

**JOURNAL OF THE  
PALI TEXT SOCIETY,  
1906-1907**

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**T. W. RHYS DAVIDS**

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**Journal of the Pāli Text Society.**

Pāli Text Society

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OF THE  
PĀLI TEXT SOCIETY

1906—1907

EDITED BY

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# PĀLI TEXT SOCIETY.

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I

REPORT OF THE SOCIETY FOR  
THE YEAR 1906

THE Pāli Text Society has now been working regularly for a quarter of a century. It has printed, published, and issued post-free to its subscribers fifty-nine volumes (this Journal itself making the sixtieth), containing upwards of 17,000 pages, at the price of 25 guineas. The price is extraordinarily cheap—not much more than half the price which publishers of similar books have found it necessary to charge. But subscribers will never forget the generous donations which have so increased the receipts as to enable the Society to plod steadily on in its good work. Nor will they lose sight of the peculiar conditions under which the Society has been carried on, with no expenditure for the multifarious charges rendered necessary by a business establishment. I have been somewhat keen to complete the work—at least, as regards the canonical texts, and a dictionary summarizing the results—before I die; and there is reasonable hope now that that will really be accomplished. The balance of cash showed by the accounts, and the stock of back issues (for which there is a slow but steady demand, and which represents, therefore, an additional balance of realizable assets), make it fairly sure now that the remaining work will be carried on to a successful termination.

I had intended to give in this issue a full report of the

present state of the Dictionary scheme, but I write with the utmost difficulty, confined to my bed by a painful sickness, and can only say that the necessary funds are nearly all in hand, and that, with the help of the distinguished scholars who have promised to collaborate in the work, it is hoped that it will be carried out in the immediate future.

T. W. REHYS DAVIDS,  
*Managing Chairman.*

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II

A NEW KAMMAVĀCĀ.

PROFESSOR OLDENBERG, in his edition of the *Vinaya*, gave us the formal words used in the transaction of business at the meetings of a Chapter of the Order. Whatever the nature of the business, the formal words to be used are couched in a similar form, though varied to suit the particular occasion. According to the able argument in the Introduction prefixed to his edition of the text, these *Kammavācā*'s, or 'Words of the Act,' are there preserved in the form they had acquired before the Council of Vesālī—that is, in the fifth century B.C.

The formulas are thus preserved in the *Khandhakas*, each of them in its suitable context; and when Professor Oldenberg and myself were preparing our translation of these *Khandhakas* only seven of the formulas were known to be extant in a separate form, apart from their context in the *Khandhakas*. On that we said in our Introduction:\*

'The misfortune that these forms are not all now separately extant is probably simply due to the fact that the formulas separately preserved are the only ones which continued to be used in actual services among members of the Order.'

We still remain almost entirely in the dark on this point. We know that the old form of words is still used, with very slight and unimportant changes, on the occasion of the admission of a new member to the brotherhood. This formula, or ritual, the *Upasampadā Kammavācā*, is extant separately. Numerous manuscripts of it have reached

\* '*Vinaya Texts*' (translated by Rhys Davids and Oldenberg), vol. i., p. xx.