

GERMAN SCHOLARS
IN THE FIELD OF
PALI BUDDHISM
AND
SANSKRIT INDOLOGY



Ven. Ayya M. Vimala Königsberg
Foreword Professor P. D. Premasiri

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HONOLANKA

DEDICATION

I wish to dedicate this book
to the first two Germans who ordained
as Buddhist Bhikkhus

Nyanatiloka Mahathero
10 February 1878 – 28 May 1957

And his disciple

Nyanaponika Mahathero
21 July 1901 – 19 October 1994
My Teacher

SPECIAL NOTE

TWO WESTERN BUDDHIST PIONEERS OF THE SANGHA

We should not forget these two prominent Buddhist Scholars who made their home in Ceylon/Sri Lanka.

These two prominent great Mahatheros are:

Ven. Nyanatiloka Mahathero

and

Ven. Nyanaponika Mahathero

Although this book concerns lay academics, I would like, at least, to mention here the two great eminent Mahatheros, whose scholarly translations and contributions to the dissemination of Theravada Buddhism to the West, particularly, are still of tremendous significance today.

NYANATILOKA

The Life of Nyanatiloka Thera: The Biography of a Western Buddhist, by Bhikkhu Nyanatusitha and Hellmuth Hecker
Buddhist Publication Society, Kandy, 2011

NYANAPONIKA

Nyanaponika Kalyanamitta: The 25th Death Anniversary, by
Ayya M. Vimala Königsberg

IN GRATITUDE

Professor Dr. Heinz Bechert



In 1987, after my second visit to Sri Lanka, I returned to Germany and spent a few months at a beautiful Tibetan Center. While I was there, a Buddhist Konvent, attended by renowned scholars, took place.

During a tea break, I struck up a conversation with a professor. When I realized that he was Dr. Bechert, I related some of my Sri Lankan adventures, and we laughed about gekkos and ravens. He told me that Part One of his book, *Buddhismus, Staat and Gesellschaft* (Buddhism, State and Society), dealt with Sri Lanka. When I mentioned that I would like to read that, he replied that it was out of print, but that he would send me photocopies of those pages from his personal copy. I was very impressed by this kind offer.

We kept up a correspondence, and, many years later, I was fortunate to meet him again at the Buddhist House in Berlin, when I was visiting from Hawaii.

After resettling in Hawaii, I was sad to receive the news that Prof. Bechert had passed away in 2005. I am very grateful that his wife, Marianne, entrusted to me some of his documents and photos. In one of the photos, which I have copied here, he is seen with a Sri Lankan Thero, I wondered who that was and began searching. At first, I thought it might have been someone from

Vajirarama in Colombo, but the abbot of that Vihara suggested that the Thero might have been from Asgiriya Vihara in Kandy. A senior Thero I know in Kandy arranged a meeting with the abbot of Asgiriya Vihara, and he remembered that it was Ven. Godagama Mangala Nayake from the Kotte Chapter.



I have not yet decided to which University I will donate all the photos and documents.

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FOREWORD

Oriental wisdom which could be traced back at least five millennia was becoming accessible in an effective way to the Western reader only since the past three or four centuries of human history. This was primarily a result of the spread of colonialism in the East from around the fifteenth century C. E. From that time onwards, besides scholars from countries like the United Kingdom and France, a host of outstanding German scholars have also been responsible for engaging in profound research into Oriental wisdom. It is appreciable that Ven. Ayya Mie Vimala, who herself has vowed to adopt the spiritual values of the Buddhist tradition in her own personal life, has made a painstaking effort to put together in the form of a comprehensive survey the works of the generation of German Orientalists under the names of those past scholars of repute put in chronological order.

Ven. Ayya Vimala's survey will undoubtedly serve as a sourcebook for contemporary scholars and students studying the Western interpretations of Oriental wisdom. Familiarity with the attempts of these early scholars from the West to translate and interpret the Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, Chinese and other scriptures compiled in Eastern languages is extremely useful for modern scholarship engaged in critical and historical studies in the sphere of Oriental religious and philosophical literature. It will undoubtedly widen their horizons of knowledge and provide an opportunity to sharpen their perspectives on a critical and historical understanding of the source books

and ideological standpoints of the voluminous literature of the East.

Ven. Ayya Vimala has put together many outstanding German scholars from the remote period of commencement of such scholarship to the contemporary period without discriminating in terms of the religious affiliations or the ideological biases of the scholars concerned. Due to the vast period covered, we are presented with scholars whose thinking has been influenced by the dominant trends of thought prevalent during their own lifetime. Therefore, it is understandable that sometimes there are reflections of those dominant influences in their writings. It is the responsibility of those scholars currently engaged in the relevant field of studies to benefit from this previous body of translated and interpretive works, using them for the purpose of engaging in their own objective and critical investigations. The work of Ven. Ayya Vimala is of no mean value as it provides a comprehensive inventory of a whole generation of German scholars and their works that could be very resourceful to the contemporary community of scholars in the field.

I am very pleased to recommend this extensive survey titled *German Scholars in the Field of Pali Buddhism and Sanskrit Indology* to all those interested in critical and historical studies on ancient Oriental wisdom.

Prof. P. D. Premasiri

INTRODUCTION

It seems something is quite strange and, at the same time, interesting, like having a deeper connection to Islands.

First, visiting and living for several periods of time in Kandy, Sri Lanka, studying the Dhamma with my most revered teacher, and subsequently on the Spanish Island Mallorca, or to the "Paradise Island Hawaii." After a very long time, almost feeling like Hawaiian, nevertheless, I had to return to Kandy. And as fantastic as it could be, I had a chance to enroll for a one-year class of Pali at Peradeniya University. It has always been my wish to study Pali even on a rudimentary knowledge, to get a glimpse of the original text - but, it will take its time, as writing is also occupying my time.

Now, while reading and studying for the past 30 years, one comes across many names of famous scholars in the field of Indology and Pali language. Astonishingly, I found a few scholars from East-Prussia, either born in Königsberg or Danzig or teaching at the University of Königsberg, like the famous Prof. Helmuth von Glasenapp. And, as far as I know, only four scholars came to Sri Lanka for further research work and translations: Prof. Wilhelm Geiger, Prof. Heinz Bechert, Prof. Oskar von Hinüber and Prof. Karl Eugen Neumann, the famous scholar from Austria.

Many years ago, Dr. Hellmuth Hecker had compiled a book, *Life-sketch of German Buddhists-The Founders*. Most amazing is, that "Ven. Nyanaponika as a young man moved to Königsberg, where he had a chance to get in

contact with Prof. Glasenapp, Indologist at the University of Königsberg. At the same time one day he attended a lecture given by Georg Krauskopf and established with him a lasting friendship."

While Ven. Nyanaponika Mahathero participated in May at the 1956 Buddhist Council in Rangoon – Burma, he had the pleasure to meet Georg Krauskopf again, after the last meeting in 1932 in Königsberg. A second meeting happened in December 1956 in Rangoon where they participated at the World Fellowship of Buddhism.

In those days, whenever there was an opportunity and time, I talked and discussed with some of the Bhikkhu students about German Buddhist scholars as most of them would know only two or three names. This gave me the idea to undertake some more research and to collect a list of all the names I could find to write this survey.

But let us not be small-minded but include two famous scholars from Austria, Prof. Moriz Winternitz and Prof. K. E. Neumann (In Austria the German language is spoken, and even to some extent in Holland). In Part III just for the sake of information and acknowledgment names are mentioned of Eminent European Scholars. And to be fair, there are even more German scholars, but in the field of Tibetology of which here it is not the place and space. The first name to include is actually somewhat out of the line but indeed so interesting and as early as 1620, I cannot leave this out.

Another most famous, distinguished, and remarkable name has to be mentioned: Sandor Csoma de Koros (1784-

1842). This personality deserves an extra page. A genius in languages, honored in Japan with the title “Bosatsu” (Bodhisattva) in 1933 as well with a statue in lotus posture, placed at the shrine in the Tokyo Buddhist University. The first ever European scholar of Tibetology, born Hungarian!

A pleasant surprise had been to discover three lady scholars, for which I was very glad, indeed, and establishing personal contact by email, I hoped “that’s it,” but NO, one more name discovered, another one; and lastly it seemed the research was rounded up.

To do a different relaxing reading, I looked through my library and the small beautiful book *The Upanishads* came into my hands. I almost forgot about it, although it is one of my favored one’s. Now you remember that in the beginning I mentioned that I was also living on the Spanish Island Majorca. It was just before I left Hawaii in 2013 back to Kandy, I discovered this book at our big beautiful book store at Ala Moana, Honolulu. Opening the book: who is the AUTHOR: Juan Mascaró, born on the Spanish Island Majorca – but not only that, he became a scholar in Sanskrit AND Pali! He even has been for a time Vice-Principal at a College in Ceylon. How lucky I looked for a reading, it would have been too bad not to include JM.

Well, as it was the time to return to Hawaii for a special personal reason and at the same time to undertake a new project in relation to Mary Mikahala Foster. It resulted in a most gracious celebration hosted so beautiful by the Japanese Temple, on Pali Hwy., The Honpa

Hongwanji. The first 10 printed books, *Mary Mikahala Foster*, just arrived in time of which the audience looked forward to get their copy. That was in 2018. And then come COVID, meaning no flights.

As a matter of fact, my booking was cancelled. Finally, I made it back to Colombo in May 2021.

I was lucky that my friend, Ken, in Kandy, offered his support to get the manuscript ready for a book-print. We have been working together, as time permitted, for more than two months, by email and phone, really. As he himself is a prolific writer, he knows how to create a beautiful final layout. It has been an interesting experience indeed.

I hope that this book will inspire students and scholars alike to continue research in this field and also to study the German language to read the original works of those incredible scholars.

PART ONE

Scholars from 1620 to 1900

German Buddhist Scholars

HEINRICH ROTH

18 December 1620 – Dillingen

20 June 1668 – Agra, India

Missionary, Pioneering Sanskrit scholar



Roth studied Philosophy at the Jesuit college in Innsbruck. In 1639, he became a Jesuit in Landsberg, and, from 1641 to 1645, he taught at the University of Munich. He completed his theological studies in Ingolstadt in 1649 and was ordained as a priest in Eichstaett in the same year.

In 1649, he was assigned to the so-called Ethiopian mission to India. He arrived in Goa in 1652, from where he was sent as a representative by one of the native Princes. He traveled via Uttarakhand and reached Agra, the capital of the Mughal Empire in 1654. In 1654, he became the rector of the Jesuit settlement residence in Agra.

Roth stayed in Agra for several years, and in addition to learning Persian, Kannada, and Hindustani, he acquired a profound knowledge of classical Sanskrit grammar and literature from Indian pundits.

In 1662, Roth returned to Europe with Johann Grueber, another Jesuit. In his monumental work, *China Illustrata* (1667), Athanasius Kircher published the account of this journey, as well as Roth's Sanskrit alphabet and other writings.

In Vienna, Roth succeeded in gaining financial support from Emperor Leopold I to have his Sanskrit

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grammar, which he had completed in Agra in 1660—the first such work ever compiled by a European—appear in print, but the project was stopped by the Jesuit Superior General G. P. Oliva.

Ordered by Oliva to establish a Jesuit mission in Nepal, Roth returned to India. He arrived in Agra in 1666, where he died in 1668, before starting his Nepalese mission.

Some of his works are preserved at the Biblioteca Nazionale in Rome, at the Royal Library of Belgium in Brussels, and in the Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India.

HEINRICH JULIUS KLAPROTH

October 1783 – Berlin

August 1835 – Paris, France

Orientalist, Sinologist



Against the will of his father, Klaproth began early with his study of Asian languages, especially Chinese, and became known with his Newsletter “Asian Magazine.”

This resulted in his appointment to the Academy of Asian Languages at Saint Petersburg.

As one of his interests he pursued as a research-explorer in the field of the tribal people in Caucasus Asian countries.

He published the results of his research and travels in *Journey in Caucasus and Georgia in the years 1807 and 1808*; one edition in French, Paris 1823.

After he retired in 1812, he settled to live in Paris, where in 1816 was appointed as Professor of Asian Languages.

Prof. Klaproth passed away in Paris in 1835.

PETER VON BOHLEN

March 1796 – Wangerland

February 1840 – Halle

Orientalist, Indologist



His first twenty years of life were of a very strained condition.

But his talent and brave perseverance attracted attention from his teachers, and he obtained the admission to the Gymnasium/High School at Hamburg.

After completing the High School, he continued to study Eastern languages in Halle and Bonn.

In 1825, he was appointed as Professor of Oriental languages at the famous University of Königsberg-East Prussia.

He is considered to be one of the pioneers of Sanskrit studies.

Prof. Bohlen passed away in Halle in 1840.

