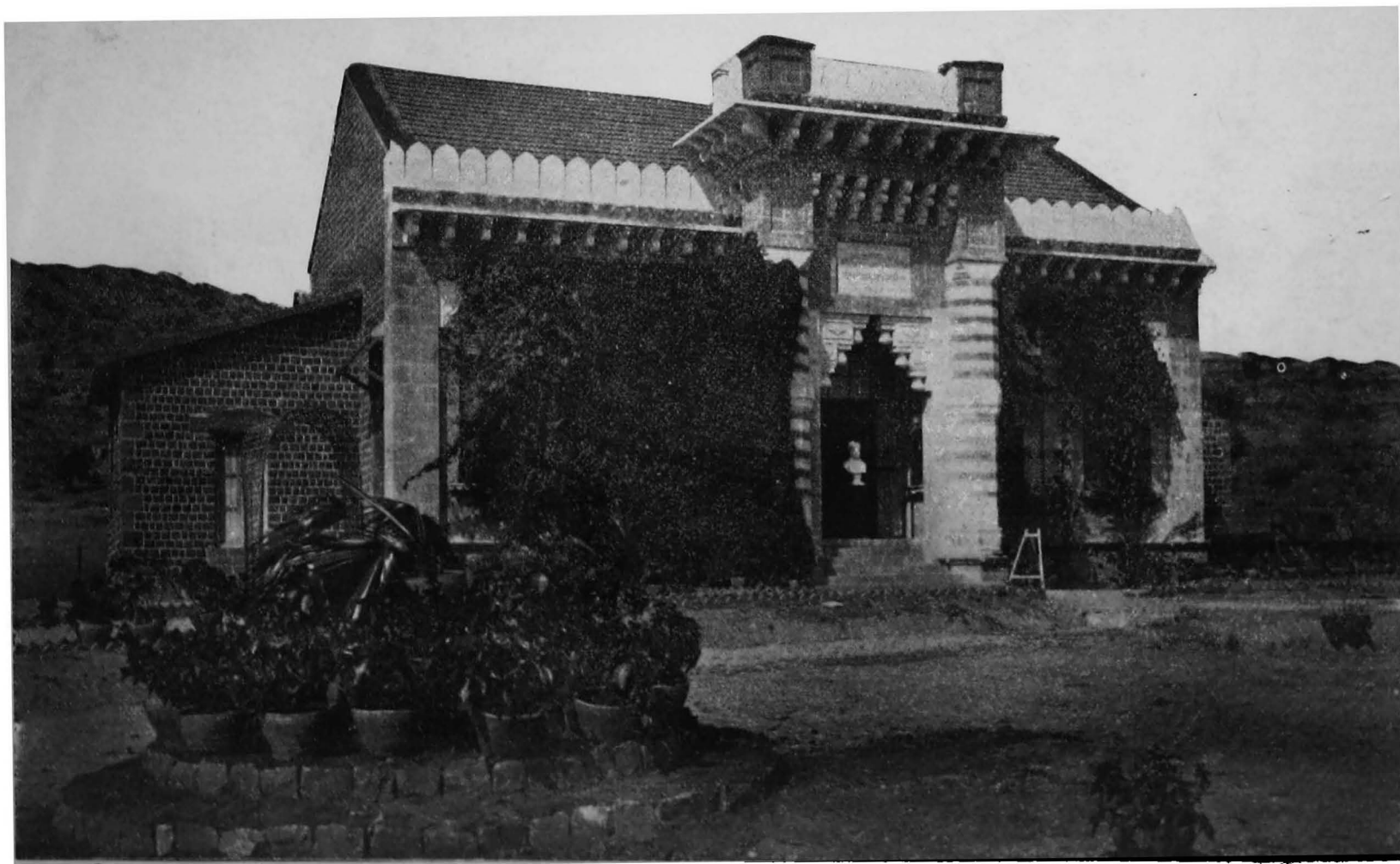


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The J. N. Tata Hall of the Bhandarkar Institute, where the Exhibition was arranged.

