

Pali Text Society

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JOURNAL  
OF THE  
PALI TEXT SOCIETY

1913—1914

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London

PUBLISHED FOR THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY

BY

HUMPHREY MILFORD

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, AMEN CORNER, E.C.

1914\_

**Journal of the Pali Text Society.**

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# PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

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## REPORT OF THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY FOR 1913-1914

IN this Journal, beside the usual statements of work done and of finance, we present three articles dealing chiefly with matters of philosophic analysis or Abhidhamma. No. III. continues the series of commentaries contained in the 'Five-fold Book' attributed to Buddhaghosa. Of this series, the Commentary on the Kathāvatthu appeared in the Journal for 1889; that on the Dhātukathā was published with that text in 1892; that on the Yamaka was issued in the Journal 1910-12. There remains only the Paṭṭhāna Commentary. This is ready for press, but would need nearly a Journal to itself, as did the section on the Kathāvatthu.

Article II. shows us the eminent Anuruddhācariya, author of the philosophical compendium Abhidhammattha-Sangaha, as a poet, with more scope for his metrical gift than was possible when he was composing mnemonic verses for the latter work. The poem is a notable specimen of mediæval Pali, and is very comprehensive in its range. Both of these works as well as the other surviving work by the same author—the Paramatthavinicchaya—are numbered among the nine classical summaries of doctrine entitled in Burma, Mr. S. Z. Aung has told us, the Little-finger-manuals. The other six are Buddhadatta's Abhidhammāvātāra and Rūpārūpavibhāga, Saccasankhepa by Dhammapāla, Kassapa's Mohavicchedanī, Khema's Khemapakaraṇa and Saddhamma Jotipāla's Nāmācārādīpaka. The Rev. A. P. Buddhadatta has also prepared for us an edition

of the first named of his distinguished namesake's works. And the other five we hope to bring out in due time.

Article II. should render the English reader better acquainted with the thought of the eminent Burmese scholar and publicist, the Thera Ledi Sadaw. A list of his previous writings may be found in Mrs. Bodi's Pali Literature in Burma. The Thera is desirous of communicating his views to Europeans interested in Buddhism and the history of religious philosophy. But he has at present no one at hand capable of interpreting the Pali in which he usually writes. Hence the necessity imposed in the present case upon the two intermediaries who, while anxious to forward his wishes, have with some difficulty carved out time to attempt the task. At their request Ledi Sadaw has consented to prepare another dissertation on the philosophy of Relations (*paccayanayo*) contained in the *Paṭṭhāna*, a work which more perhaps than any other in the Canon needs to be brought by exposition within the focus of European traditions of thought. But the need for a special interpreter remains.

As to the texts now in preparation, the Society has to record the completion of the Dhammapada Commentary by the late H. C. Norman, a fit memorial of a tragically brief but fruitfully strenuous career. A short volume of general indexes to the work is being completed by his colleague, Pandit Lakshman Śāstrī, whom we may yet see lifting the fallen torch of Pali research at Benares.

Of the canonical texts yet unedited by the Pali Text Society, the work of collating Singhalese and Burmese MSS. with the Siamese printed edition of the Mahā and Culla Niddesas is now well advanced, and we trust before long to go to press with the former part. An edition of the Apadāna has been commenced by Miss M. E. Lilley; a new edition of the Dhammapada has been completed by the Rev. S. Sumangala, of the Paramadhamma Cetiya Oriental College, Ceylon, and will be issued this autumn; and the Tikapaṭṭhāna will get into print as soon as a vacancy occurs.

For the present we have to cope with the printing of a rising tide of notable commentaries, those, to wit, on the Khuddakapāṭha, the Sutta Nipāta, the Anguttara, and the Dīgha Nikāya, as announced at the end of this volume. Hence the Society, if its finances, which are steady, could be temporarily doubled, would be in a position, so far as materials go, to double its issues.

No translation is forthcoming for this year, but Mr. S. Z. Aung is well advanced with the Kathāvatthu, and Rev. Sumangala with Sanyutta Nikāya I., Mrs. Rhys Davids collaborating in both cases.

No very positive progress with the new Dictionary is yet to be reported. Here the chief obstacle is the reverse of that in the case of the texts. We publish a notable list of contributed funds, but still wait for sufficient consecutive materials to print any one of the projected volumes. Lexicography is not the most attractive form of research. We hope before long to effect a needed reform in a state of affairs that alone prevents us from issuing for the Pali Text Society a clean bill of health.

C. A. F. RHYS DAVIDS,  
*Hon. Secretary and Co.-Editor.*

NOTE.—Separate copies of Articles I, II, III.  
may be obtained at a proportionate price.