German Buddhist Scholars

JULIUS VON MOHL
October 1800 – Stuttgart
January 1876 – Paris, France
Orientalist



Julius von Mohl first studied theology at the University of Tübingen between 1818 and 1823.

In 1823, he went to Paris to study under Silvestre De Sacy, the great European School of Eastern Letters.

Between 1826 and 1833, he was nominally Professor at Tübingen while he had the permission to continue his studies in London and Oxford.

In 1834 he settled permanently in Paris and became Professor of Persian and Oriental studies. He served as secretary and then as president of the Societe Asiatique.

He wrote his memoirs in *Lebens-Erinnerungen*, (Memories of my Life) published in Leipzig 1901.

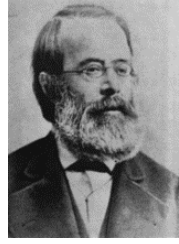
Prof. Mohl passed away in Paris in 1876.

OTTO VON BÖHTLINGK

May 1815 – Saint Petersburg, Russia

April 1904 – Leipzig

German-Russian Indologist



Böhtlingk's ancestors came from Lübeck, Germany and emigrated in 1713 to Russia.

At the age of 18, Böhtlingk enrolled at the University of Saint Petersburg for two years, from 1833 to 1835, to study Sanskrit, Persian, and Arabic.

He continued his studies in Germany at the University of Berlin and the University of Bonn in the years 1839 to 1842.

Returning to Saint Petersburg in 1842, he became associated with the Royal Academy of Sciences and, in 1855, was elected as a member and was raised with the title of nobility.

In the same year, he was elected as a member of the Prussian Academy of Science.

He returned to Germany in 1868 and settled at Jena, and, in 1885, he moved to Leipzig as his last residence, where he passed away.

Böhtlingk is also considered as one of the distinguished scholars, especially in the field of Indian languages and comparative philology. His great work was an edition of the Sanskrit grammar of Panini with a German commentary, with the German title *Acht Bücher*

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grammatischer Regeln (Eight Books on Grammar Rules) in two Volumes and his famous Sanskrit Dictionary.

Prof. Böhlingk passed away in Leipzig in 1904.

FRIEDRICH VON SPIEGEL

July 1820 – Kitzingen

December 1905 – Munich

Orientalist



Prof. Spiegel was the second European scholar to give considerable impetus to the study of Pali.

He studied in Erlangen, Leipzig and Bonn. The following five years he spent in the libraries of Copenhagen, Paris, London and Oxford.

From 1849 to 1890, he was professor of oriental languages at the University of Erlangen.

His study on Pali and the publication of the *Kammavakya* in 1841 and the *Anecdota Palica* in 1845 did much for the knowledge of Southern Buddhism.

He also undertook researches on Zoroastrianism and the Avesta.

Later, he turned to Iranian philology and published valuable work on Linguistic and archaeology.

Prof. Spiegel passed away in 1905 in Munich.

RUDOLF VON ROTH

April 1821 – Stuttgart

June 1895 – Tübingen

Indologist



As a German Indologist, he was the founder of the Vedic philology.

His education was at the University of Tübingen and in Berlin, as well as in Paris and London. At the East India House in London, he was involved with the preservation of the manuscript collections.

In 1848, he was appointed as Professor of Oriental languages in Tübingen and later became the principal librarian in 1856.

His works on Vedic writings includes:

- *On the literature and history of the Vedas*, 1846
- *On the myth of the five races of humans*, 1860
- *On the representation of fate in Indian wisdom literature*, 1866
- *The Atharva-Veda in Kashmir*, 1875

He was made an honorary member of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta.

His magnum opus was the monumental Sanskrit dictionary in 7 Volumes published at Saint Petersburg Academy of Sciences, compiled with Otto von Böhtlingk.

Prof. Roth passed away in Tübingen in 1895.

MAX MÜLLER

December 1823 – Dessau

October 1900 – Oxford, England

Indologist, Philologist, Orientalist



Müller was only 6 years old when he started his schooling right away at the Gymnasium (High school). In 1839, he was sent to the Nicolai School at Leipzig. In need of a scholarship in order to study at the University of Leipzig, he successfully took his Abitur by speeding his study of mathematics, science and modern languages. He also showed great talent for classical languages as Latin, Greek, Persian, and Sanskrit. Thus he entered the University of Leipzig in 1841 to study philology, leaving behind his earlier interest and love of music and poetry. With his dissertation on Spinoza's Ethics, he received his degree in 1843. In 1844, he went to Berlin to study Sanskrit under Friedrich Schelling and began to translate the Upaniṣads. Under Franz Bopp he continued his research on Sanskrit.

In 1845, Müller moved to Paris to study with Eugene Burnouf, who encouraged him to publish the complete R̥g Veda in Sanskrit, using manuscripts available at the East India Company in England, thus he moved to London in 1846.

In 1888, Müller was appointed Gifford Lecturer at the University of Glasgow.

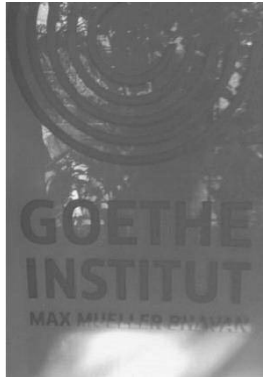
Some of his works include:

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- *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*, London 1859
- *Essays on the Science of Religion*, 1869
- *Lectures on the Origin and Growth of Religion*, 1878
, and

His most famous work is *Sacred Books of the East*, in 50 volumes, on which he worked for 25 years only to prepare the manuscript, and for almost another 20 years to prepare for the printing.

At the Goethe Institute of Delhi and Varanasi/Benares, he is honored as MM Bhavan.



He passed away in Oxford in 1900.

VILHELM TRENCKNER

February 1824 – Copenhagen, Denmark

January 1891

German-Danish Indologist



Prof. Trenckner is best known as a “Pioneer in Pali Lexicography.”

As his father was of German descent, logically he was educated at the German Middle-school in Copenhagen. In 1841, he matriculated at the University of Copenhagen. His first interest was inclined to the study of classical philology. At the same time, he studied Persian and Arabic, as well as English, French, and other modern languages.

He became known as a Pali scholar and was described by Childers as “a ripe and graceful Pali scholar”, mentioning his masterly edition of the first chapter of Milindapañhā. Years later, in 1879, Trenckner appeared before the public with his most important book *Pali Miscellany*, after 25 years of intense work with Pali manuscripts, being acquainted with Fausböll’s transcripts of Pali texts. He was also busy with the study of Bengali, Hindi, and Sinhala.

It is hard to believe that a scholar of such enormous knowledge was not accepted for a post at the Royal Library but had to accept a modest post in the Copenhagen Orphans’ Asylum, instructing poor children until his last days.

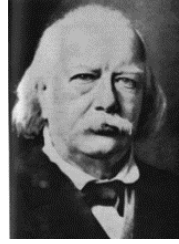
Vilhelm Trenckner passed away in 1891.

ALBRECHT WEBER

February 1825 – Breslau

November 1901

Indologist, Historian



Weber was born in Breslau, where his father was professor of political economy.

After his study in Breslau, he continued his study at Bonn and Berlin from 1842 to 1845 on literature and Sanskrit archaeology. He returned to Breslau to obtain his doctorate degree at the Wraclaw University. In 1846, sponsored by the Academy of Science, Berlin, he visited England and France for his further studies and research. In London he met John Stuart Mill and in Paris Eugene Burnouf. After returning to Germany he became first a lecturer and in 1856 was appointed as an adjunct Professor of the language and literature of ancient India. In 1867 became full Professor. During this time he made the acquaintance of the Orientalist Julius von Mohl. He became also a member of the Academy of Sciences of Berlin.

Between 1849 and 1881 he wrote several books on Indian Studies, like the Index of Sanskrit-manuscripts of the Royal Library of Berlin. He also contributed lexicographical material, especially from Vedic literature to the Sanskrit Dictionary by Otto von Böhtlingk and

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Rudolf Roth. He was also one of the first scholars who undertook research work on Jain literature.

Last, but not least, he was a close friend of Max Müller.

Prof. Weber passed away in 1901.

GEORG BÜHLER

July 1837 – Borstel

April 1898 – Lindau



Professor Johann Georg Bühler was a scholar of ancient Indian languages. He also mastered languages like Latin and Greek as well as Persian and Sanskrit.

At the High School of Hannover, he studied Latin and Greek and, at the University of Göttingen, became a student of Sanskrit and Persian. With his thesis of the suffix -tes in Greek grammar, he received his doctorate in 1858. The same year, he went to Paris to study Sanskrit manuscripts. From 1859 to 1862, he studied at the famous India Office in London and at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University.

From May 1861, he became the assistant to the Queen's librarian in Windsor Castle. But, in 1862, he was appointed assistant at the Göttingen library. There he received an invitation by Prof. Max Müller to join the Benares Sanskrit College. Before he could make any decision, he received another invitation by Prof. Müller, an offer of Professor of Oriental Languages at the Elphinstone College in Bombay/Mumbai. He accepted this offer and left for India, where he arrived in February 1863.

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He became a Fellow of the Bombay University and a member of the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society.

He returned to Germany in 1880.

One of his great works is the PRAKRIT Dictionary contribution to the science of Indo-Germanic languages, Göttingen, 1878.

Prof. Bühler passed away in Lindau in 1898.

RUDOLF HOERNLÉ

November 1841– Agra, India

November 1918 – Oxford, England

German-British Orientalist



Hoernlé's ancestors emigrated from Germany to, at that time, British India. Descending from a line of missionaries, his father, a linguist, translated gospels into Urdu and Kurdish.

At the age of seven, he was sent to Germany for his schooling and lived with his grandparents.

He also continued his schooling in Switzerland. After completing theological studies and at the University of Basel, he moved to London to study Sanskrit.

Hoernlé received his Ph.D. in February 1902 and an honorary degree Master of Art from the University of Oxford.

In 1865, he returned to India, first teaching at the Benares Hindu University and later at the University of Calcutta, eventually becoming Director of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

One of his works was on the languages of Bihar in "Comparative Grammar" of the Gaudian Languages. He spent his entire working life engaged in the study of Indo-Aryan languages and is perhaps best known for his decipherment of the Bower Manuscript Collection.

After he retired from the Indian Office in 1899, he settled in Oxford, England.

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In 1920, the Japanese Sanskrit Scholar, monk, and later professor, Izumi Hokey (1884-1947), discovered, at a Cambridge bookstore, a collection of 431 books on Buddhism, medicine, languages, and literature from Hoernle's former possessions. He was able to reclaim them, and they are now kept at the library of the Otani University in Kyoto, Japan, as the Hoernle Collection.

HONORS

In 1897, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire.

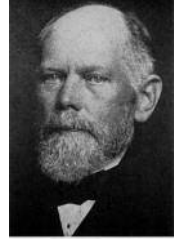
Prof. Hoernlé passed away in 1918 from influenza.

ERNST WILHELM OSKAR WINDISCH

September 1844 – Dresden

October 1918 – Leipzig

Indo-Celticist scholar



In 1867, he obtained his Ph.D. in classical philology at the University of Leipzig. While as a teacher at the Thomas-school from 1867 to 1870, he received his habilitation in Sanskrit and comparative linguistics.

As many scholars before him, he left for England in 1870-1871 to work as a staff member of the Indian Office Library in London. Returning to Germany, he became Professor at the University of Leipzig and, from 1895/96, served as the rector.

From 1883 to 1918, he was a member of the Saechsische Akademie der Wissenschaften of Leipzig (Royal Saxon Society of Sciences in Leipzig).

Some of his works include:

- *Mara and Buddha*, 1895
- *Iti-Vuttaka*, as editor
- *Buddhas Geburt und die Lehre von der Seelenwanderung* (Buddha's Birth and the Doctrine of the Transmigration of Souls), 1908
- *Geschichte der Sanskrit-Philologie und indischen Altertums* (History of Sanskrit Philology and Indian Archaeology), 1917-1920.

Prof. Windisch passed away in Leipzig in 1918.

PAUL DEUSSEN

January 1845 – Oberdreis

July 1919 – Kiel

Orientalist, Sanskrit scholar



Deussen was born in the beautiful Rhine Province.

He was a lifelong devotee of the philosophy of Emmanuel Kant, as well as the philosophy of Schopenhauer.

Deussen was educated at Bonn, Tübingen and Berlin Universities between 1864 and 1881. During this time, he attended a lecture by Professor Lassen and became extremely interested in Sanskrit and Hinduism.

He was appointed as lecturer at the University of Berlin in 1881, becoming full professor in 1887. In 1889, he was appointed professor at the University of Kiel.

His first publication in 1877 *The Elements of Metaphysics*, was published in English. Other works include *The Sutra of the Vedanta*, 1906, and *The Philosophy of the Upanishads*, 1906.

Memories of his visit to India in 1904 were published in English as *My Indian Reminiscences* in 1912.

Deussen Sanskritised his name to “Deva-Sena” as a mark of his admiration for Hinduism.

While on his tour in India he was praised by Indian Pandits and received a personal tribute from Swami Vivekananda.

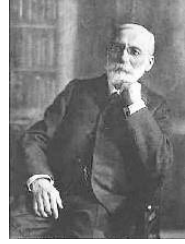
Prof. Deussen died suddenly in 1919.

RICHARD PISCHEL

January 1849 – Breslau

December 1908 – Madras (Chennai), India

Indologist



Pischel received his doctorate from the University of Breslau in 1870 under Professor Adolf Friedrich Stenzler.

His graduate thesis was “On the Recensions of Kalidasa’s *Shakuntala*”. In 1875, he was appointed to the University of Kiel as Professor of Sanskrit and comparative linguistics. From 1885 to 1902, he was Professor of Indology at the University of Halle. He served as director and librarian of the *Deutsche Morgenlaendische Gesellschaft* (German Oriental Society).

In 1902 he was appointed Professor of Indology at the University of Berlin. After intensive Buddhist studies, he published an edition of the *Therīgāthā*. He also began to work on Sanskrit Turfan manustripts. The first text he edited was *The Turfan Recension of the Dhammapada*.

His successor in this work became Heinrich Lueders.

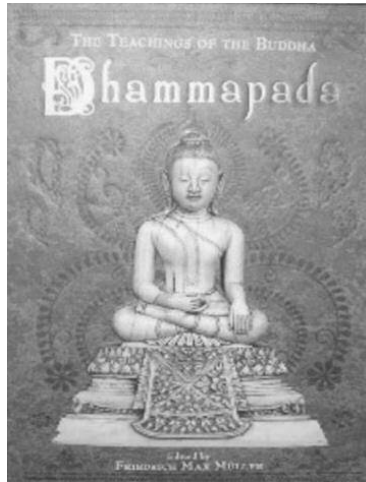
In 1908, he arrived in Madras for a series of lectures for which he had been scheduled. Unfortunately, shortly after his arrival, he passed away.

One of his masterful works was *Grammatik der Prakrit Sprachen* (Grammar of the Prakrit Languages), 1900.

Two years before his death, he published a book on the life and teachings of Buddha with the title, *Leben und*

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

Lehre des Buddha (Life and Doctrine of the Buddha),
Leipzig, 1910



HERMANN JACOBI

February 1850 – Köln

October 1937 – Bonn

Indologist



Born in Köln/Cologne, he attended the gymnasium/High school and later moved to Berlin to study mathematics at the University of Berlin.

Later he turned to the study of Sanskrit and comparative linguistics.

With his thesis on the origin of the term “hora” in Indian astrology, he obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Bonn in 1872. In 1875, he became a lecturer in Sanskrit at Bonn and, from 1876 to 1885, Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Muenster. He returned to Bonn as Professor of Sanskrit in 1889 and continued in that capacity until his retirement in 1922.

Of great importance to his life was his visit to Rajasthan, India, together with Georg Bühler. He was interested in the collection of manuscripts. At the Jaisalmer Library, he came across Jain manuscripts, which attracted his interest for the rest of his life. Later, he translated and edited some of the manuscripts into German and English.

He visited India twice, in 1873/74 and 1913/14, on studies on Yoga and Buddhism.

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

Some selections of his writings:

- *Zwei/Two Jaina-stotras* (1876)
- *The Development of the Indians' Idea of God and Their Proofs for God's Existence* (1923)
- *About the original system of Yoga* (1929/30)
- *Buddhism and its History in India*, Leipzig 1882

Among the honors he received were a doctorate from the University of Calcutta, where he spent the winter of 1913/14 to lecture on poetics. The Jain community conferred on him the title JAIN DARSHAN DIVAKAR – Sun of the Jain doctrine.

Prof. Jacobi passed away in 1937.

PAUL GOLDSCHMIDT

December 1850 – Danzig, East Prussia

May 1877 – Galle, Ceylon/Sri Lanka

Indologist

Paul Goldschmidt was born in Danzig, the second largest city in East-Prussia.

Here we have one Indologist, born as early as 1850 in East-Prussia. Already at the age of 17, he matriculated at the University of Danzig, His field of study was Indology from 1867 to 1872. He also studied at Heidelberg, Berlin, and Göttingen, where he obtained his Ph.D.

In 1873, he spent a year in London, from where he accepted a post in Ceylon in 1874 for the archeological epigraphs. His survey focused on the area of Anuradhapura, where he was able to collect more than 80 inscriptions.

Moving to the southern districts, the hot climate took its toll, and he came down with a fever. Severely ill, he arrived at Galle, where his young life ended.

This is the story of a young man, who had all the skills and knowledge to become a great scholar like Geiger or Oldenberg.

OSKAR FRANKFURTER

February 1852 – Hamburg

October 1922 – Hamburg

Linguist, Thaiist, Pali scholar



Oskar Frankfurter studied Sanskrit at the University of Berlin and at the University of Göttingen. In 1874, he obtained his Ph.D.

Frankfurter was called to Thailand, at that time called Siam, as a translator in the court of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V, 1868-1910), for the German-Thai Library Project.

Before leaving for Thailand, he distinguished himself as Pali scholar and, together with Robert Childers, left to the University of Oxford to establish a catalogue of Pali documents.

At first, he was active in the service of Prince Devawongse until 1881, and, in about 1901, he was appointed to the Siamese Ministry of the Interior.

In October 1905, he was appointed as the head bibliographer of the National Library of Thailand at Bangkok. There he looked after the preservation of inscriptions of the country.

He was successful in restoring the neglected Institution into a considerable library, besides foreign literature about Siam. He also saw to it that local documents were collected. Frankfurter was also a founding member of the Siam Society, with the aim to study and preserve the culture and history of Thailand.

German Buddhist Scholars

During the First World War, Frankfurter, being German, was deported, along with other Germans living in Thailand, to a British internment camp in India in 1918. In the spring of 1920, he was repatriated to Germany, where, two years later, in October 1922, he passed away.

Among his extensive works may be mentioned:

- *List of Pali manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford*
- *Siamese missions to Ceylon in the 18th century*
- *The Attitudes of the Buddha*
- *Hand-book of Pali*, being an elementary grammar and a glossary.

For further reading:

Andreas Stoffers, "Oskar Frankfurter – ein Leben für Thailand" (A Life for Thailand), in Thailand-Review of the German-Thai Society

PAUL CARUS

18 July 1852 – Ilsenburg

11 February 1919 – La Salle,

Illinois, U. S. A.

Orientalist



Dr. Paul Karus was born in Ilsenburg. In 1876, he obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Tübingen and later obtained teaching positions at different Universities.

In 1884, he left Imperial Germany to immigrate to the United States of America, and, to comply with the English language, he changed Karus to Carus. He settled in Chicago and also lived in La Salle. After his marriage, he worked as the editor at Open Court Publishing, belonging to his father-in-law, Edward C. Hegeler.

His personal interest covered topics, such as history, logic, science, and religion. His correspondence included many of the greatest minds at that time, including Thomas Edison and Leo Tolstoy.

Dr. Carus was a pioneer in promoting interfaith dialogue.

Interested in Eastern traditions, he was a key figure in introducing Buddhism to the West. He also had the opportunity to attend the World's Parliament of Religion in Chicago in 1893. After meeting D. T. Suzuki (Daisetsu Teitaro) in Chicago, Dr. Carus lived and studied with him for several years and sponsored his translation work.

German Buddhist Scholars

Dr. Carus published more than 75 books, the best-known being *The Gospel of Buddha*.

Dr. Carus passed away in 1919.

HERMANN OLDENBERG

October 1854 – Hamburg

March 1920 – Göttingen

Indologist, Pali scholar



His most famous and well-known book, *Buddha: Sein Leben, seine Lehre, seine Gemeinde* (Buddha: His Life, His Doctrine, His Order), was based on his Pali studies in 1881 from the Pali Canon. It made Buddhism in the West popular and is still in print.

Oldenberg studied at the University of Göttingen and at the University of Berlin, where, in 1875, he earned his Ph.D.

Together with the British scholar, T. W. Rhys Davids, he translated and edited in English three volumes of Theravada Vinaya texts. For his studies, he had received a promotion of the Bopp-Foundation.

For his Vedic study, he spent two years, 1912 and 1913, in India.

Oldenberg is considered to be the pioneer of Buddhism and Pali literature. His monumental work of Pali translation is the *Dīpavamsa* (Chronicle of Sri Lanka).

He was also the first scholar to have undertaken the task which Burnouf was unable to accomplish: the comparison of Pali and Sanskrit texts for the sake of establishing the older and common elements in both. Notable work was also done in this respect by Ernst Windisch.

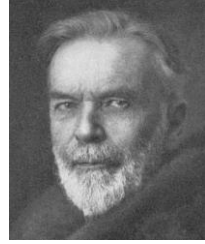
Prof. Oldenberg passed away in Göttingen in 1920.

WILHELM L. GEIGER

July 1856 – Nuremberg

September 1943 – Neubiberg

Indo-Iranian, Pali-Sinhala scholar



Wilhelm Geiger was born in Nuernberg (Nuremberg) and received a special education. At the age of only 5years, he entered the Grammar School where he also studied Latin and Greek. As his inclination took a new turn, he studied Sanskrit at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg under the Iranian scholar Friedrich von Spiegel.

For the summer term of 1875, he chose the University of Bonn, which played a leading role in the history of Indology in Germany. For his doctoral dissertation, he drew upon Old Iranian philology. In December 1876, the 20-year-old Geiger's thesis was accepted by the faculty, and he graduated the Doctor of Philosophy *summa cum laude*.

After completing his Ph.D., he went to Berlin, where he met Hermann Oldenberg (1854). In 1891, he was offered the chair in Indo-European Comparative Philology at the University of Erlangen, succeeding Prof. Spiegel. By 1901, he became influenced of Buddhist thought and literature.

In 1892/93, before his first visit to Ceylon, there came to him, as a student, M. Z. Wickremasinghe, which became an important factor to study Sinhala.

In 1888, Wilhelm Geiger was elected, at the age of 32 as a member of the Bavarian Academy, a great honor for such a young man.

In 1895, he traveled to Ceylon (3 times in all) to study Pali and Sinhala which resulted into the translation of the Sri Lankan chronicles *Cūlavamsa* and *Mahāvamsa* into English with assistant translators. One of his advisors was Mudaliyar Simon de Silva.

He made acquaintance with prominent scholars, such as Thero Sri Sumangala of Hikkaduwa and Vaskaduve Subhuti.

On his last days in Colombo, he boarded the steamer, *Prinz Heinrich*, and was back in Germany in 1896. Already in 1902, he exchanged several letters in Pali with Thero Subhuti, particularly on the *Mahāvamsa*. It took Geiger only 3 years to complete the manuscript. His translation of the *Mahāvamsa* won universal acclaim throughout the world of letters. He then devoted himself whole-heartedly to his Pali studies.

Of his German works are noteworthy:

- *Die Reden des Buddha* (Sayings of the Buddha), a translation of the *Samyutta-Nikāya*
- *Ceylon-Tagebuchblätter und Reiseerinnerungen* (Diary-entry and Travel-memories), which was discovered in a wayside bookstall in Germany by the late Prof. Dr. Anuradha Seneviratne.
- *A Grammar of the Sinhala Language*, Colombo 1938

German Buddhist Scholars

- *The Language of the Vaeddas*, Calcutta 1935.

An Interesting and complete picture of this remarkable scholar can be found in *Wilhelm Geiger, His life and Works*, by Heinz Bechert, 1977, Gunasena, Sri Lanka.

In 1989, the Sri Lanka Department of Posts issued a commemorative stamp in his honor.



HONORS

- Deutsche Morgenlaendische Gesellschaft
- The American Oriental Society.

Prof. Geiger passed away in September 1943.

ALBERT GRÜNWEDEL

July 1856 – Munich

October 1935 – Lenggries

Indologist, Archaeologist,

Explorer of Central Asia



After his study of art history and Asian languages, he earned, in 1883, his doctorate at the University of Munich.

As an archaeologist, he was invited in 1899 to join a Russian research expedition into the north of Xinjiang province, China. In 1902-1903 Grünwedel led the first German expedition to Turfan, in Xinjiang, being the first European to study the ruins near Gaochang. At the same time, he was appointed as a member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. He also headed the third German Turfan expedition in 1905-1907. The experience of this expedition was published in his book *Ancient Buddhist Religion in Chinese Turkistan*.

Grünwedel also won praise for his outstanding publications on Buddhist Art. He retired in 1921 and, subsequently, in 1923, he moved to Bavaria, to the famous Spa City Bad Tolz, where he continued writing scientific papers.