PROCEEDINGS & TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

FIRST ORIENTAL CONFERENCE, POONA

Held on the 5th, 6th and 7th of November 1919

Vol. I

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute Poona

1920

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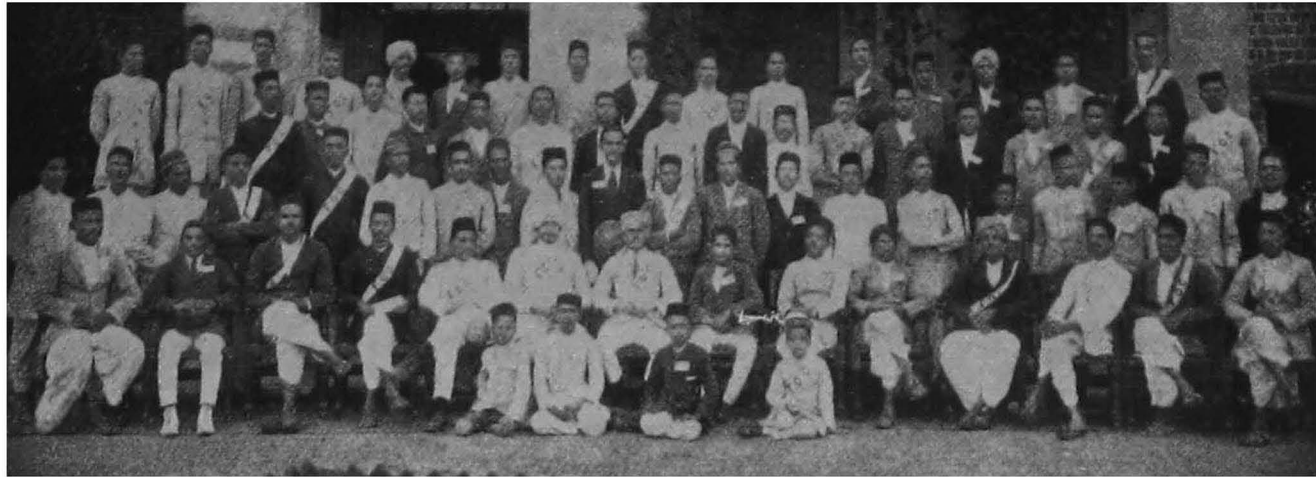


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Joint Secretary, First Oriental Conference. •

CONTENTS.

			PAGES.
	<i>Preface</i>	[1-11]
1	<i>First sitting</i>	1-29
	Mr. V. P. Vaidya's Speech	1-5	
	His Excellency's Speech	5-10	
	Congratulatory Telegrams	11-12	
	Presidential Address	13-27	
2	<i>Second sitting</i>	29-55
	Election of Sectional Chairmen	29-30	
	Report of the Bombay Branch of the R. A. S.	30-34	
	" " Anthropological Society	35-38	
	" " Jarthoshti Din ni Khol Karnari Mandali	38-41	
	" " K. R. Cama Oriental Institute	41-46	
	" " Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute	46-50	
	" " Karnatak Itihāsa Maṇḍala	50-53	
	" " Āndhra Parīśodhaka Mahā- maṇḍali	53-55	
3	<i>Third sitting</i>	56-60
	Reading of papers in different sections		
4	<i>Fourth sitting</i>	60-71
	Reading of papers in different sections		
	Dr. Satis Chandra Vidyabhusana's address	61-67	
5	<i>Fifth sitting</i>	71-72
6	<i>Sixth sitting</i>	72-74
7	<i>List of Delegates</i>	75-85
	Patron and Vice-patrons	75	
	Representatives of Universities	75-76	
	" of learned Institutions	76-78	
	" of Governments and Native States	78-80	
	Delegates Elected by the Working Committee	80-85	
8	<i>List of articles lent to the Exhibition</i>	86- 3
9	<i>Donations</i>	94
10	<i>Statement of Accounts</i>	95
11	<i>Contents of the Summaries of Papers</i>	96-100
12	<i>Summaries of Papers</i>	i-clxxxii
	Vedic section	i-xix	
	Avesta	xxi-xxviii	
	Pali and Buddhism	xxix-xxxvii	
	Philology and Prakrits	xxxix-xlix	
	Classical Literature	li-lxiii	
	Persian and Arabic	lxv-lxix	
	Dravidian languages	lxxi-lxxxiv	
	Philosophy	lxxxv-ci	
	Archaeology	ciii-cix	
	Ancient History	cxi-cxxxviii	
	Ethnology and Folklore	cxxxix-clii	
	Technical Sciences	cliii-clx	
	General	clxi-clxxxi	



