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GERMAN RESEARCH IN NEPAL
by András Höfer, Sudäsien-Institut, Heidelberg University

Seen apart from a number of scholars working independently, German research in Nepal is closely connected with two organizations, namely the Association for Comparative High Alpine Research (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung), Munich, and the German Oriental Society (Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft), Marburg.

Coordinated research work started in 1959 when the Research Scheme Nepal Himalaya, under the chairmanship of the late Walter Hellmich, a zoologist, had been founded. The mapping of the Mt. Everest area, undertaken by Erwin Schneider, provided a starting point: by 1977 eight maps were published, including East Nepal (in six sheets 1:50,000 m., covering an area of 8,816 km²) and the Kathmandu Valley (a map of 1:10,000 m. in sixteen sheets, and another one 1:50,000 m. in one single sheet). The mapping project will be concluded by the publication of a Lalitpur City Map; a Kathmandu City Map came out last year.

In 1961, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation took over the sponsorship of some field research projects and the publication of the series KHUMBU HIMAL. In the period between 1960 and 1966, nine groups with a total of 38 participants carried out various projects. Their activities were concentrated on East Nepal (mainly the Dudh Kosi area) and based on, or connected with, the mapping of this region. The bulk of the findings has already been published in the KHUMBU HIMAL and HOCHGEBIRGSFORSCHUNG series. The list of the volumes available also reveals the main targets of the undertakings.

The following issues of the series Khumbu Himal and Hochgebirgsforschung are available from Universitätsverlag Wagner, A-6010 Innsbruck, Innrain 29, Austria.

All of the issues of the series Khumbu Himal and Hochgebirgsforschung are available from: Universitätsverlag Wagner, A-6010 Innsbruck, Innrain 29, Austria:

Key for the translation of the catalog of Wagner publications:

<u>Band</u> = volume	<u>Lieferung</u> = issue	<u>Aufsätze</u> = papers
<u>Arbeiten</u> = contributions	<u>Karte/Karten</u> = map/maps	<u>S.=Seiten</u> = pages
<u>Mit Erläuterungen</u> = with explanatory notes		<u>Beilagen</u> = attached

KHUMBU HIMAL

Ergebnisse des Forschungsunternehmens Nepal-Himalaya

edited by the

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung (Munich)

Band 1	Lieferung 2, 1965,	2 botanische Arbeiten, 7 zoologische Arbeiten, 1 medizinische Arbeit. . . . U.S.\$ 6.00
Band 1	Lieferung 3, 1966,	7 zoologische Arbeiten, 1 botanische Arbeit, 1 meteorologische Arbeit. . . . U.S.\$ 10.50
Band 1	Lieferung 4, 1966,	7 zoologische Arbeiten, 4 botanische Arbeiten, U.S.\$ 9.00
Band 2	Diesselhorst, G., 1968,	Beiträge zur Ökologie der Vogel Zentral- und Ost-Nepals. . . . U.S.\$ 20.00
Band 3	Lieferung 1, 1968,	10 zoologische Arbeiten, 148 S., feln. . . U.S.\$ 9.00
Band 3	Lieferung 2, 1969,	2 zoologische Arbeiten, 162 S. . . . U.S.\$ 9.70
Band 3	Lieferung 3, 1970,	12 zoologische Arbeiten, 156 S. . . . U.S.\$ 8.90
Band 4	Lieferung 1, 1971,	9 zoologische Arbeiten. . . . U.S.\$ 9.25
Band 4	Lieferung 2, 1972,	7 zoologische Arbeiten. . . . U.S.\$ 14.70
Band 4	Lieferung 3, 1973,	4 zoologische Arbeiten. . . . U.S.\$ 15.40
Band 6	Lieferung 1, 1969,	4 botanische Arbeiten, 57 S. ; U.S.\$ 3.00
Band 6	Lieferung 2, 1974,	7 botanische Arbeiten. . . . U.S.\$ 10.30

THE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT GROUP: WORK IN NEPAL
by David Seddon

