

ANNALS  
OF  
ASAM  
SĀHITYA  
SABHĀ

MAHESWAR NEOG



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ASAM SĀHITYA-SABHĀ

ANNALS  
OF  
ASAM SAHITYA-SABHA  
1917-1975

Professor Dr Maheswar Neog  
President, Asam Sahitya-Sabha



ASAM SAHITYA-SABHA

JORHAT ● ASSAM

1976

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*Annals of Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā, 1917-1975*, a running account of the institution from the beginning till today, by **Dr Maheswar Neog**, Jawaharlal Nehru Professor and Dean of Faculty of Arts, Gauhati University, and President, Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā (1974-75), published by **Shri Nagen Saikia**, General Secretary, Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā, Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan, Jorhat, Assam, February 1976

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## PREFACE

THE PRESENT thin publication was planned during the session 1974-75, when Professor Maheswar Neog of Gauhati University was the President of Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā. Dr Neog completed the first draft of the work even as he was relinquishing presidentship at the end of his term. But then, contours remained to be filled up as the want of records of the Sabhā acted as an agent of determent. This is mainly due to the fact that the office and the library (and what a fine library it was!) of the Sabhā was thrown out of its house, the then Chandrakanta Handiqui Hall, with the onset of the Second World War with its particularly wicked impact upon South Asia. And it took quite a time for the office and library to be rehabilitated in their own abode. But even when that rehabilitating happened, much of the wealth of books and records must have been lost. This loss was indeed irreparable. This accounts for much of the thinness in the description of the pre-War period of the Sabhā's history. Even then Professor Neog has done his best to make the account as significantly full as possible. Herein, however, we felt the need for the creation of a properly kept archive of the Sabhā, and we have already made a small beginning in that direction.

We are very much grateful to Dr Neog for giving some unquiet and fretting hours of his to this small publication of ours even when we know that his hands are always full.

Dr Neog seeks to convey through me his gratitude to the Sabhā's active Assistant Secretary, Shri Amal Rājkhawā, and the office staff at the Sabhā's Jorhat office, for their making available to him old records of the Sabhā as and when found necessary. He would also thank "awefully" his colleagues in the Department of Assamese at Gauhati University—Srimati Anima Dutta and Shri Bhabaprasad Chaliha—for their assistance.

The printers, Nabajiban Press, deserve our best thanks for this co-operation in the task of bringing out this small but difficult volume.

Chandrakanta Handiqui Bhavan  
Jorhat, Assam  
2 FEBRUARY 1976

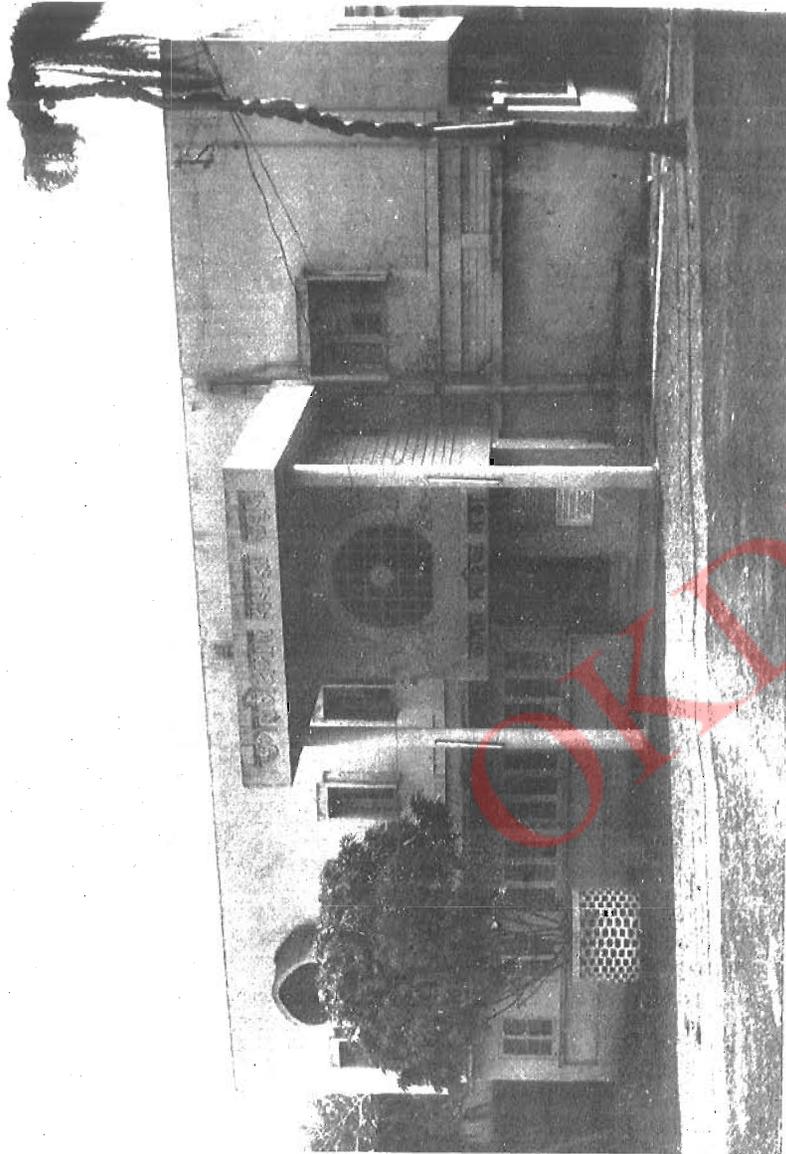
NAGEN SAIKIA,  
General Secretary,  
Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā

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Bhagavatiprasad Barua Bhavan

## Annals of Assam Sahitya-Sabha

### A Significant Start :

26 AND 27 December 1917 saw the birth of Assam Sāhitya-Sabhā, the premier literary and cultural organisation of the people of Assam. It is significant that this birth should take place at Sibsāgar, where the first ever literary magazine in Assamese, the *Orunodoi* (*Aruṇodaya*), was started in January 1846 from the first ever printing-press in Assam set up by a few American Baptists, and which is the home town of Hemchandra Baruā, the writer of two grammars and two dictionaries of the language, pronouncedly setting pace to modern Assamese vocabulary and orthography, and Lakshmināth Bezbaroā, the greatest figure in twentieth century Assamese literature.

THE year 1917 by itself is very significant. K. P. S. Menon, the great Indian administrator and diplomat, communicating his good wishes to the 1974 session of the Sabhā, wrote : "I see that the Assam Sāhitya-Sabhā was established in a historic year, the year of the Great October révolution. This is an event which has affected the minds of men and the trends in literature in many parts of India ; and Assam is no exception."

**Earlier Attempts :**

THERE were earlier attempts to bring into being societies for the development of Assamese language and literature. The most significant of these is the Assamese Language Improvement Society, Asamiyā Bhāṣā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā, born on 25 August 1888 at Calcutta. This Sabhā of a handful of mere college students soon made history for Assamese literature. Let me speak of its origin in the words of Lakshmināth Bezbaroā, one of the few of the 'beginners of activities', who with his resourceful friend, Chandrakumār Āgarwālā, began publishing the epoch-making monthly *Jonāki* from Calcutta from Mārgaśīrṣa 1810 Śaka, February 1889 :

"THE Assamese students of Calcutta had a tea club, called Tea Party, which had its sitting in the evening of every Saturday in the lodge of any of the members with the object primarily to create mutual fellow-feeling among themselves. And thus there took place discussions on topics conducive to the good of the country. The result of these discussions was the birth of the Asamiyā Bhāṣā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā. A study of the history of the world will show that almost all the great things of the world had their origin in such small things. The Coffee Houses of the days of Johnson and Addison were the breeding ground of a good number of important events in Europe, Asia and America. Here also it is possible that the young plant, the Asamiyā Bhāṣā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā, having sprouted out of the humble Tea Party of the Assamese youth will some day spread out its foliage to cover a hundred *yojanas*. This an Assamese with an ever-aspiring and optimistic heart cannot but hope. In a sitting of the Tea Party at 67, Mirzapur Street, in the month of Bhādra in the Śaka year 1810 (25 August 1888), a resolution was adopted to constitute a society for the improvement of the Assamese language, and the execution of this resolution led to the birth of the Asamiyā Bhāṣā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā.

"THE object of the Sabhā was the improvement of the Assamese language and that is why the Sabhā was christened Asamiyā

Bhāṣā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā (Assamese Language Improvement Society). The Sabhā's objects were to see how the tender mother-tongue might grow up to maturity ; how it (the mother-tongue) might reach the heights of other rich and prosperous languages of the world and illumine with its glorious rays the face of the poor and backward Assam, as also to see how it might attain a state of strength and vivacity in place of the present weak, sickly and decayed condition.

"IN order to attain this object the Sabhā has been trying to bring together all the manuscripts available in the Assamese language. It is also the look-out of the Sabhā that no old manuscript is destroyed but that all of them are gradually brought out in print. It will be the purpose of the Sabhā to attract the attention of the authorities in the Education Department of Assam to the need for making Assamese the medium of instruction in all types of schools throughout Assam and providing facilities to the Assamese children to get their education freely in their mother-tongue ; to run movements in order to do away with text-books with wrong grammar and spelling from the schools and to replace them by proper ones ; to write commentaries upon and add critical notes, where necessary, to the works of the old writers and poets like Śrīdhara Kandali and Śaṅkaradeva ; to render into Assamese or prepare in Assamese summaries of the important works in Sanskrit and other languages ; to write out a comprehensive history of Assam by collecting different accounts of religious, social and political life of the people and of the *khels* (workers' guilds) and *mels* (royal estates) and of rural and other life in ancient and modern times ; to find out easy methods by which the three r's may be introduced amongst all sections of the people including the lowest grades ; to increase interest of the people in reading newspapers ; and to establish one single literary language for the whole of Assam."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Translated from Lakshminath Bezbaroa, *Mor Jivan-Sōwaran*, by Bhabaprasad Chaliha in *Lakshminath Bezbaroa, the Sāhityarathī of Assam*, ed. by Maheswar Neog for Gauhati University, 1972, pp. 70-f.

It may be claimed with much justice that Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā inherited the rôle, the objectives and responsibilities, as well as the national character of Asamīyā Bhāṣhā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā. With the first organisers of the latter leaving Calcutta it fell into shade; even though Asamīyā Bhāṣhā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhās were set up at Tezpur, Gauhati, Nowgong and other towns of Assam, these scarcely could keep up the ideals and activities of the original Sabhā of Calcutta. It is, however, significant that these Sabhās got themselves affiliated to Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā, as soon as the latter was formed.

EVEN prior to A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā (Asamīyā Bhāṣhā-Unnati-Sādhinī Sabhā) there were efforts at building up literary associations of the Assamese people. The Calcutta of the hour was honeycombed with the growth of different literary groups and societies. In Assam in general, and in Sibsāgar in particular there were sporadic emergences of small societies meant to culture literature in particular and modern knowledge in general, even though Assam was far removed from the fertilising influence of the West under which Calcutta sprang up into a new, vigorous life with the first missionary school established there in 1755, the first college started in 1800 and a university in 1858. The *Orunodoi* in the very first year of its existence, that is, 1846, reports matters about a Giyān Sabhā (a name in line with the Society for the Acquisition of General Knowledge of Calcutta, 1808-) of Sibsāgar. Some enthusiasts of Sibsāgar organised another society, Asam Deś-hitaiṣī Sabhā, in 1858. Gangāgovinda Phukan, a celebrity of Sibsāgar, set up the Jñāna-pradāyinī Sabhā at Sibsāgar and in 1872 the Asamīyā Chātarar Sāhitya Sabhā at Calcutta. At Gauhati some leading members of the public organised the Gauhati School Club in 1869. It is remarkable that all these activities were carried on at a time when the Assamese language was under a shade, having been dropped in 1836 from its position as a medium of administration and of education in schools started by the new British rulers of the country.

It must be said to the credit of the leaders of the American Baptist Mission in Assam that it is mainly their efforts that

inspired and sustained the lovers of Assamese language and literature in their attachment and work for that language and literature. It was in 1867, when the fate of the native tongue was hanging in the official balance, that Rev. Miles Bronson said in the preface to his *Achamiyā-Ingrāji Abhidhān* with great confidence: "Thirty years have thus elapsed now; but the Assamese language still flows on like the waters of the Brahmaputra." It appears that such a belief worked in the hearts of those who laboured on the setting up of literary organisations, no matter what the Government did with the language. All the same, individuals like Dr Bronson and Ānandarām Dhekiyāl Phukan continued their efforts for the reinstatement of the Assamese language in the schools and law courts of Assam. Finally in 1873 the reinstatement was ordered in five districts of the Brahmaputra valley. Hemchandra Baruā, Gunābhirām Baruā, Lambodar Barā and others now wrote for school children, and in their general writings they created modern Assamese prose of a sterling quality. But the thrill of a new literature with the deep human element was still to be felt; and for this we have to wait till the starting of the *Jonāki* in 1888 and the birth of the A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā. The Sabhā chalked out a sort of national programme for the development of language and literature and marvellously succeeded in it within the few brief years of its activity.

SOON after the birth of A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā there sprang up another organisation, A. S. L. Club (Assamese Students' Literary Club) at Calcutta. It had a branch at Gauhati when Cotton College was started there in 1900.

WHEN the *Jonāki* and A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā group slowly dispersed about the turn of the century, there was no attempt at the reorganisation of its members and resources, and the journal had to be taken to Gauhati for management, which lasted but a few years there too.

INTELLECTUALS in the leading towns of Assam now began feeling the necessity of having an all-Assam association for Assamese language and literature. The feeling became very acute in the

second decade of this century, and attempts began frequently, though not successfully, to be made to organise such a body.

IN 1914 Chandranath Sarma, a young nationalist leader, initiated discussions in the A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā of Gauhati to build up such an organisation; but opinions got into variance and the motion was lost.

IN July 1915 literary men from different parts of Assam met in the Bisturām Baruā Hall at Jorhāt with Phanidhar Chaliḥā of Sibsāgar in the chair on the occasion of a State exhibition organised under the direction of Col. P. R. T. Gurdon, Commissioner of the Assam Valley. Some literary discussions were held in the meeting; but the matter seems to have ended there. That very year Padmanāth Bhattāchāryya Vidyāvinod of *Kāmarūpa-śāsanāvalī* fame raised the question of forming an Assam Sāhitya Sammīlan and sending delegates from that Sammīlan to the Vaṅgīya Sāhitya Sammīlan in a meeting of the Gauhati A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā. The proposal got support from the young writers; but it was frustrated on the disagreement of the leading members. On 30 December 1915 a literary conference was organised under the chairmanship of Phanidhar Chaliḥā at Dibrugarh, where on the few preceding days was held a session of the Assam Association, a well-established political organisation of the day with moderate views.<sup>1</sup> This was joined by Satyanāth Barā, Padmanāth Baruā (later Gohāin-Baruā) and Beaudhar Rājkhawā among the writers. All who came to the Assam Association Conference were glad to stay on for this literary meet.

<sup>1</sup> Assam Association was started within the first few years of the present century, that is, in 1903, by public-spirited persons, Rājā Prabhāchandra Baruā Bāhādur of Gauṛipur (the father of the great filmmaker, Pramatheschandra Baruā), who presided over the first plenary session at Dibrugarh in 1905, Manikchandra Baruā of Gauhati, Secretary of the organisation for quite a considerable period. Rāi Bāhādur Jagannāth Baruā of Jorhāt, Ghanasyām Baruā of Golaghat and others. Another association, Sārvajanik Sabhā, had also its origin at Jorhāt in 1875. It appears that both these organisations sent up delegates to the early sessions of Indian National Congress from time to time.

IN 1916 on the occasion of the Gauhati session of the Assam Association Chandranāth Sarmā and other literary enthusiasts managed to hold an Asamīyā Chātrār Sāhitya-Sammīlan (literary conference of Assamese students) and invited all literary men of Assam besides college and school students to attend the Sammīlan. The meeting, held with Lakshmināth Bezbaroā in the chair, was a success. But the permanent association established by a resolution of the meeting came to be termed not a Sāhitya-Sabhā but Asam Chātra Sammīlan (Assam Students' Conference). This body ran a glorious existence in the 'twenties when the Non-co-operation Movement of Mahatma Gandhi stirred the young generation to a new phase of national life.

WHILE the efforts of the students had this fructification, some young writers and poets of Gauhati invited litterateurs from the town as well as from other parts of Assam and met in a small gathering, presided over by Suryyakumār Bhuyān, in the private residence of a young lawyer sometime in 1917, and after a detailed discussion decided that a literary association must at all costs be formed in spite of the opposition from the few, who always put obstruction on the way to such an action, and that the proposed association must have its inception in December that very year when the Assam Association met at Sibsāgar. An organising committee with Chandranāth Sarmā, ever up and doing, as its Secretary, was set up. Urgent appeals were sent out to the Sibsāgar members of the Assam Association and other literary men of the place to take preliminary steps in the matter. But Sibsāgar had not awaited appeals from other quarters to take the initiative; for, a public meeting, held on 28 September 1917 with the Barrister, Tārāprasād Chaliḥā, in the chair, decided to convene an Asam Sāhitya-Sammīlan in December in the pandal to be raised for the purpose of the Assam Association session to be held there. Padmanāth Baruā (later Gohāin-Baruā), the editor of the monthlies, *Bijuli* (Calcutta, 1890-1892) and *Uṣhā* (Tezpur, 1907-1916) was called upon to preside over the deliberations. A Reception Committee was set up for this particular purpose with Gunjānan Baruā, one of the four persons responsible for an early, magnificent rendering of Shakespeare's *Comedy of Errors* into Assamese, *Bhramaraṅga* (in the 1890-s),

as Chairman and a young lawyer with a fine taste for art and literature, Lakshmikānta Baruā, as Secretary.