The Young Volunteers of the Conference.

Working Committee of the First Oriental Conference, Poona, together with the Vice-Presidents.



The Chairman of the Reception Committee and the two Vice-Presidents in the centre and the three Secretaries behind.

PREFACE.

The idea of holding, under the auspices of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, a Conference of Orientalists in India, Burma and Ceylon,—an idea which had been in the minds of the promoters of the Institute since its very foundation—, took material shape in the following resolution of the Executive Board of the Institute, passed on the 12th of December 1918.

“That it is desirable to hold a Conference of Orientalists in India, if possible, in Poona, in the month of May (1919) and that with that view, correspondence be opened with eminent scholars in India, requesting them to communicate to the Secretary their opinions on the subject in about a month's time.”

The Secretary, accordingly, about the middle of January 1919, addressed the following letter to about twenty-five prominent Orientalists in India :—

“DEAR SIR,

The Executive Board of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute thinks it desirable to hold an All-India Conference of Orientalists at Poona, if possible in the month of May 1919. This would be the first Conference of its kind in India, and it will be repeated periodically at different centres.

The necessity and utility of such a Conference need not be emphasised. You are probably aware that, in the Conference of Orientalists summoned at Simla by the Hon. Sir Harcourt Butler in July 1911, Dr. Vogel had laid before the scholars assembled, a plan for holding an Oriental Congress in India (*Vide* the Report of the Conference of Orientalists, including Museums and Archaeology, held at Simla in 1911, page 66 ff.) The present plan is a modest one, in that it is

to be a Conference, at first, of all Orientalists in India, and limited in its sphere, as the memo* of notes below will show.

You are cordially invited to indicate your opinion about the scheme and the time proposed for the holding of the first Conference in Poona, and to offer any other remarks or suggestions you deem necessary. The co-operation of scholars like you is earnestly solicited. If the idea meets with general approval, further necessary steps in the matter (e. g. appointing a committee etc.) will be taken by the Institute in consultation with you all.

I shall feel obliged if you kindly communicate your views in details, so as to reach me before the end of February 1919.

Yours sincerely,

P. D. GUNE,

Secretary."

All the scholars thus consulted, unanimously hailed the idea of such a Conference and generally approved of the scheme. But the time proposed was found inconvenient to many, and the Executive Board, while changing it to October in deference to their wishes, appointed the following Working Committee (with power to add) on the 3rd of March 1919.

Prof. V. K. Rajwade, Mr. K. G. Joshi, Dr. V. S. Ghate, Dr. S. K. Belvalkar, Prof. R. D. Ranade, Dr. N. G. Sardesai, Prof. R. D. Karmarkar, Mr. N. B. Utgikar, and Dr. P. D. Gune, (i. e. the nine members of the Executive Board, and Dr. V. S. Sukthankar, Prof. A. B. Dhruva, Prof. D. R. Bhandarkar, Prof. M. Hiriyanna, Dr. Ganganath Jha, Mahamahopādhyāya Harprasad Shastri, Mr. D. V. Potdar and one Representative of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society were elected members. Dr. S. K. Belvalkar was appointed Secretary and Prof. R. D. Karmarkar, Assistant Secretary. But on the former's declining to do the work of a Secretary, the Board on the 6th March 1919 appointed Dr.

