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ICHR Newsletter

INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH NEW DELHI

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GENERAL

The Indian Council of Historical Research, established in 1972 to give a proper direction to historical research and to promote and foster objective and rational presentation and interpretation of history, has completed three years of useful existence. Its activities and progress during the years 1972 and 1973 have been detailed in the earlier issues of the *Newsletter*. This number of the *Newsletter* presents a brief account of the Council's activities during the year 1974 and the progress it has made in fulfilling some of its primary aims.

As may be seen from the details furnished below considerable progress has been achieved in the major programmes of the Council. Steps have been taken to promote publications of historical research of high standard. A scheme to compile and publish source material that would facilitate historical research has been undertaken. In order to identify the trends that are vanishing and the new trends that are emerging in historical research, to indicate significant gaps in historical knowledge which need attention and to suggest broad questions and hypotheses which would enable us to fix priorities in our research projects, the Council has undertaken the work of surveying the field and review the work done during the last twenty-five years. In addition scholars from all over the country are being provided with assistance to pursue historical research in the widest sense of the term. The subjects of research for which grants have been sanctioned during 1974 range from numismatics to political movements and from art-history to historical ballads. As may be seen in the following pages the Council has also undertaken several special projects. Mention may be made of the programme to translate core-books into different languages of India, the project on the Role of the Central and State Legislatures in the Freedom Struggle, the project on Towards Freedom, the project on Study of Central Asian Civilizations and the project on Source Book of Indian Culture.

RESEARCH PROJECTS, FELLOWSHIPS, PUBLICATION GRANTS etc.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The various research projects mentioned in the earlier issues of the *Newsletter* are reported to be making good progress. During the calendar year 1974 the Council has sanctioned the following four projects:

- RP 33 Dr A. M. Shastri, Nagpur University, Nagpur, *Study on Some 3000 coins of the Maghas of Kausambi and South Kosala.*
- RP 34 Dr I. Karttikeya Sarma, Archaeological Survey of India, Hyderabad, *Coinage of the Satavahana Empire.*
- RP 35 Dr M. Pattabhirama Reddy, Principal, Jawahar Bharati, Kavali, Andhra Pradesh, *A History of the Andhra People from 1600 to 1956.*
- RP 36 Professor K. Rajayyan, Madurai University, Madurai, *Translation and Edition of Historical Ballads in Tamil.*

FELLOWSHIPS

Twenty of the twenty-six fellowships awarded to different scholars during the years 1972 and 1973 have been reported in the earlier issues of the *Newsletter*. The following six are to be included among them:

- F 21 Shri B. S. Das, Sambalpur University, Sambalpur, Orissa, *Agrarian History of Orissa (1803-33).*
- F 22 Professor N. C. Bhatt, S. K. L. College, Amaravati, *The Administration of Suba Berar under the Asaf Jahi Kingdom of Hyderabad (1724-1833).*
- F 23 Mrs Vibha Tripathy, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, *Painted Gray Ware Culture in Proto-Historic India.*

F 24 Professor Amba Prasad, Delhi University, Delhi, *Revolutionary Nationalism in India (1907-31)*.

F 25 Professor S. Aejaz Husain, Retired Professor, Allahabad University, Allahabad, *Society in Northern Indian in the second half of the 19th century as gleaned from Urdu literature*.

During the year 1974 the following six fellowships have been awarded:

F 26 Dr Jhinko Yadav, Varanasi, *Political Ideas and Institutions as known from Prakrit sources of early medieval times and a preparation of a glossary of important terms bearing on the subject*.

F 27 Dr Hitesranjan Sanyal, Calcutta, *Social Context of temple building in early and medieval Bengal*.

F 28 Mr Mohinder Singh, Delhi University, Delhi, *Akali Movement in Punjab, 1920-25*.

F 29 Dr Karuna Goswami, Punjab University, Chandigarh, *Kashmir Painting—A Study based mostly on illustrated manuscripts*.

