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News

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*Professor Bista to be Honorary Director of the Nepal Studies Association

The Nepal Studies Association is pleased to announce that Professor Dor Bahadur Bista, Executive Director of the Research Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal, has accepted the Honorary Directorship of the Association. Professor Bista, through his scholarly contributions and in his numerous official positions, has encouraged, over the last decades, the development of Nepal Studies and Himalayan Studies in all their aspects. All of us who have had association with Professor Bista, whether through his writings or in other capacities, are honored to have someone so distinguished to serve in this position.

*Nepal Studies Association Plans Meetings in Madison, Wisconsin

The Nepal Studies Association is planning on holding a meeting in conjunction with the Tenth Annual Conference on South Asia to be held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin from November 6 through November 8, 1981. More detailed information on the events will be announced in the Fall issue of the HRB. Mark your calendars.

*Newar Studies

Robert Levy (University of California, San Diego) and Niels Gutschow (University of Kiel, West Germany) are anxious to hear from all scholars and students who have been working in, or plan to work in, Newar Studies as soon as possible. They are in the preliminary stages of planning a conference and subsequent publication surveying all aspects of research on Newars. Interested people should write, describing their work, publications, plans and projects, to:

Robert Levy  
Department of Anthropology  
University of California - San Diego  
La Jolla, CA 92037

*"Pilgrimage: The Human Quest" — An Interdisciplinary Conference

An interdisciplinary conference, organized by E. A. Morinis (Anthropology, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia), on pilgrimage and tourism took place from May 14-17, 1981 at the University of Pittsburgh. Eighty participants brought their research findings to this highly successful conference, the first of its kind in North America. Scholars from a number of disciplines reported on pilgrimage and tourism in a wide variety of societies and over a range of religious traditions. They came from England, Japan, India, Italy, and Mexico, as well as the U.S. and Canada. The area from which most papers were derived was South Asia, with eight contributors participating in the session "North India and the Himalayan States," chaired by Robert Stoddard (Geography, University of Nebraska).

Of the seven keynote talks, four were by South Asianists, with Barbara Aziz (Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University, New York) delivering a paper on "The pilgrims'
view: psycho-social dimensions of the sacred journey." Don Messerschmidt also delivered one on the "Himalayan pilgrimage to the Hindu shrine at Muktinath." It is expected that the proceedings of this conference will be published within two years.

It is clear from the success of this conference that pilgrimage is now an established area of research: related issues are attracting increasing numbers of scholars and Himalayan studies will certainly enjoy its share of this growth.

*Visiting Scholar: Kamal P. Malla at Berkeley

Kamal P. Malla has just completed four months as a Research Associate in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, under the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. By all reports, Dr. Malla's stay at Berkeley was extremely productive. According to colleagues there, he participated fully in the intellectual life of the linguistics department and contributed greatly to the interchange of ideas among faculty and students alike, especially through his weekly seminars on the grammar of Newari.

During his stay, Dr. Malla worked on a general reference grammar of Newari, an outline and short version of which he completed while at Berkeley. This 150 page monograph was reproduced and circulated to interested scholars throughout the U.S. It is a very interesting piece of work and constitutes the most thorough and sophisticated treatment of Newari grammar thus far available in English. We can only hope that he will be able to complete the full study soon.

In the past Dr. Malla was the Rector of Tribhuvan University. Since leaving Berkeley, he has again returned to Tribhuvan, this time to join the faculty there.

*Dalai Lama to offer Kalachakra Initiation and to Deliver Lecture Series

His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, will offer the Kalachakra Initiation in Madison, Wisconsin from July 10th to 21st, 1981. In conjunction with the initiation, the Departments of South Asian and East Asian Studies together with the Southeast Asia Committee of the University of Wisconsin, Madison will be sponsoring a series of five cultural exchange lectures by the Dalai Lama. For further information write or phone:

Deer Park
Box 5366
Madison, WI 53705 USA
Telephone 608-233-0999

*Sierra Club Solicits Documentation on Arid and Tropical Ecology

Kathy Sheppard, information officer of the Sierra Club, International Earthcare Center, has requested information not normally available through libraries but of practical use to field personnel. They are particularly interested in information on "ecological problems of tropical forests and arid zones, as well as information on development projects and environmental constraints." This information will be used for "resource inventories," "baseline studies," "projections of scarcities," and in "discussion of legal, regulatory, and
institutional aspects of resource management." If you have something to contribute or wish to correspond, contact:

Kathy Sheppard, Information Officer
Sierra Club, International Earthcare Center
800 2nd Avenue
New York, NY 10017 USA

*Medical Expedition to Nepal*

The Woodlands Institute and the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene are jointly sponsoring the second of two medical expeditions to explore health care in the Himalayas from January 11th to February 25th, 1982. For further information concerning the expedition and application procedures write or phone:

