

**JOURNAL OF THE
PALI
TEXT SOCIETY, 1908**

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T. W. RHYS DAVIDS

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Pali Text Society

JOURNAL

OF THE

PALI TEXT SOCIETY

1908

EDITED BY

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS, F.B.A., Ph.D., LL.D.

OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW

PROFESSOR OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

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PALI TEXT SOCIETY.

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REPORT OF THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1907

THE Society has maintained during the year the slow but steady progress experienced during the last few years. It may now be considered self-supporting. Though the number of regular subscribers is still very small, the subscriptions, together with the sales of back issues, prove sufficient year by year to pay for the next year's issues, and to leave a balance over. The gradual accumulation of these balances is now more than sufficient to pay for two years' issues. As there is no longer any serious probability of a change for the worse in the Society's finance, it is proposed, so long as the margin shall be enough for one year's issues in advance, to pay each collaborator in the Society's work a small honorarium of £1 per sheet.

In making this announcement, I may be allowed to express my poignant regret that the amount should be so small. It would be considered a disgrace to say to a tailor: 'You are well known in the town for the skill and accuracy of your work. Make me, therefore, a coat (or a suit) for nothing.' It is not yet considered a disgrace to say to a scholar: 'You are well known in the world for the skill and accuracy of your work. Write me, therefore, an article (or a book) for nothing.' Why this difference? Is it entirely a question of economics? Ruskin, with great earnestness and no little indignation, would have answered with an emphatic no. There are questions of ethics, of intelligence, of social pride, of organization to be considered. And if one marks the studied contempt with

which successful men of the world often defend themselves against any possible imputation of belonging to the ranks of scholars (and this even happens when they are addressing learned men or writing semi-learned essays)—when one marks this careless air of self-complacency, one is inclined to think that *māna*, no less than *moha*, may also enter into the argument. In any case, the age of barbarism, the age which values wealth and birth above knowledge and insight, cannot last for ever. That, too, is *anicca*, though it be also *dukkha*. Signs of a gradual, continuing change are already clear to the discerning eye. Meanwhile let every scholar help those organizations which assist the change; and throw, whenever possible, his vote into the scale in favour of payment for all scholarly work. An established precedent counts much in such matters. And let us never forget the workers, willing to help in our new studies, who are now forced, by want of the miserable pence, to turn unwillingly to the more hackneyed fields.

The text issued this year is Professor Geiger's new critical edition of the *Mahāvāṅsa*. This is the only text issued by the Society which is not an *editio princeps*. It is, however, very much wanted, as the former edition of this important text is out of print and scarce, and contains many inaccuracies. We are glad to be able to issue to our subscribers so excellent a specimen of the method and manner in which, we trust, any other new edition we may find it necessary to publish will be carried out.

Difficulties had arisen, during my long illness, as to the method to be adopted in preparing the projected Pali Dictionary. It was found impossible to arrange these difficulties by correspondence, and I was too ill to travel. This month I was fortunately able, at the Congress of Orientalists at Copenhagen, to consult personally with the scholars interested in the project. A meeting was held at the University there, attended by Professors Andersen, Geiger, Kuhn, Lanman, Oldenberg, Pischel, and Windisch, with Mrs. Rhys Davids and myself. At that

meeting it was unanimously decided that the Dictionary should be carried out on the plan proposed by the Society, each collaborator writing the Dictionary articles for the words commencing with the letter or letters undertaken by him; and subsidiary details were discussed and settled. Professor Kuhn was kind enough to undertake the words beginning with vowels, Professor Hardy, who had undertaken these, having completed only a portion of the short a's at the time of his lamented death. There seems to be no reason why the work should not now go rapidly on, and this urgent want in our Indian studies be at last placed in the hands of scholars. Two years have been lost. But the indices, and other lexicographical material published during those years in the *Journal*, will help the work which will now be pushed on with renewed hope.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS,
Chairman.

HARBORO' GRANGE,
ASHTON-ON-MERSEY.

