



HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

Volume 19
Number 2 *Himalayan Research Bulletin; Special
Topic: The Tharu*

Article 3

1999

Editor's Introduction

Barbara Brower

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya>

Recommended Citation

Brower, Barbara. 1999. Editor's Introduction. *HIMALAYA* 19(2).

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol19/iss2/3>

This Other is brought to you for free and open access by the DigitalCommons@Macalester College at DigitalCommons@Macalester College. It has been accepted for inclusion in HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Macalester College. For more information, please contact scholarpub@macalester.edu.



Editor's introduction

This issue of Himalayan Research turns its back on its namesake highlands to explore a people of the plain: the Tharu. Arjun Guneratne has assembled a collection of papers that illuminate the lives of a Nepali people whose home was the riverine forests of the Tarai. Once almost alone in that landscape, the Tharu now share their largely deforested territory with relocated hill dwellers, Indian immigrants, and tourists drawn to the protected areas that encompass much of what is left of the Tharu's forest.

Once again in this issue we visit the question of a change in name for the Nepal Studies Association, reprinting the commentary received from members about the amendment that would change the organization to the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies. Contributing Editor Nirmal Tuladhar, affiliated with the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, endorses the change along with members John Metz and Allen Fanger. Former NSA council member and frequent HRB contributor Nanda Shrestha is alone but passionate in his objections. We publish a quick survey of NSA's member roster, which has been adding names at a small but steady rate over the last seven years; it shows us to be a group with wide-ranging regional interests as well as a strong commitment to Nepal. The amendment goes to members for their votes following publication of this issue, and we will report results in the next.

Alert readers will note some changes in format. We have made the leap to a desktop publishing program (Adobe PageMaker 6.5) after seven years of producing HRB using MS Word 5.1. This switch has shifted the burden of production to editorial assistant Marc Weber, who has learned the new program and taken on many of the responsibilities that used to fall to the editor (who alone knew--and loved--the deepest intricacies of the increasingly obsolete old Word, and who so far refuses to learn PageMaker). We hope that the more appropriate and flexible software will energize HRB's format without taking us too far into a new look: tell us what you think. With this issue we move as well to a new printer, after five happy years with Portland-based Express Copy; we are hopeful but nervous.

Deferred to HRB 20:1 are Frank Shulman's compendium of Dissertation Abstracts, the expanded report on Recent Publications prepared by Gregory Mascarinec, and abstracts from several recent conferences. We hope to finish and mail that issue within the next few months, bringing HRB into the new millennium with our usual half-year time lag. We thank subscribers for their patience, Arjun Guneratne his editorial efforts, contributors for their papers. And we mourn, with Ganesh Man Gurung and others who knew her, the loss of a woman originally intended as a contributor to this special issue on the Tharu: Sigrun Eide Odegaard.

Barbara Brower
May 2000