

collecting material for the Index. Dr. Rahurkar and Dr. (Smt.) Vijaya Deshmukh continued this work till 1983.

In 1983 the first stage for the preparation of the Index was reached when the work of collecting the material from all the eighteen *parvans* was completed. Before this, a scheme of classification of the Index Cards (totalling about a lakh and fifty thousand) according to different subjects noted by Dr. Belvalkar in his Outline given above, was also drawn up by the Mahābhārata Department. It was then broadly envisaged by the Department that the Index material would fall into six major heads like : 1. Names; 2. Events; 3. Concepts — (a) philosophical, (b) religious, (c) political, (d) social, (e) fine arts and crafts, (f) science and technology; 4. Realia — (a) personal (dress, cosmetics, and the like), (b) day-to-day life (food, drink, games, etc.), (c) habitation (buildings, forts, and the like), (d) war (subjects like arms, weapons, *vyūhas*, etc.), (e) agriculture, (f) other professions (trades in articles, specialized trades), (g) animals (customs and beliefs associated with them), (h) social life (customs and manners, superstitions, and the like), (i) valuable articles (minerals, stones, precious wood, and the like); 5. Geography; 6. Divisions of time.

In August 1983, Dr. M. A. Mehendale joined the Bhandarkar Institute as the Editor of the Epilogue.¹ With the assistance of Dr. Rahurkar and Dr. Deshmukh, he started the work on the second stage, i. e. the classification of the cards under the main six heads indicated above. It was soon discovered that as far as the interpolated passages were concerned, the material was collected only from the short starred passages in the foot-notes to the critical edition, but the long interpolated passages appearing in the appendices to several *parvans* had remained untouched. It was therefore decided to restrict the present Cultural Index to the critically constituted text. Dr. Rahurkar left in 1986 while he was still dealing with the cards of the Udyogaparvan. Dr. P. D. Navathe, the Curator of the Manuscripts Department of the Institute, was then requested to complete and check the work on the Udyogaparvan. He readily agreed and completed the work in his spare time over the years. During the next period of five years (1987–1992) a number of scholars were appointed for the work of classifying the cards which they did for a shorter or a longer period varying from six months to three years. These scholars included² Shri P. C. Sahoo, Dr. D. V. Garge, Shri S. K. Pani, Smt. Jayanti Tripathi, Smt. Sucheta Paranjape, Smt. Svaruchi Joshi and Shri N. B. Marathe. Of these, only Shri Marathe still continues to work for the Cultural Index.

The work on the second stage of classifying the cards under the major heads was completed in 1992. In the meantime, Dr. Mehendale published "A Tentative Specimen Fascicule of the Cultural Index to the Mahābhārata" in the *Annals* of the Institute, Vol. LXVI (1985), pp. 117–152. This was done with a view to giving some

1. The need for the appointment of a full-time Editor for the Epilogue was already expressed as early as 1968 (Institute's Annual Report for 1968–69, p. 11).

2. Shri Achyutananda Dash worked only for two months in 1987.