1. Research Projects in Nepal

As some readers of the Himalayan Research Bulletin (formerly the Nepal Studies Association Bulletin) will be aware, the Overseas Development Group at the University of East Anglia in England has been involved in commissioned research in Nepal since 1974. The first research programme was funded by the British Ministry of Overseas Development and involved an evaluation of the economic and social effects of the building of three major roads in the west central region of Nepal. Fieldwork in that region led to the recognition that no explanation of the effects of roads in Nepal could be seriously undertaken without a wider historical analysis of economic and social change. For this reason, the study eventually became a much broader investigation of local and regional changes within the context of the evolution of the Nepalese political economy. Several publications have resulted from this particular projects, and are listed below. The second research project was undertaken in Norwich making use of the data collected during 1974-75; this was funded by the British Social Science Research Council and led to the construction of a computer-based simulation model of the rural economy and society of the west central region. The authors believe that this work has laid the basis for a valuable methodological tool which could help researchers in any rural area of any country develop an analysis of the dynamics of peasant economy and society. Those who are interested may obtain the report to the SSRC, which has now been published as a monograph by the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia. The third piece of research carried out by the ODG was undertaken during 1978, under the auspices of the Development Centre of the OECD and with funds from the Swiss (SATA). It involved a re-visit to the west central region, and more particularly, to selected individuals and households studied in the first research project in 1974-75, to assess the nature of economic and social change among the landless, unemployed and generally most disadvantaged classes of local Nepalese society. The work was carried out in the context of an international program of research into the effectiveness of a 'basic needs' strategy in rural development (which also investigated similar situations in Peru, India and Egypt).

2. Nepal Library

This work over a period of six years has enabled the Overseas Development Group both to maintain its contracts with Nepal and also to establish and enlarge systematically a Nepal Library, houses at the University of East Anglia. Any person who wishes to make contact with those in the ODC who are interested in Nepal and to make use of the research facilities available at the Nepal Library, should write to:

Dr. David Seddon
Overseas Development Group
University of East Anglia
Norwich, Norfolk, UK.

or alternatively, to Dr. Piers Blaikie or Mr. John Cameron at the same address.

Publications on Nepal

(Asterisked * material available through either the Overseas Development Group or through the School of Development Studies, at East Anglia University)

- * 1974 First Progress Report, Nepal Roads Research Project, 119pp.
- * 1975 Second Progress Report, Nepal Roads Research Project, 74pp.
- * 1976 The Effects of Roads in West Central Nepal, 483pp. (First Edition in three volumes; Second Edition in one volume.)
- * 1976 West Central Nepal, A Statistical Guide, 271pp.
- * 1977 The Effects of Roads in West Central Nepal: A Summary, 133pp.
- * 1977 Centre, Periphery and Access in West Central Nepal: Approaches to Social and Spatial Inequality. Development Studies Monograph No.5,
- * 1978 "The Relation of Transport Planning to Rural Development: The Implications of Road Construction in Nepal," in Planning Transport Planning and Highway Design in Developing Countries 1977, PIRC, London.
- * 1978 "A Map of the Nepalese Political Economy," Area 10,1: 30-31.
- * 1978 "Road Provision and the Changing Role of Towns in West Central Nepal," mimeo.
- * 1978 "Regional Inequality and the Provision of Roads in West Central Nepal," mimeo.
- 1979 Peasants and Workers in Nepal. Warminster, England: Aris & Phillips, Inc., 214pp.
- 1980 The Struggle for Basic Needs in Nepal. Paris: OECD Development Centre.
- 1980 Nepal in Crisis: Growth and Stagnation at the Periphery. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.



NEW ERA: STATEMENT OF RESEARCH CAPABILITIES (New ERA, P.O. Box 722, Kathmandu, Nepal)

In its eight years of active existence in Nepal, New ERA has developed survey research capabilities in the fields of EDUCATION, MANPOWER, COMMUNICATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, and RURAL DEVELOPMENT which may be of use to your organization. The purpose of this report is to describe those capabilities and to familiarize interested agencies with New ERA's experience and research approach.

Corporate History. New ERA was initially established on August 5, 1971, in the United States as an independent, non-profit, and non-governmental research and training-oriented organization known formally as New Educational Reform Associates. An office was formally opened in Nepal in February 1972 with the twin objectives of serving Nepal's educational institutions and assisting foreign agencies to make more effective and relevant contributions to Nepal's educational

