

F R I E N D S O F A B H I S H I K T A N A N D A

Occasional Bulletin No.1

ABHISHIKTANANDAJI had a large circle of friends in different parts of the world, many of whom were naturally not known to each other. His samadhi in 1973 has, however, resulted in drawing some of us closely together. Apart from the happiness of sharing our recollections of him, we especially want to ensure that what he stood for may not be lost, but rather become better known to those who can profit from it.

It is clear that we need some means of keeping in touch and of sharing information. This Occasional Bulletin is being started as a simple way of doing this, with the further idea that it might develop into a useful instrument for promoting that object which was central to all that Swamiji was and worked for.

It will be much appreciated if you who receive this first Bulletin would kindly send the secretary the names and addresses of others to whom it should be sent; and also if you would send in any interesting material for inclusion in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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NEWS

The Memoir. The preparation of this was entrusted to Sr Sara Grant, RSCJ, of Sophia College, Bombay, and the Christa Prama Seva Ashram, Poona. In response to the appeal circulated by Bp Patrick D'Souza, many friends have already been generous in contributing extracts from their correspondence with Swamiji. There is evidently a wealth of material, including his diaries (from 1948) which are being typed from the barely legible original by Mme O. Baumer; and Sister is confident that to a great extent she will be able to present Swamiji in his own words. An exciting foretaste of what we can look forward to was published in the Clergy Monthly of December 1974. (Needless to say, it is not too late to send her further material, in the form of letters or personal recollections, for inclusion in the book, as her many commitments will not allow her to complete the work until well on in 1976. Address--Sophia College, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay 400 026.)

Recent publications

Guru and Disciple (containing English tr. of Gnanananda, un maître spirituel du pays tamoul and The Mountain of the Lord) S.P.C.K., London, 1974

Saccidananda: a Christian approach to Advaitic experience (English tr. of Sagesse Hindoue mystique chrétienne) I.S.P.C.K., Delhi, 1974.

Prayer (4th Indian edition) E.S.P.C.K., Delhi, 1975.

So far very few reviews of Saccidananda have appeared, despite the efforts of the publishers. Your suggestions for getting it reviewed or otherwise noticed will be gratefully received.

Forthcoming publications (in preparation by I.S.P.C.K.)

The Further Shore, containing two of Swamiji's latest essays--

(a) Sannyasa, which was serialized in The Divine Life (Sivananda Ashram, Rishikesh) 1973-4, has been revised according to the author's intention with the help of the disciple whose diksa was the occasion of its being written.

(b) The Upanishads--an Introduction has been translated from a MS found among his papers at Uttar Kashi.

These two powerful and original studies reveal the depth of his authentic experience, and are truly illuminating. The book will be ready shortly; price about Rs.10.

Hindu-Christian Meeting Point (a second edition, incorporating the author's latest notes and emendation). A reissue of this book is planned, as it contains not only the record of an important process in preparation for dialogue in which Swamiji was vitally concerned, but also some splendid examples of his own exposition of the Bible and Upanishads. The new edition should be ready early in 1976.

Also under consideration--

(a) a collection of published and unpublished articles, in so far as these supplement what can be found in Swamiji's books.

(b) Dr R. Panikkar has in view a collection of essays by different scholars, taking up and developing subjects which were of particular concern to Abhishiktanandaji.

In other languages--

We understand that there are various initiatives for publication in French, German and Italian, of which we would welcome further particulars.

A German version of "Yoga and Christian Prayer" has been contributed by Dr Bettina Bäumer to a periodical called Meditation (?).

PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

In India a small committee has been formed of some friends of Abhishiktananda, who in various respects feel a responsibility for promoting his writings. The following are members:

Swami Chidananda, of Sivananda Ashram, Rishikosh
Fr Dominique, OSB, of Asirvanam Monastery, Bangalore
Bp Patrick D'Souza, of Varanasi
Fr J. Dupuis, SJ, of Vidyajyoti, Delhi
Sr Sara Grant, RSCJ, of Sophia College, Bombay
Dr R. Panikkar, of Varanasi and Santa Barbara, California
Rev. J. D. M. Stuart, of the Brotherhood of the Ascended Christ,
Delhi (where Swamiji's books and papers are being kept)

If an International Committee is formed, it can perform a useful function in making available texts and information to those in different countries who are trying to promote the publication of his works. The Committee would of course have no claim to the author's rights. It might well include a professional European publisher, who could advise it on matters relating to the law of copyright. (The question of where in fact the rights at present lie is still being studied.)

In any case, as India was the scene of Swamiji's work, and as we have here the fullest collection of his literary remains, the Indian committee recognizes its special responsibility for sharing our inheritance with friends in other countries.

ABHISHIKTANANDA BIBLIOGRAPHY

This is a first attempt at a bibliography. We shall welcome further information to make it more complete.

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 4. Sagosso hindoue mystique chrétienne: du Védanta à la Trinité, Paris 1965
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 5. The Mountain of the Lord: Pilgrimage to Gangotri, Madras 1966
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