

THE ORIENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE

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History

The Oriental Research Institute was established in Mysore by His Highness Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar Bahaddur the then Maharaja of the erstwhile State of Mysore i.e., Mysuru Samsthana, in the year 1891 October. Right from its inception the O.R.I has been housed in the architecturally attractive Jubilee Hall built in 1887 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the British throne.

Aims and objects

The aim of this Institution is to collect, preserve, collate, edit and publish the rare valuable Sanskrit and Kannada Palm leaf as well as paper Manuscripts of our Nation. Thousands of Palm leaf and Paper Manuscripts were collected and Pundits well versed in Sanskrit, Kannada, English and other Languages were appointed for identification, classification and cataloguing of those manuscripts. In addition to the manuscripts many rare books in Sanskrit, Kannada, and English were also collected by the pundits working in the Institute for Study, Research and Publication purposes. As a corollary, a library consisting of works on Literature, culture and allied subjects was also developed. Valuable classics in Sanskrit and Kannada were critically edited by the pundits of the Institute and published with the scholarly introductions.

Organisation

At the beginning the Oriental Research Institute was started and running under the guidance of the Education Department of the Government of Mysore. Then the name of the Institute was “ The Government Oriental Library”. In 1916, the University of Mysore was established and the Institute became an integral part of the Mysore University. Later the name of the institute was changed to “The Oriental Research Institute” in 1946. Even since 1966 in which year the Kannada manuscripts and Kannada books in the institute were transferred to the Institute of Kannada studies in the Manasagangothri Campus. The Oriental Research Institute is fully devoted to the collection, preservation, study and publication of Sanskrit manuscripts both palm leaf, paper and also rare old Sanskrit books.

Staff

In the beginning the name of the Head of this Institute was curator. Sri. A. Mahadevashastri was the first curator of this institute. Up to 1916 he was the curator. From 1918 Dr. R. Shamashastri took over as the chief. In 1929 D. Srinivasacharya was appointed as the Ex. Officio-curator. At that moment the Administrative Committee was changed to the Oriental Library Committee. Kannada & Persian Professors too became the committee members. From 1936 to 1943 Sri. M.S. Basavalingaiah was the curator. In 1943 Sri. H.R Rangaswami Iyengar became curator. In 1954 the name of the curator was changed to the Director. In 1956 Sri. H. Deveerappa became the First Director. 1957 the pundit's post of the institute was upgraded to Research Assistant. At that time editing and collection of Sanskrit along with Kannada manuscripts were taken up by the Institution. In 1966, 20th February the preservation and editing of Kannada manuscripts were handed over to the Institute of Kannada studies in the Manasagangothri Campus. Professor and Head of the P.G Dept of Sanskrit became the Ex-officio Director of the O.R.I

Past Directors

1. Prof. Dr. G. Marulasiddaiah.
2. Prof. Dr. H.P. Malledevaru
3. Prof. Dr. K. Rajagopalachar
4. Prof. Dr. R.S. Shivaganesha Murthy
5. Prof. Dr. M.R Veerabhadraswamy
6. Prof. Dr. B.A Dodamani
7. Dr. H.P. Devaki
8. Dr. K.V. Ramesh (Honorary Director)
9. Dr. H.P.Devaki
10. Dr. C.N Basavaraju (Director I/C)
11. Dr. B.A Dodamani
12. Vidwan M. Shivakumaraswamy (From 18/05/2011)

Collection of Manuscripts

At present, the Institute has more than 30,000 palm leaf and paper manuscripts in its Library. In all, the Institution has a collection of more than 70,000 works in Sanskrit & Kannada. From the very beginning, the Institution has been doing the noble task of collecting, editing & publishing the manuscripts.

Preservation of Manuscripts

In the beginning, rare palm leaf & paper manuscripts were copied into Devanagari Script. For the protection of manuscripts Ayurvedic oil applied for all palm leaf manuscripts in past, and at present Citranella oil is using for the protection of the palm leaf manuscripts. In 1954, for the preservation of manuscripts, a microfilm section was formed. Utilizing this facility thousands of thousand valuable palm leaf and Paper manuscripts were microfilmed.

