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Letter from the President

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Himalaya Devotees:

As the minutes of our annual meeting in this issue indicate, 1983 was a very good year for the Nepal Studies Association. Our membership roster is firmly over 300, with more individuals and more institutions expressing interest in our concerns monthly. We had a much larger attendance at the Wisconsin gathering than for any business meeting in the past and we have received correspondence from Japan, Europe, the Himalayan regions and all parts of the U.S.A. in answer to our latest mailing. With help from Cornell University and the South Asia Council, we are on firm financial footing for the coming year, and soon we will begin to seek outside grant support.

It was especially good to meet with our Honorary Director, Dor Bahadur Bista of Tribhuvan University, during the Madison conference. We are grateful to the University of Wisconsin for inviting Mary Shepherd Slusser as special conference guest in the year of her Nepal Mandala publication. And it was a pleasure to be joined by Hugh B. Wood and students of the America-Nepal Education.

Numerous panels of quality treated Himalayan subjects and unusual topics such as the role of Tibetan Muslims in the society of that country, and these provided balance to such excellent sessions as those presented by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies and the Society for South Indian Studies.

Special displays included Mary Slusser's drawings, photographs, and maps of Kathmandu Valley and its art, photographs of "Possession and Healing in a Brahmin Chhetri Village in the Kathmandu Valley" by Heidi Larson and Al Pach, and folk arts of Bhutan by Kathleen Frey.

In order to return more fully to the organization that was envisioned when the by-laws of our association were written in 1971, it is necessary to elect four more representatives to the executive committee. Please vote on the form at the end of the Bulletin and mail it to the editors. And in answer to a request at our 1983 meeting, please notify us if you wish to consider a change in the name of the organization (possibly to "Himalayan Studies Association").

Finally, please propose panel topics, chairpersons, individual papers and general ideas for the next annual meeting November 4-6, 1984 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

And the day may not be far off when we gather in the Himalayan region itself!

With best wishes for the new year
to all our members,



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