

1990

A Brief History of the American Nepal Education Foundation

Hugh B. Wood
American Nepal Education Foundation

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

Recommended Citation

Wood, Hugh B.. 1990. A Brief History of the American Nepal Education Foundation. *HIMALAYA* 10(1).
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/himalaya/vol10/iss1/11>

This Research Article 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.



A BRIEF HISTORY of the AMERICAN NEPAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Hugh B. Wood, Executive Director
THE AMERICAN NEPAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
2790 Cape Mearns Loop N.W.
Tillamook, OR 97141

Origin and Purposes

The American Nepal Education Foundation (ANEF) was chartered by the State of Oregon on December 7, 1955, as a non-profit, tax-exempt, "private operating foundation," to enhance the education training program being developed in Nepal by the Government of Nepal (GON) and the United State Operation Mission (USOM). In cooperation with GON and the University of Oregon (UO), USOM had contracted to provide professional training over a period of six years for about fifty Nepalese scholars who would become staff members of the newly approved College of Education and other colleges under Tribhuvan University, which was to be established soon.

The co-founders of ANEF were Dr. Hugh B. Wood and Mrs. Helen L. Wood; they were ably supported by a Board of Directors which included two of the eight Nepalese students then studying at the UO, Trailokya Nath Upraity and Krishna Raj Aryal; Chancellor of the Oregon State System of Higher Education Frederick M. Hunter; Wayne B. Wood (son and representative of the founders while they were in Nepal); Paul Ackerman, H.B. Ferrin, and Wallace McCrae (Oregon School Administrators); and Lowell Thomas, a well-known traveler and radio commentator. In later years, the following also served as Directors: Dirgha Man Shrestha (un-official god-father to all of the Nepalese students who attended the UO), W. N. McLaughlin (UO Director of Finance), UO/Nepal Contract technician), Mrs. Wayne B. Wood and Mrs. Pamela Wood Gladson. The current Directors, since 1980, include, in addition to Dr. and Mrs. Wood, Barbara Bradley (formerly Secretary, Tillamook School District), Dr. Barry Greenberg (Professor Emeritus, OU), and Dr. T.N. Upraity (retired; formerly Vice-Chancellor, Tribhuvan University, Ambassador, and UNESCO Board member; Director since 1986). Others who have served the Board of Directors in various capacities include: Mildreth Byrne, Nancy Cowgill (attorney), and Yogendra Purush (liaison person in Nepal for many years).

The officers of ANEF include: Mrs. Helen L. Wood, President 1955-84 (until her death); Hugh B. Wood, Executive Director 1955-present, and President since 1984; W.N. McLaughlin, Treasurer 1955-59; Nancy Cowgill, Legal Advisor 1977-present, and Secretary 1984-85; Barbara Bradley, Secretary--1985-present.

In 1981, ANEF expanded its contacts in Nepal by establishing an ANEF/Nepal Screening Committee. This Committee includes: Dr. Chhabi Raj Gayjurel, (replacing Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma), Chairman (and Member-Secretary, the Nepal Education Committee), Fr. James J. Donnelley, Dr. Panna Lal Pradhan, Yogendra Purush, and Dr. T. N. Upraity (Ex-officio). Its activities focus on preliminary scholarship services.

The ANEF Program

The major purpose of ANEF has always been to promote educational development in Nepal. To achieve this purpose, ANEF has encouraged (a) advanced studies for Nepalese students, (b) the dissemination of information about education and related matters in Nepal through conferences and publications, (d) the development of libraries in Nepal, (e) the promotion of education of the handicapped in Nepal, and various other services. In all of its activities ANEF has invested in the

country of Nepal rather than in individuals. Nepalese students who study abroad under ANEF sponsorship agree by contract to return home after their studies to serve Nepal.

Sources of ANEF's Income

During more than three decades of operations, ANEF has depended almost entirely on individual contributions (the Asia Foundation has made some contributions to partially cover the costs of shipping books and library material to Nepal); there has been no government or corporation support. It should be noted that ANEF saw very little activity during the first 24 years, and the income for that period averaged slightly over \$1000 per year. Beginning in 1979, ANEF received several substantial contributions, in both cash and "kind", which enabled considerable expansion of its programs, and resulted in an average income of more than \$75,000 per year for the next ten years. It presently appears that this level of income cannot be expected to continue; future income is now estimated at about \$20,000 per year for the next few years.

ANEF's Expenditures

ANEF has been very frugal in the use of its very limited funds. Of necessity, it has "lived within its resources." No salaries have ever been paid to those who have helped carry on its work. People, organizations, and business firms have volunteered many of their services to ANEF. Financial aid to Nepalese students has focused on the utilization of available institutional scholarship aid before ANEF's funds have been used; students have been expected to invest their own limited funds in themselves to the greatest extent possible.