### The First Sammilan, Sibsagar, 1917 :

THE Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā was now a reality. It had its first *sammilan*, open conference, on 26 and 27 December 1917 at Sibsāgar. The president presented his very much neat presidential address in a printed form. The gathering of eight hundred people on the occasion was considered large in those days, even though it might be called very thin to-day, when thousands, going very nearly upon a lac of people, assemble in the annual conferences of the Sabhā. The report has it that four "beautiful" essays were read out and these included *asamīyā bhāṣhā* (The Assamese language) by Ratnakānta Barkākati (later to be known as a good poet) of Nowgong, *kīrtanar sāhitya-sauṣṭhava* (The literary excellences of Śaṅkaradeva's *Kīrtana-ghoṣā*) by Saratchandra Goswāmi, and *asamīyā sāhitya āru musalmān* (Assamese literature and Muslims) by Moslehuddin Āhmed of Nowgong. The Sabhā thus made a magnificent start and adopted certain rules for its own conduct. As many as 10 *śākhā-sabhās* (affiliated organisations) and 2 *svīkṛita-sabhās* ("recognised" bodies) were registered. The Executive Committee of the Sabhā, now formed, included many writers from different districts of Assam who later became Presidents of the Sabhā or made a great mark in the literary annals of the country—Lakshmināth Bezbaroā, Satyanāth Barā, Chandradhar Baruā, Ambikāgiri Rāychaudhuri, Mafizuddin Āhmed Hāzarikā, Nilmani Phukan, Amritbhūshan Adhikāri, Ratnakānta Barkākati, Gunjānan Baruā, Durgeswar Sarmā, Rādhānāth Phukan, Indreswar Barthākur, Simhadatta Deva Adhikāri and others. Saratchandra Goswāmi was made General Secretary. Sibsāgar Nāṭya Samāj performed Lakshmināth Bezbaroā's drama, *Jaymatī Kūwarī*, on the occasion.

### The Second Conference, Goalpara, 1918 :

THE second annual conference met at Goālpārā on 27, 28 and 29 December 1918 in the pandal set up for that year's session of

the Assam Association with Chandradhar Baruā made President at the last moment as the duly elected person, Hemchandra Goswāmi, had an accident and could not attend the conference. It is interesting to find from the General Secretary's report that for the year immediately preceding the conference the accounts showed an income of Rs. 162. 12a. 6p. only and an expenditure of Rs. 106. 0a. 3p. only. An appeal was, therefore, made to the gathering in the conference for contributions to the Sabhā's fund, when a total of Rs. 2,242 was promised and Rs. 647 received in cash on the spot. A hundred delegates came and joined the deliberations and elected Padmanāth Baruā, the President of the Sibsāgar session, to be the following year's General Secretary. The Sabhā made a request to the Government of Assam to appoint a whole-time Professor of Assamese at Cotton College in place of the then existing part-time Lecturer so that proper investigations might be carried on into Assamese language and literature. The Government of Assam turned down the request saying that "the Government do not favour the conversion of the part-time lectureship in Assamese in the Cotton College to a whole-time Professorship. The question will engage further consideration when University arrangements are being revised."<sup>2</sup> The open conference resolved to bring out a journal of the Sabhā; but things took time for this to take shape. The Sabhā requested the Government of Assam to give it power to nominate a member of the Assamese Text-Book Committee; but the Government did not comply.<sup>3</sup>

### The Third Sammilan, Barpeta, 1919 :

THE third annual conference of the Sabhā was held at Barpetā on 26 and 27 Decemeber 1919 with Kālirām Medhi, who brought out the first critical text of an old poetical work, *Prahāda-charita* (1916), and later wrote the voluminous *Asamīyā Vyākaraṇ āru Bhāṣhātattva*. A call was given for contributions to the Sabhā's fund, and this brought in promises of Rs. 1,176 and cash

<sup>2</sup> The Second Secretary to the Government of Assam's Memo. No. 3919, dated 6 October 1921, to the General Secretary, Assam Literary Conference.

<sup>3</sup> loc. cit.

payment of Rs. 501 only. Satyanāth Barā, the prose writer of Gauhati, became the new General Secretary. The conference adopted a number of resolutions. By one the Sabhā decided to bring out a second edition of Hemchandra Baruā's standard and authoritative Assamese dictionary, *Hemkoṣh* (1901); but when in course of the next two years the Sabhā's Central Committee with its headquarters at Gauhati and, then, Jorhat tried to negotiate in the matter with copyright-holders of the Abhidhān, several baffling questions came on the way to action, even though an enterprising publisher, Sivanāth Bhattāchārya, was ready to publish it.

#### The Fourth Sammilan, Tezpur, 1920 :

ASAM Sāhitya-Sabhā gathered for its fourth annual meet at Tezpur on 28 and 29 December 1920 in the pandal built for the Assam Association Conference, Hemchandra Goswāmi, one of the *Jonākī* pioneers, later to be known for his historical investigations, presiding. Saratchandra Goswāmi was elected General Secretary for the session, 1920-21. He was re-elected in the four ensuing annual conferences and remained in that office till October 1927. The conference resolved to bring out Mahāmahopādhyāya Dhireswarāchārya Kaviratna's work on Sanskrit metrics, *Vṛittamañjarī*; but even though promises of donations for the purpose were made, the scheme did not come to bear fruit. This book was later published by the Government of Assam in the Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies. From the beginning of 1921 onwards the Sabhā's Central Committee had Jorhat as its headquarters. The next annual conference was to meet at Jorhat in December 1921, for which all preparations were made ready. But then the Non-co-operation Movement of 1921 took the country by storm, and the Central (Executive) Committee and the Reception Committee decided to postpone the holding of the conference. For about two years the Sabhā and its branches were in a torpor. The different tasks proposed to be undertaken in the Tezpur conference remained untouched. The Central Committee, however, decided on 20 September 1922 to have the central office of the Sabhā at Jorhat and very soon a fulfilment of the decision seemed to be near at hand when

Rādhānāth Goswāmi of Bādulpār paid a sum of Rs. 2,000 towards the Sabhā's fund for the building of a *sāhitya-mandir* to be named after his mother, Kamalā Devi.

#### The Fifth Sammilan, Jorhat, 1923 :

THE Sabhā had its fifth annual session in the Jorhāt Government High School at 4 P.M. on 31 March 1923 and 1 P.M. on 1 April 1923. Amritbhushan Adhikāri, the Satrādhikāra of Dalgomā-sattra in the Goālpārā district and the able writer of a commentary on Mādhavadeva's *Nāmaghoṣā* (*Srīman-nāmaghoṣā*), presided. The gathering of a thousand people in the school hall signified at that hour a great event. The conference *inter alia* decided to have the Sabhā registered under the Act for the Registration of Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies (Act XXI of 1860), to have the Sabhā's central office at Jorhāt and to build its house with Rādhānāth Goswāmi's donation. The registration was done on 17 March 1924, members of the Executive Committee (all 20 of them being, according to the then existing rules, residents of Jorhāt) having signed the Memorandum of Association, which stated the objects of the Sabhā as below :

"THE objects for which the Association is established are :

"(1) To effect all round improvement of the Assamese Language and Literature.

"(a) To revise and bring up-to-date the Assamese Dictionary and Grammar.

"(b) To encourage the research in and study of the Ancient Assamese Literature, such as old *puthis*, *buranjees*, *bargeet*, folk-lore and proverbs (*phakaras*).

"(c) To publish and encourage the publication of works on subjects in which the Assamese Literature is generally poor.

"(d) To publish or assist in the publication of useful works by authors who cannot afford to do so themselves.

"(e) To prepare gramophone records of *bona fide* ancient Assamese tunes.

“(f) To grant scholarships, rewards or prizes for encouraging the study and culture of Music and Arts.

“(g) To publish a periodical organ of the Sabha.

“(h) To carry on propaganda work for the spread of the study and research in the Assamese Language and Literature among the general public.

“(2) To invite and collect subscriptions and donations from the public for the aforesaid objects.

“(3) To hold and manage all funds raised for the above objects.

“(4) To hold as trustees such trusts which may be created in favour of the Sabha, either singly or along with other trustees nominated by the creator of the trusts, in furtherance of any of the objects of the Sabha.

“(5) To purchase or acquire on lease or in exchange or on hire or by gift or otherwise, of all real and personal property and any rights or privileges necessary or convenient for the purpose of the Sabha.

“(6) To sell, improve, manage and develop all or any part of the property of the Sabha.

“(7) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects of the Sabha or any of them, including the founding and maintaining of libraries, museums, laboratories, studentships, and chairs on literary, scientific, philosophical and theological subjects.”

IN counting through these objectives so ambitiously set by the founders of the Sabhā before themselves one might not perhaps help being reminded of the task which the A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā made the resolve to undertake thirty-five years before this. That is the legacy—may be hard, may be pleasant and rich—which the A. Bhā. U. Sā. Sabhā left—may not be by a deed of will—for Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā. That is anyway a torch which the pioneers of modern Assamese letters lighted at Calcutta and fed with the intense fuel of an insular patriotism and which, still ablaze, was taken up voluntarily by the organisers (some of them being of the old *Jonākī* generation) of the Sāhitya-Sabhā into their hands.

ON 22 March 1924 was acquired a plot of land with an area of 1 bighā, 4 kathās and 2 lechās, at Jorhāt, on which the Sabhā's central office is now situate.<sup>4</sup> As Rādhākānta Handique offered to donate Rs. 25,000 (soon raised to Rs. 30,000) towards an endowment in the name of his two late-lamented sons, Chandrakānta and Indrakānta (younger brothers of the renowned Sanskritist, Professor Krishnakānta Handiqui), enabling the Sabhā to have its Jorhāt house, it was decided to divert Rādhānath Goswāmi's donation to an endowment to help the publication of literature for children to perpetuate the memory of his mother, Kamalā Devi. His Holiness the Adhikār Goswāmi of Dakhinpāt-sattra promised a contribution of Rs. 5,000. This donation was made into the Dakhinpāt Adhikār Goswāmi Endowment Fund, the trust deed for which was registered later on 18 August 1926.

#### The Sixth Sammilan, Dibrugarh, 1924 :

DIBRUGARH organised the sixth conference on 19 and 20 April 1924. Kanaklāl Baruā, a pioneer of the *Jonākī* days, later to be a Minister of Assam and a historian of note, was elected to preside. A Music Section was organised for the first time, and this had the famous musician and theatre artist, Indreswar Barthākur, as president.<sup>5</sup> During the ensuing year, meaning only eight months, the work of compilation of a dictionary of the

<sup>4</sup> The land belonged to the Public Works Department of the Government of Assam, and was received through the kind courtesy of the Chief Engineer of Assam, O.H. Descenne, who readily agreed to the proposal of the Sabhā, placed before him by a few of its members, and on 11 February 1924 wrote as Officiating Secretary to the Government in the Public Works Department in his letter, No. 2203B, to relinquish this site adjacent to the Executive Engineer's office grounds. The plot came under 30-year periodic pattā, No. 258 (vide Executive Committee proceedings of 3 April 1938).

<sup>5</sup> It was a remarkable event that His Holiness the Sattrādhikāra of the Gaḍamur-sattra (Pitāmbar Devagoswāmi), who joined the Gandhi movement and courted imprisonment in jail, graced this session of the Sabhā, held at the George Institute, with his august presence. The Goswāmis of the big and rich sattras scarcely or never made such public appearance. The Music Section was called the first session of Āsām Saṅgīta-Saṅgha.

Assamese language, to be styled as *Chandrakānta Abhidhān*, was started in right earnest. Several persons (like Rudrakānta Goswāmi and Kohirām Dās, the latter having worked for 3 years up to the end of November 1927) were employed as compilers (*saṁgrāhaka*) from time to time under a Dictionary Committee supervising the work.<sup>6</sup> The donor of the fund, Rādhākānta Handique, exerted himself a great deal in supervising and pushing the work on; and even his young scholar son, Krishnakānta Handiqui, was found offering a helping hand. The Sabhā started on a plan of collection of old Assamese manuscripts; but even though the work was continued till the year 1928, not many books were collected.

#### The Seventh Sammilan, Gauhati, 1924 :

THE seventh Sammilan was held on the Latāsīl field of Gauhati on 27, 28 and 29 December 1924. It had the unique distinction of having the greatest Assamese literary figure of modern times, namely, Lakshmināth Bezbaroā, in the chair. He presented his presidential address, which has never since been surpassed in its range and content, in his inimitable style.<sup>7</sup> The

<sup>6</sup> The name of Devānanda Bharāli also is found mentioned in this connection. Nakulchandra Bhuyān worked "with much enthusiasm" as "Assistant Editor of the Abhidhān" from 25 February 1925 for more than one year till his resignation was accepted by the Executive Committee on 6 April 1926. Rudrakānta Goswāmi was appointed as his substitute; but he left the work on 4 April 1928. Kohirām Dās then worked for 3 years as compiler (*saṁgrāhaka*).

<sup>7</sup> The printed Address of Nagendranārāyan Chaudhuri, the President of the Music Section, was read out as he himself could not be present. As many as six papers and poems were presented in the open conference. The benefactors of the Sabhā—the Dakhinpāt-satṛādhikāra, Rādhākānta Handique and Rādhānāth Goswāmi of Bādulipār—were recognised as patrons (*hitāiṣi-sabhya*) of the Sabhā, while Lakshmināth Bezbaroā, Hemchandra Goswāmi, Padmanāth Gohāin-Baruā, Rajanikānta Bardalai, Kārirām Medhi, Iswarprasād Baruā and Gangārām Chaudhuri agreed to be the first life-members (*sthāyi-sabhya*). Gauhati A. S. L. Club (Cotton College) arranged a reception for the President, delegates and other distinguished people, who were addressed by Principal F. W. Sudmersen. There was a puppet show in one evening. Benudhar Sarmā was appointed the Sabhā's *prachāraka* for some time on a monthly remuneration of Rs. 30.

Sabhā made a resolution to set up a memorial plaque in front of the last abode of Hemchandra Baruā, the great lexicographer of *Hemkoṣh*, at Gauhati. This decision was carried into action in the ensuing session. On 28 January 1925 a trust deed was executed, creating the Chandrakānta Indrakānta Memorial Endowment Fund with Rs. 30,000, donated by Rādhākānta Handique. The deed specified that out of this money "Rs. 15,000/- shall be utilised in constructing a suitable house to be called the Chandrakānta Institute at the site in the Town of Jorhat, which the Sabha has obtained from the Government of Assam" and that "the said house shall rest absolutely on trust in the Board" of Trustees constituted for the purpose "on condition that the Sabha shall have the right to locate its office, library, museum, reading club and such other literary equipments and to hold its meetings therein provided that the study and development of Assamese literature and the research work connected continue always to be sole aim and object of the Sabha to the satisfaction of the Board." The remaining Rs. 15,000 was invested in income-tax-free bonds, of which the interest alone should be used in compiling and publishing the proposed *Chandrakānta Abhidhān* and a history of Assam or such other work to perpetuate the memory of Indrakānta. With the help of the donation received from the Dakhinpāt Satṛādhikar Goswāmi arrangements were made to edit and publish *Śrī-Śrī-Deva-Dāmodara-charitra* of Nilakantha Dāsa.

#### The Eighth Sammilan, Nowgong, 1925 :

NOWGONG saw the eighth annual conference of the Sāhitya-Sabhā on 27, 28 and 29 December 1925 with Jnānādhārām Barooāh, Principal, Earle (now Gauhati University) Law College, to preside over it. The Sabhā had a History Section meeting for the first time and had Hiteswar Barbaruā to preside over it.<sup>8</sup> The Sabhā decided to bring out its journal

<sup>8</sup> It may be mentioned that Professor Suryakumār Bhuyān was the Reception President of the History Section, which decided to continue its sessions from now onwards on all occasions of the Sabhā's Sammilans. Balinārāyan Baruā, the athlete of Jorhat, exhibited physical feats one afternoon. He repeated his performance in the Dhubri Sammilan also.

and elected Chandradhar Baruā to be the Editor. The *Āsām-Sāhitya-Sabhā-Patrikā* started publication as a quarterly journal from Āśvina-Agrahāyana, 1849 Śaka, and contained literary writings and reports of the Sabhā's activities from the beginning. Roseswar Sarmā, a teacher of Jorhat, received a prize for his *Kathā-Mahābhārata*, written for children, from the Kamalā Devi endowment. On 2 December 1926 the Governor of Assam, Sir John Kerr, declared open the Chandrakānta Institute (now Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan) built on Rādhākānta Handique's donation, in a neat little ceremony.