* A memorandum of points to be considered in this connection, such as the aims and objects, ways and means, subjects to be discussed etc., was also attached; but as it is almost the same as the one included in the *first Bulletin*, it is given further below.

P. D. Gune, Prof. R. D. Karmarkar and Mr. N. B. Utgikar
Joint Secretaries.

The Secretaries, with the approval of the Committee, sent, on the 22nd of March 1919, the following letter to about five hundred scholars and Pandits all over India. This may be said to be the *first Bulletin* of the Working Committee of the Conference. As this was the first formal letter of the Conference, it is given here in extenso.

"SIR,

We are glad to inform you that the prominent Orientalists whom the Institute had approached some time ago, with the object of ascertaining their views regarding the desirability of holding an All-India Oriental Conference, have signified their approval of the idea. The Institute has therefore decided to hold a conference in Poona of the Orientalists in India, Burma and Ceylon, by the end of October or by the beginning of November next. This time has been fixed in deference to the consensus of opinion of scholars written to. The Institute has now appointed a working committee of the persons noted overleaf to carry on all work regarding the First Oriental Conference.

2. The memorandum of the subjects to be dealt with at the Conference, and of the ways and means proposed, is attached herewith, and we hope it meets with your approval. We have now to request you to lend us your hearty and active co-operation and advice, by personally attending the Conference and taking part in its deliberations, and by trying to enlist the sympathy of other lovers of Oriental learning known to you as likely to render literary or financial help. You will therefore kindly communicate to us the names of all such persons, whom we shall be very glad to approach. Awaiting the favour of an early reply,

Yours truly
P. D. GUNE.
R. D. KARMARKAR.
N. B. UTGIKAR.
Secretaries.

[As the list of Members of the Working Committee has been already given at p. [2], it is not repeated here.]

Memo of Notes on the All-India Conference of Orientalists of 1919.

1. Necessity :—

Conferences in other branches of learning such as Mathematics, Science, History, Economics, Engineering &c., are now held in India from time to time. A similar Conference for Oriental Subjects is a long-felt want. If this Conference meets with success, it might be held periodically at different centres of learning in India.

2. Aims and objects :—

(1) To bring together Orientalists of all provinces of India, in order to take stock of the various activities of Oriental scholars in India.

(2) To facilitate co-operation in Oriental Studies and Research.

(3) To afford opportunities to scholars to put forth their views on their respective subjects and to ventilate the difficulties experienced in the way of their special branches of study.

(4) To promote social and intellectual intercourse among Oriental scholars.

(5) To keep pace with the march of scholarship in Europe and America.

3. Subjects to be included in the programme of the Conference :—

(1) Sanskrit Language and Literature, (2) Avesta in its relation to Sanskrit, (3) Pali, (4) Jain and other Prakrits, (5) Philology of Indian Languages, ancient and modern, (6) Modern Languages and Literature in their oldest phase, (7) Archaeology, Epigraphy, Numismatics, and Ancient Art, (8) History (Ancient), Geography, and Chronology, (9) Technical Sciences (e. g. Ancient Medicine, Music &c.), (10) Ethnology and Folk-lore, (11) Persian and Arabic, (12) General :—(a) Present position of

the academical study of Sanskrit and allied languages (e. g. in Universities, Sanskrit Colleges, Pathashalas, &c.), (b) Old Shastric Learning, (c) A Uniform Transliteration System.

4. Membership and attendance :—

(1) All scholars and learned persons interested in the advancement of Oriental Studies, would be eligible to become members of the Conference.

(2) All Governments, Native States and Learned Institutions would be requested to send members and representatives to the Conference, and to allow scholars in their employment to take part in its deliberations.

