



Myths of the Origin of Fire by James George Frazer

Review by: Ernest Bender

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M. C. MODI. Pp. 27 + 160. (L. D. Institute, No. 42) Ahmedabad: L. D. INSTITUTE. 1974. Rs. 8.00.

The editors' Apabhraṃśa studies continue apace with the publication of this volume which is devoted to the Sanatkumāra-episode of the Neminātha-carita. (See L. D. Institute Series No's 25 and 33, reviewed on pages 168-69 of *JAOS* 95.1 [1975]).

The introduction discusses the evolution of the story, its linguistic peculiarities and the meters employed, and makes an appraisal of the composition as representative of the literary form. The text, which reprints verses 444 to 786, pages 112 to 198 of Volume I—i.e., L. D. Institute Series, No. 25—, is followed by a translation into Gujarati. Appended is Haribhadra's Prakrit poem, the Sanatkumārācakraṅgavartikathānaka, extracted from his hitherto unpublished Mallināthacarita. Over and above its contributions to linguistic and literary studies, the book can serve as a handy text for classroom work.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Sanskrit and Maharashtra. A Symposium. Edited by R. N. DANDEKAR. Pp. 139. (Publications of the Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit, No. 1) Poona: UNIVERSITY OF POONA. 1972.

The occasion for the preparation and dedication of this book was the 1972 meeting in New Delhi of the International Sanskrit Conference; the subject, the interaction between Sanskrit and Maharashtra; the contributors, members from the faculties of the Centre of Advanced Study in Sanskrit and the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute; and the editor, R. N. Dandekar. A happy combination, and the results make for instructive and entertaining reading.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Royal Song of Saraha. A Study in the History of Buddhist Thought. Translated and annotated by HERBERT V. GUENTHER. Pp. x + 214. Berkeley: SHAMBALA PUBLICATIONS, Inc. 1973.

A paperback reprint of the 1968 edition, a review of which appeared in *JAOS* 92.1 (1972) p. 157.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Thief of Love: Bengali Tales from Court and Village. Edited and translated by EDWARD C. DIMOCK. Pp. xiv + 305. Chicago: THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS. 1975. \$3.95.

Professor Dimock's delightful collection of Bengali tales, first published in 1963, and now re-issued in paperback.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Myths of the Origin of Fire. By SIR JAMES GEORGE FRAZER. Pp. vii + 238. New York: HACKER ART BOOKS. 1974. \$17.50.

The price is prohibitive for a reprint of the study which was first published in 1930. The binding is sturdy and the book will meet the requirements of libraries and other book depositories wishing to complete their holdings.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Gospel of Buddha. By PAUL CARUS. Pp. xx + 311. Chicago and London: THE OPEN COURT PUBLISHING COMPANY. 1973 (?). \$2.95. paperback.

A paperback reprint of the deluxe edition of 1915 which was the thirteenth, revised and enlarged edition, with illustrations, of the book which first appeared in 1894, and, since then, sold more than 3,000,000 copies. The author disclosed in his preface that the artist had "studied in the Ajanta caves the Buddhist paintings and sculptures and other monuments of Gandhāra. Thus the drawings faithfully reflect the spirit of the classical period of Buddhist art." (p. vii); but the appended essay in which the artist, Olga Kopetzky, described the studies she undertook that gave her "the assurance that historical fidelity has been preserved in my work . . ." (p. 311) records no claim on her part to having set foot in an Ajanta cave, much less India. Still the paintings can pass muster for 1915 and the text for 1894.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Yoga of the Bhagavat Gita.* By Sri Krishna Prem. Pp. xxix + 224. (The Penguin Metaphysical Library, No. 3572) Baltimore: PENGUIN BOOKS, INC. 1973. \$1.65, paperback.

A reprint of the 1948 edition which was a revision of the first edition of 1938. This incorporated the author's articles on the Bhagavad Gītā which were originally published in *The Arya Path*.

ERNEST BENDER
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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