

**A SANSKRIT PRIMER:  
BASED ON THE LEITFADEN  
FÜR DEN ELEMENTAR-  
CURSUS DES SANSKRIT**

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A Sanskrit Primer: Based on the Leitfaden für den Elementar-Cursus des Sanskrit by Georg Bühler & Edward Delavan Perry

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**GEORG BÜHLER & EDWARD DELAVAN PERRY**

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A  
SANSKRIT PRIMER:

BASED ON THE

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FÜR DEN ELEMENTAR-CURSUS DES SANSKRIT

OF

PROFESSOR GEORG BÜHLER

OF VIENNA

BY

EDWARD DELAVAN PERRY,

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE, NEW-YORK.



BOSTON:

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1886.

## Preface.

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In the preface to the work\* of which the following is a revision, Prof. BÜHLER writes as follows:

"The following *Leitfaden* was written last winter [1881—82], and, printed in manuscript form, was used in the instruction of quite a large number of scholars. It is based upon the purely practical method of Sanskrit instruction, which was introduced at HAUG's and my own instance into the Indian secondary schools, and has become established there by means of R. G. BHĀṆḌĀRKA's text-books. The attempt to transfer this method to European universities is justified by the practical success which, as my experience shows, is to be gained thereby. For I have found that beginners master the first difficulties of Sanskrit very rapidly, and that learners take the most lively and continued interest in the study, if opportunity for activity on their own part is given them from the very first, and they are introduced at once into the living language. Moreover, the question of economy of time is made the more weighty by the fact that the elements of Sanskrit form an

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\* *Leitfaden für den Elementarunterricht des Sanskrit; mit Übungsstücken und zwei Glossaren.* Von GEORG BÜHLER. Wien, 1883. — I have translated above a little freely.

important aid to students of Classical and Germanic Philology, yet to a large number of such are accessible only when the subject can be mastered in a short time. On the other hand, the disadvantages necessarily entailed by the purely practical method may readily be removed later by a short methodical exposition of the grammar . . . . . The verses in the exercises are taken chiefly from BOEHLINGK's *Indischen Sprüchen*; the sentences are in part derived from various Sanskrit works, or modelled after passages contained in them. To the last lessons no Sanskrit exercises have been appended, since the reading of the *Nala* or of some other easy Sanskrit work may very well be begun as soon as the formation of the perfect has been learned."

After using the *Leitfaden* for some time in the instruction of a class, I was convinced of its great merits as a practical introduction to the language; while on the other hand it seemed very unfortunate that it held throughout to the native system of grammar, which, since the appearance of Prof. WHITNEY's work, we in America at least have learned to distrust. Under these circumstances it seemed advisable to attempt a combination of BÜHLER's practical exercises with WHITNEY's theory; and to this end the book has been really rewritten. An introduction has been added, giving a general view of the structure of the language; the exercises have been pruned here and there, chiefly to remove forms which seemed too unusual or doubtful to have a just claim on the beginner's memory; and the number of lessons has been reduced from forty-eight to forty-five, by condensing the description, needlessly full for beginners, of the aorist, precativè, and secondary conjugations. I have endeavored to retain nothing but what would supply the real wants of those for whom the book is de-

signed; yet here and there, having in mind those who may take up this study without a teacher, I have added explanations which I should otherwise have left for oral communication by the instructor.

A detailed explanation of the changes in the grammatical part of the book would require too much space to be given here. They may be summarized in the statement that I have striven to remove all forms at present "non-quotable". In the explication of the rules I have sought to be brief, but never to the sacrifice of clearness. In very many cases not only the substance but also the words of Prof. WHITNEY's rules have been incorporated into those of the Primer, which was done with his sanction. It seemed quite needless to designate all such borrowings by quotation-marks.

Many acknowledgments are due to those whose aid has made possible the appearance of the work. Prof. BÜHLER's ready generosity in consenting to the rendering of his book into a very different form from that which he gave it deserves most grateful mention. To Prof. WHITNEY I owe deep gratitude for many valuable suggestions; he was kind enough to look over the work in manuscript, and, later, to put at my disposal the advance sheets of his invaluable collection of verb-forms. To Prof. LANMAN I am equally indebted; as well for many useful hints as for the arduous task of looking over proof-sheets, which he imposed on himself with characteristic readiness. My pupil, Mr. A. V. W. JACKSON, assisted me not a little in the compilation of the Glossaries. My acknowledgments are also due to the printers, GEBR. UNGER (FR. GRIMM) of Berlin, for the careful manner in which their part of the work has been done.

From V. S. APTE's "Guide to Sanskrit Composition" I have derived occasional examples.



The appearance of the book has been delayed considerably beyond the date originally planned for it. The printing was begun in November last, but was interrupted by my illness, and a resulting stay of considerable length in the West Indies.

I shall esteem it a favor if any who may use this book will notify me of misprints or inaccuracies of any sort which they may remark.

E. D. P.

BERLIN, August, 1885.

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NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

In this edition errors have been corrected in the plates wherever possible, otherwise noted in a list of corrections and additions at the end of the book. My thanks are due to Prof. LANMAN, and Prof. H. F. BURTON of Rochester, for corrections furnished.

E. D. P.

NEW YORK, September, 1886.

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