Rare publication of the O.R.I

The Institute has published a Descriptive catalogue of Sanskrit manuscripts in 18 Volumes and has published nearly 215 rare unpublished works in Sanskrit in addition to the Kannada Publications that were brought out before 1966. These are all first publications of the O.R.I in the whole Universal. Some of the most important works in the O.R.I Sanskrit series are –

1. Apastambhagruhyasutra with Tatparyadarshana of Sudarshanacharya.(Dharmashastra)
2. Taittiriya Samhita with Bhatabhaskara commentary in 12 volumes. (Veda)
3. Madhaviya Dhatuvritti in 2 Volumes of Madhavacharya (Vyakarana)
4. Gotrapravaranibandha Kodambam (Nibandha)
5. Taittiriya Aranyakam in 3 Volumes (Veda)
6. Taittiriya pratishakyam (Vedanga)
7. Bodhayana Dharmasutram of Bodhayana (Dharmashastra)
8. Purvamimamsa Darshana with Khandadeva's Bhattapadika vyakhya (Darshana)
9. Brahmasutrabhashya of Anandatirtha & other in 4 Volumes. (Dwaita Philosophy)
10. Gautama Dharmasutra with Maskari Bhashya (Dharmashastra)
11. Arthashastra of Kautilya (Commerce)
12. Alankara Manihara in 3 Volumes (Alankarashastra)
13. Ayurvedasutram (Medicine)
14. Kavyaprakasha of Mammata with Sanketa & Madhumati Tikas in 2 Volumes (Alankarashastra)
15. Vidyamadhaviyam in 3 Volumes (Jautisham)
16. Tattvamuktakalapa in 4 Volumes (Vishistadvaita Vedanta)
17. Saundaryalahari of Shankaracharya (Tantrashastra)
18. Tattvarthasutram of Umaswamy (Jaina)
19. Vishnusahasranamastotram with Bhashyam 2 Volumes (Stotra)
20. Kriyasara in 3 Volumes (Virasaiva)
21. Valmikiramayana in 5 Volumes (Itihasa)
22. Srikarabhashya of Sripatipandita in 2 Volumes (Virasaiva)
23. Nyayamanjari of Jayanthabhatta in 2 Volumes (Nyayashastra)

24. Shivatattvaratnakara in 3 Volumes (Vishwakohsa)
25. Vatulashuddhagama with Kannada commentary (Agama)
26. Viramaheshvarachara samgraha (Virashaiva)
27. Sritattvanidhi of Sri Mammadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in 3 Volumes.
(Illustrated works)
28. Puranasara of Sayanamadhava (Purana)
29. Navaratna Manimahatmya of Agasthya (Gemmology)
30. Tantrasarasamgraha of Anandatirtha (Vastu)
31. Vaidyashastra Dipika (Medicine)

Important Scientific Manuscripts in O.R.I

1. Lilavathi - by Bhaskaracharya (Mathematical sums in verses).
2. Asvavaidyam - by unknown (Treatment of diseases of horses).
3. Mayamata - by Manya (Architecture, description of buildings).
4. Hastayurveda - by Palakapya (Therapy of diseases of elephant).
5. Suryasiddanta – Jautisha (Celestial bodies).
6. Kashyapasamhita - by Kashyapa (Treatment for bite of poisonous reptiles).
7. Grahaganitabhaskara - by Tammayya (Celestial Bodies).
8. Bijaganita - by Bhaskara (Algebraically concepts in verses).

Important Literary works :

1. Varnamalagrantha
2. Devisaptashati
3. Sharadatilaka
4. Manusmriti
5. Praudhabhiramam
6. Rahasyakriyasara
7. Sreetatvanidhi in nine volumes
8. Gurunadi
9. Sukranadi

Descriptive Catalogues of the Manuscripts

The Institute has published a classified Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit & Paper manuscripts in 18 Volumes.

Sales Wing

There is a sales wing to facilitate the common man to purchase these published works. Every first four days of the month, 50 percent rebate is offered (except Sritattvanidhi) for those people who are interested in purchasing the rare publications. The 50 percent rebate facility (except Sritattvanidhi) is continue in everyday up to May 2012.

