

Pali Text Society

JOURNAL
OF THE
PALI TEXT SOCIETY
1910-1912

EDITED BY
T. W. RHYS DAVIDS, F.B.A., PH.D., LL.D., D.Sc.
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW
PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

London
PUBLISHED FOR THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY
BY
HENRY FROWDE
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE, AMEN CORNER, E.C.
1912

Journal of the Pali Text Society.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE YEARS 1910-1912	vii
I. TWO ESSAYS ON EARLY INDIAN CHRONOLOGY AND LITERATURE, BY PROFESSOR HERMANN OLDENBERG	xi
II. THE YAMAKA COMMENTARY FROM THE PAÑCAPPA-KARANATTHAKATHĀ, EDITED BY MRS. RHYS DAVIDS	51
III. TWO NOTES ON THE BUDDHA-CARITA, BY DR. K. WATANABE	108
IV. ABHIDHAMMA LITERATURE IN BURMA, BY SHWE ZAN AUNG, B.A.	112
V. A LIST OF PALI BOOKS PRINTED IN CEYLON IN SINGHALESE CHARACTERS, BY W. A. DE SILVA	133
ISSUES OF THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY	155
LIST OF DONORS TO THE SOCIETY	163
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 1909-1911	164

REPORT OF THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY FOR 1910-1912

WITH the publications of the issues of this year the Society will have entered upon the thirty-first year of its age. It has brought out, at the cost of several thousand pounds, a total of seventy-three volumes, issuing regularly two volumes or more each year. It has supplied these volumes to its subscribers at a price about half the prices charged by publishers, and it still has enough balance in hand to continue the work. This is not a bad record financially.

When the work started Pali was very little known; there were only one or two scholars in all Europe; the subject was simply ignored in the curricula of our schools of learning; and the historical evidence contained in the oldest Pali literature was almost entirely inaccessible. Now that literature is becoming widely known, the number of scholars engaged in the study of it has increased tenfold, and is still increasing, throughout the world; the subject is recognized at many Universities in the East and West; and the historical evidence preserved in those Pali books is increasingly receiving the attention it deserves to have. Who can doubt but that these results are mainly due to our Society, to the work of the scholars associated with it?

But our very success has brought with it a crisis in the affairs of the Society. Having published all the Pali works composed or written in India, and known to be still extant, except three or four now in preparation, the Society has started a Translation Series to make these documents available for those who cannot read Pali. The only Pali-

English Dictionary being now out of print, and costly, antiquated, and imperfect, the Society has, with great trouble and difficulty, collected enough funds to pay for a new edition—not enough for a perfect Dictionary—and this work is going on. Lastly, the Society has now under consideration the publication of all the Pali works written in Ceylon, Burma, and Siam.

These three undertakings—texts, translations, and Dictionary—will require the assistance of many co-workers. We have lost by death Fausböll and Feer, and Edmond Hardy, Minayeff and Morris and Strong, Trenckner and Warren and Wenzel. Others who were able to give of their scanty leisure hours have found it impossible to do so any longer, their other work now requiring all their time. For there are no Professors of Pali—that is, not in our Universities in the West. One or two have had sufficient means of their own to enable them to give their lives to the work. But the rest can give only of such leisure as remains after gaining their living in other ways. One consequence of this is that, several workers being occupied with the Dictionary, we want new editors of texts. Anyone willing to co-operate in this way in the work of making this remarkable literature known in the West, should communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

Another thing—it is impossible to carry on the publication of both texts and translations unless the Society continues to receive donations such as have helped us so largely in the past.

These two difficulties—the want of collaborators and the want of money—should not terrify us. When the work started, in 1882, we were told that no one cared for Pali, and we should neither be able to get the work done, nor the means of paying for it if we did. Well, we simply went on. After thirty years of continued effort the canonical books are printed. We now propose to translate and discuss them, and to publish the later Pali literature which explains them. And we think it most probable that we shall succeed now just about as well as we did before.

For these later works have a very high interest of their own. From the time when the Ceylon scholars began to write in Pali (in the fourth century) they continued steadily enough, though there were times of special activity, to produce a large number of works of exegesis, law, and medicine, poetry, history, and tales, religion and philosophy. Only one or two have as yet been printed. Many are irretrievably lost. Let us save those which we still have.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.