



MURTY CLASSICAL LIBRARY  
OF INDIA



Harvard University Press

**Murty Classical Library of India**  
Guidelines for Book Proposals  
December 2020

***General Aims and Scope***

The Murty Classical Library of India (MCLI) publishes dual-language editions of the major works of South Asian literature. For the purposes of this series, “South Asia,” generally speaking, comprises Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; the chronological endpoint of MCLI is approximately 1800 CE. The series is concerned with publishing not only belles lettres but also philosophy, literary criticism, and other realms of learning.

MCLI books provide original-language texts with accurate and readable English translations on facing pages. It is expected that the proposed translation be new and prepared in a register that is both idiomatic and enduring, given that MCLI books remain in print in perpetuity. For the same reason, prose rather than verse translation is preferred, though a versified translation will be considered by the editorial board. A new critical edition can be offered but is not required. If the text to be used is a reprint, it should be the best available and revised by the contributor where necessary. The Introduction (4000 to 8000 words) should provide background for general readers and scholars. Footnotes are used for brief identifications, endnotes for text-critical and exegetical annotation. The Glossary covers technical terms and personal and geographical names referenced throughout the text that require explanation for a general reader.

The target audience is general readers, undergraduate and graduate students, and professional scholars both within and outside South Asian studies. The writing style of the proposal should reflect the intended audiences.

***Submitting Proposals***

Proposals should be addressed to the relevant Subseries Editor:

Francesca Orsini (North Indian languages)  
Rajeev Kinra (Persian and Urdu)  
David Shulman (South Indian languages)  
Sheldon Pollock (Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsa, and all remaining languages)

via email to the Associate Editor, Heather Hughes ([heather\\_hughes@harvard.edu](mailto:heather_hughes@harvard.edu)), in accordance with the following guidelines.

**Cover letter**

Please submit a cover letter discussing the following:

*The Value of the Work*

Briefly explain the literary, cultural, and historical importance of the work, with particular reference to the general reader. Supply a list of significant editions and translations, where these exist, and indicate any that are still in print or under copyright. This is especially important for the text-edition to be used in the MCLI volume.

MCLI generally prefers to publish complete works. If you are proposing an abridgement, please explain the need for selection and the rationale behind your choices.

#### *The Text*

Indicate whether the text is your own edition or a revision of an existing edition (including copyright date and whether permission to republish has been obtained), and briefly discuss your editorial principles.

#### *Previous Editions and Translations*

Provide examples of the improvements you will be making upon both existing editions and translations, where these exist.

#### *The size of the volume(s)*

Calculate as precisely as you can the approximate wordcount of the English translation. Indicate whether the Indic text is verse or prose. Also indicate whether the translation will be verse or prose. Include a Table of Contents for the entire work and list the estimated English wordcount for each section individually, if possible.

#### *Timetable*

Provide as realistic as possible a schedule for completing and submitting your manuscript.

#### *Audience*

Will you craft your Introduction, translation, and other apparatus with particular attention to a specific audience (general readers, university courses, etc.), and if so, how?

### **Sample**

Provide a representative sample of both your edited text and English translation (fifteen pages total). *The sample must include both text-critical and exegetical endnotes.*

### **CV**

Include a copy of your curriculum vitae.

### **Editors and Translators**

Most volumes are edited and translated by one scholar. If more than one person is collaborating on a volume, please describe the division of labor. As a rule the total compensation for a single volume with multiple contributors will not exceed the compensation for a volume with one author. Compensation for a multi-volume work, whether from one or more authors, is determined by the General Editor.

Please be sure to provide all the information required. The MCLI editorial board cannot consider an incomplete proposal.