

JOHN L. BROCKINGTON

REPORT ON  
THE TWELFTH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

The Twelfth World Sanskrit Conference took place in Helsinki, Finland, from 14th to 19th July, 2003. It was attended by around 270 participants from more countries than ever before (31 in all: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, U.K., U.S.A.), with the largest single contingent coming from India itself, followed by the United States and Japan. The conference was most efficiently organised by Professor Asko Parpola and the conference secretary, Petteri Koskikallio, with the help of an able and helpful staff of volunteers from the Institute for Asian and African Studies, University of Helsinki. After an opening get-together party in the courtyard of the Institute for Asian and African Studies on Sunday evening 13th July, the conference itself took place in the handsome main building of the University of Helsinki right in the heart of the city.

The conference was organised into fourteen sections (covering Veda, Epics, Purāṇas, Āgamas and Tantras, Vyākaraṇa, Linguistics, Poetry and Drama and Aesthetics, Scientific Literature, Buddhist Studies, Jaina Studies, Philosophy, History and Epigraphy, Law and Society, Art and Archaeology), with four each being held concurrently from Monday to Friday. The opening plenary session included an excellent keynote address by Professor Stephanie Jamison, “On

Animals and (Wo)men” and a fascinating film on the Anyonyam festival of Veda recitation in Kerala, together setting the high standard maintained in general by the other papers presented throughout the rest of the week, with some outstanding papers being delivered in all sections. Throughout the conference, the displays by various book-sellers were well frequented especially during the coffee breaks and proved a useful adjunct to the conference. There were also receptions for the participants on three evenings, hosted by the incoming Rector of the University of Helsinki, by the Mayor of the City and by the Indian Ambassador.

At the closing plenary session well merited thanks were offered to the organisers for all their hard work in making the conference such a success. In addition, thanks were again offered to Professor Botto for the organising of the Turin conference, two resolutions were passed (the first deploring the current state of the materials of the Deccan College Sanskrit Dictionary project and urging their preservation by digital archiving and the second congratulating Professor M. B. Emeneau on his approaching 100th birthday on 28th February 2004), the venue of the next conference in July 2006 was announced as Edinburgh, U.K., and participants were reminded that the Treasurer would be happy to receive subscriptions to the International Association of Sanskrit Studies. The whole proceedings were rounded off by several presentations of books to the University of Helsinki and the reading of their own Sanskrit compositions by Professors Ram Karan Sharma, P. C. Muraleemadhavan and Ashok Aklujkar.

The conference ended as it began with a social event – an excursion from the middle of the Friday afternoon to Suomenlinna Island and a farewell dinner in the Restaurant Walhalla – as a fitting climax to a friendly and intellectually stimulating conference.

MEETINGS OF THE I.A.S.S.  
DURING THE 12TH WORLD  
SANSKRIT CONFERENCE  
HELD IN HELSINKI

Minutes of the meeting of the I.A.S.S. Board  
Helsinki, 15th July 2003

*Present:* Prof. R. K. Sharma, President, Prof. Bruno Dagens, Treasurer, Prof. John Brockington, Secretary General, Prof. T. Y. Elizarenkova, Prof. Stanley Insler, Prof. Joel Brereton (by invitation), Prof. Siegfried Lienhard (by invitation). Apologies for absence had been received from Professors Carlos da Fonseca and Minoru Hara.

1. The Minutes of the Board meetings held at Turin, 3rd and 4th April 2000, were approved.
2. The Secretary General reported on the 11th WSC held in Turin (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 26, 2000, pp. 241-4). He also noted that a “World Sanskrit Conference” had been held in New Delhi on 5th-9th April 2001 under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India; he had written to the organisers expressing regret at their use of the same name for this conference. He also reported the deaths – too recent for announcement in the I.A.S.S. Newsletter – of Professors Guy Bugault, A.M. Ghatage and M. D. Vasant Raj.  
Professor Siegfried Lienhard reported on progress with and new procedures for ordering *Indologica Taurinensia* and the *Corpus Iuris Sanscriticum*, and it was agreed that he should draw both to the attention of the General Meeting being held the next day.
3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association’s finances and membership numbers. Membership fees would remain at the same level but efforts would be made to encourage more scholars to become individual members.
4. Election/Re-election of Board Members.  
Professors Tatiana Elizarenkova, Minoru Hara and Stanley Insler wished to resign from the Board and Professors Yaroslav

Vassilkov, Yasuke Ikari and Joel Brereton were elected to replace them. It was agreed to institute a policy of requiring written consent to re-election from all members of the Board and of the Consultative Committee.

