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**SUPPLEMENTARY ENTRIES
AND
INDEX**



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ACHYUTHAN UNNI, C.P. — ADAPTATIONS

His contribution to children's literature is also substantial, including the award-winning books like *Abashaker satati pahacha*.

Y.M.

ACHYUTHAN UNNI, C.P. (Malayalam; b. 1939), poet and scholar of erudition, did his post-graduation in Malayalam and Sanskrit. He has been teaching Malayalam at the Calicut University for a number of years, and is Professor and Head of the Department. He got his Ph.D. for his research work on linguistics.

The amazing variety of Achyuthan Unni's literary creations stands testimony to his multifarious genius. Apart from translations, he has written books on journalism, linguistics, and children's literature. He has to his credit novels, plays, collections of poems, and books of literary criticism. But his main contribution is in the field of poetry and criticism. Being a Sanskrit scholar, his poetic diction at times resembles the language of the Vedas and Upanishads. He is a writer who aspires for and dreams about something metaphysical, even while being immersed in this materialistic world. There is this air of other-worldliness in almost all his writings.

Achyuthan Unni has written more than twenty books, the significant ones being: Novels: *Pretha Durgam* (1956), *Devanam priya* (1967); Children's literature: *Beevarum Lamayum* (1962), *Kesavan enna anayum dhruva manukalum* (1963); Criticism: *Varthamana pustakathinu oru avatharika*; Travelogue: *Randu sancharikal* (1966).

Aka.Na.

ADAPTATIONS (Konkani). It was long believed that Konkani did not have a tradition of adaptations of the great Indian epics of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, like its other sister languages of the Indo-Aryan family. However, the discovery of old Konkani manuscripts embodying tales from these two epics in a massive form in the Public Library of Braga (since transferred to the Braga District Archives) in northern Portugal in the middle of the present century, dispelled that wrong notion. These tales are lodged in Codex 771 and Codex 772 respectively containing the *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* portions in a general manner, of the said Archives in hand-written form in a phonetically-written Roman script. It is believed that they are the creative works of a group of Konkani writers of native stock from Quelossim, Salcete, Goa, whose names are not clearly mentioned in their text, but they are attributed to Krushnadas Saama Kellosikar and his companions, as in a companion Codex 773 in Marathi, containing the *Krishna charitra katha*, the name of that author and his companions

like Vishnudas Nama, Namadeva, the real names being Vaishampayana, Changa Nivrutti Das and Sukha Indra, figure prominently. These works were reportedly dictated by Konkani Goan Pandits from a manuscript with them supposedly in the Kandevi/Goy Kanadi script, and transliterated into a Roman script based on the Portuguese phonology of the time, that is the turn of the sixteenth century, by the foreign missionaries and which served as a base for their study of the Konkani language and composition of literary works in it in later times.

The Codex 771 contains 23 stories in Konkani prose, the earliest taken from Indian languages except Sanskrit, almost all taken from the *Mahabharata* epic, divided into different 'parvas' or chapters. It has 839 pages of big format, but one of its parvas, the Bhishma parva of about 125 pages, is found repeated, and a few repetitions are noted here and there. The author's name that figures prominently in this manuscript is that of Vishnu Das Nama, a pseudonym of Vaishampayana, who also takes the pen-names of Namadeva and Parmeshvaracho Sharangata Nama. He has to his credit 11 parvas covering over 475 pages. In it also appears the name of Changa Nivrutti Das with two parvas of 134 pages. Then there is also Sukha Indra with one parva, the 'Adi parva', describing the genealogy of the Kauravas and the Pandavas, and one story, all in 126 pages. There are eight incomplete stories without any author's name covering around 105 pages.

The Codex 772 contains 16 stories, and five that amount to a type of fable in Konkani prose, consisting of a total of 443 pages of big format. All these stories are from the epic, *Ramayana*, except two which are taken from the *Mahabharata*, one subscribed by Vishnu Nama and the other by Sukha Indra, the latter being the author of the 'Adi parva' which is also to be found in Codex No.771. None of the *Ramayana* tales bear any author's name, except one which has been subscribed by one Sadashiva. It gives the impression that perhaps these tales were related or rather dictated orally by some native Hindu Pandits, maybe by Sadashiva himself, and written in the phonetically-written Roman script by the Portuguese missionaries in their own hand in a system of transliteration corresponding nearly to the Devanagari script.

These epic stories from the two massive manuscripts are being reconstructed in modern Devanagari and edited for publication by Olivinho Gomes. A part of them, the 'Adi parva' was recast in modern Roman script and edited with notes, glossary and explanation by Louridino Rodrigues and published in 1989. A Devanagari version of it, with certain modifications in its transliteration, etc. and notes, glossary, edited by Pratap Naik, S.J. has appeared in 1990.

O.G.