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Nepal Studies Association Announcements

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NEPAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
OFFICER PROFILES

Ter Ellingson - NSA President

M.A. University of Chicago (Religion), 1970; Ph.D. University of Wisconsin (Anthropology and Buddhist Studies), 1979. Research in Nepal since 1973. NSA activities: participant in first NSA AAS panel, New York, 1972; Executive Committee, 1987; President, 1989. Areas of specialization: Tibetans, Newars; ethnomusicology, religion and ritual, symbolism, social organization of religious traditions; Tibetan, Newari, Sanskrit. Publications include *The Mandala of Sound: Sound and Concept in Tibetan Ritual Music* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming), "The Mathematics of Newar Buddhist Music," "Nasadya: Newar God of Music," "Tibetan Monastic Constitutions," in press; "Music and Religion," *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, 1986. Currently Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology and Head, Ethnomusicology, University of Washington, Seattle.

Linda L. Iltis - Acting Secretary Treasurer, Elections and Policy Committee

Affiliate Assistant Professor, Comparative Religion, and South Asian Studies - Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. Research in Nepal since 1975 includes: National Endowment for the Humanities Research on Roles and Meanings in Dance Dramas of Nepal focusing on the ritual masked dance groups of the Kathmandu Valley; Fulbright-Hays research on Newar women and ritual in Swasthani Vrata with an English translation of *The Swasthani Vrata Katha* from Newari; and "An Ethnohistorical Survey of Bandipur Bazaar." Areas of interest and specialization include women and religion; social cooperatives; pilgrimage and sacred geography; cultural and religious history of Nepal; Nepali, Newari, and Sanskrit language literature; and expressive ritual and performing arts.

M.A., Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison (Cultural Anthropology & South Asian Civilization and Culture)

NSA activities: Attended independent NSA conference in Carbondale, IL (1974); Election Committee 1987; Council Member 1989.

Nancy E. Levine

Nancy E. Levine received her Ph.D. in 1978 from the University of Rochester. She carried out an intensive single-community study in Humla, District, northwest Nepal between 1973-74 and a comparative study of seven Humla communities between 1982-84. In the latter study, she surveyed people of Chetri caste, Tibetan speakers, and those of Bura/Byanzi ethnic affiliation. Her research interests include kinship, marriage, and household systems, social processes and demography, and maternal and child health. Among her recent publications are *The Dynamics of Polyandry: Kinship, Domesticity, and Population on the Tibetan Border*, University of Chicago Press (1988) "Webs of Dependence in Rural Nepal: Debt, Poverty, and Profit in the Far Northwest," *Contributions to Nepalese Studies*, (March, 1990), and "Caste, State, and Ethnic Boundaries in Nepal," *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 46 (1987). At present, she is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles. She currently serves on the Election Committee of the Nepal Studies Association.

Todd T. Lewis

Received PhD. in Religion, (Columbia 1984). Beginning in September of 1990, will be Assistant Professor, Religious Studies, Holy Cross College. Formerly taught at University of California, Berkeley, Columbia University, Carleton College, Rutgers University, and Montclair State College. Has conducted doctoral (1979-1982) and post doctoral (1987) research on Newar merchants and religion. Currently working on textual studies in Newar Buddhism. Recent publications include: "Newars and Tibetans in the Kathmandu Valley: Ethnic Boundaries and Religious History" and "Contributions to the History of Nepal: Eastern Newar Diaspora Settlements."



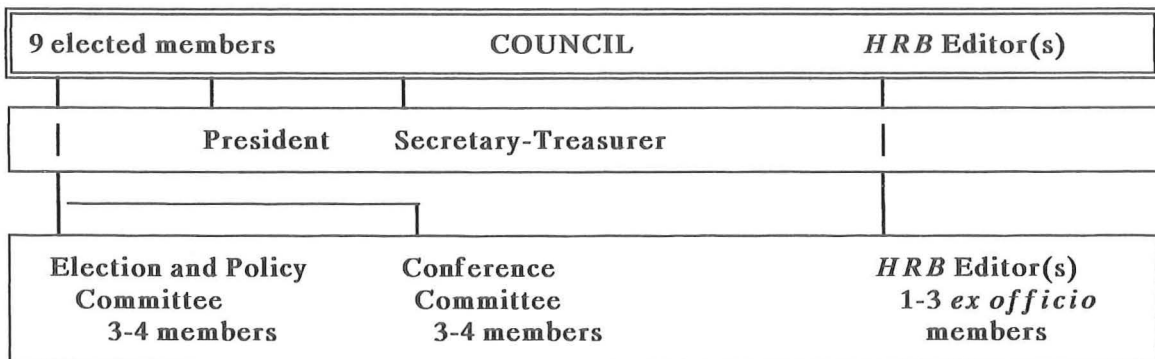
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PROPOSED NSA CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The Nepal Studies Association Executive Committee, concerned with the decline in NSA activities and member participation in recent years, met a year ago and reorganized itself into a new provisional structure:

Provisional/Proposed NSA Organizational Structure



The new organization has already produced an increase in conference activity, and our first elections in several years; and, more importantly, the members of the Executive Committee/Council have a clearer grasp of their responsibilities and future plans for NSA. After a year of discussions among ourselves and with many of you at AAS and Wisconsin, we are ready to propose that the NSA Constitution be amended to officially adopt the new structure that has given us such positive new directions.

The old Constitution's lack of provisions such as those proposed here has resulted in our having to reorganize NSA from the ground up every few years in the past, and the Council believes the following changes and additions are urgently needed to avoid the same situation of perpetual crisis and reconstruction in the future.

For the NSA Council,

Ter Ellingson, President

Constitution of the Nepal Studies Association

Old:

The Nepal Studies Association seeks to foster the study and understanding of Nepal, and to improve communication among all who share this interest regardless of nationality. Association members believe in equal scholarly opportunity, open exchange of information, and full disclosure of the purposes and funding of research. Membership and participation in Associational affairs is open to all who approve its aims and guidelines.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of the NSA is responsible for the general management of Association affairs. It will consist of nine persons chosen by mail ballot sent to all NSA members.

Secretary- Treasurer, and Committee members and Chairs, shall be elected by the Council from its own elected membership.

The Editor or Co-Editors of the *Himalayan Research Bulletin* will serve as *ex officio* Council members.

The Council will have responsibility for the allocation of NSA funds, for executive action on ordinary business and procedural matters, and for formulating and proposing policy positions for votes by the NSA membership. The Council will meet annually at the NSA membership meeting.

Term of office is three years,

Council members will be elected by the members of the Association to overlapping 4-year terms. Council members shall begin their terms on September 1 of the academic year following their election. Between the time of election and taking office, new members will attend Council meetings as member-designates.

New:

The Nepal Studies Association seeks to foster the study and understanding of Nepal and the Himalayas, and to improve communication among all who share this interest regardless of nationality. Association members believe in equal scholarly opportunity, open exchange of information, and full disclosure of the purposes and funding of research. Membership and participation in Associational affairs is open to all who approve NSA's aims and guidelines.

I. The Executive Council

A. Membership and Duties

The Executive Council of the NSA is responsible for the general management of Association affairs. It will consist of nine persons chosen by mail ballot sent to all NSA members. Officers, including the President, the

B. Term of Office

Old:

New:

A full term of membership on the Council will normally be four years. Council members may serve for up to two consecutive terms, or a total of eight consecutive years including regular and Acting appointments, and will be eligible for reelection after a minimum of two years out of office have elapsed.

and a year must elapse before reeligibility.

In the first election held under this constitution the three nominees receiving the largest number of votes will serve for three years, the three receiving the second largest for two years, and the three receiving the third largest for one year.

This provision omitted to avoid the constant turnover of inexperienced Council members and the need for frequent reorganization.

C. Elections

The Executive Committee will annually submit a list of nominees for election to the opening seats on the Committee, taking into account availability and the need for representation according to geographical region, academic discipline, age and sex.

Every two years, the Election and Policy Committee, in accord with its responsibilities under Article IIIA below, and taking into account availability, willingness to serve, and the need for representation according to nationality, geographical region, academic discipline, age, and sex, shall submit a list of nominees for election to Council memberships that will fall vacant in the coming year.

The list of nominees shall comprise a full slate of nominations by the Committee itself, along with other nominations proposed by the Council and by any NSA members who have maintained their membership in good standing through payment of the Association's annual dues.

Any eligible member supported by signatures of five members submitted to the Executive Committee will be included on the list of nominees.

Members may nominate candidates either from the floor at the annual meeting, or by a nomination letter signed by any three members in good standing. Those who nominate candidates should determine that the nominee is available and willing to serve.

The Election Committee shall verify availability and willingness, and solicit a brief biography for inclusion with the ballot. A list of verified names, together with the biographies of the candidates, shall be sent by the Committee to the President and to the *Himalayan Research Bulletin* Editor(s).

The Editors shall prepare and print ballots and biographies, mail them to the membership, and forward returned ballots to the Chair or another member designated by the Election Committee. The Committee shall tally all ballots received and certify the vote numbers to the President and the Editor(s), and to the members at the annual meeting. Those receiving the greatest number of votes will fill the available vacancies.

D. Replacements and absences

NSA Council members and officers who become unable to perform their duties because of prolonged illness, travel to places where communication is unduly slow, difficult, or expensive, or for other reasons, shall inform the President either of their resignation or of the need for an acting replacement. In such cases, if no communication is made and/or if no resignation is received, the Council shall vote on an acting replacement for the remainder of the officer's term.

Such a replacement may be made on a limited-term, temporary basis if the original holder of the position has communicated the length of time required before he/she is able to resume duties, subject to the Council's approval of a temporary replacement.

Members of the Council who are unable to attend meetings are responsible for conveying their views and positions on issues currently before the Council to the President, who is responsible for presenting those views and positions to the Council. Absent members may designate another member to vote by proxy.

A total of two-thirds present members and proxy votes shall constitute a quorum for Council action. If fewer than two-thirds of the Council vote in person or by proxy, the President shall contact enough absent members to secure enough votes to make up a quorum, and report the results to the Council. If reasonable efforts to secure votes from all Council members fail to produce a quorum, the majority of those voting in person, by proxy, and by direct communication to the President shall be considered to constitute the official decision of the Council.

II. Officers and Duties

The Executive Committee will elect its own Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer.

The Council shall elect and maintain without vacancy a full roster of officers, including the President, Secretary-Treasurer, and from three to four members each of two standing Committees in accord with Article III, from its own regular membership of nine members elected by the NSA membership at large. *Ex officio* members of the Council and appointive members of *ad hoc* committees may not serve as officers.

The old Constitution has no further provisions for other duties or responsibilities of officers with regard to the internal functioning of NSA, except for those listed under numbers 1 and 10 in the section "Executive Committee Functions", opposite new Article V below.

At the first Council meeting following each election, and at such times as vacancies may arise between elections, continuing members and new member-designates (but not outgoing members) should vote to elect officer-designates for all officer positions, including Committee members, Secretary-Treasurer, President, and Editor(s), that will fall vacant for the following academic year.

The terms of officers such as the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee chairs may be less than four years, if so agreed on by the Council and the candidate.

A. President

The President will be responsible for chairing meetings of the Council and the NSA membership, for communicating actions, issues and concerns of NSA officers, committees, and members to the Council and to the membership at large, for calling Council meetings and initiating discussion on matters of current concern to NSA, for communicating with the editor on matters of concern to the entire membership of NSA with sufficient lead time to allow for publication in *HRB* and membership response, for reporting on the Association's activities at the annual meeting, and for representing and acting on behalf of the Association as deemed appropriate by, and with the consent of, the Council.

B. Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer will be responsible for keeping accurate records of membership and Council meetings, for circulating copies to the Council and the Editor for publication in *HRB*, for forwarding NSA correspondence and documents to the Editor for inclusion in the NSA Archives, for preparing an annual calendar of NSA official events and deadlines, to be regularly updated in consultation with the President and Committee chairs, and for reporting the current calendar and the minutes of past meetings to annual meetings of the membership and Council.

The Secretary-Treasurer will also be responsible for keeping and accounting for NSA funds to the Council and to the annual meeting, for reporting changes in NSA's financial position to the President in a timely way, and for preparing an annual budget proposal in consultation with the President, Editor(s), and Council.

The Council may, at its discretion, appoint separate individuals from among its membership to fill separate positions of Secretary and Treasurer, with appropriate division of the responsibilities of office.

III. Committees

Each of the two standing committees will elect its own Chair, and will be responsible for specific NSA functions.

The Chair of each committee will be responsible for calling meetings and/or initiating communication between members on current committee business, for communicating progress reports to the President in timely fashion, for communicating with others as required by the functions of the committee, and for reporting to the Council and NSA membership at their meetings.

Committee responsibilities will be allocated equally between the three or four members by mutual agreement.

A. Election and Policy Committee

The Election and Policy Committee will be responsible for conducting elections to the Council. This will include soliciting nominations from the membership, the Council, and/or the Committee members themselves; contacting nominees to determine both their willingness and their availability to serve; securing a brief biography of each candidate; preparing and sending a slate of candidates to the President and to the Editor for publication in *HRB* with sufficient lead time to allow for publication and the return of ballots, and certifying the election results at the annual meeting.