(3) Boarding and lodging arrangements will be made, if required, for members at an extra charge.

(4) It is expected that the work of the Conference will last for three or four days, the proceedings opening with an inaugural address.

5. Deliberations etc. :—

Scholars in India, Burma and Ceylon, will be requested to attend or send papers. In order that the discussion may take a fruitful turn, it may be necessary to have summaries of the papers sent well in advance for being printed and supplied to members. All papers and important points of discussion to be ready in manuscript.

The proceedings may soon be published after the Conference is over, containing, as circumstances may permit, abstracts of papers and discussion, or even whole papers.

The balance remaining after defraying all expenses in connection with the Conference may form the nucleus of a fund for such Conferences, to be administered by a representative committee of scholars.

6. Ways and means :—

It is expected that the expenditure on account of the proposed Conference would be Rs. 8000—(eight thousand),

It is therefore proposed :—

(1) To approach all Governments, Native States and learned Institutions (Oriental) for their approval of the scheme and for rendering direct monetary help.

(2) To invite public support.

(3) To charge a small delegate's fee (some five rupees) from those who would join the Conference as members."

The response evoked by this letter was without exaggeration splendid, as some hundred and twenty-five scholars all over India promised hearty co-operation and communicated the names of the papers that they would send, and, if possible, read personally. Meanwhile, letters were sent to the various Governments, Native States and learned Institutions all over India, seeking co-operation by (i) giving monetary help, (ii) sending rare manuscripts, coins, paintings, etc. for the exhibition to be held in connection with the Conference, and (iii) sending representatives to attend the Conference. The response from this direction also was beyond expectation.

The Working Committee held 9 meetings in all, and considered points like (i) fees to be charged to delegates—these were fixed at Rs. 5/-, (ii) accommodation and conveyances for delegates—both were to be supplied free of charge—, (iii) election of the President of the Conference, (iv) selecting the site for the pandal and decorations, (v) settling the dates of the Conference to be the 30th, 31st of October and the 1st of November 1919, (vi) requesting His Excellency Sir George Lloyd, G. C. I. E., D. S. O., Governor of Bombay, to open the Conference and to agree to become its Patron, (vii) fixing the programme of the three days of the Conference and announcing it in the form of a bulletin, (viii) appointing sub-committees to look to the different items, like the accommodation of scholars, pandal and seating arrangements exhibition, the literary part, etc., (ix) appointing a Reception Committee with Mr. V. P. Vaidya, B. A., Bar-at-Law, J. P., of Bombay as chairman, etc.

The dates had to be subsequently changed to the 5th, 6th and 7th of November, in order to suit His Excellency who had to come down to Poona specially for the purpose

The *Second Bulletin* gave (i) the names of the papers promised by scholars for the different sections, (ii) the names of the representatives of the Universities, learned Societies including Museums, Governments and Native States, and (iii) the pecuniary help promised by the different Governments and Native States.

The *Third Bulletin*, issued on the 2nd of October 1919, contained all information useful to delegates during travel and on arrival at Poona, such as (i) the times of arrival in Poona of the principal trains coming from important centres, (ii) clothing etc. required according to the climatic conditions of Poona, (iii) lodging and boarding arrangements for guests etc.

The *Fourth* and the most important *Bulletin*, which was issued on the 3rd of November and was personally handed over to the delegates, contained the final and correct list of papers with the names of their writers, supplementary list of representatives sent by learned societies and the detailed programme of the three days of the Conference as under :—

Programme of the three days of the Conference.

