

## **A Brief Account of the workshop on Newari and Śāradā Editing of Texts and Textual Criticism (25.06 -10.07.2009)**

A sixteen day workshop (25.06 – 10.07.2009) on Newari and Śāradā Scripts, Principles of Textual Criticism and Editing of Texts was organized jointly by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Eastern Regional Centre, Varanasi and National Mission for the Manuscripts, New Delhi, at Rajshree Hall, Katyayani Appartment, Durgakund. In this programme apart from the academic staff of IGNCA Varanasi and officials of N.M.M about 25 external members belonging to Sanskrit Department of B.H.U; S.V.D.V. B.H.U; Parshvanatha Vidyapeetha, B.H.U; Sampurnananda Sanskrit University, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeetha participated to learn ancient Indian scripts and principles of text editing.

The inaugural programme of the workshop started with chanting of Vedic hymns by the students of Pattabhirama Shastri Veda-mimamsa Anusandhanakendra. In the holy atmosphere sanctified by the resonance of Vedic chanting Prof. K.D. Tripathi, Advisor, IGNCA, Varanasi rendered welcome address to the assembled guests. Dr. V.S Shukla from N.M.M. New Delhi, in a brief note introduced the outline of workshop. Prof. V. Kutumba Shastri, Vice-Chancellor, Sampurnananda Sanskrit University in his key-note address remarked that manuscripts are the priceless treasure of the intellectual tradition of India. He emphasized on proper maintenance and conservation of this treasure. Prof. Yugal Kishore Mishra in his presidential address discussed on the rich collection of Mss. scattered in the unknown and less known institutions of Rajasthan. This inaugural programme ended with vote of thanks to the august gathering extended by Prof. K.D. Tripathi, Advisor, IGNCA, Varanasi.

The activities of this sixteen day workshop may be grouped under two heads: (1) lesson on Newari and Śāradā scripts and (2) a series of lectures on the principles of Text editing.

On the one hand two very important scripts viz. Newari and Śāradā were taught by expert teachers. Prof. T.N. Ganjoo from Jammu and Prof. Prakash Pandey from Garli, Himachal Pradesh joined this programme to teach Śāradā. Dr. Anirvan Dash from Central Institute of Indian Higher Tibetan Studies (C.I.H.T.S) Sarnath and Prof. Ratna Basu

assisted by Sri Somnath Sarkar from Kolkata taught Newari. Apart from teaching Śāradā and Newari alphabets they gave rich introductory lectures on these subjects in which they explained 1. historical background, 2. Origin and 3. development of these scripts, 4. their special characteristics, 5. varieties of tools and 6. method of preparing manuscripts in these scripts.

After teaching the graphs of these alphabets they made the participants decipher different texts, written in Newari and Śāradā.

Another facet of the workshop was a series of lectures on the principles of Textual criticism. The workshop opened with a couple of lectures on 1. Important collections of Mss in India and abroad, and 2. History of cataloguing Sanskrit Manuscripts by Dr. V. S. Shukla, New Delhi.

Prof. T.N. Dharmadhikari from Pune delivered lectures on 1. Importance of Inscriptions and literature in Manuscriptology, 2. How to edit Texts and prepare Critical Editions, 3. Nature of corruption in Mss and their reasons, 4. Editing of *codex unicus*, 5. Methodology of Textual Criticism etc. Along with these lectures he taught the participants the process of collating the Mss on the basis of five Mss. of the *Pāṇḍava gītā*.

Prof. Vasant Kumar Bhatt from Gujrat University, Ahmadabad delivered lectures with the aid of slide-show on 1. Various facets of Lower Criticism, 2. Different stages of lower-criticism, 3. How to determine the pedigree of texts and prepare genealogical tree of Mss, 4. Principles of Higher Criticism with special reference to the critical editions of Uttarakāmarita and Raghuvamśa.

Prof. V.N. Jha from Pune delivered lectures on varieties of problems of Editing Philosophical Texts with special reference to Nyāyamañjarī of Jayantabhaṭṭa.

Prof. Rajaram Shukla in his lecture narrated the History of *Editiones Principes* published from Sarasvati Bhavan Library, Varanasi.

Prof. K.K. Thaplyal from Lucknow delivered lectures on Editing of Sanskrit Inscription. Prof. Thaplyal discussed on the Rock Edicts and Pillar Edicts enforced by king Ashok, Inscriptions of Śuṅga dynasty. In course of his lecture he explained the historical background of these inscriptions enacted by different royal dynasties, qualities of a good editor, which are necessary for editing inscriptions.

In his second lecture Prof. Thaplyal explained how forgery crept in the Inscriptions, how to detect those and remove those at the time of editing. He also focused on varieties of interpolations which crept in the Mss.

Prof. Kamal Giri gave a demonstration-cum-lecture on How to edit Illustrated Manuscripts. In her vivid lecture Madam Giri discussed 1. Colourful nature of Illustrated Mss, 2. Their various materials, 3. Colours to prepare these Mss, 4. Wide range of subject of these Illustrated Mss, 5. Important sites where illustrated Mss, have been found, 6. How to edit them and 7. Prerequisites on the part of editor.

Prof. Maheshvari Prasad delivered a lecture on the Principles of Editing Jain Inscriptions and process of their editing.

Last, but not least Prof. K.D.Tripathi, Advisor, IGNCA, Varanasi delivered three lectures, (1) How to determine geneology of Mss. of different families and problems lying therein (2) History of Nāṭya Śāstra Editions and (3) Problems of editing Newari Texts. In all these lectures, Prof. Tripathi focused that editor should be careful about problems of editing Prayoga Śāstra (Performative Texts), which are very much different in nature from theoretical texts of various disciplines. Hence, the method of editing also will be different.

The valedictory session opened with a beautiful prayer to Goddess Sarasvatī by Dr. Smt. Svaravandana Sharma. Prof. K.D. Tripathi, Advisor, IGNCA, Varanasi rendered welcome address to the esteemed guests. Dr. V.S. Shukla from N.M.M. New Delhi, explained the main objective of this workshop. Dr. Sanghamitra Basu prepared a brief account of this workshop before the chair person. Prof. B.D. Singh, Rector, B.H.U. gave valedictory address. Prof. B.M. Shukla, Ex-Vice-Chancellor Gorakhpur University distributed certificates among the participants. Prof. V.N. Jha, Former Director, C.A.S.S. Pune gave presidential address. The programme ended with vote of thanks extended by Prof. K.D. Tripathi.

Although these sixteen days activities of entire workshop were coordinated by Dr. Sanghamitra Basu assisted by academic staffs of IGNCA, Varanasi.

**(Pranati Ghosal)**

Dated: