

1. Number of pages. 1
2. Date of repair. 5-5-31
3. Initials of Referee
M.R.O. 1-30,000-10-10-20

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	959	Press Mis.
(19-20)		
Dated	3-7-	1918/1

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
3rd July 1871.*

No. 19. Read the following letter from Messrs. TRUBNER and CO., to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated London, 19th May 1871.

We have the honour to enclose a prospectus of a proposed Vedic Grammar, and request the favour of your submitting it to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

2. The want of a Vedic Grammar has often been pointed out to us, and the wish expressed that we should undertake its publication. This we are ready to do if we can obtain a number of subscribers sufficient to reimburse us a part of the heavy outlay which the production of such a work will entail upon us.

3. Under the advice of competent judges we addressed ourselves to Professor Benfey as probably the fittest Sanskritist to prepare such a work. He has consented to enter upon the task, if sufficient encouragement be given, and he has embodied in the accompanying prospectus the principles by which he will be guided in the compilation of the proposed Grammar.

4. Soliciting your kind recommendation of the proposed work when submitting it, we have, &c.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1871, No. 959.

Messrs. Trübner and Co. will be informed that the Secretary of State for India has been requested to send this Government three copies of the "Grammar of the Language of the Vedas, by Dr. Theodor Benfey."

(True Extract.)

Acting Chief Secretary.

To Messrs. Trübner and Co., 60, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

Exd. J. Wright.

Cat. of 1871 3d ed.

PUBLIC.

To
MESSRS. TRUBNER AND CO.

Dated July, 3rd.

Recd.

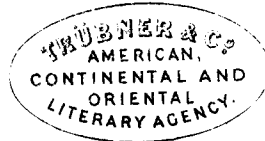
End

G. O., 3rd July 1871, No. 959.

JULY.

Nos. 19-20.

Informing that the Secretary of State has been
requested to send this Government three copies of
the "Specimen of the Language of the Vedas," by
Dr. Theodor Benfey."



60, Paternoster Row.
London. May 19th 1876.
E.C.

To the
Chief Secretary to Government.
Madras.

Sir

We have the honor to inclose a prospectus
of a proposed Vedic Grammar & request the favour
of your submitting it to the consideration of
His Excellency the Governor in Council.

The want of a Vedic Grammar has
often been pointed out to us and we were prepared
that we should undertake its publication. This
we are ready to do if we can obtain a number
of Subscribers sufficient to reimburse us a part
of the heavy outlay which the production of
such a work will entail upon us.

Under the advice of competent judges
we addressed ourselves to Prof. Benfey, as probably
the fittest Sanskritist to prepare such a work.
He has consented to enter upon the task if sufficient
encouragement be given & he has embodied in
the accompanying Prospectus the principles
by which he will be guided in the compilation of
the proposed Grammar

Soliciting your kind recommendation

PROSPECTUS.]

It is proposed to publish, if a sufficient Number of Subscribers be obtained,

A GRAMMAR OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE VEDAS:

BY

DR. THEODOR BENFEY,

Professor in the University at Göttingen, Member of the Royal Society of Science in Göttingen,
Foreign Member of the Academy of Science in Munich, Corresponding Member of the
Institute of France in Paris, of the Royal Academy of Science in Berlin, of
the Royal Academy of Science in Pesth, of the Imperial Academy
of Science in Vienna, etc.

THE importance of the Vedic Hymns for the history of the primitive ages of mankind, especially for that of the Indo-germanic race, must suggest the wish, that the study of these earliest productions on record should be facilitated as much as possible.

The most appropriate means to this end would be a special grammar of the Vedic language.

Some of our Sanskrit grammars, it is true, more or less treat of the language of the Vedas; but on the one hand they no longer answer the present position of Vedic philology, and on the other, the Vedic language occupies in these grammars a place far below its importance.

For while the language of the Vedas ought to hold the first rank in a history of the Sanskrit language, it stands in these Sanskrit grammars in a subordinate position to that of the classical Sanskrit, and is treated in them as though it only were a dialect of the latter, differing from it merely by some idiomatical peculiarities.

In a Vedic grammar this relation will be necessarily reversed, and thus a way cleared to a correct insight into the history and development of the language of ancient India.

The Vedic language does not, indeed, *completely* differ from classical Sanskrit. Its phonetic, inflective and syntactical laws, although in a large portion of the hymns not the same as those of the classical Sanskrit, are in other parts identical with them.

A Vedic grammar, therefore, will be in many respects a grammar of the classical Sanskrit also, and it will thus enable the student to pursue the phases undergone by Sanskrit until it assumed the form in which it is preserved in the classical literature of India.

The importance for the purposes of comparative philology of a grammar of the most ancient poetry of the Indo-germanic race is obvious and needs no special explanation.

The Vedic grammar of Professor BENFEY will contain all that is required for a grammatical understanding of the Mantras (*i.e.* hymnical and similar parts) of the four Vedas—the Rigveda, the Sāmaveda, the Yajurveda (the Taittiriya as well as the Vājasaneyi Samhitā), and the Atharvaveda. It will treat of the phonetic rules, the grammatical formations, and the syntax of the language of the Vedas; and since the Vedic language, as before stated, also comprises the forms of classical Sanskrit, the proposed work will be at the same time a grammar of the latter, always showing, however, that the classical Sanskrit is the last phase of the Vedic language.

It is not intended to include special investigations in this grammar. It will only contain facts and such notes as may be necessary to explain the origin of grammatical forms and similar matter.

The Vedic Grammar will appear in one octavo volume of from 600 to 700 pages, the price to Subscribers before publication to be 21s. per copy; and in no case can any deduction from this price be made to Agents or Booksellers.

TRÜBNER & CO.,

8 & 60, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.

Book 12 of 23
or 24 of 23
or 25 of 23

1874: 959
23 July 1874

Small table 3 sheets.
1st. Sanskrit Library
1st. University Library
1st. 1874.

J. B. S.

Public Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MARDAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from

Messrs. Triibner and Co.,
dated 19th May 1871.

Order thereon 3rd July 1871/10959.

Messrs. Triibner and Co.
will be informed that the
Secretary of State for India,
has been requested to send
this Government three copies
of the "Grammar of the
Language of the Vedas by
Dr. Theodor Benfey".

L. N.

To Messrs. Triibner & Co.
60 Paternoster Row
London E.C. supd by

Recd. 27th July 1871
L. N. 1275

11/18/71

Dr. Barker's
11/18/71
11/20/71

Book of 1871

To

Public

Dr. Barker's

Dated July 5 } 1871, No. 959
Recd.

Nos. 19. 20.

Notwithstanding that the day
of the 11th has been
quarantined to the 11th
three copies of the
of the language of the
Notes by Dr. Barker
Barker.

Gr no 959 Gd 20

8 $\frac{2}{92}$ 2520/920
12.75

7 $\frac{8}{92}$ / 12.75