Some of his works:

- *Das sechste Kapitel des Rupasiddhi, nach drei singhalesischen Pāli-Handschriften* (The 6th chapter of the Rūpasiddhi, acc. to three Singhalese Pali Handwritings)

German Buddhist Scholars

- “Singhalese Mask – Yakun-natima, ‘the devil-dance.’”
- *Buddhist Art in India*, 1893.

Prof. Grünwedel passed away in 1935 in Lenggries.

RUDOLF OTTO FRANKE

June 1862 – Wickerode

February 1928 – Königsberg, East Prussia

Pali–Sanskrit scholar

After he finished his Abitur in Halle, he began his study of German and Indian philology in Göttingen and Bonn. After his doctorate in 1885, he received his Ph.D. in Berlin.

In 1896, he was appointed to the University of Königsberg/East Prussia for the chair of Sanskrit. From 1921 he changed to the Albertina University in Königsberg and lived there until 1928, longer than any other Indologist before and after him.

Of his writings are:

- *Geschichte und Kritik der Einheimischen Pali Grammatik* (History and Critique of the Indigenous Pali grammar)“Singhalese Mask – Yakun-natima, ‘the devil-dance.’”
- *Pali and Sanskrit in Historical and Geographical Comparison*

Prof. Franke passed away in Königsberg in 1928.

MORIZ WINTERNITZ

December 1863 – Horn, Austria

January 1937 – Prague, Czech Republic

Austrian Orientalist



After his earliest education at the Gymnasium/High school, he moved to Wien/Vienna and registered in 1880 at the University of Vienna. In 1886, he received his his Ph.D.

From 1888 to 1892, he assisted Prof. Max Müller. He remained in Oxford until 1898 as a lecturer for German language, as librarian of the Indian Institute at Oxford, and as Sanskrit examiner at Universities.

In 1899, he went to Prague as a lecturer in Indology and, in 1902, was appointed to professorship of Sanskrit at the German University of Prague.

Prof. Winternitz was an outstanding scholar. He wrote on religion, on epics, and, of course, on Sanskrit literature.

The great Indian poet, Rabindranath Tagore, on his tour in Germany, met Dr. Winternitz and invited him to go to India. Responding to the invitation, he arrived in Bombay, where he met Tagore again and attended his lectures. During his visit to India, he also visited Santiniketan, Poona, and Calcutta.

Famous is his book, *History of Indian Literature*, and he was a Visvā-Bharati University alumnus.

Prof. Winternitz passed away in Prague in 1937.

ARTHUR PFUNGST

March 1864 – Frankfurt

October 1912 – Frankfurt

Indian linguist



After his Ph.D. on mathematics in 1886, he was in charge as co-owner of a company. In addition, he undertook studies of ancient Indian languages, philosophy, and Buddhism.

In 1889, he translated from the Sutta-Nipāta “Uragavagga.”

He was a member of the Royal Asiatic Society, of the International Buddhist Society in Rangoon, Burma, and a member of Honor of the MahaBodhi Society, Calcutta, India.

Prof. Pfungst passed away in Frankfurt in 1912.

KARL EUGEN NEUMANN

October 1865 – Vienna, Austria

October 1915 – Vienna, Austria

Austrian Orientalist, Pali scholar



Professor Neumann, the great Pali scholar, is famous for his monumental translations from the Pali Canon: *Majjhima Nikāya* in 3 volumes and *Dīgha Nikāya*.

Neumann, received his higher education in Leipzig, where his father became director of the City Theatre in 1876, leaving Vienna, where he was a tenor at the Vienna Opera.

After starting a banker's career in Berlin, he came across Schopenhauer's writings. Thus he became interested in philosophy and Indian literature. After attending a college in Prague, he returned to Berlin in 1887 to study Indology, Religion and Philosophy under Deussen and Oldenberg and A.Weber.

In 1891, he finished his thesis on a Pali text at the University in Halle. In Leipzig he obtained his Ph.D. in 1891 under Prof. R. Pischel. He published *Two Buddhist Suttas* and a treatise of Meister Eckhart.

Returning to Vienna in 1892, he published an anthology of texts from the Pali Canon. In 1893, he spent one year in London.

To fulfill his longing to visit the original countries of Buddhism, he traveled for a few months through India

and Ceylon in 1894. In Ceylon he met members of the sangha such as the, at that time, the famous Sumangala Mahāthero.

Back in Vienna in 1894, he took up a post at the Oriental

Institute as an assistant to the Indologist, Georg Bühler.

During the years that followed, Neumann translated and published the Majjhima Nikāya in three volumes.

In 1906, he lost his fortune in a bank crash and even had to sell (temporarily) the highly esteemed and greatly valued Siamese edition of the Tipitaka, which was a present of Chulalongkorn, the king of Siam.

In 1915, Neumann died on his 50th birthday in poverty and was buried at Vienna Central Cemetery. His grave was forgotten for two generations, but was remembered by the end of the 20th century and is now being attended to by the Buddhists of Vienna.

To *see* the beauty of Neumann's German language, and to integrate it into the translation of the Pali, the reading is a cheer joy and pleasure. And his notes! is most amazing, it's like reading a book of philosophy, history, epistemology, etymology, poetry, classical music, mythology. Incredible is his store of knowledge!

Prof. Neumann passed away in Wien/Vienna in 1915.

German Buddhist Scholars

PAUL DAHLKE

January 1865 – Osterode, East-Prussia

February 1928 – Berlin-Frohnau



Dr. Dahlke, one of quite a number from East-Prussia, was not an academic scholar, yet very proficient in translating Pali texts.

After his Abitur in 1883, he began his medicine study in Berlin. Only after eight semesters he passed the Rigorosum/rigorous examination and with his dissertation he obtained his doctorate. Out of interest he also studied Hebrew, in which he was fluent.

As so many, it was through Schopenhauer, he got a new/different “Weltanschauung” – world view, and first came into contact with Buddhism.

In 1898, he made his first trip around the world which also took him to Ceylon, without leaving any particular impression on him. But Buddhism subconsciously left a mark in his mind.

In 1900, he made a second trip to Ceylon, with the purpose of studying Buddhism. He came in contact with celebrated scholars, such as Ven. Hikkaduwe Sumangala, Ven. Suriyagoda Sumangala, and Ven. Nyananissara, and studied Pali, and, thus, became Buddhist.

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

In total, he made about seven journeys to Asia, including India, Japan, Burma, Siam, but most of the time was spent in Ceylon. In 1903, his first book was published.

In 1919, he was able to purchase a site of eleven acres and began in 1923 with the construction of a building, still known today as “The Buddhist House” in Berlin-Frohnau.

The first uposatha celebration took place in October 1924. In 1926, a beautiful meditation hall in Japanese style was attached.

In the garden stands today a beautiful Buddha statue, carved out of a special stone.

Today the Temple is managed by the German Dhammaduta Society in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In the winter 1927/28, he became ill with influenza. Due to cardiac insufficiency, caused by tropical fever from a time at Java, he passed away on a full moon day in February 1928. His work consists of about 22 single treatises, many translated into English.

His major translation work consists of 4 Volumes from the Dīgha Nikāya and Majjhima Nikāya Anthologies.



German Buddhist Scholars

EMIL SIEG

August 1866 – Frauenhagen

January 1951 – Göttingen



Emil Sieg was born in the German province Uckermark, where he attended the high school in Prenzlau.

From 1885, he pursued his study on classical philology in Berlin and in Tübingen. In Munich Prof. Ernst Kuhn inspired Sieg for the study of Sanskrit. After returning to Berlin in 1891, he obtained his Ph.D. with his dissertation on the “Phonology Vedic Texts.”

In 1896, he submitted his postdoctoral thesis/habilitation in order to qualify as a University lecturer on “Late Vedic Literature in the Ṛg Veda.”

For 12 years, he was a Privat-Lecturer of Indian philology at Berlin.

In 1909, he was called as successor of Prof. Oldenberg to the Albrecht-University of Kiel and in 1920 to the University of Göttingen, where he remained until his passing in 1951.

GEORG GRIMM

February 1868 – near Nuremberg

August 1945 – Utting am Ammersee



Like Dr. Dahlke, Dr. Grimm was not an academic scholar, but was well known for his Buddhist writings and translations.

As so many, also he was initially influenced by Schopenhauer. After initially studying theology, he changed to jurisprudence in Munich from 1889 to 1892, and earned his living with private lessons. In December 1896 he obtained his Dr. Jur. cum laude superato at the University of Heidelberg. After his registration as attorney in Munich he settled in the city Augsburg.

In 1921 he established in Munich a Buddhist Community together with Dr. Seidenstücker, later named “Altbuddhistische Gemeinde” (ABG)

Because of health reasons he retired early and dedicated his time to an intense and thorough study of Pali and Sanskrit. Many of his translations were for anthologies.

His major work was *Die Lehre des Buddha* (The Doctrine of the Buddha). Many of his writings have been translated into English and French.

In 1933, Grimm moved from Munich to Utting am Ammersee with the residence of the ABG at his house. There he passed away in 1945.

German Buddhist Scholars

His judicial colleagues placed on his grave a wreath with the inscription: "To the benevolent judge of Bavaria".

HEINRICH LÜDERS

June 1869 – Lübeck

May 1943 – Badenweiler

Orientalist, Indologist



After his initial study of Germanistic in Munich, he moved to Göttingen to study Indology.

In 1894, he obtained his habilitation on the Vyāsa-sikṣā.

From 1895 to 1899, he served at the Indian Institute of the Oxford University where he made the acquaintance with Max Muller.

His main research work was on Pali and Sanskrit. Of great importance for the problem of the pre-canonical language is the posthumously published: *Beobachtungen über die Sprache des buddhistischen Kanons* (Observations on the Language of the Buddhist Canon), Berlin 1954, in which he defended the view that the Pali and Sanskrit Buddhist texts show traces of the existence of an “Early Canon”/Urkanon, written in an Eastern dialect, called Ardhamāgadhī or Old-Ardhamāgadhī.

Some of his works include:

- *Bhaarhut and Buddhist Literature*“
- *Mathura Inscription*
- *Buddhist Fairy Tales from Ancient India*
- *Observation of the Language in the Pali Canon*

Heinrich Lüders passed away in 1943 in Badenweiler.

German Buddhist Scholars

MAX WALLESER

June 1874 – Mannheim

April 1954 – Heidelberg



Professor Walleser was holding the chair of Indology and Buddhist science at the University of Heidelberg.

In 1929, he was elected as Corresponding Member of the, at the time, Soviet Academy of Science.

Among his numerous writings on diverse topics are: *Das Problem des Ich* (The Problem of Self); *Die philosophische Grundlage des aelteren Buddhismus* (The Philosophical Foundation of Pristine Buddhism), Heidelberg 1904; *Sprache und Heimat des Pali-Kanons* (Language and Homeland of the Pali Canon), Institute of Buddhist Science, Heidelberg 1924; and *Die Sekten des alten Buddhismus* (The Schools of Pristine Buddhism)

Max Walleser passed away in 1954 in Heidelberg.

KARL B. SEIDENSTÜCKER

March 1876 – Gerbstedt

October 1936 – Leipzig



Seidenstücker is considered as one of the early pioneers in the field of Buddhism and Indology in Germany. He was also author and translator.

His father was Pastor in the city Gerbstedt, where he was born. After his Abitur in Halle his studies included science, philosophy, medicine, and philology at the Universities of Göttingen, Leipzig, and Halle. With his dissertation in 1913 on the UDĀNA at the University of Leipzig he obtained his doctorate.

With his initiative he led the foundation of the first “German Buddhist Missionary Society” in 1903.

In Georg Grimm, student of Prof. Ernst Windisch, he found his spiritual akin after reading Dr. Grimm’s book, *Die Lehre des Buddha* (The Doctrine of the Buddha), he wrote: “the most deep representation of the Teaching of the Buddha never found before,... especially I’m glad about the affirmation and emphasis about the transcendental subjects, above all matters THE ONE, which was necessary”.

In July 1921, together with Georg Grimm, he founded the Buddhist Society now named *Altbuddhistische Gemeinde*.

German Buddhist Scholars

Dr. Seidenstücker was not only a scholar but also a practicing lay-follower, to be seen in the following story.

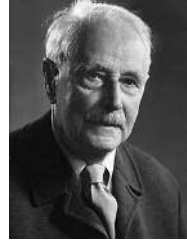
During the First World War, he became very seriously ill. He remembered that a sick bhikkhu recovered after hearing “Girimānanda Sutta” (Anguttara Nikaya 10, 60) from the Buddha. Recalling the sutta, Seidenstücker also recovered.

Yet, although being, for almost twenty years, a lay-follower/upāsaka, he went through a second conversion. He turned to the Catholic Church and followed Christianity until his death in 1936. For this reason, nobody of the community wrote an obituary to the “founder-father” of the Altbuddhistische Gemeinde.

