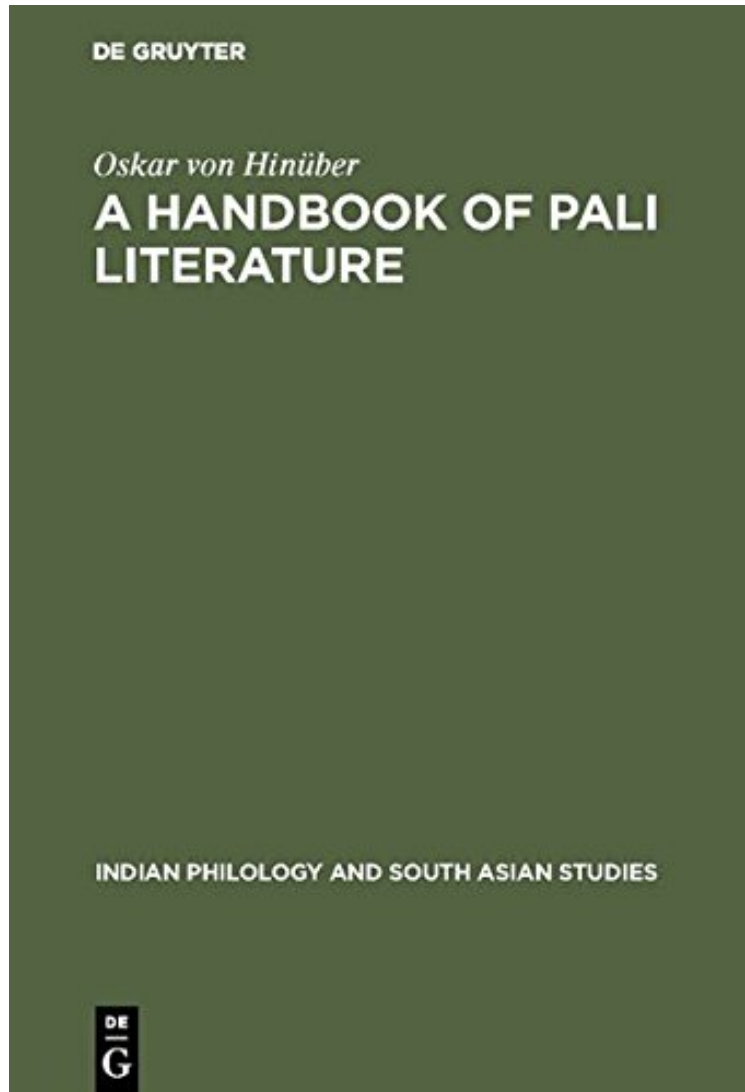


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## A Handbook of Pali Literature (Indian Philology and South Asian Studies, V. 2)

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interested in a doctrinal foundation in their study and practice of Buddhism. First he starts with the Tipitaka, going through each of the 3 baskets and explaining various points of interest in external and internal structures. He touches upon issues such as how scholars know how certain suttas are older than others, how certain suttas were used in writing other suttas or how they were used in building other Nikayas. In all of this he gives regular and pertinent reference to the Commentaries, thus shedding light, in short space, on how the Commentaries see various developments in the Tipitaka. After finishing with the Tipitaka, he then performs the same duty with the Commentaries. This book, with its wide range of references and bibliography, is an invaluable tool for the student of Buddhist Studies.

The Handbook deals with the whole of the literature in Pali, the liturgical language of Theravada Buddhism, which is still alive in Ceylon and South-East Asia. In addition to reviewing the canonical texts (Tipitaka) which forms the oldest body of extant Buddhist literature, and their commentaries, the Handbook presents the later Pali literature, written after the 12th century, much of which is only available in Oriental prints. The account not only summarizes the findings of earlier research, but extends the scope of a handbook by demonstrating new methodological approaches to the canonical literature, for example by showing how the strict formal structure of the Sutra texts is determined in part by their oral transmission. Questions of the authorship of the commentaries on the canon (post-5th century AD) are revisited and the chronology of the texts critically examined. By comparing parallel commentaries, insights are gained into the structure of this comprehensive structure. Access to the Handbook is provided by a number of indexes.