

Prof. V.S. Apte, in the Preface to his *English-Sanskrit Dictionary*, has written, “The Dictionary of this sort are two in number, one by Mr. Monier Williams and the other by Mr. A. Borooah of Calcutta. Their prices are prohibitively high. Mr. A. Borooah’s work is eminently practical: it abounds with quotations from several standard authors; the renderings are generally happy and the work has at least a classical appearance. The fondness for giving quotations has induced the writer to give several quotations for illustrating such words as गम, इति, तत्र etc. of the meaning of which there is no doubt nor is any confirmation needed. . . .

“It now remains for me to do the grateful duty of acknowledging my obligations to those that have assisted me in the preparation of the Dictionary in one form or another. Foremost amongst them stand the work of Mr. Borooah and Prof. Williams both of which I have most frequently consulted. Monier Williams’ Dictionary, though inferior in several respects to Mr. Borooah’s, has several happy renderings of short words and expressions, especially where ideas purely English have to be clothed in a Sanskrit garb, and I have freely referred to the learned Prof.’s valuable renderings. But my acknowledgements are chiefly due to Mr. Borooah from whose work I have derived much substantial assistance, in the suggestions of equivalent words and phrases, more particularly from his numerous quotations, from such works as were not accessible to me or being accessible I had no time to go through them.”

The chief object of the Publication Board, Assam, established in 1959, has been to publish and reprint the best works in different languages and thus help the enrichment of our language, literature and culture through contact with all that is best in world literature. It is this object that has inspired this Board to reprint the works of Anundoram Borooah. We are confident that our efforts will have goodwill and support of all who sympathise with our aims.

We must acknowledge here our debt of gratitude to that famous scholar and historian of Assam, the late Dr. Surya Kumar Bhuyan, who more than anybody else, was responsible for acquainting the present generation with the genius and achievements of Anundoram Borooah. In this connection, we refer to Dr. Bhuyan’s memorable biography of Anundoram written in Assamese. The biographical sketch included in this book and the note on Anundoram in the Appendix have been reproduced from Dr. Bhuyan’s book. We offer our grateful thanks to Srijuta Laksheswari Bhuyan, wife of Dr. Bhuyan, and the publishers of the book, the Lawyer’s Book Stall, Gauhati, for kindly permitting us to use the material.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. V. Raghavan, the Sanskrit scholar of international repute, for kindly writing the Foreword of this book.

With this national enterprise will also remain associated the names of our ex-Chief Minister, the late Sri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, and Sri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury, the present Chief Minister and Chairman of this Board, who took a keen interest in the publication of the books by Anundoram Borooah. We owe also a debt of gratitude to the Principal, Sanskrit College of Calcutta, for lending us the three volumes of Anundoram Borooah for preparing the manuscript of this work. But for his help this volume could not have been published.

Finally, a word of thanks is also due to Prof. Rajanikanta Dev Sarma, who carefully and conscientiously corrected the proofs including errors of misprint of the original.

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CHANDRA PRASAD SAIKIA  
Secretary  
Publication Board, Assam