

Ḥasan Redā'ī Bāgbīdī. *Moqaddamāt-e zabān-e sanskrīt (An Introduction to Sanskrit). Jeld-e avval. Tehrān, Markaz-e Dā'erat ol-Ma'āref-e Bozorg-e Eslāmī, 1384/2005, 118 p.*

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Édition électronique

URL : <https://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/24342>

DOI : 10.4000/abstractairanica.24342

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2008

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Svevo D'Onofrio, « Ḥasan Redā'ī Bāgbīdī. *Moqaddamāt-e zabān-e sanskrīt (An Introduction to Sanskrit). Jeld-e avval. Tehrān, Markaz-e Dā'erat ol-Ma'āref-e Bozorg-e Eslāmī, 1384/2005, 118 p.* », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 29 | 2008, document 21, mis en ligne le 15 septembre 2008, consulté le 31 août 2023. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/24342> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/abstractairanica.24342>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 31 août 2023.

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- 1 Although several Sanskrit grammars and manuals in Fārsī are currently available, at least on library shelves, according to the author none of them has asserted itself as a standard textbook for university-level classes. This work is therefore meant as the first volume of a new Sanskrit primer for Persian-speaking learners. The author has made use of the best manuals available in English, especially E.D. Perry's *A Sanskrit Primer* (1885), from which he has derived both the disposition of the contents and most of the exercises. Unfortunately, the transliteration scheme also mirrors Perry's outdated choice, which deviates slightly from the now universally accepted system (diphthongs 'āi' and 'āu'; 'ç' for palatal s, 'ŋ' for palatal n), though this is a minor fault.
- 2 The book contains a short preface on the history of the Sanskrit language, an introduction to the *devanāgarī* script, twelve lessons and four specimen texts. Each lesson comprises three sections: grammar, vocabulary and exercises. This first volume roughly covers vowel stems (*a/ā, i/ī, u/ū, ṛ*) and the present tense system (*parasmaipada* and *ātmanepada*) for thematic roots, plus the passive. There is no separate treatment of internal *sandhi*, while external *sandhi* is dealt with in detail in the grammatical sections. On the whole, this work's clarity and simplicity make it a good choice for class use and self-learners alike.

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Thèmes : 2.1. Langues anciennes

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