#### The Ninth Sammilan, Dhubri, 1926 :

THE Sabhā had its ninth annual session on 29 and 30 December 1926 at Dhubri. Benudhar Rājkhawā, a writer of the *Jonāki* generation, presided. The president's forthright address<sup>9</sup> generated some heat. Two special features of the Dhubri Conference was the History Section, presided over by Professor Suryakumar Bhuyan, in which, Khān Āmānatullah Āhmed Chaudhuri of Cooch Behar, the author of *Kochbihārer Itihās* (in Bengali), presented a paper and a Philosophy Section, held for the first time and repeated only once in 1936. Lakshmināth Bezbaroā read a paper on the ancient glory of Goālpārā in the main conference. It may also be noted that there was the performance of two dramas in the two nights following the literary deliberations—Ambikāgiri Rāychaudhuri's *Jayadrutha-vadha* and Lakshmināth Bezbaroā's classic, *Jayamati-kūwari*.

It may not be due to the efforts or up to the expectation of the Sabhā that the Government now appointed a Lecturer in Assamese in Cotton College in 1926 ; but the Sabha insisted in its communications to the Government in the appointment of a Professor. *Śrī-Śrī-Deva-Dāmodara-charitra* was now published from the fund furnished by the Dakhīnpāt-sattradhikār, and arrangements were now being made for the publication of *Śrī-Śrī-Vanamālīdeva-charitra*. From the Kamalā Devi Endowment Fund<sup>10</sup> Binandachandra Barua's *Mahārāj Naranārāyana*,

<sup>9</sup> The address covered more than two hours in its reading.

<sup>10</sup> The endowment trust deed was executed later on 4 January 1931.

meant for children, was accepted for publication. These are, it may be noted, the first publications of the Sabhā. The Sabhā declared a prize for competition in the novel ; and this was won by Dandināth Kalitā with his *Sāghanā*.

#### The Tenth Sammilan, Goalpara, 1927 :

THE Sāhitya-Sabhā gathered for the tenth time in the theatre hall at Goālpārā on 8 and 9 October 1927 with Tarunrām Phukan, the nationalist leader responsible for ushering in the Non-cooperation Movement into Assam, as President. In the ensuing year the Sabhā obtained an annual grant of Rs. 1,000 for the first time from the Government of Assam.

#### The Eleventh Sammilan, Jorhat, 1929 :

THE eleventh Sammilan was held on 30 and 31 March 1929 at Jorhāt with the thinker, poet and writer, Kamalākānta Bhattachārya as President. Dr Ziāuddin Āhmed, formerly Vice-Chancellor of Āligarh University, addressed the conference on the second day. The Sabhā "thanked Sir Laurie Hammond for advising Mymensingh immigrants to adopt Assamese in reply to their address."

#### The Twelfth Sammilan, Golaghat, 1930 :

THE Sabhā had its eleventh annual session at Golāghāt in March 1930. The poet, Mafizuddin Āhmed Hāzarikā, was president. The Government discontinued the annual grant of Rs. 1,000 in 1930.

#### The Thirteenth Sammilan, Sibsagar, 1931 :

SIBSAGAR organised the thirteenth annual conference of the Sabhā in the last week of December 1931. Zamindār Nagendranārāyan Chaudhuri, the noted short story writer, was in the chair. Lakshmināth Bezbaroā was felicitated by the Sabhā as a great litterateur with an *abhinandana-patra*. The Sabhā condemned Calcutta University for the exclusion of Sanskrit from the list of compulsory subjects in the curriculum for the Matriculation

Government restored to the Sabha the annual grant, discontinued in 1930.

#### The Seventeenth Sammilan, Gauhati, 1937 :

The seventeenth annual conference was organised in December 1937 on a grand scale by the Reception Committee, formed for that purpose at Gauhati with Gopinath Bardoloi, the Congress leader, as Chairman. The great scholar, Krishnakanta Handiqui, now Principal of Jagannath Barooah College, Jorhat, was elected General President of the conference. A brilliant address was presented at the History Section by the eminent historian, Kanakal Barua, as president. The Reception Committee brought out a publication of much taste and scholarship, *Prabandha-samgraha*—the first ever volume to be published by a Reception Committee. During the following year the work of editing of the Assamese version of *Satvata-tantra* was taken up in hand.<sup>13</sup>

#### The Eighteenth Sammilan, Jorhat, 1940 :

In December 1940 Jorhat organised the eighteenth annual conference to be presided over by Professor Dr Mayidul Islam Bora

the second part of the decision as the General Secretary already had written to the branch organisations to send in "alternative votes"; but the objection was not admitted. Bezbaroa was once again declared elected by the Executive Committee on 5 March 1936 on the basis of fresh votes as he had declined the offer. He declined it for the second time. On 16 March 1936, therefore, the Committee approved the name of Raghunath Chaudhari as the person to preside over the Tezpur Conference. In the midst of the controversy in the papers, it may be noted, Bezbaroa suggested that Dr Bankanta Kakati should have been selected.

<sup>13</sup> For some time past now the Sabha had been feeling the pinch of financial stringency. There were ripples of unquiet over small things and big—particularly in the matter of the management of the *Asam Sahitya-Sabha Patrika*. On 4 January 1939 the Executive Committee decided to hold a "special conference" (*vises sammilan*) during the following Easter holidays with the objects of augmenting the present condition of the Sabha and ensuring its permanence (*asam sahitya sabhar*

Examination and demanded its retention as before. Early in 1933 *Chandrakanta Abhidhan* was published. It roused a huge cloud of controversy particularly over its explanation of names of different castes and tribes.

#### The Fourteenth Sammilan, North Lakhimpur, 1933 :

JANAPADABHIRAM Barua presided over the fourteenth session of the Sabha at North Lakhimpur on 27 and 28 December 1933. The Sabha presented an *abhinandana-patra* to Padmanath Gohain Barua. In the face of the controversy over *Chandrakanta Abhidhan* it was decided to find a corrective by way of publishing a supplementary volume or otherwise. The Sabha resolved to request the Government to grant a literary pension to Lakshminath Bezbaroa. But the Education Department sent the disappointing reply "that while recognizing that Mr. Bezbarua's literary merits deserve recognition, Government must in view of the present financial condition of the province regret inability to grant him a literary pension."<sup>11</sup>

#### The Fifteenth Sammilan, Mangaldai, 1934 :

The fifteenth Sammilan met at Mangaldai in December 1934. The poet, Anandachandra Agarwala, presided. Chandradhar Barua, the president of the second Sammilan, was now elected General Secretary. The Government gave a grant of Rs. 600 for the *Asam-Sahitya-Sabha-Patrika* in 1935-36.

#### The Sixteenth Sammilan, Tezpur, 1936 :

In April 1936 was held the next Sammilan at Tezpur with the "bird-poet", Raghunath Chaudhari, as Chairman.<sup>12</sup> The

<sup>11</sup> The Under Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Education Department's Memo. No. 1490-E, dated 16 July 1934, to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam.

<sup>12</sup> There was a small controversy in the press over the matter of election of President for the Tezpur Conference. The Executive Committee declared Lakshminath Bezbaroa elected for the office on 20 November 1935, but added that if Bezbaroa declined the choice fresh voting would be resorted to. Nilmani Phukan raised his objection to

of Dacca University. Mahārāj Churāchānd Singh of Manipur graced the occasion with his presence.

THE conference was followed by a period of stupor, caused partly by internal weaknesses<sup>14</sup> and partly by the situation created by

vartamān avasthā janakiyāl karār uddēsyere āru sabhār sthāyitva rakṣhār nimitte). Goālpārā, which invited the eighteenth conference, also pleaded inability to organise it. The "special conference" was held in the Chandrakānta Handique Hall on 8 and 9 April 1939 with 16 members present and Heramba Prasād Baruā presiding. Its main action was to revise drastically the constitution of the Sabhā in a wholesale way and in so doing the meeting touched upon the Memorandum of Association as well—only 2 members disagreeing to the changes. This "special" meeting went so far as to declare *ultra vires* the Tezpur Conference's decision to stop the circulation of the two publications of the Sabhā, which were under a cloud of controversy. The Executive Committee was replaced by a new set; Rāmeswar Baruā was re-elected as General Secretary.

The new Executive engaged itself in discussions of the principles of Assamese spelling, sought to be introduced by the Inspector of Schools, Assam Valley Circle (S. C. Goswāmi). As Goālpārā was still not in a position to have the Conference, the Executive of the Sabhā formed a Reception Committee with a view to having the Conference at Jorhat, and on 26 July 1940 declared Dr M. I. Borā elected as President. While its previous sitting of 1 July 1940 had decided to hold an "annual general sitting" (vārṣik sādharmaṇ adhivēṣan), this proposed sitting was held as the "first annual sitting" on 27 and 28 July 1940 in Chandrakānta Handique Hall with Jahiruddin Ahmed in the chair, and set aside all objections to the "special conference" and elected Purnānanda Pāthak as new General Secretary.

<sup>14</sup>Protests were mounted against the convening of, and the action taken by, the "special conference" of 8 and 9 April 1939 and the "first general (annual) sitting" of 27 and 28 July 1940 especially by Sibsāgar Sāhitya-Sabhā, then a very active organisation working particularly in the matter of the 1941 census, sought to be vitiated by vested interests (this activity being praised later on by the General President of the next Sammilan). When the Sabhā met at Jorhāt for its eighteenth annual conference on 27 and 28 December 1940, the protestants made such an impress that the advocates of the "special conference" and "general sitting" had to strike a compromise; and the plenary session adopted resolutions instituting a Tribunal of 5 persons—2 retired judges, 2 retired magistrates and an advocate—to go into these questions. No election of office-bearers and the Executive was held. But while the acts of the Executive Committee was thus

the Second World War. Jorhāt became a scene of much activity for the army of the Allies. The Sabhā was thrown out of its own home, Chandrakānta Handique Hall, when the office and library had to be carried with some difficulty to a private residence. This caused great damage to the Sabhā—particularly to the library, when many rare and exceedingly valuable books were lost.

ONCE more the Sabhā was held in the grip of "constitutional anomalies." An enquiry Tribunal was instituted. In another "special" session of the Sabhā in February 1942 with Nilmani Phukan in the chair the Tribunal's findings were accepted inasmuch as the General Secretary elected in the interim period was removed from office, being replaced by his predecessor elected in 1937.

under fire and *sub judice*, it held a "second annual sitting" (dvitīya vārṣik adhivēṣan) on 26 July 1941 with 12 members (10 of them being from Jorhāt) present and with Chandradhar Baruā in the chair. As the Tribunal itself raised objections to the convening of this sitting, its proceedings had to be seriously curtailed. On 23 October 1941 the Tribunal heard the two General Secretaries, who held office over the period of dispute (Rāmeswar Baruā and Purnānanda Sarmā Pāthak), on behalf of the official stand, and Nilmani Phukan, the spokesman "in behalf of delegates of last Sammilan of Assam Sahitya Sabha held at Jorhat on 28 and 29th December, 1940" and examined their statements in writing. The arbiters passed their verdict finally on 18 December 1941 that the action of the "special conference" of 8 and 9 April 1939 in amending the constitution of the Sabhā and in quashing the decision of the Tezpur Sammilan (1936) to stop the circulation of the two publications from the Dakshinpāt Adhikār Goswāmi trust was *ultra vires* and, therefore, void.

On 4 April 1942 the Executive Committee convened an "emergent special sitting" (jarurī viśeṣ adhivēṣan) of the Sabhā. Twenty-one members were present, and Nilmani Phukan was elected President on the spot. The meeting, in accepting the verdict of the Tribunal without any reservation whatsoever, directed the officiating General Secretary (Sarmā Pāthak) to hand over charge on or before 15 April 1942 to his predecessor (Rāmeswar Baruā) or, failing him, the Assistant Secretary elected (along with Baruā) in the Gauhati Sammilan (1937), who should convene a meeting of the old Executive Committee (constituted in 1937) within a month.

### The Nineteenth Sammilan, Sibsagar, 1944 :

IN the midst of a deadening situation created by inner commotions and the World War Sibsāgar with the ever enterprising Padmadhar Chaliḥā as the Secretary of an Organising (Reception) Committee ventured to organise the nineteenth session of the Sabhā in October 1944—which virtually meant a rebirth of the organisation. Nilmani Phukan was in the chair. The conference decided to write the name of the Sabhā as *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā* ( অসম সাহিত্য সভা ) in place of *Āsām Sāhitya-Sabhā* ('Assam Sahitya Sabha' when writing in English). It also amended the Sabhā's constitution so that the duly elected President of an annual conference remained as President of the Sabhā and of its Executive Committee for the whole of the immediately ensuing year. The President thus became the chief executive authority throughout the year in place of the General Secretary as formerly, although the Sabhā can sue and be sued still now in the latter's name only. A new body, called Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Samiti (changed to Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Pariṣhad in the next Conference), was created so that it could advise the Executive Committee.<sup>15</sup> Dīmbeswar Neog, the poet and literary historian, was elected to be the new General Secretary.

THE new office-bearers, however, had to start work from scratch as the Chandrakānta Handiqui Hall was still in military occupation and the outgoing General Secretary failed to hand over any money or even any papers to them.<sup>16</sup> They worked with

<sup>15</sup> The Executive Committee was given a new shape by the amended rule that out of fifteen of its members (excluding the President) six only could be from Jorhāt, the headquarters of the Sabhā. It is seen from the records that at least from 1938 besides the 21 members of the Executive, all from Jorhāt, there were the names of 24 other members from 12 sub-divisions; but they scarcely or never attended the meetings (possibly because there was no provision for the Sabhā's meeting their expenditure on that account). Ever since the promulgation of this rule the predominance of members belonging to the place of the central office ceased, giving a more democratic and comprehensive character to the institution.

<sup>16</sup> The outgoing General Secretary (Rāmeswar Baruā) and his Executive Committee, now defunct, with all Jorhāt members, decided to hold on to their office and refused to hand over charge to the new

enthusiasm and at the end of their term the General Secretary handed over to his successor an endowment fund of Rs. 10,000, collected as subscription from a hundred newly made life-members, and a closing balance of Rs. 4,631.12a.6p. in the general fund after meeting all expenditures of the year besides manuscripts of a history of the Sabhā, a descriptive catalogue of Assamese literature, etc.

### The Twentieth Sammilan, Dibrugarh, 1947 :

NILMANI Phukan presided over the twentieth Sammilan also held at Dibrugarh on 4, 5 and 6 April 1947. Phukan attended the Jaipur session of the Indian P.E.N. as delegate of the Sabhā, which was invited to join it. There came another interregnum now, and the Sabhā did not meet for nearly full three years.

### The Twenty-first Sammilan, Margherita, 1950 :

WHEN the Sabhā met in the out-of-the-way small town of Mārgheritā on 11 and 12 March 1950, there were not even 20 delegates to attend it, and all who did attend became office-bearers and members of the Executive Committee. Ambikāgiri Rāychaudhuri, the poet and patriot of the Asam-Samrakṣhīni Sabhā, presided over the thinly attended conference; but even he could not infuse any strength into the organisation then or thereafter. The *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Patrika*, which was suspended during the unsettled War days, was now sought to be

General Secretary and Executive Committee. They organised a "special sitting" of the Sabhā on 26 December 1944 at the Jorhāt theatre. Kerāmat Āli was elected on the spot to the chair. Twenty-seven members were present. The sitting declared the amendment of the Sabhā's constitution done at the Sibsāgar Sammilan as illegal and held that the new office-bearers, elected according to the amended rules, had no right to hold office. There was a second "special sitting" of the Sabhā, called by this old group, on 27 October 1947 with ten persons present and Jahiruddin Ahmed presiding. It considered the situation arising now after the Dibrugarh Sammilan (April 1947), and lowered their flag of a parallel government in deciding to accept the General Secretary and Executive Committee coming to power.

revived in a 'New Series', but very soon it came to a halt again. The Mārgheritā conference adopted a resolution demanding Assamese as Assam's official language. An All-Assam State Language Day was declared by the Sabhā on 16 July 1950, and it was observed with unprecedented enthusiasm, non-Assamese speakers of Assam also enthusiastically joining the observance. The Sabhā sent out delegates to participate in the All-India Cultural Conference at Delhi in March 1951. Kesavnārāyan Dutt, the General Secretary, published a thin booklet, *The Asom Sahitya Sabha : A Brief History of the Association and Its Work*.

THE annual conference was not held for more than three years again now, and literary men began feeling an urge to remove the slump.

