

Law (1921) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1465

DATED 4-10-1921

3 INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Books and Publications.

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona—
patronage to the Mahabharata—promised.

FURTHER PAPERS.

CURRENT FILE.

Eden 786 57

86 45 71920-21 9.4.20

Poona City, dated 14th April 1920.

The Educational Deptt
Madras.

On behalf of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, we beg to approach you and solicit your help and co-operation towards the execution and completion of a scheme for a critical and scientific edition of the Mahābhārata—the great national poem of India. Our Institute has been at work on it since April last, when a preliminary Prospectus of the proposed edition was issued, containing among other matters, sections on the necessity and importance of the present edition, the material to be used, the method to be followed, the ways and means suggested, and all other details regarding the edition. A copy of this Prospectus is being submitted to you along with this application for ready reference.

3. It may be specially mentioned here as a matter of deep pride and satisfaction that most of the European scholars who have been approached in the matter have evinced a genuine and keen interest in and a warm appreciation of the inception and execution of our present work. Thus Dr. Thomas, the learned Librarian of the India Office, after saying that a copy of our Prospectus might be sent to Prof. Macdonell of Oxford, who is concerned on behalf of the British Academy for the critical European Edition of the work, adds, "I myself was to edit a part of this. It will be very desirable to come to an arrangement with your Research Institute (*i. e.* with the Bhandarkar Institute) so as to avoid the possibility of the work being done twice." Prof. S. Lévi of France says, "I felt so much pleased to know of your scheme concerning a critical edition of the Mahābhārata: I had felt it such a long time as a shame to India that she left the task of editing the Mbh. to Western scholars, as if she had neglected an old mother—mother of Indian heart and soil.....The task will require a lot of money, but it must be done." He then offers some practical suggestions and adds that it may not turn out to be difficult to secure readings and collations from the MSS. of the work in Europe. Prof. H. Oldenberg of Göttingen applauds the scheme in enthusiastic

terms, and says that "European scholars will be convinced that your plan will be executed in a way fully worthy of the great name of Sir R. G. Bhandarkar, which your Institute bears at its front." Other scholars from outside of no less fame, such as Prof. Rapoon, Prof. Geldner, Prof. Vogel, (the last of these once belonged to the Indian Archaeological Deptt. and has promised co-operation so far as Dutch works are concerned) write in similar terms.

4. It is now felt—both on the strength of the results which it is confidently expected will be attained by a thorough examination of the MSS. material, and the encouraging response met from all scholars—that the time has come when the work begun about a year ago must be vigorously pushed ahead. The MSS. material to be investigated for the Edition falls roughly under three heads, viz: the Devanagari, the Bengali, and the South Indian MSS. of the work. This work of examining the MSS. requires to be carried on *pari passu* at Poona, Calcutta, and Madras respectively. So far, provision has been made for the carrying on of the work at Poona, from the generous annual grant of Rs. 6000 made by the Chief of Aundh. This grant however is barely sufficient to meet even the expenses on the Poona establishment which will now have to be strengthened. Provision has to be made for the work at the other centres, and for getting transcripts of private MSS. or those which could not be secured in the original. For further details of the probable time and expenses required for the work, reference is respectfully invited to p. 37 of the Prospectus. It is estimated that the annual expenses at each centre for which provision has to be made would be on an average Rs. 8000 to 10,000 per annum.

5. We therefore beg to solicit monetary help and all other co-operation (such as facilities for borrowing and copying MSS.) from your Government for our undertaking, which we need hardly add, is of a national character in the highest degree. A reference to page 13 of the Prospectus will show by way of precedent that the projected European Edition was receiving annual contribution from the Secretary of State for India, and as Prof. Macdonell acknowledged, liberally supported by Princes and other munificent donors in India. The help now solicited of you is of the nature of an annual contribution till the work is finished, or of a proportionate sum in lump, which could be utilised in adding to the Permanent Fund now formed for the purpose. As stated on p. 37 of our Prospectus, three lakhs of rupees and a period of fifteen years, is an approximate estimate of our requirements, and as mentioned in the concluding portion of the Prospectus, it may not be too much to hope that a stupendous literary work of the magnitude to which the Institute is now definitely committed, being also a work, the first of its kind to be initiated in India, and a task too, which already promises to yield important results, valuable not only from the literary and academic point of view, but also as tending to a correct national appreciation of India's past—that such a work would meet with adequate monetary support and other co-operation from your Government.

* The Prospectus and the paper sent under separate cover, please.

We have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servants
P. D. GUNE
Secretary, Bhandarkar Institute.
N. B. UTGIKAR
Secretary, Mahabharata Department.

Home (Edn) Sep

C N. 786 B

Subject: Soliciting monetary help and Cooperation for the work "Mahā-bhārata"

Endt. 786 B-1/28420
Referred to the D. P. I. for remarks

21-4-20
21-4-20
21-4-20

The D. P. I.
(with appln and prospectus, to be returned with reply)

Remind after a month.

H o m e / Education /

DEPARTMENT.

C.F.—29.

15496

Received



191

Registered

1912

Subject.

Returning with remarks Government endorsement No. 786/B -1 dated 23rd April 1920 on a communication from the Secretary, Bhandarkar Institute, Poona, requesting State patronage and cooperation towards the completion of a scheme for the publication of a critical and scientific edition of the great Mahabharata.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

Spare copies

~~For~~ No. 5410/1920
Disposal

Station Madras, Dated the 10 August 1920

From (Name) The Hon'ble Mr. R. Littlehales, M.A.

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,

Madras
To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home (Education) Department.

Sir,

13 ante

In reply to Government Endorsement No. 786 B-1 dated 23rd April 1920 herewith returned, I have the honour to state that I advise that Government may promise that facilities will be given for copying and referencing to the Manuscripts in Government Libraries, that the Curator of the Oriental Manuscripts Library will be requested to render every assistance in the compilation of the work which his existing staff enables him to do and that copies of the book will be purchased at the approximate estimated cost /Rs 300/ for all Government first grade Arts Colleges, and Training colleges for teachers, and that grants will be given to institutions under private ~~man~~ management to meet

*h38
y/m/p/d/s*

half the cost of the purchase of copies of the book.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

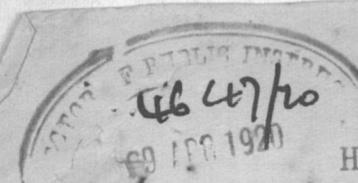
Your most obedient servant,

R. S. K. a

For Director of Public Instruction.

n. v. s.

Sal
9/8



Hsk

Government of Madras.

Home (Education) Department.

From the Secretary, Bhandarkar Oriental Research
Institute, Poona, No. 45, dated the 14th April 1920.

Endorsement No. 786 B-1, dated 23rd April 1920.

Referred to the Director of Public Instruction
for remarks.

(By order)

Ramamurthy
Registrar.
R. S. K.

To

The Director of Public Instruction,

(with enclosures to be returned with reply).

To By of Sanskrit
G. with for remarks.
M.
15/20

7 7

Home (Edn.)

Letter 1549B-3
Ry
25.10.20

2 Draft

W.B.
done + return intact
(found action)

To
25/10/20

av
25.10.20

DESPATCHED
25 OCT. 1920
with
encls

M.S.
25.10.20

Professor A.A. Macdonald
M.A., Ph.D.,
Lochgarry Lodge,
Bambury Road,
Oxford.

(with pp. 7-8 cc. in vgl
+ books below)

Sir,

I am directed
to address you on the
proposals of the Bhandarkar
Oriental Research Institute,
Poona, ^{regarding} ~~for securing out~~
~~a scheme~~ for the publication
of a critical and scientific
edition of the 'Mahabharata'.
The ^{scheme} ~~edition~~ is expected to
be completed in a period
of fifteen years and to
cost approximately three
lakh ^(by the completion) ~~of~~ rupees.
The Institute solicit
pecuniary help from
Govt.

Provincial funds in the nature of an annual contribution till the work is finished or of a proportionate sum in lump. The application of the Institute and other papers received with it are enclosed for reference and return.

2. Before arriving at a decision on the question of a Provincial grant, the Governor in Council is anxious to ^{ascertain your views on} ~~consult you as regards~~

the merits of the scheme. I am accordingly to request that this Govt. may be favoured at a very early date with your views on the following points:-

- (i) ^{whether} ~~that~~ the project is in capable hands.
- (ii) ^{whether} ~~that~~ it really merits pecuniary ^{aid} ~~and~~, and
- (iii) ^{whether} ~~that~~ it can be carried

p. 8 n. f.

carried out in cooperation with the critical European edition of the work now in progress in Europe (page 13 of the Prospectus enclosed) and will ~~not~~ be a superfluity by reason of that work.

I have etc.

Col. S. B. 25/10

CV
22.10.20
T. H.
22.10.20

Q ^{W. H.}
25.10.20

P. H.
L. H. to India

9 10

Letter 1549 B-4 Home (Edu)
Ry. 25 10 20
To

DESPATCHED
25 OCT. 1920

MVS
25.10.20

The Secretary to the Govt.
of India, Dept. of
Education

Sir,

I am directed to
address the Govt. of India
on the proposals of the
Bhandarkar Oriental &
Research Institute, Poona,
regarding the
~~for carrying out a scheme~~
~~for the~~ publication of a
critical and scientific
edition of the Mahabharata.
The ~~scheme~~ is expected to
be completed in a period
of fifteen years and to
cost approximately three
lakhs of rupees; and
the Institute have now
approached this Govt. for
pecuniary aid in the
nature of an annual
contribution ~~for~~ till the work
is

is finished or a
proportionate sum in
comp. ~~proportionate~~

~~and that~~
~~the matter being an~~

an-india one, ~~and that~~

it would ^{apparently} be much more
satisfactory if ~~that~~ the Govt.

of India should give a

~~grant~~ subsidy once for all

than that the Institute

should be granted small

provincial contributions

from the several local

Govts. and Administrations

before ^{however} arriving at a final decision

I am to

request that this Govt.

may be furnished at

a very early date with

the views of the Govt. of

India in the matter.

I have etc.

22.10.20

20.10.20

20.10.20

20.10.20

20.10.20

20.10.20

20.10.20

20.10.20

Mr. S. G. Nf.

all the Bombay Govt
Sanskrit & other works
which were at the Deccan
College Puna have been handed
over to the Institute and
this Govt. believes that the
Institute is likely to become
a very valuable one for
Oriental research

Collected by

10 12 Home (En) Dept
Letter Ref 1549B-5
29/10/20
To

The Secretary, Bhandarkar
Oriental Institute,
Poona

Sir,

I am directed
to acknowledge the receipt
of your letter No. 45 of
1920-21 of 14.4.20, regarding
the publication of a
critical and scientific
edition of the Mahabharata
and to state that the
matter is under the
consideration of the Govt.
and it will take some time
before the matter is disposed of.

[For the meantime, I am
to suggest that you
might approach the
universities in India for
assistance in the matter
in case this has not been done
already.] I have etc.

27.10.20
20.10.20

20.10.20

238213

23.11.20.

13

No. 146

Government of India.

Department of Education.

(Books)



Delhi, the 17th November 1920.

From

Kunwar Maharaj Singh, C. I. E.,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Home (Education) Department.

Sir,

p 10 ante -

With reference to your letter No.1549-B.4, dated the 25th October 1920, I am directed to say that the question of making an Imperial grant to the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute towards the execution and completion of the critical and scientific edition of the Mahabharata was recently carefully considered. A copy of this Department letter to the Government of Bombay no. 66, dated the 28th May 1920, containing the views of the Government of India on the subject is enclosed for the information of the Government of Madras.

p 14 infra

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. L. Singh

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. H. SHARP, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bombay, General (Education) Department.

I am directed to forward a copy of a letter no. 43, dated the 14th April 1920, from the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in which request is made for an Imperial grant towards the execution and completion of a critical and scientific edition of the Mahābhārata. The prospectus of the work is also forwarded.

2. The Government of India have very carefully considered the position with reference to undertakings of this nature under the Reforms Scheme. In the first place, a clear distinction must be drawn between Imperial and Provincial institutions. This distinction must be upon different lines for institutions of different kinds. A technological institute, for instance, might reasonably be classed as Imperial and supported by Imperial funds, if there were not other institutions resembling it in character, if it were necessary to receive into it students from all parts of the country and if it specialised in some subject which either is not or cannot be studied anywhere else in India. In the case of institutions for the study of Oriental languages, etc., an even stricter criterion should be maintained. In the first place, these institutions have sprung up locally and not by the instrumentality or at the suggestion of the Central Government. They are locally supported either from provincial funds or from private contributions or from both. There already exist a certain number of institutions in the different provinces so that even though the work performed at one differs from that performed at another they can hardly be regarded as partaking of an all-India character.