F 30 Professor Ashin Das Gupta, Vishwabharati University, Santiniketan, *A History of the Port city of Hooghly, circa 1700-57*

F 31 Mr K. K. Trivedi, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, *The Mughal Province of Agra during the 17th century*.

PUBLICATION GRANTS

Till December 1973 the Council has sanctioned publication grants to 34 theses /journals details of which have been reported in the earlier issues of the *Newsletter*. During 1974 the Council has sanctioned publication grants to the following six:

P 35 Dr P. D. Tripathy, Head of the Department of English, Science College, Patna, *The Doctrinal Novel—Later 18th century*.

P 36 Dr Aporba Kumar Chakravarty, Mahishadal Raj College, Mahishadal, P.O. Midnapur, *Origin and Development of Indian Calendrical Science*.

P 37 The Numismatic Society of India, Varanasi, *Journal of the Numismatic Society of India*.

P 38 The Managing Director, Nineteenth Century Studies, Calcutta, *Journal of the Nineteenth Century Studies*.

P 39 Calcutta Historical Society, Calcutta, *Journal of Bengal Past and Present*.

P 40 Secretary, Indian History Congress, New Delhi, *Proceedings of the 33rd Session of the Indian History Congress held at Muzaffarpur*.

GRANTS TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following professional organizations of historians were given financial assistance:

- PO 4 Indian History Congress, New Delhi: for organising a symposium at the 34th annual session at Chandigarh.
- PO 5 Indian History Congress, New Delhi: for publishing the Proceedings of the I.H.C. session held at Muzaffarpur.
- PO 6 M. S. University, Baroda: for the publication of the proceedings of the seminar on "Regional Historiography".

SOURCE MATERIALS

Though the need for giving an adequate source orientation to the teaching of history in higher stages of education is being frequently felt the inaccessibility of published source material has been an inhibiting factor in fulfilling this need. To make available all major sources of historical information to teachers and research students the Council has undertaken a few schemes. The following will give an idea of such schemes and the progress made in each of them so far.

ANCIENT INDIAN HISTORY

Selection of Sources for postgraduate Students

This will be in two volumes. The work pertaining to the first volume has already been taken up. This volume will cover the period from earliest times to *circa* A.D. 330 and will contain the major sources of the pre-historic and Vedic periods, the age of the Mahajanapadas and Mauryan and post-Mauryan periods. Those associated with the work are Professors Lallanji Gopal, S.D. Singh, Romila Thapar, Dr S. A. Dange, Dr B. N. Mukherjee, Dr D. N. Jha and Dr Dilip Chakravarti. Work pertaining to the Vedic period has almost been completed while progress in respect of other periods is reported to be good.

Inscriptions of India

This scheme envisages the publication of inscriptions ranging in time from the sixth to the fifteenth century A.D. and belonging to all the regions and dynasties. Each volume, devoted to a particular dynasty or a group of ruling lines, would contain not only texts of the inscriptions but also a general introduction, translation of inscriptions or summaries of their contents, an index referring to rivers, chieftains, technical terms and things of religious,

social and political significance. Since June 1973 work on 25 volumes is going on. Details regarding the assignment of work have already been given in earlier *Newsletters*. The following four volumes are reported to be almost ready:

- (1) *Inscriptions of the Palas and Senas* By Dr S. K. Maity.
- (2) *Inscriptions of Bihar* By Dr Sitaram Roy.
- (3) *Inscriptions of the Sarabhauriyas and Somavamsi Kings of South Kosala and Orissa* by Dr A. M. Shastri.
- (4) *Inscriptions of the Pallavas* By Professor T. V. Mahalingam.

Editing & Publishing of Topographical List of Inscriptions of Tamil Nadu & Kerala

As *A Topographical List of the Inscriptions of the Madras Presidency* by Rangacharya, published in 1919, is out of date in view of the discovery of an enormous number of epigraphs since then, Professor T. V. Mahalingam undertook a few years ago, at the instance of the University Grants Commission, the work of preparing a fresh Topographical list of inscriptions up to A.D. 1300. Though the work pertaining to the compilation of material was completed, the whole material had to be edited and made ready for the press. Professor T.V. Mahalingam has been requested by the I.C.H.R. to do this, and during 1974 he had completed the work on the volume on North Arcot District and submitted the same to the Council. This has been sent to the press.