- Band 7 Lieferung 1, 1969, Karte Tamba Kosi-Likhu Kholā des Nepal-Ost-Kartenwerkes. Mit Erläuterungen, 1 Karte 1:50,000, 23 S. . . U.S.\$ 7.00
- Band 7 Lieferung 2, 1970, 4 mereorologische Arbeiten. . . . U.S.\$ 7.30
- Band 7 Lieferung 3, 1974, Die Karten Lapchi Kang und Rolwaling Himal des Nepal-Ost-Kartenwerkes. Mit Erläuterungen. Beilagen: Karten Lapchi Kang und Rolwaling Himal 1:50,000. . . . U.S.\$15.90
- Band 7 Lieferung 4, 1974, Die Karten Shorong/Hinku und Dudh Kosi des Nepal-Ost-Kartenwerkes. Mit Erläuterungen und einer Übersichtsskizze des Nepal-Ost-Kartenwerkes. Beilagen: Karten Dudh Kosi, Shorong/Hinku. . . . U.S.\$ 23.00
- Band 8 Funke, F. W. Beiträge zur Sherpa-Forschung
1. Teil: Oppitz, M. Geschichte und Sozialordnung der Sherpa. 1968, 170 S. U.S.\$ 18.00
- Band 9 Funke, F. W. Beiträge zur Sherpa-Forschung
2. Teil: Funke, F. W. Religiöses Leben der Sherpa. 1969. 369 S.
- Band 10 Schmidt-Thome, M., und T.T.Hingo. Materielle Kulture und Kunst der Sherpa. 478 S., 1975. U.S. \$ 91.20
- Band 13 Lieferung 1, Höss, D., 1972, Häufigkeit und Verteilung von Darmhelemiten in Nepal. U.S. \$ 2.75
- Band 13 Lieferung 2, Höfer, Andrés. The Caste Hierarchy and the State in Nepal, A Study of the Muluki Ain of 1854. 209 pp. (DM 69)

Hochgebirgsforschung (High Mountain Research) Series

edited by the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung

- Heft 4 Kleinert, Chr., Haus- und Siedlungsformen im Nepal-Himalaya, 1973, 127 S. U.S. \$ 16.80
- Heft 5 Frank, W. A., Ethnische Grundlagen der Siedlungsstruktur in Mittelnepal unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Tamang. Ein völkerkundlicher Beitrag. 1974, 182 S. U.S.\$ 16.70

In 1965, the former Research Council of the Research Scheme Nepal Himalaya was transformed into the Association of Comparative High Alpine Research, of which Nepal has remained the main field of activity. At present, the majority of members is recruited from the natural sciences; the humanities are represented by two ethnologists and four human geographers. From 1965 on, the Association hired a house in Kathmandu, the "Nepal Research Centre" (also known as "Thyssen House") which served as a basis for a number of projects. Benefitting from a treaty between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the residents were provided with certain facilities with regard to customs clearance and research permits. In 1974, the house was taken over by the German Oriental Society which finally established a new Research Centre in Ganabahal.

Report on the Activities of the Nepal Research Center (NRC)
(by courtesy of Dr. Michael Hahn, the former representative)

Nepal Research Center, 6/288 Gasnabahal, P.O.Box 180, Kathmandu, Nepal. Ph.12263

Nepal Forschungsinstitut, Biengenstr.22, Postfach 642, D-3550 Marburg, W.Germany.

Director: Dr. Wolfgang Voigt
Representative in Nepal: Dr. Horst Brinkhaus

In 1977, an agreement between the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, and the German Oriental Society was signed which outlines the rules and regulations

under which all kinds of research work (humanities as well as sciences) pertaining to Nepal can be carried out. For the time being, the work of the NRC, due to its limited staff and budget, is restricted to these tasks only:

1. Housing and assisting the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP) (We refer to a separate report on the NGMPP)
2. Editing the Nepal Research Centre Publications (consisting of the Journal of the Nepal Research Centre, Monographs and Miscellaneous Papers) (A list of publications is given below)
3. Assisting scholars of whatever nation in preparing and carrying out research work on Nepal by granting information and active help at different stages of a project; by offering library facilities; and by giving accommodation (limited number of rooms only) and store-room (limited capacity). (Any kind of inquiries or questions should be directed either to the Director (see above) or to his Representative in Nepal(c/o Nepal Res.Ctr.)).
4. Organizing lectures on various topics.

