



# HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

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## Editorial Notes

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This journal finds itself in something of a time warp. Though this issue carries a 2003 date, it is now May 2005—three months after a royal “coup” by Nepal’s monarch King Gyanendra. (The King’s proclamation is reprinted in Reports from Kathmandu 2005, following this introduction.) In the months since the coup, the world has watched Nepal in considerable concern and with a range of reactions.

By the time we produce an issue of *HIMALAYA* bearing the 2005 date (later this year, we hope), we may have seen how this story plays out, and we will have had time to reflect, to try to understand how a democratic revolution undertaken so bravely and with such hope in 1990 should have come to this point. Part of the explanation, as we hear it from Nepal itself, is in the increasing intensity and reach of the Peoples’ War. We continue in this issue to look at the Maoist insurgency, its origins and implications. But I think we cannot ignore breaking events, however we risk confusing readers in later years. (“What? The date for this issue is 2003, but here’s material about the 2005 coup!”) So within this editorial we will embed a journalistic time machine that captures some of the intensity of the moment at which we go to press. Of course, as with any breaking news, what we type today may look, in print, not only strangely placed in time, but also silly. This is the journal of a mostly academic association; we don’t do news, as a rule, and risk misplacing any account of the event in context as well as chronology. We can only do our best.

Regular subscribers will be resigned to hearing that “doing our best” in this instance means publishing in May 2005 an issue that should have been out two years ago. We invoke the office policy: Never Explain, Never Apologize. But we are really sorry to be so slow, and we do have a long list of explanations should you want to hear them.

As to the contents of *HIMALAYA* XXIII:2:

We add to last issue’s Maobaadi volume two more papers on the topic of the Maoist Insurgency. Meena Acharya deepens our understanding of its history and context; Kimber Haddix-McKay shows how the conflict between insurgents and government traps villagers in the crossfire, and adds a layer of misery to the lives of people in Nepal’s remote northwest.

We offer two book reviews: Sara Shneiderman, on Robert Desjarlais’ *Sensory Biographies*; John Metz, on Michael Hutt’s edited volume about the Himalayan People’s War.

We include a section of Conference Abstracts, relaying the topics under discussion by Anthropologists, Geographers, and Religious and Asian Studies practitioners in 2002 and 2003.

This issue offers glimpses of other Himalaya-related matters as well. We reprint The Shillong Declaration for Shifting Cultivation in the Eastern Himalayas, an important statement that acknowledges the complexity, deep cultural roots, and potential sustainability of the agro-forestry practice too often dismissed with the pejorative rubric, “slash-and-burn.” We stay to the east of Nepal for Anne Parker’s account of Naropa Institute’s Sikkim program, zoom out to consider the entire, volatile region with a description of the Association for Communal Harmony in Asia, check in with the Himalayan Explorers’ Club to learn about the widening concern of this group, and announce a roving talk by member-contributor Brot Coburn.

We do not, as we had hoped, include any further discussion about Robert Gersony’s Western Nepal Conflict Assessment report. No comments were forthcoming; one explanation from Nepal was that breaking events had taken over, and few people were inclined to think about the history of a movement growing rapidly in its range and impact.

And we do not provide you an extensive selection of dissertation abstracts compiled by Frank Shulman—contrary to our expectations, when we discovered that owing to a miscommunication we had run off with unedited abstracts. Our hope is to publish the properly prepared abstracts, one of the very useful inclusions in this journal, at the earliest opportunity.

That will not, alas, be the next issue, for we are finally ready to turn to the long-promised special issue on Tibetan Peoples and Landscapes, an issue full to bursting with articles and photographs. Our intention is to see the issue to press and into the mail later this summer, for a record three issues in a single academic year. We face further, potentially delaying complications thereafter, as ANHS president Arjun Guneratne joins me in editing *Himalaya*, and we make the transition to a dual-editor

structure. This happens as I take a year's sabbatical, leaving a new staff of students to manage the business of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies while producing *HIMALAYA*. Volunteer managing Editor Peggy Lindquist, if she survives the wear and tear of undertaking the lion's share of not only this volume but the next one as well, will remain nearby to help the novice Portland State student crew. With this issue we lose the services of the graduate student associate editor, Tiaan van der Linde (who may return as an author to these pages with an article based on his thesis, a study of education and Khumbu Sherpas). Mohammad Barghouty, office manager, also graduates, so we will no longer be able to exploit his business acumen and good humor. Goodbye, good luck, and thanks to these young men.

But we will be able to offer compensation for any delay in *Himalaya's* publication, for we will once again offer a calendar in the ANHS/PSU series, *Journey to High Asia*. The theme of the 2006 calendar, appropriately, is Nepal, and it is presently under construction by a 13-student "capstone" class at Portland State University. The calendar intended for 2005—on the Tibetan Peoples and Landscapes theme—will serve us in 2007; the complexities of producing a calendar in a ten-week class proved too much for us

last year (this year's class has had two 10-week terms to see the calendar through). Please order lots of calendars. Do it early and enjoy a substantial discount while helping ANHS to widen its range of activities—perhaps even to reaching a state of solvency from which we could contemplate the sort of support for young scholars ANHS has long held as a goal.

In this issue we make generous use of photographs generously offered for consideration in the next ANHS/Portland State University collaborative calendar, *Journey to High Asia, 2006—Nepal*. We insert these and other graphic images as space allows, and very much appreciate the chance to enliven our journal with pictures. Thanks to Dawn Steif, Zuzana Sodkoba, David Zurick, Nancy Green, and John Lindsey. We have also captured drawings from the hand of Sir Joseph Hooker, published in his *Himalayan Journals (1854)*. But our design-driven enthusiasm for images sometimes works against an author's purpose (see below), for which we apologize.

*HIMALAYA* welcomes your letters and submissions, and thanks you for your patience and loyalty.

*Barbara Brower, Editor*

## ERRATA, *HIMALAYA* 23.1

Judith Pettigrew (Living Between the Maoists and the Army in Rural Nepal) notes that her affiliation was not complete:

Judith Pettigrew (Dr)  
Senior Lecturer  
Lancashire School of Health and Postgraduate Medicine  
University of Central Lancashire  
Preston, PR1 2HE  
UK

She also asks that we explain that her original text was without illustrations. The editors of *Himalaya* made the selection of photographs to accompany her article based on our sense of design, and there is no other link between the images and the text.

Kanak Dixit's comments to the Roundtable Discussion on the Maoist Rebellion in Nepal lost something in transcription. He tells us:

*I said, "You should never wish revolution on another society." The purport of that is quite different from ". . . you should never wish revolution," because I do believe that people have the right to contemplate revolution but within their own societies.*

We regret any editorial carelessness or absence of judgment that might be reflected in our presentations of the work of these valued contributors.