Preparation of a List of Vijayanagar Inscriptions

The topographical list of inscriptions of Tamilnadu and Kerala mentioned above covers only the period from the age of the early cave inscriptions to A.D. 1300 and does not include the Vijayanagar inscriptions in Telugu, Kannada and Tamil. Professor T.V. Mahalingam has therefore undertaken the scheme of preparing a list of Vijayanagar inscriptions in the four South Indian States, for they constitute a primary source for the medieval history of South India. In this he is being assisted by Dr B. R. Gopal, Mysore University, Mysore.

MEDIEVAL INDIAN HISTORY

Preparation of a Hindi Translation of Early Sources of Akbar's Reign

Details regarding this have already been given in the earlier issues of the *Newsletter*. All the sources of Akbar's reign, with the exception of some portions of three sources have been translated into Hindi and received.

The portions not translated so far have now been assigned to scholars for translation. The annotation work would be taken up after the receipt of the translation.

Editing, English Translation and Annotation of Akbarat of Aurangzeb's Reign

Work on this project is going on since March 1973 with Professor Iffan Habib as Director.

Survey, Editing & Microfilming of Historical Records of the erstwhile Thikanas of Ajmer & Merwara

Dr V. S. Bhargava, the Director of this project, has completed the survey and collection of documents of the *thikana* Bhinai and submitted the manuscript. The records of the *thikana* Masuda are reported to be under survey now.

English Translation and Annotation of Tashrihu'l Aqwan

Dr Anis Farooqi, the Director of this project, could not initiate work on this due to the non-availability of the manuscript. He has, however, now procured a photo-copy of the same from the British Museum, London, and the work is reported to be progressing.

Comprehensive Catalogue of Historical Works on Rajasthan

Dr Narain Singh Bhati, the Director of this project, is reported to have so far covered several hundred manuscripts relating to the history and culture of the Jodhpur division. Work on other areas is in progress.

Preparation of a Descriptive Catalogue of Mughal Documents of Aurangzeb's Reign

Details regarding documents being included in this catalogue by the Project Director, Dr Sarojini Regani, have been given in the previous *Newsletter*. The documents being catalogued are in the Andhra Pradesh State Archives, Hyderabad. Substantial progress has been reported.

Publication of Select Documents on Social and Economic History in Northern India during the Seventeenth & Eighteenth Centuries

Professor Satish Chandra, the Director of this Project, has so far collected several hundred documents most of which are from the Rajasthan State Archives, Bikaner. He is at present engaged in writing notes on these. Besides he is also continuing the work of collecting further sources relevant to the subject from several other libraries and archives in India.

English Translation of Tarikh-i-Akbari of Arif Qandhari with Annotation & Introduction

Work on this is progressing with Dr Parmatma Saran as Project Director. While preparing the annotation Dr Saran is trying to find corroboration of the information given by Quandhari from other contemporary works such as *Nafaisul Maasir*.

Jodhpur Rajya ki Khyat : Critical Edition & Comparative Study (upto A.D. 1724)

This project is under Dr Raghubir Singh and reported to be nearing completion.

Preparation of Photographs of Maps of the Pargana Bihar

The aim of this project is to prepare photographs of about two hundred maps of the Pargana Bihar most of which are now inaccessible. Even such works as *U.P. District Gazetteer* and *Hunter's Statistical Account of Bengal* do not give certain minute details which will be furnished by the maps now being photographed under this project. Dr Qeyammuddin Ahmad, the Director of this project, has so far photographed about one hundred maps.

Compilation of Russian Documents Concerning Seventeenth & Eighteenth Century India

This project is being directed by Dr Surendra Gopal and reported to be making progress.

Preparation of a Calendar of Dutch Records (1617-21 A.D.)