- (a) First sitting: 12 a. m. to 1 p. m. on Wednesday the 5th.
- (1) The speech of Mr. V. P. Vaidya, Bar-at-Law, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming Their Excellencies and the guests.
 - (2) Opening speech of H. E. Sir George Lloyd, Governor of Bombay.
 - (3) Election of Sir R.G. Bhandarkar as President of the First Oriental Conference.
Proposed by :—Principal A. C. Woolner,
Seconded by :—Prof. S. Kuppaswami Shastri,
Supported by :—S. Khuda Euksh, Esq.
 - (4) Presidential Address.
 - (5) Election of Vice-Presidents.
 - (6) Appointment of a Committee to discuss suggestions sent by scholars.
- (b) Second sitting: 2-30 to 5-50 p. m., the same day.
- (1) Election of Chairmen for sectional meetings.
 - (2) Reports of Oriental and Research Institutions.
 - (3) *Mahābhārata* work, question of diapery and progress of collation work.

(4) Reading of the following papers of general interest selected by the Committee.

Sams-ul-Ulama Sayyad Muhammad Amin, Jubbulpore.	A short Note on the Arabic Language.
Maung Schwe Zan Aung, Esq., Rangoon.	The Buddhist Philosophy of Change.
Dr. Gauranganath Banerjee, Calcutta.	Indian as known to the ancient World.
Prof. D. R. Bhandarkar, Calcutta.	The Origin of Indian Alphabet.
P. B. Desai Esq., Bombay.	Okhaharana in the Shahnameh.
Prof. M. Hiriyanna, Mysore.	Indian Aesthetics.
S. K. Hodiwala, Esq., Bombay.	Varuna, the prototype of Ahuramazda.
Dr. Ganganath Jha, Benares.	Theism of Gautama, the founder of Nyāya.

(c) Third sitting :—8-30 to 10-30 a. m. Thursday the 6th November.

The Conference will split itself up into the following sections :—

Sections.	Chairmen.
Veda and Avesta.	Dr. R. Zimmermann and Dr. J. J. Modi.
Classical Literature and Modern Vernaculars.	Prof. S. Kuppaswami Shastri.
Ethnology and Folklore, Persian and Arabic.	Dr. Modi and S. Khuda Bukhsh Esq.
Technical Science.	G. R. Kaye, Esq.
Archaeology.	Prof. D. R. Bhandarkar.

(d) Fourth sitting : 2-30 to 5-30 p. m. the same day.

Sections.	Chairmen.
Philosophy.	Dr. Ganganath Jha.
Buddhism.	Dr. Satis Chandra Vidyabhusana.
Ancient History.	Prof. Krishnaswami Aiyangar.
Philology and Prakrita.	Prof. V. K. Rajwade.

(e) Fifth sitting : 8-30 to 10-30 a. m., Friday, the 7th November.

General Session. The following papers selected by the Committee will be read :—

Principal A. C. Woolner, Lahore.	The philological Argument for the upper Limit to the Age of the R̥gveda.
G. R. Kaye, Esq., Simla.	Nakṣatras and Precession.
Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Calcutta.	The early History of the Gurjars.

Prof. Panchanana Maitra, Calcutta.	The earliest prehistoric Relations between India and the West.
Dr. J. J. Modi, Bombay.	King Akbar and the Persian translations from Sanskrit.
Prof. Radhakumud Mookerji, Mysore.	Educational Organisation in the Upaniṣads.
J. D. Nadirshah, Esq., Bombay.	Āryana Vaejo, or the Cradle of Indo-Āryan Civilisation.
Prof. V. K. Rajwade, Poona.	Asurasya Māyā in the R̥gveda.
Dr. Satis Chandra Vidyabhusana, Calcutta.	Nāgārjuna, the earliest writer of the Renaissance Period.
Prof. N. Sahidullah, Calcutta.	Māgadhi Prakrit and Bengali.
Rev. Dr. G. P. Taylor, Ahmedabad.	Note on some Valabhi Coins.

(f) Sixth sitting : 2-30 to 5 p. m. the same day.

- (1) Consideration of the Report of the Committee appointed at the first sitting.
- (2) General resolutions regarding the constitution of the Conference, etc.
- (3) Teaching of Second Languages at the Universities, Transliteration System etc.

