



# SAHITYA AKADEMI

## Monthly News Bulletin

January, 1964

No. 1

### Welcome to Orientalists

WE BEGIN this series of monthly News Bulletins by extending a warm welcome to the distinguished delegates to the XXVI International Congress of Orientalists. Internationalism is now the vogue, but when this Congress first met in 1873 in Paris, it needed considerable imagination on the part of its valiant organisers to foresee the great future of such international deliberations. Since then the Congress has met regularly, generally once every three years.

This is the first time that this august body is meeting in India, or for that matter in any country of Asia. The choice of India for its first venue in Asia is a happy one, for it was in this country that the first foundations were laid of the study of Indology as a scientific discipline, when the Asiatic Society of Bengal was founded by Sir William Jones on the first day of 1784, nearly a century before the International Congress of Orientalists was first inaugurated.

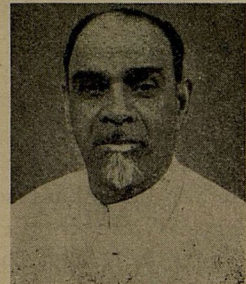
There was a time when Sanskrit wellnigh monopolised the attention of foreign indologists. This was not surprising, considering how fundamental this "language of the gods" is to an understanding of Indian culture and its remote affinities to the Indo-European civilisation. Nevertheless, India is not a mere mausoleum of antiquities. It is a living civilisation with its varied expression in the many spoken languages of today. Many of them have a rich past, and all of them a richer future. It is a happy sign that this fact is

being increasingly appreciated in the world of dology.

As the National Academy of letters of the host country and as a member of the L'Union Academique Internationale, Sahitya Akademi wishes the distinguished and learned delegates a fruitful session and a pleasant stay in this country.

#### K. M. Panikkar

THE SAHITYA AKADEMI is grieved to record the passing away of Sardar Kavalam Madhava Panikkar on 10 December 1963. He was a distinguished diplomat, historian, educationist, novelist, poet and playwright. He wrote in English and Malayalam. Born on 3 June 1895 in Kerala, he was educated at Oxford University and Middle Temple, London. He was Professor of History at Aligarh Muslim University (1919-22); Prime Minister of Bikaner State; Represented India at the Pacific Relations conference and the General Assembly of United Nations; Ambassador to China and to France; Member, States Reorganisation Commission; In all, he published 58 books. His Malayalam novel *Kerala-Simham* was translated in Hindi; and he transla-



ted Shakespeare's *King Lear* in Malayalam for Sahitya Akademi. His well-known English works are : *A Survey of Indian History*, 1947 and *Asia and Western Dominance*, 1952. We offer our deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

WE ALSO record our deep sorrow at the passing away on 20 September 1963 of Prof. Artavallabha Mohanty and on 21 October 1963 of Dr. C. Kunhan Raja, both of whom were at one time actively associated with the Sahitya Akademi. Prof. Artavallabha Mohanty was a profound scholar of both Sanskrit and Oriya and did pioneer work of lasting merit in the discovery and editing of many old Oriya texts. We are glad to note that the Orissa Sahitya Akademi has instituted Annual Lectures to be delivered in his memory. Dr. Kunhan Raja was a Sanskritist of great repute and filled with distinction the chair of Sanskrit at the Universities of Madras, Teheran and Andhra. He was a specialist in Vedas and wrote commentaries on *Rig Veda* and *Sama Veda*.

### George Seferis

WE CONGRATULATE George Seferis on the award of the 1963 Nobel Prize for Literature. This is, we believe, the first time that this award has gone to a Greek poet—a fact which illustrates one of the ironies of history that a language to which European civilisation is most indebted should have taken so long to attain this distinction in its modern incarnation. Perhaps this is a crude way of putting it, for Greek, like Sanskrit, has had many incarnations. The glory of Greece is reflected in all the languages of Europe, as that of Sanskrit in the languages of India. "This sun was mine and it was yours: we shared it"—so begins a poem of George Seferis, referring to an altogether different context.

