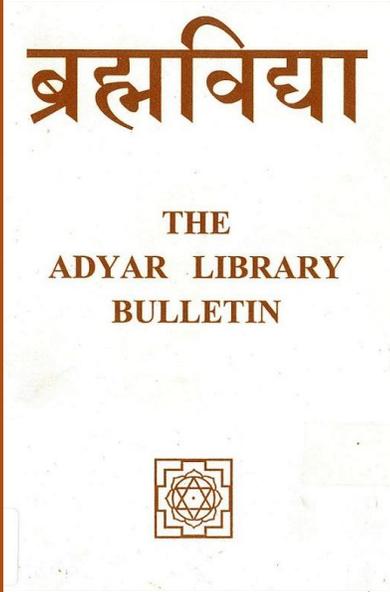


# CAMPBELL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

## THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

August 2017

### THE BRAHMAVIDYA INDEX



### ELECTRONIC INDEX OF *BRAHMAVIDYA* THE ADYAR LIBRARY BULLETIN

In October 2015 we were pleased to announce the availability of the electronic index of this important publication which, although partial, contains a substantial amount of the Bulletin's contents over the decades. It includes a search facility and can be accessed through the link below:

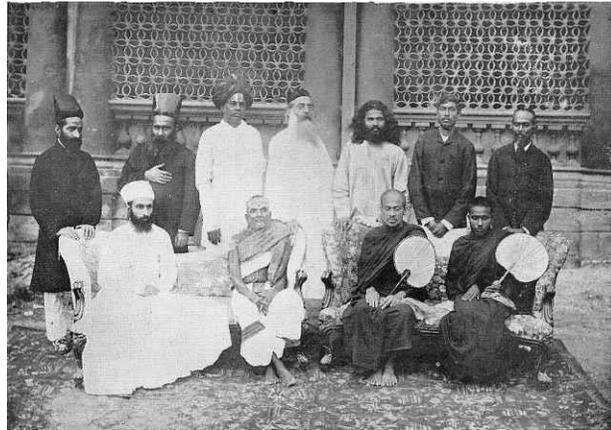
[http://austheos.org.au/brahmavidya/ADY\\_LB.HTM](http://austheos.org.au/brahmavidya/ADY_LB.HTM)

### Beginnings

*The Adyar Library Bulletin*, which was started in 1937 by Dr C. Kunhan Raja, Director of the Adyar Library and Research Centre at the International Headquarters of the Theosophical Society, established itself as a leading publication in Sanskrit and Indological studies. It presents studies on religion, philosophy and various aspects of Sanskrit and other Oriental literature as well as ancient texts and translations.



Adyar Library Reading Room



Inauguration of the Adyar Library, December 1886: Col. Olcott and representatives of different religions

The Adyar Library and Research Centre was founded in 1886 by Henry Steel Olcott, first President of the Theosophical Society, for Research into Eastern Civilization, Philosophy and Religion. Its aim is to promote understanding among peoples of the world through knowledge of the higher aspects of their respective cultures. A report about the inauguration of this Centre mentioned:

“The ceremony of the opening of the Adyar Oriental Library was celebrated yesterday afternoon with much eclat in the New Council Hall at the Headquarters of the Theosophical Society, Adyar. All along the walls of the hall metallic shields were suspended, bearing the names of the cities and towns at which branch associations

have been founded, while the Arcot State Canopy of gold-embroidered velvet, supported by four silver posts, overhung the dais at the southern end of the hall. The grounds were brilliantly illuminated by beacons of oil-lamps placed at intervals, and the hall itself was lit up by a large number of crystal lustres which hung from the ceiling. There was a large attendance of European and native gentlemen. ...’

