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Editor's Introduction and Forthcoming Issue 19:2

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editor's introduction

Articles in this issue of *Himalayan Research* reflect the diversity of regional and topical interests among our contributors and readers. Aparna Rao summarizes the complex underpinnings of the current crisis in Kashmir, and achieves both insight and balance in explaining the seemingly inexorable escalation in tension that makes the situation so alarming. Contributing editor Philippe Forêt shares the results of his many months' work in the archives of the National Museum of Ethnography of Stockholm: his *Catalogue of the Sven Hedin Map Library*. We reproduce maps from the collection with some misgivings because of the limitations of our graphics-handling capability, but hope they will convey some of their magic. Kimber Haddix introduces her research among women in Humla, comparing the lives and marriage practices of the Limi and Karnali valleys.

Book reviews ensure that no corner of the region is neglected, as reviewers take up works from the western Himalaya, Dolpo, Nepal, and Tibet. Donatella Rossi's review of Per Kvaerne's work provides us our cover photograph, leant to *HRB* by the author. Dr. Rossi, international expert on Bön, represents a piece of local serendipity, for she is a resident of Portland we hope to draw on further in the future. This city also provides us the work of another reviewer, *Oregonian* columnist and old Nepal hand Jonathan Nicholas, who review's Corneille Jest's *Tales of the Tourquoise*. Gray Tuttle review's Nietupski's work on Labrang and provides a lesson in history as ancillary benefit. We tap Nepal Studies Association in-house resources Todd Lewis (recently retired as book reviews editor) and Mark Baker (NSA Secretary) for reviews, of *Natural Premises: Ecology and Peasant Life in the Western Himalaya*, by Chetan Singh, and David Gellner and colleagues' *Nationalism and Ethnicity in a Hindu Kingdom: The Politics of Culture in Contemporary Nepal*, respectively.

The eclectic nature of these articles and reviews mirrors the variety evident in our members, and helps to explain the rationale for the item of Nepal Studies Association business also introduced in this issue. Members are asked to consider an amendment to the NSA constitution which will, if passed, cost us our handy acronym but reconcile who we are and what we do with the name of the organization. The 1999 Members Meeting endorsed the consideration of changing the name to *Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies*. We present that amendment here, and invite comments, to be published in the following issue, whereupon members will be asked for their votes.

The other matter of business to be addressed here is the parceling out of thanks to those whose efforts contributed to this issue. First thanks must go to patient members, who have had to wait too long for this issue. We have added to our usual delays (in receiving and formatting documents, finding time in over-filled schedules, equipment failures) an additional array. Seasoned Editorial Assistant Amy Jo Woodruff left us for greener pastures (The National Geographic); we have a wonderful replacement in Marc Weber, but there has been some learning to do. Another major hurdle has been our search for nonprofit status. With the help of Portland CPA and *HRB* benefactress Rosemary Barrett (thank you, Rosey), NSA applied for 501 (c) 3 status with the Internal Revenue Service. We hope that this status will facilitate our search for funds to continue to produce the journal despite a climate of increasing austerity in institutions of higher learning everywhere but perhaps particularly in Oregon. Negotiating 501 (c) 3 status has been a learning experience both for our helpful IRS agent and for us; miscommunications and misunderstandings have plagued our efforts, but we hope we are now on track.

So, as usual, we have excuses for being tardy in the publication of this issue of *Himalayan Research*, and as usual we appreciate the patience of readers and institutional subscribers who are particularly inconvenienced. Our contributors have been very patient, as well. Kimber Haddix and Philippe Forêt have been expecting to see their work in print since last summer or earlier. Aparna Rao knew better than that, since she was only asked for her contribution late last fall, and rising to what then seemed an imminent deadline, provided her piece from halfway around the world almost overnight (this, though my paper for her has been overdue for six months). Additionally I want to thank Amy Jo Woodruff (she was thanked last issue but went on to help with much of the preparation for this one, so thanks are again due), and Marc Weber for taking up the trying task of editorial assistant; volunteer librarian Jean Fitsimmons and new Office Manager Kathleen Jongeward, who have in a few afternoons created of the cramped and disorderly *HRB* office a clean, well-lighted resource space for Himalayan studies; Carolyn Perry, the Geography Department's retiring administrator, who used her vast and intricate knowledge of the workings of Portland State University many times to the good of *HRB*; Kim Brown, Vice Provost for International Studies, who encourages us to think that the Himalayas are not too far afield to be considered within the mission of this urban state institution.

Barbara Brower

February 9, 2000

Forthcoming:

HIMALAYAN RESEARCH BULLETIN 19:2

THE TARAI

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ARTICLES

- Gisele Krauskopff (CNRS-Universite de Paris X), "A Marshland Culture: Fishing and trapping among a farming people of the Tarai"
- Arjun Guneratne (Macalester College), "The shaman and the priest: 'ghost' belief and mortuary rituals in Tharu society."
- Joanne Mclean (Charles Sturt University), "Conservation and the impact of Relocation on the Tharus of Chitwan, Nepal."
- Thomas E. Cox (Independent scholar), "The Intended and Unintended Consequences of AIDS Prevention Programs Among Badi in Tulsipur"

BOOK REVIEWS

- James Laine (Macalester College), review of *The Tharu Barka Naach: A Rural Folk Art Version of the Mahabharata*. Kurt Meyer and Pamela Deuel, eds. Los Angeles: Deuel Purposes, 1998.
- James Fisher (Carleton College), review of *In the Circle of the dance: Notes of an outsider in Nepal*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999

RESEARCH REPORT

- Ulrike Müller-Böker (University of Zurich), "Voices from Chitawan: Some Examples of the Tharus' Oral Tradition"

DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS, RECENT PUBLICATIONS, and the CONFERENCE DIGEST