The same Bulletin also showed where scholars were to be lodged. Four different centres had to be chosen for this purpose :—(i) the Vaidikashram, the Avate and the Lele quarters and the guest house of the Servants of India Society—all within 5 to 10 minutes' walk from the pandal erected in front of the Institute ; (ii) the National Hotel just opposite the Railway Station, where Parsee delegates were accommodated ; (iii) No. 15, Elphinstone Road, (Camp), which place with all arrangements and comforts, was kindly placed at the disposal of our Mahomedan delegates by the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Ibrahim Haroon Jaffar, who magnanimously treated our delegates as his personal guests ; (iv) and the Sangam Bungalow, where Mr. P. E. Percival, I. C. S., then District Judge of Poona, very kindly treated our European delegates as his personal guests.

Three motor cars and seven or eight first class gharries were in attendance for five days, carrying delegates from the station to their residences and from the latter to the pandal and vice versa. A young band of enthusiastic College and High-School boys served as volunteers and were

always at the beck and call of the delegates, studying their comforts.

The whole staff of the Institute very naturally looked to one kind of business or another in connection with the Conference and did us excellent service in a spirit of noble selflessness. They did nothing more nor less than their duty as they think, but none the less, our most cordial thanks are due to them and to the young volunteers. Amongst the latter, we cannot but make special mention of Mr. Tamhankar, B. A., our Head Volunteer, and Mr. L. V. Vaidya, the son of the chairman of the Reception Committee, who managed the volunteers so ably and by personal example cheered them on to do any piece of work that fell upon them.

