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## Members Meeting Minutes *Nepal Studies Association, October 1997*

The Nepal Studies association annual members meeting was opened by John Metz, the new president, and new members of the Council introduced themselves. Council members are:

Mark Baker (Environmental Studies Program, University of North Carolina, Asheville)  
Paul Benjamin (US AID, Madison, Wisconsin)  
Mary DesChene (SINHAS, Kathmandu)  
Jim Fisher (Department of Anthropology/Sociology, Carleton College, Minnesota)  
Arjun Guneratne (Anthropology Department, Macalaster College)  
John Metz (Department of Geography/History, Northern Kentucky University)  
Kalyani Rai (Center for Urban Community Development, University of Wisconsin Outreach and Extension)  
Selma--Sam--Sonntag (Department of Political Science, Humboldt State University)  
Martijn van Beek (Dept. of Ethnography & Social Anthropology, Aarhus University, Denmark)

Barbara Brower noted that the board membership reflects the true regional identity of the Nepal Studies Association and broad scope of the *HRB*: we take in the whole sweep of Himalaya-Hindukush, not just Nepal.

Arjun Guneratne introduced his efforts to create a web site for the Nepal Studies Association, with the rationale that everyone else has one, and that it would be very useful for teaching and research. He proposed that the categories of information to be included be: membership, a list and table of contents of past issues of the Himalayan Research Bulletin; details about the current issue; Research/Teaching resources (which could include course syllabi, book reviews, bibliographies, films and videos); and links with Nepal sites and other South Asian sites. He then requested that members contribute to the site in research/teaching resources, and a list was circulated among those present to that end. Arjun requested that materials be submitted in digital form to <http://www.macalester.edu/~guneratne/index.html>

Mary DesChene then promoted *Contributions to the Studies in Nepalese History and Society*, and solicited contributions to that journal. She also made note of the Kathmandu Post review of book forum, which constitutes a general invitation to submit reviews, and suggested that we might link our site to the SINHAS book review page.

Proposals for upcoming panels in next year's Madison meetings were solicited, and included: Ethnic Politics, suggested by Susan Hangen, graduate student at University of Wisconsin in anthropology; Gender, proposed by Andrea Nightingale, graduate student; material culture of Kathmandu, proposed by Mohan Shrestha, Bowling Green; human rights in Nepal, suggested by Jim Fisher; insurgency, suggested by Steve Mikesell; and a panel on natural sciences, perhaps focusing on environmental change and air pollution, was suggested by Arnico Panday.

Naomi Bishop reminded us that it is useful to let conference organizers know about panels early, and Barbara Brower suggested that if we submit panels as sponsored by NSA then they will not overlap. She also suggested that we need to be intra-regional and interdisciplinary in scope. Mary DesChene noted that the Asian Studies Association produces publications on teaching that might help in this regard. Susan Hangen echoed the need for interdisciplinary approaches, and a suggestion was made that we initiate a pre-conference on this issue.

Arnico Panday requested funding for Nepalese scholars and it was noted that we have attempted to get such funding in the past and that one needs two years to plan for such support. Subharna Pradhan suggested that we use our home page to coordinate grant searches, and John Metz asked for a volunteer to seek out funding. It was also suggested that we keep in mind the option of adding requests to support bringing Nepalese scholars to this conference to other grant projects.

The President then called for the Treasurer's report: Barbara Brower noted our tax-free account maintained through her former association with the University of Texas is the reason that she remains treasurer. She then explained that membership dues support activities, *HRB* production and mailing costs, and that in June *HRB* will be entirely dependent upon membership dues for support. She then suggested that this will necessitate an increase in rates, and offered all present the opportunity to pay for subscription renewal at the prior rate. She also offered to sell *HRB* posters for 2.00 each. The treasurer went on to state that a 15-hour-per-week assistant has been essential to the survival of the Bulletin, and that she therefore would like additional funds for support, and made a request for ideas. Possibilities raised included selling advertisements and finding other members. The treasurer announced that she will send out membership renewal invoices, and explained that NSA operates on a calendar year. It was noted that the International Association for Asian Studies Bulletin would publish NSA announcements and table of contents. In her other capacity as *HRB* editor in chief, Prof. Brower stated that those assembled may not know all that *HRB* strives to do; noting that it regularly provides information on recent publications, book reviews, and conferences in addition to publishing articles, and that the editor counts on NSA members and members of the council to make it happen, and requested materials for submission.

John Metz adjourned the meeting at 7:07.