5. The offer by John Brockington and Paul Dundas to organise the 13th World Sanskrit Conference in Edinburgh during July 2006 was welcomed and would be put to the General Meeting. However, the Secretary General reported that a tentative offer to host the 14th WSC in 2009 had been withdrawn; soundings should be taken about possible venues. [Subsequently our Japanese colleagues indicated their willingness to host this conference in Japan.]
6. Recognition.  
In terms of the resolution passed at Turin concerning honorary status, it was agreed to elect Professors Collette Caillat, Siegfried Lienhard and Oscar Botto as Honorary Vice-Presidents in recognition of their great service to the Association. It was also agreed to introduce the status of Research Fellow (honorary) in order to give recognition to a limited number of scholars of international standing but without institutional affiliation. The Secretary General presented a proposed amendment to the I.A.S.S. statute to give effect to both of these and it was agreed to put this forward for ratification at the General Meeting.
7. It was agreed to give encouragement to the establishment of a register not only of e-texts already available but also of those in progress.
8. The President closed the meeting.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the I.A.S.S.  
Helsinki, 16th July 2003

*Present:* Prof. R. K. Sharma, President, Prof. Bruno Dagens, Treasurer, Prof. John Brockington, Secretary General, and a dozen members. Apologies for absence had been received from Professors Carlos da Fonseca, Minoru Hara, Jan Heesterman, Jan Miguel de Mora, Gyula Wojtilla and Huang Xinchuan.

1. The President opened the meeting.

2. The Secretary General reported on the 11th WSC held in Turin (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 26, 2000, pp. 241-4). He noted that a "World Sanskrit Conference" had been held in New Delhi on 5th - 9th April 2001 under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. He also reported the deaths of Professors Guy Bugault, A.M. Ghatage and M. D. Vasant Raj; a minute's silence was observed in their memory. Professor Siegfried Lienhard reported on progress with and new procedures for ordering *Indologica Taurinensia* and the *Corpus Iuris Sanscriticum*. Professor Ram Murti Sharma asked that congratulations and thanks should be expressed to the Government of India for sponsoring Indian participants at this conference. He also recommended that the next conference should again include a śāstric studies panel/session.
3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances and membership numbers. He noted that a UNESCO grant had been received towards the Helsinki conference. There were currently only 67 paid-up individual members. It was agreed that efforts should be made to recruit further individual members, with a reminder being sent to former members.
4. Election/Re-election of Board Members.  
Professors Tatiana Elizarenkova, Minoru Hara and Stanley Insler wished to resign from the Board and Professors Yaroslav Vassilkov, Yasuke Ikari and Joel Brereton were elected to replace them. The rest of the Board and the Consultative Committee were all re-elected. It was agreed to institute a policy of requiring written consent to re-election from all members of the Board and of the Consultative Committee.
5. The offer by John Brockington and Paul Dundas to organise the 13th World Sanskrit Conference in Edinburgh during July 2006 was accepted. It was recommended that dates should be checked with the South Asian Archaeology conference.
6. Recognition.  
In terms of the resolution passed at Turin concerning honorary status, it was agreed to elect Professors Collette Caillat, Siegfried Lienhard and Oscar Botto as Honorary Vice-Presidents in recognition of their great service to the Association. It was also agreed

to introduce the status of Research Fellow (honorary) in order to give recognition to a limited number of scholars of international standing but without institutional affiliation. The Secretary General presented a proposed addition to paragraph 7 of the I.A.S.S. statute to give effect to both of these and this was ratified (wording attached, with addition in bold type).

7. It was agreed to give encouragement to the establishment of a register not only of e-texts already available but also of those in progress (as suggested by Dr Reinhold Grünendahl in correspondence on the INDOLOGY list).
8. The President closed the meeting.

Resolutions passed during the closing Plenary Session  
12th World Sanskrit Conference,  
Helsinki, 18th July 2003

1. The materials of the Deccan College Sanskrit Dictionary project, an irreplaceable database of Sanskrit lexicography, are stored on brittle paper slips which are threatened by serious loss and decay. This World Sanskrit Conference strongly urges that this cultural treasure be safeguarded through digital archiving and made accessible to the scholarly community.
2. The 12th World Sanskrit Conference takes the opportunity of expressing its admiration for the life's work of Professor M. B. Emeneau, one of the most eminent pioneers of Sanskrit Studies and Indology, who will celebrate his centenary in February 2004. We send Professor Emeneau our best wishes and regards for his 100th birthday.

STATUTE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SANSKRIT STUDIES  
adopted in Paris by the General Assembly of IASS on the 26th July 1977<sup>1</sup>

1. Between the undersigned and all the other persons who adhere to the present statute an international association is being formed in accordance with the decree of 12 April 1939 and the laws subsequently promulgated. The Association is called the *International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS)*, in French *Association Internationale pour les Etudes Sanskrites*.

IASS is a member of the International Union of Oriental and Asiatic Studies and, through it, it is affiliated with the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH).

2. The seat of the association is Paris: c/o Collège de France, 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05.

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5. The Association, so created, comprises national associations for Sanskrit studies established in different countries of the world, active members, honorary members and patrons.

...

7. In order to become an honorary member or a patron, the Consultative Committee of the Association must express its agreement. **A limited number of scholars particularly meritorious for their services to the Association may be elected as Honorary President or Honorary Member, as appropriate. A limited number of scholars of international standing but without institutional affiliation may be elected as Research Fellows (honorary) of the Association.**

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The General Secretaries

† L. Sternbach

S. Lienhard (modification § 13)

J. L. Brockington (addition § 7)

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1. §§ 16, 17 and 24 have been modified at the Meeting of the Board and the Consultative Committee in Stockholm, 15th October 1980, § 13 at the Meeting of the Board and the General Body in Bangalore, 7th January 1997, and § 7 at the Meetings of the Board and the General Body in Helsinki, 15th and 16th July 2003.





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