



MURTY CLASSICAL LIBRARY  
OF INDIA



Harvard University Press

**Murty Classical Library of India**  
Guidelines for Book Proposals  
December 2022

***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 readable and accurate 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 revised edition can be offered but is not required. If the text to be used is a reprint, it should be the best available and amended by the contributor where necessary. Scholarly introductions should be in the range of 4000 to 8000 words. Footnotes are used for brief identifications, endnotes for critical remarks on the text and exegetical annotation on the translation.

The target audience is general readers, undergraduate and graduate students, and professional scholars both within and outside South Asian studies.

***Submitting Proposals***

All proposals must first be reviewed by one of the relevant Subseries Editors:

Whitney Cox (Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Apabhramsa, [wmcox@uchicago.edu](mailto:wmcox@uchicago.edu))  
Maria Heim (Pali, Sanskrit, [mrheim@amherst.edu](mailto:mrheim@amherst.edu))  
Francesca Orsini (North Indian languages, [fo@soas.ac.uk](mailto:fo@soas.ac.uk))  
Rajeev Kinra (Persian and Urdu, [rkkinra@gmail.com](mailto:rkkinra@gmail.com))  
Archana Venkatesan (South Indian languages, [avenkatesan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:avenkatesan@ucdavis.edu))

Once reviewed, submit proposals to Harvard University Press via email to the Editor for Translation Series and Distributed Books, Heather Hughes ([heather\\_hughes@harvard.edu](mailto:heather_hughes@harvard.edu)), in accordance with the guidelines that follow.

**Cover letter**

Submit a cover letter discussing the following:

***The Value of the Work***

Briefly explain the literary, cultural, and historical importance of the work. 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 seeks both complete works and selections. If you are proposing an abridgement, 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, 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, and the number of lines in the Indic text (assume a line of about sixteen syllables). Also indicate whether the translation will be verse or prose. Include a Table of Contents for the entire work and list the estimated English translation wordcount for each section individually where possible.

#### *Timetable*

Provide a realistic schedule for completing and submitting your manuscript.

#### *Audience*

Do you envision a particular audience for your book? Is it suitable for adoption as a textbook?

#### **Sample**

Provide a sample of your edited text and English translation. It must comprise an *entire complete chapter* (or canto or section, etc.) of the work, and 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 MCLI and HUP.

Please be sure to provide all the information required. We cannot consider an incomplete proposal.

Where warranted, the editorial board will return the sample to the translator with suggestions for revision. After being revised in accordance with the comments, the sample must then be re-submitted for review.