WALTER LIEBENTHAL

June 1886 – Königsberg, East Prussia

November 1982 – Tübingen



Professor Liebenthal was born in Königsberg.

His father was a Public Prosecutor/*Staatsanwalt*.

His youth inclination was for art/sculptor, after a short study at the University. But, in 1914, with the outbreak of the First World War, he joined the army. Twice wounded, he was made a prisoner in France, and he had to spend two years in captivity from 1918 to 1920.

Returning to Berlin in 1920, he tried several unsuccessful ventures for living. His wife, in the meantime having a family, was more successful with an embroidery factory for children. With this they could sustain their living. The great change, living in Berlin, came, when he met Dr. Paul Dahlke, the founder of the first Buddhist Temple/monastery in Berlin-Frohnau. Thus his interest in Buddhism began.

He began a serious systematic study of Pali, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Chinese at the University of Berlin. In 1933, with his dissertation on “*Satkārya*,” he obtained his doctorate at the University of Breslau.

He translated many philosophical works from Pali, Sanskrit, and Chinese into German.

In the same year, he emigrated to China as his family belonged to the Jewish religion. He obtained in 1934 an

German Buddhist Scholars

appointment as a research fellow at the Sino-Indian Institute of Yenching University in Peking, China. During the next two years, he prepared a Chinese-Sanskrit Index to the Kāśyapa-parivarta, which unfortunately was lost during the 1937 occupation of Peking by Japanese forces.

In 1946, he published *The Book of Chao*, which established his reputation as a Sinologist.

In 1952, he left China and moved to India, to the Visvā-Bharati University of Santiniketan, founded by the famous Rabindranath Tagore.

After his wife passed away, he decided to leave India and traveled extensively in Europe, giving talks and lectures.

And, finally, in 1962, at the age of 77, he was back in Germany and settled in the city of Tübingen. He was invited to teach by the directors of the East Asian Seminary and Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Tübingen.

In 1965 he was named Honorary Professor in his specialty of "Chinese Buddhism."

His magnum opus was *On World Interpretations*.

Prof. Liebenthal remained active giving classes and lectures and continued on his work, *On World Interpretations*, until he passed away in Tübingen in 1982.

HEINRICH R. ZIMMER

December 1890 – Greifswald

March 1943 – New Rochelle,

New York, U.S.A.

Indologist



Born in Greifswald, he began his career studying Sanskrit and Linguistics at the University of Berlin where he graduated in 1913. Between 1920 and 1924, he lectured at the University of Greifswald. From 1924 to 1938, he was called to Heidelberg to fill the chair of Indian Philology.

In 1938 he emigrated to England and taught at Balliol College, Oxford.

In 1940 he moved to New Rochelle, New York, where he accepted the Visiting Lecture Position in philosophy at Columbia University.

Here Joseph Campbell attended his lectures which developed a good friendship. He was given the task to edit and posthumously publish Zimmer's papers.

He was well known as Indologist and Historian of South Asian Art and most known for his work *Myth and Symbols in Indian Art and Philosophy of India*. He was the most important German scholar in Indian philology after Max Muller (1823-1900).

In 2010, a "Heinrich Zimmer Chair for Indian Philosophy and History" was established at Heidelberg University.

Heinrich Zimmer died of pneumonia in 1943.

HELMUTH VON GLASENAPP

September 1891 – Berlin

June 1963 – Tübingen



The family “von Glasenapp” derived from numerous branches of Pomeranian noble families.

From 1910 to 1914, Glasenapp studied Pali and Sanskrit at Universities of Tübingen, Munich, Berlin and Bonn as well as religious science. With his dissertation on “The Doctrine of Karma in the Jain philosophy” in 1914 he obtained his doctorate.

In 1918, he habilitated at the University of Bonn.

Today, Prof. Glasenapp is known as an eminent German Indologist.

From 1920 to 1928, he was lecturer at the University of Berlin and was, subsequently, appointed as successor of Rudolf Otto Franke as extraordinary Professor of Indology to the University of Königsberg/East-Prussia, a position he held until the end of the Second World War.

In 1946, he was appointed to the University of Tübingen and remained there until his retirement in 1959.

Prof. Glasenapp never married.

Tragically, he lost his life due to a road accident at the age of 72 in 1963. In 1964, his autobiography was published posthumously with the title *Meine Lebensreise* (The Journey of My Life—People, Countries, and Things I Saw)

Scholarly Significance

Besides numerous historical-philological studies in Sanskrit literature and translations, his writings on Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism are still considered as models and have been translated into many languages.

They include:

- *A Comparative Study of Vedanta and Buddhism*, BPS, Sri Lanka
- *Jainism: An Indian Religion on Moksha*, Berlin 1925
- *Buddhism in India and South Asia*
- Two volumes of *The Five Great Religions*, 1951

In India, which he visited for the first time in 1927, his works have been greatly acknowledged. He also lectured widely in the Orient and in Africa.

On his 70th birthday in 1961, he was honored with the decoration of the "Order of Merit of the Federal Republic."

Prof. Glasenapp passed away in Tübingen in 1963.

In his will, he decreed that the German Oriental Society set up a foundation to manage stock-assets (worth about 75,000 Euros) and future royalties from his publications, with the condition that they be used exclusively for the German India Research. Accordingly, the Helmut-von-Glasenapp-Foundation was established in 1964.

German Buddhist Scholars

GEORG KRAUSKOPF

23 September 1894 –

Rastenburg, East Prussia

13 July 1987 – Baden-Wuerttemberg

Indologist



Here we have another well-known Buddhist, coming from East-Prussia!

After moving from Rastenburg to Königsberg, he founded the Buddhist Society Königsberg in 1923

In 1950, he represented Germany on the occasion of the Founding of the World Fellowship of Buddhists in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and, in 1956, he participated in the Sixth Buddhist Council in Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar).

He was a Buddhist of the first hours, actively involved in the foundation of Buddhist centers within the German-speaking community

He belonged to the first generation of Buddhists in Germany, to lay the foundation of acceptance of the Buddha-Dhamma.

He also wrote and published many papers and books on Buddhism.



ERNST WALDSCHMIDT

July 1897 – Lünen

February 1985 – Göttingen

Indologist



He began his studies in Kiel under Prof. Paul Deussen, after serving as Professor at the Museum of Ethnology. In Göttingen he continued his studies under the famous Indologist Emil Sieg.

He moved to Berlin in 1919 and obtained his Ph.D in 1924.

Receiving an appointment to the University of Göttingen, he left Berlin in 1936. A year later, he was elected as Ordinary Member of the “Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen.”

Due to his personal engagement, the “Berlin Museum of Indian Art” was established in 1963 and opened in 1971.

Prof. Waldschmidt, who was also a scholar of archaeology of India and Central Asia, specialized in Sanskrit text of the Turfan expeditions. He also had a masterly command of the Chinese language.

Together with Prof. Bechert, he compiled and published a Sanskrit dictionary. He also undertook the difficult task of editing and translating from the Sanskrit language and from fragment manuscripts in the Turfan collections.

One of his disciples is Dieter Schlingloff.

German Buddhist Scholars

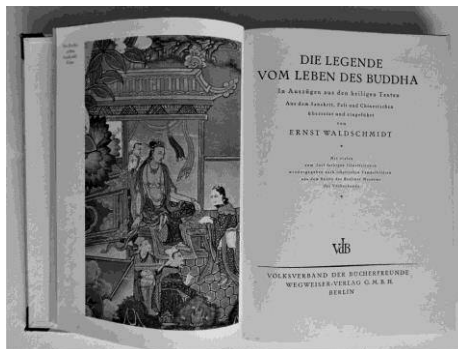
In Berlin, he established the “Foundation Ernst Waldschmidt,” with an E.W.-Prize, given every five years from the “Foundation Prussian Cultural Ownership,” for further research and publications in the field of Indian philology.

His writings include:

- *Die Legende vom Leben des Buddha*, 1929, (translated from Sanskrit, Pali, and Chinese)
- *Von Ceylon bis Turfan*, 1967, (bibliographies from history, literature, religion, and art of the Indian cultural area)
- *On a Sanskrit version of the Verahaccāni Sutte of the Samyutta Nikāya*, 1980
- *Mahāvadāna Sutra: Canonical Text of ‘The Seven Last Buddhas’* (A Comparative translation of Sanskrit and Pali text).

Ernst Waldschmidt was a pupil of Heinrich Lüders and continued his teacher’s work on the Sanskrit fragments.

Prof. Waldschmidt passed away in Göttingen in 1985.



**LAMA ANAGARIKA
GOVINDA**

May 1898 – Waldheim

January 1985 – Mill Valley,
California, U.S.A



Lama Govinda, is most famous for his book, *The Way of the White Clouds*.

This photo shows him together with my esteemed teacher, Ven. Nyanaponika Mahāthero, almost radiating their friendship which had developed while interned at Dehra Dun, India, during World War II, just meeting again after almost twenty years.

This photo was included in an article in the German Magazine *Esotera*, on the occasion of Lama Govinda's unexpected visit to Germany.

At a very early age, Lama Govinda became a follower of Buddhism, and, while living on Capri, Italy, for several years (1920-28), he practiced meditation with a Buddhist friend.

It was in 1928 that he made his first visit to Ceylon and stayed two months at the Island Hermitage with Nyanatiloka Mahāthero, first as *brahmacari* and later as *anagarika*.

Although his intention was to be ordained as a bhikkhu, he was discouraged (the ground seems to be very questionable).

German Buddhist Scholars

In 1930, he went to live in a hermitage near Gampola for one year. Two reasons, as he said in the *Esotera* interview, supported his decision not to remain in Ceylon, first, as he was also a talented painter, he found everything was in the same green color, just impossible for him to do any paintings.

Second, once he wanted to discuss or talk with some of the bhikkhus/theros about his experience in meditation at the time while on Capri, the monks refused to talk about it, "that cannot be,"

But the great turning point in his life came, when he attended the All-India Buddhist Conference in Darjeeling in 1931. There, he met a Tibetan Gelugpa meditation teacher, Geshe Tome Rimpoche and was so greatly impressed that, from then on, he embraced and followed Tibetan Buddhism.

THERE HE FOUND WHAT HE WAS MISSING IN CEYLON REGARDING MEDITATION (Jhāna-bhāvanā) as he said in his interview in the *Esotera*.

Two of his greatest books are *Foundation of Tibetan Mysticism* and *Creative Meditation and Multidimension*.

In *The Way of the White Clouds*, Govinda wrote that he was a reincarnation of the poet NOVALIS.

PART TWO

Scholars from 1901 - 1941

German Buddhist Scholars

EDWARD CONZE

March 1904 – London, England
September 1979 - Sherborne,
Dorset, England



Conze was born in England, because his father was posted there as German Vice-Consul. But his family was of mixed German, French and Dutch ancestry. He was educated at various German Universities and graduated with a Ph.D. from the University of Köln in 1928.

At the early age of 13, he read *Gleanings in Buddha Fields* by the famous Lafcadio Hearn.

But through the writings of D. T. Suzuki, when he was about 35 years, his interest in Buddhism became quite serious. He became a student of Professor Max Walleser.

He proceeded with his studies of Comparative European and Indian Philosophy, including Sanskrit only at the age of 24. He had a great talent for languages counting more than ten, probably including Latin and Greek.

In 1933, he returned to England.

He devoted his work to the translations of the Prajnāpāramitā Literature like the Diamond Sutra and the Heart Sutra.

Conze is considered as one of the great Buddhist translators.

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

He was not only an academic scholar, but also a practicing Buddhist. This was very unusual at that time, and was regarded eccentric. The general opinion was that a scholar should not have any personal involvement in the teachings.

He practiced meditation, even living in his own caravan to practice, according to the instruction by Buddhaghosa in Visuddhimagga.

He was invited to lecture at universities in America and Canada.

His publications include:

- *Buddhism: Its Essence and Development*
- *Buddhist Meditation*
- *Vajracchedikā Prajnāpāramitā*
- *Abhisamayālaṅkāra*
- *A Short History of Buddhism*
- *Buddhist Thought in India*
- *Thirty Years of Buddhist Studies*

He died in September 1979 at the Yeovil General Hospital

PAUL THIEME

March 1905 - Berlin

April 2001 – London, England

Indologist, Vedic Sanskritist



In 1929, Thieme received his doctorate in Indology at the University of Göttingen on the thesis “Plusquamperfectum in the Veda” under Prof. Emil Sieg.

After his habilitation in 1932 he left for India. At the University of Allahabad he taught German and French from 1932 to 1935.

He was fluent in Sanskrit, for which he was very much respected by Indian scholars, and when he received an honorary doctorate from the Benares Hindu University, Varanasi, he delivered his speech of thanks in Sanskrit.