Dr Ona Prakash, the Director of this project, is working on *De Overgekomen Brieven* is likely to visit the Hague to complete the work.

Preparation of a Calendar of the Portuguese Work Monções de Reino

Dr George Moraes, the Director of this project, has not been able to make much progress due to his other preoccupations.

Preparation of an English Translation of Shahnama-i-Munawwar Kalam of Sheodas

This has been done by Professor Syed Hasan Askari. The translation is being vetted.

Editing of the Persian Text of the Waq'at-i-Mushtaqi with an Introduction in English

This work has been completed by Mr Iqtidar Husain Siddiqi, and the manuscript has been received.

Preparation of an English Translation of Waq'at-i-Mushtaqi

Mr Iqtidar Husain Siddiqi, to whom this work has been assigned, is reported to have translated half of the text so far.

Al-Biruni's Source of Information on Indian Culture and Social Life

This has been dropped.

Editing the Nafaisul Ma'asir of Alauddaula Qazwini

This has been dropped for the time being.

MODERN INDIAN HISTORY

Source Volumes on Nationalist Movement

Details regarding this have been given in the earlier *Newsletters*. Altogether twenty volumes of documents on the Nationalist Movement are being compiled. Professor K. Rajayyan has completed and submitted the source volume on *Internal Resistance to British Rule before 1858*. The sources pertaining to the period from 1858 to 1905 are being compiled in seven volumes under the general editorship of Professor Bipin Chandra, the first of these seven volumes dealing with the period 1858-85 and being prepared by Professor S. R. Mehrotra is reported to be nearing completion; work on the volume dealing with the period 1885-6 is also reported to be in progress with Professor Bipin Chandra as editor; work on the volume pertaining to the period 1899-1902 has been taken up by Dr B. L. Grover.

The sources of the Nationalist Movement for the period 1905-19 are being compiled in four volumes with Professor T. K. Ravindran as their general editor. Of these the first two volumes are being prepared by Dr Sumit Sarkar and the rest by Professor T. K. Ravindran. The work pertaining to the first two volumes is reported to be nearing completion.

The sources relating to the period 1919-37 are being compiled in eight volumes with Professor Bimal Prasad as general editor. The volume dealing with the period 1922-4 has already been submitted.

Source Volumes on Peasant Movement

This is being compiled in two parts: (i) *Peasant Movement in general in India* (13 volumes) and (ii) *The Peasant Movement prior to 1858 in South India* (1 volume). The first part dealing with the period 1757-1918 is being compiled with Dr B. B. Chaudhary as its general editor. In this part, the volume on the agrarian movement in Malabar district in the nineteenth century is being prepared by Dr K. N. Panikkar. The volume dealing with Tamilnadu and Andhra will also be prepared by him later. The sources relating to agrarian movements in eastern India have been compiled in two volumes and submitted by Dr B. B. Chaudhuri. The other volumes in this series are also under compilation. The sources relevant for a study of the peasant movement prior to 1858 in South India are being compiled by Professor T. K. Ravindran.

Source Volumes on Trade Union Movement

Sources pertaining to the trade union movement have been compiled in ten volumes and edited by Professor A. R. Desai. These volumes are likely to be published shortly.

Source Volumes on Economic & Statistical Data

Six volumes are being compiled under this scheme. Dr B. B. Chaudhary is compiling the volume on agriculture, rent and revenue. Dr. S. Bhattacharya, who has been entrusted with the work of collecting material for the volume on finance and currency, has reported that the work has almost been completed. The volume on trade 'inland and foreign' in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is being prepared by Dr Surendra Gopal while the volume on the same subject but pertaining to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries is being compiled by Dr Nilmani Mukherjee. Work on both these volumes are reported to be nearing completion. The volume on Indian industries during the period 1860-1939 is being prepared by Professor A. K. Bagchi. Records bearing on labour, price and wages and belonging to the period from 1914-45 are being compiled by Dr V. B. Singh.