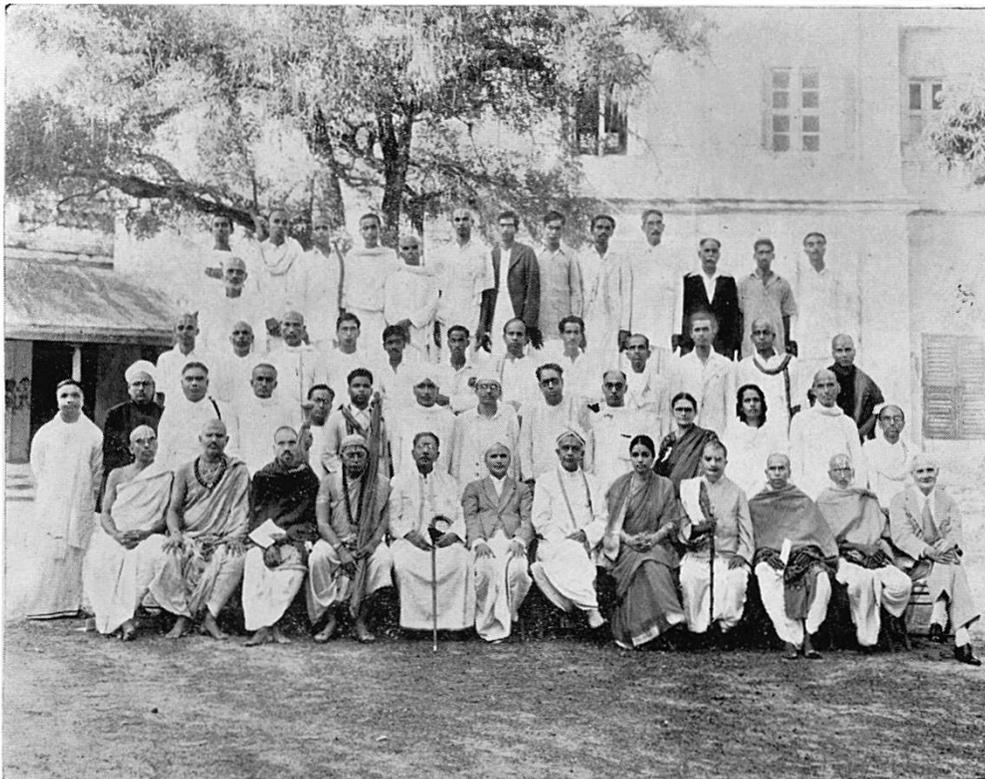
‘In opening the proceedings, Colonel Olcott, President-Founder, said that the programme of the ceremony of the opening of the Oriental Library was intended to be of an eclectic character, and to show that the Theosophical Society was not formed in the interests of any one sect or any one race. A pandit from Mysore next invoked Ganapati, the god of occult learning, and Sarasvati, the goddess of knowledge, after which a few boys of the Triplicane Sanskrit School sang some verses in Sanskrit. Two Parsi priests then offered a prayer; and this was followed by the recital of verses in the Pali language by two Buddhist priests who had come from Ceylon to take part in the ceremony. A Muhammadan mauvi from Hyderabad recited a prayer from the Koran, and prayed for the long life and prosperity of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress. A recitation of Sanskrit slokas by Hindu boys was next given, and Sanskrit poems were read, specially composed for the occasion by pandits in different parts of India.’ (From the *Madras Mail*. Reproduced from the supplement to *The Theosophist*, January 1887.)

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*‘With the combined labour of Eastern and Western scholars, we hope to bring to light and publish much valuable knowledge now stored away in the ancient languages, or, if rendered into Asiatic vernaculars, still beyond the reach of the thousands of earnest students who are only familiar with the Greek and Latin classics and their European derivative tongues.’*

Henry S. Olcott, President-Founder of the TS, in his address at the inauguration of the Adyar Library, December 1886

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THE ADYAR LIBRARY DIAMOND JUBILEE PANDITA PARISHAD  
*Director, Librarian, Pandits and Workers of the Adyar Library  
at its Diamond Jubilee, 2 October 1947*

## A Lineage of Distinguished Scholars

From its inception, the Adyar Library and Research Centre attracted a number of recognized and distinguished scholars



The Buddha and Vajrapāni. Berlin Museum. Ht. 15.75 in.  
A.G.-B.G. vol. II, part I, p. 49, fig. 326.