Seferis maintained his vocation as a poet even while he followed the profession of a diplomat. This may seem a strange combination, but is, in fact, not so rare. We have in our midst in Delhi today a distinguished poet who is also the ambassador of his country. Signor Octavio Paz, the Ambassador of Mexico, is one of the leading Spanish poets and was recently awarded the Grand Prix Internationale de Poesie.



### Aldous Huxley

THE BRUTAL assassination of President Kennedy was a tragedy so shocking that it overshadowed the great loss to the literary world, during the same week, in the passing away of Mr. Aldous Huxley. In him we have lost one of the most sensitive and alert minds of our time. He was truly a representative writer of the modern age, for his creative genius drew largely on the resources of scientific knowledge. His last book which is only currently being reviewed was appropriately named *Literature & Science*. He was at home in both.

But his most admirable trait, from the point of view of an Indian reader, was his spiritual sensibility which enabled him to draw wisdom out of knowledge. This rarest of virtues is not in accord with the modern temper which probably explains why the earlier cynical and merely clever Mr. Huxley was a far more popular author than the later wise and compassionate sage.

The Sahitya Akademi had the privilege of receiving him and Mrs. Huxley as its guests when he visited India in 1961 to participate in an International Literary Seminar held in New Delhi to mark the centenary of Rabindranath Tagore's birth. He left behind with us an unforgettable impression of vast learning subdued by wisdom, of the charm and modesty of a truly aristocratic mind. We offer our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Huxley.

### Chaturanga

WE ARE HAPPY to announce the publication of the English translation by Sri Asok Mitra of Rabindranath Tagore's famous novel, *Chaturanga*.<sup>1</sup> This 'sensitive, moving, evocative tale', as

(Continued on page 4)

<sup>1</sup> Published by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Pp. 101, Price : Popular edition Rs. 5, Silk-bound Rs. 8; Foreign edition 3.50 dollars or 18s.

# Some Select Akademi Publications

THE AKADEMI publishes books in sixteen major languages of India and has so far published about 300 volumes, which include Histories of Literature, Critical Editions of Classics, Anthologies, Bibliographies, Translations of good literature from one Indian language into other, as well as of foreign classics into Indian languages. A printed catalogue of these publications is sent free on request. A few titles which may be of particular interest to the delegates to the Oriental Congress are given below :

## English

1. CHATURANGA (novel) by Tagore. Translated by Asok Mitra. Pp. 101. Foreign edition : \$3.50, 18s.; Indian edition : silk-bound Rs. 8, ordinary Rs. 5.
2. HISTORY OF BENGALI LITERATURE by Sukumar Sen, with a Foreword by Jawaharlal Nehru. Pp. xii+431, Foreign edition : \$2.50, 18s.; Indian edition : Rs. 8.
3. HISTORY OF ORIYA LITERATURE by Mayadhar Mansinha. Pp. ix+282, Foreign edition : \$3.50, 18s.; cloth-bound Rs. 8, ordinary Rs. 6.
4. CONTEMPORARY INDIAN LITERATURE (a survey of literature in fifteen Indian languages and English as written by Indians). Revised and enlarged second edition with a Foreword by S. Radhakrishnan, Pp. viii+338, Foreign edition : \$1.75, 12s.; Indian edition : Rs. 4.50.
5. THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF INDIAN LITERATURE (1901-1953), Vol. I. Comprising Assamese, Bengali, English and Gujarati languages. First Volume in the series of four Volumes. General Editors : B.S. Kesavan and V. Y. Kulkarni. Pp. xii+798, Foreign edition : \$21, 150s.; Indian edition : Rs. 50.
6. WHO'S WHO OF INDIAN WRITERS. A reference book containing factual information, biographical and bibliographical, of about 5500 writers in all the languages of India. Pp. vii+410, Foreign edition : \$4, 30s.; Indian edition : Rs. 10.

