as the next President.
 - b) Professors Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Joel Brereton, Carlos da Fonseca, Yasuke Ikari and Yaroslav Vassilkov were willing to stand for re-election and the Board agreed to recommend them. Professor Oscar Botto wished to resign as a Regional Director and the suggestion had been made that Dr Irma Piovano should be nominated for election as his successor; the Board agreed to recommend this. No reply had been received from Professor Wezler and the Board agreed that in the circumstances it would recommend Professor Oskar von Hinüber to replace him.

- c) Professors Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Mislav Ježić, Vijay Rajopadhyay, T. S. Rukmani, Ram Murti Sharma and Gyula Wojtilla were willing to stand for re-election as Consultative Committee members and the Board agreed to recommend their re-election; Professor Krzysztof Byrski wished to resign; no replies had been received from Professors Gregory Bongard-Levin, Juan Miguel de Mora, Gerhard Oberhammer, Mahesh Raj Pant and Huang Xin-Chuan. It was agreed that the Secretary General should make further efforts to contact the latter and ascertain whether they were willing to continue in office. It was also agreed to recommend Professor Muneo Tokunaga and Dr Victoria Lysenko (subject to their agreement to nomination) for election to the Consultative Committee.
5. The Board confirmed its previous acceptance of the offer by colleagues in Kyoto University to host the 14th WSC in 2009, subject to ratification by the General Meeting later in the week.
 6. The Board discussed the three offers that had been received to host the 15th WSC from colleagues in the Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University (Bangkok), from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan and from Dr Vijay Rajopadhyay. [A brief presentation of the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan had been made by Professor V. Kutumba Sastry immediately before the start of the Board meeting, which included the information that the offer had been approved in principle by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.] The Board agreed to recommend the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to the General Meeting.
 7. Recognition. In terms of the resolution passed at Helsinki to introduce the status of Research Fellow (honorary), the Board decided after discussion to recommend to the General Meeting the names of Mary Brockington, Petteri Koskikallio and Gary Tubb for election to this position.
 8. A document on “Problems of Sanskrit Teaching in Nepal” had been circulated to Board members at the request of Professor Neelmani Dhungana, Mahendra Sanskrit University, Nepal. It was agreed that the Secretary General should write to Professor Dhungana to express support, that copies should be made available at the General Meeting and that the text should be included in the next IASS Newsletter.
 9. The membership of the adjudication panel for the DK Award (details of which had been circulated to all participants in their conference bags) was discussed and it was agreed to recommend that the panel should consist of Professors Brockington, Dagens and Rukmani and that it be given the power to co-opt a fourth member if needed (with Professor Kutumba Sastry to be consulted over suitable individuals).
 10. News of the establishment of a new centre of Oriental Studies in Lithuania was welcomed.
 11. The President closed the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting of the I.A.S.S. Consultative Committee
Edinburgh, 11th July 2006

Present: Professors R. K. Sharma, Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Joel Brereton, Yasuke Ikari, Mislav Ježić, Ram Murti Sharma, Yaroslav Vassilkov and Gyula Wojtilla.

1. The Consultative Committee endorsed the recommendations made by the Board for election as President, Board members and Consultative Committee members. The suggestion was made that a nominating committee should be instituted and it was agreed to give this further consideration. It was agreed that it would be desirable to elect Consultative Committee members from South America and Africa and a further member from India and that the Secretary General should investigate possibilities, as well as making further efforts to secure replies from those who had not responded regarding re-nomination.
2. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's acceptance of Kyoto as the venue for the 14th WSC in 2009 and agreed to recommend both that and the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in 2012 to the General Meeting. The Consultative Committee also agreed that the Secretary General should write to the colleagues at Silpakorn University expressing thanks for their offer and encouraging them to consider making another offer in the future.
3. The Consultative Committee also endorsed the Board's recommendations for election as Research Fellows and as members of the adjudication panel for the DK Award.
4. The President closed the meeting.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the I.A.S.S.
Edinburgh, 14th July 2006

Present: Prof. R. K. Sharma (President), Prof. Bruno Dagens (Treasurer), Prof. John Brockington (Secretary General), and around twenty members.