The image on the left was included in Lokesh Chandra's article, 'The Cultural Symphony of India and Greece', *Brahmavidya – The Adyar Library Bulletin*, Golden Jubilee Volume, 1986.

In the same issue we find an interesting article by K. Satchidananda Murty, 'Ethics and Values: A Hindu View', in which he writes:

'Dharma is the Sanskrit equivalent of virtue and duty. It also means justice and common law, as well as conventions, privileges and obligations that belong to man as man and by virtue of his being a member of a particular society (each society being organized on different principles, and even the same society differently at different times). Dharma is the counterpart in the moral sphere of *Rta*, the cosmic order or the law of the universe, which is answerable and on account of which nature is uniform and well-regulated. It is eternal; it is what unifies and sustains humanity.'

Another article to be found in the Golden Jubilee same issue of *Brahmavidya* is 'The Concept of Beauty According to Ānandavardhana'. The author writes:

'Anything fixed, definite, stable goes against Ānandavardhana's notion of beauty. For him 'charm' is something alive, flexible and growing in changing conditions. Its ability consists in striking newer ways. The very essence of beauty lies in its power of revealing new aspects every instant and holding our attention and admiration by its ever new attractiveness.

'It is because beauty is so subjectively considered that it appeals to many in different ways. It is not a reified symbol. But rather it is beauty in motion. It is beautiful because it appeals to people in a newer and fresher way every time they look at it. In that sense the notion of beauty is dynamic.'

### A screenshot of a section of the *Brahmavidya* Index

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 p66 (facing) - Portrait of H. P. B. by Hermann Schmiechen [photographic illustration] -- Hermann Schmiechen

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 p66 - Madame Blavatsky [reprint from: 'Review of Reviews June 1891 pp548-550'] -- W T Stead

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 p70 - New Light on "Jayati-Jayate" Controversy -- B N Krishnamurti Sarma

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 p73 - Language - Barrier or Bridge (Continued from Vol XII part 4 page 216) -- A Sita Devi (Formerly Adeltha Peterson)

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 p82 - Editorial - In My New Role -- C Kunhan Raja

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 p96 - Anouncements -- G Srinivasa Murti [Director, Adayar Library]

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 [ppi-x] - Padavidhana of S'Aunaka with an Anonymous Commentary entitled Padavidhanabhasya -- Edited by H G Narahari

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 [ppi-xx, pp161-184] - Serial Publications: Indian Cameralism - A Survey of some Aspects of Arthasastra [with Foreword by G Srinivasa Murti] -- K V Rangaswami Aiyangar

ADY\_LB y1950 v14 [pp241-248] - Serial Publications: Horasastra of Varahamihira -- A N Srinivasaraghava Aiyangar Edited with his own Commentary Apurvarthapradarsika

The Index of *Brahmavidya* has been laboriously prepared by Gil Murdoch, our Webmaster. Besides administering the website of The Theosophical Society in Australia, Gil also maintains and updates two important services from the National Headquarters: the *Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals*, which contains 219,743 entries, and *Links to Theosophical Texts Online*, with 1,623 texts available. His current project is the careful re-indexing of *The Theosophist*, a long-term undertaking. We place on record our appreciation to Gil for his many years as our Webmaster and making available a treasure trove of information which is appreciated by students and researchers around the world.

This occasional Newsletter is issued occasionally by the Education Coordinator, The Theosophical Society in Australia. If you do not wish to receive it please email [edcoord@austheos.org.au](mailto:edcoord@austheos.org.au).



A view of the Adyar Library in the first part of the twentieth century, at its original location in the international Headquarters of the Theosophical Society at Adyar, Madras (now Chennai), India.