## Sanskrit

1. MEGHADUTA by Kalidasa. Critically edited text with Introduction and Notes in English by S.K. De and General Introduction by S. Radhakrishnan. First volume in the series of critical editions of Kalidasa's works sponsored by Sahitya Akademi. Pp. 32+xxxviii+115, Foreign edition : \$1.50, 10s. 6d.; Indian edition : cloth-bound Rs. 5, ordinary Rs. 2.50.
2. VIKRAMORVASIYA (drama) by Kalidasa. Critically edited text with Introduction and Notes in English by H. D. Velankar and General Introduction by S. Radhakrishnan. Second volume in the series of critical editions of Kalidasa's works sponsored by Sahitya Akademi. Pp. viii+lxxxviii+148, Foreign edition : \$3, 21s.; Indian edition : cloth-bound Rs. 8, ordinary Rs. 6.
3. KUMARASAMBHAVA (epic) by Kalidasa. Critically edited text with Introduction and Notes in English by Suryakanta and General Introduction by S. Radhakrishnan. Third volume in the series of critical editions of Kalidasa's works sponsored by Sahitya Akademi. Pp. x+xxxiv+254, Foreign edition : \$5, 37s.; Indian edition : cloth-bound Rs. 12.50, ordinary Rs. 10.
4. PURANETIHASA SANGRAHA (an anthology of epics and puranas). Edited by S. K. De and R. C. Hazra. First publication in a series of Sanskrit anthologies to be published by Sahitya Akademi. Pp. xvi+353, Foreign edition : \$4, 25s.; Indian edition : cloth-bound Rs. 10, ordinary Rs. 7.50.
5. BAULDHA SANGRAHA (selections from Buddhist Texts). Edited by Nalinaksha Dutt. Second publication in a series of Sanskrit anthologies to be published by Sahitya Akademi. Pp. xxviii+144; Foreign edition : \$4, 25s., Indian edition : cloth-bound Rs. 10, ordinary Rs. 7.50.

# Some Recent Releases

## Assamese

EKURI ETA CHUTI GALPA (21 short stories of Tagore). Translated by B. K. Bhattacharya, with an Introduction by Somnath Maitra. Pp. xviii+416, Rs. 9.

## Bengali

CHAITANYACHARITAMRITA (biographical epic of Sri Chaitanya) by Krishnadas Kaviraj. Abridged and edited by Sukumar Sen. Pp. xxiv+648, Rs. 10.

## Gujarati

EKOTTARSATI (101 poems of Tagore). Translated in Gujarati script and translated by Umashankar Joshi, Nagindas Parekh, Ramanlal Soni, Suresh Joshi and Niranjana Bhagat. Pp. xxiv+378, Rs. 12.

## Kannada

NIBANDHAMALA, Vol. II (select essays of Tagore). Translated by A. R. Krishna Sastri, with an Introduction by A. N. Moorthy Rao. Pp. xiv+440, Rs. 7.75.

## Malayalam

MALAYALA KAVYA RATNAKARAM (an anthology of Malayalam poetry). Compiled and edited by Suranad Kunjan Pillai. Pp. xx+354, Rs. 7.

## Punjabi

KANGRA (A study of its art, culture and people, along with its songs) by M. S. Randhawa. Pp. xii+472, Rs. 12.

## Sindhi

CHOONDA SINDHI KAHANIYON (an anthology of Sindhi short stories). Compiled and edited by Gobind Malhi and Kala Rijhsinghani. Pp. xxviii + 290, Rs. 3.

## Telugu

EKOTTARASATI (101 poems of Tagore). Translated by T. Veeraraghava Swamy. Pp. viii + 402, Rs. 6.50.

## Urdu

VIVEKANANDA (The Life of Swami Vivekananda as told by Romain Rolland). Translated by Ehtesham Hussain. Pp. 206, Rs. 4.50.

## Nepalese

RAVINDRANATH KA KATHA (21 short stories of Tagore). Translated by Ishwar Baral, with an Introduction by Somnath Maitra. Pp. 420, Rs. 8.

## Tibetan

SNYAN-NGAG-BSDUS-PA (select poems of Tagore with a short biography of the Poet). Translated by Suniti Kumar Pathak. Pp. xvi + 128, Rs. 10.

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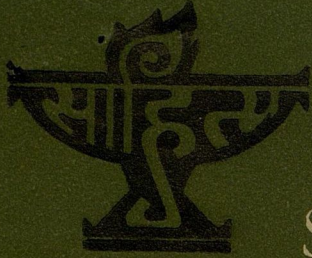
Norman Cousins, the distinguished Editor of *Saturday Review* (New York), described it, has been hailed as a perfect gem among Tagore's novels. Written half a century ago it still holds its place among modern Bengali classics. The late Professor Dhurjati Prasad Mukerji, a critic of originality and discernment, referred to it as 'a work of art without blemish. Its compactness, its tensions, its unity of design make it undoubtedly the best novel of Tagore.'

The novel spans about half a century of life and thought in Bengal at a time when Bengal was in the forefront of modern renaissance, and is a masterly analysis of the impact of nineteenth century Western rationalism on the deep-seated spiritual craving of the Indian mind. In no other novel has Tagore portrayed with such poignancy and power the eternal dilemma of the idealist—to renounce or to possess?

The strangely moving, enigmatic Damini is one of the unforgettable characters in Indian fiction. She, no less than the theme, is intensely contemporary yet timeless.

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# SAHITYA AKADEMI

## Monthly News Bulletin

February, 1964

No. 2

### A Month to Remember

**J**ANUARY is always an exciting month in Delhi. Few places on this earth have such a pleasant mid-winter, with its bracing cold, a benign sun, and a profusion of flowers. Public monuments are crowded with visitors, and no park or stretch of grass is without some lazy lengths basking in the sun, making one feel that it is good to be alive, despite the world-worries of politicians. The crowning excitement of the month came, as usual, on the 26th when the main highways overflowed with the pageantry of the Republic Day celebrations.

This year the month began with an outstanding event of international significance. Delhi was the venue of the 26th International Congress of Orientalists. Erudite scholars had gathered from many parts of the world to confer on problems of Oriental and African studies. The Summaries of Papers read at the various sessions of the Conference had been thoughtfully published in advance by the Organising Committee and are an impressive record of the range and scope of the deliberations. Delhi is not likely to witness such an illustrious gathering of savants and scholars for many years to come.

The initiative in the study of Orientology as a scientific discipline as well as its development during the last two centuries is largely indebted to the contribution of Western scholars. The traffic so far has been mainly one-sided, for the contribution of Asian scholars to the study of

Western history, archaeology, art and literature is comparatively negligible, despite the overwhelming popular attraction of Western knowledge. We know of no Indian whose contribution to a better knowledge of any aspect of Western civilization can be compared to what men like Max Mueller, Oldenberg, Sylvain Levi, Winternitz, Colebrooke, Sherbatsky, and a host of dedicated Western scholars have done in the field of indology.

This is a great pity and reflects on the poor quality of our Indian Universities which are not so much seats of learning as colossal machines for turning out graduates like sausages. How else explain the sorry fact that while young Russian, Czech and American scholars could read original papers on the intricacies of Bengali and Tamil grammars, no Bengali scholar is adequately equipped to speak with authority on Tamil or Telugu, and no Tamil scholar on Bengali or Punjabi?

We talk boastfully of Greater India, but how many Indian Universities have competent Chairs for Cambodian, Siamese, Indonesian, Simhalese and other neighbouring languages? If Chinese and Tibetan studies have developed in India, it was mainly due to the initiative of Rabindranath Tagore who found a home for them in Santiniketan and induced eminent indologists from the West to come as visiting professors to stimulate their study.

## The Writer in an Age of Crisis

AT A LITERARY FORUM organised by the Madras Regional Office of the Sahitya Akademi on 17 December 1963, Dr. Amiya Chakravarty, Bengali poet and humanist, spoke on the writer's role in an age of crisis. He emphasised his thesis that the business of the writer is to feel the "giant agony" of the world by citing the examples of Tagore, W. B. Yeats and Boris Pasternak who wrote in full awareness of the crisis they were experiencing. Tagore could not help concerning himself with the "riddle of the universe" and the "problem of evil". Mahatma Gandhi expressed the same idea when he wrote, "A man who cannot feel a pinprick in his leg is suffering from paralysis." Discussing the keen sense of responsibility that great writers felt for their own people and their response to others' suffering, Dr. Chakravarty went on to say that since they wrote with feeling and sincerity, their writings were often personal documents of what was going on inside them. This made Pasternak remark, "If you are translatable, you are not a poet."

