

REVIEWS

The Sacred Books of the East

F. Max Muller, Ed.,

The Upanisads

*translated by F. Max Muller, in two parts.
Originally published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford.*

The Texts of Taoism

*translated by James Legge, in two parts.
Originally published by the Oxford University Press.
New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1962.*

Modern students of oriental religions have long been handicapped by the fact that F. Max Muller's classic set, *The Sacred Books of the East*, has long been out of print and for years has been practically non-existent even in secondhand book stores in this country. It is good news, therefore, that at least part of the set is being republished in the United States in handy-size volumes at the reasonable price of two dollars (\$2.00) each. The new Dover edition is "an unabridged and unaltered republication" of the original works; and it is now possible for practically every institutional library in Japan to have a set, and the single volumes are within reach of the average Japanese scholar.

Since these volumes were originally published a good deal of water

has gone under the academic bridge in most of the areas covered, and there is need for some revision in matters of historical and literary criticism as well as translation; but this does not seriously limit the value of the set for reference purposes, and no library dealing with oriental religions should now be without it.

The four volumes listed above have already been received in Japan and others will no doubt be coming in due time. For students of Japanese Buddhism Kern's translation of *The Saddaharmapundarika* "The Lotus of The Pure Law," which is also off the press, will be especially welcome. There are, to be sure, other translations, but these also are out of print and at present there is nothing satisfactory available in English for modern students

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of Japanese religions.

As published by the Dover Publications there are no volume numbers for the series. Each title stands by itself. Part I of the *Upanisads*, which was first published in 1879 by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, as volume I of *The Sacred Books of the East*, contains Kaṭha Upaniṣad, Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad, Taittiriya Upaniṣad, Brhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad, Praśna Upaniṣad, and Maitrāyaṇi Upaniṣad. Part II, which was first published in 1884 as volume XV of the series, contains Chāndogya Upaniṣad, Talavakara (Kāra) Upaniṣad, Kauṣītaki Upaniṣad, and Vājasaneyi (Isā) Upaniṣad.

Part I of *The Texts of Taoism* (*The Sacred Books of China*), which was first published by the Oxford University Press in 1891 as Volume XXXIX of the *The Sacred Books of the East*, contains "The Tao Te Ching of Lao Tzū" and "The Writings of Chuang Tzū" (Books I-VIII), and Part II, which is Volume XL of the same series, contains "The Writings of Chuang Tzū (Books XVIII-XXXIII) and "The T'ai Shang Tractate of Actions and Their Re-

tributions" and "Appendices I-VIII.

Each of these sets has a revised index and a table giving the "Transliteration of Oriental Alphabets Adopted for the Translation of the Sacred Books of the East." The only limitation in the republication would appear to be the necessity of transposing the volume numbers in the footnotes into the new part numbers. For example, as noted above, the reference to "Volume XXXIX, pp. 149,150" in the footnote on page 1 of Part II of *The Texts of Taoism*, refers to Part I, pp. 149,150, of the new set; but as such references are rare and apparently within the two-volume sets, there is no serious problem.

On some other occasion it may be possible for this journal to point out some of the recent developments in the field of scholarship which call for a modification of the positions taken in the above or subsequent volumes. At this time, however, it seems sufficient to welcome this newcomer in paperbacks and urge all students interested to make their purchases early before these too get out of print and become unavailable. W. P. W.