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A Critical Pāli Dictionary

PAST

Volume I of *A Critical Pāli Dictionary*, treating words beginning with the vowel A, appeared between 1924 and 1948. It comprised 11 fascicles and a supplement entitled *Epilegomena*. It was edited by Dines Andersen (until 1940), Helmer Smith, and Hans Hendriksen (from 1944). The costs, including those of publication, were met by various Danish foundations.

A resolution passed at the XXIVth International Congress of Orientalists at Munich in 1957 urged the resumption of the project, and at a conference held in Copenhagen in 1958 it was agreed to continue the CPD on an international basis. By 1971 all the material for Volume II (the vowels Ā to O) and material for the beginning of Volume III (the consonants K onwards) had been shared out among scholars from Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, India, Japan, and Sri Lanka, and many of them had paid visits to Copenhagen to familiarize themselves with working methods.

PRESENT

The first fascicle of Volume II appeared in 1960, and by the beginning of 1976 nine fascicles had been published, thus equalling or even bettering the rate of progress achieved during the publication of Volume I. It was possible to calculate that the remaining material would probably occupy another six fascicles.

Volume II was published first under the general supervision of Mr. Møller-Kristensen, but from fascicle 5 onwards Professor Alsdorf was appointed as Editor-in-Chief. In the earlier fascicles a wide divergence between individual writers was discernible in their handling of the material and in their treatment of linguistic problems. In subsequent fascicles, however, produced under Professor Alsdorf's editorship, and in the case of fascicles 8 and 9 actually prepared for the press by him, many of these inequalities of treatment have been eliminated.

In 1975 Professor Alsdorf indicated that he did not wish to continue as Editor-in-Chief to the end of Volume II, and Mr. Norman was asked to take over the responsibilities of producing the

fascicles of the volume, comprising the vowels E and O. Following the tragic death of Professor Alsdorf in March 1978, which was a great blow to the CPD, the task of supervising the remaining portions of the vowels Ū and U was also entrusted to Mr. Norman.

Professor Alsdorf's death caused some delay to fascicle 10, which was in the press; it was published recently, in March 1979. Some of the material for fascicle 11 has already gone to press. The remainder should be ready by the summer of 1979, and the fascicle should be published late in 1980 or early in 1981.

FUTURE

In March 1978 the Carlsberg Foundation and the Danish Research Council, which together with UNESCO have met the costs of Volume II to date, announced that they were unable to offer financial aid to the CPD after the completion of Volume II (the remaining vowel portions). At a meeting held at Mainz in February 1979, financed jointly by the Academy (responsible for the publication in concordance with the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters since Professor Alsdorf took over as Editor-in-Chief) and CPISH, it was resolved that, despite the loss of financial backing, preparation should be made for the continuation of the Dictionary. It was reported that a certain arrangement between the "Bund" and "Länder" of the German Federal Republic would make it possible for the Mainz Academy to obtain a grant to enable an assistant to be employed on the Dictionary work at Mainz, and it was hoped that arrangements could be made for someone to be employed in Paris. When the preparatory work has been done, it will be necessary to recruit scholars to write articles and financial aid will have to be sought to publish material as it is prepared.

April 1979

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