Nearly 83% of ANEF's funds have been invested in student scholarships. Only 6.6% have been required for administrative costs. Conversion of the land contributions to useable cash has required less than 5% (most of the legal costs were for converting the land to cash).

The Scholarship Program

The first activities of the Foundation focused on counseling and college-selection services for the several groups of Nepalese that were to come to the United States for study under the auspices of the U.S. "aid" program, and small grants to cover items not included in their basic government grants. After 1960, these services were extended to any Nepalese youth who was desirous of, and academically prepared for, studying abroad. From the beginning, the major emphasis of ANEF's scholarship services was on selection of an appropriate college or university, gaining admission, and securing at least partial funding from the institution and other scholarship agencies.

The substantial contributions received in 1979, 1981, 1984, and 1988 enabled ANEF to extend its services, both in financial assistance and in counseling and college placement services. It should be noted that ANEF does not discriminate on the basis of sex, level of study, discipline to be studied, employment, or any other factors, except nationality (must be Nepalese), economic need, and academic performance (must be high).

Today, ANEF's scholarship activities focus first on helping academically superior Nepalese scholars to gain admission and maximum institutional funding at appropriate colleges and universities in the United States, in Nepal, and "third" countries, and, additionally, in providing supplementary financial support, as needed, and as available.

To achieve these goals, ANEF prepares and distributes to about sixty selected colleges and universities each January a list of names (classified by disciplines) and credential-summaries of our academically superior applicants (roughly, the top 3 to 5%) from which the institutions may select promising students, request their complete credentials from ANEF, and extend grant offers to those that meet the Universities' qualifying criteria. ANEF's other scholarship services are also extended to other applicants who meet ANEF's minimum criteria (roughly the upper 25%).

These scholarship activities are carried out mostly by a U.S.-based Scholarship Selection Committee and a Nepal-based Scholarship Screening Committee, under the guidance of policies established by the

Board of Directors. The Nepal Committee screens and approves, the Selection Committee evaluates and recommends, and the Board of Directors makes the final decisions on specific grants.¹

Achievements. ANEF has been able to assist 214 Nepalese scholars, between 1956 and 1988, to secure grants from ANEF from institutions of higher education and from other sources. Of these, 11 received very small supplementary grants (from ANEF) before 1979, and enough from other sources to average a total of over \$11,000 each for their periods of study. Fifty-one students received either full institutional grants of a sufficient amount that, with their own personal funds, they did not need ANEF's financial assistance. They received \$1,422,000 from institutions and invested \$176,000 of their own funds in themselves. The remaining grantees--163 from 1979 to 1988--received \$566,000 from ANEF, \$3,854,000 from their institutions, and \$326,000 from other sources. ANEF and the institutions have made commitments (if funds are available and academic standings are maintained) to carry 37 of these grantees for another one, two, or three years at the current level of funding. This total program represents a distribution ratio of about 8% from ANEF, about 83% from the institutions, and about 9% from personal, family, and other sources. These 203 grantees and counselees, during the period 1979-91, have averaged more than \$35,700 each for the periods of their study.

To summarize, the investment of about six hundred thousand dollars of ANEF funds has resulted (or will result by 1991) in more than seven and a third million dollars of educational funding during these years.

Other Programs

Special Education Staff Training Program. One of ANEF's major projects has been to provide assistance in the establishment of a Department of Special Education in the Institute of Education (IOE--earlier named the College of Education). This project represented an investment of about \$115,000 (to December, 1986). This project has involved the cooperation of ANEF, the UO Western Oregon State College (WOSC), and the IOE in the training of eight staff members for the new department; the development of library resources for the department; and the establishment of a small fund to encourage handicapped students in Nepal to utilize, to their highest capacity, the educational opportunities now being offered to them. This entire project was promoted in no small way by Mrs. Helen Wood, handicapped throughout her life by muscular dystrophy but always exhibiting a sympathetic understanding of other handicapped persons, especially children. The fund for encouraging the handicapped youth of Nepal is a Memorial to her.

Books for Nepal Program. One of the longest and most continuous programs of ANEF has been the soliciting and collecting of new and good used books, magazines, and similar materials, and shipping them to the libraries of Nepal. Contributing to the success of this program has been some financial support from the "books for Asia" program of the Asia Foundation, and the scores of educators and others who have donated the materials. During the past three decades, ANEF has shipped more than 65,000 books and magazines, and 1,000 items of audio-visual aids to the libraries of Nepal at no cost to the recipients, and only a minimum cost of about \$8300 to ANEF. Several "special collections" have been sent including: nearly 10,000 medical books and journals and the life-long collections of three retiring doctors donated to the recently opened Institute of Medicine; a collection of Home Economics materials; a collection for "Special Education"; and a collection of nearly 1000 rare books and articles about Nepal mostly printed in the 18th and 19th centuries. The value of these materials is estimated to be between \$70,000 and \$150,000.