The Woodlands Institute
Cherry Grove, WV 26803 USA
Telephone 304-567-2632

*A New Film by Michael Oppitz*

A new film entitled *Shamans from the Blind Country* by Michael Oppitz is now available. The 16mm color and sound film is 224 minutes in length and documents healing practices among the Northern Magar of Central West Nepal. For information on distribution contact:

WSK-Productions
5 Carmine Street
New York, NY 10014 USA
Telephone 212-989-2626

*Kirghiz Film to be Shown on PBS's (USA) Odyssey Series*

The Kirghiz of Afghanistan, a film produced in consultation with Nazif Shahrani, an anthropologist, will be shown in the USA on stations of the Public Broadcasting Service as part of the Odyssey series during the week of October 18th, 1981. The film documents the nomadic existence of the Kirghiz who inhabit the Afghan Pamirs in the Northeast of the Wakhan Corridor. The film contains rare footage of this high altitude region and the social, political, and economic life of the Kirghiz who have been forced to abandon their homeland due to the Russian invasion.

*Lha-Pewa Festival of the Thakalis - 1981*

From the first week of January this year, for sixteen days, Thakalis converged at Lharjung and Kobaang villages in the Kali Gandaki valley. There, they enacted their clan myth of origin for the first time in twelve years.

At the height of the festival, 1500 Thakalis were assembled at Lharjung, the center of the event. Members of the four major clans who had come from Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Bhairawa were joined by local Thakalis from throughout Thak valley.
Surprisingly few anthropologists or other researchers came to witness this mountain drama. Michael Vinding (Denmark) who is working in the Jomosom region went down to observe the festival; Barbara Aziz (Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University, New York), in Nepal to continue work on pilgrimage, spent two weeks there; and Shigeru Ijima, Thakali specialist from Japan, visited the festival for a few days. The only other foreign observers were the experienced photo journalists, Okajima and Isogai, from Japan. Mr. Okajima had been at the 1968 festival while a graduate student working under Ijima. A Nepalese government film crew also recorded portions of the drama.

The Lha-Pewa (Spre-lo) clearly remains a drama rich in force and tradition; it may be, however, in an inevitable process of change, with its Hindu and Buddhist elements challenging one another for precedence. It remains a performance without parallel in Nepal. Contrary to some expectations, the Lha-Pewa is still a vital tradition, a much anticipated affair which local ritual specialists and political leaders recognize as crucial to Thakali identity. We certainly may expect it to recur in 1993.

The light snow that covered Lharjung and Kobaang on the final day of the festival was seen as a traditionally auspicious sign, and, as the last researchers left Jomosom airport, they noticed four steel boxes—black, green, red, and white safes—one for each of the four clan gods, waiting to be carried down the valley to house the masks for the next twelve years. (Report submitted by B. Aziz)

*Asian Art Association Formed*

The Denver Art Museum announces the founding of the Asian Art Association for collectors and other persons interested in supporting and learning about the arts of Asia, including the Himalayan region, through special seminars, travel programs, visiting lecturers, gallery talks, etc. For information, write:

Oriental Department  
Denver Art Museum  
14th and Acoma Streets  
Denver, CO 80204 USA

*Siva Exhibition*

"Manifestations of Siva," a major exhibition organized by Dr. Stella Kramrisch for the Philadelphia Museum of Art has opened with great public response and will be on view through the spring before travelling to museums in Fort Worth and San Francisco. In conjunction, a monograph by Dr. Kramrisch, The Presence of Siva, is published by Princeton University Press. The showing is sponsored by a major grant from the Atlantic Richfield Foundation.

*Tibetan Altar Refurbished*

The Tibetan Buddhist Altar at the Newark Museum, installed originally by Eleanor Olson and now under the care of Valrae Reynolds, Asia Curator, has been newly refurbished and reinstalled with recent Tibetan acquisitions of painting, sculpture, and textiles.
*Conference on South Asian Art*

The American Committee for South Asian Art will hold its first national symposium at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts May 7-9, 1981. For information, write:

Professor Rick Asher  
Department of Art History  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA

*Archive of South Asian Art Photographs*

The American file for the Photographic Archive of the American Institute of Indian Studies Center for Art and Archaeology, Varanasi, India has been installed at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. More than 23,000 photographs and 2,000 color slides are on file for use by scholars and these will continue to grow in number. For information, contact:

Kanta Bhatia, Librarian (215-243-7460)  
Professor Michael Meister (215-243-8327)

Considerable Himalayan materials are included.

*Exhibition of Nepal Tribal Art Shown in Paris*

An exposition of "Art Tribal du Nepal" was shown through June 4, 1981 at l'Ile du Demon in Paris. A catalogue of the exposition was published. For information, contact:

l'Ile du Demon  
13 et 15 rue Bonaparte  
75006 Paris, France