Dr. Amiya Chakravarty who is Professor of Comparative Religions and Literature in the Boston University had been invited by the Madras University to deliver a course of lectures as Tagore Professor of Humanities. Later in the month the Visva-Bharati University conferred on Dr. Chakravarty its highest academic distinction, "Deshikottama" (equivalent to D.Litt. *honoris causa*).

## Subramanya Bharati

THE TAMIL POET, Subramanya Bharati, is one of the greatest poet-patriots of modern India. His eighty-second birthday was celebrated in Madras on 28 December 1963. Sri Namakkal V. Ramalingam Pillai, a leading Tamil poet, Sri P. Sri Acharya, a veteran critic, and Sri Parali S. Nellaiyappar, an associate of Bharati and his publisher were honoured on the occasion.

In Delhi a three-day celebration of the Tamil poet's birthday was inaugurated by Sri Jawaharlal Nehru who is also President of the Sahitya Akademi.

A selection of Bharati's poems has been published by the Sahitya Akademi in Tamil (*Bharatiyar Inkavi Tirattu*), and its translations in Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. A Hindi translation is under preparation, and will be followed by translations in some other north-Indian languages.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Tamil Writers' Association was held in Madras, on 21st and 22nd December 1963. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Chief Minister, Madras, inaugurated the conference. As a part of the proceedings, a symposium on "Translations in Tamil" was held under the presidency of Prof. T. P. Meenakshisundaram. There was also a poets' meet.

## Kannada Sahitya Sammelan

THE 44TH KANNADA SAHITYA SAMMELAN was held from 28th to 30th December 1963 at Siddhaganga, a holy place of pilgrimage in Tumkur District in Mysore State. Dr. R. S. Mugali who is a distinguished Kannada scholar and poet and a winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award was the President-elect of the Conference. Sri Vaikuntha Baliga, Chairman, Legislative Council, Mysore, inaugurated the Conference.

## Maithili Book Exhibition

THE ALL INDIA MAITHILI SAHITYA SAMITI held an exhibition of about 2,000 Maithili books and manuscripts which was inaugurated by Sri Jawaharlal Nehru in Azad Bhavan, New Delhi, on 9 December 1963. Maithili has a very rich literary heritage and its great 14th-15th century poet Vidyapati has been a source of inspiration to poets in Hindi, Bengali, Assamese and Oriya. Rabindranath Tagore was a great admirer of Vidyapati and never tired of quoting his exquisite verses. We are glad the Delhi public had an opportunity of seeing this exhibition.

# Some Recent Akademi Publications

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## Assamese

CANDIDE (French novel) by Voltaire. Translated by Raihan Shah. Pp. viii+116, Rs. 5.

## Bengali

ANTIGONE (Greek play) by Sophocles. Translated by Alokeranjan Dasgupta. Pp. 76, Rs. 2.50.

## Gujarati

EKOTTARASATI (101 poems of Tagore). Transliterated in Gujarati and translated by Umashankar Joshi, Nagindas Parekh, Ramanlal Soni, Suresh Joshi and Niranjana Bhagat. Pp. xxiv+378, Rs. 12.

## Hindi

ARASWATICHANDRA (Gujarati novel) by

Govardhanram Tripathi. Abridged by Upendra Pandya. Translated by P. S. Sharma 'Kamlesh' with an Introduction by Umashankar Joshi. Pp. 406, Rs. 7.50.

## Kannada

EKANKA SANGRAHA (An anthology of Kannada one-act plays). Compiled by Adya Rangacharya. Pp. xii+208, Rs. 5.

BASAVANNANAVARA VACHANA SANGRAHA (Selected vachanas of Sri Basavanna). Compiled by S. S. Malwad. Pp. xxxiii+206, Rs. 3.