3. These institutions being clearly provincial it would naturally follow that their work and their publications should similarly be regarded as provincial. It is true that a provincial institute may attempt work having an all-India interest but it may reasonably be expected that local pride efforts and help will be enlisted by such attempts. It would be difficult to distinguish between publications deserving of Imperial assistance and those which would not be so assisted. Assistance granted to one would be regarded as a precedent for according help to all. The giving of an Imperial grant would involve the raising of a provincial contribution which might be regarded, when used for such purpose, as contrary to the spirit of the Reforms Scheme. The amount which the Government of India at present disburse for literary patronage is small and is fully earmarked. It therefore appears to the Government of India, that, apart from the continuance of assistance to those serial publications whose maintenance they have guaranteed in the past, the cost of publication of works of this nature should in future be met from local sources. Exceptions may of course arise; but the Government of India in the changed conditions brought about by Reforms would scrutinise any such claims with the greatest care.

4. For these reasons the Government of India do not consider that they would be justified in assisting the present undertaking. They would ask the Government of Bombay to inform the authorities of the Institute of this decision and to assure them that, while the undertaking has their full sympathy, they feel that the time has come when private liberality, individual effort and interprovincial emulation should be trusted to carry out schemes of this nature which in the past have looked to the Government of India for assistance.

Law (Ed. m)

No. 1549/B-4 d/ 21.1.21

To Prof. A. A. Macdonell, M.A. Ph.D.
Lochgarry Lodge,
Banbury Road,
Oxford

Sir,

I am directed to
invite your attention to my
letter No. 1549/B-3, d/ 25.10.20
re: the scheme for the
publication of a critical
and scientific edition of
the Mahabharata which
~~is to be undertaken~~
undertaken by the
Bhandarkar Oriental Research
Institute, Poona, and to
enquire when a reply
thereto may be expected
I have to

DESPATCHED

Copied
6/11/21
21.1.21
24/1/21

pp 7-9, c. 4

18.1.21.

Id
18.1.21.

20/1/21

18/1/21

All Communi-
Institute should
Num Date
previous co

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of

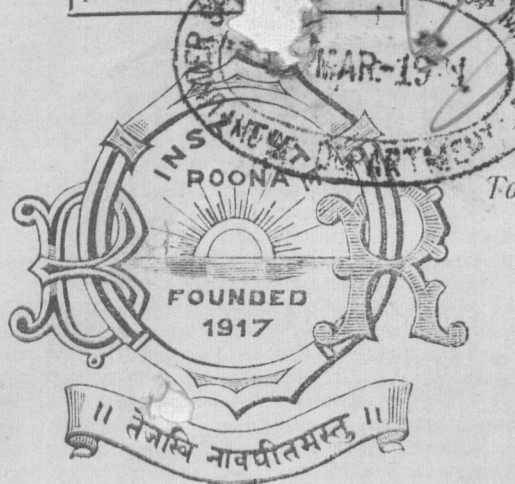
No. 4511 of 1920-1921

12 M/R. INDIA 9 March 1921

The Secretary,

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute,

POONA CITY.



The Secretary

to Government in the Educational
Department,

Madras.

Dear Sir,

h. ante I have the honour to remind you of our No. 45
dated 14th April 1920, containing a request to the
Government of Madras for some financial help in
connection with the New and Critical Edition of ~~the~~
the Mahābhārata undertaken by the Institute.

Awaiting the favour of an early reply,

I have the honour to be,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. D. Gune

Secretary.

Law (Edu)

Letter

Ref

2.

The Secretary, Bharat
Gurukul Institute
Poona.

Sir,

With reference to
your letter No. 1511/20421
of 9.3.21, regarding the
publication of a critical
and scientific edition of
the Mahabharata, I
am directed to state that
the matter is still under
consideration ^{of the Govt.} and it will
take some more time
before the matter is ^{finally} dis-
posed of.

I have etc

Jd.

14.3.21

Del. 26. 14.3.21

CR 14.3.21

Muy 15/3/21

No 694 of 1920/21
Duplicate



Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

Poona City, dated 30th April 1920.

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras, Education Deptt.
Madras

Dear Sir

On behalf of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, we beg to approach you and solicit your help and co-operation towards the execution and completion of a scheme for a critical and scientific edition of the Mahābhārata—the great national poem of India. Our Institute has been at work on it since April last, when a preliminary Prospectus of the proposed edition was issued, containing among other matters, sections on the necessity and importance of the present edition, the material to be used, the method to be followed, the ways and means suggested, and all other details regarding the edition. A copy of this Prospectus is being submitted to you along with this application for ready reference.

2. The work of investigating and examining the MSS. in the original has been now in progress for about a year. A special staff of graduates and Shastris has been employed, working under the direction of an Editorial Committee and a responsible Secretary. Even during this short period many important and interesting facts have been discovered. Some of these were embodied in a paper read at the Oriental Conference that met here in November last. An advance copy of this paper with the important parts marked is also enclosed, which would indicate the nature and the method of the work now being done and the results likely to be attained. The scheme as outlined in the Prospectus has also been submitted to most of the leading Orientalists of India and the West, and was the subject of a special but informal meeting of the representative scholars of all the Provinces, assembled here at the time of the Oriental Conference. The scheme was then discussed in all its details and was warmly welcomed by all the scholars then present.

3. It may be specially mentioned here as a matter of deep pride and satisfaction that most of the European scholars who have been approached in the matter have evinced a genuine and keen interest in and a warm appreciation of the inception and execution of our present work. Thus Dr. Thomas, the learned Librarian of the India Office, after saying that a copy of our Prospectus might be sent to Prof. Macdonell of Oxford, who is concerned on behalf of the British Academy for the critical European Edition of the work, adds, "I myself was to edit a part of this. It will be very desirable to come to an arrangement with your Research Institute (*i. e.* with the Bhandarkar Institute) so as to avoid the possibility of the work being done twice." Prof. S. Lévi of France says, "I felt so much pleased to know of your scheme concerning a critical edition of the Mahābhārata: I had felt it such a long time as a shame to India that she left the task of editing the Mbh. to Western scholars, as if she had neglected an old mother—mother of Indian heart and soil.....The task will require a lot of money, but it must be done." He then offers some practical suggestions and adds that it may not turn out to be difficult to secure readings and collations from the MSS. of the work in Europe. Prof. H. Oldenberg of Göttingen applauds the scheme in enthusiastic

terms, and says that "European scholars will be convinced that your plan will be executed in a way fully worthy of the great name of Sir R. G. Bhandarkar, which your Institute bears at its front." Other scholars from outside of no less fame, such as Prof. Rapson, Prof. Geldner, Prof. Vogel, (the last of these once belonged to the Indian Archaeological Deptt. and has promised co-operation so far as Dutch works are concerned) write in similar terms.

4. It is now felt—both on the strength of the results which it is confidently expected will be attained by a thorough examination of the MSS. material and the encouraging response met from all scholars—that the time has come when the work begun about a year ago must be vigorously pushed ahead. The MSS. material to be investigated for the Edition falls roughly under three heads, viz: the Devanagari, the Bengali, and the South Indian MSS. of the work. This work of examining the MSS. requires to be carried on *pari passu* at Poona, Calcutta, and Madras respectively. So far, provision has been made for the carrying on of the work at Poona, from the generous annual grant of Rs. 6000 made by the Chief of Aundh. This grant however is barely sufficient to meet even the expenses on the Poona establishment which will now have to be strengthened. Provision has to be made for the work at the other centres, and for getting transcripts of private MSS. or those which could not be secured in the original. For further details of the probable time and expenses required for the work, reference is respectfully invited to p. 37 of the Prospectus. It is estimated that the annual expenses at each centre for which provision has to be made would be on an average Rs. 8000 to 10,000 per annum.

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Accompaniments:—(In separate covers)

1 Prospectus to the Mahabharata

2 ——— of the Institute

3 & 4 Two reprints of Articles

4

We have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient servants

P. D. GUNE

Secretary, Bhandarkar Institute.

N. B. UTGIKAR

Secretary, Mahabharata Department.



20, Barwell Road, Oxford.
March 9, 1921.

I am in receipt of your letter dated Jan. 21, 1921, reminding me of a previous one dated Oct. 25, 1920, which asked my opinion of the proposals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona, regarding the publication of a critical and scientific edition of the Mahabharata.

I regret that considerable delay has taken place in my replying to your previous letter owing to the fact that I left my old address, Lochgerry Lodge, Benbury Road, nearly seven years ago, and that in consequence I received the letter a long time after it reached Oxford.

There is no doubt among Western Sanskrit scholars as to the great importance of undertaking a critical edition of the Mahabharata. The scheme was first propounded in May 1904 at a general meeting of the International Association of Academies held in London, and its execution was then taken up by the leading Academies of Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, and Russia. Before the outbreak of the Great War matters had so far progressed that certain portions of the work had been assigned to various collaborators, all the authorities on the Mahabharata, and sufficient money had been secured to defray the cost of producing nearly one-half of the volumes of the projected edition of the text (see leaflet II enclosed). The outbreak of the War brought the whole scheme to a standstill, and at present I am unable to say how soon it will be taken in hand again.

Meanwhile the Bhandarkar Institute recently entered upon the plan, no doubt suggested by the European project, of bringing out a critical edition of the Mahabharata in India also. It is of course absurd that a duplicate undertaking on so large a scale should go on simultaneously, some arrangement must obviously be come to between the two committees to prevent such a result.

My own view is that the scheme of the Bhandarkar Institute is too ambitious a one, considering that there are as yet so few Indian scholars who have undergone the scientific training requisite for such an enterprise, and that none of them are sufficiently mature, experienced, or skilled in organisation to be likely to carry the work through to a successful issue. There is, moreover, a risk, under these circumstances, of the funds collected being exhausted by the cost of the preliminary work alone.

I should like here to point out that the statement on p. 2 of the letter from the Bhandarkar Institute is incorrect and misleading as regards the contribution

21
of the Secretary of State for India. The latter is not making any annual grant to the projected European edition. He has only agreed to pay a subvention of £100 towards the cost of each volume on publication, this being less than one-fourth of the cost of its production (according to present prices scarcely one-tenth). It is, moreover, an overstatement to say that the project was 'liberally supported by Princes and other munificent donors in India. The subscriptions actually received amounted to about £800, while Universities or Provincial governments made grants amounting to £500 in addition (see leaflet II enclosed).

I can now proceed to answer your specific questions:—
(i) 'whether the project is in capable hands?'

I should say that four members of the editorial committee of twelve are quite capable from the point of view of critical scholarship. Most of the remaining eight are probably good Sanskrit scholars of the traditional type, but I am doubtful whether any of them has the training necessary for an undertaking of the present kind. I do not think any of the editorial staff have had sufficient experience to ensure the final success of so extensive an enterprise, nor, so far as I am able to judge, has any of them shown that he possesses the requisite organizing power.

(ii) 'Whether it really merits pecuniary aid?'

As must appear from what I have already said, the publication of a critical edition of the Mahābhārata by competent hands emphatically deserves financial support (see also copy of enclosed Appeal: I). But in the case of this particular proposal, pecuniary support should in my opinion be given only under definite restrictions. It might be of two kinds: (a) a subvention payable on the publication of each volume, being a proportion of the cost of production of that volume, the rest being met by the profit on sales; (b) an annual grant towards the expenses of the preliminary work (classification and collation of MSS, etc.), payable on the receipt of a satisfactory report of the progress of the work made in the Madras Presidency during the preceding year. I am strongly in favour of payment by results in a case of this kind. If a lump sum were to be paid beforehand, the whole of it would probably be spent without any tangible result in the form of printed text.

(iii) Whether it can be carried out in cooperation with the critical European edition of the work now in progress, will not be a superfluity by reason of that work?

The Indian edition would certainly be a superfluity if the European edition were completed. But in the present state of things, as I have said, some uncertainty exists as to the future of the latter undertaking. There seems, however, no reason why cooperation should not be arranged between the European and the Indian editorial committees, if they could agree upon a uniform method of publication. The Indian committee should in this case communicate with the editorial sub-committee appointed to control the publication of the critical edition of the Mahābhārata. A certain number of volumes might be assigned to European collaborators under whose names the volumes respectively edited by them could be published. Collaboration ought, in my opinion, to be aimed at. Duplication of so extensive an undertaking would involve an inexcusable waste of time and energy.

In what I have said above I do not in the slightest degree wish to discourage the projected work; I only desire to indicate in what way the enterprise should be carried on, and within what limits financial aid is advisable.

Hoping that I have succeeded in giving a clear account of the situation as it presents itself to me,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

A. A. Macdonell,

Member of the International
Mahābhārata Committee appointed
by the British Academy.

II. 23/20

CRITICAL EDITION OF THE
MAHĀBHĀRATA

FOR the information of the members of the Mahābhārata Committee who are to attend the approaching General Meeting of the Association of Academies to be held at St. Petersburg in May 1913, I beg to submit the following statement on the present financial position as the outcome of the Appeal addressed to the Princes and Nobles of India. Several hundreds of copies of the Appeal were sent out by me in 1911 to the members of the Indian Committee, with a request to distribute them as widely as possible. The printed appeal, though supplemented by many letters written by me to Indian Princes with whom I am personally acquainted, has not proved so successful as I hoped. It has resulted in contributions amounting to about £800. On my own responsibility I further brought the Mahābhārata project to the notice of all the Provincial Governments and the Universities of India. As a consequence grants amounting to £500 have been made to the Fund. The British Academy also made an application to the Secretary of State for India, who has responded with the promise of a total grant of £1,020, being £60 for each of the seventeen volumes, payable on publication (with the proviso that ten copies of each volume are to be presented to the India Office). These three sums make an aggregate of £2,320. The interest (about £110) on the money already received (£860) by the Bankers, Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., and placed on deposit at 4 per cent, by the Joint Treasurers, Dr. F. W. Thomas and myself, will raise this total to £2,430 by the end of the year 1915.