Scientific Works Published

In this Institution more than thousands of Scientific Sanskrit manuscripts were preserved, in bringing to light indigenous knowledge systems, which are mostly buried in the folio's of countless number of palm leaf and paper manuscripts in order to edit & publish them. The following 3 rare scientific Sanskrit works with Kannada & English Translation were published by the O.R.I and Prasaranga.

1. Navarathnamani Mahatmya
(Edited by Vidwan Dr. T.V. Sathyanarayana)
2. Tantrasara sangraha
(Edited by Vidwan. Dr.A.V. Nagasampige)
3. Vaidyashastradipika
(Edited by Dr. D. P. Madhusudana)

Rare publications of the O.R.I

Arthashastra

The complete palm leaf manuscript of Arthashastra in Grantha script and Sanskrit language of Kautilya was discovered and edited for the first time by Dr. R. Shamashastry, a well-known scholar & Librarian of the O.R.I and later

he became the Curator of O.R.I Mysore. In 1909 it was published in the first time in the whole world. Publication of this work brought international fame of this institution.

Arthashastra is a work on Indian Politics, Economics, Military Science, Business Management, Administration, Civil, Law and Governance. Gemmology and Metallurgy are some interesting parts in it. Training of elephants and horses for warfare is depicted here. Taxation policy is described very clearly.

Sritattvanidhi

Sritattvanidhi of Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, The Maharaja of Mysore, is a unique encyclopedic work with attractive illustration. It is a paper manuscript written in Kannada script. The language is Sanskrit. It contains 9 Nidhis They are -

1. Shaktinidhi
2. Vishnunidhi
3. Shivanidhi
4. Brahmanidhi
5. Grahanidhi
6. Vaishnavanidhi
7. Saivanidhi
8. Agamanidhi
9. Kauthukanidhi

Among 9 nidhis, Shaktinidhi, Vishnunidhi and Shivanidhi with Kannada & English Translations were published by the O.R.I, UOM, Mysore. The editing work of 4th Volume of Brahmanidhi with Kannada and English translation was finished and is ready to print.

About Sritattvanidhi

‘Sritattvanidhi’ a scholarly work of His Highness Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the ruler of the erstwhile Mysore State. Under the patronage of the

King, art, architecture and literature flourished. The king himself was a versatile writer both in the Kannada & Sanskrit. The mid-nineteenth century is said to be the golden era in the History of Mysore state under the administration of Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar. Sritattvanidhi , in nine books, comprising almost all aspects of Indian traditional knowledge in a nutshell is his magnum opus. The elegant traditional paintings of this monumental work add to its attraction.

Library section

The Institute has a library contains 38,000 printed books in Sanskrit, English Kannada and other languages related to Sanskrit Studies, Catering to the needs of teachers, students and scholars. And also from the national and abroad, various Students, Research fellows, Scholars are visiting the Library of the Oriental Research Institute for the reference purposes.

The Edited Sanskrit works are in the Press,

1. Anjaneyashataka (stotra kavya)
Editor : Vidwan. Dr. T.V Sathyanarayana
2. Leelavati sandesha (Sandeshakavya),
Editor : Dr. B. Mamatha
3. Praudhabhirama (Nataka)
Editor : Sri. K.V. Ramapriya
4. Rasakaumudi (Vaidya)
Editor : Sri. K.V. Ramapriya
5. Shahabhupalankara (Alankarashastra)
Editor : Dr. M. Geetha
6. Gurushishya Samvada (Anubhavadvaita)
Editor : Dr. S. Jangannatha
7. Tailaprakaranam (Vaidya)
Editor : Dr. M .Rangaswamy
8. Tattvasarasamgraha (Dwaita)
Editor : Dr. D.P. Madhusudana

International Seminar on Kautilya's Arthashastra

An International Seminar on 'Kautilya's Arthashastra' was held at Jayalakshmi Mansion, Manasagangothri, Mysore, organized by the Oriental Research Institute from 13th to 16th June, 2002. More than 100 Scholars were presented the Research papers in Sanskrit, Hindi, English & Kannada. Some of the scholars came from Germany, Sweden, Britain, Thailand and so on.

