

# THE OXFORD CHARITY FOR VAISHNAVA AND HINDU STUDIES

## Trustees Report for the period ended December 2000

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000.

### Trustees

The trustees are named on page 1 of the document. Ross Andrew and Shaunaka Rishi Das have served as trustees throughout the year. Hari Jones resigned as a trustee on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2000.

Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the Charity. The Board of Trustees is authorised to appoint new trustees to fill vacancies arising through resignation or death of an existing trustee. The Charity's trustees are named on page one of the document.

### Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to authorise any investments comprised in the trust fund to be held in the name of any clearing bank, trust corporation or stock-broking company which is a member of the Stock Exchange as nominee for the trustees, although no such investments are presently held.

### Constitution, objects and policies

The OCVHS is constituted by a Trust Deed and its objects are the advancement of education in the field of Vaishnava Studies and Hindu Studies. In order to achieve these, the Centre has focused its attention on developing its academic support, establishing close links with Oxford University and providing a lecturers and tutors in Hindu Studies, Spoken Sanskrit and Vaishnavism. The Centre also has accepted and facilitated its first students, developed its library and microfilm collection and invited and facilitated visiting scholars.

The policy of the OCVHS continues to seek additional finance and support in developing its educational programmes as funds permit. It also plans to undertake several library and archive projects to complement its core objects. In both cases, the 'Future Developments' section below should be noted.

### Development, activities and achievements

#### 2000

Prof. Joseph O'Connell from the University of Toronto was appointed Academic Director for the academic year 1999–2000. He taught an eight-week introductory course in Hindu Scripture, gave three additional lectures in Caitanya Vaishnavism and conducted tutorials with students. Dr. Kathleen O'Connell presented a series of lectures on Rabindranatha Tagore for the Centre. Dr. Sanjukta Gupta and Peggy Morgan presented an eight lecture series entitled 'An introduction to Hinduism'.

The OCVHS's Library and Archive Committee was successful in its application to the Heritage Lottery and received a grant of £86,100 towards its Hinduism Oral History Project. The project will commence in January 2001 and continue for three years.

The Centre appointed Professor Narasimhacharya, of the University of Madras, India, as Academic Director for 2000-2001. He will be undertaking a series of eight lectures in Vaishnavism on behalf of the Theology Faculty at Oxford University. He is also conducting seminars for the Charity's doctoral students.

A presentation about the OCVHS was made to the National Hindu Students Forum executive committee, as a result of which the OCVHS has been invited to give the keynote address at the Forum's forthcoming National Annual Conference.

Legal work was started for the incorporation of a 'Friends of the OCVHS, USA' society. This is being undertaken by the Charity in conjunction with US legal advisors.

The Centre obtained copies of rare manuscripts from South Indian libraries on microfilms known as the 'Matsya' collection and received an extensive academic library donated by Dr. Howard J. Resnick, USA.

In June, the OCVHS was accepted as a member of OLIS, Oxford University's computerised library and archive database. Membership of this system represents a significant step forward in the Centre's relationship with the University.

In September 2000 the Centre published a full colour brochure which will be of enormous benefit in increasing public awareness of its work. During this month, a fundraising dinner was held in Belfast with prominent members of the Irish Hindu Community. This was successful and will be followed up by a similar function in late October.

The inaugural meeting of the Hindu Youth Festival Committee was held in September, consisting of members of the Charity and several prominent Asian businessmen. The aims of this Committee are to organise a Hindu Youth Festival in July-August 2001 as a means of raising funds for the Centre.

An introductory course in Spoken Sanskrit was held in October 2000 at the Centre. It was well received with students from the Centre, the University and local residents all participating.

Prof. Frank Clooney from Boston College, USA, will be visited the OCVHS in October 2000 to discuss undertaking the post of Academic Director for a period of three years. He is willing to take up the post in January 2002.

Hari Vaudrey (nee Jones) resigned as a trustee of the Charity in September, but will continue to work for the OCVHS in the role of Bursar and Office Manager. She has replaced as trustee by Dr. Shamila Bhattacharya-Ford, Florida, USA.

Significant visitors to the Centre during this period:

Prof. Diana Eck, Harvard University, USA

Dr. Shamila and Mr. Alfred Ford, Industrialists, USA

Srivatsa Goswami, India

Azad Shivdasani, Asian businessman

Dr. Madhu Khanna, Indira National Centre for the Arts, India

Ranjit Makkuni, Cultural Department, Xerox Palo Alto Research Centre, USA

Dr. David Cheetham, Birmingham University

### **Statement of Trustees responsibilities**

The trustees are required to comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 (or any statutory or modification of that Act) with regard to:

1. The keeping of accounting records for the Charity
2. The preparation of annual statements for the Charity
3. The auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the Charity
4. The transmission of the statements of account of the Charity to the Commissioners.

The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation and submission of an annual report and return to the Charity.

**Approval**

This report was approved by the board of directors and trustees on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf.

Trustee