Source Volumes Relating to the Freedom Struggle in Goa, Daman & Diu

It is proposed to bring out three volumes containing original sources relevant to a study of the freedom struggle in Goa, Daman and Diu (including Dadara and Nagar Haveli). It is proposed to take up first the sources pertaining to the period 1928-61.

Compilation of the Zamindari Records of Bihar in the Eighteenth Century

Dr K. K. Datta has submitted two volumes on the subject.

A Source Book on the Role of Revolutionaries abroad in India's Struggle for Independence

This is being compiled in two volumes. The first volume pertaining to the period from 1905-20 has been compiled by Professor A. C. Bose. The second volume dealing with the period from 1927-47 has been assigned to Dr K. K. Ghosh, and the work is reported to be in progress.

PROGRAMME OF REPRINTING SOME ORIGINAL AND SECONDARY SOURCES

This is linked with the Council's scheme of publishing source materials detailed above. Several original sources such as Annual Reports of Archaeological Departments and secondary sources in the form of books and articles, essential for postgraduate students, research scholars and teachers, are now inaccessible even in major cities with considerable library facilities. The Council has therefore undertaken the task of reprinting some of the important original and secondary sources. Details regarding the books to be reprinted have been given in the previous number of the *Newsletter*. Progress is being made in this work and Professor Niharranjan Ray's *Maurya and Sunga Art* was sent to the press in 1974 after a revision of the text by the author. So far as Modern Indian History is concerned, manuscripts of ten titles out of the thirty-one selected for reprinting have been received.

Besides reprinting rare books the Council has also a scheme of compiling and reprinting articles on selected themes. The themes include social history of Indian art, sculpture and iconography, castes and tribes, production and technology, trade and commerce, Indian religion and Indian philosophy.

Professor S. Settar, Dr G. L. Adhya, Dr Hiteshranjan Sanyal, Dr R. Champaklakshmi, Dr Amita Ray, Dr R. N. Nandi, Dr N.N. Bhattacharya and Shri D. P. Chattopadhyaya are associated with this scheme. The work in respect of the compilation of articles on Indian philosophy has already been completed by Shri D. P. Chattopadhyaya and the manuscript received in the Council.

The Council has also undertaken the scheme of collecting and publishing articles of eminent historians. In the first stage it is proposed to collect and publish the articles of Ananda Coomaraswamy, D. D. Kosambi, Stella Kramrisch and Nirmal Kumar Bose. Dr B. D. Chattopadhyaya, who was entrusted with the work of compiling D. D. Kosambi's articles on Indian

numismatics, has already completed the work and submitted the manuscript. Work in respect of the compilation of the articles by other scholars is reported to be in progress. Historians who are doing the work of compilation for the Council include Professor S. Settar, Dr Hitesranjan Sanyal, Dr D. N. Jha and Dr Amita Ray.

As the *Annual Reports of the Mysore Archaeological Department*, invaluable for the study of early and medieval south Indian history, are not available now the Council has undertaken the task of reprinting them. It is proposed to reprint the Annual Reports of the years from 1906 to 1922. Work in respect of this has been entrusted to Professor S. Settar and Dr Nagaraja Rao. The first part of the work relating to the period from 1906-13 has been completed and the manuscript received.

OTHER MAJOR PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

Translation Programme

The Council's programme of translating core books on different aspects of Indian history, details of which have been given in earlier issues of the *Newsletter*, is progressing in spite of financial difficulties. Till the end of 1974 the Council had received thirty seven manuscripts in different languages. The details are furnished below:

<i>Languages</i>	<i>Number of Manuscripts received</i>
Assamese	Nil
Bengali	1
Gujarati	3
Hindi	4
Kannada	9
Malayalam	1
Marathi	1
Oriya	3
Panjabi	1
Tamil	6
Telugu	1
Urdu	7

Steps are being taken to get the above books published.