Publications of the Nepal Research Center

1. N.Gutschow and B. Kölver, Bhaktapur. Ordered Space. Concepts and Functions in a Town of Nepal... 1975. (NRCP.1)
2. Journal of the Nepal Research Centre. 1. (Humanities) 1977 (NRCP. 3)
3. M. R. Pant and A. D. Sharma. The Two Earliest Copper-plate Inscriptions from Nepal. 1977
4. Journal of the Nepal Research Centre 2/3 (Sciences) 1978/9
5. Puṣpasūtra. Prapāṭhaka 1 and 2. Ed. by B. R. Sharma. (NRCP. 2)
6. Haribhaṭṭa's Jātakamālā. The Eleven Legends Available in Sanskrit. Ed. by M. Hahn. (NRCP. 5)
7. M. Hahn. Subhāṣitaratnakaraṇḍakakathā. Study and Text. (NRCP. 6)
8. M. R. Pant. A Nepali Version of the Khandakhādyaka. Study and Text. (NRCP. 7)
9. M. Kuhle. Settlements of the Southern Slope of the Dhaulā-Himal. A Contribution to the Settlement Geography of the Nepal Himalaya, with twenty-two illustrations.
10. Ratnākaraśānti's Chandoratnākara. Re-edited by M. Hahn.
11. Journal of the Nepal Research Center 4 (Humanities) 1980. (NRCP. 8)

Report on the Activities of the Nepal-German Manuscript Preservation Project (NGMPP)

(A joint venture of His Majesty's Government, Department of Archaeology and the German Oriental Society, FRG)

(by courtesy of Dr. Michael Hahn, the former representative in Kathmandu)

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The NGMPP, started in 1970, aims at preserving the literary, historical, religious and cultural heritage of Nepal through microfilming of manuscripts. Any manuscript that has a bearing upon this aim will be included if its owner allows it. No language and no subject is excluded.

After the conclusion of its first campaign, the microfilming of all the manuscripts and blockprints kept in the National Archives, Kathmandu (Series A and B) in 1975, the NGMPP has launched --and partially completed-- the following campaigns: (21.9.1979)

- C. Microfilming of the manuscripts kept in the Kaiser Library. Completed, reel numbers 1 to 105, running numbers 1 to 996.
- D. Microfilming of manuscripts from private sources, Kathmandu. Completed, reel numbers 1 to 101, running numbers 1 to 1560:

- E. Microfilming of manuscripts from private sources, Kathmandu. Reel numbers 1 to 909, running numbers 1 to 19177. To be continued.
- G. Microfilming of manuscripts from private sources, Bhaktapur. Completed, reel numbers 1 to 245, running numbers 1 to 5753.
- H. Microfilming of manuscripts from private sources, Patan. Completed, reel numbers 1 to 398, running numbers 1 to 7274.
- I. Microfilming of manuscripts from private sources, Banepa. To be continued, reel numbers 1 to 19, running numbers 1 to 519.

In all, 35,000 manuscripts consisting of approximately 1,200,000 leaves have been microfilmed since 1975. Positive copies of all films are kept both in the National Archives, Kathmandu, and in the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Orientabteilung, Postfach 1407, 1000 Berlin 30 (West Berlin). Copies of individual texts can be ordered from: The Chief Research Officer, National Archives, Ram Shah Path, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Some Forthcoming Projects in Switzerland and the Republic of Germany
(Humanities Only)

1. Walter A. Frank (University of Cologne; private address: Burg Zievel, D-5353 Mechernich) is writing up his data for a publication "Ethnographic Survey of Nepal," Part I: Central Region, vol. I: Demography. He also announces a contribution on the "Tamang-Sherpas of the Langtang Valley" in F. W. Funke (ed.), Beiträge zur Sherpa-Forschung, Part VI, forthcoming. For 1980, W. A. Frank is planning a further field research in Dhaulagiri and Lumbini zones, on which the second volume of his Ethnographic Survey of the Central Region will be based. He hopes to accomplish the ethno-demographic survey for the whole of Nepal by 1989.

2. Andrés Höfer (South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg) is preparing a manuscript on the shamans' and exorcists' oral texts (recitations) among the Western Tamangs. The transcribed texts and their translation will be abundantly annotated, and an introductory chapter will be devoted to the general presentation of the non-Buddhist religious traditions of the Tamangs in Dhading district. Probable date of publication (in 2 volumes), the end of 1980. A paper on the funeral feast among the same Tamang group is also under preparation (in collaboration with a Tibetologist). Field research planned by Hofer includes: In collaboration with a human geographer and in a particular area of Central Nepal (probably Dhading), a study to examine the culturally conditioned determinants of man's relationship to his natural environment. Emphasis is put on traditional technology and cognitive orientation with reference to soil erosion, deforestation and irrigation.