The Election and Policy Committee will also be responsible for considering current issues and items of business, except for conferences, falling within the purview of NSA, and for formulating reports, policy proposals, or statements of alternatives for consideration by the Council and the NSA membership.

Such matters may include ongoing and special problems in the internal operations and governance of NSA, initiatives and proposals from NSA members or outside persons or agencies, matters of potential interest or impact on Nepal and Himalayan studies in America or Europe, and developments in Nepal and the Himalayan area with significant implications for Nepal studies and the NSA.

The Committee will communicate its agenda and new developments to the President and the Editor in timely fashion for Council action and/or publication in *HRB* for response by the NSA membership, and report on its activities at the annual meeting.

B. Conference Committee

The Conference Committee will be responsible for arranging the annual NSA membership meeting and conference activities, whether as a separate conference or in conjunction with another conference.

The Committee will arrange for facilities, schedule meetings and panels, organize support appropriate to the level of conference activity, communicate schedules and arrangements to the President and the Editor for publication in *HRB* with sufficient lead time to allow for publication and for arrangements by NSA members to attend or participate, and report on activities and future plans at the annual meeting.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

Additional Ad Hoc committees or subcommittees may be appointed by the Council as the need arises. Examples of such committees might include Local Arrangements or Program Committees for a conference, a Policy subcommittee for the study of a particular problem or issue, and other needs to meet circumstances of interest or concern to NSA.

In such cases, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee will be a Council member. Other members may be appointed from the NSA membership as voting members of the respective committee, but not of the Council.

IV. Meetings and Conferences

The Association will meet annually.

The NSA will meet once each academic year at a site to be determined from year to year, and announced by the Conference Committee through a notice sent to the Editor for publication in *HRB* with sufficient lead time to allow members to plan for travel, for submission of panel and paper proposals, and for other planning and preparations normally associated with conference attendance.

If the NSA meeting occurs in conjunction with a conference under external sponsorship, the President and Conference Committee shall explore with conference sponsors the possibility of designating Nepal and Himalayan studies panels as NSA Panels, subject to agreement of the panel organizers, and of acting as intermediaries for organizing individual papers submitted by NSA members into Nepal Studies panels.

The Committee should also explore the feasibility of other means of increasing the visibility and impact of Nepal studies at such meetings, by organizing book, photo, and/or film and video exhibits of recent work on Nepal, by providing press releases, or other suitable strategies.

Executive Committee Functions

The Executive Committee will seek to maintain and improve communications between the NSA and other organizations with similar goals. If approved and appointed by the Association for Asian Studies, it will serve as the Committee for Development of Nepal Studies in the South Asia Regional Council of the AAS.

This provision is now illegal under AAS bylaws.

A foremost responsibility of the Executive Committee is improvement of scholarly opportunity for Nepalese.

To further this goal it will seek a) to establish and strengthen facilities in Nepal for collecting, preserving and making accessible scholarly materials; b) to enable more apprentice Nepalese scholars to obtain sound training in their discipline; and c) to enable established Nepali scholars to secure funds for periods of research, writing and related travel. When feasible, it will make acceptance of funds for non-Nepalese scholars contingent on a reasonable matching amount to be used for either a), b), or c).

V. External Activities

A. Scholarly Associations

The Council will seek to maintain and improve communications between the NSA and other organizations with similar goals. The NSA will remain in an Affiliate relationship with the Association for Asian Studies. Applications for renewal of this Affiliate status shall be submitted by the President at the times required by the AAS Constitution and bylaws.

The Council may seek to undertake joint activities, such as concurrent conference activity, with other scholarly area studies and disciplinary associations, taking into consideration NSA's primary commitment to Nepal studies and the need to support disciplinary diversity as represented by the NSA membership.

B. Nepal and Himalayan Areas

A foremost concern of the Nepal Studies Association is improvement of scholarly opportunity for Nepalese citizens and the citizens of other Himalayan areas, consistent with a primary commitment to Nepal.

To further this goal, the Association will seek, through its Executive Council, officers, members, and/or other designated agents appropriate to a scholarly association, a) to establish and strengthen facilities in Nepal for collecting, preserving and making accessible scholarly materials; b) to enable more apprentice Nepalese scholars to obtain sound training in their discipline; and c) to enable established Nepali scholars to secure funds for periods of research, writing and related travel. When feasible, it will make acceptance of funds for non-Nepalese scholars contingent on a reasonable matching amount to be used for either a), b), or c).

