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NOTICES

NEPALI AND HIMALAYAN STUDIES at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London

London University's School of Oriental and African Studies has a long tradition of scholarship in the field of Nepali language and literature, and in various other aspects of Himalayan culture. The language tradition dates back to the pioneering work of Sir Ralph Lilley Turner whose *Comparative and Etymological Dictionary of the Nepali Language*, a masterpiece published in 1931 and recently reprinted, is still the best Nepali-English dictionary available. Subsequently, Dr. T.W. Clark produced his *Introduction to Nepali* (1963, 1977) which remained the standard work of reference for foreign learners until superceded by Dr. David Matthews' *A Course in Nepali* (1984). Dr. Michael Hutt's *Nepali: A National Language and its Literature* (1988) and *Himalayan Voices* (forthcoming, 1991) have pioneered the academic study of Nepali literature in the West. Anthropologists from SOAS (notably Professor Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf and Professor Lionel Caplan) and SOAS Tibetologists such as Professor David Snellgrove have also made contributions of inestimable value to our understanding of Nepal and the Himalayan region in general.

Since SOAS is the only institution at which Nepali can be studied at university level in Britain, the demand for courses in Nepali has been constant. In recognition of this, the amount of time devoted to work on Nepal and Nepali has recently been increased. Several new projects are being planned for the next two years. These include:

- 1) The Himalayan Forum. From autumn 1990 to summer 1991 there will be a regular series of lectures at SOAS on contemporary Himalayan topics such as the environment, political change, literature, religion, etc. A programme will be available later this summer.

- 2) Diploma Course in Nepali Language and Culture A new one-year course in Nepali language and culture will be available at SOAS from October 1991 onwards. This will combine a fairly intensive year of language training with a series of seminars on Nepali history, culture and society. Readers of the *Himalayan Research Bulletin* who would like to be on our mailing list for programmes and further information should contact:

Michael Hutt
The School of Oriental and African Studies
Thornhaugh Street
Russel Square
London WC1H OXG

tel. 071-323-6240 or 071-637-2388 x 2440

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Himalayan Forum

A series of lectures and seminars is being arranged at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, on the rapidly accelerating process of change in the Himalayan region. The long term aim of the project is to publish a selection of articles which will provide an overview of culture, politics, economics and environment in the Himalayas, together with an examination of several specific instances of dramatic change. (The democracy movement in Nepal, the political crisis in Kashmir and Bhutan's controversial cultural policies are three examples of the latter.)

We plan to begin the programme in the autumn of 1990. Limited funds are available to cover the expenses of speakers from within Britain, and possibly to contribute towards those incurred by speakers from overseas. If you would like to contribute to this series, or would like further information, please contact:

Michael Hutt
The School of Oriental and African Studies
Thornhaugh Street
Russel Square
London WC1H 0XG

tel. 071-323-6240 or 071-637-2388 x 2440

LIST OF ACADEMICALLY SUPERIOR NEPALESE STUDENTS AVAILABLE

American colleges and universities that have scholarship funds available for foreign students, undergraduate or graduate, may be interested in obtaining a free list of academically superior Nepalese applicants to the American Nepal Education Foundation. This list of about 25 to 35 students includes only those in the top 3 to 5% of Nepal's students -- those with I Division or 3.5+ GPA academic records and test scores in the 80th to 90th percentiles.

In addition to the names and addresses and fields of study of these students, their academic records and recommendations are summarized. Recipients of the "University List" may request, at no cost, complete credentials of any student listed, by telephoning or writing to:

Hugh B. Wood, Dir.
American Nepal Education Foundation
2790 Cape Meares Lp
Tillamook, OR 97141
Tel: (503) 842-4024

Institutions wishing to be placed on the mailing list for this "University List" should notify the Foundation as soon as convenient, not later than November 1. The list is mailed each December. (It should be noted that nearly all Nepalese students require financial assistance.)

TIBETAN COMPUTER NETWORK

TibetNet has been installed in India, Europe, Canada and the USA and provides communication network for personal computers with phone line hook-up via modems. TibetNet enables any Tibet office, organization or supporter to send/receive information for screen display or printout.

RESEARCH ON ORAL LITERATURE IN INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND NEPAL

"Le Champ de la Litterature Orale en Inde, au Pakistan et au Nepal" is a research team organized in 1987 by Catherine Champion within the "Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud (Center for Indian and South Asian Studies), Ecole Des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, CNRS 118. The research team's objective is to use oral literature as a source of insight into the history and popular culture of the subcontinent and to link these extant oral traditions to their classical and medieval literary and popular antecedents. A main vehicle for the presentation of these research efforts is a series of lectures held at the research team's headquarters in Paris.

Lectures presented in 1988:

Marc Gaborieau: Structure of the Narrative Songs in Kumaon and Western Nepal.

Upcoming Lectures at the Center:

Anne de Sales: Study of the Ritual Language of the Shamanical Songs of the Kham Magar (Western Nepal.)