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Letter from the President

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Letter from the President

Last year my spring letter to the membership of Nepal Studies Association included references to the Northridge earthquake and a plea to stick with us as the *Himalayan Research Bulletin* moved and reestablished itself at the University of Texas. I am pleased to report many of you did stick with us and, although the *Bulletin* has moved again, it is still in the capable hands of our editor, Barbara Brower, and we are finally caught up and close to our ideal publishing schedule (spring and fall).

The minutes of our 1994 general meeting in Madison, Wisconsin were published in the last volume of *HRB* (volume 14, nos. 1-2). Plans are afoot for next years' Conference on South Asia in Madison, with a number of panels being coordinated by our Conference Committee member, John Metz. We have less information on Himalayan-related papers planned for disciplinary meetings, and rely on our membership to keep us informed so that we can publicize these for the membership at large. If you have that information, please contact John Metz.

My letter this year is a plea of a different sort - instead of patience, we are asking for participation. The Nepal Studies Association needs help. A president, one editor, and a few board members--all of whom have full-time academic jobs as well--cannot keep the organization afloat, publish a major bulletin twice yearly, and engage in long-range planning for the organization without more assistance from the membership. We are doing all that we have time for, which is to get the *Bulletin* out on time and organize and participate in our annual meeting.

The Nepal Studies Association can be and was intended to be more than that. Our Constitution includes the possibility of many activities for our organization:

- 1) increase the visibility and impact of Nepal studies at meetings, by organizing book, photo, and/or film exhibits of recent work on Nepal;
- 2) establish and strengthen facilities in Nepal for collecting, preserving and making accessible scholarly materials;
- 3) provide support for Nepalese scholars at all levels;
- 4) organize international conferences. Each year at our general meeting, there is interest expressed for including more scholars from Himalayan countries in our annual meeting, as well as the possibility of an international conference on Himalayan topics to which we would invite European and Himalayan colleagues.

All it takes to do this is advanced work and planning - Are there any volunteers? The *Bulletin* needs the assistance of members as well. We need research news, information from disciplines about Himalayan-related activities, articles, guest editors, ideas, photographs and other (black and white or gray-scale) graphics, and suggestions.

If you are able to help, let me know what you are interested in and how I might call upon you to assist. Or, just volunteer in general and let me figure out how you could help us! Write to me c/o Department of Anthropology, CSUN, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8244 or e-mail at nbishop@huey.csun.edu. I hope to hear from many of you and look forward to an even more productive year for the Nepal Studies Association.

With my best wishes,

Naomi H. Bishop
President, Nepal Studies Association