The British Academy intends, after I have reported the result of the St. Petersburg meeting, to approach the Secretary of State for India with a view to raising the India Office grant from £60 to £100 per volume. If this application succeeds there will be available an additional sum of $(17 \times £40 =) £680$, making a grand total of £3,110, or nearly one-half of the

cost of producing an edition of 500 copies. Finally, there is the money voted by the Associated Academies, amounting in the aggregate to £2,500. But since the whole of this sum will probably be required for the preliminary work and for the honoraria to be paid to the collaborators, it cannot be reckoned on for any share of the cost of production.

The total cost of producing the edition of the Mahābhārata printed as in the accompanying specimen page, according to the estimate of the Clarendon Press (including corrections and binding), would be £7,322 7s. 11d. for an edition of 500 issued in 17 volumes, made up as follows:—

500 copies of 850 sheets at £7 10s. 0d. per sheet of 16 pages	£	s.	d.
For editorial corrections, allowing 15s. per sheet of 16 pages × 850	6375	0	0
For binding 250 copies of the 17 volumes in full buckram, lettered in gold on back, gilt top with head band, 1s. 1d. per copy, and 250 copies in paper wrapper printed with title on front side and back, at 4½d. per copy	309	17	11
	£7322	7	11

The total cost for an edition of—

750 copies would be	£7891	14	4
1000 „ „	£8461	0	10

The total cost for each volume would be £430 14s. 7d. for an edition of 500, made up as follows:—

500 copies of 800 pages at £7 10s. 0d. per sheet of 16 pages	£	s.	d.
For editorial corrections in proof, allowing 15s. per sheet × 50	375	0	0
For binding 250 copies in buckram at 1s. 1d. and 250 in paper at 4½d. per copy	37	10	0
	18	4	7
	£430	14	7

Though 800 pages are here assumed to be the extent of a volume, the actual number of pages in any volume would be

charged at the rate of £7 10s. 0d. per 16 pages for composition, paper, and printing 500 copies.

The total cost per volume for an edition of—

750 copies would be	£464	4	4
1000 „ „	£497	14	2

If the text and the critical notes were printed in separate volumes, the total number of volumes remaining 17, the cost of the whole edition would be unaffected. Supposing, in this case, only half as many copies of the volumes containing the notes as of the volumes containing the text, the cost would be as follows:—

For printing 500 copies of text and 250 of notes and binding in paper and cloth in same proportion as above	£7032	8	5
For 750 and 375	£7462	1	4
For 1000 and 500	£7891	14	4

On December 31, 1915, a sum of about £1,300 in cash at the Bankers in London would in any case be at the disposal of the Associated Academies for the Mahābhārata edition. This would suffice to defray the total cost of three volumes of an edition of 500 copies, that is ($3 \times £430$ 14s. 7d.) = £1,292 3s. 9d., leaving as a balance the India Office grant of £180 for three volumes ($3 \times £60$). If the India Office grant is raised to £100 per volume there will be (£1,300 + £400 =) £1,700 available for the cost of four volumes, that is ($4 \times £430$ 14s. 7d.) = £1,722 18s. 4d.

It would probably be the best course to begin printing as many volumes as there is enough money for. As soon as the publication of these volumes makes the actuality of the enterprise evident, it is likely that the remainder of the money required would soon be forthcoming, and any returns from the sale of the first volumes published would be available towards the expenses of the rest of the work. The most convenient way would probably be for the editorial committee to publish the book on commission through a publisher like the Oxford University Press having the necessary means of making the undertaking known and of inviting subscriptions throughout the world.

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It will be necessary for the delegates when they meet at St. Petersburg to discuss and settle at least two other important questions connected with the publication. In the first place, are the text and notes to be printed on the same page, as in the accompanying specimen, or are the notes to appear in separate volumes, and possibly in a smaller number of copies? Secondly, is the Committee satisfied that the critical apparatus to be prepared by the editors will be sufficiently uniform in its scale and in the details of its arrangement?

A. A. MACDONEL

OXFORD,
February 25, 1913.

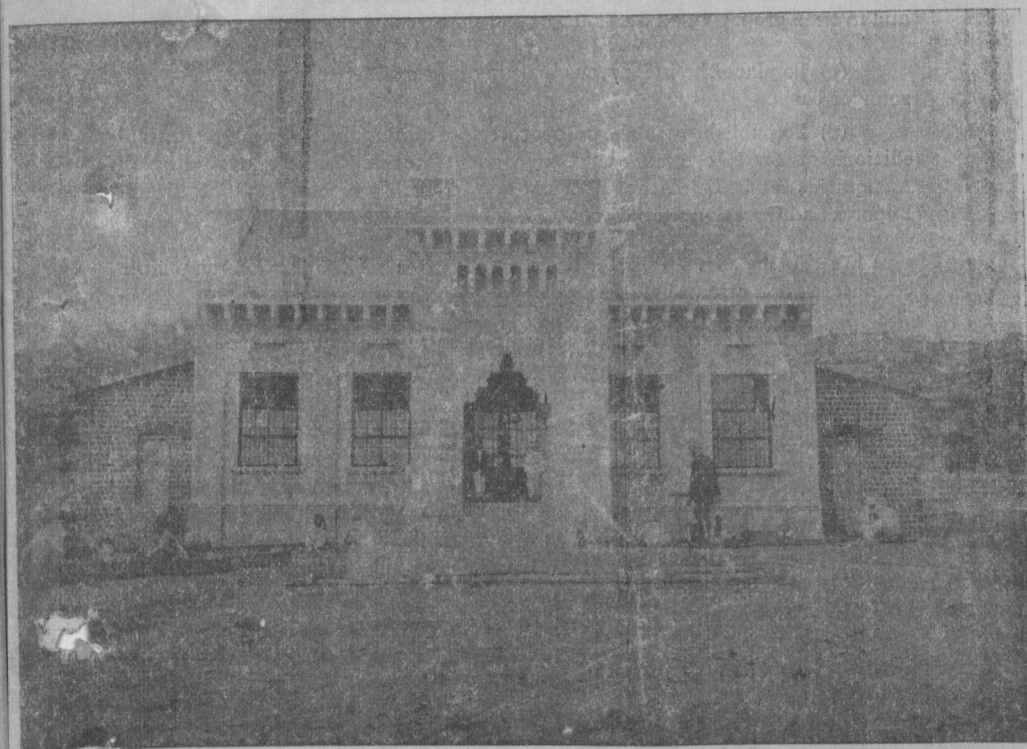


Second Issue, June 1919.

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

POONA CITY

(Registered under Act XXI of 1860)



The present incomplete building.

I HISTORY.—The idea of an Oriental Institute offering facilities to research workers and at the same time commemorating the work and name of Sir R. G. Bhandarkar originated towards the middle of 1915. The scheme was received enthusiastically, and with public support, Government sympathy, and chiefly the noble aid rendered by Sir Ratan and Sir Dorab Tata, the scheme soon materialized, and the Institute was formally inaugurated by H. E. Lord Willingdon, the Governor of Bombay, on the 6th of July 1917. One part of the main buildings of the Institute—the J. N. Tata Research Hall—was

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opened by Shrimant Balasaheb Pant Pratinidhi Chief of Aundh, on 6th July 1918. The Institute began its literary work in October 1918. The Government of Bombay transferred to the Institute the Manuscripts Library formerly at the Deccan College, together with a maintenance grant of Rs. 3000, and also handed over to the Institute, provisionally for five years, the management of the Bombay Sanskrit and Prakrit Series, together with a grant of Rs. 12,000 for that purpose.

II OBJECTS.—(a) To place within the easy reach of advanced research students a first class and up-to-date Oriental Library and to afford them all other ready-made helps in the way of select topical bibliographies, digests of magazine articles, card-indexes and similar critical material.

(b) To train qualified students in the scientific methods of research along Western lines by opening post-graduate classes, founding lectureships and in time preparing students for higher degrees in oriental research.

(c) To place the indigenous learning of the Śāstris on a broader and sounder basis.

(d) To publish, with the co-operation of distinguished scholars, critical editions of texts, original and independent works, bearing upon Indian Antiquities and Literature, as also a Journal, Proceedings, Catalogues, Reports and Occasional Studies.

(e) To act as a bureau for literary advice and information on points connected with oriental studies.

(f) And generally to do everything for the advancement of Oriental learning and studies.

III WORK.—(a) The Mss. Department, in addition to lending out Mss. under the usual conditions has on hand the completion of the card-catalogue of all the Mss. of the Government Library, as a preliminary to a subject and author catalogue of the same. In the near future would be published a catalogue of about 2,500 Mss. added to the Library during the last twenty years. It has also undertaken a descriptive catalogue of all the Jain Mss. in the Library, which has a larger number of these Mss. than any other Library. This catalogue is being compiled under the immediate direction of the distinguished and learned Jain Muni Jinavijayji of Poona.

(b) The Publication Department, besides conducting the work of the Bombay Sanskrit and Prakrit Series, has undertaken a new series which includes texts and independent and original works. For this, co-operation of scholars from everywhere is solicited. It is also hoped to publish in the very near future an authoritative edition of the works of Sir R. G. Bhandarkar prepared under his supervision. In recognition of the handsome help promised by the Jain Community, the Institute is devoting special attention to the publication of Jain and Literature.

(c) The Research Department invites a number of distinguished Oriental scholars from all parts of India to read papers at the Institute. These papers are published in the Journal of the Institute. A class in German for

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the benefit of advanced scholars desirous of learning this language is being regularly held by Dr. K. K. Joshi of the Fergusson College at the Institute. A similar arrangement will soon be made for a French class. At the request of a number of scholars it is proposed to open classes in Pāli, Prākṛit, Archaeology and the old Śāstras, under proper guidance. In order to initiate the Śāstris into the critical method of study, lectures will be delivered for their benefit from time to time in Marathi, summarising the results of the latest research. Provision is being made for teaching the M. A. courses of the University of Bombay in Sanskrit and allied subjects at the Institute.

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(d) The Library Department will soon publish a catalogue of the magnificent Library of Sir R. G. Bhandarkar, of which he has made a free gift to the Institute, and a part of which is already transferred to the Institute. The work of preparing digests of magazine articles and bibliographies is proceeding apace. The Institute seeks co-operation from publishers and authors for its being kept in touch with current Oriental Literature.

(e) The Mahabharata Publication Department owes its existence to the liberality of Shrimant Balasaheb Pant Pratinidhi, B. A., Chief of Aundh. He has undertaken to pay annually Rs. 6000 for preparing a critical and authoritative text of the great Indian Epic with illustrations. Public support is still required to meet the other half of the expenses. A prospectus preliminary to this edition was published on the 1st of April 1919, and the work of collating and comparing Mss. and preparing the press copy began on that day. The preparation of the press-copy is calculated to require about eight years. A staff of workers has been employed. The Prospectus (pp. 44) gives a summary of all important writings bearing on epic studies, indicates in full the nature and the method of the new edition now in preparation and has a sample illustration, drawn in three colours by Shrimant Balasaheb Pant and his artists. Co-operation and suggestions are invited from scholars in the investigation of Mss. and the preparation of the text.

(f) The Journal of the Institute will be issued from July 1919. It is expected that the Journal will in the first instance be issued twice a year: in July and in December. Here again literary contributions from scholars in India and outside are earnestly solicited.

(g) The Information Bureau supplies gratis information on any literary or historical point to all enquirers.

(h) Lastly, it is to be mentioned that the Institute has decided to hold in Poona in October-November 1919 a Conference—the first of its kind—of all the Orientalists in India, Burma and Ceylon. A representative working Committee for the purpose has been appointed and measures calculated to ensure the success of the Conference are being taken.

IV MANAGEMENT.—H. E. Lord Willingdon, now the Governor of Madras is the President, and the Chief of Ichalkaranji, Sir Dorab Tata and His Holiness the Mahabagavata of Kurtakoti are the Vice-Presidents of the Institute.

The General Body of the Institute consists of all contributors to the Institute under the rules. All the contributors have a right of electing mem-

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bers to the Council and being themselves so elected. The General Body meets once a year to adopt the annual report of the work of the Institute.

The **Regulating Council** consists of 30 members, 25 elected triennially by the General Body and 5 nominated by the Government of Bombay. The present Council has members on it from different parts of India. The council meets ordinarily twice a year, passes budgets, controls finances, exercises general supervision and elects an Executive Board.

The **Executive Board**, which carries on the work of the Institute, consists of nine members, two of whom are elected from among the five Government nominees on the Regulating Council. For facility of work, the Board has appointed committees to carry on the different activities of the Institute as indicated above,

The present Executive Board consists of:—

1 Prof. V. K. Rajwade, Chairman; 2 Dr. S. K. Belvalkar; 3 Dr. V. S. Ghate; 4 K. G. Joshi Esq.; 5 Prof. R. D. Ranade; 6 Prof. R. D. Karmarkar; 7 N. B. Utgikar, Esq. Curator; 8 Dr. N. G. Sardesai, Treasurer; 9 Dr. P. D. Gune, Secretary.