He also conducted conversations and discussions in Sanskrit with the great Indian scholar, Pandit Kamalakanta Mishra.

At the first World Sanskrit Conference in Delhi in 1971-1972, he gave the inauguration speech.

His studies and works included from the Vedas and Upanisads, Sanskrit poetry and traditional Hindu sciences (*shastra*), as well as Panini grammar.

For six years, from 1954 to 1960, he was at the renowned Yale University. After his return, until his

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

retirement in 1972, he served as professor for Religious studies and Indology at the University of Tübingen.

From the INAMORI FOUNDATION, JAPAN, he was awarded the “Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy,” for providing the knowledge of classical Indian literature.

He passed away at the age of 96 in 2001 in London.

GUSTAV ROTH

January 1916 – Breslau

June 2008 – Lenglern

Orientalist

In 1935, Dr. Roth made his Abitur in Breslau. From 1937, he began his studies of Indology at the Universities of Breslau and Leipzig and, from 1941, at the University of Halle.

His studies on Oriental languages included Persian and Hindustani and Jaina Studies.

In 1949, Roth studied at the University of Munich, where received his doctorate in philology in 1952.

In the years from 1953 to 1960, he left for India and Nepal for scientific studies. Returning to Germany, he took the post as Akademic Council at the Indology Seminar of the University of Göttingen until his retirement in 1981.

From 1982 to 1985, he was invited as the Principal of the Shri Nava Nālanda Maha Vihara Institute in Bihar, resulting in his book: *Indian Studies*, Delhi 1986

As a special presentation on the 90th birthday of Prof. Roth, Dr. Ute Huesken offered a beautiful Commemorative Issue.

His main field was on Buddhist Sanskrit texts and their accessibility. Special mentions made of obtaining merit for his outstanding edition of *Sanskritayana*-collection.

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

Prof. Roth passed away in Lenglern in 2008.

HERBERT VIGNĀNTAKA GÜNTHER

March 1917 – Bremen

March 2006



Professor Günther, was one of the most outstanding scholars, a genius in Asian/Oriental languages and becoming one of the leading Buddhist scholars.

Encouraged by his father, he started learning at an early age, when he was only nine, the Chinese language because of his interest in the Orient.

Graduating in 1936, he had also studied the Sanskrit language.

At the University of Munich he earned his Ph.D. in 1939 in Indic Studies and in 1943 his Dr. Phil. habil. at the University of Vienna, Austria.

For seven years, from 1943 to 1950, he taught as lecturer at the University of Vienna.

Like his great mentor, Prof. Geiger, who was a specialist in Pali and had also studied Sinhala, Prof. Günther's accomplishments were not less.

Besides Sanskrit, Pali, and Sinhala, his knowledge of languages included Chinese, Japanese, and Hindi, and for *pleasure* he studied Latin, Greek, Italian, and more.

German Buddhist Scholars

His travels to India led him from 1950 to 1958 to teach at Lucknow University, where he met Kailas Nath Kaul, a well-known philosopher.

From 1958 to 1964, he was appointed at the Varanaseya Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya at Varanasi (Benares) as the Head of the Department of Comparative Philosophy and Buddhist Studies.

In those years he was fortunate in meeting and studying with many prominent Tibetan and Mongolian Lamas, such as H. H. Dalai Lama and Lama Tarthang Tulku. He also edited *The Life and Teaching of Naropa*.

In 1964, he left for Canada, to become Professor of the Department of Far Eastern Studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

His works and writings are in the background of deep and learned Buddhist perspectives and translated into many languages, including:

- *Gampopa: The Jewel Ornament of Liberation; the Life and Teaching of Naropa*
- *Mind in Buddhist Psychology and Buddhist Philosophy in Theory and Practice*
- *The Soul Problem of Early Buddhism*, Konstanz 1949
- *Concept of Mind in Buddhist Trantrism*
- *Philosophy and Psychology in the Abhidhamma*
- *Travels and Life in India: 14 Years in India*

Prof. Günther passed away in 2006.

FRITZ HUNGERLEIDER

1920 – Wien/Vienna, Austria

1998 – Wien/Vienna, Austria



As the family belonged to the Jewish tradition, he went into Exile in Shanghai in 1938. He remained in Shanghai until 1947.

In Shanghai, he came in contact with Buddhism, and, in the years after the war, he deepened his knowledge of Buddhism by traveling to Sri Lanka and Japan. His Zen-training he undertook at the strict Rinzai Monastery, Daitoku-ji, in Kyoto, with further studies at two Buddhist universities, Ryukoku and Ohtani.

Back in Germany, he conducted his first meditation-seminar on “Satipatthana and Zen” at the Buddhist monastery, Roseburg, near Hamburg, in 1961. From 1962, he devoted himself to conduct Zen-Seminars and lecture tours.

He developed a regular contact with the Institute of Ethnology and Japanology at the University of Vienna.

With his great effort and contribution and being more than twenty years President of the Buddhist Organisation/Community Austria, he succeeded finally in 1983 for the State Acknowledgment of Buddhism in Austria.

In regard to “Interreligious Dialogue”, he succeeded to arrange the meeting of Archbishop Cardinal Franz König

German Buddhist Scholars

with H. H. Dalai Lama on the occasion of his visit to Austria in 1973.

His works include *Mein Weg zur Mystik* (My path to Mystic), 1969

HELLMUTH HECKER

October 1923 – Hamburg

January 2017 – Hamburg



Dr. Hecker was a leading, well known writer and translator in the Theravada tradition. Dr. Hecker translated selected texts from Pali into German and from German into English, published either with the German Buddhist Publisher “Beyerlein-Steinschulte” or the Buddhist Publication Society, Kandy, Sri Lanka.

He completed his doctorate in 1948 at the University of Hamburg in law and has been working at the Research Centre for International Law and Foreign Relations which has been combined as Institute for International Affairs at the University Hamburg, where he became private lecturer-Privat Dozent. In 2016, Dr. Hecker celebrated his 92nd birthday in good health

Some of his writings include:

- *Meister Eckehart: The greatest Mystic of the Occident and the Teaching of the Buddha*
- *Chronic of Buddhism in Germany*
- *Life-impressions of German Buddhists, 2 Vol.*
- *Realism, Idealism and the Buddhist Ecumenical Movement*
- *The Doctrine of the Buddha and Heidegger*
- *Ost-West Dialogue*

German Buddhist Scholars

- *Buddhist Dealings with Rilke*
- *Der Stromeintritt-Sotāpatti*
- Many translations from Pali into German and English
- Articles in several German Buddhist Magazines

While still in Kandy, the sad news reached me that our most senior Dhamma friend, Dr. Hellmuth Hecker, passed away January 2017 at the age of 94, a life well dedicated to the Dhamma.

HANS WOLFGANG SCHUMANN

January 1928 – Düsseldorf

June 2019 – Bonn



H. W. Schumann studied Indology, Comparative Religions, and Social Anthropology at the University of Bonn.

He earned his Ph.D. for a thesis on Buddhist philosophy.

His illustrious career includes teaching at the Hindu Benares University in Benares/Varanasi, India, he joined the Foreign Services of the Federal Republic of Germany and served in Consular and Diplomatic Capacity at West German Missions in Kolkata, Rangoon, Chicago, and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

He was in charge of the India Desk, the German Foreign Office.

He retired as the Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Mumbai, India.

Most sources of his writings come from the Pali Canon.

A few of his writings:

- *Die grossen Götter Indiens* (The great gods of India)
- *Der Buddha erklart sein System* (The Buddha Explains His Doctrine)

German Buddhist Scholars

- *Pali-Buddhismus für Fortgeschrittene* (Pali Buddhism for the Advanced)

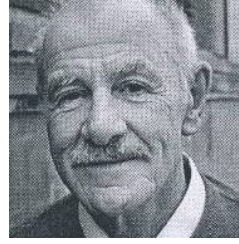
Dr. H. W. Schumann passed away in 2019 in Bonn.

FRITS (JOHN FREDERIK) STAAL

November 1930 – Amsterdam, Holland

February 2012 – Chiang Mai, Thailand

SE Asian Studies scholar, Indologist



Born in Amsterdam, he studied at the University of Amsterdam physics and philosophy.

He continued his studies of Indian philosophy and Sanskrit at the Universities of Madras and Varanasi/Benares. Returning to the Netherlands, he became Professor in Comparative Philosophy in Amsterdam from 1962 to 1967. He was also a scholar of Greek and Indian logic and philosophy.

In 1968, he was invited as Professor of Philosophy and South Asian Languages at the University of California, Berkeley, USA. (In the Netherlands, the German Language is also spoken)

His works include:

- *Nambudiri Veda Recitation*
- *Word Order in Sanskrit and Universal Grammar*
- *Exploring Mysticism: A Methodological Essay*, Penguin, Berkeley, 1975
- Research and document in Kerala, India

In 1975, Staal invited scholars to document a twelve-day performance of the Vedic Agnicayana ritual in the village, Panjal, Kerala.

German Buddhist Scholars

He retired in 1991 and, later, settled in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he passed away in 2012.

HEINZ BECHERT

June 1932 – Munich

June 2005 – Göttingen

Indologist, Buddhologist



Heinz Bechert completed the Humanistic Gymnasium in Rosenheim in 1950 and made his Abitur in June of that year. He continued his studies at the University of Munich in the field of Philology and History, Indology, Indogermanistic Studies, and Tibetology. In 1956, he received his Ph.D under Prof. Helmut Hoffmann, with a dissertation on “Sanskrit manuscripts of the Turfan discovery.” Following this, he was appointed Assistant at the University of Saarbrücken and the University of Mainz.

During his time as Assistant in Saarbrücken and Mainz, Bechert undertook research in Theravàda Buddhism and its literature. In 1958, he received a grant from the German Research Community to study the classical and modern Sinhala language and literature and made his first visit to Sri Lanka, which lasted a full year. This resulted in writing *History of the Sanskrit Literature by the Singhalese*. In 1962-63, he again visited Sri Lanka, this time including stops in Thailand and Cambodia, as a member of the Cultural Delegation of the Foreign Ministry.

In 1964, with his study in Sri Lanka, he was habilitated at the University of Saarbrücken and Mainz

and published the “Anavataptagāthā” according to the GILGIT–handwritten manuscript including the Tibetan translation..

With his dissertation he had established a relation with Prof. Waldschmidt, and together they published the “Sanskrit Dictionary” on Buddhist text from the Turfan-Findings.

In 1965, he was appointed Full Professor and succeeded Waldschmidt for the chair of Indology at the University of Göttingen, a position he held until 2000. At his initiative, the “Indological Seminar” was renamed into “Seminar for Indology and Buddhist Science.”

Between 1967 and 1995, Prof. Bechert made eight more trips to Sri Lanka to continue his research into Nikāyas within the Sangha and the Nikāyabheda and to attend several conferences. The first volume of his magnum opus, *Buddhismus, Staat und Gesellschaft in den Laendern des Theravada Buddhismus*. (Buddhism, State, and Society, in the Countries Following Theravada Buddhism) was published in 1965, followed by two more volumes in 1973.

“It was considered as an epochal work, which in the specialist literature has been unanimous recognized as a milestone. A work of this kind has not been found in any other language of the international sciences. One of the most important contributions to the history of South-East Asia in the 20th century.”

–Dr. Hellmuth Hecker

Ven. Ayya M. Vimala

Bechert also served as visiting Professor at the University of Wien/Vienna and at Yale University, New Haven. He was a member of the Royal Asiatic Society, Sri Lanka Branch, Colombo, and of the Siam Society, Bangkok, Thailand. He was an Honorary Fellow at Sanskrit College in Calcutta. He was appointed "Honorary Consultant" by the Sri Lankan Government for publication of the Sinhala Dictionary. For his impressive contribution to Buddhist studies, particularly to Theravada, Prof. Bechert was elected to four Academies.

In June 2005, shortly before his 73rd birthday, Prof. Bechert passed away after a prolonged illness preceded by years of failing health.

GÜNTHER-DIETZ SONTHEIMER

April 1934 – Ulm

June 1992 – Dossenheim

From 1953 to 1958, Sontheimer studied at the University of Tübingen jurisprudence. With Prof. von Glasenapp he studied Indology.

After his first state law examination, he continued his studies specializing on Indian law at the Law College in Poona, India. He continued his study on law and the language Marathi at the University of London.

In 1965, he taught at the South-Asia-Institute in Heidelberg and at their branch in New-Delhi from 1973 to 1975.

After his habilitation in 1976, he taught history of religion at the South Asian Institute (SAI) in Heidelberg.

Inspired by Prof. Glasenapp, who had been several times in India, Sontheimer studied not only Sanskrit, but also Hindi.

After he finished his studies of law, he applied for a scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service, in order to continue his studies in India. From 1958 to 1961, he studied the history of Hindu law and modern law at the Law College of Poona University under the guidance of the Principal G.V. Pandit.