3. Bernard Kölver (Seminar für Indologie, University of Kiel, Olshausenstr. 40, D-2300 Kiel) is carrying out an investigation into some Malla documents and their legal and historical relevance. In collaboration with his wife, Ulrike, he is also pursuing his research work on the Newari language with particular emphasis on word morphology.

4. Hanna Rauber (Ethnologisches Seminar, University of Zurich, Ramistr. 44, CH-8001 Zurich) announces two publications based on her fieldwork among the Khyampa of Humli:

- (1) A Study in Ethnogenesis: The Humli-Khyampa of Western Nepal, in Tibetan Studies in Honour of Hugh Edward Richardson, Proceedings of the International Seminar on Tibetan Studies, Oxford 1979. 15pp.
- (2) grathsang-, 'brug-, gor- and gzhungyog: Economic Obligations and their Political Implications for the Humli-Khyampa. Submitted to Kailash.



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development. In the years since then, New ERA's area of interest and activity has broadened beyond education to include rural development, social services, communication and human resources development generally. Similarly, as leadership has passed fully into Nepali hands, New ERA has been reorganized as a Nepali entity. All decisions affecting the operations of the Nepal organization are currently made by an Executive Committee comprised of three Nepalese members. New ERA is registered by His Majesty's Government to work in Nepal.

Research Experience (through 1979). Over the course of the past eight years New ERA has carried out survey research projects and policy studies for a variety of official agencies, both branches of His Majesty's Government and foreign development assistance organizations working in Nepal. Completed projects include the following:

- Middle Level Manpower Follow-Up Study, September 1973.
A study of attrition among middle-level technical personnel in Nepal.
- Local Contributions to Education, January 1974.
A study of the participation of local communities in educational development in Nepal.
- Health Care Resources (Manpower) of Nepal, August 1974.
An inventory of human resources in the health services sector and an inquiry into job attitudes of health services technicians.
- Non-Formal Education in Nepal, October 1974.
A survey overview of educational activities taking place outside the formal educational system.
- Radio Listening Patterns in Nepal, October 1974.
A study of radio listening patterns among both radio owners and non-owners in various districts of Nepal.
- The Supply and Utilization of Educational Materials at The School Level in Nepal, June 1975.
- Jumla Small Area Development Program Survey Report, May 1976.
A description of the area of Jumla District selected for Small Area Development Program implementation and a recommended Action Program.
- Bajhang Small Area Development Program Survey Report, June 1976.
A description of the area of Bajhang District selected for Small Area Development Program implementation and a recommended Action Program.
- Community Water Supply, July 1977.
A report summarizing the present status of each of the community water supply schemes constructed under the LDD/UNICEF/WHO Program, 1973-1976.
- Swatantra Vishwa Readership Survey, May 1978.
- Water Supply and Sanitation as Components of Primary Health Care, June 1978.
- Report on Baseline Socio-Economic Study of Dhulikhel, December 1978.
Summarizes baseline data on the socio-economic status of Dhulikhel Panchayat and explores possible development activities.
- Status Survey of Radio Programme Producer's Training Course, Feb. 1974.
- Radio for School Broadcasting in Nepal, September 1979.
Analyzes the efficiency and effectiveness of radio programs for school children.
- Pipe Distribution Follow-up Study, October 1979.
The report outlines developments in eighteen communities of the Western Development Region where UNICEF, in cooperation with the Local Development Department, distributed pipes for water supply systems. Villagers were responsible for installation and maintenance of the systems.

- Population Education in the Organized Sector, October 1979.
A baseline survey for the Population Education Programme among industrial workers and women in Mechi, Lumbini, Bheri, and Mahakali Zones. The second and third phases of this study were scheduled for completion in December 1979 and April 1980, respectively.

Projects Currently in Progress (1980) Include:

- Education and Rural Development.
Three year study evaluating the impact of education on several aspects of rural development.
- Impact of the Free Textbook Distribution Program in Primary School Enrollment.
Three year study in its final phase, questioning whether free textbooks encourage enrollment, school attendance, and student performance in grades 1-3.
- Literacy Retention Study.
Will attempt to answer the question of how many years of schooling are necessary to achieve literacy.
- Nepal-Australia Forestry Project - Rural Forestry Survey.
An effort to assess villagers' attitudes towards forests, including forest development, benefits of forests (both practical and aesthetic) and to evaluate the villagers' willingness to participate in the development of local forests.

