Contents

Editor's Note

SECTION I. THE INDIAN TRADITION AND ITS REPRESENTATION

PARTHA MITTER
Language and Race in Colonial Representations of Indian Society and Culture 19

JOHN NEMEC
When the Parampara Breaks: On Gurus and Students in the Mahābhārata 35

PATRICK OLIVELLE
The Living and the Dead: Ideology and Social Dynamics of Ancestral Commemoration in India 65

DAVID SHULMAN
On Singularity: What Sanskrit Poeticians Believe to be Real 75

SECTION II. CASTE, KINSHIP, LAND AND COMMUNITY

LAWRENCE A. BABB
Recasting a Caste: The Case of the Dadhich Brahmans 103
THE ANTHROPOLOGIST AND THE NATIVE

JAMES BROW
Reconstituting Village Communities: Sir William Gregory’s Efforts to Renovate Village Agriculture in Ceylon’s North Central Province 125

DENNIS McGILVRAY
Dowry in Batticaloa: The Historical Transformation of a Matrilineal Property System 137

SECTION III. RENUNCIATION AND POWER

ARJUN APPADURAI
The Morality of Refusal 163

H.L. SENEVIRATNE
Revolt in the Temple: Politics of a Temple Paintings Project in Sri Lanka 179

PETER VAN DER VEER
Pain and Power; Reflections on Ascetic Agency 203

SECTION IV. BUDDHISM TRANSFORMED

ANNE M. BLACKBURN
‘Buddhist Revival’ and the ‘Work of Culture’ in 19th-century Lanka 221

STEVEN KEMPER
Dharmapala’s Buddhisms 247

DONALD K. SWEARER
Religion and Globalization from the Historical Perspective of Thai Buddhism 273

SECTION V. THE ENIGMA OF THE TEXT

WENDY DONIGER
The Mythology of the Kāmasūtra 293

KITSIRI MALALGODA
Mandārampura Puvata: An Apocryphal Buddhist Chronicle 317

ROMILA THAPAR
Variants as Historical Statements: the Rāma-Kathā in Early India 349
SECTION VI. THE ANTHROPOLOGIST AND THE NATIVE

Arjun Guneratne
Plain Tales from the Field: Reflections on Fieldwork in Three Cultures 397

Abdelmajid Hannoum
The (Re)Turn of the Native: Ethnography, Anthropology, and Nativism 423

R.L. Stirrat, Dinah Rajak
Romance of the Field? 445

Mark Whitaker
Human Rights and ‘Practical Rationality’ among Sri Lankan Tamils and Americans 471

List of Contributors 487