#### The Twenty-second Sammilan, Shillong, 1953 :

As a result of this feeling, the Sammilan was organised at Shillong, the then capital of Assam, on 8 and 9 November 1953. The famous writer and historian, Dr Suryakumār Bhuyān, presided. The Government of Assam lent much support to the organisation; Governor Jairāmdās Doulatrām opened the exhibition; Chief Minister Bishnurām Medhi inaugurated the main conference; Finance Minister Motirām Borā was Chairman of the Reception Committee; Kuladhar Chaliā, the Assembly Speaker, became president of the Cultural Section; and Minister Rupnāth Brahma inaugurated the History Section. Kākā Sāheb Kālekār addressed the first day's open meeting. There was much enthusiasm among the citizens of Shillong. Rev. B. M. Pugh, an eminent Khāsi scholar, was President of the Science Section. The constitution of the Sabhā was thoroughly amended, and it was decided to have an emblem of the organisation. Atulchandra Hāzarikā was elected to be the new General Secretary to be re-elected in the next two conferences.

THE new Executive Committee with the abiding enterprise of the General Secretary greatly succeeded in rehabilitating the Sabhā

after the dissipation. The Government raised the annual grant from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 6,000. The Sabhā published the pre-Śaṅkaradeva poet Hārivarā Vipra's *Lava-Kuśar Yuddha*, critically edited by Maheswar Neog, from the Dakhinpāt Adhikār Goswāmi Endowment Fund. The old manuscripts earlier collected by the Sabhā were made over to the Department of Historical & Antiquarian Studies, Assam, on loan. The task of the second edition of *Chandrakānta Abhidhān* was entrusted to Gauhati University. The Executive Committee lent support to Dharanidhar Basumatāri, who tried to move the Assam Legislative Assembly to adopt Assamese as the State's official language. It sent a delegate to the UNESCO's Indian National Commission. The Committee also resolved that the Sabhā should have its own land and house at Gauhati.

#### The Twenty-third Sammilan, Jorhat, 1954-55 :

THE Sabhā met again at Jorhāt on 31 December 1954 and 1 January 1955 with the poetess, Nalinibālā Devi, in the chair. The conference conferred the title of *Kāvya-bhāratī* on the poetess, Dharmeswarī Devī Baruāni. The Sabhā published Dr S. K. Bhuyan's *Burāñjūmūlak Prabandhar Tālikā* (Bibliography of historical essays in Assamese) with the help of a grant from the Department of Historical & Antiquarian Studies, Assam, *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhār Bhāṣhanavalī*, Volume I (Addresses of the General Presidents of the Sammilans up to the twelfth), and *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī*, Vol. I, with the addresses and an account of the Jorhāt Sammilan. The Sabhā presented memoranda before the State Reorganisation Commission and the Official Language Commission of Government of India. The one addressed to the SRC (*Assam's Case before the States Reorganisation Commission, mainly from the Historical, Cultural and Linguistic View-points*, May 1955) was released in book form and appended to *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Patrikā*, Vol. XXII, No. 3.

#### The Twenty-fourth Sammilan, Gauhati, 1955 :

THE twenty-fourth annual conference was held at Gauhati on 26 and 27 December 1955 with the poet, Jatindranāth Dowerāh,

as President. Dr Birinchi Kumār Baruā's Address to the History Section and Dr Rohinikānta Baruā's Address to the Science Section were notable performances. Dr Prabhākar Māchwe of the Sāhitya Akādemi chanced to be a welcome guest. The conference in one of its resolutions criticised the educational policy of the North-East Frontier Agency Administration (now Arunachal), and on 6 June 1966 the Sabhā and its branches observed an "Assamese Language in the NEFA Day". Two delegations in this behalf met the Assam Governor at Shillong and the Home Minister of India at Gauhati. *Assam Sāhitya-Sabhā Bhāṣhaṇāvalī*, Vol. II (Addresses of General Presidents from the 13th to the 25th conference) was sent to the press. *Assam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī*, Vol. II, was published.

#### **The Silver Jubilee Session, Dhubri, 1956 :**

ON 27 and 28 December 1956 the Sabhā had its twenty-fifth annual conference, termed Silver Jubilee Session, with due éclat. Benudhar Sarmā presided. Among Sectional Presidents were Rupnāth Brahma (History), Prafullachandra Baruā, M.P., who made the first Assamese gramophone records of music (Music), and Lakshmināth Dās (Science). Folk-songs and folk-dances of Goālpārā, and tribal songs and dances of the Bodos and Rābhās were finely exhibited in the evenings and made a great impact upon kindred spirits. Parāg Chaliḥā, the new Secretary, was responsible for two small but good publications, *An Outlook on NEFA*, with its Assamese version *Simāntar Sambhed*, and *This is Assam*. The Sabhā took up with the Government the question of the NEFA Administration's educational policy. It joined issue with other organisations in demanding an oil refinery in the public sector in Assam.

#### **The Twenty-sixth Sammilan, Tinsukia, 1958 :**

THE next conference was held at Tinsukiā on 20 and 21 April 1958 with the poet, playwright and actor, Padmadhar Chaliḥā, in the chair. Bishnuprasād Rābhā, the well-known musician, was president of the Culture Section, Hariprasād Baruā, Assam's retired Chief Engineer, of the Science Section,

Rājmoḥan Nāth of the History Section and Justice Mr Holirām Dekā of the Literary Symposium. Binandachandra Baruā, the poet, was elected General Secretary. 9 September 1958 was celebrated throughout Assam as "Assam Sāhitya-Sabhā Day" for the first time. On repeated demands from the Sabhā the Government of Assam brought into being an autonomous Publication Board with the Education Minister as Chairman. The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee felicitated the sitting President and all living ex-Presidents of the Sabhā in a public meeting at Gauhati.

#### **The Twenty-seventh Sammilan, Nowgong, 1959 :**

ATULCHANDRA Hāzarikā presided over the next Sammilan at Nowgong on 19 and 20 April 1959. The Reception Committee brought out two publications, *Nibandhāvalī*, and the smaller *Saṭirtha* about the literary men Nowgong had produced, and organised the History Section, Science Section, Literary Symposium, Kavi-sammelan, a general exhibition and rich music-and-dance evenings.

THE Sabhā celebrated the death centenary of a pioneer of modern Assamese language and literature, Ānandarām Dhekiyāl Phukan (1830-1859). *Asamiya Bhāṣhā*, an Assamese translation with a critical introduction (done by Maheswar Neog) of Phukan's *A Few Remarks on the Assamese Language and on Vernacular Education in Assam* (1853), was published on the occasion. The Sabhā also published *Pavitra Assam*, a cyclopaedia of accounts of holy places of all denominations in Assam, edited by Maheswar Neog. On repeated demands for the declaration of Assamese as the State's official language ever since 1950 mounting to a strong movement, the Assam Official Language Act 1960 became a reality.

#### **The Twenty-eighth Sammilan, Mirza (Palasbari), 1960 :**

THE Sabhā moved to a small place, Mirzā (near the small township of Palasbari), about 20 km from Gauhati, for the twenty-eighth conference, held on 28 and 29 October, 1960.

the short story writer and literary critic, Trailokyanāth Goswāmi, presiding. Delegates from among tea-garden tribes and Cachar Manipuris joined the Sammilan. From this session onwards the Sammilans have been attracting large crowds to open meetings and evening performances of music, etc. For the first time the term of office of the Executive Committee was made into two years, and Maheswar Neog was elected General Secretary for the first two-year term. The Sabhā had now fixed on a Common Seal and a flag with the design of this Common Seal at the centre was for the first time hoisted in this session, even though the Sabhā thought of a Common Seal as early as March 1924.

THE Sabhā successfully resisted through a delegation to the Home Minister of India the Government's attempt to amend the Assam Official Language Act 1960 in a manner which would have barred much unconstitutionally the official language, Assamese, from entering the district of Cachar. It fought vigorously against the anti-Assamese educational policy of the NEFA Administration when the NEFA youths were demanding Assamese for their schools. The General Secretary led a fraternising delegation to some Nocte and Wancho areas of the Tirap Frontier. A bronze statue of the Sabhā's great benefactor, Rādhākānta Handique, was placed inside the Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan. The Executive Committee made grants to Tarunām Phukan M. E. School at Silchar and some Assamese primary schools in Cachar; and this was continued in the following years. The Sabhā's budgeting and account-keeping were placed on a detailed scientific footing. Several publications were brought out : *Assam's Language Question*, edited by the General Secretary, Benudhar Rājkhōwā's *Asamiyā Khaṇḍavākya-koṣha*, revised and edited by Maheswar Neog, Lakshmināth Bezbarōā's *Mor Jivan-sōwaran* compiled by Jatindranath Goswami and edited by Maheswar Neog, *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Bhāṣhanāvālī*, Vol. III, with Presidential Addresses of the History Section, compiled by Atulchandra Hāzarikā and Jatindranāth Goswāmi, *Rādhākānta Sandikāi Dāṅgariyā* by Nakulchandra Bhuyān, *Dānavira Rādhākānta Sandikāi* by Hariprasād Neog, *Kavi Raghunāth Chaudhāri āru Chaudhāridevar Kavita* by Kamaleswar Sarma, and *Mikir Janajāti* by Longkām Teron.

### The Twenty-ninth Sammilan, Goalpara, 1961 :

GOALPARA for the second time held the Sabhā's conference on 31 October and 1 November 1961. Trailokyanāth Goswāmi became president for the second time, falling within the two-year term of the Executive Committee. The fine lyricist, singer and actor, Pārvatiprasād Baruvā and Premadhar Choudhury, Curator of the Assam State Museum and Director of Archaeology, Assam, were presidents of the Music and History Sections. The dancing squad of Bodo folk-artists in their characteristic costume, joining the presidential procession, was really a treat to many. Two Ādi students from the NEFA joined the conference. A great many scholars and public men from different parts of India sent greetings messages.

GENERAL Secretary Neog again led two goodwill delegations to different parts of the Lohit and Siāng Frontiers of the NEFA. Other teams were sent out to Cachar and North Cachar, Mikir Hills, Mizoram and Garo Hills. The Sabhā sent a token contribution of Rs. 1,000 to the National Defence Fund in the face of the Chinese aggression, sent out an appeal to writers and artists of different countries to build up world opinion against the aggression, and made three Emergency publications—*Raṇajhānkār*, *Raṇa-nināda* and *Asānta Himālaya Sīmāntar Āhvān*. Twelve other books were printed and published : Lakshmināth Bezbarōā's *Tattvakathā*, *Nagendranārāyan Chaudhurī Galpa* compiled by Hemantakumār Sarmā, *Assamese for All* by Mukunda Mādhava Sharmā and its Hindi version, *Āp kī Asamiyā*, done by Pareschandra Sarmā, translations of Rājasekhara's *Karpūramāñjarī* by Mukunda Mādhava Sharmā and of Viśākhadatta's *Mudrā-rākṣhasa* by Rajanikānta Deva Sarmā, *Asamar Janajāti* edited by Pramodchandra Bhattācharya, *Asamar Janajātiya Sādhu* (folk-tales), edited by Biswanārāyan Shāstri, *Sīmāntar Śikṣhā āru Sāṁskritik Nīti* on the NEFA's education and culture policies and *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣiki : Goālpārā Sammilan*, both edited by Maheswar Neog, *Rūpakatrayam* edited by Satyendranāth Sarmā, and *Jaymatī āru Mūlā Gābharu* by Līlā Gogoi (the last from the Kamalā Devī Fund).

THE Sabhā was given by the Government of Assam for its Gauhati office a plot of land of a little more than 4 Assamese kathās in between the Assam State Museum and the District Library at Gauhati. The General Secretary used his intimate, friendly relations to obtain from Pārvatīprasād Baruvā the promise of a munificent donation of Rs. 50,000 for a house to be named Bhagavatīprasād Baruvā Bhavan to commemorate his beloved brother, Bhagavatīprasād Baruvā. He also obtained for the Sabhā another amount of Rs. 50,000 as grant from the Government for the purpose of the house when Professor Humayun Kabir was the Minister of Cultural Affairs at Delhi. On 7 April 1963 the Governor of Assam, Vishnu Sahāy, laid the foundation stone of the Bhavan with the following inscription, so kindly furnished by National Professor Suniti Kumar Chatterji (the first verse being by the 12th cent. grammarian, Nāgavarmā, of Karṇāṭaka) :

सर्वज्ञं तमहं वन्दे परं ज्योतिस्तमोऽपहम् ।

प्रवृत्ता यन्मुखाद्देवी सर्व-भाषा-सरस्वती ॥

आर्य-वाणी-दुहितेयं भाषा प्राग्ज्योतिषोद्भवा ।

माता नः कामरूपिणी सदा स्यात् श्रेयसे नृणाम् ॥

सभैषाम-साहित्य-संस्कृति-संविधर्षिणी ।

नवीनं सदनमस्या रक्षतु तं सदा मुदा ॥

I bow to that Supreme Light, which removes all darkness and from whose mouth hath evolved Goddess Sarasvatī of all languages.

May this language, a daughter of the Aryan speech, born in Prāgyotiṣha, our mother, who can assume many forms at her own will (or, who belongs to the land of Kāmarūpa), be of good to people.

This Association promoteth the literature and culture of Assam. May this new house of the Association be protected ever in glee.

AN examination in Assamese for the neo-Assamese (Asamīyā Bhāṣā-jñān Pramāṇa-patra Parīkṣhā) was instituted for the first time.

### The Thirtieth Sammilan, Nazira, 1963 :

ON 19 and 20 April 1963 the Sabhā met at Nāzirā under the chairmanship of Ratnakānta Barkākati, the poet, who was elected President for the term of the next two years. But before the valedictory music and dance performances in the night of the second day of the conference were over, the cruel news of his passing away at Jorhat on his way back to his Nowgong home reached Nāzirā in the small hours of 21 April. Dimbeswar Neog, Pratāpchandra Chowdhury and Bhupen Hāzarikā were presidents of the Kavi-sammelan, History Section and Music Section. Maheswar Neog was re-elected General Secretary for the second (and so far the last) two-year term.

THE Sabhā brought out an Assamese translation of Viśvanāthakavirāja's *Sāhitya-darpana* done by Biswanārāyan Shāstri; *Sāhitya-samīkṣhā*, essays in literary criticism, edited by Maheswar Neog and Hemantakumar Sarma; and *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Nāzirā Sammilan*. The Sabhā had earlier put forward a suggestion that the Railway bridge under construction over the Barhmaputra near Gauhati be named Śarāighāṭ Bridge to commemorate the battle of Śarāighāṭ in which the Assamese general, Lāchit Barphukan, wreaked signal defeat on the Mughals. When Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the bridge on 7 June 1963, he christened it Śarāighāṭ Bridge and referred to the historic Śarāighāṭ battle. The Sabhā instituted an annual prize, named after the donor Harihar Chaudhuri, to be given every year to the student from the NEFA securing the highest marks in Assamese at the Matriculation Examination.

### The Thirty-first Sammilan, Digboi, 1964 :

THE Sabhā moved to the oil town of Digboi for the next Conference presided over by Śrī-Śrī Mitradev Mahanta Adhikār, who had earlier become Working President after Ratnakānta Barkākati's death according to rules of the Sabhā. Devkānta Borooāh, the poet, and now Minister of Education, Assam, presided over the deliberations of the Literary Symposium on

the art of the novel, in which Dr Mulk Rāj Ānand was the chief speaker. Sāntidev Ghosh of Visvabhāratī (Sāntiniketan) was president of the Music Section. The Reception Committee brought out a small publication, *Upanyāsa-sāhitya*, in connection with the symposium. The Assam Oil Company, with the General Manager, A. C. Gowan, played an active rôle in the reception. The Governor of Assam, Vishnu Sahāy, inaugurated the main conference. The Conference resolved to celebrate Lakshmināth Bezbaroā's birth centenary in 1968.

THE Khāsi and Gāro versions of the Sabhā's earlier publication, *Assamese for All* were brought out—*Asamiya Ia Baroh Lane Asamiya Itikāi-ki*, done by Miss D. Franklin, and *Antangari Asamiyako Skiani* by Harendra W. Marak. The Sabhā published *Arunodair Dhalphāt* (Selections from the Baptist monthly, *Orunodoi*, 1846-), edited by Birinchi Kumar Barua with a critical 80-page introduction by Maheswar Neog; *Ratnakānta Barkākatī*; and *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Digbaī Sammilan*, edited by the General Secretary. The great Indologist, Professor Dr Vasudev Saran Agrawal, who came to Gauhati to preside over the XXIIInd Session of All-India Oriental Conference, declared the Bhagavatiprasād Baruvā Bhavan open while reciting the following two verses made by himself on 2 January 1965 :

साहित्यं श्रुतिमधुरं विश्ववारा च संस्कृतिः ।  
कामरूपस्य देशस्य सायतिः प्रयतां सदा ॥  
भगवतीप्रसादस्य वेश्मेदं कीर्तिकारकम् ।  
शारदायाः कवीनां च सततं सन्निधिं ब्रजेत् ॥

Sweet indeed is literature to the ear. And culture extendeth as far as the bounds of the universe. May this of the land of Kāmarūpa ever spread.

May this glorious house of Bhagavatiprasād ever obtain the company of Goddess Śāradā and of the poets.

A SMALL publication, *In Memoriam : Bhagavatiprasād Baruvā, Pārvatīprasād Baruvā* by Maheswar Neog, was brought out on the occasion.

