

Henry T. Colebrooke an August Wilhelm von Schlegel
London, 18.09.1821

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[1] Argyll Street

18 Sept 1821

Sir

I have the satisfaction of thanking you for your letter of 5th Sept. I am on the point of embarking on a voyage on which I shall be several months absent; and do not expect to return earlier than the middle of next year, when I shall have the pleasure of addressing you. I must beg your excuse, if my present answer does not embrace all the subjects of your inquiry, & is hasty and jejune.

Two or three Sanscrit works are known, which are somewhat in the style or manner of the *Hitópadesa* & *Pancha-tantra*: consisting of popular tales strung together. One is the *Sinhásana dwatrinsati*, comprising stories that purport to be told by the thirty two images which adorned *Vicramáditya's* throne; another is the *Vétála-panchavinsati* or twenty-five stories told by a corpse possessed by an evil spirit; & some more, of which I do not immediately recollect the titles. These works are in an easy, familiar style -

[2] Some popular tales are subjects of more finished performances: one instance is the *Vásavadattá* noticed in my treatise on Sanscrit &c poetry in the *Asiatic Researches*.

I entirely concur in opinion with you that a Catalogue raisonné of a collection of Indian Manuscripts is a work much wanted - In the conviction of its utility I once began such a Catalogue of my own Collection; but want of leisure prevented my persevering in it when I could command requisite assistance of a librarian.

There is in England a considerable number of Sanscrit manuscripts collected by the late Sir Robert Chambers Chief Judge of the Supreme Court at Calcutta; which his heirs were desirous of selling some time ago, & probably still are so. It was offered for sale in more than one quarter, with a condition that the collection should not be scattered but kept together, & continue to bear Sir Robert's name. Whether that or any other restriction would now be proposed, I cannot positively say: but after my return from abroad I will tender to you my services to ascertain all particulars you may be desirous of being furnished with.

[3] I have it in contemplation to devote a portion of the abundant leisure of ship board to the translation of a German work or two by way of retrieving my knowledge of the language, which I formerly knew, but have neglected of late - Without pledging myself on the subject I think it likely I may present myself to you on my return as translator of one of your own works

I am with great regard

Yours very obed^{ly}

HColebrooke

[4] M. A. W. von Schlegel

Bonn

Prussian dominions

on the Rhine

Namen

Chambers, Robert

Vikramāditya Śakāri, Ujjain, König

Orte

Bonn

Kalkutta

London

Werke

Colebrooke, Henry T.: On Sanscrit and Prācṛit Poetry (1808)

Hitopadeśa

Pañcatantra

Schlegel, August Wilhelm von: Werke

Sinhasana Dvatrinsati

Subandhu: Vāsavadattā

Vetālapañcaviṃśatikā

Periodika

Asiatic Researches

Bemerkungen

Paginierung des Editors

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