Fall 1985

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**SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PUBLISHES NEW JOURNAL -- INSIDE ASIA**

The launching of a new journal Inside Asia in Britain provides an excellent opportunity for those concerned with current affairs and issues of importance in whatever field in the Himalayan region to write for a wider readership than is usual for academics. So far, Piers Blaikie, of the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia has contributed an article on environmental degradation in Nepal, called "Soil slides south" (in the March-May 1985 issue); forthcoming articles include a piece on the political economy of Nepal (again by Piers Blaikie) and another on industrial development and the working class in Nepal, by David Seddon, of the School of Development Studies at the University of East Anglia, in the September-November 1985 and December-February 1986 issues respectively.

Those interested in subscribing or in writing, should contact the editors at Inside Asia, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ England.

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1984 Traditional Arts and Crafts of Nepal. Pub. India, Cat. no. 517.

Order from: Ratna Pustak Bhandar
Bhotahity, Post Box 98
Kathmandu, Nepal

Price: NRs 217.50
Kleiner, Christian
1983  Seidlung und Umwelt im Zentralen Himalaya. 269 p., 91 black and white plates, hand-drawn map, tables describing various settlement and house designs. Text in German.

This book examines the settlements in the Central Himalayas as part of the landscape and attempts to understand the present settlement types within the context of all operative ecological factors. The overriding influence of the highest mountain range on earth, pervading the spheres of settlement and economy of the local people, has emerged as the leitmotif of this work.

The first part of the thesis deals with house and settlement types in a regional survey. The data collected during the author's field work and through study of documentary sources are arranged into several profiles extending from the foot of the mountains to the north slope of the high ranges. In the second part, the house and settlement types distinguished during the regional survey are examined by dealing with the various settlement elements separately; they are subsequently arranged typologically. The effect of the various ecological factors on the settlements and their utilization or, rather, alteration by the local people is dealt with in the concluding third part.

The thesis proceeds from a recognition of the diversity of forms in the many valleys of the mountain system to a comprehension of the forces operating behind the various phenomena. In the concluding part an attempt is made at assessing and evaluating the effects of the various ecological factors.

Population growth with the resulting pressure on land, progressive deforestation, and soil erosion strain the carrying capacity of the soil and endanger the equilibrium between settlement and environment. The decline of trans-Himalayan trade has initiated a process of settlement desertion in many of the high valleys of Western Nepal. The utilization of traditional winter pastures -- complementary economic areas of vital importance to the mountain populations -- for cultivation of winter wheat within the framework of agricultural intensification programs, deprives numerous semi-nomadic population groups in the high-mountain areas, such as the Manthara-Khampas in Western Nepal, of part of their livelihood. The deteriorating living-conditions in the high mountain areas may lead to an increase in further migration into the Terai from those parts of the mountain ranges that have been made uninhabitable through destruction of natural resources and also to increasing pressure for seasonal work in the Terai and in the cities of India.

Road construction and tourism open up further parts of the mountain ranges to technical and economic development and may lead to change in the traditional ways of house building and settlement patterns. On the other hand, concentration of developmental and planning activities in a few focal areas (in Nepal e.g. Terai and Kathmandu Valley) aggravates already existing regional disparities. While an alarming process of change takes place in regions "favorable" for development, which to a large extent causes complete obliteration of the cultural inheritance, the gulf separating these "favored" areas from the more disadvantaged regions in the interior of the mountains grows. These latter areas increasingly take on the character of refuges for the traditional culture. If developments of economics and communications in the Himalayas continue in the direction emphasized during the last two decades, autochthonous house and settlement types characteristic of high mountain environment will soon be found only in the cul-de-sacs of remote lateral valleys -- as has been happening in the European Alps since the beginning of this century.
The objective of this thesis is to document -- at least in some parts of the Central Himalayas -- the diversity of forms of traditional house-building and settlement patterns, before its possibly unavoidable demise and to trace its relationship with the environment.

(Adapted from the book's summary in English)

Order from: Franz Steiner Verlag
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Knight
1984
Kashmir and Tibet. Delhi, xvi, 385 p., 17 leaves of plates. (History.)

Order from Nataraj Books (address above)

Price: US $59.00

Knowles, John Hinton
1985

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Koul, Omkar N. and Peter Edwin Hook, eds.
1984

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Lekden, Kensun and Tsong-kha-pa
1985

Compassion in Tibetan Buddhism presents methods for generating compassion according to oral and written traditions of Tibetan Buddhism.

Part One: Meditations of a Tantric Abbot is by Kensur Lekden (1900-1971), former abbot of the Tantric College of Lower Lhasa, Tibet.

Contents: Action; Cyclic Existence; Altruism; Love and Compassion; Assuming the Burden; Wisdom; Nagarjuna; Are the Person and Mind and Body the Same or Different?; Nothingness is not Emptiness; Summary: The Supreme Practitioner.

Part Two: Way of Compassion is a work by Tibet's great 14th-century saint and scholar, Tsong-kha-pa, entitled Illumination of the Thought.

Contents: In Praise of Compassion; Illumination of the Thought; Homage to Compassion; Causes of Bodhisattvas; Types of Compassion; The Inexpressible Trail; Very Joyful; Hinayanists Cognize Emptiness; Liberation is Impossible Without Wisdom of Emptiness; Distinction Between Hinayana and Mahayana; Perfection of Giving; Perfection of Ethics; Perfection of Patience; Perfections of Effort and Concentration.
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MacDonald, A.W.
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Numata, Makoto (ed.)


Each of these volumes contains a detailed account of a mountaineering expedition, followed by reports on various ecological investigations (including studies of forests, grasslands, and other vegetation) that were carried out by team members.

For more information contact:
The Himalayan Committee of Chiba University
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Pradhan, Kumar
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Rinbochay, Khetsun Sangpo

Khetsun Sangpo Rinbochay is one of several Nying-ma lamas capable of transmitting in complete form the special precepts of Nying-ma.

Rinbochay's commentary on Instructions on the Preliminaries of the Great Perfection Teachings called Heart Essence of Vast Openness, the Sacred Word of Lama Gunsang by Ba-drul Jik-may-cho-gi-wang-bo elucidates the classical Nying-ma presentation of the preparatory Tantric paths including detailed teachings on the special internal practices of the mind of enlightenment, Vajrasattva meditation, offering mandala, the Chod practice of cutting attachment, and others.
Also included is a special presentation of the Dzok-chen or Great Perfection. Teachings of this higher path were once quite difficult to obtain, requiring extensive and lengthy preparation. This presentation of Dzok-chen provides a glimpse into the higher reaches of Tantric realization and vividly reveals the practicality that is at the root of all religious endeavor.

Contents: Part one -- Common External Preparatory Practices: Introduction; Motivation; Listening to Instructions; Opportunities and Conditions; Meditation of Impermanence; Faults of Cyclic Existence; Suffering; Cause and Effect of Actions; Benefits of Liberation and Reliance on a Spiritual Guide; Part Two -- Special Internal Preparatory Practices: Refuge; Mind of Enlightenment; Offering Mandala; Cutting Attachment; Guru Yoga; Vajrasattva Meditation; Part Three -- The Great Perfection; Part Four -- Daily Recitation And Meditation.

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Price: US $10.95 paper, US $16.00 cloth

Rinbochay, Lati
1985

Understanding mind is essential to understanding Buddhism in both its theoretical and practical aspects, for the process of achieving enlightenment is one of systematically purifying and enhancing the mind. Buddhist practitioners in the great Tibetan monasteries of Lhasa began their inquiry into mind by studying The Presentation of Awareness and Knowledge. Using this important text as his basis Lati Rinbochay, present abbot of the Shar-dzay College of Gan-den Monastery, provides rich and extensive commentary. In her introduction, Elizabeth Napper explains the context of this work within the Indian and Tibetan traditions and outlines the principal divisions of mind.

Contents: Introduction; Translation -- Consciousness; Direct Perceivers; Inferential and Subsequent Cognizers; Non-Cognizing Awareness; Division of Awareness and Knowledge into Three Prime Cognizers; Other Twofold Divisions of Awareness and Knowledge.

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Price: U.S. $8.95 paper

Rinbochay, Lati and Jeffrey Hopkins
1985

Lati Rinbochay's commentary is accompanied by a translation of Lamp Thoroughly Illuminating the Presentation of the Three Basic Bodies -- Death, Intermediate State and Rebirth by the Tibetan yogi-scholar, Yang-jen-ga-way-lo-dro.

Contents: Death, Intermediate State and Rebirth; Introduction; The Stages of Death; The Intermediate State; Taking Birth; Stopping Death.

Order from Snow Lion Publications


Shakabpa, Tsepon W.D.
1984
This book is an account of the Tibetan nation, from its earliest civilizations up to the tragedy of the current Chinese occupation. Though Tibet has long captured the imagination of the world, its actual history and the role it has played in the Asian political arena are less well known.