### The Thirty-second Sammilan, Nalbari, 1965 :

THE thirty-second Sammilan was held on 17, 18 and 19 January 1965 at Nalbāri with Dimbeswar Neog as President. The Reception Committee organised a good exhibition and brought out a publication, *Prabandha-chayana*. Dr Harekrushna Mahatāb of Orissa, George Gillespie of the Baptist Mission and a young Ādi writer in Assamese, Lummer Dāi, addressed the conference. Hariprasād Neog was elected General Secretary—to be re-elected in the two conferences now following.

*Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī ; Nalbāri Sammilan* and a thin publication *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Chamu Parichiti*, edited by the General Secretary, were brought out. The Sabhā instituted two prizes—one for the best book of the year, and the other for the best play of the year.

A SUM of Rs. 6,000 remained to be paid to the building firm on account of Bhagavatiprasād Baruvā Bhavan. The Secretary of the Construction Committee (M. Neog) prayed for help and the Education Minister of India, M. C. Chāglā, granted an additional amount of Rs. 3,000 on consideration of the swift implementation of the building plan and clear accounting, while the Secretary further procured the friendly help of the Secretary, Secondary Education Board, Assam, who agreed to hire out a part of the house and make immediately an advance payment.<sup>17</sup>

### The Thirty-third Sammilan, North Lakhimpur, 1966 :

THE Sabhā next met at North Lakhimpur on 4, 5 and 6 March 1966. Binandachandra Baruvā, the poet, presided. . . .

<sup>17</sup> I may perhaps be excused if I strike a personal note that just as Lakshmināth Bezbaroā said that every piece of beauty on the Howrah house he built for the merchant B. Borooh bore the impress of his hands (bāhire bhitarē yi saundarya bā dekhaniyār vastu āche, sei sakaloborate mor hātar ei pāchoṭā āngulir sāc āche), Bhagavatiprasād Baruvā Bhavan might whisper a word to an attentive ear about the labour of love I put on it.

Kumār Dās, the nationalist leader and writer, declared the exhibition organised on the occasion open. Trailokyanāth Goswāmi directed the deliberation of the Literary Symposium. The session was attended by Wāngmāi Rāj Kumār of Nāmchāng in Tirāp, Tekhigeli Barmedhi, a Daflā Vaishṇava adherent of the Ghārmārā-sattra, and others from the NEFA. The Daflā Vaishṇavas performed an old Vaishṇava drama on the occasion.

THE Sabhā published *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Uttar Lakhimpur Sammilan, Asamīyā Saṁskṛiti*, essays on aspects of Assamese culture edited by Hariprasād Neog and Lilā Gogoi, *Scujī Pātar Māje Māje*, a collection of folk-songs of tea-garden tribes, compiled and edited by Nagen Saikia, and *Biswanāth Rājbaṁshī*, the life-sketch of an ardent worker of the Sabhā from Cachar. Bishnurām Medhi, formerly Governor of Madras, donated Rs. 10,000 towards the promotion of children's literature. Srimati Hiranmayi Goswāmi and her son Arun Goswāmi, donated Rs. 1,500 to be given out in prizes for children's books commemorating Srimati Goswāmi's husband, Gopālchandra Goswāmi.

#### The Thirty-fourth Sammilan, Dibrugarh, 1966-67 :

THE next conference was held at Dibrugarh on 30 and 31 December 1966 and 1 January 1967. The dramatist and short story writer, Nakulchandra Bhuyān, presided. Maheswar Neog, Kesav Nārāyan Dutt, Jibeswar Goswāmi, Prasannalāl Chaudhuri and Kālināth Sarmā were presidents of sections respectively on Literary Symposium, History, Music, Kavi-sammilan and Science. The poet, Sailadhar Rājkhawā, was felicitated. There was a good participation of visitors and artists from the NEFA; and from among them Chaupāk Gohāin, Lummer Dāi, Wāngphā Lowāng of Nāmchāng and Gorā Pātin addressed the main conference.

THE Sabhā celebrated the birth centenaries of the pioneer novelist Rajanikānta Bardalai and Chandrakumār Āgarwālā, the 'high priest of Assamese Romanticism', on 24 and 28 November 1967.

The Sabhā published *Chandrakumār Āgarwālā-pratibhā*, edited by Sashi Sarma; *Chandrāmṛit* (Āgarwālā's poems) edited by Atulchandra Hāzarikā; *Aupanyāsik Rajanikānta Bardalai*, edited by Biren Barkataki; *Rajanī Bardalai-Rachanā-mālā* (Bardalai's writings), edited by Hemantakumar Sarma; *Vimśa Śatābdīr Asamīyā Sāhitya*, edited by Homen Bargohāin; *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Dibrugarh Sammilan*; *Alakānandā*, a collection of poems by Nalinibālā Devi, *Dimbeśwar Neog Smṛiti-grantha*, *Ambikāgiri Rāychaudhuri Smṛiti-grantha*, and a few booklets—*Asam Sāhitya Sabhār Pañchās Bachar*, *Chāh-bāgichār Asamīyā* (Golap Khaund) and *Pramathanāth Chakravartī*.

#### The Thirty-fifth Sammilan, Tezpur, 1968 :

TEZPUR organised the next Sammilan on 26, 27 and 28 January 1968. Jnānanāth Borā presided. Dr Jogirāj Bose of Gauhati University guided the discussion on the regional language as medium of higher education. The main conference adopted a resolution urging the two Universities of Gauhati and Dibrugarh to introduce the regional language, Assamese, in all the courses of study.

*Raghunāth Chaudhārī Smṛiti-grantha*, *Nakulchandra Bhūyān Smṛiti-grantha*, *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Tezpur Sammilan*, and *Sikshār Mādhyam Āñchalik Bhāṣā* were published. The Sabhā organised the Lakshmināth Bezbaroā birth centenary celebrations on a large scale, beginning with its inauguration on 5 October when Post & Telegraphs Department set up a temporary Post Office in the precincts of Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan and the Assam Governor, B. K. Nehru, bought the first Bezbaroā postage stamp there and where a public meeting, presided over by the Sabhā's President, was addressed by Annadāsankar Rāy of Calcutta. There were celebrations all over Assam and the central Celebration Committee arranged the organisation of ceremonies at Calcutta (where Dr S. K. Chatterji presided), Sambalpur in Orissa (where Bezbaroā lived from 1917 to the end of his life in 1938 and where now Kośala Sāhitya Samāja convened meetings, etc.) and New Delhi (where Kākā Sāheb Kālelkar presided over, and the President

of India, Dr Zakir Husain, addressed, the gathering at Mavlankar Hall). A documentary film on Bezbaroā's life was released on 9 October at Gauhati. On behalf of Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Atulchandra Hāzarikā collected and edited *Bejbaruwā-granthāvalī* in 2 volumes, *Kēhokali* (short stories) and *Asamiyā Bhāṣā āru Sāhitya*; and some local concerns took up their publication. The Sabhā on its own brought out Bezbaroā's *Religion of Love and Devotion* (lectures delivered at the invitation of the Gaekwad of Barodā and other essays on Vaiṣṇavism), *Patralekhā* (letters written by and to Bezbaroā) and *Bejbaruwār Dinalekhā* (his diary), all edited by Maheswar Neog, *Chitrālekhā* (Bezbaroā album) arranged by Neog, *Prabandha-bāchani* (essays) selected by Jatindranāth Goswāmi, *Sāhityarathi Bejbaruwā* (life) by Goswāmi, *Āmār Lakṣmīnāth* (life, for children) by Binandachandra Barua, *Bejbaruwā-pratibhā*, edited by Maheschandra Dev Goswami, and a few other very thin books.

#### **The Thirty-sixth Sammilan, Barpeta, 1969 :**

BARPETA under the guidance of Mahendra Mohan Chowdhury as Reception President organised a good showing for the thirty-sixth conference on 7, 8, and 9 February 1969. The poet Anandachandra Baruā was the General President. The Governor, B. K. Nehru, inaugurated the plenary session and Sraddhakar Supakar, President, Utkala Sāhitya Samāja, addressed it. Syed Ābdul Mālik, novelist and short story writer, was elected to be the General Secretary. But because of financial stringency not much could be done in the following year. Even the *Patrikā* could not be published for once. The closing ceremony of the Bezbaroā birth centenary year was attractively performed at Gauhati. The Sabhā presented its felicitations to the President of India, Dr Zakir Husain, when he visited Assam a short while before his death.

#### **The Thirty-seventh Sammilan, Dhing, 1970 :**

THE small township of Dhing in the Nowgong district ventured to invite the Sabhā, which was held there on 13, 14 and 15

February 1970. Upendrachandra Lekhāru of the Institute of Indian Philosophy, Brindāban, was the President. Devkānta Boroōh inaugurated the main conference. Bhubanchandra Handiqui, the famous actor Phani Sarmā and Navakānta Baruā were presidents of the History Section, Culture Section and Kavi-sammilan. Jatindranath Goswāmi was elected General Secretary to be re-elected the next two years.

THE Sabhā celebrated the birth centenary of the poet, Mafizuddin Āhmed Hāzarikā, on 30 August 1970. It instituted the Banamāli Saikiā Prize Fund, the Digboi Sāhitya Sevā Samiti Prize Fund and the Mohanchandra Sarmā Prize fund with donations received on that account for essay competition among students from among the tea-garden tribes, for drama competition and for general competition in essay on serious themes respectively. The Universities of Gauhati and Dibrugarh started giving an annual grant to the Sabhā of Rs. 1,000 each. The Sabhā's economic depression continued; its liabilities to be made good being assessed at a total of Rs. 91,799.58, which came down to Rs. 45,940.05 at the end of the year. *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Barpetā Sammilan*, edited by Malik, *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī : Dhing Sammilan*, edited by Goswāmi and *Mafizuddin Āhmad Hājarikā Rachanāvalī*, edited by Ābdus Sāttār, came out. The *Patrikā* made its appearance again. The Sabhā was a little worried on account of the NEFA Council policy of adopting English as the medium of education in the schools and slowly removing Assamese from that place.

#### **The Thirty-eighth Sammilan, Makum, 1971 :**

A SMALL but busy place, Mākum in Dibrugarh, played hosts to the neat Sammilan sitting with Tirthanāth Sarmā in the chair. The Chief Minister of Assam, Mahendramohan Chowdhury, inaugurated the main conference. Pramodchandra Bhattāchāryya and Kamaleswar Chaliḥā were presidents of the Literary Symposium and Kavi-Sammilan.

THE Sabhā celebrated the birth centenaries of Padmanāth Gohāin-Baruā and Hemchandra Goswāmi and published *Gohāni-Baruwā-pratibhā*, edited by Harichandra Bhattachāryya.

*Hemchandra Goswāmī Rachanāvalī*, edited by Benudhar Sarmā and *Paramāchārya Paṇḍit Hemchandra Goswāmī*, a biography by Sarma.

#### **The Thirty-ninth Sammilan, Dhubri, 1972 :**

THE annual conference sat once again at Dhubri on 7, 8, and 9 April 1972. Hem Baruā, the well-known writer in both Assamese and English, presided. Herambakānta Barpujāri of Gauhati University presided over the History Section. Trailokyanāth Goswāmī inaugurated the main conference, which felicitated Omeo Kumār Dās in absentia. The Reception Committee brought out a very rich *Smṛitigrantha* of the occasion, with ample exposition of Goālpāra's characteristic culture, edited by Sivānanda Sarmā.

THE Sabhā celebrated the birth centenaries of Kanaklāl Baruā and Benudhar Rājkhawā. The Kanaklāl Baruā Centenary Celebration Committee at Gauhati brought out *Studies in the Early History of Assam*, Baruā's historical writings edited with a critical introduction by Maheswar Neog, and *Kanaklāl Baruā Rachanāvalī*, compiled by Nanda Tālukdār. The Sabhā was concerned over the agitation of University students over the regional language as medium of higher education.

#### **The Fortieth Sammilan, Rangiya, 1973 :**

THE next conference was held in the mofussil township of Rangiyā in Kāmrup. Giridhar Sarmā presided. The Chief Minister of Assam, Saratchandra Sinha, declared the general conference open, and the Education Minister Harendranāth Tālukdar, inaugurated the History Section, presided over by Murārīcharan Dās, Curator, Assam State Museum. Nagendranāth Saikiā was elected General Secretary—to be re-elected the next two years.

WHEN the Kanaklāl Baruā Birth Centenary Celebration Committee at Gauhati observed the closure of the centenary year on 8 January 1974, Governor L. P. Singh unveiled a bronze bust of the litterateur-cum-historian-cum-Minister in the precincts of his last residence. *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Varsikī : Raṅgiyā Sammilan*,

edited by Nagen Saikiā ; *Asamīyā Grantha-Pañji* (Bibliography of Assamese publications from 1956 to 1970), compiled by Lila Gogoi and Kesavānanda Deva Goswāmī, and *Asam-Sāhitya-Sabhā Bhaṣhanāvalī* (General Presidents' Addresses from the 36th to 39th Sammilan), edited by Jatindranāth Goswāmī were released from the printing-press. Even though the President of the year made a big publication scheme to cover many areas of knowledge and 39 books were asked to be compiled, only these few could be brought out—*Asamīyā Jātir Itivṛitta, Nātya-sāhitya, Jivānī-sāhitya, Pleto, Chakretich, Svapnavāsavadattā, Da° Janchan* and a small selection of Hindi short stories. The *Patrikā* was made a monthly; but only 9 issues came out in the year. A notable event of the year was a week-long Writers' Camp, directed by Maheswar Neog and joined by as many as 70 writers of Assamese and tribal tongues, at Gauhati from 26 December 1973 to 1 January 1974. The Camp made an elaborate review of post-War Assamese literature, and by bringing writings in the other local languages into consideration found a new ground for understanding and integration.

#### **The Forty-first Sammilan, Mangaldai, 1974 :**

MANGALDAI hosted a Sāhitya-Sabhā Sammilan for the third time now on 7, 8, 9 and 10 February 1974 and could perhaps claim distinction in several ways. An unprecedented enthusiasm was generated among the people of the whole of Mangaldai as the Reception Committee gave them the privilege of a sense of participation by trying to collect every family's mite, as far as was found practicable, to the Committee's fund. This manifested and culminated in the huge presidential procession with 41 (to mark the 41st Sammilan) caparisoned elephants, 41 ladies in indigenous dress, 41 ladies with *śarāī* trays in hand, 41 ladies with pitchers (*māngalik ghaṭ*), *barḍhol* drummers, *saru-ḍhol* drummers, Boḍo-Kachāri Kherāi dancers, *khañjarī* singers, etc., etc.—all this flanked on the two-mile distance by crowds of people, and the incessant flow of people to the Sammilan site round the clock. Both the guests of honour, Governor L. P. Singh and Kalindicharan Panigrahi of Orissa, expressed pleasant surprise at such enthusiasm of the common folk on the occasion of a literary conference.

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THE criticism has often been put forward that the Sabbā's Sammilans have taken the look of fairs (*melā*), and that these conferences scarcely confer on literature, the literary symposia held in the past being only thinly attended. The President-elect, therefore, had it arranged to place the symposia on a review of the last one year's (1972-73) writings in Assamese and problems of Assamese grammar as a part of the main conference with the General President presiding, besides having another forum on the problems of tradition and modernism in literature with Munin Barkataki as President. The Music Section, with Narayan Bezbarua presiding, included talks and demonstrations followed by a discussion. The Reception Committee brought out two good books on the occasion—*Madhya Vimśā Śatikār Asamīyā Sāhitya*, edited by Tafazzul Āli, and a volume on the antecedents of Mangaldai.

