

## SIEGFRIED LIENHARD

### REPORT ON THE VIIIITH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA

The VIIIth World Sanskrit Conference took place in Vienna from 27 August – 2 September, 1990. It was extremely well organized and was attended by about 400 scholars from all over the world.

The Plenary Opening Session, in the morning of August 28, was inaugurated by Dr. Erhard Busek, Federal Minister of Science and Research of Austria. Then Prof. R.N. Dandekar, President of the IASS, delivered his presidential address. Also Professor G. Oberhammer, Convenor and President of the Vienna Conference, addressed the assembly. Prof. S. Lienhard, Secretary General of the IASS, gave a speech in memory of Hans Hendriksen (1913-1989), followed by a minute's silence, and Prof. M. Mayrhofer, Honorary President of the Conference, delivered the inaugural lecture dealing with 'An Iranian King in the Mahābhārata'.

Due to the presence of so many scholars, the programme of the Conference was rather tight. It comprised altogether 19 sections (1. Indian Grammar, 2. Linguistic Studies, 3. Modern Sanskrit, 4. Sanskrit and the Computer, 5. Vedic Studies, 6. Epic and Purāṇic Studies, 7. Āgamas and Tantras, 8. Sanskrit Poetry and Drama, 9. Hinduism, 10. Buddhist Studies, 11. Jaina Studies, 12. Philosophy, 13. Sciences, 14. History, 15. Law and Society, 16. Ritual, 17. Art and Archaeology, 18. The Study of Manuscripts, and 19. Varia) as well as 3 panels (1. Medicine and Alchemy, 2. Standardization of Sanskrit for Electronic Data Transfer, and 3. Intelligence-Based Language Processing Technology for Sanskrit).

The Board and the General Body of the IASS (Board, Consultative Committee and individual members) were called to three meetings (see *Minutes*).

The Concluding Session took place in the morning of September 2, 1990. After the President, Prof. R.N. Dandekar had formally concluded the VIIIth World Sanskrit Conference, the Secretary General, Prof. S. Lienhard, read out the names of the partly re-elected, partly newly elected Members of the Board and the Consultative Committee (see *Minutes*). He also informed the assembly that the IXth World Sanskrit Conference will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in 1993 or the beginning of 1994 and he read out the text of three resolutions passed during the Vienna Conference:

I. The IASS recommends the introduction of Sanskrit and allied studies at the major universities of Spain. We hope that chairs and institutes for indology will be established in near future. With the exception of Semitic studies no oriental disciplines are at present represented in Spain.

II. The IASS states with great satisfaction that the vowel part of the *Critical Pāli Dictionary* will soon be completed and that the last fascicle of Vol. II is planned to come out in 1991.

The IASS strongly supports all efforts being made for the continuation of the work on this extremely important dictionary.

III. The IASS actively supports the plans of the Humboldt-University, Berlin, to organize an international symposium on Indology and Comparative Indo-European Linguistics on the occasion of the bicentenary of Franz Bopp's birthday.

Finally, a vote of thanks was expressed by three delegates from India, Japan and Europe respectively, namely Prof. V. Mishra (Varanasi), Prof. M. Hattori (Kyoto) and Prof. E.P. Chelychev (Moscow).