V PRESENT NEEDS.—Though the Institute is well started on its career, much remains to be done for establishing it financially on a sound basis. All the money it has received upto now has come ear-marked for specific purposes. The most urgent need is of the addition of the two projected wings to the J. N. Tata Research Hall. In fact no extension of the Libraries and the Reading Room can be contemplated unless the Institute has more room at its command. New and permanent sources of income are required for building up a permanent fund. The Library will have to be maintained at a high level, and an Oriental Reading Room containing journals etc. is a prime necessity. For all these and other purposes including waterworks, improvement of premises etc. help is solicited from all sympathisers and lovers of learning so as to verify the dictum that a literary cause can also be a truly national one. And for literary success, the Institute looks up to the co-operation of scholars from far and near.

VI MEMBERSHIP.—Those desirous of joining the Institute will kindly fill in the accompanying form and send it to the Secretary of the Institute. Other information, if required, will be gladly supplied. Members are entitled to a free copy of the Journal of the Institute and to all the privileges of the Libraries. They are also entitled to a participation in the management as indicated above.

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THE SECRETARY

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute

POONA CITY

DEAR SIR,

I know the aims and objects of the Institute and sympathise with them.

Please enroll me as*..... I am

paying herewith Rs.....

Date

Address

Place

Yours truly

* Please mention one of the following classes:

- A Patron pays Rs. 1000 or more.
- A Vice-Patron pays Rs. 500 or more.
- A Benefactor pays Rs. 250 or more.
- A Life-Member pays Rs. 100 or more.
- An Annual Member pays Rs. 10 annually.



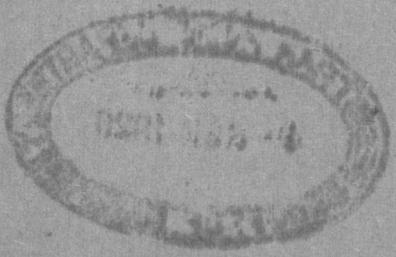
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1920-21

VOL. II

PART I

JULY, 1920



THE DEVANAGARI RECENSION OF THE MAHABHARATA

II

N. B. UTGIKAR

In a former paper (published in ABI. Vol. I, p. 145 ff.), an attempt was made to show, from the evidence of certain Devanāgarī MSS. of the earlier portion of the Sabhāparvan of the *Mahābhārata*, how the text of the epic might have, in all probability, been added to, and how *prima facie*, we could expect to have an untampered text in some of the older Nāgarī MSS. of our poem. I wish to add here further confirmation of the hypothesis there postulated, a confirmation derived from Devanāgarī MSS. of the Virāṭaparvan, and bearing on one or two points from one Adhyāya only, viz. G (= Ganpat Krishnaji's) 2.

It may here be mentioned in passing how far the *Mahābhārata* edition work initiated by the Institute has now advanced. The whole of the Sabhāparvan has been collated from fourteen Devanāgarī MSS. and we have also finished the collation from six MSS. of the entire Virāṭaparvan, and are now at a round of further five MSS. of the same parvan. We shall have therefore ere long before us the complete collation from fourteen and eleven Devanāgarī MSS. of the Sabhā-and the Virāṭaparvans respectively. We hope to have work started at Madras and Calcutta to deal with South Indian and the Bengali MSS. respectively during the course of the next few months. And, in any case, the Mahābhārata Editorial Committee of the Institute have recently resolved that a tentative edition of the Virāṭaparvan, on the basis of the collation work so far achieved at the Institute and on that of select South Indian, Bengali, and Kashmir MSS. be forthwith issued with the accompanying illustrations for invoking suggestions and advice.

Besides C (= Roy's Calcutta edition), G (= as above), K (= Kumbhakonum), I have also consulted in connection with

what follows (1) Lüders' *Grantha-Recension des Mahābhārata* (L), which contains the text of the first thirteen Adhyāyas of the Virāṭaparvan as based on two Grantha MSS., and (2) Bakreshastri's edition of this parvan published in 1915 by Mr. Desai for the Gujarati Printing Press (D.)

I now proceed to indicate from the evidence of MSS. how the text in the second Adhyāya might have, in my opinion, received accretions in some places.

We take up the story at the following situation:—Yudhisthira, after having previously asked Bhīmasena as to in what disguise he would present himself at the Court of the king of Virāṭa, and having received his reply, now turns to Arjuna with the same question, and Arjuna makes his reply:—(G 2. 20, D 2. 25, K 3. 41, L 3. 42, C 2. 25).

MS. 1 begins Arjuna's reply as under—

प्रतिज्ञां षंडकोस्मीति चरिष्यामि महीपते ।

या(ज्या)घातौ हि महान्तौ मे संवर्तुं नृप दुष्करौ ॥

कर्णयोः प्रविमुच्याहं कुंडले ज्वलनोपमे ।

वेणीकृतश(? शि)रा राजन्नाम्ना चैव बृहन्नडा ॥

पठन्नाख्यायिका नाम &c.

With this MS. 6 agrees, except in omitting हि in the second line, and reading the last six letters of the last line of the second verse as चैवृहदला.

Now G has added, before coming to the verse पठन्नाख्यायिकानाम &c.

वलयेः छादयिष्यामि बाहू किणकृताविमौ ।

a line not at all to be found in the text of either of the two MSS. referred to above or in MS. 8; but with this qualification that in MS. 1, it is added in the MARGIN (evidently by a different hand, not however far removed in time from that of the text itself) as

वलयी(?) छादयिष्यामि बाहौ (हू) कृतकणाविमौ ।

The point to be noted therefore is that MSS. 6 and 8 have not this line either in the body of the text, or (as MS. 1 has) on the margin. It is therefore clearly adventitious to the text. Otherwise its absence in three of the oldest MSS. is unexplainable. Two of them

are dated. No. 1 bearing the date संवत् १४ चित्रा (the rest gone away) and No. 6, Samvat 1493. There is a third MS. (No. 10) very nearly allied to these two MSS. in its characters and only removed in time by about hundred years, (date Samvat 1596), which, however, contains in its text the particular line under reference. Our position is now this.—Out of the eleven MSS. thus far compared, two (Nos. 6 and 8) ignore it altogether, one records it on its margin in a different hand, and the remaining eight have received it in the *corpus* of their text. None of these eight MSS. is older than the two initially referred to. The conclusion is plain.—A line originally not to be had in the text of three MSS. begins to gain currency by finding its way on the margin of (only) one of these, and ends by coming a part and parcel of the text.

We might pursue the history of this line a little further. Nilakaṇṭha has no notes on this line: probably there was no room for any. D as was to be expected, has it (2.26a). Neither K nor L however show any but a faint trace of it—there is no reference at all to the chādana by means of the *valayas* though both mention *imanu kinakṛtanu bahū* (K, 3. 41a, L 3. 42a); nor, so far as I have been able to ascertain, is any trace of it to be discovered in the Javanese prose version of the epic (as offered in the *Virāṭa parivwa : Oudjavaansch prozageschrift*, edited by Juynboll, 1912). Finally C has the line (2. 26a).

The line in question requires therefore to be localised as a purely late North Indian production, originating in the amplificatory methods of the Paurāṇikas. This suggestion receives corroboration from a further fact, that the *valayas* are a more common feature of North India than of the South or indeed any other part of India, and so a surreptitious attempt made while expounding the text to a devout but illiterate audience, to bring the old epic into line with prevalent manners, is quite imaginable.

Exactly similar is the case of the line पिनदकंतुः पाणिभ्यां तृतीयां प्रकृतिगतः (G and D 2. 27a). MS. 1 has received it on its margin only, MS. 6 (and also MSS. 8, 9 and 10) have not the line

altogether. L and K, though they have उभौ कम्बू प्रती(ति)मुच्य have nothing to correspond with तृतीयां प्रकृतिं गतः and really nothing seems to be wanted, as Arjuna starts with saying what is implied in these words in प्रतिज्ञां षंडकोस्मीति च(क)रिष्यामि महीपते । The authenticity of this last is vouchsafed for by even the Javanese recension (o.c. p. 11). It should be noted however that L varies the line into आख्याता षंडको स्मीति प्रतिज्ञाता हि पातकम् । (3.43b) and K has not this important statement at all.

Two accretions positively to be regarded as such, and possibly to be confined to North India, have been here indicated. I shall conclude by pointing out an accretion, which some MSS. have received, but from which the text of Nilakanṭha is free,—an accretion that can probably be regarded as belonging to the South.

MS. 1 adds on its *margin* before the reply of Arjuna begins as quoted above, the line:—

सप्तोदमासं पूर्वं वै उर्वस्या कारणांतरे ।

This line is not to be had in C, N and also in D. Three of our MSS. however show it—one, (and the oldest and one of our best) as stated just now, on its margin, and the remaining two, in the body of their text, with only slight variations. As regards its existence in the South, evidence is offered by K 3. 49 (three lines), though not exactly in this particular form. L has nothing to correspond to the line in question nor am I sure that anything corresponding to it may be found in the prose Javanese version.

The motive for adding this line is plain enough.—A sort of justification for Arjuna's assuming the particular guise he chose, was deemed necessary, and there is also the story in the *Mbh.* itself (told in G III. 46 = K. III. 44), which had doomed Arjuna to a period of *klaibya*. Possibly, the basis was furnished in some South Indian MS. (otherwise the inclusion in K of IV. 3. 49 is unexplainable), and thence the theme found its way in

Northern MSS. too. It should be noted that the addition of the line in the margin of MS. 1 is very old.

Kṣemendra's *Mañjarī* fails us in these three cases, evidently because the statements considered here concern mere details of lines.

In spite of these accretions however, the older Nāgarī MSS. must be regarded as of great importance in a critical edition of the Epic. It may perhaps be vain to expect that MSS. of this class older than five hundred years at most could now be had. But such of them as are still available should enable us to arrive at a text older—and possibly better—than even Nilakanṭha's. In saying this, no neglect of other and equally important sources likely to be of use in our task, is intended.

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17. APR 1920.

12 AUG 1920

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FROM THE

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VOL. I. PART II.

31
39
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
18 JUN 1920
MADRAS

THE DEVANAGARI RECENSION OF THE
MAHABHARATA*

N. B. UTGIKAR

1. The object of the present paper is to submit to the critical notice and consideration of the scholars, the general nature and method of the work carried on at the Bhandarkar Institute in connection with the Pant Pratinidhi edition of the *Mahābhārata*, and to offer a brief indication of the conclusions to be drawn from the evidence so far collected. The paper deals with the text of 6 Adhyāyas selected from the first 19 Adhyāyas of the Sabhāparvan, and seeks to point out omissions of verses or group of verses, as compared with the standard Bombay text of the Mahābhārata (B), in the MSS. utilised for this purpose from the Deccan College MSS. Library now transferred to the Institute. The suggestions which are here offered, strictly refer to that part of the text only, which has so far been collated.

2. The work of the collation was formally inaugurated on the 1st of April 1919. Some time was naturally taken up in collecting the necessary staff and the requisite means. Collation sheets of the type approved by the Editorial Committee were prepared. It was deemed desirable to begin work with the Sabhāparvan, both because it was a compact and comparatively a small Parvan, and also because scholars have usually regarded it, at least so far as the story is concerned, as being in the main more genuine and ancient than the first—the Adiparvan. Each single verse of the Adhyāyas has been written continuously at the head of a separate sheet properly divided into columns, and then each separate word or group of words is again written in each of the columns of the sheet.

3. Proceeding in this way the whole of the Sabhāparvan has now been copied. The text on the basis of which this is done is the Ganpat Krishnaji's edition. This work was completed by about July and then the work of collation from the MSS. was taken in hand.

* The article was submitted to the General Sessions of the First Oriental Conference held at the Institute in November 1919 and is now printed in advance with a few slight changes.—[Ed.]

4. The MSS. which have so far been utilised in comparing the text are 14 in number. Five of these contain the text only; 2 contain the text and the commentary of Devabodha and 7 that of Nilakaṇṭha. Some of these MSS. are written very inaccurately and contain numerous clerical mistakes. A brief description may suffice.

No. 1 is about 100 years old and hails from the Kanarese part of this Presidency.

No. 2 seems the oldest of the lot; it is written in the old prṣṭhamātrā style and the letters do not seem to be of a Deccani scribe. Probably it hails from the Northern Indian side. This is one of the most accurate MSS. and contains very few, if any, clerical mistakes; revised in a different hand.

No. 3 written by a scribe called Deshpande from Wai in Mahārāṣṭra, is one of the most incorrect MSS., and seems to have been copied at Benares.

No. 4 has many readings similar to that of the adopted standard text (B).

The affinity between the MSS. No. 2 and 5 will be noted later on.

No. 6 to No. 12 inclusive, contain the commentary of Nilakaṇṭha and are almost similar in point of readings, etc. Of these No. 10 is most troublesome in its clerical mistakes.

Nos. 13 and 14 give the commentary of Devabodha, and the text of both, especially the latter, is most incorrect.