WHILE the Presidential Address underlined a note of cultural integration among the people of North-Eastern India and the surge of socialist thought in world literature, the plenary session adopted a resolution condemning in unequivocal terms attempts made by some people to create linguistic and cultural disintegration in this part of the country. The new Executive Committee made it a point to work through the year of its tenure for the promotion of understanding among people of Assam through its publication scheme, its plan for language training centre, and the Second Writers' Camp to discuss the problems of script or scripts for the tribal languages of Assam and of the need for the simplification of the Assamese script. Through the publication scheme were brought out *Kārbi Janagoṣṭhī* (a revised edition of *Mikir Janajāti*) by Longkām Teron; *Deurī-Chuīyā* by Pavanchandra Saikiā; *Viṣṇupriyā Maṇipurī* by Khumal Mahidev Singha; *Karam-pūjā āru Jhumur-gīt* by Rukmadhar Gohāin; *Mapin Utsav*, description of an Āḍi festival, by Birendrakumār Bhattāchārya; *Tāi Bhāṣhā* by Bimalākānta Baruā; *Gāro Saṃskṛitir Rūparekhā* by Dhirendranārāyan Majumdār; *Gowālparīyā Lokagīta-Saṃgraha*, compiled and edited by Birendranath Dutta; *Chāhbanuwār Sāṃskṛitik Jīvanat Ebhumuki* by Nārāyan Ghātowār. The planned volumes on the Bodo, the Tiwā, the Koch-Rājyamshi, the Mishing, Arunāchal

PRESIDENTS



Padmanāth Gohān Baruā  
1917



Chandradhar Baruā  
1918



Kālirām Medhi  
1919



Hemchandra Goswāmi  
1920



Amritbhushan Adhikāri  
1923



Kanaklāi Baruā  
1924



Lakshmināth Bezbarō  
1924



Rajanikānta Bardoloi  
1925



Nagendranārāyan Chaudhuri  
1931



Inānadābhirām Barooāh  
1933



Benudhar Rājkhowā  
1926



Tarunrām Phukan  
1927



Anandachandra Āgarwālā  
1934



Raghunāth Chaudhāri  
1936



Kamalākānta Bhattāchārya  
1929



Mafizuddin Āhmed Hāzarikā  
1930



Krishnakānta Handiqui  
1937



Mayidul Islām Borā  
1940



Nilmani Phukan  
1944, 1947



Ambikāgiri Rāychaudhuri  
1950



Padmadhar Chaliḥā  
1958



Atulchandra Hāzarikā  
1959



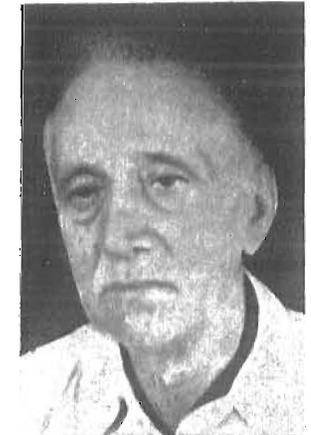
Suryakumār Bhuyān  
1953



Nalinibālā Devi  
1954-55



Trailokyanāth Goswāni  
1960, 1961



Ratnakānta Barkākatī  
1963



Jatindranāth Dowerāh  
1955



Benudhar Sarmā  
1956



Mitradev Mahanta Adhikāri  
1964



Dimbeswar Neog  
1965



Binandachandra Barua  
1966



Nakulchandra Bhuyan  
1966



Hem Barua  
1972



Giridhar Sarmā  
1973



Jnananāth Borā  
1968



Anandachandra Barua  
1969



Maheswar Neog  
1974



Upendrachandra Lekhāru  
1970



Tirthanath Sarmā  
1971



Satyendranāth Sarmā  
1975

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and Nagaland could not be completed. General publications of the year were *Ānandachandra Āgarwālā*, biography by Tilakchandra Kākāṭi; *Chandradhar Baruwā-granthāvalī* edited by Nagen Saikia and Jatindranāth Goswāmi; *Ānandachandra Āgarwālā-granthāvalī*, edited by Mahendra Borā and Jatindranāth Goswāmi; *Rāmāyaṇa: Laṅkākāṇḍa*, adaptation from *Rāmcharitmānas* of Goswāmi Tulsidās, edited by Maheswar Neog; *Asamar Lipi-samasyā*, with papers presented at, and a report of, the Second Writers' Camp, edited by Nagen Saikia; *Chuṭi-Galpa*, on the art of short story, by Uday Datta; *Maṅgaldai Maṅgaldai*, addresses and reports of the Mangaldai Conference, edited by Nagen Saikia; and *Presidential Address to Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā* by Maheswar Neog (English version). The Sabhā decided to make over the charge of publication of the collected works of Ratneswar Mahanta (compiled by Jogendranarayan Bhuyan) to the Publication Board, Assam.

THE birth anniversaries of Ānandachandra Āgarwālā and Chandradhar Baruwā, two Presidents of the Sabhā, were solemnised by the central organisation in their birth-places at Tezpur and Jorhat on 5 and 15 October 1974 respectively. The Universities of Gauhati and Dibrugarh agreed to organise memorial lectures in the name of these two pioneers. Professor Krishnakānta Handiqui donated a sum of Rs. 2,500 towards an endowment fund to meet expenditures on the Sabhā's Rādhākānta Handique Day and another amount of Rs. 5,000 towards another endowment fund to keep up the fire insurance of Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan. The Government of Assam accepted suggestions of the Sabhā in granting literary pensions to six writers, this being declared on 26 January 1975.

#### **Retrospect, Prospect, Introspection :**

WE HAVE thus gone, rather rapidly, through "the short and simple annals" of Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā. The Sabhā started, as we have seen, in December 1917 with 10 Śākhā-Sabhās and 2 Svīkṛita-Sabhās. It is again seen from a pamphlet, *Āsām Sāhitya Sabhār Sabhya āru Śākhā ādir Tālikā*, published from the Jorhat office sometime after the 1926 Dhubri Sammīlan that the Sabhā had eight persons registered or intending to be

registered as life members (called *sthāyī sabhya* in those days), a total of 236 ordinary members and 26 Śākhā and Svīkṛita-Sabhās affiliated to it. In February 1975 the roll of life-members rose up to the figure 629. The Śākhā-Sabhās numbered 406 and Svīkṛita-Sabhās 10. The total general membership came to 29,500. The Sabhā has two houses—Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan at Jorhāt, built in 1926 on the munificence of the great benefactor, Rādhākānta Handique, and maintained mainly on the munificence of his illustrious son, Krishnakānta Handiqui, and Bhagavatīprasād Baruvā Bhavan at Gauhati, built in 1964-65 on the donation of the poet-singer Pārvatīprasād Brauvā and grants of the Government of India at a cost of Rs. 1,06,000. Some of the Śākhā-Sabhās like those at Barpetā, Nowgong and Tezpur have their own buildings. Some of these Sabhās like the Savitā-Sabhā of Gauhati, Mukul Sangha of Shillong (now based in Dispur) and Kokrājhār Sāhitya-Sabhā have some very good publications to their credit. The examination in Assamese for the neo-Assamese (Asamiyā Bhāṣhā-jñāna Pramāṇa-patra Parīkṣhā), instituted for the first time in 1961-62, has grown popular among non-Assamese speakers, and this examination in the three grades of Prāthamīk, Mādhyamīk and Prāgbhāratī was run in 1974-75 in as many as 38 centres with as many as three thousand candidates. This is likely to increase from year to year. We have seen that in the initial year of its life the Sabhā had an income of Rs. 162. 12a. 6p. and an expenditure of Rs. 106. 0a. 3p. only. In 1974-75 it was running on a deficit budget of an estimated income of Rs. 4,02,180.95 and an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4,31,561.50. The Government of Assam gave the Sabhā Rs. 35,000 as annual and ad hoc grants, and a sum of one lac of rupees was being granted for the special schemes of publication, centenary celebrations, the Writers' Camp, etc. The Association has a number of endowment funds built on donations for various purposes. We have also to note that the general membership of the Sabhā does not move as a body all through the year between one Sammilan and the another immediately succeeding. The representatives of this large membership meet once a year in the Sammilan; and the occasion has not so far arisen for them to sit for a second time in a year. Some of the Śākhā-Sabhās

are active; they have their sittings to discuss literature and bring out publications on their own, while others just hibernate throughout the year. This perhaps is not a very encouraging picture. But if we have anything like a Voice of Assam it is Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā. Almost on all issues that touch Assam as a whole, one, whether in the Government or in any other Authority, has very necessarily to count in all seriousness the opinion of this literary and cultural institution.

THE SABHA has grown into this dimension and importance by the logic of its own history. The Sabhā started its career as a group of people piously seeking the good of the language and literature of Assam. It was born in the atmosphere of public life created by the Assam Association, which was a body of moderate politicians. A small batch of Government servants was at the helm of the Sabhā's affairs all through the beginning. A note of loyalty to the British régime may not, therefore, escape the ear of the annalist. This note is struck (apart from its humanistic meaning) when the Sabhā's Executive put on record a resolution moved from the Chair: "This Conference rejoices at the recovery of His Most Gracious Majesty and sincerely prays that the Almighty Father may grant His Majesty long life and sound health to rule over this extensive Empire." It is natural that the representatives of His Imperial Majesty should promptly write back to the Sabhā, appreciating these "loyal sentiments." All this happened at the height of the Civil Disobedience Movement. Very soon, however, the Sabhā's Secretary had to write to the Government, saying "that the Executive Body of the Assam Sahitya Sabha regret very much to note that the Government of Assam has since some time past appeared to be not so kind and liberal in their attitude towards the Assam Sahitya Sabha as before; and that with the stoppage of annual financial grant made by the Assam Government to the Sabha since 1930, the Government have not been able to spare a single periodical publication for the use and benefit of its members."<sup>1</sup> We cannot say that the Sabhā was considered as the forum only

<sup>1</sup> Letter, dated 27 July 1932, from Deveswar Chaliḥā, General Secretary, Asam Sāhitya Sabhā, to A. V. Jones, Assistant Secretary to the Government of Assam.

of people loyal to the British régime; but we cannot, at the same time, rule out the existence of a reservation lurking behind the minds of nationalist leaders and workers of the country in so far as the Sabhā was concerned. Not many of them were to be seen actively participating in the Sabhā's Conferences, which never adopted a political resolution, having in the constitution of the Sabhā a rule that the Sabhā should not discuss "any political or communal matters." This hiatus between the nationalists and the writers continued its subdued existence till the dawn of India's Independence. Even then this liberalisation manifested itself in ample measure only as late as the Shillong Conference of 1953, when people in the new Government participated in full enthusiasm. This marks the beginning of an important phase in the life of the Sabhā. Even before this (in 1950 to be exact) the Sabhā had raised the demand for Assamese to be declared the State's official language. This slowly grew into an agitation in the late 'fifties, mounting almost to a popular conflagration when an unseemly confrontation from quarters opposed to such a move appeared; and this culminated in the Assam Official Language Act 1960 and Assam Official Language (Amendment) Act 1961. Whether or not it could be said that the Sabhā in spite of itself was infiltrating into the political arena, as alleged at certain quarters, these events have raised the institution in general public esteem and marks the start of another phase, when the Sabhā began attracting crowds like the National Congress sessions and other political festivals. The Government of Assam and the Government of India have also seen their kind way to maintain liaison with, and offer financial and other help and co-operation to, Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā. All this perhaps has gone into making the image of the Association loom large in the public mind. But the question might be asked, 'Has it progressed in the way it should?' I, with my long association with this body (The Sabhā is my age; I have been conscious of its activities from my school days through my elder brother, Dimbeswar Neog, an active member ever since then; I myself became an active member from the early forties; I was General Secretary for the four crucial years, 1960-65, Vice-President for two sessions and have just completed a year as President.), did a bit of self-introspection

while addressing 1974 Mangaldai Sammilan. Let me repeat lines from the Address in this matter :

"FOR SOME time past the rôle of Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā has become a blurred concept to literary men. A major poet of our times said on the very floor of the Sabhā that it has become the organisation only of one-time litterateurs. Some people go so far as to say that it is now the property of non-literary men, and that such an image of the Sabhā is very much reflected in matters-like election. It is, moreover, very openly remarked that the Sabhā has assumed the look of a fair.

"IN ITS annual conferences the Sabhā draws large crowds of people even though that may not apparently carry any material effect, and there arises a feeling of Assamese identity, even though it may just be a temporary sensation. The gathering disperses, and people so very easily forget things. If we could catch hold of this casual feeling and give it an effective permanence, that could have been called the real value of such mass gatherings. Then again, if our conferences do not leave behind a residue of literary value, the Sāhitya-Sabhā would be arrested at the level of just a popular gathering. Whatever Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā does, it must be in its basic rôle of a Sāhitya-Sabhā. The Sāhitya-Sabhā is greater than any political organisation just because humanism and permanent values are the best desiderata in literature. Political slogans change; but if literature does not have a permanent message to deliver, it is not literature worth the name.

"THE SAHITYA-SABHA has about four hundred branches distributed all over the State. There is the charge that all branch organisations are no associations of literary men. I for one do not have regrets for that. It may also be true that they do not produce any literature worth the name. I am not worried on that account too. But these organisations will be doing a great service to literature if they can create a taste for literature and induce the habit of buying books in people of the towns and villages. Otherwise, they will be left with no other literary activity than that of annually electing a President.

"ALL established organisations have their well-stated aims and objects. Asam-Sāhitya-Sabhā also has its own. It could perhaps be said that the objects which the Sabhā has laid before itself are rather of an extensive character. A few of the objects have not properly been dealt with. For example, what are 'the actions for the development of music and painting' so far taken up by this Sabhā? From the statement of such objectives, however, one is convinced that the Sabhā is an organisation of Assamese language, literature and culture—all at the same time. It, therefore, devolves upon the Sabhā to give the proper lead to the country in all these matters. The Sabhā can ill afford to take up an escapist mentality here. It, therefore, follows that we must have linguists, literary men and scholars of culture to pilot the work of this Sabhā. It will not do if this Sabhā gives this place to persons who only have a love for power. That is why I would appeal to the lovers of language, literature and culture to make this Sabhā an organisation for real literary people and other intellectual workers if it has to play its proper rôle for 'the all-round development of Assamese language, literature and culture.'

"THE supreme rôle of the Sāhitya-Sabhā today would be to organise itself properly with real literary men and women in particular and lovers of literature in general, to help create a good and great literature and to provide inspiration to such creation. It has also become imperative that the Sabhā should make its existence felt in the literary world of India and establish itself on that national level. We have still to have the image of Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā as an all-India organisation even if working in the field of Assamese language and literature alone. We have now to find out ways and means towards that. The great and rich Assamese life, which includes in its fold the tradition of various tribes, still has not found proper expression in our literature. Let us have serious discussion about all this. Let there be proper studies of all this. Let the expression of this life come out in our literature, music and the arts. It is only then that the Sāhitya-Sabhā will attain its great glory in the world of literature."

## SUCCESSION LISTS

### GENERAL PRESIDENTS OF SAMMILANS

#### A

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
1	Sibsāgar	1917	Padmanāth Gohāin-Baruā
2	Goālpārā	1918	Chandradhar Baruā
3	Barpetā	1919	Kālırām Medhi
4	Tezpur	1920	Hemchandra Goswāmi
5	Jorhat	1923	Amritbhusan Deva Adhikāri
6	Dibrugarh	1924	Kanaklāl Baruā
7	Gauhati	1924	Lakshmināth Bezbaroā
8	Nowgong	1925	Rajanikānta Bardalai
9	Dhubri	1926	Benudhar Rājkhawā
10	Goālpārā	1927	Tarunrām Phukan
11	Jorhāt	1929	Kamalākānta Bhattāchāryya
12	Golāghāt	1930	Mafizuddin Āhmed Hāzarikā
13	Sibsāgar	1931	Nagendranārāyan Chaudhuri
14	North Lakhimpur	1933	Jnānadābhirām Barooāh
15	Mangaldai	1934	Ānandachandra Āgarwālā
16	Tezpur	1936	Raghunāth Chaudhāri
17	Gauhati	1937	Krishnakānta Handiqui <sup>1</sup>
18	Jorhāt	1940	Mayidul Islam Borā <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There was a 'special conference' of the Sabhā at Jorhāt on 8 and 9 April 1939 'in order to tone up the Sabhā.' Herambaprasad Baruā presided.

On 27 and 28 July 1940 there was 'a first annual general sitting' of the Sabhā, Jahiruddin Ahmed presiding.

<sup>2</sup> On 4 April 1947 there was an 'emergent special sitting' with Nīlmani Phukan in the chair. This session declared null the election of the Executive Committee in the 'special conference' of 8 and 9 April 1939.

## B

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Working Session</i>
19	Sibsāgar	1944	Nilmani Phukan <sup>3</sup>	1944-47
20	Dibrugarh	1947	Nilmani Phukan	1947-50
21	Mārgheritā	1950	Ambikāgiri Rāy-Chaudhuri	1950-53
22	Shillong	1953	Suryakumār Bhuyān	1953-54
23	Jorhāt	1954-55	Nalinibālā Devi	1954-55
24	Gauhati	1955	Jatindranāth Dowerāh	1955-56
25	Dhubri	1956	Benudhar Sarmā	1956-58
26	Tinsukiā	1958	Padmadhar Chaliḥā	1958-59
27	Nowgong	1959	Atulchandra Hāzarikā	1959-60
28	Mīrzā	1960	Trailokyanāth Goswāmi	1960-61
			(elected for a 2-yr. term)	
29	Goālpārā	1961	Trailokyanāth Goswāmi	1961-63
30	Nāzirā	1963	Ratnakānta Barkākati	
			(elected for 2-yr. term, but died during the Sammilan)	
31	Digboi	1964	Mitradev Mahanta Adhikār	1963-65
			(working in place of Barkākati)	
32	Nalbāri	1965	Dimbeswar Neog	1965-66
33	North Lakhimpur	1966	Binandachandra Baruā	1966
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67	Nakulchandra Bhuyān	1967-68
35	Tezpur	1968	Juānanāth Borā	1968-69
36	Barpetā	1969	Ānandachandra Baruā	1969-70
37	Dhing	1970	Upendrachandra Lekhāru	1970-71
38	Mākum	1971	Tirthanāth Sarmā	1971-72
39	Tezpur	1972	Hem Baruā	1972-73
40	Rangiyā	1973	Giridhar Sarmā	1973-74
41	Mangaldai	1974	Maheswar Neog	1974-75
42	Titābar	1975	Satyendranāth Sarmā	1975-76

<sup>3</sup> Prior to the 1944 Sammilan the Presidents ceased functioning after the Sammilan, while from that date a President became Chairman of the Executive Committee for the ensuing term and continued to be President for that period.

