

## Oriental Institute

### Introduction

- World renowned research institute conceived in 1893 by the Great Visionary Maharaja Sir Sayajirao Gaekwad III (1863-1939)
- Established on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1927
- Affiliated to the [M. S. University](#) of Baroda since 1949

### Fields of activities:

1. Collection of Rare, Important and Illustrated Manuscripts .
2. Preservation of rare and important Manuscripts and indological books.
3. Publication:
  - (a) Critically editing rare and important works based on manuscripts in Gaekwad's Oriental Series(G.O.S.).
  - (b) Critically editing Purana -texts.
  - (c) Publishing of two research Quarterlies
    - (i) Journal of Oriental Institute, Baroda (English)
    - (ii) Svadhyaya (Gujarati)
  - (d) Other Gujarati publications under different Mala Series.
4. Offering guidance to scholars for their Research works.
5. Supplying C.D. of the Manuscripts to Scholars for their research.
6. Digitization of Rare , Illustrated and Important Manuscripts

### Staff Members

1. Director,
2. Deputy Director.
3. Five Research Officers
- 4 General Editor (Critical Editions Wing)
- 5 Assistant Editor (Critical Editions Wing) and four Critical Apparatus Writers and two Proof Readers

### Administrative wing of the Institute

Head Clerk- 1, Technical Assistants- 2, Clerks-4, Attenders2,Peons-6.

## Sections of the Institute

### The Manuscript Section

Oriental Institute houses 30,140 manuscripts and many antique objects. There is a good collection of illustrated manuscripts and different kinds of ancient writing materials, some of which are exhibited in the manuscript section. Institute has received hundreds of manuscripts as gift from various Pandits from Baroda and nearby places and the collection is still increasing by these donations of scholars.

We digitized copies of Manuscripts in C.D. form, on chargeable basis to the research scholars all over the world.. Ancient and modern preservation techniques are followed to save the Manuscripts from deterioration. Four volumes of Catalogue of Alphabetical List of Manuscripts of the Institute have been published and fifth volume is in progress.

All the manuscripts available in the Institute have been duly registered in the accession registers. Scholars can also refer to Manuscripts in the premises. Manuscripts in all the different scripts and also on different materials like Palm-leaf, Birch-bark, Paper etc. are well preserved in the Institute. These Manuscripts cover all the different subjects and Shastras not only in Sanskrit language but also in Prakrit, Gujarati, Marathi, Persian etc. More than 186 works have been published in the world renowned Gaekwad's Oriental Series based upon such ancient, important and rare manuscripts.

<b>Total No. of Manuscripts:</b>	30,140
<b>Paper manuscripts:</b>	27,124
<b>Palm Leaf Mss :</b>	3,016
<b>Birch-bark Mss:</b>	1
<b>Metal:</b>	4
<b>Illustrated Mss:</b>	127
<b>Oldest dated Ms:</b>	1220 A.D.
<b>Catalogues of MSS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Alphabetical List of the Mss in the O.I., Vol. I, 1942(1999 reprint), Price: Rs.420.</li><li>2. Ibid, Vol.II, 1950(1999 reprint) Rs.500.</li><li>3. Ibid, Vol.III, 1998, Rs. 670.</li><li>4. Ibid,Vol. IV,2008 ,Rs.515</li></ol>

## The Translation Branch

This section owes its existence to the princely donation of rupees Two Lakhs made by the late Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad in 1912 for publication of popular literature in Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi. The activities of this section may be tabulated as under:

Shri Sayaji Sahitya mala: For Adults

Shri Sayaji Balajnanamala:for juveniles

Shri Sayaji Gramavikasamala:For rural uplift

Matushri Jamanabai Smaraka Granthamala : For Women

Shri Shishujnanamala: For children

The Maharaja Sayajirao Memorial Lecture Series

More than 660 books have been published so far on a variety of topics and the section has well served its purpose of popularising the knowledge among masses. One book is generally published from the interest of the Fund.

## The Critical Editions Section

This Section is engaged in preparing Critical Editions of Purana-texts.

1 During 1951 to 1975, A Critical Edition of the great epic-Valmiki- Ramayana was prepared and published in seven voluminous books, incorporating seven Kandas namely: Bala, Ayodhya, Aranya, Kishkindha, Sundara, Yuddha and Uttara,with the help of more than 25 assistants, working for 25 years, and with the financial assistance from U.G.C.

The Bare Text containing only the constituted text of the Valmiki-Ramayana is also separately published in one book.

The Pada-Index of the Valmiki-Ramayana is published in three different volumes.

2 The project of the Critical Edition of the Vishnupurana was undertaken, after the successful completion of the project of the Critical Edition of the Valmiki-Ramayana. The UGC committee visited Oriental Institute and recommended that such work should be continued on a permanent basis since the Institute had trained personnel for such work of the preparation of the critical editions. Therefore they agreed to share the expense of the further scheme on 2/3 basis and the remaining 1/3 portion was to be borne by the state government up to 31-3-1979. From 1-4-1979 the state government undertook permanent liability of the staff. The critical edition of the Vishnupurana is published in

two volumes containing the constituted text, critical apparatus, index of verses, and introduction.

3 When the critical edition of the Vishnupurana was ready the project of preparing the critical edition of the Markandeyapurana has been undertaken. Its work is almost complete and D.T.P. Work and proof reading for the same are in progress. Two Volumes are published and the third one is n press.

4 The Institute has also undertaken the major project of preparing the critical edition of the Vayupurana. The work of collecting manuscripts from different institutes and libraries is in progress and collation of collected mss. is started.

5 The institute also wishes to publish the critical edition of the Vahnipurana.

The work of the section is carried out by the following staff.

1. General Editor/Professor
2. Assistant editor/Lecturer
3. Critical Apparatus Writers-4
4. Proof Readers-2

### The Printed Section

The printed section of the Institute has a collection of more than 50,000 books on indological subjects. There are many rare important old and new books on diverse subjects. The library is a reference library and all bonafide scholars and students of this University and the Baroda city as well as from any state of India or from abroad are allowed to refer to the books in the library premises.

### **Publications of the Institute**

No.	Name of Series	Volume published so far
1	Gaekwad's Oriental Series	187
2	Shri Sayaji Sahityamala	380
3	Shri Sayaji Gramavikasamala	36
4	Matushri Jamnabai Smarak Granthmala	08
5	Shri Sayaji Balajnanamala	213

6	Shri Shishujnanamala	08
7	M.S. University Oriental Series	25
8	Critical Edition of Ramayana	07
9	Critical Edition of Vishnupurana	02
10	Critical Edition of Markandeyapurana	02

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