

**International conference organized by the Société Asiatique and the Collège de France,
with the support of the Fondation Hugot of Collège de France**

Thursday 25 June 2015

“Intellectual encounters between India and France, 17th-19th centuries”

The Collège de France, established in 1530, has been the Parisian sanctuary where major events of the history of Oriental studies occurred. In the 16th and 17th centuries, scholars of this prestigious institution had a first glimpse successively on the civilizations of different parts of Asia. In the 18th century adventurers for the sole sake of knowledge went to the East, collected and stored Oriental manuscripts and documents in Parisian libraries. At the start of the 19th century contacts between scholars of France and India were well-established, sufficient documentation was available to give a scientific status to the study of Sanskrit and of Chinese language and literature. It was consecrated by the creation of chairs of Sanskrit and Chinese in Collège de France, by a royal decree dated 29th of November 1814, confirmed by an imperial decision in 1815. Antoine-Léonard Chézy pronounced his inaugural lecture about Sanskrit literature on the 16th of January 1815.

At the occasion of the bicentenary of this event, a one-day Seminar of study on the French discovery of different branches of Sanskrit learning and on the world of Indian pandits in that period, will be held on the 25th of June 2015, in Collège de France, salle Lévi-Strauss, 52 rue du Cardinal-Lemoine, 75005 Paris.

9h30-9h40: Opening by His Excellency Dr. Mohan Kumar, Ambassador of India to France.

9h40-10h20 Jean-Claude Muller, « Rise and destiny of Sanskrit chairs in Europe ».

10h20-11h00 Sachchidananda Mishra, Professor, Benares Hindu University, « New Sanskrit logic, 17th-19th centuries ».

***11h00-11h10 Pause

11h10-11h50 Gopabandhu Mishra, Professor Benares Hindu University, “Sanskrit creative writings yesterday and today”.

11h50-12h30 Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat, AIBL, « The discovery of Indian astronomy, 17th-19th centuries ».

***12h30-14h30 Lunch

14h30-15h10 Marc Ballanfat, Collège de philosophie, « The Discovery of Upaniṣads and Bhagavadgītā in Europe ».

15h10-15h50 Sylvain Brocquet, University of Aix-en-Provence, “The discovery of Śakuntalā by Antoine-Léonard Chézy, 1830”.

15h50-16h30 Jérôme Petit, BNF, “The typographic adventure of Indian scripts in France”.

***16h30-16h40 Pause

16h40-17h20 André Couture, Université Laval, Québec, “Eugène Burnouf and Kṛṣṇa” (*in absentia*).

17h20-18h00 Charles Malamoud, EPHE, “The beginnings of Vedic studies in France”.