5. As regards the text itself, the 19 chapters which have so far been collated are divided into three Upaparvans. Adh. 1 to 4 make up the Sabhākriyāparvan, Adh. 5 to 12 the Lokapāla-sabhākhyānap. and Adh. 13 to 19 the Rājasūyārambhap. With regard to these parvans, it is interesting to note that Holtzmann (*Das Mbh.* II p. 45 ff.) had regarded the first parvan as "a very modern piece," the second also as one where "we wholly miss ancient traces," and the third as resting on the whole on older material, though the account of Rājasūya is according to his opinion a later invention. Jacobi (*Mbh. Concordanz*, p. 25 ff.) regards Adh. 1 (Sabhāsthānanirṇaya) and very probably Adh. 4 Sabhāpraveśa, and Adh. 15, and 16 Kṛṣṇavākya, i.e., in all four Adhs. only, as containing matter belonging to the *Mbh.* story

proper. One can easily see that the whole of the Lokapāla-sabhākhyānap. (Adhs. 5-12) is not at all required for the march of the events of the main story of the epic. There seems to be no sufficient reason, however, why the chapters detailing the movements of Kṛṣṇa (his going to and return from Dwārakā) should not be regarded as forming a part of, and necessary to, the original story. This is, however, a different matter.

It may be added here that the three different (sub-) parvans together make up, in the Kumbhakonum edition, only one parvan, which is styled the Mantraparvan, and though this edition is not just now taken into account for purposes of comparison, it is all the same worth while mentioning that the total number of verses in that edition of these 19 Adhs. under consideration is 848, against 767 of the Calcutta and 774 of the Bombay edition.

With these prefatory remarks, I pass on to point out the omissions, confining my remarks to those cases where a whole verse or groups of verses are omitted.

Adhyāya I

MS. 1 omits v. 4 beginning with 'Arjuna uvāca.' No other MS. omits this verse. It is an accidental omission here, since context does require the words of Arjuna. Also 'Maya' is written for 'Arjuna', and the 'uvāca' takes the copyist on to the 'uvāca' at the beginning of the next verse; and so this omission is a clear case of haplography or homeographon (described by Postgate, *Enc. Brit.*, Vol. 26, article on "Textual Criticism," and Hall, *Companion to Classical Texts*, p. 184).

MS. 2 and 5 read with slight variations v. 10 as:—

नोदयामास तं कृष्णः सभा वै क्रियतामिति ।

धर्मराजस्य दैत्यै (दैतेय) यादृशीमिह मन्यसे ।

instead of

ततो विचिंत्य मनसा लोकनाथः प्रजापतिः ।

नोदयामास तं कृष्णः सभा वै क्रियतामिति ॥१०॥

यदि त्वं कर्तुंकामोसि प्रियं शिल्पवतां वर ॥

of our printed text. Perhaps MSS. 2 and 5 make a better reading since according to v. 9 of the printed text, Kṛṣṇa has already,

thought of what to ask Maya to do and therefore thinking again as in B seems superfluous.

Adhyāya II

MS. 3 omits v. 8

वन्दे च यथान्यायं धौम्यं पुरुषसत्तमः ।

द्रौपदीं सान्त्वयित्वा च आमन्त्र्य च जनार्दनः ॥८॥

Perhaps the verse seems superfluous. In v. 7 B Kṛṣṇa has already been to Kṛṣṇā and Dhaumya; it cannot be urged that this 8th verse in B is really required to emphasise his *saluting* Dhaumya and consoling Draupadī (i.e. Kṛṣṇā). It is to be noted that Nilakaṇṭha has a long note to justify, from the Vedantic point of view, how Kṛṣṇa being Para Brahman himself should have felt it his duty to salute Dhaumya. It is simply Janāśī-kṣārtham as Nilakaṇṭha says.

The omission of the verse in this MS. is however again due to haplography, the second line of the previous verse being:

ददर्शनंतरं कृष्णं धौम्यं चापि जनार्दनः

MS 2 and 5 omit v. 10, viz.

यात्राकालस्य योग्यानि कर्माणि गरुडध्वज ।

कर्तुं कामः शुचिर्भूत्वा स्नातवान्समलंकृतः ॥

The verse contains a mere formalistic amplification or lenthening out of the incident, paurāṇic embellishment in details. MSS. 2 and 5 drop the three verses B 22, 23, 24.

These three verses again amplify the parting scene that specially occurred between Yudhiṣṭhira and Kṛṣṇa. The connection however, seems to be properly taken up by 'tatas taiḥ etc., v.B. 25 after the verse

युधिष्ठिरं पूजयित्वा भीमसेनं यमौ तथा ।

परिष्वक्तो भृशं तैस्तु यमाभ्यामभिवादितः ॥ २१ ॥

ततस्तैः संविदं कृत्वा,

Mss. 2 and 5 end the Adh. with B v. 29 'syandanenātha Kṛṣṇopi.' But the accepted text has seven verses more; v. 30 mentions those who followed Kṛṣṇa to Dvārakā, Ahuka and others. They are not, however, mentioned as having been with him before. V. 31 adds in the words of Vaiśampāyana how Dharma returned to his place (a fact already implied in v.

29) and spent his time alone in the delightful company of Draupadī (v. 32). The remaining verses 33, 34, 35, 36, again take up the story of Keśava's arrival in Dvārakā. All these verses are not found in MSS. 2 and 5.

Adhyāya III

MS. 5 comes to omit accidentally verses B 2 and 3. This is again a case of haplography. It happens in this way. V. 1 reads

अथाब्रवीन्मयः पार्थमर्जुनं जयतां वरम् ।

आपृच्छे त्वां गमिष्यामि पुनरेष्यामि चाप्यहम् ॥

Then follow vs. 2 and 3. Then v. 4 'āgamiṣyāmi tad' etc.

Now after the copyist of MS. 5 had written 'gamiṣyāmi' of v. 1, his eyes, after they were lifted up, were caught by the '(ā) gamiṣyāmi' of v. 4 and he therefore drops all between, i.e. the remaining words of v. 1 and verses 2 and 3. We therefore notice this third instance of haplography or homeographon and the three cases occur in two different MSS.

MS. 3 omits v. 9 and v. 10 A, it cannot be said how.

Adhyāya IV

Passing over slight omissions, we come to the 4th Adhyāya which contains a description of the Sabhā itself, with Yudhiṣṭhira seated therein. There are two lists given here of (1) the sage and (2) the kings seated in the Sabhā.

At the begining of this Adh. a curious circumstance presents itself. Mss. 2 and 5 omit the parts of verses in B which state that the Brahmins were served with flesh and other things along with fruit and roots:

मांसैः वाराहहरिणैः ।

कृसरणाथ जीवत्याहविष्येण च सर्वशः ।

मांसप्रकारैर्विविधैः खाद्यैश्चापि तथा नृप ।

चोष्यैश्च विविधै राजन् पेयैश्च बहुविस्तरैः ।

Now these are wanting in MSS. 2 and 5, these being the two MSS. that are mutually related and therefore this significant omission becomes all the more striking; we cannot say that the statements in question might have been added later. Are we

to suppose that these statements, offensive to the later taste of the Brahmins, might have come to be expunged, from a group of related MSS. which otherwise seem reliable?

MSS. 2 and 5 omit B v. 19.

एते चान्ये च बहवो वेदवेदांगपारगाः ।

उपासते महात्मानं सभायामृषिसत्तमाः ॥

MS. 5 only has a large lacuna of 13½ verses, beginning with the word after 'Sāvarṇa' (v.l. Sāvarṇi of 2 and 5) of 15, after which it adds 'Karūśādhipati.' The large omission can only be explained on the ground that after 'Sāvarṇi' which formed the last word of a page, one whole page was somehow passed over. No one will, to be sure, be disposed to attach any importance to what appears like an accidental omission extending to about the contents of one side of a page of the MS., more especially as the MS. to which it is most related, viz., No. 2, shows no lacuna except in the case of a single verse. It is to be added, however, that MS. 5 numbers its verses (which is rarely done in other MSS.) and it has a consecutive number, showing no lacuna. We must not, however, forget that the line, as it stands in this MS., is a jumble; presenting immediately after ṛṣi Sāvarṇi the king Karūśādhipati.

MSS. 2 and 5 both omit the following lines B. 32

केतुमान् वसुमान् चैव कृतास्त्रः (क्षतायुः) च महाबलः ।

एते चान्ये च बहवः क्षत्रियाः मुख्यसंमताः (मुख्यसत्तमाः) ।

उपासते सभायां स्म कुंतीपुत्रं युधिष्ठिरम् ।

and also the following half verse, 'sudharmā cāniruddhaśca,' which last contains the list of princes who studied archery under Arjuna at the court.

It should be noted here that among the Ṛṣis who sat in the assembly, are mentioned, in all MSS, Kṛṣṇadvaipāyanaḥ, Śukah, Sumantuḥ Jaiminiḥ Paila Vyāsaśiṣyās-tathā vāyam (last = Vaiśampāyana), for the last the v.l.s. presented are 'vasuḥ' (MS. 2) and 'eva te' in MS. 5; and earlier in the same list is mentioned the Śunaka ṛṣi and not 'Kulapati' Śaunaka of the Naimiṣa-forest fame.

Adhyāya V

With the fifth Adhyāya we pass on to a new parvan, the Lokapālasabhākhyānap. We have already seen that the parvan

is not necessary to the proper march of events described in the Epic. The parvan is not mentioned in the first Anukramaṇi in the 2nd Adh. of the Adiparvan, though it is referred to in the 2nd of the Anukramaṇi in the same place.

At the threshold of this parvan, we meet the famous 'Kāṇikā' 'Kaccita' chapter. And just towards the beginning of the Adh. MSS. 2 and 5 present an interesting fact. Both of them omit verses B 2 to 9. These verses enumerate the qualities of Nārada, whose arrival at the Sabhā is now announced. The chief of the qualities which Nārada possessed and which are enumerated in B (verses 2 to 9) are

वेदोपनिषदां वेत्ता ऋषिः सुरगणार्चितः ।

इतिहासपुराणज्ञः पुराकल्पविशेषवित् ।

न्यायवित् धर्मतत्त्वज्ञः षडंगविदनुत्तमः ।

ऐक्यसंयोगनानात्वसमवायविशारदः ।

❀ ❀ ❀

परापरविभागज्ञः.....प्रमाणकृतनिश्चयः

पंचावयवयुक्तस्य वाक्यस्य गुणदोषवित् ।

उत्तरोत्तरवक्ता च.....

सांख्ययोगविभागज्ञः ।.....

संधिविग्रहतत्त्वज्ञः अनुमानविभागवित् ।

प्राज्ञगुण्यविधियुक्तश्च सर्वशास्त्रविशारदः ।

This seems to be a striking omission. It cannot be explained on the basis of any of the usual causes of omission. Had the omission been confined to only one of the related MSS. (as was the case on a former occasion) no great significance would or could have been attached to it. The two MSS. however, agree in this significant omission. And no motive, too, can be conceived as to why the two MSS. might have come to omit a part of the text which describes the proficiency of the sage Nārada in the various branches of knowledge. Are we, therefore, entitled to regard the verses in question as not forming part of the original text?

The two MSS. again agree in dropping the half verse stating that Nārada was offered, after his arrival, a madhuparka arghya (B 15 a). MS. 2 only and not its fellow MS. No. 5 has a lacuna of 15 vv. B 25 to 39. We have already seen (in Adh. 4) that MS. 5 only has a large lacuna of a similar number of verses.

Here we have another related MS. viz. No. 2 which also shows a similar deficiency. As the MSS. are related in other respects to each other and as the omission in one is not supported by the evidence offered by the other, we can conclude, that the original—the common ancestor of the MSS. from which our present MSS. No. 2 and 5 are copied, did contain the two passages in question. That the present two MSS. are not copied from the same MS. is evident enough. This is borne out by the fact that the MSS. present small differences in other readings and, as has been said, are not uniform in their omissions. We might pass over the omissions (4 in number) in the same two MSS. in the remaining part of the Parvan; as also those in MSS. 1 and 3; there are a good many omissions in the former which yield interesting results regarding the history of the text.

Adhyāya XIII

I shall now point out the omissions in one more Adh. only, viz. Adh. 13. This Adh. is not selected for any special purpose. This Adh. becomes 11 in MSS. 3 and 5, two of the previous Adhs. being not separately numbered in these two MSS. It proposes to describe the state of mind of Yudhiṣṭhira after Nārada had reported to him the message of Paṇḍu urging him to perform the Rājāsūya sacrifice; and Kṛṣṇa returns from Dvārakā, being specially called for consultation.

MSS. 2 and 5 omit B v. 8.

सर्वेषां दीयतां देये मुष्णन् कोपमदाबुधौ ।

साधु धर्मेति धर्मेति नान्यच्छूयेत भाषितम् ॥

A verse unintelligible in itself and devoid of connection.

The same two MSS. also omit vv. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, i.e. nine verses in all.