Survey of Historical Research

The Council has undertaken a comprehensive survey of historical research carried out during the last twenty-five years. The aim of this survey is to formulate a long term programme of research promotion by reviewing the work done so far and by assessing the extent to which this work has added to our knowledge. Details regarding the organization of survey and the

themes chosen for the survey have been given in the earlier issues of the *Newsletter*. Information in respect of the two surveys completed so far has also been given already. During the year 1974 twenty-six surveys were in varying stages of completion. The four following surveys have been completed and reports on them received:

<i>Titles of the Survey Report</i>	<i>Name of the Project Director</i>
Military History of India—Modern portion up to 1914	Dr S. N. Prasad Director National Archives of India New Delhi.
Social Reform Movements in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries	Dr Sumit Sarkar Reader Department of History University of Delhi, Delhi.
Revolt of 1857	Dr K. K. Sen Gupta 43/B, Paddapukur Road, Calcutta-700020.
Gandhism and Gandhian Thought	Professor Manoranjan Jha Deptt. of Political Science Banaras Hindu University Varanasi

Studies in Central Asian Civilizations

The UNESCO has initiated a project for a better understanding of the civilization of the people of Central Asia through studies of their archaeology, history, science and literature. At the instance of the Indian National Commission for cooperation with UNESCO the ICHR has taken up the following projects for implementation:

An Annotated Bibliography of Kushana Archaeology

This has been done by Dr B. N. Puri. The manuscript has been received and is being processed for publication.

Motifs, Symbols, Myths and Legends in Art and Architecture from Kushana Times to the Mughal Times

This is being done in two parts. The first part covering the period from the 1st Century A.D. to A.D. 600 has been assigned to Professor G. R. Sharma while the second part covering the period from A.D. 700 to A.D. 1700 to Professor B. N. Goswami.

A Descriptive Catalogue of Manuscripts and Documents Relating to Central Asia in the Indian Archives

This was assigned to and has been completed by the Asiatic Society, Calcutta. The manuscript has been received.

History and Archaeology of the Kushanas

This is a cooperative work in which several scholars are engaged.

A Catalogue of Gandhara Sculptures in India

This is being prepared by the Archaeological Survey of India. The ICHR has provided a technical assistant to expedite the work.

Excavation at Mathura

Archaeological excavation is being conducted at Mathura by the Archaeological Survey of India.

History of Ideas and Philosophy

Work on this is yet to be initiated.

Development of Towns in Central Asia (1st Century A.D. to 5th Century A.D.)

Work on this is being done by Dr (Mrs) Naseem Bhatia.

Kushana Towns in India

This has been assigned to Shri Kamleshwar Prasad.

A Source Book on Indian History & Culture

This project has been undertaken to provide a balanced view of the Indian history and culture through selected extracts from original sources. Extracts are being provided on religion, philosophy, economy, polity, social organisation, literature, science and technology, legal institutions and art. Started in 1973, the project is making progress under the direction of Professor Niharranjan Ray.

Project on the Role of The Central & State Legislatures in the Freedom Struggle

This project, undertaken by the Council on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of India's independence, is making satisfactory progress. It is proposed to bring out a series of volumes on this subject. The first book, *Role of the Central Legislature in the Freedom Struggle* by Professor Manoranjan Jha had already been released in 1972. The other volumes dealing with the

role of state legislatures have been assigned to different scholars. Besides making an objective study of both the positive and negative sides of the part played by political forces in state legislatures, these volumes would also examine the bills and resolutions introduced in the legislatures from the point of view of their social implications. An editorial board under the chairmanship of Professor S. Gopal has been constituted to supervise the project. Dr K. M. Patra, who was assigned the volume on Orissa, had completed the work in December 1973. The volume on Madras had been completed by Dr Krishnaswamy in March 1974. Work on the North-West Frontier Province is reported to be nearing completion under Dr A. K. Gupta. The scholars working on Assam, Bengal, Bombay, Central Provinces and Berar, Panjab, Sind, U.P. and Bihar legislatures have completed the collection of material and are engaged in writing the books.

History of the Second World War

In collaboration with the International Committee for the History of the Second World War, the ICCHR is planning projects on the impact of the Second World War on Indian society, economy, politics, international relations etc. At present a Research Fellowship has been granted to Shri Bihwa Mohan Prasad to work on the impact of World War II on coal industry in Bihar and Bengal.