Summaries of these projects and in some cases copies of final reports are available from New ERA on request.

Mode of Operation. Most of the New ERA research work is carried out on a contract basis with agencies and institutions which require research services but whose own research capabilities are either limited or non-existent. In developing and implementing a project, New ERA generally follows a series of steps in order to insure that the contracting agency's objectives are achieved in the most useful form possible:

Framing Objectives. Precise definition of the goals of any survey research effort is essential to the success of such projects. As a first step in initiating new research, therefore, New ERA staff members work closely with representatives of the contracting agency to identify in detail the objectives which the agency is trying to achieve by means of the project.

Decision of Research Methodology. Once project objectives have been specifically defined, the New ERA staff describes appropriate methodologies in a concise research proposal which is submitted for consideration to the contracting agency. Joint discussions follow in which the proposal may be either modified to conform with budgetary and time limitations or approved in its original form. It is only at this point that a formal contract is negotiated and signed.

Project Implementation. Carrying out the research design is primarily the responsibility of New ERA. Full communication with the sponsoring agency, however, is maintained and interim progress reports may be submitted if appropriate. On occasions, personnel of the contracting agency may be invited to join in implementation work in order to assure full coordination of the research effort.

Reporting. Research results may be communicated through a variety of mechanisms. In almost all cases, a formal report summarizing project activities, findings, and recommendations is drawn up and reproduced in multiple copies. In the past, it has proved valuable to supplement written reports with oral presentation of project findings at discussion meetings with the staff of agencies whose work is affected by the results of the study.

Staff Resources. New ERA has a staff of researchers whose skills have been developed and tested through practical experience in Nepal. These researchers possess skills in survey research design, questionnaire development, field data collection techniques, training and supervision of field staff, report writing, and general project administration. Currently, the research staff includes specialists in the fields of agriculture, economics, health education, and general education. Other specialized staff members are recruited as needed or retained on a consulting basis for project work.

Physical Resources. New ERA currently occupies two office buildings in Gyaneshwar, Kathmandu. In addition to standard office equipment, the facilities house a small but carefully selected research library. A full-time clerical and administrative staff supports the work of project researchers.

Other Corporate Activities and Services. In addition to its research work, New ERA offers training services to interested agencies. Present training activities relate primarily to the provision of language training and cultural orientation to foreign technical assistance personnel as they begin their terms of service in Nepal. New ERA also provides consulting services in research, evaluation, and training to individuals and agencies involved in a wide variety of development activities in Nepal. Finally, New ERA publishes a newsletter for high schools throughout Nepal, relating the latest research in education, with suggestions for more effective teaching methods.

Note: Within its training arm, New ERA recently (June-July 1980) contracted with the University of Washington and Washington State University to coordinate and conduct an elaborate Summer Fieldschool in Kathmandu Valley on the topic of "The Culture and Ecology of Kathmandu," directed by Prof. Donald A. Messerschmidt. This program involved 24 university students from the United States (including several foreign nationals attending universities in the USA). New ERA sub-contracted specialists in Kathmandu to lecture to the group on culture, history, economics, ecology, agriculture, and political science. New ERA staff also conducted field trips to important sites within the valley. /DM.



BOOK REVIEW

Edward W. Cronin, Jr.

1979 The Arun: A Natural History of the World's Deepest Valley.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 236pp. Illus, Biblio, Index, Map.
Appendix of Scientific Names (Species List).

Reviewed by D. Messerschmidt
Washington State University

From rare salamanders to honey guides, lush cloud forests to ecological disaster and desertification, Ted Cronin's Arun is both a delight to read and an alarm sounding over the deterioration of the Himalayan ecosystem. The book is an account of the Arun Valley Wildlife Expedition of 1972 and 1973. The expedition naturalists included ornithologists, mammalogists, botanists, herpetologists, parasitologists and others. Their goal was a basic ecological survey of the Arun Valley, one of East Nepal's main watersheds. What the expedition scientists learned there enhances our understanding of the ecology of all the Himalayas, and of mountain ecosystems generally. The book is clearly written and very readable, well researched, and richly illustrated with fascinating new data and insights. The Arun is recommended as a basic and essential book on Nepal.