

Foreword

This fascicle, which includes most of the papers presented in two joint panels during the Leiden Conference, will immediately reveal the wide spectrum of Middle Indian studies and the diversity of approach applicable in this field.

Some, but not all of these articles focus on a strictly delimited subject, thus following the suggestions of those scholars who have recently emphasised the need of such restricted studies for the progress of Indology in general. It will be seen that many of the documents and views adduced in the following contributions add to our general knowledge and understanding, whether in the field of Indian linguistics and semantics, or in that of literature (including works, authors and copyists), or of mental attitudes.

The fact that Jaina studies are here coupled with grammatically oriented articles needs no special justification. As remarked by Klaus Bruhn (*infra*), Jainology has, until now, attracted but little attention, and it is not to be denied that sound knowledge in this sphere will, to a great extent, depend on the progress made in the textual interpretation of the fundamental literature of the Jainas. In many cases, as is well known, help can be derived from comparisons with Buddhist vocabulary, rules and concepts.

Methodologically, the papers collected in the present fascicle follow widely different trends. While an emphatically traditional type of investigation has sometimes been preferred, elsewhere an attempt has been made to define new approaches, elaborated in the light of multidisciplinary contemporary research, and aimed at meeting the curiosity not only of Indologists, but also of broader circles. Instructive in itself, such a contrast also testifies to the freedom and vitality of our various disciplines.

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