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NOTICES

Buddhist Art at the Sackler Gallery

"The Noble Path: Buddhist Art of South Asia and Tibet" an exhibition of 103 Buddhist sculptures, paintings, and ritual objects from the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will be at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, CC, from October 1, 1989 through March 31, 1990. The exhibition includes works from India, South Asia, Nepal, and Tibet that range in date from the first century B.C.E through the eighteenth century and represent many stages in the development of Buddhist art.

Among the highlights of the exhibition are a cream-colored sandstone sculpture of two female nature spirits from the gateway to the Great Stupa at Sanci, a red sandstone Buddha head made in India between 150 and 200 C.E, a slender ninth-century bronze seated Buddha from Sri Lanka, and an eleventh-century Indian sculpture of Maitreya, the Bodhisattva who is to become the next Buddha.

Almost half of the works in "The Noble Path" are from Nepal and Tibet. Among them are sculptures and paintings of the peaceful and wrathful deities of Vajrayana, or Diamond Vehicle, Buddhism, such as the nepalese painting, dating from about 1450, of "Samvara and Vajravarahi in Union." The exhibition also features a collection of eighteen Vajrayana Buddhist manuscripts from monasteries and temples.

ANA 7th Annual Conference

The 7th Annual conference of ANA was held in Waltham, Massachusetts (Greater Boston Area) on the July 4 weekend. More than 500 people came from different parts of the USA, Canada and Nepal.

The climax of the "Meet the Expert on Nepal" was the seminar on "Nepal-India Treaty" with Prof. Shukla, Ambassador Sainju, Ambika Adhikari and Brajesh Pant. Prof. Shukla who was a member of the Nepalese delegation to 1960 treaty gave a historical perspective.

The 1990 annual conference of ANA is to be held in Florida. The tentative date for the conference is July 6 and July 7 (Friday and Saturday following the 4th of July). Gambhir Shrestha and Pramod Sharma were nominated as the conference coordinators.

In its 7th annual conference in Waltham, ANA sponsored a panel discussion on Nepal India relationship. The basic objective of this meeting was to understand the latest developments on the Nepal India crisis and to explore what might be done to resolve it. His Excellency the Ambassador. Mohan Man Sainju traced the developments of the crisis stressing Nepal's willingness to negotiate with India taking into account Nepal's geopolitical configurations, and the friendly relations necessary with a far larger neighbor. To this end, Nepal had submitted to New Delhi and official letter expressing its willingness to negotiate. India replied with a detailed agenda, but was silent on the timing, venue and the level of such a meeting, all of which were included in the letter from Nepal. Nepal was certainly ill prepared for the draconian measures taken by India, largely because it did not expect such actions from a country with which Nepal has had very close relations. The shortage of petroleum products have resulted in deforestation which could lead to long term environmental problems. There is also an urgent need on the part of Nepal to diversify its sources for essential commodities like petroleum products and build up contingency supplies which would reduce our heavy dependence on a single source. The other speakers, Ambika Adhikari, Brajesh Pant and Prof. Vishwa Shanker Shukla stressed to need to look at the positive aspects of the current conflict. Nepal has always stressed the difficulties of being a landlocked nations, but that is just part of the problem. In large countries, the distance from the industrial areas to seaport in their countries is much farther from the distance from Kathmandu to Calcutta port. The problem appears to be our inability to negotiate the proper set of terms with India

rather than the distance from the seaport. Some alternatives were stressed such as opening up air strips in the terrain area to facilitate trade through Bangladesh, and to build links to the Karakoram Highway to enhance our bargaining position. A need to put a greater focus on our development was also stressed so that our limited resources could be focusses for greater independence. India's high handedness in the current conflict can not be condoned. Its actions which have caused suffering to a large segment of the Nepalese can find no justification. The panel did stress it was time to act and leave emotionalism behind. The panel discussion was moderated by Ashok R. Pandey who opened the forum to questions from the audience after opening statements from the panel members.