

Hindu Mythology and Literature as recorded by Portuguese Missionaries of the early 17th century.

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Introduction.

Some apology seems needed for the reprinting and continuation of this translation of old Portuguese memoirs on Indian mythology, of which the first 23 chapters have already appeared in the *Babylonian and Oriental Record* of 1900 and 1901 (Vols. VIII and IX). Unfortunately that meritorious orientalist review came to a premature end in the latter year, and has never been resuscitated. Under these circumstances "Anthropos" seems a suitable periodical in which to publish a complete version of the treatises. Not only are they the production of Catholic missionaries, but, as will be seen, they may justly claim to be the oldest known systematic memoirs by Europeans on the Hindu mythology, considerably antedating, as will be shown, the Dutch missionary and writer, Abraham Roger. They have, therefore, quite a special interest for us.

Now to give some account of the work.

The Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon began in 1812 the publication of a series of Memoirs entitled "*Collecção de Noticias para a Historia e Geografia das Nações ultramarinas que vivem nos Dominios Portuguezes ou lhes são visinhas*", (Lisboa, na Typografia da mesma Academia). The very first memoirs of the series are two anonymous treatises, drawn up by Portuguese missionaries somewhere about the year 1600, upon the Indian mythology and literature. But I had better let the Editors of the Academy speak for themselves. They say in their preface: