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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

This issue of HRB is a rich and eclectic mix of material we hope will interest HRB's readers. We've drawn on the talents of a number of our members. Contributing Editor David Seddon's *AIDS in Nepal: Issues for consideration* sounds an alarm about the inevitable, and inevitably disastrous, rise of that scourge. Though sobered by its message, we are proud to present this original paper by our British colleague. Kamal Adhikary, not content with his substantial contributions to the survival of the journal during its recent tenure at the University of Texas, gives this issue *The Fruits of Panchayat Development*, drawing on a lifetime of experience and a dissertation's worth of research and analysis to present a story of development as it is played out in villages of west-central Nepal. Council member Mary Cameron offers an account of *Biodiversity Conservation and Economic Development in Nepal's Khaptad National Park: Untouchables as entrepreneurs and conservation stewards*. This discussion of an effort to integrate anthropology's insights with biology's concerns has waited too long in HRB's files; our apologies to its author and thanks for her patience. Intriguing and quite different Research Reports come to us from here on the West Coast: University of Oregon emeriti Norman Sundberg and Thomas Ballinger share their work from the early 1950s on *Nepalese Children's Drawings: A summary of early research and suggestions for the future*. A small sample of the drawings they collected and offer for further research is included in their report--and brought this *Bulletin's* preparation to a screeching halt as we struggled with incorporating the graphic into the text. From farther west, at the University of Hawai'i, comes Karl Ryavec's field note about *Cartographic Survey of Dzong Sites in Central Tibet*. Mr. Ryavec has also been patient with HRB, and his maps, too, engendered a day or two of headaches--but all's well that ends well.

This issue offers in addition the usual range of features: Todd Lewis has elicited an array of book reviews; John Metz and Mary Cameron have helped to compile our Conference Digest; our ever-helpful Contributing Editor Nirmal Tuladhar provides a window on scholarly activity in Nepal. Members have been helpful in providing us with information about conferences, research in progress, and other news. We introduce with this issue an element we hope to expand in future volumes, a Letters section, with a thoughtful contribution from Rasoul Sorkhabi. We would like to draw the attention of NSA members to the special section devoted to the organization's news: the minutes of last fall's annual members meeting, and a proposal for an amendment to the Nepal Studies Association Constitution. Please read through the proposed constitutional change, and, in this year already so burdened with elections, cast your vote yay or nay in NSA's--and enjoy, as Oregonians do, the convenience of a mail ballot.

This introduction might better be labeled "Acknowledgments," for as usual this issue comes finally to life at the hands of a long list of generous assistants. The usual line-up to be heaped with thanks includes NSA president Naomi Bishop, who struggled to organize the minutes of the member's meeting, and continues her major efforts on behalf of the *Bulletin* and NSA organization. Council members John Metz, Mary Cameron, and Todd Lewis support the continued production of HRB by their willingness to share the burden of assembling its components; we're glad to add David Holmberg, our newly designated Council Coordinator for Research, to that list. Thanks are due this issue's book reviewers, Jana Fortier, Heather Hindman, Elizabeth Caspari, Mary Des Chene, and Ron Davidson. We appreciate Nirmal Tuladhar's dependable flow of information about what goes on in Kathmandu. Thanks, of course, go also to Editorial Assistants past and present. Kamal Adhikary continues to mop up after HRB at the University of Texas. Jason Wells, newly graduated geography major, was a spectacularly helpful successor to the *Bulletin's* first PSU helper, Charles Allen. Jason's nimble young synapses weren't slowed for an instant by the electronic complexities of maintaining member records and readying material for the *Bulletin*. Though his official tenure as HRB assistant ended in December, we've made substantial *ad hoc* use of his talents since. The *Bulletin's* newest assistant, PSU undergraduate Tenzing Gyazu Sherpa, is a man of many talents acquired in a life as trekking guide, field research assistant, student in two hemispheres, and man-about-Namche; he is working hard to add the high-tech skill this job requires to his list, and simultaneously serves as HRB's tri-lingual receptionist and factotum. *Himalayan Research Bulletin* survives because of the generosity of Portland State University, and we gratefully acknowledge its continuing support. Thanks to Jim and Rocky of the computer help desk, who came by to figure out why our graphics were being so recalcitrant. The Geography Department, already generous to the *Bulletin* and its producers, has outdone itself: a mailing error, which would have been enormously

costly to *HRB's* limited coffers, was made up from the department's own scarce funds. Special thanks to Carolyn Perry and Chair Dan Johnson.

Portland, Oregon is a hotbed of Himalayanists and talented people with generous spirits. We would like to thank Elizabeth Enslin, for help that included typing in Nepali text from the *CNAS Bulletin* (subsequently excised by our intolerant printer--the department hardware, **not** highly tolerant Express Graphics in Portland). Paul Kalmas, who is, alas, about to leave Portland, not only provides this issue its cover images by the 19th century Italian photographer Vittorio Sella, he also contributed his exemplary editorial skills to its production.

I had hoped never again to have to apologize for a tardy *Himalayan Research*, but this issue, intended for publication in November, 1995, goes to the printer in March of 1996. Sorry. We have every hope that our next issue, volume XVI number 1, will be out on schedule, at the beginning of the summer. In that issue, expect to find a collection of papers from last fall's Madison meetings, set in the western Himalaya-Hindukush, some extraordinary photographs by the Maine photographer Kenneth Hanson, two of the *Bulletin's* annual features--an updated members directory and Frank Shulman's collection of Himalayan dissertations--and a look at Recent Publications since we last took note in Volume XIV.

We depend, of course, on member contributions in order to enrich the *Bulletin*, and ask our readers to continue to supply us. (Note that communicating with *HRB* and its Portland-based staff has become easier: we tap Portland State's 1-800 number, and members may call us for free.)

Barbara Brower
Editor, *Himalayan Research Bulletin*

Information Sought: Sherpas and Solukhumbu

Himalayan Research Bulletin's editorial staff is preparing a special issue on the Sherpa and Solukhumbu. We seek publications lists, short synopses of research, historical notes, and information about resources of all kinds relating to the place and people. We would like to include original unpublished work, and invite the submission of (short) scholarly articles, personal reflections, photographs or other expressive work. We are particularly interested in including work done by Solukhumbu Sherpas themselves. The objective is a comprehensive reference tool to serve anyone with an interest in the region and its people. We begin with the Sherpa and Solukhumbu, as the area we know best, and hope to produce future issues around particular themes that fall within the interests and expertise of our readers. We invite proposals for such special issues, as well as contributions to the one presently in the works.

Please send your contributions and ideas to:

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