Seminars and Conferences. ANEF has sponsored, or otherwise participated in seminars and conferences dealing with Nepal Education and related subjects for many years. Orientation Conferences to acquaint Nepalese students, their advisors, and others, with the purposes and programs of ANEF and the criteria and procedures for applying for assistance, have been conducted in Nepal in 1962, 1968,

¹Three brochures, available from ANEF upon request, provide more details on this section: "General Information," the "Scholarship Program," and the "University List."

1975, 1977, 1981, 1985, 1986, and 1988. These orientations have been about three hours long and have attracted about 100 at each conference. Similar conferences have been offered to the South Asia Conference, held each November at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with attendance of approximately 35 each year. All of these conferences were followed by individual interviews of perhaps half to two-thirds of the participants.

ANEF has cooperated since 1978 with the Nepal Studies Association in offering several panels each year at the South Asia Conference mentioned above, both in organizing the panels and in financing travel for Nepalese speakers and participants for them. ANEF has sponsored brief conferences at the UO, Oregon State University (OSU), WOSC, and the University of Wisconsin on the occasions of the visitation of Nepalese dignitaries to these parts of the U.S. Administrative conferences have also been held at various college in Ohio. Assistance was also provided to the Portland State University-sponsored six-week seminar in Nepal in 1975.

In all, ANEF has been involved, in one way or another, in more than 35 such seminars and conferences during the past 25 years. All of the efforts of this program have been designed to promote education in Nepal and/or to acquaint Americans with Nepal's education program and its needs.

Publication Activities. ANEF occasionally publishes materials dealing with Nepalese education, and also distributes these and numerous other materials of similar nature. These have included: the early publications of the College of Education in Nepal and some of the writings of Nepalese educators since then; some of the early Nepal government publications related to education; unpublished Master's theses and Doctor's dissertations on educational matters in Nepal; unpublished Seminar papers; reprints of magazine articles on Nepalese education; and other miscellaneous materials. Most of the published materials are now out-of-print, but all of these materials are available either as reprints or photocopies. The distribution of publications has always been considered a "service" not a profit-making activity. However, ANEF's investment of \$11,085 in publications has been offset by income of \$12,838.

Currently, more than 110 titles are available, and new titles are being added continuously. A complete Price List is available at no cost.

Speaker's Bureau. ANEF maintains a list of qualified speakers and consultants, both Nepalese and American, for interested agencies and organizations, and can make the necessary arrangements for their services. Some of these persons are available in either Nepal or the United States; some are available only in their native country. In addition, many Nepalese students and Americans who have served in Nepal are available from various college and university campuses where they are now enrolled or teaching. The names of many of these institutions are available from ANEF.

The Nepal Library. ANEF maintains a library of materials about Nepal and materials written by Nepalese. This consists mostly of the earlier materials up to 1959, and only the more significant items since then. The library is open to the public and makes interlibrary loans to other libraries.

Other-Grant Administration. ANEF works closely with other scholarship agencies, both private and government. In some cases, ANEF administers the grants for other agencies. ANEF travel and other grants are frequently tied to grants by other agencies. The Foundations also assists other agencies in selecting and placing their grantees.

Information Service. ANEF provides specialized information about Nepal in general and about education more specifically. It maintains library resources (including slides, films, and maps) and liaison with Nepalese scholars. Its library materials are available on interlibrary loans.

The Executive Director, since his retirement from the University of Oregon in 1974, had devoted his full time to the supervision of the various activities of ANEF. Other Board members, and members of both the Scholarship Selection Committee and the Nepal Scholarship Screening Committee also devote many hours in conferences and meetings and individual activities in carrying out their respective responsibilities. All of these persons have volunteered their time, efforts, and incidental expenses; several of them also have made substantial cash contributions to the Foundation.

More detailed information about the Foundation will be found in the following brochures, available free from the address below:

"General Information"

"The Scholarship Program" (Including Instructions for Applicants)

"The University List" (Information brochure, including criteria)

"The Books for Nepal Program" (Including instruction for donating materials)

"List of Publications"

"Making Contributions to ANEF"

"List of Grantees/Counselees" Available only to Institutional Administrators)

"The University List; Credentials Summaries" (Available only to Institutional Administrators)

Order from: The American Nepal Education Foundation, 2790 Cape Meares Loop NW, Tillamook, OR 97141