## GENERAL SECRETARIES

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Working Session</i>
1	Sibsāgar	1917	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1917-18
2	Goālpārā	1918	Padmanāth Gohāin-Baruā	1918-19
3	Barpetā	1919	Satyanāth Barā	1919-20
4	Tezpur	1920	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1920-23
5	Jorhāt	1923	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1923-24
6	Dibrugarh	1924	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1924
7	Gauhati	1924	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1924-25
8	Nowgong	1924	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1925-26
9	Dhubri	1926	Saratchandra Goswāmi	1926-27
			Purnānanda Sarmā Pāthak <sup>1</sup>	1927
10	Goālpārā	1927	Purnānanda Sarmā Pāthak	1927
11	Jorhāt	1927	Purnānanda Sarmā Pāthak	1928-30
12	Golāghāt	1930	Kamalākānta Baruā	1930-31
			Deveswar Chaliḥā <sup>2</sup>	1931
13	Sibsāgar	1931	Deveswar Chaliḥā	1932-33
14	North Lakhimpur	1933	Deveswar Chaliḥā	1933-34
15	Mangaldai	1934	Chandradhar Baruā	1934-36
16	Tezpur	1936	Devananda Sarmā	1936-37
17	Gauhati	1937	Rameswar Baruā	1937-39
18	Jorhāt	1940	Purnānanda Sarmā Pāthak	1940-42
			Rāmeswar Baruā <sup>3</sup>	1942-44
19	Sibsāgar	1944	Dimbeswar Neog	1944-47
20	Dibrugarh	1947	Muktānāth Baruā	1947-50
21	Mārgheritā	1950	Kesavnārāyan Dutt	1950-53

<sup>1</sup> Purnananda Sarma Pathak was placed by the Executive Committee as a substitute for Saratchandra Goswami from 20 May 1927.

<sup>2</sup> Deveswar Chaliha was appointed General Secretary by the Executive Committee on the untimely death of Kamalakanta Barua in the middle of his term.

<sup>3</sup> An interim election of the Executive with Purnananda Sarma Pathak as General Secretary was called in question. The Sabhā had a special session on 4 April 1942 and on the recommendation of an Enquiry Tribunal, instituted for the purpose, Rameswar Barua, elected in the 1937 Sammilan, was reinstated as General Secretary with the old Executive Committee.

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Working Session</i>
22	Shillong	1953	Atulchandra Hāzarikā	1953-54
23	Jorhāt	1954-55	Atulchandra Hāzarikā	1955
24	Gauhati	1955	Atulchandra Hāzarikā	1955-56
25	Dhubri	1956	Parāgdhar Chālihā	1956-58
26	Tinsukiā	1958	Binandachandra Baruā	1958-59
27	Nowgong	1956	Jatindranāth Goswāmi	1959-60
28	Mirzā	1960	Maheswar Neog <sup>4</sup>	1960-61
			(elected for a 2-year term)	
29	Goalpārā	1961	Maheswar Neog	1961-63
30	Nazirā	1963	Maheswar Neog <sup>4</sup>	1963-64
			(elected for a 2-year term)	
31	Digboi	1963	Maheswar Neog	1964-65
32	Nalbāri	1965	Hariprasād Neog	1965-66
33	North Lakhimpur	1966	Hariprasād Neog	1966-67
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67	Hariprasād Neog	1967-68
35	Tezpur	1968	Hariprasād Neog	1968-69
36	Barpetā	1969	Syed Abdul Mālik	1969-70
37	Dhing	1970	Jatindranāth Goswāmi	1970-71
38	Mākum	1971	Jatindranāth Goswāmi	1971-72
39	Dhubri	1972	Jatindranāth Goswāmi	1972-73
40	Rangiyā	1973	Nagen Saikiā	1973-74
41	Mangaldai	1974	Nagen Saikiā	1974-75
42	Titābar	1975	Nagen Saikiā	1975-76

#### PRESIDENTS OF RECEPTION COMMITTEES

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
1	Sibsāgar	1917	Gunjānan Baruā
2	Goalpārā	1918	Jatindranārāyan Chaudhuri
3	Barpetā	1919	Rāmprasād Dās

<sup>4</sup> Maheswar Neog was elected General Secretary for two two-year terms, 1960-63 and 1964-65. Those are the only two-year terms in the history of the Sabhā.

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
4	Tezpur	1920	Chandranāth Sarmā
5	Jorhāt	1923	Rādhākānta Handique
6	Dibrugarh	1924	Sibarām Sarmā
7	Gauhati	1924	Satyanāth Barā
8	Nowgong	1925	Jnānadābhirām Barooāh
9	Dhubri	1926	Rabindranārāyan Chaudhuri
10	Goalpārā	1927	Bholānāth Chaudhuri
11	Jorhāt	1929	Sivaprasād Baruā
12	Golāghāt	1930	Brahmānanda Dutta
13	Sibsāgar	1931	Bhubanchandra Gogoi
14	North Lakhimpur	1933	Sarbeswar Baruā
15	Mangaldai	1934	Tapeswar Sarmā
16	Tezpur	1936	Ānandachandra Āgarwālā
17	Gauhati	1937	Gopināth Bardalai
18	Jorhāt	1940	Herambaprasād Baruāh
19	Sibsāgar	1944	Md. Muhibullā
20	Dibrugarh	1947	Benudhar Rājkhawā
21	Margherita	1950	Bipinkumār Bargohāin
22	Shillong	1953	Motirām Barā
23	Jorhāt	1954-55	Rādhānāth Phukan
24	Gauhati	1955	Holirām Dekā
25	Dhubri	1956	Pramathanāth Chakravarti
26	Tinsukiā	1951	Someswar Baruā
27	Nowgong	1959	Mahichandra Barā
28	Mirzā	1960	Abalākānta Goswāmi
29	Goalpārā	1961	Khagendranāth Nāth
30	Nāzirā	1963	Bedanāth Barthākūr
31	Digboi	1964	Prafullachandra Baruā
32	Nalbāri	1965	Trailokyanāth Goswāmi
33	North Lakhimpur	1966	Jogānanda Bargohāin
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67	Lakshmiprasād Dutta
35	Tezpur	1968	Kamalāprasād Āgarwālā
36	Barpetā	1969	Mahendramohan Choudhury
37	Dhing	1970	Chandrakānta Barkākati
38	Mākum	1971	Rameshchandra Baruā

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
39	Dhubri	1972	Dineshranjan Sarkār
40	Rangiyā	1973	Prāneswar Sarmā
41	Mangaldai	1974	Bāhādur Basumatāri
42	Titabar	1975	Chakreswar Saikiā

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE HISTORY SECTION

8	Nowgong	1925	Hiteswar Barbaruā
9	Dhubri	1926	Suryakumār Bhuyān
11	Jorhāt	1929	Pramathanāth Chakravarti
12	Golāghāt	1930	Rajanikumār Padmapati
13	Sibsagār	1931	Sonārām Chaudhuri
14	North Lakhimpur	1933	Sarbeswar Sarmā Katakī
17	Gauhati	1937	Kanaklāl Baruā
20	Dibrugarh	1947	Sarbānanda Rāj Kumār
22	Shillong	1953	Benudhar Sarmā
23	Jorhāt	1954-55	Sureshchandra Rajkhowā
24	Gauhati	1955	Birinchikumār Baruā
25	Dhubri	1956	Rupnāth Brahma
26	Tinsukiā	1958	Rāj Mohan Nāth
27	Nowgong	1959	Padmeswar Gogoi
29	Goālpārā	1961	Premadhar Chaudhuri
30	Nāzirā	1962	Pratāpchandra Chaudhuri
32	Nalbāri	1964	Sarbeswar Baruā
33	North Lakhimpur	1966	Karunānanda Dutta
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67	Keshavnārāyan Dutt
35	Tezpur	1968	Gunagovinda Datta
36	Barpetā	1969	Lakshmiprasād Datta
37	Dhing	1970	Bhubanchandra Handiqui
39	Dhubri	1972	Herambakānta Barpujāri
40	Rangiyā	1973	Murāricharan Das
41	Mangaldai	1974	Sadānanda Chaliḥā

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE MUSIC SECTION

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
6	Dibrugarh	1924	Indreswar Barthākur
7	Gauhati	1924	Rajanikānta Bardalai
8	Nowgong	1925	Chandradhar Baruā
15	Mangaldai	1934	Padmadhar Chaliḥā
16	Tezpur	1936	Nagendranārāyan Chaudhuri
17	Gauhati	1937	Kirtināth Sarmā Bardalai
19	Sibsāgar	1944	Ambikāgiri Rāy Chaudhuri
20	Dibrugarh	1947	N. K. Rustomji
21	Mārgheritā	1950	Indreswar Barthākur
22	Shillong	1953	Kuladhar Chaliḥā
24	Gauhati	1955	Mitradev Mahanta Adhikār
25	Dhubri	1956	Prafullachandra Baruā
26	Tinsukiā	1958	Bishnuprasād Rābhā
27	Nowgong	1959	Padmadhar Chaliḥā
28	Mirzā	1960	Srimāngovinda Chakravarti
29	Goālpārā	1961	Pārvatiprasād Baruvā
30	Nāzirā	1963	Bhupen Hazarikā
31	Digboi	1964	Sāntidev Ghosh
32	Nalbāri	1965	Muktināth Sarmā Bardalai
33	North Lakhimpur	1966	Parāg Chaliḥā
34	Dibrugarh	1967	Jibeswar Goswāmi
35	Tezpur	1968	Prafullachandra Baruā
36	Barpetā	1969	Gahanchandra Goswāmi
37	Dhing	1970	Phani Sarmā
38	Mākum	1971	Kamalnārāyan Chaudhuri
39	Dhubri	1972	Annadācharan Dās
40	Rangiyā	1973	Gajen Baruā
41	Mangaldai	1974	Nārāyan Bezbaruā
42	Titabar	1975	Satyaprasād Baruā

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE LITERARY SYMPOSIA

26	Tinsukiā	1958	Holirām Dekā
27	Nowgong	1959	Maheswar Neog

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
28	Mirzā	1960	Tirthanāth Sarmā
30	Nāzirā	1963	Indirā Miri
31	Digboi	1964	Devkānta Borooāh
32	Nalbāri	1965	Hem Baruā
33	North Lakhimpur	1966	Trailokyanāth Goswāmi
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67	Maheswar Neog
35	Tezpur	1968	Jogirāj Basu
36	Barpetā	1969	Mahendra Borā
37	Dhing	1970	Bipinkumār Bargohāin
38	Mākum	1971	Pramodchandra Bhattāchāryya
39	Dhubri	1972	Khanindrachandra Baruā
40	Rangiyā	1973	Chaganlāl Jain
41	Mangaldai	1974	Munin Barkataki
42	Titābar	1975	Birendrakumār Bhattāchāryya

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE SCIENCE SECTION

20	Dibrugarh	1947	Jibanrām Phukan
22	Shillong	1953	B. M. Pugh
23	Jorhāt	1954-55	Hiranyachandra Bhuyān
24	Gauhati	1955	Rohinikānta Baruā
26	Tinsukiā	1958	Hariprasād Baruā
27	Nowgong	1952	Pabanehandra Mahanta
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67	Kālināth Sarmā

#### PRESIDENTS OF THE PHILOSOPHY SECTION

9	Dhubri	1926	Ṣhaḍānan Tarkatūrtha
17	Gauhati	1937	Rādhikānanda Chaudhuri (Prasāntamūrṭi)

#### PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMICS SECTION

17	Gauhati	1937	Umākānta Goswāmi
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#### PRESIDENT OF THE LIBRARY SECTION

17	Gauhati	1937	Rāmeswar Baruā
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#### INAUGURATORS OF EXHIBITIONS

<i>Sam- milan</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>President</i>
19	Sibsagār	1944 Syed Muhammad Sāādullā
20	Dibrugarh	1947 Ratnakumāri Rājkhawāni
22	Shillong	1953 Jairāmdās Doularām
23	Jorhāt	1954-55 Mahādev Sarmā
24	Gauhati	1955 Omeo Kumār Dās
25	Dhubri	1956 Hariprasād Gorkhā Rāy
26	Tinsukiā	1958 Debeswar Sarmā
27	Nowgong	1959 Suryakumār Bhuyān
28	Mirzā	1960 Nilmani Phukan
29	Goālpārā	1961 Rupnāth Brahma
30	Nāzirā	1963 Bimalāprasād Chaliḥā
31	Digboi	1964 Govindachandra Pairā
32	Nalbāri	1965 Pramathanāth Chakravarti
33	North Lakhimpur	1966 Omeo Kumār Dās
34	Dibrugarh	1966-67 Bishnurām Medhi
35	Tezpur	1968 Hem Baruā
36	Barpetā	1969 Mathurānāth Goswāmi
37	Dhing	1970 Satyaranjan Baruā
38	Mākum	1971 Nilmani Phukan
39	Dhubri	1972 Maheswar Neog
40	Rangiyā	1973 Jugalkumār Dās
41	Mangaldai	1974 Harendranāth Tālukdār
42	Titābar	1975 Harendranāth Tālukdār

## Saratchandra Goswāmi Memorial Fund, 1965

Source : Public donation

Present amount : Rs. 140.95

Purpose : Setting up a memorial in the name of Saratchandra Goswāmi, the first General Secretary

## Gopālchandra Goswāmi Memorial Fund, 1966

Donor : Srimati Hiranmayi Devi and Arun Goswami of Jorhāt

Original amount : Rs. 1,500.00

Purpose : Publication of books for children

Prize-winners :

Dineshchandra Goswāmi, *Vaijñānik Āviṣkārar Kāhinī*, 1967-68Swarnamayī Goswāmi, *Jonar Deśat Mānuh*, 1970-71Dineshchandra Goswāmi, *Ākāśh-rahasya*, 1971-72Rameshchandra Goswāmi, *Sāgarar Kathā*, 1972-73

## Digboi Sāhitya Sewā Samiti Nyas Puji, 1965

Donor : Digboi Sāhitya Sevā Samiti of Digboi

Original amount : Rs. 5,000.00

Purpose : Prize for the best play of the year

Prize-winners :

Nakulchandra Bhuyān, *Numali Kūwarī*, for 1962 to 1965A. Majid, *Chor*, for 1965 and 1966Arun Sarmā, *Nivāraṇ Bhaṭṭāchārya*, for 1965 and 1966Hemendrakumar Barthākur, *Bāgh*, for 1969 and 1970Mahendra Barthākur, *Janma*, for 1973 and 1974

## Premadhar Dutta Smriti Fund, 1970

Donor : Kamaleswar Dutta of Tinsukia

Original amount : Rs. 2,000.00

Purpose : Prize for books for children

Prize-winners :

Faiznur Ali, *Jiva-jagatar Sādhu*, 1972-73Deven Acharya, *Rāmdhenu Kār Dheru*, 1973

## Banamāli Saikiā Endowment Fund, 1970

Donor : Banamāli Saikiā of Mākum

Original amount : Rs. 1,000.00

Purpose : Essay competition among students from tea-gardens

Prize-winners :

Miss Rekhā Tāsā, Jorbāt Garamur High School, 1971  
Rathindrakumār Mandal, Nowgong Government Higher Secondary School, 1973

Miss Rekhā Tāsā, D. C. Baruā Girls' College, Jorbāt, 1974

## Mohanchandra Sarmā Batā Puji, 1971

Donor : Mohanchandra Sarmā

Original amount : Rs. 2,500.00

Purpose : Prize for books of serious prose (published)

Prize-winner :

Satyendranāth Sarmā, *Asamiyā Kāhini-kāvyyar Pravāh*, 1973-74

## Ugratārā Nyas Puji, 1972

Donor : Ugratārā Co-operative Store, Gauhāti

Original amount : Rs. 2,500.00

Purpose : Prize for the best book of verse of the year

Prize-winner :

Nilmani Phukan (Jr.), *Phuli Thakā Sūryamukhī Phuljor Phāle*, for 1972-73

## Bishnurām Medhi Nyas Puji, 1972

Donor : Bishnurām Medhi, formerly Governor of Madras

Original amount : Rs. 5,000.00

Purpose : Encouragement to literature for children

## Rādhākānta Handique Ceremony Fund, 1974

Donor : Kāishnakānta Handiqui, formerly Vice-Chancellor, Gauhāti University

Original amount : Rs. 1,550.00

Purpose : Feeding children on the *śrāddha* day of Rādhākānta Handique

## Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan Fire Insurance Fund, 1975