With Prof. V. M. Bedekar he read Sanskrit law texts.

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He also undertook fieldwork, especially of the popular religion/belief, like the Khandoba-Shiva-cult, as well as in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

One of his important meetings and working together, was with the renowned historian D. D. Kosambi.

In 1987, Sontheimer was awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize by the German-Indian Society.

Prof. Sontheimer passed away in Dossenheim in 1992.

HANS JOACHIM KLIMKEIT

July 1939 – Ranchi, India

February 1999



As his father, Johannes Klimkeit, worked as a missionary of the Gossner Mission in India, Hans Joachim, was born in Ranchi.

He pursued his education in Germany, and made his Abitur at the Gymnasium in Espelkamp. He continued his studies in Tübingen, in Bonn, and at Harvard on Theology and mathematics.

He studied Indology and Comparative science of religion with Prof. H. von Glasenapp.

He received his Ph.D. and habilitation at the University of Bonn under Prof. Gustav Mensching in 1972 and became his successor.

His works include:

- *History of Religion*, 1981
- *Buddha – Life and Doctrine*, 1990
- *Gnosis on the Silk Road: Text from Central Asia*, 1993
- *Spatial Orientation in Mystic Thinking as Exemplified in Ancient Egypt*

Due to an incurable illness, he passed away in 1999.

WILHELM HALBFASS

May 1940 – Northeim

May 2000 – Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania, U.S.A.



Halbfass, born in Germany, made Pennsylvania his home for his scholarly teachings.

He began his studies on Philosophy, Indology and Classical Philology at the University of Wien/Vienna and Göttingen.

With success he defended his doctoral thesis on Indian Philosophy at the University of Göttingen in 1967.

In 1982 he left for America to teach at the University of Pennsylvania as Professor in the Department of Asian and South Asian Studies.

With other professional colleagues like Prof. Ernest Bender and other Sanskritists, he made the University of Pennsylvania a center of Sanskrit Learning in North America.

Some of his Works:

- *Indien und Europe: Perspektiven ihrer geistigen Begegnung* (India and Europe: Perspectives on their Spiritual Encounter)
- *Karma and Wiedergeburt* (Reincarnation in Indian Understanding/Thinking)
- *On Being and What There is: Classical Vaisesika and the history of Indian Ontology*

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- *Karma, Apurva and Natural Causes*

He passed away in Philadelphia in May 2000.

MICHAEL HAHN

1941 – Linsenbarth

July 2014



Hahn graduated in May 1960 at the Amandus-Abendroth Gymnasium in Cuxhaven. In the same year he began with his studies of mathematics, chemistry, physics and Sanskrit under Gustav Roth and Ernst Waldschmidt at the Georg-August University in Göttingen.

As he played the piano since his youth, he also included in his studies musicology. From 1962 to 1967, he studied psychology at the University of Marburg and in second degree Indology under Wilhelm Rau as well as Tibetology and Sinology. In 1964, he obtained his bachelor degree.

In 1965, he wrote his dissertation in Tibetology, which he completed 1967. He continued on Mongolian studies under Walter Heissig at the University of Bonn.

From 1968, Hahn served as Assistant Professor at the University of Hamburg. In 1972, he was appointed to a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Bonn. He completed his Habilitation of Indology and Tibetology in 1973 and was appointed as Professor in 1982 at the same University.

In the years 1976 to 1988, he undertook journeys to search for Buddhist manuscripts from Nepal to be

German Buddhist Scholars

preserved on microfilm for the Indological Seminar
University of Bonn.

He was invited to be a visiting professor in London,
England; at the University of Berkeley, CA, USA; in
Canada; and at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.

Prof. Hahn passed away in July 2014.

PART THREE

RETIRED AND ACTIVE SCHOLARS

DIETER SCHLINGLOFF

24 April 1928 – Kassel



Professor Schlingloff, born in 1928, is one of the outstanding scholars of Sanskrit. He is the pupil of Prof. Waldchmidt. He is also one of the leading experts on the paintings of Ajanta.

Some of his scholarly works:

- *Ein Buddhistisches Yogalehrbuch* (A Buddhist Study of Yoga)
- Two volumes in the Sammlung Göschen series, *Die Religion des Buddhismus* (The Religion of Buddhism)
 - Der Heilsweg des Mönchtums* (Path of Redemption of Monkhood)
 - Der Heilsweg für die Welt* (Redemption for the World)
- *Buddhistische Stotras aus ostturkistanischen Sanskrittexten* (Buddhist Sutras from the East-Turkestan Sanskrit-texts)
- *Fortified Cities of Ancient India: A Comparative Study*
- *Guide of the Ajanta Paintings*
- *German Scholars on India: Contributions to Indian Studies*
- *The Unicorn: Origin and Migrations of an Indian Legend*

KLAUS MYLIUS

24 August 1930 – Berlin



After the Second World War, living in Berlin, the family thrice lost their home.

From 1946 to 1948, Mylius completed a commercial apprenticeship. But, from 1954 to 1958, he turned to study geography and, from 1957 to 1961, Indology at the University of Halle. There he earned his Dr. rer. nat in Geography in 1962. In 1964, he obtained his Ph.D. in Indology. In 1968, he obtained his habilitation at the Karl Marx University in Leipzig.

He was Visiting Professor of Ancient History at the Oriental Institute and, from 1970 to 1976, he was Associate Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Archaeology.

In 1990, he changed to the University of Bayreuth, where he stayed until 1994. In 1996, he became Lecturer in Sanskrit at the Institute of Comparative Linguistic of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main.

He is a member of the Saxon Academy of Science in Leipzig.

In 2000, he received the Rabindranath Tagore Literature Prize, awarded in equal parts to K. Mylius and Hans Wolfgang Schumann.

German Buddhist Scholars

He is also a member of the American Biographical Institute (ABI) and received the American Medal of Honor of the ABI.

One of his famous books is *Lehrbuch Der Ardhamagadhi*.

He retired in Gottenheim, Freiburg, where he recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

ADELHEID METTE

December 1934 – Belgrad, Serbia



Prof. Mette began her studies at the University of Hamburg between 1953/54 and 1958.

Her studies included Sanskrit, Pali, and Jaina Prakrit at Hamburg.

She earned her Ph.D. in 1959 also at the University Hamburg.

After her habilitation in 1972, she received the qualification for Indology. In 1980, she was teaching Sanskrit and other Indian languages at the University in Munich.

From 1988 to 2000, Dr. Mette held the Chair for Indology as well for Seminars at the University of Münster.

Until today she has a lectureship in Indology, focused on literature of Jainism, Buddhism, Vedic languages, and Jaina Prakrit.

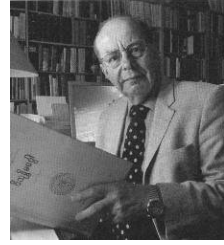
Her works include:

- *The Oha-nijjutti Prakrit Commentary*, 1974
- *The Synchronism of the Buddha and the Jain Mahāvīra*

She gratefully remembers her teachers, Prof. Dr. Ludwig Alsdorf and Prof. Dr. Richard Hamm.

OSKAR VON HINÜBER

February 1939 – Hannover



Prof. von Hinüber received his doctorate in 1966 and seven years later, in 1973 obtained his habilitation.

From 1960 to 1963, he studied comparative Indo-germanic science of languages, Indology, Classic philology, archaeology, and Japanese.

In July 1966, he received a promotion at the University of Mainz on “studies of the casussyntax of Pali, in particular of the Vinaya-piṭaka” under his doctor-father G. Buddruss.

The thesis for his habilitation was “The Saṃghātasūtra” (edition and annotated translation of a northbuddhist didactic Skr.-text)

In 1974, he became Professor for Indology at the University of Freiburg. From 1974 to 1981, he was scientific adviser at the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz. A call to Oslo for the chair of Indian languages in 1977 he rejected to accept the appointment as Professor at the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg in 1981.

Academic Memberships:

- 1986 Akademie der Wissenschaften und Literatur, Mainz

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- 1996 Philosophisch-historische Klasse of the Austrian Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien
- 2002 Institut de France, Academie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
- 2008 International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies

He was also called as Gastprofessor at the University of Wien/Vienna in 1984, and in 1996 to the College de France.

In 1996, he was called to the University Oxford, to Sorbonne, Paris, in 2002 to the International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies.

Scholarly Travels:

- 1967, 1971 India-Ceylon; 1975,1978,2005 India-Ceylon; 1972/73 and 1995 Ceylon
- 1977/78 Nepal: in charge of the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project
- 1983,1984,1985,1987 and 1999 Pakistan for epigraphic fieldwork
- Between 2004 and 2014 several stays of two-three months in Japan for research on Advanced Buddhology at Soka University, Hachioji: International Research Institute.

Honorary Memberships:

- American Oriental Society, Houston/Texas, elected at the 212. Annual conference in 2002
- Deutsche Morgenlaendische Gesellschaft-German Oriental Society, Wurzburg, 2002

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- International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna, 2014.

Publications:

- *Pali-manuscript at the : Lai Hin monastery at Lampang in North-Thailand*, 2013
- *India's Path into the Modern Times: History and Culture in the 19th and 20th Century*

Although Prof. Hinüber retired in 2006, he remains as a most active scholar.

LAMBERT SCHMITHAUSEN

November 1939 – Köln/Cologne



Prof. Schmithausen is a retired Professor of Buddhist Studies and has taught at the University of Münster and at the University of Hamburg.

He received his doctorate from the University of Wien/Vienna in 1963.

He became associate Professor of Indology at the University of Münster from 1970 to 1973 and continued at the University of Hamburg until his retirement in 2005.

His main fields of research are the Yogacara tradition of Indian Buddhism and Buddhist Ethics.

Selections of his publications:

- *The Nirvana-section in the Viniscayasmgrahani of the Yogacarabhumi*, Vienna 1969.
- *Alayavijnana: On the Origin and Early Development of a Central Concept of Yogacara*, The International Institute for Buddhist Studies, Tokyo, 1987.
- *On the Problem of the External World in the Ch'eng wei shih lun*, Tokyo, 2005.

JOHANNES BRONKHORST

July 1946 – Amsterdam, Holland

Indologist, Pali-Sanskrit Scholar



Johannes Bronkhorst specialises in early Buddhism.

After initial studies of Mathematics and Physics with Astronomy at the Free University in Amsterdam, he took up the study of Sanskrit and Pali when he moved to India. First at the University of Rajasthan (Jaipur, India), then at the University of Pune (India). In Pune he obtained an M.A. in 1976 and a Ph.D. in 1979.

In Pune, he read with traditional Sanskrit scholars specializing in Sanskrit grammar and philosophy.

After his return to the Netherlands, he obtained a second doctorate from the University of Leiden in 1980, with the highest distinction.

Having worked for research projects funded by the Netherlands Organization for Science, he was appointed in 1987 to the position of Professor of Sanskrit and Indian Studies at the University of Lausanne-Switzerland. He remained there until his (mandatory) retirement in 2011.

Bronkhorst has concentrated on the history of Indian thought and published on a wide range of topics, including indigenous grammar and linguistics, the interaction between Brahmanism, Jainism and Buddhism and their philosophical schools and religious practices.

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A key output of his work appeared in his monograph *Greater Magadha*. The book has been reviewed by several scholars, including Jason Neelis and Alexander Wynne. Some of Bronkhorst's publications address larger questions relating to the theory and study of religion.

The website of the University of Lausanne provides access to his extensive works.

While I was living in Honolulu, it so happened that Prof. Bronkhorst was invited by the University Of Hawaii at Manoa to participate in a conference on Indian studies, and I was able to hear his famous lecture on Vedanta.

KARL-HEINZ GOLZIO

Indologist, Orientalist



Prof. Golzio, born 1947, is presently teaching at the University of Köln/Cologne.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the First Sri Lankan Buddhist Mission to Germany, celebrated in August 2007, at the Savsiripaya Auditorium in Colombo, which was organized by the Goethe Institute and the German Dhammaduta Society, both in Colombo, Dr. Golzio had been invited to give a lecture.

His work include:

- *History of Kambodia: The Land of the Khmer from Angkor to the Present*
- *Buddhism : Ein Hamdbuch für den westlichen Leser,*
Translated from the English book by John Snelling

PETRA KIEFFER-PÜLZ

1958 – Pforzheim



Dr. Kieffer-Pülz received her primary and secondary schooling in Furth and Langenberg between 1965 to 1978.

Between the years 1978/79 and 1980 she continued her studies of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology, Indian philology and Indian Art History at the Freie University Berlin, Berlin Germany.

At the Universities of Basel and Bern, Switzerland she studied Indo-Germanistik in the year 1980/81. Returning to Germany, she undertook further studies in Archaeology and Indology at the University of Göttingen in the years 1982 to 1988/89.