The ninth verse states that the subjects trusted their king Yudhiṣṭhira, and hence he came to be called Ajātasatru. Vv. 10 ff. state that owing to the parigraha of Yudhiṣṭhira, the protection of Bhīma, the removal of enemies by Arjuna, the righteous administration of laws by Sahadeva and the natural modesty of Nakula, the people became happy. It is also found that the half verse 'vainatyāt sarvataḥ &c.' is not found in any of the five MSS. This large omission of nine verses cannot be regarded as being any

clerical error. Should that teach us how the text came to grow? Really there is no necessity of mentioning the part which each one of the five brothers had in causing and contributing to the general happiness, if Yudhiṣṭhira was the king. My object is however to report the evidence of MSS. and I only urge that the omission of the passage in two MSS. is a striking fact. The rest of the passage states that the country was all happy, etc.

The two MSS. have not the seemingly superfluous v. B 25 'acirāt tvam mahārāja' etc' which would do well as the concluding sentence of a speech, but occurring in the midst of the words of the counsellors sounds somewhat out of place. The remaining Adh. shows no omissions.

* * *

The foregoing examination will have shown that one important result attained by our present examination, is to bring to light omissions, in certain MSS., of verses which had all along been regarded as constituting an integral part of the text, and about the genuineness of which no suspicions were so long entertained. There are other kinds of variations in the text, such as additions or transpositions of verses, or parts of them, and also purely variant readings which cannot be due to clerical errors. A discussion of these all may perhaps be held over. But the important omissions which have been noticed above, will be sufficient to bring home to the mind of every one why it is very necessary to undertake the systematic examination of all the Devanāgarī MSS. available to us. My point here is not to plead the cause of this class of MSS.; but simply to indicate how valuable results may be expected from this direction. A detailed investigation of similar omissions would perhaps justify the assumption that there existed a longer and a shorter Devanāgarī recension; the shorter recension being represented by our MSS. 2 and 5. The longer text would seem to contain amplificatory matter of a Paurāṇic type inspired by a desire to make the story appear formally consistent. It is a fact of common knowledge that the Paurāṇika of the present day, in his explanation of the Sanskrit text, very often adds, though orally, and in prose, additional explanatory matter and this last gains as much credence with

the common people as the original text, sought to be dilated upon. The longer text also contains repetitions of the statements already mentioned.

Our MSS. 2 and 5 agree in not having certain names, in their list, of kings and princes (as in the case of Adh. IV referred to above), a fact which may be due to local causes. An omission of a similar nature, but perhaps more striking, we meet in the description of Nārada in Adh. 5. The omission is common to both the MSS., and our suspicion, thus roused once gathers in volume, when we begin to scrutinise the catalogue of Nārada's qualifications a little more closely and find that his proficiency in Nyāya is very emphatically displayed. The same could be said to the omission quoted from the 13th Adh.

We have been all along accustomed to hold that the Devanāgarī recension of the Mbh. presented a uniform, and as compared with the Southern recensions a shorter, text. If further investigations substantiate our hypothesis, then the current view regarding the Devanāgarī text in itself will have to be considerably revised, and we shall have to admit two lines of traditions—a shorter one and a longer one—in this family of MSS. So far as the present writer knows this is the first attempt of its kind to make generally available the results of the comparison of Devanāgarī MSS. only.

A systematic and thorough examination of the Bengali and South Indian MSS. must also be undertaken forthwith. Such a simultaneous and hand-in-hand examination of the three principal groups of MSS., would make the attainment of a final—the word is used with great diffidence and only for want of a better one—the attainment of a final text, appear nearer in sight. It is not perhaps difficult to set the work agoing at, say, two more centres, Calcutta and Madras, devised on fixed uniform principles. This is all the more easy to bring about, as there are eminent scholars at these centres interested in this great undertaking.

The importance of the Grantha and Bengali MSS. of the Mbh. has been ably shown by H. Lüders in his monograph "*Über die Grantha Recension des Mahābhārata*," in 1901, a book that was not accessible to me, when the *Prospectus* to our present

edition was written in October, 1918, but which was since discovered to exist in the Imperial Library at Calcutta, and recently kindly lent to me by Professor D. R. Bhandarkar. No future edition of the *Mbh.*, that aspires to be called scientific and critical, is possible, unless all the different groups of MSS. have been thoroughly examined and the text based on a comprehensive comparison of the recensions presented. It may not be a mere pious expression of hope to say that a scheme could soon be devised whereby the University of Calcutta would collaborate in the present task by offering all possible co-operation with regard to the MSS. written in the Bengali script. There is a vast amount of MSS. in the Government Oriental MSS. Library at Madras. Help from this Institution would be highly valuable with regard to the MSS. of the *Mbh.* written in the scripts peculiar to S. India. The importance of the work is recognised by all. That a critical edition of the *Mbh.* is the desideratum of our studies is also equally true. But a task of this magnitude requires the co-operation not only of scholars in India but also from abroad, and we have every hope that the Institute will have a full measure of each.

Though the full report of the proceedings of the informal Conference held about two months ago in London—similar to the one which I have the honour of addressing today—is yet not to hand, still judging from the reports received, it appears that the consideration of the European Edition of *Mbh.* did not form a part, at least a prominent part, of the deliberations of the conference. This makes it all the more imperative upon us to concentrate our best energy upon and to expedite the production of a critical edition of the great Epic: and if our method and work will gain confidence, as I hope it will,—and also monetary support—there is no reason why the work should not be an accomplished fact quicker than perhaps at first anticipated.

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AN Appeal to the Princes and Nobles of India to Contribute to the Expenses of Producing a Critical Edition of the Mahābhārata.

AT the General Meeting of the International Association of Academies held in London in May, 1904, a resolution urging the preparation of a critical edition of the *Mahābhārata*, was moved by the German Academies of Göttingen, Leipzig, Munich, and Vienna, and passed. In the execution of this undertaking the Academies of Amsterdam, Berlin, Göttingen, Leipzig, London (British Academy), Munich, Paris (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres), St. Petersburg, Rome, and Vienna are taking part. With a view to the realization of their purpose these Academies have elected a Mahābhārata Committee, consisting of the following members: Prof. F. KIELHORN (Göttingen), Prof. E. KUHN (Munich), Prof. A. MACDONELL (Oxford, British Academy), Dr. S. D'OLDENBURG (St. Petersburg), Prof. R. PISCHEL (Berlin), Prof. L. VON SCHROEDER (Vienna), Dr. E. SENART (Paris), Prof. J. S. SPEIJER (Amsterdam), Prof. E. WINDISCH (Leipzig). This committee, which since its formation has unfortunately been deprived by death of the services of two of its members, Professors KIELHORN and PISCHEL, has appointed an editorial sub-committee consisting of Professors E. HOPKINS (Newhaven, U.S.A.), H. JACOBI (Bonn), H. IJNDERS (Berlin) and M. WINTERNITZ (Prague).

The reasons which have induced the associated Academies to initiate this great enterprise are easy to understand. The pre-eminent importance of the gigantic Epic, the *Mahābhārata*, is universally acknowledged. Next to the *Rigveda*, it is the most valuable product of the entire literature of ancient India, so rich in notable works. Venerable for its very antiquity, it is one of the most imposing literary monuments of the world, an inexhaustible mine for the investigation of the religion, mythology, cosmology, legend, folklore, philosophy, law, custom, political and social institutions of ancient India.

Though so many other monuments of early Indian literature are accessible in model editions, it has hitherto been impossible to prepare a critical edition of this enormous work, containing as it does more than 85,000 couplets. This is easily explained by the vast extent of such an undertaking as well as by the extraordinary difficulties which it presents. These difficulties are largely due to the great diversity and complexity of the forms in which the text of the Epic has been handed down.

As a result of the researches which have hitherto been carried on, there can be no doubt that the text of the *Mahābhārata* has undergone numerous changes, additions, and omissions. The texts of the North Indian and of the South Indian Manuscripts are consequently widely divergent. But even within these two groups numerous differences are again apparent. In the Northern MSS., which have hitherto been the more carefully investigated, at least five different recensions can be distinguished. The divergences within the South Indian group may possibly

turn out to be even greater. In using MSS. of the *Mahābhārata*, therefore, much uncertainty must always prevail regarding the correctness of the text presented by them. The existing editions by no means remove this uncertainty, because they as a rule reproduce only the readings of a particular group of MSS. Thus, for example, the Bombay edition furnishes Nilakantha's recension of the text. Though that recension must be pronounced to be a good one on the whole, it is nevertheless certain that other recensions not influenced by Nilakantha supply in many passages a better text. The well-known Calcutta edition also follows, for the most part, Nilakantha's recension. A similar remark applies to the edition printed in Bengali characters at Burdwan, and to that which has been printed in Telugu characters at Madras. On the other hand, the edition of T. R. KRISHNACHARYA, and T. R. VYASACHARYA, which has been appearing since 1906, reproduces the text of the South Indian MSS.

The proposed critical edition is intended to remedy this unsatisfactory state of things. Its object is to constitute the text from which all existing manuscripts of the *Mahābhārata*, both northern and southern, are derived. It appears that in regard to most of the Parvans this object can be realized without great difficulty. It is only in the case of shorter sections that it will perhaps no longer be possible to constitute a common text. In such sections the various versions will be printed side by side. As, moreover, all divergent readings of any importance will be given in the notes, the edition will, for the first time, render it possible for the reader to have before him at a glance the MS. material for each individual passage. The value of this method for the scientific investigation of the Epic is obvious.

What the associated Academies, therefore, desire to attain and to supply is briefly this: a complete critical edition of the *Mahābhārata*, in the preparation of which all the recensions of the great Epic extant in the whole of India shall have been taken into consideration, and all accessible MSS. collated, estimated, and turned to account.

The most eminent authorities on the *Mahābhārata* in Europe and America have offered their services as collaborators in this undertaking. The reputation of these scholars, as well as the combination of their labours, will ensure the thorough accomplishment of a work which will have the additional guarantee of being produced under the aegis of the associated Academies. There can be no doubt that the appearance of the critical edition of the *Mahābhārata* will be an event fully as important in the world of scholarship as was that of Max Müller's edition of the *Rigveda*, and will enhance the fame of ancient Indian literature in at least an equal degree. It has been decided that the language employed in the title-page, introduction, and notes of the edition shall be English.

The extent of the edition, calculated on the basis of the preliminary work already accomplished, will be, taking text and notes together, a total of 850 sheets, which it is proposed to bind in seventeen volumes of fifty sheets each, large octavo. The great size of the work will be due to the fact that the critical notes, which must present the various readings on an exhaustive scale, will require about the same amount of space as the text itself.

It is obvious that so extensive and important an enterprise must involve a very considerable cost. The honorarium of the collaborators alone, though calculated on a scale which according to European standards is extremely modest,

will swallow up the greater part of the funds at the disposal of the Academies. To this expenditure must be added the cost of printing, which will be very heavy, as it is for various reasons necessary to print the work in Europe.

The following is the estimate furnished by the Clarendon Press at Oxford:—

"Text with Critical Notes;

Composition in the style of the specimen page;

Supplying paper;

And printing;

	£	s.	d.
500 copies of 850 sheets at £7 10s. 0d. per sheet of 16 pages,	6375	0	0
750 " " " £7 19s. 9d. " " "	6789	7	6
1000 " " " £8 9s. 6d. " " "	7203	15	0

Corrections in proof would be extra."

Unfortunately so large a sum by far exceeds the amount, namely, about £2,500, which the combined Academies have found it possible to set aside for the purposes of the critical edition of the *Mahābhārata*. The Academies will therefore be in a position to complete this great undertaking only if they can count upon substantial aid from other sources. Whence could such aid for an edition of the *Mahābhārata* more appropriately come than from India itself, and above all from the Princes and Nobles of that country?—from India, whose heroic tales, legends, religion, and philosophy are the theme of this admirable Epic; and from the Indian Princes and Nobles, whose glorious ancestors are celebrated throughout as warriors in the great Bhārata battle, as brave, wise, and pious heroes! The renown of India and of its Princes and Nobles is for all time inseparably linked with the *Mahābhārata*, the greatest Epic that the world has produced. If the Princes and Nobles of India were to associate themselves with this imposing enterprise, which all the learned Academies of the West have combined to promote, they would indeed be supporting a national work.

We are glad to say that several Indian gentlemen of distinction, representing all parts of India, have in this sense expressed their readiness to co-operate in promoting the production of the great *Mahābhārata* edition. The names of these gentlemen are the following:—

Mahārāja Sir PRODYOT KUMAR TAGORE, Tagore Castle, Calcutta.

The Hon. Mr. Justice CHANDAVARKAR, Bombay.

Sir PRATUL CHANDRA CHATTERJEA, RAI BAHADUR, Lahore, Panjab.

S. MITTER, RAI BAHADUR, Dewan of Chhatarpur, Central India.

Mr. GANGA PRASAD VARMA, Lucknow, United Provinces.

The Hon. Mr. Justice C. SANKARAN NAIR, C.I.E., Madras.

Mr. Advocate-General P. S. SIVASWAMI IYER, Madras.

The Hon. Mr. Justice V. KRISHNASWAMI IYER, Madras.

To the hands of these gentlemen the International Mahābhārata Committee confidently entrusts the task of taking the steps necessary to secure the of this national cause.

A special page at the commencement of the edition will record contributions, in excess of Rs. 1000, and no names other than those of Princes and Nobles, who by their generous aid shall have ensured the publication of the work, will be entered in this particular list.

