

EDITOR'S NOTE

This year's volume opens with an issue devoted, like much of last year's volume, to the vexed question of the Indus civilization, its enigmatic script, and its relationship to the subsequent Vedic literature.

The Grand Old Man of studies of the Indus script, Iravatham Mahadevan, presents his address, as the General President of the Indian History Congress, Sixty - Second Session, held at Bhopal from 28-30 December 2001. Incidentally, his edition, translation and study of the oldest Tamil inscriptions in Brahmi script will be published this spring simultaneously from India and Harvard.

This issue will be followed by a number of papers edited by Jan Houben, the convener of the recent Soma Conference at Leiden. George Thompson will add a related paper.

Other articles in preparation for this year's volume include one by Ph. Nicholson, again Soma-related, with keen observations of meditation stages and Rgveda passages; and maybe I will find time, finally, to add my study (of 1993) on the related myths of the Vedic Vala and the old Japanese Iwato.

Many of such topics will also be dealt with in our 4th Harvard Round Table, some aspects of which may find their way into this Journal as well. In sum, to stay within local jargon, this promises to become an exiting year. I wish all readers much pleasure in studying and inspiration derived from these issues.

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