Project Entitled "Towards Freedom"

This project has been started with a view to compiling and publishing a series of ten volumes of source material relating to the freedom movement during the period 1937-47. The sources being compiled include official and private documents, newspapers and other contemporary material. This is being done in collaboration with the National Archives of India. Started in 1973 the project is making steady progress.

History of Freedom Struggle in Kerala

This aims at presenting a detailed and objective account of the freedom struggle in Kerala. Dr N. P. Sreekumaran Nair, who has undertaken this, proposes to cover the subject in four volumes. The first volume dealing with the period upto 1919 is reported to be nearing completion.

Editing of Basic Writings of Veeresalingam

This aims at the collection and translation of the basic writings of Veeresalingam, the well-known freedom fighter and social reformer of Andhra Pradesh. This has been taken up by Mr Rama Krishna. The work is reported to be nearing completion.

PUBLICATIONS

The Indian Historical Review, Volume I, Number I, was brought out in March, 1974. It contains articles on various aspects of feudalism in Indian history besides one review article and reviews of forty-eight books on Indian and non-Indian History recently published. The second number of the Journal was published on the eve of the Indian History Congress in December 1974. Articles in this number are devoted to trade in Indian history. It also contains a review article and reviews of more than fifty books recently published.

In memory of D. D. Kosambi the Council brought out a book entitled *Indian Society: Historical Probing*s in May, 1974. It contains twenty-two articles by Indian and foreign scholars dealing with significant problems on the social history of India. Some examine the social milieu of religious development, others discuss the social classes and their inter-relationships in ancient and medieval times, and still others investigate the nature of working and capitalist classes. The volume has been edited by Professor R. S. Sharma in collaboration with Dr Vivekanand Jha.

Yet another publication of the Council during the year is *Makers of Modern India* (second edition) by Dr A. K. Gupta, Dr Z. A. Nizami and Mr M. N. Nagaraj. The revised text of Professor Niharranjan Ray's *Maurya and Post-Maurya Art* is under print.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

The year 1974 has been a year of continued research activity for different academic institutions concerned with historical research and preservation of historical material. What follows here is a brief account of the activities of the National Archives of India during 1974. Other institutions and University departments of history throughout the country are requested to keep sending periodically a short account of their activities for publication in the *Newsletters* of the Indian Council of Historical Research.

The National Archives of India was able to expand its activities during 1974. There was a steady rise in the number of research scholars who availed themselves of the facilities offered by the Archives for consulting official records, microfilm copies of records obtained from abroad, collection of private papers and published sources. As many as 590 research scholars worked in the research room. Altogether about 60,000 requisitions for records, 1286 rolls of microfilm and 27 collections of private papers of notable Indians were issued.

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the publication programme of the National Archives of India. The printing of volume XIX of *Fort William—India House Correspondence* (Military Department, 1787-91; Honorary Editor Dr Bisheshwar Prasad) was completed. The printing of volumes XVI and XVIII in the same series made further progress. In addition, volume IX of the *Descriptive List of Mutiny Papers* was brought out. Two more volumes (volumes VIII and IX) of the *Descriptive List of Secret Department Records* were brought out in cyclostyled form, thus bringing the series to a close. Volume II of the *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, which had been sold out, was reprinted by the photo off-set process. The printing of the *Proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission*, volume XIII, was nearing completion. The Annual Reports of the National Archives of India for the years 1972-3 were published. Lastly *The Indian Archives* volume XXI (Nos. 1 and 2) and volume XXII (Nos. 1 and 2) were published.

The National Archives also continued its work pertaining to the project entitled "Towards Freedom", undertaken in collaboration with the Indian Council of Historical Research. During the year 1974 the National Archives of India was engaged in the selection and typing of 8,000 pages of material from the records of the Home Department (1937-42), Political Department (1941-3), Office of the Secretary to the Governor-General (1941-2) and the collections of Dr Rajendra Prasad.

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