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Present Director

Vidwan M. Shivakumara swamy.

Deputy Director (I/C)

Vidwan. Dr. T.V. Sathyanarayana

Research Assistants Class-I (4 Posts)

1. Sri R. Raghavendra Rao,
2. Sri. K.V. Ramapriya,
3. Vacant
4. Vacant

Research Assistants Class-II (7 Posts)

1. Smt. C. Parvathi,
2. Dr. M. Geetha,
3. Dr. S. Jagannatha,
4. Dr. M. Rangaswamy,
5. Dr. D.P. Madhusudana,
6. & 7. Two clear posts are vacant

Deputy Librarian

Dr. R.T.D. Ramesh Gandhi

Library Project Assistant

Meenakshi. A

Senior Assistant

Sri V. Thirumalaswamy

S.D.C.

Sri N. Nagaraju

Typist cum Clerk

Smt. Nagarenuka

I. Work Published

The Arthashastra of Kautilya (Series No. 201) edited by Dr. R. Shamashastry, with the commentary and footnotes in Sanskrit of Vidwan N. S. Venkatanathacharya was reprint and published. The General editor of this edition is Vidwan M. Shivakumaraswamy Director, Oriental Research Institute, UOM, Mysore. The book was released in the function of Founder's day of the Mysore University at Crawford Hall, University of Mysore. The book was released by His Holiness Sri Hansaraj Bharadhwaj, Governor of the Karnataka and Chancellor of the Mysore University. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. V.G Talawar, Registrar, Prof. P. S Nayak, Director of the Oriental Research Institute Vidwan M. Shivakumaraswamy were present in the function.

II. Oriental Research Institute gets US aid \$50,000

Oriental Research Institute gets US aid \$ 50,000 (Rs. 25 Lakhs) for the Restoration of historical building. Ms. Jennifer McIntyre, Consul General, U.S Conulate General, Chennai was handing over a cheque for 50,000 US Dollar (Rs. 25 Lakh) to Mysore University Vice Chancellor, Prof. V.G. Talwar, Registrar, Prof. P. S Nayak and Director of the Oriental Research Institute Vidwan M. Shivakumaraswamy in a function held at Oriental Research Institute on 31 January 2012.

III. Editing of Rare Sanskrit works of Scholars in Progress:

1. **Grahanidhi – V** volume of Sritattvanidhi of
Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar
Editor & Kannada Translator: Vidwan, Dr.T.V. Sathyanarayana.
2. **Vaishnava Nidhi – VI** volume of Sritattvanidhi of
Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar
Editor & Kannada Translator: Sri R. Raghavendra Rao
3. **Saiva Nidhi – VII** volume Sritattvanidhi of
Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar
Editor & Kannada Translator: Vidwan M. Shivakumara swamy.

4. **Agama Nidhi** – VIII volume of Sritattvanidhi of Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar

Editor & Kannada Translator: Dr. S. Jagannatha.

5. **Kautuka Nidhi** - IX volume of Sritattvanidhi of Sri Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar

Editor & Kannada Translator: Dr. D.P. Madhusudana

6. **Nagakumara charitha – (Story)**

Editor: Sri. K.V. Ramapriya

7. **Siddhasiddhanta Paddhati(Yoga)**

Editor : C. Parvathi

8. **Ashwalakshanam (Vaidyam)**

Editor: Dr. M. Geetha.

9. **Krishnabhyudaya Champu**

Editor: Dr. S. Jagannatha.

10. **Rasakalika – (Vaidya grantha)**

Kannada-English Translation Editor: Dr. M. Rangaswamy

11. **Vishnustuti Vyakhya**

Editor: Dr. D.P. Madhusudana

12. **Venkatesha Mahathmya Vyakhya**

Editor: Dr. D.P. Madhusudana

IV. Library Section

Sl. No.	Contents	Total
1	Manuscripts (Both Palmleaf & paper)	22000
2	Printed Books	38433

V. Publications of the Oriental Research Institute, University of Mysore, Mysore.

Total No. of publications –210