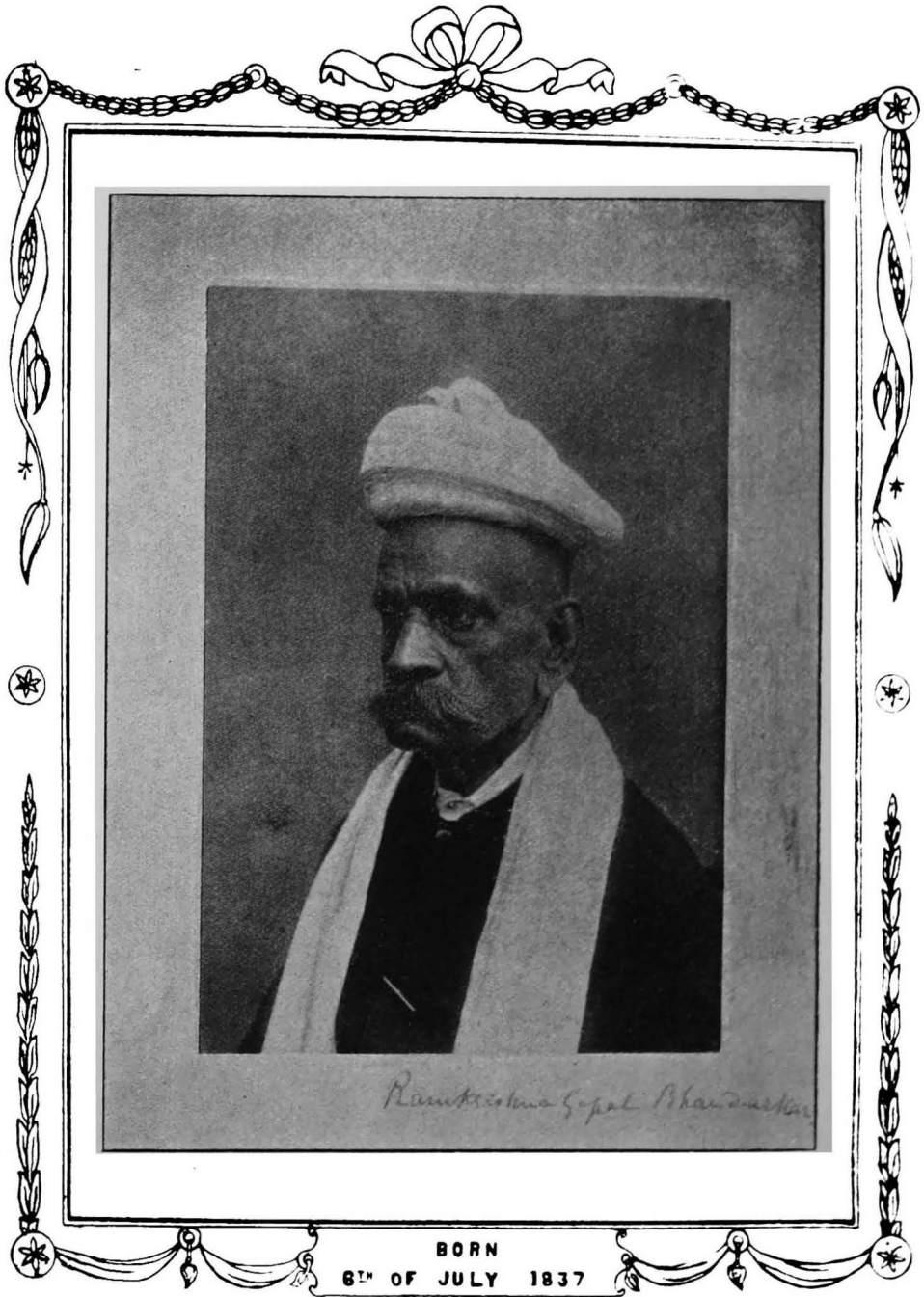
In the literary work that had to be done immediately before the Conference, for instance, the printing of the summaries of papers, we have to record our deep obligations to Prof. C. V. Rajwade, M. A., of Baroda and Prof. P. L. Vaidya, B. A., of Sangli, who, now by turns and now together, attended the Aryabhushan Press to see through the printing. Had it not been for their timely and willing help, we doubt if we could have placed the summaries in printed form (although in the last-proof stage) in the hands of our delegates in time. Our thanks are also due to the manager of the Aryabhushan Press, who did the printing work of the *Summaries* at high pressure and to the Manager of the Orphanage Press, who did the printing of the fourth Bulletin with a map of Poona, in time to be useful to the delegates, and the addresses of the Chairman of the Reception Committee and the President so beautifully.

While the Secretaries, always in consultation with the Working Committee, looked to the literary part, to the comfort of scholars, the seating and other arrangements and the actual conduct of business during the three busy days, Dr. S. K. Belvalkar, helped by representatives from different museums and libraries, was in charge of the Exhibition, where old Manuscripts, illuminated scrolls, rare coins and paintings, were beautifully arranged on tables and in show-

cases made specially for the purpose. A list of the more important exhibits with the names of Institutions, Governments and States that kindly lent them, will be found at the end of the *Proceedings*.

As to the success or otherwise of the Conference, the literary world will be able to judge when the *Proceedings* and the volume of papers will be in their hands. We, on our part, feel it our duty to acknowledge that, whatever was achieved, was mainly due to the loyal co-operation of the Working Committee, the cheerful accommodating spirit of the scholars, and particularly to the willing help always rendered by Professors D. D. Kapadia and N. D. Minocher Homji of the Deccan College and by Barrister V. P. Vaidya and Dr. Zimmermann of Bombay. These gentlemen, not only gave advice whenever consulted, but also ungrudgingly did every service that was required of them in the interest of the First Oriental Conference. In common with them and other members of the Working Committee, we share the rare comfort of having served unselfishly a great and noble cause.

P. D. GUNE,
R. D. KARMARKAR,
N. B. UTGIKAR,
Honorary Secretaries,
First Oriental Conference,
POONA.



Sir R. G. Bhandarkar, President of the First Oriental Conference, Poona.