1. The President opened the meeting. After a brief tribute to Professor M. B. Emeneau by Professor Robert P. Goldman, the Secretary General read out the names of other scholars who had died since the Helsinki conference (as recorded in I.A.S.S. Newsletter 8) and the meeting stood in silent tribute to their memory. The minutes of the General Meeting held at Helsinki, 16th July 2003 (printed in Newsletter 8) were accepted.
2. The Secretary General reported on the 12th WSC held in Helsinki (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 29, 2003, pp. 329-30). He also noted that his main activity had been communications (mostly by e-mail) with the Board and the Consultative Committee, both collectively and individually on various matters, including the venue for the 14th WSC. [Petteri Koskikallio gave a progress report on publication of the Helsinki proceedings to the closing plenary session which followed this meeting.]
3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances and membership numbers (as detailed above in the minutes of the Board).

4. The Secretary General reminded the meeting of the very substantial grant made by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, towards the running of this WSC, expressed gratitude on behalf of the conference organisers and put a formal resolution to the General Meeting to express thanks for this grant; the resolution was passed with acclamation (text given below).
5. Election/re-election of members of the Board and Consultative Committee.
 - a) The General Meeting expressed its warm thanks to Professor Ram Karan Sharma for his services as President and accepted the recommendation of the Board and Consultative Committee that he should be elected an honorary Vice-President. The meeting also accepted the recommendation of the Board and Consultative Committee that Professor V. Kutumba Sastry be elected the next President.
 - b) The General Meeting re-elected Professors Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Joel Brereton, Carlos da Fonseca, Yasuke Ikari and Yaroslav Vassilkov to the Board, elected Dr Irma Piovano to succeed Professor Oscar Botto and elected Professor Oskar von Hinüber to replace Professor Albrecht Wezler.
 - c) The General Meeting re-elected Professors Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Mislav Ježić, Vijay Rajopadhyay, T. S. Rukmani, Ram Murti Sharma and Gyula Wojtilla as Consultative Committee members and elected Professor Hassan Rezai Baghbidi, Dr. C. S. Radhakrishnan, Professor Muneo Tokunaga and Dr Victoria Lysenko. It also agreed that the Secretary General should make further efforts to contact those existing members who had not replied to his enquiry and ascertain whether they were willing to continue in office.
6. In terms of the resolution passed at Helsinki to introduce the status of Research Fellow (honorary), the General Meeting elected Mary Brockington, Petteri Koskikallio and Gary Tubb to this position. It also endorsed the Board's recommendations about the selection of members of the adjudication panel for the DK Award and gave it the power to co-opt a fourth member as necessary.
7. The General Meeting ratified the previous acceptance by the Board of the offer by colleagues at Kyoto University to host the 14th WSC in 2009 and endorsed the recommendation by the Board and the Consultative Committee that the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in 2012 be accepted.
8. The General Meeting also welcomed the news of the establishment of a new centre of Oriental Studies in Lithuania. The availability of copies of a document on "Problems of Sanskrit Teaching in Nepal" by Professor Neelmani Dhungana, Mahendra Sanskrit University, Nepal, was announced and the meeting agreed that the Secretary General should write to Professor Dhungana to express support and that the text of the document should be included in the next IASS Newsletter.
9. The President closed the meeting.

Resolution passed during the General Meeting of the I.A.S.S.
13th World Sanskrit Conference, Edinburgh, 14th July 2006

The General Assembly of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, meeting on 14th July 2006, records its profound appreciation of the grant from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, through the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, of £25,000 towards the expenses of the 13th World Sanskrit Conference held in Edinburgh, 10th-14th July 2006.

14th WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE, KYOTO

The 14th World Sanskrit Conference is being held on September 1-5, 2009 in Kyoto, Japan, hosted jointly by the IASS and the Graduate School of Letters (Department of Indological Studies), Kyoto University. The conference venue is the Yoshida Campus of Kyoto University. The organisers welcome fellow scholars to Kyoto.

The fifteen subject sections, along with the names of their chairpersons and information about the specialised panels, are indicated below.

Keynote Speeches:

Romila Thapara (Professor Emerita, Jawarlal Nehru University)

Masaaki Hattori (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University)

