1982

News

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II. NEWS

*Nepal Studies Association Meeting in Conjunction With the Eleventh Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison from November 5 Through November 7, 1982.

The annual meeting of the Nepal Studies Association will be held in conjunction with the 11th Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin in Madison from November 5 through November 7, 1982.

We are happy to announce that four panels focused on Nepal and the Himalayas have been accepted for the conference as well as a number of individual papers on Himalayan subjects. The four panels are tentatively scheduled as follows:

1:15, Friday, November 5, 1982:
Geography of the Himalayas
Chair: Cotton Mather, University of Minnesota

8:15, Saturday, November 6, 1982
Planning and Change in Nepal: The Sixth Five-Year Plan
Chair: John Hitchcock, University of Wisconsin

4:00, Saturday, November 6, 1982
The Status of Education in Nepal and Its Implications for Continued Development
Chair: Hugh Wood, American-Nepal Education Foundation

Sunday, November 7, 1982
Himalayan Perspectives on Religion and Society in South Asia
Chair: James Fisher, Carleton College

In addition to these panels and individual papers in other panels, there will be a general meeting of Nepal Studies Association. Full details on the panels and the general meeting will appear in the Fall issue of the HRB. For pre-registration forms and to make reservations for accommodation for the 11th Annual Conference on South Asia write to:

South Asian Area Center
Department of South Asian Studies
1249 Van Hise Hall
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Because of the generosity of the Program Committee of the Madison Conference in including so many Himalayan panels, the conference should be exciting and interesting for all members of the Nepal Studies Association, and we hope that you will make every effort to attend. The general meeting should provide an ideal opportunity for us to discuss the future of the Nepal Studies Association and to make plans for continuing activities. If you have any items for the agenda of the general meeting, please contact Ronald Bernier, President, Nepal Studies Assn., Department of Fine Arts, Campus Box 318, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309 USA.
The Nepal Social Science Research Council sponsored a National Seminar on April 18-19 entitled "Profesionalization in the Social Sciences in Nepal." The seminar was held at the Centre for Economic and Development Administration, Tribhuvan University. In his welcoming speech, Dr. M. S. Manandhar, Secretary of the Council, summarized the purpose of the seminar and the objectives of the Social Science Research Council as follows:

This seminar has been organized with an objective to assess the present problems and future prospects of all the social science disciplines in Nepal, so that proper research directions and priorities in the development of disciplines could be charted out. This charting out directions and fixing priorities in the areas of research and teaching is essential in view of the fact that on the one hand, social science is the most popular and the fastest growing discipline in Nepal, and on the other hand without proper research in social science even the adoption of new technologies for development becomes difficult and often produces adverse effects. In fact, at present, our problem is not the development of new technologies but to be able to adopt already existing technologies to our own social context. I hope this seminar will be able to fulfill its objective.

I would also like to say a few words on NESSREC, the organizer of this seminar. With the growing realization that the available financial resources and trained manpower in social science have not been properly utilized in a coordinated way to our development objectives, the need for an organization like NESSREC was deeply felt. It is a common knowledge to all of us that there is duplication of work, misallocation of funds, information gap among the researchers and wastage of valuable informations to dustbins, and no definite policy of priorities and directions in research. But no organization existed to coordinate, to document and to give policy guidelines. So to fulfill this lacuna NESSREC came into being with the following objectives:

1. To foster and strengthen the development of social science in Nepal.
2. To develop the framework and policies for the maximum utilization of scientific manpower.
3. To coordinate research activities of different research centers and institutions.
4. To establish an inter-disciplinary documentation center.

The Chairman of the seminar was The Honorable Minister of Finance, Commerce and Supply of HMG of Nepal, Dr. Y. P. Pant. Participants in the conference included distinguished scholars both from Tribhuvan University and from outside the University. Chairman of the three sessions were Mr. Mahesh C. Regmi, Dr. T. P. Choudhury, and Prof. U. M. Malla.
Papers on the status of professionalization in all social science fields were presented and discussed by the following scholars:

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<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Discussant</th>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Dr. P.R. Uprety</td>
<td>Dr. M.P. Pandey</td>
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<td>Dr. Chaitanya Misra</td>
<td>Dr. H. Bista</td>
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<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Dr. P. Timilsima</td>
<td>Prof. N.M. Singh</td>
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<td>Economics</td>
<td>Prof. Dor. B. Bista</td>
<td>Dr. D. Messerschmidt</td>
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<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Dr. V.B. Kansakar</td>
<td>Mr. B. Shankar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demography</td>
<td>Drs. Agrawal and Koirala</td>
<td>Mrs. G. Shrestha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Dr. G.R. Agrawal</td>
<td>Dr. R.P. Rajbahak</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>Dr. B.M. Dahal</td>
<td>Dr. T.N. Sharma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Drs. Manandhar and Sharma</td>
<td>Dr. C.B. Shrestha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Drs. Yadav and Baral</td>
<td>Prof. C.B. Malla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Dr. P.L. Pradhan</td>
<td>Mr. A.B. Shrestha</td>
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In addition, some 56 scholars participated in the seminar.

This inaugural seminar of the new Social Science Research Council opened important issues for the direction of social sciences in Nepal and the relation between academic institutions and practicing professionals. One participant observed that the discussions were reminiscent of similar debates in other parts of the world. By all accounts, this seminar points to renewed activity of the Nepal Social Science Research Council and important contributions from this organization in the future.

