

A NOTE ON ORTHOGRAPHY

Except in respect of those words and names too familiar in their conventional spelling to change, I have avoided the use of "a" at the end of most Bengali terms because Bengalis do not generally pronounce the short "a"s at the end of syllables. On the other hand, in the endnotes I have retained the spelling of the names of the Indian authors as they appear in their published works. For a succinct explanation of Bengali orthography, I recommend Dr. Palāśbaraṇ Pāl's perceptive essay "Bāṅlā Kathā banām Bāṅlā Lekhā" ["Bengali Spoken and Written"] in *Anuṣṭup*, XXIII, 2 (1989), 98 ff.