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4
All drafts and cheques should be made payable to Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., "Mahābhārata Fund," and should be sent to Messrs. HENRY S. KING & Co., 61, Cornhill, London, or to one of the gentlemen named on page 3, who will kindly send them on to the above-named bankers in London.

As representatives of European scholarship devoted to the study of India, its literature and culture, we, the undersigned, in the name and at the instance of the associated Academies, issue this appeal to the Princes and Nobles of India to ally themselves with the learned Societies of the West in supporting the publication of a work which is in a unique manner bound up with the life-history of the peoples of India.

L. v. SCHROEDER, Vienna,
Chairman of the International Committee
superintending the publication of the
critical edition of the *Mahābhārata*.

H. LÜDERS, Berlin,
Chairman of the Editorial Sub-Committee
appointed to control the publication of
the critical edition of the *Mahābhārata*.

A. A. MACDONELL, Oxford,
Member of the International Mahābhā-
rata Committee appointed by the British
Academy.

VIENNA—BERLIN—OXFORD.
March, 1911.

54
140 Home (Edn)
C.Nr. 786 B. From the Secy. Bhandarkar
Institute Poona. 45 d/14.4.20

End. 786 B-1 d/23.4.20

C.Nr. 1549 B. From the D.P. D. 5410/20
d/10.8.20

Subject: "Mahābhārata"

For the Registrar

Besides the
purchase of copies for the institutions
stated by the D.P. D. a copy may
be purchased for the Oriental
Mss. library and another for
the Connemara Public library.
2 of the D.P. D.'s proposal
is accepted, for approval of
the D.P. D. the draft sub. is for approval.
d/8.20.

BR
20.8.20

CA
22/8/20

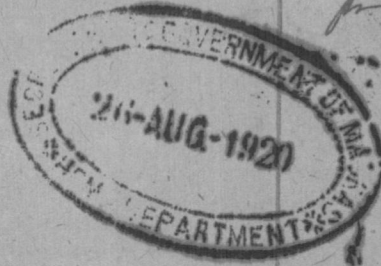
Before proceeding with this file further,
I want the P.S.G. to see it.

From W. 1549 B-1
23.8.20
The application from the Bhandarkar
Institute was received and forwarded
by office to D.P.D. I was not aware
till now that an application
had been received.

P.S.G. (uor)

23/8/20

41
21/55
H.E. reports that the information previously
given to him was inaccurate. He has
also written to the Chief & Council saying
that no application had been received
for assistance



to be
24.8.20

Office

Any precedent in office pre-
mising Govt. help to such under-
takings?

R. R. R.
26-8-20.

The following precedents show
that the Govt. have only helped such
undertakings, by ^{the} purchase of copies
of the book: —

Remitted -
Flag

(I)	Go. 1161	Edn 22-9-19
(H)	" 393	" 14-4-15
(F)	" 543	" 12-5-14
(E)	" 551	" 11-6-13
(D)	" 623	" 12-7-12
(C)	" 581	" 2-7-12
(B)	" 428	" 18-5-12
(A)	" 391	" 4-5-12

In 1913 when Mr. J. R. Krishnamacharya,
Proprietor of the Madava Veda Book
Depot, asked ^{Govt} specifically for a recurring
honorary towards the publication
of certain Sanskrit works, the Director
(~~the Hon. Sir Henry Stone~~ Sir Henry Stone) ~~was~~
who was consulted in the matter said
that

Res in
no. 588

at K
R 4 of note to
Go. 551 Edn 11-6-11
E



356
43
"additional purchases would be preferable to an honorarium".

Accordingly only additional copies of the work were purchased

2 Precedents for cases where the Govt. promised to cooperate in the compilation of a private literary work by permitting their staff to render assistance, and for sanctioning a half grant to the private institutions in the Presidency for the purchase ^{of such works} ~~are~~ ^{are} not traceable: ~~the~~ ^{however} The promise

p 40

of half grant in this case ~~is~~ ^{however} ~~is~~ ^{is} in accordance

~~with the provisions~~ of Art. 57 of the Grant-in-Aid Code. The Director's recommendation as regards facilities for borrowing and copying manuscripts is based on

Q. 242 Home (Gen) of 23-2-20.

3 The financial liability as regards half grant ^{to private} ~~of the~~ ~~Govt~~ institutions cannot be estimated now. The cost of books to

be purchased ^{by Govt} will come to Rs 2700.

5 first grade colls - 5 x 300 = 1500
2 Training colls 2 x 300 = 600
Comm. colls & govt 2 x 300 = 600
Total Rs 2700

Jd
8.9.20
PDR
8.9.20

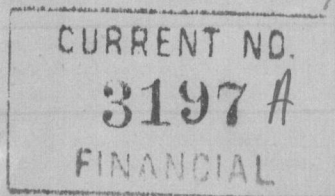
A
10.9.20
S

23.9.



Cor no 1549 B. 4

11/9/20



11/9/20

124 57 4
This is a stupendous undertaking.
It is a matter of great importance
to all India. And fortunately
it is in competent hands. In addition
the draft would suggest an annual
contribution of Rs 1000 per annum
till the work is finished to a
maximum of 15 years, provided
we consider the progress every
satisfactory.

11/9/20

2-2-20

Financial Dept

There are three proposals involved in
the present case.

(1) The purchase of 9 sets of copies at an approxi-
mate cost of Rs 300 per set - vide para 3 of notes ^{on page 3} above

(2) The payment of half grant to such private -
institutions as decide to purchase copies of the
Book - para 3 of notes on page 3 above. and

(3) The payment of ^{recurrent} annual contribution of
Rs 1000 ^{for a maximum period of 15 years} till the book is finished. ~~for 15 years~~

Secy's note above

2 Submitted that this department may agree
to the purchase of 9 sets of copies above referred to.

p 3 ante

AG: officinallid.

(not put up)

WS 58-5

3. With regard to item (2), it is submitted that as observed in the Home (Edn) note in para 3 above, the financial liability in this case cannot be estimated until it is known how many private institutions will require the publication.

4. With regard to item (3) the necessity for ^{recurring} annual grant for ^{a period of} 15 years is not apparent. It does not seem to be within the competence of the Local Govt to sanction it.

Ph 14/4 20 14/9

I think it is clear that promises to buy the books wont help now. They wont be ready for 15 years.

What they want is money to carry out the undertaking - So that proposal 3 is the really important one. The AG probably will class it as expenditure outside the range of ordinary administration & will want Indian sanction. May we ask him formally?

CS, 12 a.v

If the Bhandarkar Institute can be called an educational institution the local Govt have powers of sanction under rule 10 (10A) on page 21 &

ct. 1549B

rule 18A ⁴⁶ on page 24 of the Book of 7P
It would appear however to be rather
straining the meaning of the words
to call it an educational institution.
Apart from this, I doubt if Govt
ought to promise a cash contribution
or to undertake an indefinite
liability to pay half the cost of
copies of the book supplied to "institutions
under private management". The
scope of this should be more clearly
defined & if Home wants a cash
contribution H.M. Fin^l should see

K

lols

19/9/20

TD Home

Incl no 3197A-1
20/9/20

Regr

Home (Eon)

For orders as to circulation
with reference to Chief Secy's note at K
supra, as regards cash contribution.



^{76.} 2/ Instead of "institutions under
^{in this draft} private management" we may
perhaps say "first grade Arts
and Sanskrit colleges
colleges under private management".
The Director has recommended the
supply of books ^{foot.} to the first
grade Arts colleges ^{at} half grants
for the purchase of the books ^{in this} may

Box 13
date 1/10

WJ 60-7

similarly be restricted to first grade
Arts colleges under private management.
~~Copies~~ Sanskrit colleges may be asking
to purchase the book & they may also
get a half grant. For orders.

RR

28.9.20

Even if we promise half grant,
we are not now in a position to
say whether the managements
may contribute the other half.

So the second proposal
may drop now

2. The first proposal is sure
to be sanctioned but as it relates
to the distant future may drop.

3. The point for decision is
the 3rd proposal. The Bhandarkar
Oriental Research Institute is
certainly an educational institute

For orders on the 3rd proposal

Wm
30/9/20

Wm

Hml 2/27

I see no objection to the D.P.'s proposals
but as he notes point out their adoption
would give little or no present help. It
is possible that if approached the Madras
University might be willing & able to

A

28 8 61

give definite pecuniary assistance in connection with work carried on in S. India, but I shd not be prepared to advocate any grant from Provincial funds at that first consulting Professor Macdonell of Oxford in order to assure ourselves

(ii) that this project is in capable hands,

(iii) that it really merits pecuniary aid, &

(iii) that it can be carried out in cooperation with the "work in progress" in Europe & is not a superfluous by reason of this work.

The total cost - Rs 3 lakhs spread over 15 years - ought to be well within the scope of private subscription & the case for Govt aid is on that account weak.

He shd. see also. $\frac{L.D.}{3 \times 20}$

I quite agree - and would further suggest that the Govt of India be consulted. The matter is an all-India matter and it would be much more satisfactory that the Govt of India should give a Govt subsidy once for all

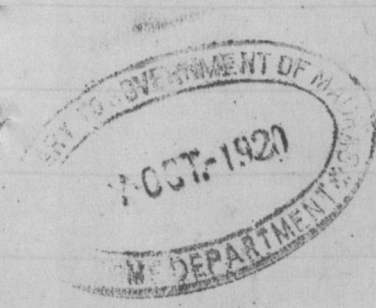
p. 13 of
Pamphlet

H. D. 12
7-10-20

69 62

It is placed under the temptation
of pitting one board against
another

U. 10 20



I am afraid I can't agree with my hon. colls.
but when I opened the Institute at Poona may
be biased. I do feel however that the Institute
is likely to become a very valuable one for
Oriental research, & that we shld. support
it for that reason. All the Bombay Govt. Sanskrit
other works etc. were at the Deccan college
have been handed over to it. I do feel we might
help with Rs. 1000 a year

W. 7.10.20

Resubmitted
21/10/20

Hm

Hm 7/10/20

If H.M. accents to an elementary
grant of Rs. 1000 per annum. I will not
demand further but I remain of opinion
that consultation of Prof. Mac Donell
is a desirable preliminary: in such
a matter I wd. gladly accept his
opinion as final.

Ld.
7.10.20

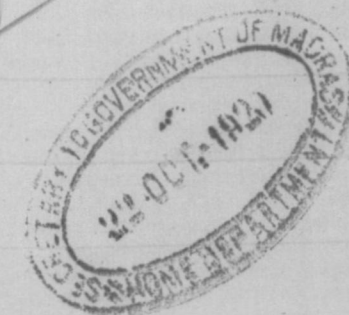
H.2. 278
15.10.20

50 63

I am afraid I am still of opinion
that it is desirable to ensure that we
are not contributing to work that
is being done elsewhere and to consult
the Govt of India

8
11.10.20

OK
13/10/20



Submitted for orders as to further action
or discussion in Council.

OK
13.10.20

Submitted
15/10/20

H.E. the Governor

I am quite ready that my hon. colts. shd. make
any inquiries they please, but hope they may be
made quickly. If the replies are satisfactory
I think the sum of Rs. 1000 might excite
the interest of the full Council.

15.10.20

Vort
22/10

Regr.

Draft letter to Prof.
Macdonnell and to the Govt. of
India submitted.

CVU
22.10.20

OK
25.10.20

See A on p7,
not another reference to the same?
25/10/20

5

64
11

Regr.

With reference to the Secy's query at the bottom of p. 10 supra, it is submitted that it is not clear whether H. M. intends a reference to the university by the Govt. It may perhaps be left to the ^(Bhandarkar) Institute to approach the university [and a ^(hint to this effect) ~~letter~~ ~~request~~ ~~may~~ ^{perhaps be given} ^{to the Institute when communicating the Govt's final order on the application}]. For

order.

CV
26.10.20

26.10.20
15 No. 2011

Draft saying that the matter is under consideration but will take some time to dispose. Meanwhile suggest an application to the Universities in India. Verify however if there is any informal as to whether the Institute has done so already

K.

27/10/20

Draft submitted

'K' above. There is no information

in office on this point.

CV
27.10.20

Please telephone to the Indus office my name ask.
28/10/20.

52

12 65

Regr

It has been ascertained
 from the university office that they
 have received an application from
 the Institute and that it is to
 be considered by the Syndicate at
 its meeting ^{on} ~~of~~ the 1st Nov. The
 second sentence in the draft below
 has ~~may~~ ^{been} struck out.

CR
 28.10.20
 J.L.
 28.10.20

CR
 29.10.20

me
 29/10/20

Mh 7-9 y

Letter Ref. 1549B-3 of 25-10-20 to Prof. Mac-
 donnell of Oxford.

Mh 10-11 y

1549B-4 of 25-10-20 to The Secy.
 to the Govt. of India, Dept. of Econ.

Mh 12-14 y

C No 2382. From the Govt. of India, No 146
 of 17-11-20.

Regr

The receipt of the reply from
 Prof. Macdonnell of Oxford may be
 awaited.

