FRIENDS OF ABHISHIKTANANDA

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 Prema Swa 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 Swami. There is evidently a wealth of material, including his diaries (from 1948) which are being typed from the barely legible original by Mme O. Bammard, and Sister is confident that to a great extent she will be able to present Swami in his own words. An exciting foretaste of what we can look forward to was published in the Glory 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, Bhalubhai Desai Road, Bombay 400 026.)

Recent publications


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 Swami’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 Swami 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 those supplement what can be found in Swami'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 Abhishiktananda.

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 Bottina Baumer 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, Rishikesh
Fr Dominique, OSE, of Aaravam Monastery, Bengaluru
Bp Patrick D'Souza, of Varanasi
Fr J. Dupuis, SJ, of Vidya Jyoti, Delhi
Sr Sara Grant, RSJ, 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 Swami'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 Swami'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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2. Eremites du Saccidananda, Castorman, Tournai, 1956 (with Fr Monchenin)
   2(a) Eremites do Saccidananda, Belo Horizonto, Brasil, 1958.

   3(a) Tamil edition, Shantivanam, 1959.

4. Sagosso hindou mystique chrétien du Védanta à la Trinité, Paris 1965
   4(a) Indische Weisheit christliche Mystik, Munich, 1968
   4(b) Saccidananda, a Christian approach to Advaitic experience, Delhi 1974

5. The Mountain of the Lord: Pilgrimage to Gengotri, Madras 1966
   (also included in 10(a) below)
   5(a) Une messe aux sources du Gange, Paris, 1967
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   6(a) Hindu-Christian Meeting Point—within the Cave of the Heart, Bombay, 1969

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B. PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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2. L'hindouisme est-il toujours vivant? (La Vie Intell., Nov.1956)
4. L'Inde et Carmel (2 parts) (Carmel I & II, 1965)
5. A Letter from India (Onc in Christ, 1966?) (with C.M.Rogers)
6. Christians Meditating together upon the Upanishads (Examiner, March 1966)
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31. 'Theology of Presence as a form of Evangelization in the context of non-Christian Religions (in Service and Salvation, Bangalore, 1973)
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