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## Editor's Introduction

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## Editor's Introduction

This issue marks the first *Himalayan Research Bulletin* to be produced at the University of Texas. *Volume XII*, the swan song of Seattle editors Linda Iltis, Ter Ellingson and guest editor Mary DesChene, has set us a standard for content we are unlikely to meet any time soon. With support from the Center for Asian Studies, we do, however, plan to generate *Bulletins* at a somewhat faster clip; it's our hope to make up a few lost years and return the journal to a regular twice-yearly schedule of publication by 1995. This *Volume XIII* is the double issue for 1993; this year's *Volume XIV*, another double issue, should follow this fall. (Please see Note to Subscribers, below.)

We will be depending, as *Himalayan Research Bulletin* always has, on our readers in order to continue the journal. Contributions from Nepal Studies Association members are an essential element of each bulletin. We welcome ideas, articles, books to review, book reviews, information about meetings, activities, and research. Associate Editors Todd Lewis and John Metz are assuming the responsibility of compiling book reviews and conference information, respectively, and will welcome offerings from readers as well as from our cadre of contributing editors. Kamal Adhikary, who shares with me the task of putting it all together, will also function as clearinghouse for research and other news; we both encourage you to make sure this *Bulletin* reflects your interests by keeping us posted as to what those interests are.

Inevitably this journal reflects to some degree the interests of its editors, and for the first time that means a geographer's tastes and inclinations are in a position of influence. Geography is by nature a broadly inclusive discipline, and those drawn to it often suffer a wide curiosity that makes almost anybody's territory fair game; thus the *Bulletin* will not lose sight of its roots (particularly if readers are diligent about feeding us information). But there may be a tilt earthward, reflecting not only the editor's proclivities but also a strong presence on the Nepal Studies Association Board of geographers (Nanda Shrestha, John Metz), a forest historian (Richard Tucker) and a physical anthropologist (Naomi Bishop) as well as the usual representation of linguists (Krishna Pradhan) and cultural anthropologists (Bruce Owens, Mary Cameron, David Holmberg, and Todd Lewis). The conference proceedings reprinted in this issue are a reflection of that earthier interest: *Conservation for Development: Bottom-Up Strategies for the Roof of the World* addresses concerns about natural resources and human survival that lie at the heart of geographers'--as well as others'--interest in the Himalaya. The Research Reports included in this volume are similarly focused on people/environment issues.

Quite a different note is sounded by Naomi Bishop's report on the Laura Boulton Archives, a collection of traditional songs and film images from the very early 1950s. We hope that readers who may have been unaware of the existence of this archive will find the report useful, and hope to include information about other unusual and interesting resources as a regular offering of the *Bulletin*.

In addition to sharing information of mutual interest, we will be counting on *HRB's* readers for something else: tolerance. We are rookies in the publication business, and there is a great deal to learn. When I agreed to take on the *Bulletin*, it was with the idea of scaling back the journal, returning it to the more slender, modest, digestible bulletin I first received as Nepal Studies Association member. What I failed to reckon with was the explosion in Himalayan studies generated in the last decade and a half. There can be no turning back: too much is going on that needs to be shared among all of us interested in the Himalayan region. We ask you to be tolerant as we come to grips with the extent and diversity of Himalayan Studies, and as we learn to manage the electronic marvels that allow us to produce this bulletin on desktops already littered with the full array of academic responsibilities.

The production of *this* issue would have been impossible without a lot of help. Acknowledgements don't seem to be a regular feature of most journals, but for this one, this time, there are thank-yous that

must be said: The Center for Asian Studies underwrites the *Bulletin* in a number of generous ways, not least of which is the help of Karla Renaud; the Geography Department accommodates many of our office needs and, in the form of Pam Garcia, has kept this issue alive; volunteer editors Cynthia Botteran, Kim Nevius, and Tom Perreault labored over copy, and a long list of helpful friends, particularly past editors Bruce Owens and Linda Iltis and NSA president Naomi Bishop, sent cheering e-mail messages and good advice. Thanks, y'all.

And thanks to our readers for sticking with us.

*Note to Subscribers:*

In order to retain as many of the Nepal Studies Association's members as possible, we have elected to send both *Volume XII* and *Volume XIII* to any member active since 1990. Despite the support of University of Texas' Center for Asian Studies and lowered production costs in Texas, providing *Himalayan Research Bulletin* to unpaid former subscribers has required drawing down the limited coffers of the Nepal Studies Association itself. We hope to recapture both these funds and our old members, and ask you to rejoin us--retroactively, if that is appropriate. A limited-time **Moving Sale** means that you can get a very good deal on back issues of the *Bulletin*:: selected issues published between 1980 and 1986 can be had for from \$5 to \$10 a piece; 1986--1991 (*Volumes 6-11*) are available at two for \$15 (plus postage). Write us for a list of what's available.

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