Swami Sivananda - Biographical and critical studies

296 unique books have been attributed to Swami Sivananda. Of course, not all his books were written. Many were transcribed from lectures and letters by his personal secretary, Swami Venkatesananda.

Master Sivananda’s first books appeared in 1936. 40 more appeared in the years up to 1946.

However, when brand-new sannyasin, Swami Venkatesananda, became the Master’s assistant, secretary, scribe and correspondent, he began to record every single word from the Master’s lips. From 1946 to his departure on the Master’s mission to Africa in 1961, Swami Venkatesananda edited 124 books for his Guru, nearly half of Sivananda’s known works. His was an incredible contribution to yoga education.

Swami Venkatesananda became best-known for his daily readings format for the Bhagavad-Gita (The Song of God, 1972), Srimad Bhagavatam (The Book of God, 1974), Valmiki’s Ramayana (1976), The Supreme Yoga: Yoga Vasistha (1976), Venkatesa Daily Readings (1977), Sivananda Daily Readings (1979), Buddha Daily Readings (1982), and Insights and Inspirations: Venkatesa Daily Readings Vol. 2 (1988). However, we discover that the daily readings format was anticipated by Master Sivananda in 1958 so it appears the Master was the inspiration for Gurudev’s wonderful tools for daily sadhana.

During this time as Sivanandashram, Swamiji also founded the Ashram Library, its homoeopathic clinic, edited the Yoga Vedanta Forest Academy/University Weekly, and taught there.
Even while in Africa for three years, Swami Venkatesa managed to edit six of Master Sivananda’s books.

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Biographical and critical studies of Swami Sivananda
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