Other functions of the Executive Committee include:

1. Seeking funds to support an NSA Newsletter and appointment of Nepalese and American co-editors;
2. Organizing and seeking funds to support training or research seminars and workshops in the U.S., Nepal and other countries, and seeking funds to enable distribution of papers, abstracts, and other scholarly publications,
3. Organizing and seeking funds to support summer institutes for training in Nepalese languages and culture;
4. Seeking means to assure that results of research done in Nepal, or dealing with Nepal, are available to Nepalese;
5. Seeking funds to enable translation of vernacular materials and wider distribution of documentation from Nepal,
6. Seeking funds to assist publication of worthy manuscripts and materials;
7. Seeking to encourage and find funds to support the teaching of Nepali and other Nepalese languages at appropriate institutions,
8. Seeking funds to support resource centers in the U.S.;
9. Encouraging persons who have lived and worked in Nepal and are interested in furthering NSA goals, regardless of whether they are academically affiliated, to participate in NSA affairs, including seminars and workshops,

Other aims of the Association towards which Council efforts should be directed consistent with available resources in personnel, time, and funding sources, include:

See Article VI, Publications, below.

- 1. Organizing and seeking funds to support training or research seminars and workshops in the U.S., Nepal and other countries, and seeking funds to enable distribution of papers, abstracts, and other scholarly publications;**
- 2. Organizing and seeking funds to support summer institutes for training in Nepalese languages and culture;**
- 3. Seeking means to assure that results of research done in Nepal, or dealing with Nepal, are available to Nepalese;**
- 4. Seeking funds to enable translation of vernacular materials in Nepalese and Himalayan languages, and wider distribution of documentation and scholarly works from Nepal;**
- 5. Seeking funds to assist publication of worthy manuscripts and materials;**
- 6. Seeking to encourage and find funds to support the teaching of Nepali and other Nepalese languages at appropriate institutions;**
- 7. Seeking funds to support resource centers in the U.S.;**
- 8. Encouraging persons who have lived and worked in Nepal and are interested in furthering NSA goals, regardless of whether they are academically affiliated, to participate in NSA affairs, including seminars and workshops;**

Old:

New:

10. The Executive Committee will allocate the financial resources of the Association and will report annually to the Association of the sources of its funds and the activities supported by those funds.

See Article I, Executive Council, above.

See #1 above.

VI. Publications

The *Himalayan Research Bulletin* is the official periodical publication of the Nepal Studies Association. Provisions in this Constitution referring to *Himalayan Research Bulletin*, *HRB*, or the *Bulletin* shall apply to any successor publication(s), consistent with changes and divisions of name and functions. In case of such changes and divisions, the *HRB*'s primary responsibilities to NSA, including but not limited to the publication and distribution to the membership of Association news, official announcements, and election materials, must be maintained.

The Editor or Co-Editors, up to a total of three, shall be appointed by the Council for a term of office set by mutual agreement, and shall be *ex officio* voting members of the Council. They shall have full editorial freedom in operation of the *Bulletin*, as is consistent with the operation of a professional publication, with the promotion of Nepal and Himalayan studies scholarship, and with *HRB*'s role as the official organ of the Association.

The Editor(s) shall be responsible for all aspects of editing, timely publication, and distribution of *HRB*, including the management of funds for such purposes. They shall consult with the Treasurer on the *HRB* share of the annual NSA budget, and report on editorial and financial activity to the annual meeting. They shall give priority, consistent on the available of qualified persons and adequate communication, to incorporating Nepalese consulting editors or other appropriate positions on the editorial staff. They shall consult with the Council on plans for major changes in editorial policy.

As the primary channel for communication within NSA, the *Bulletin* shall prominently display all official NSA announcements received from the President and Council in a timely fashion. These will include, but not be limited to, announcements of annual meetings, calls for papers, announcements of election results together with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of Council members, and other announcements.

Ballots for NSA elections and membership votes shall be distributed with and returned to *HRB*, and forwarded by the Editors to the chair of the Election Committee or other appropriate Committees.

Old:

New:

The Editors will also be responsible for maintaining up-to-date NSA membership lists, sending renewal notices to the membership, receiving membership dues, and managing funds thus received in consultation with the Treasurer; and for maintaining an Archive of official NSA documents forwarded to them by the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee chairs.

Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at the annual meeting and if passed by a majority will be submitted to the NSA membership by mail ballot, with majority support from those voting required for adoption.

VII. Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed at the annual meeting, and, if passed by a majority, will be submitted to the NSA membership by mail ballot, with majority support from those voting required for adoption.