Donor : Krishnakānta Handiqui, formerly Vice-Chancellor, Gauhāti University

Original amount : Rs. 5,000.00

Purpose : Fire insurance of Chandrakānta Handiqui Bhavan

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 128. Golāghāt Sāhitya-Sabhā        | 151. Surabhi Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 129. Pub-Ghilādhārī Sāhitya-Sabhā  | 152. Janatā Sāhitya-Sabhā       |
| 130. Farkāting Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 153. Jnānājyoti Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| 131. Daigrong Sāhitya-Sabhā        | 154. Āthkhei Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 132. Sālikihāt Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 155. Khumtāi Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 133. Marangi Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 156. Nāojān Sāhitya-Sabhā       |
| 134. No. 2 Premhārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  | 157. Sānti Sāhitya-Mandir       |
| 135. Dergāon Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 158. Bholānāth Baruā Sowarani   |
| 136. Dādharā Sāhitya-Sabhā         | Sāhitya-Sabhā                   |
| 137. Kamārgāon Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 159. Ādarsha Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 138. Numaligarh Sāhitya-Sabhā      | 160. Balamā Sāhitya-Sabhā       |
| 139. Rangāmāti Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 161. Saumārjyoti Sāhitya-Sabhā  |
| 140. Jeuti Sāhitya-Sabhā           | 162. Mājuli Ānchalik Sāhitya-   |
| 141. Mahurāmukh Sāhitya-Sabhā      | Sabhā                           |
| 142. Bilgāon Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 163. Barpathār Sāhitya-Sabhā    |
| 143. Kalyāni Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 164. Pātsāko Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 144. Rupkwar Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 165. Puwati Sāhitya-Sabhā       |
| 145. Chenijān Sāhitya Parishad     | 166. Sarupathār Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| 146. Hātigar Mauzā Sāhitya-Sabhā   | 167. Bāndarchaliā Sāhitya-Sabhā |
| 147. Deopāni Milan Sāhitya-Sabhā   | 168. Chungājān Sāhitya-Sabhā    |
| 148. Pragati Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 169. Barbām Sāhitya-Sabhā       |
| 149. Dichaiariyā Sāhitya-Sabhā     | 170. Khanāmukh Sāhitya-Sabhā    |
| 150. Srimanta Sankaradeva Sāhitya- |                                 |

*Svikrita-Sabhā*

171. Sānti Sāhitya-Mandir

## LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT

*Śakhā-Sabhās*

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 172. Bardalani Sāhitya-Sabhā   | 180. Dhemāji Sāhitya-Sabhā     |
| 173. Ananta Sāhitya-Sabhā      | 181. Kherājkhāt Sāhitya-Sabhā  |
| 174. Kharāpathār Sāhitya-Sabhā | 182. Bangālmārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  |
| 175. Dhakuākhanā Sāhitya-Sabhā | 183. Nārāyaṇpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  |
| 176. Bhādai Sāhitya-Sabhā      | 184. Dhalpur Sāhitya-Sabhā     |
| 177. Mermukh Sāhitya-Sabhā     | 185. Ghilāmarā Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| 178. Tarun Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 186. Bihpurīā Sāhitya-Sabhā    |
| 179. Uttar Lakhimpur Sāhitya-  | 187. Mādhabpur Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| Sabhā                          | 188. Chilāpathār Sāhitya-Sabhā |

*Svikrita-Sabhā*

189. Jyoti Minlan-Kendra.

## MIKIR HILLS DISTRICT

*Śakhā-Sabhās*

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 190. Deopāni Sāhitya-Sabhā     | 195. Dengāon Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 191. Diphu Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 196. Janakalyān Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| 192. Sariahjān Sāhitya-Sabhā   | 197. Baithāiāngsa Sāhitya-Sabhā |
| 193. Howrāghāt Sāhitya-Sabhā   | 198. Bālipathār Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| 194. Bakaliāghāt Sāhitya-Sabhā | 199. Kherani Sāhitya-Sabhā      |

## NOWGONG DISTRICT

*Śakhā-Sabhās*

- |                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 200. Kapilipariyā Sāhitya-Sabhā     | 221. Puberun Sāhitya-Sadan       |
| 201. Lankā Sāhitya-Sabhā            | 222. Tarābāri Sāhitya-Sabhā      |
| 202. Ānchalik Pragati Sāhitya-Sabhā | 223. Chalāpariyā Ālochanā-Chakra |
| 203. Jāgiroad Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 224. Mairābāri Sāhitya-Sabhā     |
| 204. Jamunāmukh Sāhitya-Sabhā       | 225. Rupahi Sāhitya-Sabhā        |
| 205. Anāmi Sāhitya-Parisad          | 226. Kāmpur Ānchalik Sāhitya-    |
| 206. Malayā Ālochanā-Chakra         | Sabhā                            |
| 207. Kalangpariyā Ālochanā-         | 227. Kujidāh Ānchalik Sāhitya-   |
| Chakra                              | Sabhā                            |
| 208. Nowgong Sāhitya-Sabhā          | 228. Puranigudām Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| 209. Kaliābar Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 229. Rahā Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā |
| 210. Hātichong Sāhitya-Sabhā        | 230. Hojāi Sāhitya-Sabhā         |
| 211. Lumding Sāhitya-Sabhā          | 231. Jamunāmukh Seuji Samāj      |
| 212. Dhing Sāhitya-Sabhā            | 232. Chāpārmukh Sāhitya-Sabhā    |
| 213. Mansun Kalā-Parisad            | 233. Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā,     |
| 214. Pub-Kāmrup Sāhitya-Sabhā       | Bebejiyā                         |
| 215. Marigāon Sāhitya-Sabhā         | 234. Mātikhalā Barhowrā Sāhitya- |
| 216. Bhurāgāon Sāhitya-Sabhā        | Sabhā                            |
| 217. Batadravā Ānchalik Sāhitya-    | 235. Rāngalu Sāhitya-Sabhā       |
| Sabhā                               | 236. Charāibāhi Sāhitya-Sabhā    |
| 218. Sonāipariyā Sāhitya-Sabhā      | 237. Dagāon Rupjyoti Sāhitya-    |
| 219. Barthal Dalai-gāon Sāhitya-    | Sabhā                            |
| Sabhā                               | 238. Dabakā Sāhitya-Sabhā        |
| 220. Jāgibhakat gāon Sāhitya-       | 239. Kathiyātali Sāhitya-Sabhā   |
| Sabhā                               | 240. Barhampur Sāhitya-Sabhā     |

241. Kalangpariyā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 242. Bārapujiyā Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 243. Puberun Kalā-Parisad  
 244. Na-Nai Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 245. Kapāherā Sāhitya-Sabhā

## KAMRUP DISTRICT

*Sākhā-Sabhās*

246. Banmājā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 247. Bako Sātgaon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 248. Pakowā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 249. Madhya-Bajāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 250. Bezbaroā Sāhitya-Parishad  
 251. Sāhitya-Vikāsh, Charā  
 252. Vidyāpith Nagar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 253. Kaithālkuchi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 254. Duni Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 255. Navodoy Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 256. Barakhetri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 257. Guwāhāti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 258. Savitā Sabhā  
 259. Rangīā Ālochanī-Sabhā  
 260. Nalbāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 261. Mājirgaon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 262. Jnānoday Samāj  
 263. Tihu Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 264. Pachim-Barigog Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 265. Uttar-Guwahāti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 266. Prāgyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 267. Prāgyotishpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 268. Sonāpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 269. Seuji Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 270. Barbhāg Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 271. Dhruvajyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 272. Bhabānipur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 273. Bahari Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 274. Rupjyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 275. Ānchalik Sākhā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 Chatama  
 276. Dakhin Guwāhāti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 277. Sānekuchi Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 278. Uttar Barnagar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 279. Barpetā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 280. Pāthsālā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 281. Bhāratīya Adhyān-Chakra  
 282. Suālkuchi Jyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 283. Palāshbāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 284. Sundaridiyā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 285. Māligāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 286. Puthimāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 287. Dimariyā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 288. Uttar Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 289. Hāuli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 290. Pākowā Mouzā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 291. Bako Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 292. Baramā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 293. Navajyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 294. Barnagar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 295. Āmrikhowā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 296. Lakshi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 297. Mukālmuwā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 298. Uttar-Guwāhāti Cāhitya-Kānan  
 299. Kāmākhyādhām Sāhitya-Sabhā

300. Hājo Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 301. Kanihā Kendra Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 302. Kararā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 303. Vikāsh Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 304. Chaygaon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 305. Pragati Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 306. Triveni Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 307. Kakayā Surabhi Sāhitya-Samāj  
 308. Barpetā Road Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 309. Sākhā Sāhitya-Sabhā, Chatamā  
 310. Bāmkhāta Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 311. Nunmāti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 312. Madhya-Beltalā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 313. Madhya-Sarukhetri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 314. Betkuchi Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 315. Bhattadeva Sāhitya-Samāj  
 316. Lutumā Odālbākrā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 317. New Guwāhāti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 318. Rāmpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 319. Nagarbenā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 320. Kunjaban Chemaniya Sāhitya-Chārā  
 321. Daulāsāl Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 322. Hāribhāngā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 323. Dumuni Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 324. Pakāsari Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 325. Bajāli Sāhitya Kalā-Parisad  
 326. Tarun Sāhitya-Samāj  
 327. Goālpārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 328. Goreswar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 329. Digheli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 330. Jyotī Sāhitya-Samāj  
 331. Jālukbāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 332. Dham-Dhamā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 333. Jnānoday Ālochanā-Chakra  
 334. Rupnagar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 335. Bāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 336. Yuvak Sāhitya-Samāj  
 337. Govindapur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 338. Kavi Rām Sarasvati Sāhitya-Samāj  
 339. Nāhargurighāt Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 340. Rupjyotī Sāhitya-Samāj  
 341. Pachimbarigog Mauzā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 342. Bijuli Sāhitya-Kānan, Kariā  
 343. Gāmārimuri Navajyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 344. Dam Damā Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 345. Puthimāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 346. Barambai Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 347. Madhya Kāmrup Sāhitya-Kānan  
 348. Uparhāli Jyotī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 349. Bāghmārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 350. Sankardev Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 351. Pachim-Bajāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 352. Sarupetā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 353. Tāmulpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 354. Sārādā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 355. Dadarā Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 356. Pāndu Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 357. Dakhin-Barbhāg Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 358. Bāgānpārā Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 359. Kalangpariyā Sākhā-Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 360. Pātāchārkuchi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 361. Nāgrijuli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 362. Kāurbāhā Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 363. Pub-Barpetā Sāhitya-Sabhā

364. Jam Jam Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 365. Bagaribāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 366. Baitāmāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 367. Kalgāchīyā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 368. Bajāli Pragati Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 369. Sarāighat Sāhitya-Samāj  
 370. Dispur Mukul Sangha  
 371. Rāmphalbil Sāhitya-Sabhā

## DARRANG DISTRICT

## Śākhā-Sabhās

372. Asamiya Bhāsār Unnati  
 Sadhīni-Sabhā, Tezpur  
 373. Chāriāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 374. Madhya Chayduwār Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 375. Suryoday Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 376. Mājbat Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 377. Jnānadāyini Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 378. Chipājhar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 379. Banmājā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 380. Chatiyā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 381. Kalābāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 382. Tezpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 383. Bharalipariyā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 384. Bihāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 385. Mangaldai Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 386. Odālguri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 387. Dhekiājuli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 388. Biswanāth Chāriāli Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 389. Khairābāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 390. Danhī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 391. Pub-Bihāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 392. Arunāchal Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 393. Jinjiā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 394. Duni Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 395. Surabhi Sāhitya-Samāj  
 396. Pānchmāil Ānchalik Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 397. Madhya-Jāmuguri Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 398. Tanglā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 399. Deodhānighāt Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 400. Bihgurighāt Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 401. Mangaldai College Sāhitya-  
 Cha'rā  
 402. Sāhitya Saṁskriti Ālochanā-  
 Chakra  
 403. Navajyoti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 404. Dalgāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 405. Pāthariḡhāt Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 406. Padumpukhuri Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 407. Autala Sāhitya-Saṁskriti-  
 Ālochanā-Chakra  
 408. Nāharbāri Śākhā-Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 409. Khārupetiā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 410. Amiya Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 411. Bhorgāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 412. Rautā Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 413. Darang Pānbāri Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 414. Nijarā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 415. Kalāigāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 416. Bholābāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 417. Ālgābāri Nijara Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 418. Harisingā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 419. Gahpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 420. Dumuni-Chaki Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 421. Pub-Chāriāli Sāhitya-Sabhā

## Svīkrita-Sabhās

422. Bengbāri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 423. Sāhitya-Kānan  
 424. Pub-Chāriāli Nepāli Chātra-  
 Sangha  
 425. Becheriyā Sāhitya-Sabhā

## GOALPARA DISTRICT

## Śākhā-Sabhās

426. Datamā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 427. Dhruvajyoti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 428. Lohājāni Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 429. Abhayāpuri Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 430. Pratāpganj Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 431. Kokrajhar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 432. Lakhipur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 433. Dudhnaī Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 434. Golokganj Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 435. Bangāigāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 436. Rupjyoti Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 437. Dhuburi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 438. Gosāigāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 439. Goālpārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 440. Gauripur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 441. Dakhin-Sālmārā Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā  
 442. Chāpar Śākhā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 443. Marnai Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 444. Fakirāgrām Saktiāshram  
 Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 445. Dalgomā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 446. Bijni Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 447. Chalantāpārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 448. Sāpatgrām Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 449. Bāsugāon Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 450. Jāmādārhāt Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 451. Āgamani Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 452. Bilāsipārā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 453. Sālkochā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 454. Nabārun Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 455. Tiplāi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 456. Binyāchara Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 457. Dokrā Ānchalik Sāhitya-  
 Sabhā

## Svīkrita-Sabhās

458. Kristi-Sangha  
 459. Khoilā Āfat Bodo Kristi Sangha  
 460. Chandan-Kalā-Mandir

## CACHAR DISTRICT

## Śākhā-Sabhās

461. Silchar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 462. Harinagar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 463. Garerband Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 464. Garar Bhitār Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 465. Hāilākāndi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 466. Lārsingpār Puthi Bharāl  
 Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 467. Dewān-Basti Sāhitya-Sabhā

468. Jāpirband Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 469. Lakshmiçhā'ra Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 470. Nārāyanpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 471. Bidyānagar Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 472. Madhya-Bishnugarh Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 473. Hātirhāt Srikonā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 474. Lakhirband Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 475. Bikrapur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 476. Sunātālā Bazār Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 477. Madhya-Hāilākāndi Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 478. Idgāh Sāhitya-Sabhā
479. Pāchdāli Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 480. Tāntu Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 481. Sonāpur Bhāngārpār Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 482. Lāishramkhun Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 483. Hāilākāndi Town Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 484. Hāilākāndi Pub-Anchal Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 485. Uttar Karimganj Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 486. Dakshin Karimganj Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 487. Ānipur Sāhitya-Sabhā

*Svīkrita-Sabhās*

488. Darmikhāl Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 489. Nityānandapur Sāhitya-Sabhā

## NAGALAND

*Śākhā-Sabhās*

490. Kohimā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 491. Kohimā Sāhitya-Ālochanā-Chakra  
 492. Dimāpur Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 493. Mokokchung Sāhitya-Sabhā

## MEGHALAYA

*Śākhā-Sabhās*

494. Gāropāhār Zilā Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 495. Rangāi Ānchalik Sāhitya-Sabhā  
 496. Shillong Mukul-Sangha

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH

*Śākhā-Sabhā*

497. Tirāp Sāhitya-Sabhā

## DELHI

*Svīkrita-Sabhā*

- Dillī Asamiyā Chātra-Sammilan  
 498. Dillī Asamiyā Chātra-Samilan

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1. *Śrī-Śrī-Dāmodaradevar Charitra* of Nilakaṇṭha-Dāsa, Ed. Saratchandra Goswāmi, 1927, Crown 8vo 49+201 pp, price 12 annas
2. *Śrī-Śrī-Vanamālideva-Charitra* of Ramākānta-Dvija, Ed. Saratchandra Goswāmi, 1927, Crown 8vo 16+104+7 pp, 12 annas
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4. *Chandrakānta Abhidhān*,<sup>1</sup> Ed. Debeswar Chalihā, 1933, Crown 4to 32+1,044 pp, Rs. 7
5. *Sātvata-tantra* of Bhāgavata-Miśhra, Ed. Saratchandra Goswāmi, 1943, Crown 8vo 19+90 pp, 10 annas
6. *The Asom Sahitya-Sabha : A Brief History of the Association and Its Work*, Kesavnārāyan Dutt, 1953, Demy 8vo 24 pp
7. *Lava-Kuśhar Yuddha* of Harivara Vipra, Ed. Dr Maheswar Neog, 1954, Crown 8vo 46+135 pp, Rs. 2.00

<sup>1</sup>The work of the second edition of the *Abhidhān* was entrusted to Gauhati University, who brought it out after considerable revision in 1964. The third edition is being made ready again by Gauhati University with Dr Maheswar Neog as Chief Editor and Dr Upendranath Goswami as Editor.

8. *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhā Vārṣikī*, Vol. I (Jorhāt Sammilan), (Addresses and reports of Annual Conference), Vol. I, Ed. Atulchandra Hāzarikā, 1955, Crown 8vo 140 pp, Rs. 2.00
9. *Burañjīmūlak Prabandhar Tālikā* (Bibliography of historical essays), Ed. by Dr Suryakumār Bhuyān, 1955, Crown 8vo 44 pp, Rs. 2.00
10. *Asam Sāhitya-Sabhār Bhāṣaṇāvalī* (Presidential Addresses), Vol. I, Ed. Atulchandra Hāzarikā, 1956, Royal 8vo 29+256 pp, Rs. 8.00
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18. *Ānandarām Dhekiyāl Phukan*, Ed. Jatindranāth Goswami, 1959, Demy 8vo 32 pp, Re. 0.36
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