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## Editorial Notes

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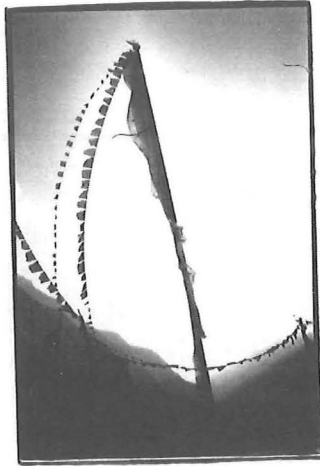
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*a word from the editor*

This issue of HRB may break past records in the tardiness of publication: it is April, 2003 as we prepare to hand over the disk to our printer, yet this issue, XXI:2, ought to have been published in the second half of 2001. Oh well; *ke garne?* Our apologies to subscribers. We continue to hope to avoid such delays, engendered this time by staffing turnover and consequent training of a series of three Editorial Associates, by our chronic budgetary problems and the time-consuming efforts to surmount them. (Read on to learn more about HRB is produced, why we struggle so with deadlines, and what we're doing to make our operations more secure and efficient.) The editors and contributors to this issue's special collection of pieces on Himachal Pradesh have been especially patient with an unconscionable delay,

and we thank them for both patience and a set of articles that is sure to advance our understanding of resource issues in Himachal: Vasant Saberwal and Mark Baker; Walter Coward, Ashwini Chhatre, SudhaVasan, Oliver Springate-Baginski, Kristin Bingeman, Kim Berry, Karen K. Gaul, B.S. Mehra, and P. K. Mathur.. And the efforts of the three geography graduate students who have shared the editorial associate position need acknowledgement as well. Jenifer Cesca and Jenny Prokos began work on the issue in 2001-2; Ryan Mitchell since fall, 2002 has invested endless hours in preparation of this issue. Grateful thanks to all.

### **Producing the Himalayan Research Bulletin at Portland State University**

*Himalayan Research Bulletin* has been produced since its inception (in 1981, when *HRB* evolved out of the Nepal Studies Association's *Newsletter*) at a sequence of universities (see below). The *Bulletin* comes to rest where it can find the volunteer editors and institutional support that permit the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (Nepal Studies Association, until our name change in 2000) to produce it. Membership dues are sufficient to cover a portion of its production expenses, but we have always needed an institutional offset of some of the costs of production.

In 1995 HRB came to Portland State University. PSU provides us office space, a phone line, and—often though not always—a Research Assistant position. This is HRB's editorial associate, a post usually filled by a graduate student in the Department of Geography who assumes many of the tasks of producing each issue, from communicating with authors and other contributors, to editing manuscript, to laying out the final copy. For the last several years we have drawn on the institution's federal Work-Study allocation to hire additional student support: HRB pays ten percent of the salary of our student office manager, who has assumed the duties of membership management and serves as the *de facto* treasurer of ANHS. These students, and others recruited periodically for such tasks as web-site development and maintenance, photography exhibit management, and cartography—who are compensated only with course credit—work under the direction of volunteer editor Barbara Brower. As the student staff's experience increases, their role in producing the journal expands, leaving Brower with the task of protecting and augmenting the support that comes from PSU—as time permits. (Brower is Professor of Geography and International Studies, employed full time in the teaching, research, and service duties of regular faculty; the HRB editorship is a sideline).

Oregon—a state ranked 44<sup>th</sup> out of 50 in its funding for higher education—was lampooned recently in the comic strip *Doonesbury* because of its endangered public education. Gary Trudeau's target was in fact the Bush administration's impact on state school funding, but he makes clear how painfully a faltering state economy and diminishing federal support can cut into public education.

We at HRB feel Oregon's shrinking support base for education in an increasingly tight university budget, and in our institution's enterprising efforts to compensate for lost state support. In this budget climate we at HRB have had to be enterprising, as well, in order to compensate for rising costs and tenuous university support.

PSU is an urban university with a public service mission—and mantra: *Let Knowledge Serve the City*. The university works hard to establish and maintain links to a wide variety of community organizations, and to demonstrate its importance to Portland through extensive outreach. The school is especially well known for its urban studies program, which is nicely complemented by Portland's reputation as a locus of sustainable city planning. Though rooted firmly in Portland and the Northwest, PSU would like to see itself as an institution with an international mission as well. The president recently inaugurated an Internationalization Initiative to reinforce connections to the world beyond the Pacific Northwest, and HRB is nicely positioned to contribute to this effort, while implementing the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies agenda as well.