*Third International Tibetan Studies Seminar*

The International Association of Tibetan Studies will hold its third conference in the USA from July 25 to July 31, 1982. The conference will be held in New York City at the Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University. This is a seminar focusing on the culture, history, language, religion and geography of Tibet and adjacent regions. It is a small gathering designed to promote interdisciplinary and international exchange, particularly among younger scholars. Professor Turrell V. Wylie is currently the Association Chairperson, and Ngawang Thundup Narkyid, the Vice Chairperson.

For information and applications contact: Barbara Nimri Aziz, Convenor and Local Chairperson, Southern Asian Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027.
*Symposium on Tibetan Culture at Washington*

The Venerable Geshey Ngawang Dhargay, who was appointed by the Dalai Lama to teach at the Central Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharmsala, India, conducted four sessions on Tibetan culture at the University of Washington, May 3, 10, 17, and 24, 1982. The goal of his sessions -- on Buddhism, monasticism, art, and music (with Ter Ellingson) -- was to deepen and expand understanding of Tibetan Sacred art and philosophy, (courtesy SACPAN Newsletter).

*Asian Studies Newsletter Archives*

Frank Joseph Shulman is currently developing an extensive archival collection of academic newsletters and association bulletins dealing with Asian affairs and Asian studies. Two primary objectives are involved:

(1) The creation of a centralized collection of newsletter-type materials containing information about the growth and state of Asian studies and Asia-related organizations and about the activities of various institutions and individuals. Most of these publications are in English, French, or German; many enjoy very limited circulation. (2) The preservation of these same materials for long-term scholarly use, especially as libraries and individual recipients generally discard them on account of their ephemeral nature. (No research library or professional organization presently appears to be systematically collecting and retaining such publications for Asian studies as a whole.)

All work on the archives is being undertaken on a private basis, without any institutional support or outside funding, as a service to researchers, students, librarians, and the general public.

Approximately 300 titles from all over the world are already on file. All files are now open by appointment to people visiting College Park, Maryland (a suburb of Washington, DC). Requests by mail for xerox copies of individual issues will be filled whenever possible at cost (currently 10¢ per page plus postage and handling—prepaid).

A two-part guide to some of these newsletters was compiled and published by Shulman in the Asian Studies Professional Review (vol 4, nos 1 and 2, Fall/Spring 1974-1975, pp.30-58; and vol 5, nos 1 and 2, Fall/Spring 1975-1976, pp.11-16). A highly selective list of currently published academic newsletters focusing on China appeared in the March 1980 issue of the Asian Studies Newsletter. On the basis of his newsletter archives and various sources of published information, Shulman is gradually preparing an updated, vastly expanded guide to as many past and current newsletters and association bulletins as possible. This will eventually appear as a monograph through the University of Michigan.

There are likely to be many pertinent newsletters which have not yet been added to the archives or bibliographically recorded for the forthcoming guide, because Shulman remains unaware of their existence. Examples may include regular mailings of Asian studies area centers (at various universities) to their local constituencies; news-oriented bulletins of cultural associations and organizations that focus on one or more Asian countries/civilizations; newsletters that are no longer being published; and even professional journals that routinely carry several pages of news about members' research and organizational activities. Furthermore, there are several titles presently in the archives which commenced publication in the 1950s and 1960s whose holdings are incomplete because early back issues have not yet been located and photocopies.
cooperation of newsletter and association bulletin editors, university centers, AAS affiliated groups and other organizations, and individuals everywhere will be most appreciated. Shulman would like to have his name added to mailing lists for newsletters no matter how irregularly published or limited in distribution they may be. Letters from individuals informing him of sizable back files in private or public hands will also be most welcome. Please direct all correspondence to: Frank Joseph Shulman, c/o East Asia Collection, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; phone (310) 454-2819, (courtesy, Asian Studies Newsletter).

*1983 Association for Asian Studies Meetings: Call for Papers and Proposals*

The thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the AAS will be held at the San Francisco Hilton, San Francisco, California, March 25-27, 1983. The deadline for receipt of panel and paper proposals is August 2, 1982 (see the March 1982 issue of the Asian Studies Newsletter for details).

*Regional Asian Studies Conferences*

Asian Studies Committee of the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO will host the Western Conference of the AAS, September 17-18, 1982.

Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs will be held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, October 15-16, 1982.

Southwest Conference on Asian Studies will take place at North Texas State University, Denton, TX, October 22-23, 1982.


(For further information, see the March 1982 issue of the Asian Studies Newsletter).

*Bhagavata Purana - A Research Query*

Kenneth X. Robbins would like information on the Nepalese Bhagavata Purana. Correspondence may be sent to him at:

11305 Rouen Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854 USA  
Phone: (703) 379-2600

*Research Report Film: "Jyapu: Industrious Productivity as Lifestyle"

The first in a series of experimental films produced by the Royal Nepal Academy and the Smithsonian Institution will be screened at the Royal Nepal Academy, Kathmandu, Nepal on the occasion of its Silver Anniversary.
Vijaya B. Malla, Bhupi Sherchan, and Tirtha B. Shrestha, all from the Royal Nepal Academy. The film was edited and production coordinated by Barbara Johnson and narrated by Jyoti Tuladhar.

*Audio Materials on Women in Nepal*

"Women in Nepal" is a radio tape from Horizon series, (29 minutes; $8; 'Post-secondary). The tape has actual sound recordings of Nepalese conversations; festival music, singing, and daily clatter provide a backdrop for this warmly sensitive and appreciative documentary on the lives of women in Nepal.

Medical personnel interviewed in the program discuss the physical hardships these women experience and the critical need they have for family planning and increased health care.

It is available from: National Public Radio, (courtesy SACPAN Newsletter).