Dr. Pülz obtained her MA in Indology at the University of Göttingen.

The title of her thesis was “Das Leichenfeld in der kanonischen und frühen nachkanonischen Pali-Literatur” (The cremation ground in the canonical and early post-canonical Pali literature) in the year 1984.

Her Ph.D., as well, was in Indology on “Die Sima: Vorschriften zur Regelung der Ordensgrenze im Vinaya der Therāvaḍin” The Sima: Prescriptions regarding the regulation of the Buddhist monastic boundary in the Vinaya of the Theravāḍin) in the year 1989.

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In the years from 1982 to 1996, she served as Research Assistant at the “Sanskrit-Wörterbuch der buddhistischen Texte aus den Turfan-Funden” at the Academy of Sciences, Göttingen.

From 2010 to 2014, she served as Research Fellow for the Project of the German Research Foundation:

“Wissenschaftliches Pali (Scholastic Pali)” at the Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz.

She was awarded the Friedrich-Weller-Preis by the Saxony Academy of Science.

UTE HÜSKEN

October 1965 – Wuppertal



Prof. Hüsken's studies include Oriental languages, as well as Sanskrit and Pali, which earned her a Ph.D..

She also made several visits to India and Sri Lanka.

At present, she is the Leader of "Oslo Buddhist Studies Forum."

She also taught at the University of Oslo, Norway.

She is also involved in the research projects "Perspectives on Festivity" and "Changing Patterns of Women's Ritual Agency".

Her teachers have been Prof. Gustav Roth, Siglinde Dietz, and Prof. Heinz Bechert.

MICHAEL ZIMMERMANN

Indologist



Prof. Zimmermann, born in Nuremberg, studied Classical Indology, Tibetology and Japanology at the University of Hamburg.

His dissertation was on the origin of the Buddha-nature theory in India.

Four years of his Ph.D. studies were at the Universities in Kyoto and Tokyo.

He spent four years as assistant professor at Stanford University, USA, in 2007. After returning to Germany, he became professor for Indian Buddhism at the Asia-Afrika Institute of the University of Hamburg.

He also worked for the Nepalese-German Manuscript Preservation Project from 2002 to 2003.

He is also interested in questions of Buddhist ethics.

PART FOUR

EMINENT SCHOLARS
FROM
OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

LOUIS DE LA VALLEE-POUSSIN

January 1869 – Liege

February 1938 – Brussels



At the age of only nineteen, he received his doctorate.

He studied Sanskrit and Pali. Later he moved to Paris to study at the Sorbonne under Sylvain Levi.

His works include:

- *Le dogme at la philosophie du Bouddhisme* *Chronic of Buddhism in Germany*
- *The Way to Nirvana*

ETIENNE P. M. LAMOTTE

1903 – Louvain

1983 – Brussels



Prof. Lamotte was a Belgian catholic priest. But he became famous as an Indologist and great authority on Buddhism. He studied under Prof. Vallee-Poussin. He was also familiar with the languages of Pali, Chinese, and Tibetan.

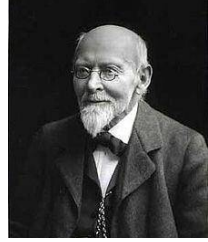
DENMARK

VIGGO FAUSBÖLL

September 1821 – Hove

June 1908 – Gentofte

Indologist, Pali scholar



Dr. Fausböll was appointed as Professor for Sanskrit at the University of Copenhagen and was as well a pioneer of Pali scholarship.

His works include transcriptions of the Pali text of the Sutta-Nipata and the Jataka.

DINES ANDERSEN

26 December 1861 – Ullerslev

28 March 1940 – Copenhagen

Orientalist



Andersen was a Professor of Indian – East Philology. He provided the index for the Jataka Book, published by V.Fausböll.

In 1889, he received a gold medal for his answer to the Copenhagen University Prize on the use of the Sanskrit participants, as they are in Pancatantra and Hitopadesa

FRANCE

EUGENE BURNOUF

April 1801 – Paris

May 1852 – Paris

Orientalist



In 1826, Eugene Burnouf published his “Essai sur le Pali,” in collaboration with his friend Christian Lassen.

He was a classical scholar of high reputation.

SYLVAIN LEVI

March 1863 – Paris

October 1935 – Paris

Indologist, Orientalist



Prof. Levi’s studies included Sanskrit literature and Nepalese history, including works of Asvaghosa and Kanishka.

His historic work is *HOBOGIRIN: Dictionaire Encyclopedique du Buddhisme*.

**ALFRED CHARLES AUGUSTE
FOUCHER**

November 1865 – Lorient

October 1952 – Sceaux



He was a French scholar and a famous Indologist, specialising in Indian Buddhism.

Prof. Foucher identified the Buddha Image as having Greek Origins. He was asked by the governments of France and Afghanistan to organize an archeological co-operation.

He is called the “Father of Gandhara Studies”

ITALY

GUISEPPE TUCCI

June 1894 – Macerata

April 1984 – San Polo dei Cavalieri



He was a Visva-Bharati University alumni, where he studied History of Buddhism, Sanskrit, and Pali. He taught in Benares, at Calcutta University, and later in Rome.

NORWAY

CHRISTIAN LASSEN

October 1800 – Bergen

May 1876 – Bonn, Germany

Norwegian-German Orientalist



Lassen, after completing his study at the University in Oslo, went to Germany to continue his studies at the Universities of Heidelberg and Bonn.

He jointly published with Eugene Burnouf.

SWEDEN

HELMER SMITH

April 1882 – Stockholm

January 1956

Philologist, Indologist



He was appointed as Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Uppsala. In connection with his Pali readings, he began at an early date to study Sinhala.

His greatest achievements were, no doubt, his Sinhala contributions and his work on the *Critical Pali Dictionary*.

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SWITZERLAND

PAUL DEMIEVILLE

13 September 1894 – Lausanne

23 March 1979 – Paris, France

Sinologist



Besides having studied Chinese and Japanese languages, he also studied Sanskrit under S. Levi.

He is best known for his studies of the Dunhuang manuscripts and translations of Chinese poetry.

SPAIN

JUAN MASCARO

December 1897 – Palma de Mallorca,
Mallorca

March 1987 – Comberton, U.K.



Prof. Mascaro is, indeed, very famous for his translations of Hindu and Buddhist texts from Sanskrit and Pali into English, although his native language was Catalan. Most popular and excellent are his translations of the Bhagavad Gita and some of the major Upanishads.

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He even spent time in Ceylon, where he was Vice-Principal of Parameshwara College at Jaffna.

His first work, a collection of religious and spiritual wisdom from across the world, was *Lamps of Fire*.

At Cambridge University, he lectured on Spanish Mystics.

He was Professor of English at the University of Barcelona and Doctor honoris causa by the University of Balearic Islands.

Juan Mascaró passed away in England in 1987.

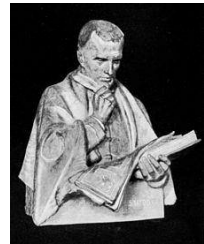
HUNGARY

SANDOR CSOMA DE KOROS

March 1784 – Kőrös, Transylvania

April 1842 – Darjeeling, India

"The Hungarian"



His first schooling was at the local village and at the Bethlem Kollegium. Receiving a scholarship, he continued his studies in Göttingen, Germany, between 1816 and 1818.

There, we see already two particulars: a genius in languages. He was noted to be literate in Latin, Greek, French, German, English, and Hebrew.

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And he became one of the most travelled men around the globe. His travels included the Middle East, Central Asia, and India. During his time in Calcutta, he also mastered Sanskrit and Bengali. He was also made an honorary member of the Royal Asiatic Society. His travels took him northwards to Kabul, Peshawar, Lahore, Kashmir, and Ledakh. In Leh, he met William Moorcroft and was introduced to George Trebecks. This was the beginning of his interest in the Tibetan Language, even studying with a Lama. He committed himself to an intense study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. He is considered one of the first Europeans to master the Tibetan language and compiled a Tibetan-English dictionary. Unfortunately, in 1842, while planning to travel to Lhasa, he contracted Malaria and died from the fever in Darjeeling.

His extraordinary scholarly achievements with his extensive travels even reached the shores of Japan. In February 1933, he was declared a Bodhisattva, a Buddhist saint. He was honored with a statue in the lotus posture, placed at the shrine of the Tokyo Buddhist University.



SOURCES

Buddhist Publication Society, Kandy, Sri Lanka,
BPS Wheels.

Lebensbilder Deutscher Buddhisten, by Dr. H. Hecker

Person of Indian Studies

Whowaswho – indorlogy.info , by Prof. Dr. Klaus
Karttunen, Helsinki, Finland, 1951

APPRECIATION

My warmest appreciation goes to Nalin and Kaveen for all their support of the first scanning and the initial formatting while I was doing my writing in Kandy.

Cover Design by the Author

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ayya Mie Vimala (Yogini, Mystosoph, and Poet) was born in 1943 in Königsberg, East-Prussia (the city of the German philosopher, Emmanuel Kant). The first time she heard the word “Buddha” was when she was only nineteen. Then, in the course of time, her first direct connection and practice was with the Japanese Soto-Zen school in 1968. From the mid-70s, she began intensive with her Yoga practice.

In December 1983, on a visit to Sri Lanka, she became a follower of Theravada Buddhism under the late German Scholar-monk, Ven. Nyanaponika Mahathero and became his disciple, continuously visiting him at his Hermitage in Kandy, to deepen her Dhamma studies. She received the Anagarika precepts and in 1992 Samaneri precepts at the Thumpane Temple, Malwathu Maha Viharaya, Kandy.

She spent a period of time abroad at Palma de Mallorca in Spain, Los Angeles, USA, and Mt. Hiei, Kyoto, Japan. Since 1996, she visited regularly the winter season’s in Honolulu, Hawai’i due to a personal commitment.

After spending five years back in Kandy (2013-17), where she is affiliated with the Buddhist Publication Society, she returned to Hawai’i. There, she looked forward to seeing again her close related Temples, the Chinese Nunnery “Yuk Fut” and the prominent Japanese

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Temple, Honpa Hongwanji with its beautiful White Dome.

As a Life-member of the Maha Bodhi Society, Colombo, she was looking forward to being back in Colombo to join events related to the Anagarika Dharmapala Trust, as well as Mary Mikahala Foster.

Due to the sudden outbreak of COVID and the unavailability of flights, she was not able to return to Colombo until May 2021 to continue with her Dhamma work.

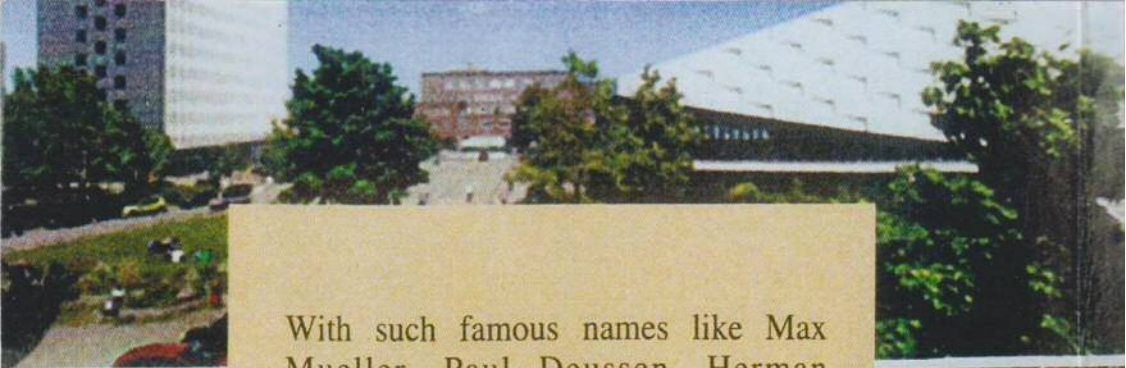
Email: peradeniya13@gmail.com

By the same Author:

Marannussati: Contemplation on Death in Buddhist Literature, published by Vijita Yapa

Mary Mikahala Foster, The Noble Hawaiian Lady, published by Vijita Yapa

Nyanaponika Mahathero Kalyanamitta, published by Honolanka Publishing



With such famous names like Max Mueller, Paul Deussen, Herman Oldenberg and Wilhelm Geiger, all outstanding scholars, one cannot be amazed of the German contribution to the field of Indology/Pali-Buddhism. Some even undertook several flights to Sri Lanka to study Pali, as well as Singhalese, with renowned Thero scholars.



At the same time preparing the reception of Buddhism in Germany, leading to the establishment of the first Temple in Berlin, now under the German Dhammaduta Society in Colombo, with residing Theros from Sri Lanka.



It is the hope that this little book will inspire students to take up the interest and further research, to follow the footstep of those great scholars.