## Malayalam

CONFUCIUS TATVA CHINTAKAL (Analects of Confucius). Translated by Verghese Kalathil. Pp. vi+236, Rs. 4.

## Marathi

RAVINDRANATHANCHYA EK-SHE-EK KAVITA (101 poems of Tagore). Translated by Acharya Bhagwat, Gopinath Talwalkar, C. D. Deshmukh, T. R. Devagirikar, V. M. Bedekar, Srikant Gogate, Sripad Joshi and Smt. Sindhu Joshi, with a Foreword by Humayun Kabir. Pp. xxvi+250, Rs. 14.

## Book of the Month

# ASOKAVADANA

by Sujitkumar Mukhopadhyaya

SAHITYA AKADEMI is glad to announce the publication of the well-known Sanskrit work, *Asokavadana*\*, edited, annotated and partly translated by Prof. Sujitkumar Mukhopadhyaya of Visva-Bharati. The original Sanskrit text of the *Asokavadana* was published for the first time in 1886. Messrs Cowell & Neil included it in the *Divyavadana*.

No attempt had been made to re-edit this important and ancient text for almost a century.

\* Pp. lxxv+183, Rs. 18 or 8 dollars or 36 s. Available from Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi-1.

That the Sanskrit text is very old is proved by the fact that the first Chinese translation was made by Parthian Fa-Ch'in in A.D. 300. The work rapidly became popular in China and other scholars made fresh translations at various times. As late as A.D. 506-523 Sanghabhara revised the whole of the text.

Prof. Sujitkumar Mukhopadhyaya who has edited and published a number of old Sanskrit texts has edited the *Asokavadana*, critically comparing it with its oldest Chinese versions.

The *Asokavadana* has thus been made available in an authoritative and accurate form. It is enriched by a scholarly introduction in English, an English translation of certain sections, and various Appendices and Notes which, it is hoped, will be found useful.

### Oriya

BANACHARI (Bengali novel: ARANYAK) by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyaya. Translated by Lakshmi Narayana Mohanty, with an Introduction by Suniti Kumar Chatterjee. Pp. xiv+334, Rs. 6.

### Punjabi

NIBANDHAMALA, Vol. I (Select essays of Tagore). Translated by Dev Raj Chanana, with an Introduction by Kazi Abdul Wadud. Pp. 626, Rs. 22.

KANGRA. A study of its Art, Culture and People along with its songs by Mohinder Singh Randhawa. Pp. xii+472, Rs. 12.

### Sindhi

DUKHI INSAN (French classic: LES MISERABLES) by Victor Hugo. Abridged and translated by M.M. Gidwani (reprint). Pp. 108, Rs. 2.50.

SACHAL SARMAST JO CHOONDA KALAM (Selections from the poems of Sachal). Edited by K. B. Advani. Pp. vi+196, Rs. 5.

### Tamil

VASTU (play: FAUST, Part I) by Goethe. Translated by A. Doraisami Pillai. Pp. 198, Rs. 4.

IRAYA INDIYA ILAKKIYAM (A survey of Indian Literature). Translation of CONTEMPORARY INDIAN LITERATURE by A. G. Venkatachary, with a Foreword by S. Radhakrishnan. Pp. xii+616, Rs. 12.

RAVINDRAR KUZHANDAI ILAKKIYAM (A selection of Rabindranath Tagore's writings for children). Compiled and edited by Lila Majumdar and Kshitis Roy. Translated by T. N. Senapati and M.P. Periaswami Thooran, with an Introduction by Lila Majumdar. Pp. 250, Rs. 5.50.

### Telugu

RENDU SERLU (Malayalam novel: RANTITANGAZHI) by Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai. Translated by Gannavarapu Subbaramayya. Pp. vi+120, Rs. 3.

AMRITA SANTANAM (Oriya novel: AMRITARA SANTAN) by Gopinath Mohanty. Translated by Puripanda Appalaswamy. Pp. viii+600, Rs. 7.50.

MIRI BALA (Assamese novel: MIRI JIYARI) by Rajanikant Bordoloi. Translated by Bh. Markandeya Sarma. Pp. 96, Rs. 2.50.

### Urdu

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