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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

The last volume of **Himalayan Research** stretched the boundaries of the Himalaya into the Karakoram. This year we intend instead to circumscribe our geographic foci, though with no corresponding constriction of topics. On the contrary. The Kathmandu Valley takes center stage in this issue, yet those narrow boundaries embrace a set of wide ranging papers. Two offerings are concerned with language, but even here there is diversity. Linguist Daya Shakya begins this issue by explaining the way that classifiers work in Nepal Bhasa--the language also known as Newari. (Daya was very brave to submit this exacting scholarly piece to the attentions of a linguistically challenged editor. We hope that he has caught all the flaws that sneaked in during an extended series of reformattings and other adjustments.) Ethnomusicologist David Henderson contributes an essay also on language--the words used by Newari and Nepali speakers to talk about music. David lost his article's title, its dashes, and a number of adjectives to the editor, but as a former student he knew what to expect, and can have no cause for complaint. His subject is what music means and the way music works in contemporary Kathmandu. Mark Leichty, too, provides us a contemporary cultural topic in his study of film, fashion, and the historic connections between them in Kathmandu. Jim Fisher offered us his interview with Dor Bahadur Bista, and **Current Anthropology** lets us reprint it. We are grateful to both, but are perhaps even more grateful for Dor Bahadur Bista himself, who has long been a friend to scholars from many places and disciplines in addition to his own anthropology. Linguistics, to ethnomusicology, to popular culture, to biography to . . . garbage: Scott Becker, late of Portland State University's School of Urban Affairs, tells about the work of CEAPRED's recycling corps in Lalitpur. The Kathmandu Valley theme is rounded out in a book review contributed by ex-**HRB** editor Bruce Owens, who analyzes *Kirtipur: An Urban Community in Nepal - its people, town planning, architecture, and arts*, edited by Mehrdad and Natalie H. Shokoohy.

But it wouldn't do to become too myopic, and we are saved from exclusive preoccupation with the valley by research reports that take us far afield and back in time. Philippe Foret, late of the University of Texas and now at University of Oklahoma, introduces us to his current research on the early 20th century geographer-explorer-promoter Sven Hedin, whose "unexplored white patches" included Central Asia and Tibet. Douglas Freshfield, a little earlier, recruited Vittorio Sella for an exploratory venture to the eastern Himalaya. Paul Kalmes, curator of the magnificent Sella photograph collection and editor-at-large for **HRB** shares an account of this venture.

This issue's CONFERENCE DIGEST includes abstracts for several meetings (American Academy of Religion, American Anthropological Association, Association of American Geographers) and notice of a number of others. Next issue we expect to reprint abstracts for several other unusual meetings, including two reported briefly here: the International Workshop on Dynamics of Land-Use/Land-Cover Change in the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, held in Kathmandu in April, and the 8th Colloquium of the International Association for Ladakh Studies just finished at Aarhus University in Denmark.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS is a little thin this issue--contributions submitted by Bruce Owens and borrowed from **Mountain Research and Development** aside. We remind readers that **Himalayan Research Bulletin** is a cooperative venture, and needs your contributions. Book reviews are managed by Todd Lewis; please contact him at the address on the masthead. RESEARCH REPORTS, too, suffers from a shortage of contributions. Please let us know what you are doing. In particular we seek information for the next installment of Graduate Student NETWORKING, to appear in volume XVII number 2 along with updated MEMBER DIRECTORY and DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS. We've had to make our own NEWS at Portland

State in order to fill in this section; please help us to avoid this in the future. Of course we are proud that **Himalayan Research Bulletin** is contributing (in a very small way) to this summer's Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad venture, *Teachers Workshop in Nepal*. This project not only continues Oregonians long-held interest in education in Nepal, initiated and fortified by the late Hugh Woods; we hope it also will generate local enthusiasm for things Himalayan and an expanded symbiosis of Himalayanists of the Pacific Northwest and **HRB's** resources and mission. That mission includes outreach most broadly defined, and we count on readers to help. We have been forced, too, to draw from local collections of photographs for illustrations in this issue. PLEASE consider contributing some of your best black and white work, or perhaps other readily reproduced graphics, for future issues.

One further exhortation for contributions by readers. This is the last call for submissions to Volume XVII, number 2: the special issue, guest edited by Tenzing Gyazu Sherpa, which will focus on Solukhumbu and the Sherpa. We are grateful to those who have already given us original articles, stories, and other materials; the editors would welcome further submissions of short articles, bibliographies, research reports, photographs and maps. We plan a September printing date, and request all contributions by September 1st.

Volume XVII number 1 goes now to the printer because of the efforts of a number of essential helpers. This issue has worn out a record three assistants: former student assistants Kathleen O'Connor and Jason Wells have left Portland State entirely, and are considerably missed; Amy Jo Woodruff, who replaces them, is home sick. This issue taps the photo libraries of Daniel Miller and Daya Shakya, and recycles a couple of **HRB's** past covers: the misty Swayambhu stupa by ex-editor Ter Ellingson, and Vittorio Sella's Lepcha travelers (used in the absence of the photograph of Jannu that Freshfield's account tells about). We appreciate the willingness of Rita Shakya-Parish and her family to grace our pages. Yet more thanks: to Paul Kalmes and the Sella family, for the Vittorio Sella print of Lepchas on the trail; to Julia Reismann, for translation; to Daya Shakya and David Henderson, for editorial assistance; to Amy Jo Woodruff, for hanging in there; to Carolyn Perry, for eternal patience; to Rosemary, Katy, and Jan, for tolerating frozen pizza and otherwise accommodating the demands that journal production make of the editor.

Please remember the Nepal Studies Association's annual meeting, to be held October 18th in Madison at the 26th Annual Conference on South Asia.