1. **Veda** – Masato Fujii, Arlo Griffiths
(thematic panels on the Paippalāda, Jaiminīya and Vādhula texts and traditions)
2. **Linguistics** – Jared S. Klein, Kazuhiko Yoshida
3. **Epics and Purāṇas** – James L. Fitzgerald, Christopher Minkowski, Yuko Yokochi
(two thematic panels)
4. **Āgamas and Tantras** – Shingo Einoo, Dominic Goodall
(thematic panel on relations between Buddhist and Śaiva Tantra)
5. **Vyākaraṇa** – George Cardona, Ashok Aklujkar, Hideyo Ogawa
6. **Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics** – Gary A. Tubb, Yigal Bronner
7. **Sanskrit and regional languages and literatures** – Takanobu Takahashi, Yoshifumi Mizuno
8. **Scientific Literature** – Dominik Wujastyk, Michio Yano
(thematic panel on Physicians and Patients, organised by Karin Preisendanz)
9. **Buddhist Studies** – Akira Saito, Helmut Krasser, Kazunobu Matsuda
10. **Jaina Studies** – Shin Fujinaga, Nalini Balbir, Fumio Enomoto, Peter Flügel
11. **Philosophy** – Shoryu Katsura, Mark Siderits, Kiyotaka Yoshimizu
(thematic panel on the historiography of Indian philosophy, organised by Eli Franco)
12. **History of Religion** – Noel Sheth, Muneo Tokunaga
(thematic panel on hermeneutical principles and techniques as found in texts)
13. **Ritual Studies** – Yasuke Ikari, Shingo Einoo
14. **History, Epigraphy and Art History** – Hans Bakker, Diwakar Acharya, Keiji Sadakane
15. **Law and Society** – Patrick Olivelle, Donald R. Davis

in addition,

Paṇḍitaparīṣad, organised by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan

Kavisam̐melana, presided over by Professor Radhavallabh Tripathi

Thematic panel: Manuscripts – fieldwork, conservation, digitisation, organised by Saraju Rath and Kenneth G. Zysk

News and Notices

I

In addition to the deaths recorded in the obituaries to be found earlier in this newsletter, it is appropriate to note also the deaths of the following scholars active in the field of classical Indian studies: G. M. Bongard-Levin (1933-2008), J. B. Chettimattam (1922-2006), M. N. Deshpande (d. 2008), R. K. Joshi (1936-2008), Daya Krishna (1923-2007), S. D. Laddu (1926-2008), Freda Matchett (1926-2008), P. K. Modi (d. 2007), Primož Pečenko (d. 2007; obituary in *Indian Studies – Slovenian Contributions*, ed. Lenart Škof (Calcutta: Sampark, 2008): 143-149), Arion Roşu (1924-2007; obituary in *Journal Asiatique* 295 (2007): 217-219) and A. C. Swain (d. 2007).

Our President, Professor V. Kutumba Sastry, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Sampūrṇānanda Sanskrit University, Varanasi; he has been succeeded as Vice-Chancellor of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan by Professor Radhavallabh Tripathi.

Following the retirement of Peter Schreiner from the chair of Indology at the Universität Zürich, Angelika Malinar has been appointed to the chair. The University of Leiden is in the process of filling a chair of Sanskrit and Ancient Cultures of South Asia; meanwhile the Faculty of Arts there has put forward proposals to merge the Kern Institute Library into the main university library. In Berlin, the separate chairs of classical Indology at Humboldt Universität and the Freie Universität are in the process of being replaced by a single chair at Humboldt Universität of Cultures and Societies of South Asia (with its main focus on modern South Asia).

The Association's website is now hosted by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (its new address is <http://www.sanskrit.nic.in/IASS/HOME_page.htm>); there are some final proof-reading corrections still to be made to the text but it is hoped that it can now be kept more up to date. Plans have been developed to introduce a more frequent electronic newsletter (hosted by the Committee AIT, who publish *Indologica Taurinensia*) for circulation by e-mail to members of the Association; the first number will have been issued by the time that you read this.

II

Recent international conferences or seminars related to Sanskrit Studies

Fourth International Vedic Workshop, "The Vedas in Culture and History", University of Texas, Austin, Texas, May 24th-27th 2007.

Second International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium, Brown University, 15th-17th May 2008.

Fifth Dubrovnik International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 11th-16 August 2008.

Third International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium, University of Hyderabad, 15th-17th January 2009 (the refereed proceedings of the symposium are available at <http://www.informatik.uni-trier.de/~ley/db/journals/lncs5400-5499.html>).

III

Forthcoming international conferences or seminars related to Sanskrit Studies

The Fourth International Sanskrit Computational Linguistics Symposium will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, in the second week of December 2010 (organisers: Gérard Huet, Paris/Rocquencourt <Gerard.Huet@inria.fr> and Amba Kulkarni, Hyderabad <ambapradeep@gmail.com>).

Sixth Dubrovnik International Conference on the Sanskrit Epics and Purāṇas, Dubrovnik, Croatia, August 2011.