Drawing on original Tibetan documents, government archives and ancient chronicles, as well as recent Western academic research, the author relates the fascinating chapters of Tibet's history with the astute understanding of an inside observer. Beginning with Tibet's Yalung dynasty and its military domination of medieval Asia, the narrative continues through the official adoption of Indian Buddhism, Tibet's influence in the Mongol court of Kublai Khan, the rise to political power of the Dalai Lamas, and Tibet's struggles with foreign expansionism.

In the final chapters the author, himself an official in the Tibetan government at that time, gives a first-hand account of the Chinese invasion in 1950, the Tibetan resistance and eventual uprising, and the mass exodus of refugees across the Himalayas into India and abroad.

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Shrestha, S.
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Toffin, Gérard
Newar civilization, social organization (kinship, association and caste) and the different aspects of their religion (pantheon, festivals, daily rituals) are described and analyzed in detail. The author's thesis is that religious concepts are acting at every level of this society and that ritual provides the key elements to understand its different aspects. The book also intends to illustrate the great diversity of people and traditions found among the Newars, especially through a comparative study of a rural locality and of a small town, and to point out the common elements on which rests its unity. The analysis is based on a continuous swing between the particular and the general, the monographic study and the global approach, the two fields completing each other in a dialectical way. Society and Religion Among the Newars of Nepal tries furthermore to situate this ethnic group culturally, particularly in connection with India, from which the Newars received most of their civilization and with which they maintained a close contact from the very beginning. The tremendous impact of India compels the author to compare the social and religious observed facts with the Hindu and Buddhist canonical religious tradition. In spite of the all-pervading Indian influence, some authentic Newar elements belonging to an old autochthonous tradition are nevertheless still present. By the diversity of the subjects dealt with, and by the particular relevance of the Newars to the history and the culture of Nepal, this book constitutes a general introduction to the study of Nepalese civilization.

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or

SMPF
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Yadav, Sohan Ram

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Yasin, Madhvi

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Zarin, Mohammad Manzar and Ruth Laila Schmidt
1984 Discussions with Hariq: Land Tenure and Transhumance in Indus Kohistan.

An account of the history and traditions of Indus Kohistan as narrated by an elder of Palas to the Pakistani scholar, Mohammad Manzar Zarin. Both Zarin's questions and Hariq's answers are recorded in the text, which also includes commentary by the authors and a glossary of Shina terms.

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*PUBLICATIONS FROM THE VÖLKERKUNDEMUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

Brauen, M. (ed.)
1984 Nepal: Leben und Überleben. 248 p., 123 plates (25 color); tables; maps; bibliographies. Text in German.

Price: (Swiss Franc) 26

Brauen, M.
1974 Heinrich Harrer's Impressions of Tibet. (Heinrich Harrer's Impressions of Tibet). 244 p., 146 plates (40 color), maps.

Price: (Swiss Franc) 20

Brauen, M.
1980 Festivals in Ladakh. (Festivals in Ladakh) 186 p., 105 plates (51 color), 12 Strichzeichnungen pams.

Price: (Swiss Franc) 77

Brauen, M.
The Volume II, Number 3 (August 1984) issue of Contributions to Nepalese Studies includes the following articles:

2. "An Error Analysis of Nepali Learners of English" by Ananda Shrestha
3. "Prithvinarayan's Relations with Caubisi Principalities, 1752-66" by L.S. Baral
4. "Family Type and Fertility in Rural Nepal" by Y.B. Karki
5. "Changing Patterns of a Subsistent Economy" by Claus Euler
6. "Tamang Settlement and Subsistence Economy: Observations in an Eastern Nepalese Village (Sindhu Palchowk)" by Christoph Antweiler
7. "Karnali Pradeshka raaja aadityamallako shaake 1238 ko tamprpatra"... by Rajaraam Subedi

Book Review

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Both these journals are published by the Research Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies at Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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*SPECIAL ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL OF NEPAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY*

Project reports on a study of crustal movements in the Nepal Himalayas are published in the Journal of Nepal Geological Society Volume 4 (May 1984) and Volume 2 (May 1982). See "Research News," this issue, for a project summary. The special journal issues include the following articles:

Volume 4, May 1984
-- "Outline of the study on the crustal movements in the Nepal Himalayas II." by Koshiro KIZAKI
-- "Geology and structure of the Jajarkot-Piuthan area, central Nepal." by Kazunori ARITA, Toran SHARMA and Yasushi FUJII
-- "Observations on the geology of the Karnali region, west Nepal." by Daigoro HAYASHI, Yasushi FUJII, Toshifumi YONESHIRO and Koshiro KIZAKI
-- "Stratigraphy of Tansen area in the Nepal lesser Himalayas." by Harutaka SAKAI