The necessity for the journal to justify its existence at Portland State University and to earn more of its keep, though a burden on an otherwise over-committed staff, has energized our efforts at outreach—a fundamental mission of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies. We have been experimenting with ways to widen the reach of the organization's message, which is to increase understanding and appreciation of the Himalayan world. And we have discovered that this widening reach brings in new people, new ideas, new projects that in turn create exciting synergy and an expanding array of possibilities:

**The Annual High Asia Photography Exhibit and Contest**  
**The ANHS/PSU Himalayan Calendar series**  
**Virtual Journey to High Asia**

We are now planning the third HRB-sponsored photography exhibit, *Everest: 50 years since the First Ascent*, which invites contributions of photographs from artists around the world to a juried exhibit. The first exhibit was linked to a symposium on *Tibetan Peoples and Landscapes* (to be published as a special issue of HRB scheduled now for volume XXIII:1). Last November's *Journey to High Asia* exhibit is being developed by PSU students into a teaching calendar (described further at the end of this issue) for sale to members and others interested in watching 2004 unfold month by month in extraordinary photographs of the greater Himalayan region. The exhibit-to-calendar process is planned for next year, as well; the process draws the expertise of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies directly to PSU in the mentoring provided students whose job is to design and produce the calendar, including the information-packed captions that accompany the photographs. We hope that the calendar will at least further ANHS' mission, at best serve as a lucrative alternative source of funding to support further outreach efforts and the ongoing needs of the bulletin. Photographs speak powerfully about our region. In addition to drawing enthusiastic Portland gallery visitors, the High Asia photographs are part of an online exhibit accessible to anyone with an internet connection. And the generosity of the photographers allows us to auction off the work, allowing purchasers to deduct part of the cost (to our newly non-profit organization). Most of our exhibit photographs, contributed to ANHS by the photographers, have been purchased by online or in-person buyers (though some wonderful images are still available; check our site: <http://www.himalayan.pdx.edu/>). And we are putting the photographs, calendar components, and research together in yet another medium, a Virtual Journey to High Asia. In addition to the resources noted on ANHS' website (<http://www.maclester.edu/~guneratne/>) and the Himalayan Bulletin's, a team of students is preparing another association-sponsored web event: an online journey through High Asia to link photographs with maps and research reports—"side trips"—that will be useful and interesting to distant users.

## A new look for Himalayan Research Bulletin?

Our newfound entrepreneurial zeal here in HRB's office, as well as years of input from member-readers of the bulletin, has also generated some ideas about possible changes in HRB's look and content—though not in its fundamental job as the journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, and the pre-eminent source for information on the Himalayan region. We all are aware that there is a broad interest in the Himalayan region. Much of that interest, however, is found outside of the traditional constituency for ANHS, among mountaineers, other tourists and armchair travelers, development practitioners, and various expatriate communities. We think HRB could better serve those interests by opening up the format and adding more diverse content—increasing the journal's appeal, the ranks of its members, its fiscal security—without wavering from the organization's fundamental scholarly purposes.

We would like to create a journal more attractive and interesting to more people. Over the last ten years we have substantially increased the space in the bulletin allotted to refereed articles and special-topic symposia proceedings. In the process of increasing its scholarly girth, HRB has lost some of the user-friendly qualities that drew me, for one, to the bulletin and into the organization 20 years ago.

We raised the possibility at last year's ANHS members meeting, and offer in this issue a first-draft attempt at a change in format, created by editorial associate Ryan Mitchell, to initiate the discussion about whether and how ANHS should recraft its journal. We invite your feedback--on any and all matters.

Barbara Brower  
Portland, Oregon  
April 17, 2003

### Himalayan Research Bulletin's History of Publication



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|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1981-1988    | <b>South Asia Program, Cornell University.</b> Editors: David Holmberg, Kathryn March                                                                           |
| 1988-1990    | <b>School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.</b> Editors: Theodore Riccardi, Bruce Owens, William Fisher                                 |
| 1991-1992    | <b>Jackson School of International Studies/South Asia Center, University of Washington, Seattle.</b> Editors: Ter Ellingson, Linda Iltis, Leonard van der Kuijp |
| 1992-1994    | <b>Center for Asian Studies, University of Texas, Austin</b> Editor: Barbara Brower                                                                             |
| 1995-present | <b>Geography Department, Portland State University.</b> Editor: Barbara Brower                                                                                  |