J.L.
 29.11.20

CR
 1.12.20

For personal

J.L.
 29.11.20

I understand that
 the Syndicate of the

17-9 out

4846
7.12.20

53

66-13

Madras University has resolved
that it does not see its way at
present to take any action on the
application for assistance received
by it.

For perusal

my
6/12/20

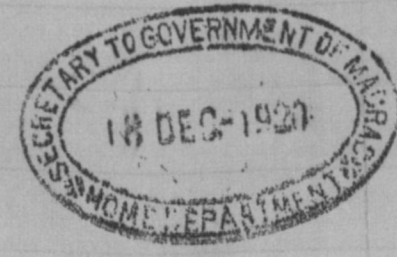
Hm

H.S.

If the Madras University won't help now, &
the Govt. of India won't help at all (p. 14. f.),
the case for Provincial help from Madras is
a weak one. But if Prof. Macdonell commends
this venture in reply to our letter (pp. 7-9 of.),
I shall be ready to advise an annual grant
of Rs. 1000. & ~~to be ready~~

I have retained the file of the last moment
in the hope that I might discuss it with
J. J. Thomas, the Librarian, of the India
Office. But he either has not received or
will not answer my letters regarding his
library in S. India.

He may, I believe, be in Madras any
day!



16.12.20

16.12.20

1549

Subd that the file may be over
till the receipt of reply from Prof.
Macdonell. Pander on 20 Jan 1921

Jh.
18.12.20

A
21.12.20

M
22/12/20

A draft reminder to

Prof. Macdonell is Subd.

Jh.
18.1.21

A
20/1/21

Jh.
19.1.21

plb of

C No. 838 B. from the Secy. Bhandarkar
Gentile Research Institute No 1511/20
27-2-21.

Prof. Macdonell has not
yet replied. He may be reminded, if
need be on 1-4-21.

= A draft letter to Secy.
Bhandarkar institute is submitted for
approval.

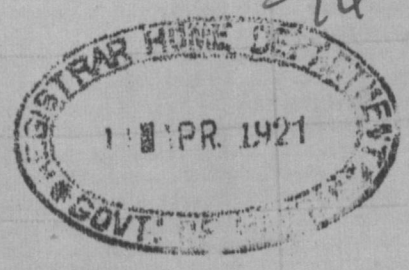
Jh.
16.3.21

A
14.3.21

M
15/3/21

Jh.
14.3.21

M I have read Sir Lionel's
note of 16.12.20. So there may
be in sending a reminder to
Prof. Macdonell especially after
the Indian Univ. & India Dept
have viewed the matter dispa-
-rately. I think the matter may
well be allowed to drop.
2/1/21



This has
been
seen
11/2

68
Law (Eon)

Mr 20-22.7

C No. 1090 B. From Prof Mac Donnell
of Oxford on 9.3.21

For the Reqr.

The ~~posed~~ ^{main} file on the
question of ^{patronage to} "Maha Bharata" was
circulated to M.1 on 15.3.21. Sub-
mits that this current may lie
over till the file returns from the
Minister, ~~and there is no need to do so~~

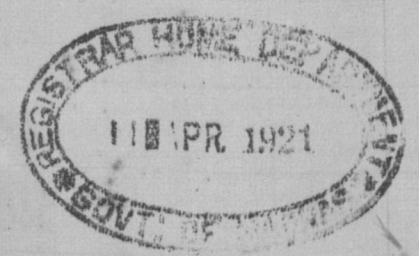
Td.
31.4.21

Td.
16.4.21

A
7.4.21

For favour of return of
main file May 9/4/21

14 ante My. Orders have already been passed on
the main file. I have since received a
reply from Prof. Macdonnell's letter which
but confirms my view. A/11/4



Submitted for orders as to
circulation to H.E.

Td.
16.4.21

A
18.4.21

May 21/4/21

HE

B:52
C:214
D:

22/7
H.P. 24/5/21

69/46

I am still not satisfied. Professor
Macdonald considers it important to get
out a critical edition of the Mahabharata,
& urges cooperation between the English &
Indian committees in order that they may
collaborate.

I also wrote to the Bhattacharya Institute
urging this collaboration, saying we will
give all the help we can here, & offering
them Rs. 1000 a year towards their expenses.

W. 18.5.21

For orders as to circulation to M, and
HM (Fried).

Tel
19.5.21

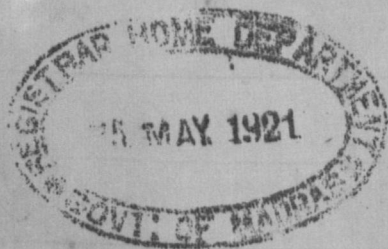
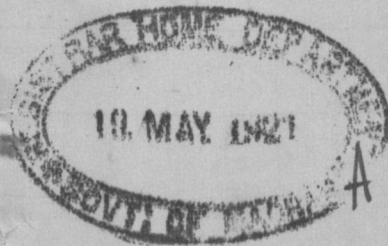
18.5.21

May
23/5/21

M3

C4

I would not dissent to the
suggestion of H.E. Prof Macdonald
states that in the case of this particular
proposal pecuniary support should be given
and under definite restrictions as a subsidy
payable after the publication of the volume
b) An annual grant towards the expenses
of the preliminary work (Classification &





and Collation of mss) payable on the receipt of a satisfactory report of the progress of the work made in the Indian Presidency during the preceding year" & he states further that "I am strongly in favour of payment of results in a case of this kind." If cooperation could be arranged between the Indian and European Editorial Committee & could agree upon a uniform method of publication, the proposed grant would be of great value to the Committee. There is no doubt whatever that a Critical Edition of Mahabharata should be edited & published by competent persons. India would be too grateful for such a publication and then an Indian Committee competent to undertake the work co-operates with European Committee & proceed to work as suggested by Prof Macdonell there is no objection if we the help Rs 1000/a year on receipt of a satisfactory report of the progress of the work made in the Presidency during the preceding year" -

I agree to the proposal as set out in the Reg's note at A. M. 24/7

Please put up a draft 20/7

U.S.

A draft order based on H.E's orders is submitted for approval.

3. It is not clear whether H.E and H.M. (Finance) intend that the grant should be unconditional; M is, however, of opinion that the grant should be paid on receipt of a satisfactory report of the progress of the work made in the Presidency - during the preceding year.

As it is not likely to be intended that a grant ^{is to be paid} under any condition of the work, whether any progress is made or not, and as it will be an incentive to work to make the payment of grant depend upon satisfactory progress, subject to approval, a clause has been added to the draft that the offer of grant is conditional on evidence of progress.

3. Apparently it is not the intention to give the grant only if co-operation with the European Editors is secured. H.E. only orders urging the point for their adoption. A report of the -- decision of the Institute has been asked for in the draft.

4. It is presumed that the grant of Rs. 1,000 per annum ^{should continue} ~~is~~ to be given until the completion of the work. The Secretaries of the Institute request an annual contribution till the work is finished which, according to their present estimate, is fifteen years.

5. Apparently the cost should be debited to '47-A Miscellaneous- Donations for Charitable purposes--Reserved in the Budget Estimate for 1921-1922'. This will have to be mentioned in the order only when finally sanctioning the disbursement of the grant on the first occasion. Financial ma.

p. 17 ante

~~postponed~~

p. 16 ante

p. 29 et.

A

be asked to say whether they agree.

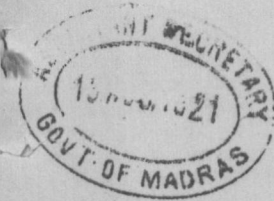
T.K.
5-8-21

No No. 10203-1
19.8.21

CA
16/8/21
Finance Dept

SS
1882

File 5623 B
12821
CAS



Finance Dept

The Finance Member agrees to a grant of Rs. 1,000 per annum - Vide his note on p. 17 read with H.E's note on p 16 supra -.

The draft order may be accepted.

2

Funds.

The grant is to be disbursed in the year following that in which it is earned. It is not clear whether any grant is to be paid for the work done last year.

The expenditure should be debited to "30. Scientific Societies - Donations to Scientific Societies - Transferred" and not "47. Miscellaneous" as presumed by the Law Dept - Vide G.O.R. 259, F. dated the 3rd November 1919.

Last sentence
para 2 of draft

Grant XIV p15
p. 132 6 B 8

para 5, p118
supra
XII

24
one
which

As the grant is a recurring one, the reappropriation should be sanctioned by the Finance Dept

p1326B6

60 20 75
If the grant is to be disbursed in the current year for work done last year, the Law (Education) Dept may be asked ^{whether it could be met} ~~to sanction~~ from the lump provision of Rs. 20,000 for Public Libraries under the head "30-Scientific Societies - Donations to Scientific Societies."

Rs 3084

Law (Edu) Dept

L. H. H. H.

7.12.21

For Rs 5623B1
294

Law (Edu) Dept

The intention of Govt appears to be to subsidize the work from start to finish. As the work was started in April 1919 and the grant is payable on receipt of a satisfactory report of the progress made during the preceding year, a grant of Rs 1000 will have to be paid in the current year if and when the Institute applies for such a grant. The Institute has first to report whether it agrees to the terms offered by Govt.

3-SEP-1921

para 2 of draft

For Rs 2628 B
87.21

para 1 of draft

2 As regards the source from which

which the expenditure, if ⁷⁴any, in the current year is to be met, it may be noted that the ~~provision~~ ^{sum} provided of Rs 20,000 for 'Public Libraries' under

p. 132 of the C. B. E.

(R)

"30C - Scientific Societies" has already been disbursed. Vide Gov No 719 Law (Edn) of 3.5.21. The Finance Dept. has been separately asked to state whether an additional allotment can be made for grants for Public Libraries. If additional provision is made, the expenditure in the current year on account of a grant to the Bhandarkar Institute

A
The Finance Dept.
has since stated
that no add.
provision can be
made

may be met from that provision. If not, the amount will have to be met ~~by~~ by reappropriation from the budget provision under '31 Education. Many Case the matter may be further considered after the double 3 with the above remarks

B

the file may be sent to Finance

no

CA
9.9.21

SB
1094

Finance Secy

NO No 1090B-2
10/9/21

Finance 6272 B
10/9/21

TL
9.9.21



Finance Dept.

(Notes from p. 19 only need be read)

A. in the Education Dept's note on p 21

Law (Edn) has already been informed that no additional allotment can at present be made for grants to Public Libraries.

B. in the Education Dept's note on p. 21

The reappropriation proposed is not permissible as it involves reappropriation from one grant (Grant XVI for Education - Transferred) to another grant (Grant XIV for Scientific Dept.)
The^a supply: grant will have to be obtained -

2 However, as suggested by Law (Edn),
the question of funds may be considered
after hearing from the Bhandarkar
Institute whether they accept the terms

Last sentence
of para 2 on p 21.

A circular ink stamp from the Secretary to Government of Madras, Home Department. The text "SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS" is curved along the top inner edge, and "HOME DEPARTMENT" is curved along the bottom inner edge. In the center, the date "9 OCT 1921" is stamped. There is a handwritten signature or initials across the bottom of the stamp.

May the Sub? to the Honble the Minister
of H.E. for approval of draft. Please
see para. 2 of the note on page 18
Encl.

Für 60621 2B-1

21 SEP 1971

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
20 SEP 1921

Sectt. II-10 (b)—12-1-16.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.—

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona----

Patronage to the Mahabharata - promised

READ AGAIN G.O. No....., dated 191

” ” ” ” ” 191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 786 B, From the Secretary, Bhandarkar No. 45/20-191
Oriental Research Institute 31, dated 14-4-1920

II
" " 1549-B " " D.P.I. Dis.No. 5410/20 " 10-8-1920 194

	III	
" " 2382-B,	" Govt.of India No., 146 "	17-11-1930 191
	IV	
1090-B	Professor Macdonall	9-3-1931

ORDER.

No. 1465, dated 14-10-1917

Mis

While admitting the need for the compilation of a scientific and critical edition of the Mahabharata and appreciating the labours of the Bhandarkar -- Oriental Research Institute, Poona in the field, the Govt. consider it desirable that the proposed edition should be carried out in co-operation with the work in the same direction which, understood, has been in progress in Europe for sometime, in order that there may be no duplication of so extensive an undertaking. The Govt. would accordingly strongly advise the authorities of the Institute to arrange for the necessary collaboration between the Indian and European Editorial Committee so that they may agree upon a uniform method of publication. The Govt. w

17
e had to have a report from the -
authorities of the final decision of
the Institute in this matter and of the
ultimate arrangement that may be made
to carry it out.

3. The Govt will be prepared to give
the Institute every help they can, in
the way providing facilities for copying
and referring to the manuscripts in Govt.
libraries in this Presidency, and the
Curator, Govt. Oriental Manuscripts Library
Madras will be requested to render all
possible assistance in the compilation.

3 The Govt will also offer the -
Institute a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,000
per annum towards the expenses connected
with the work until it is finished, &
payable on receipt of report of satis-
factory progress of the undertaking.

See preceding year
G.N.
4-8-21
T.K.
5-8-21

18
1882

To

4/10
The Secretary, Bhandarkar Oriental
Research Institute, Poona. (q of I & o)

The D.P.I.

The Curator, Oriental Manuscripts
Library.

The Principal Librarian, Connemara
Public Library.