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## Editorial

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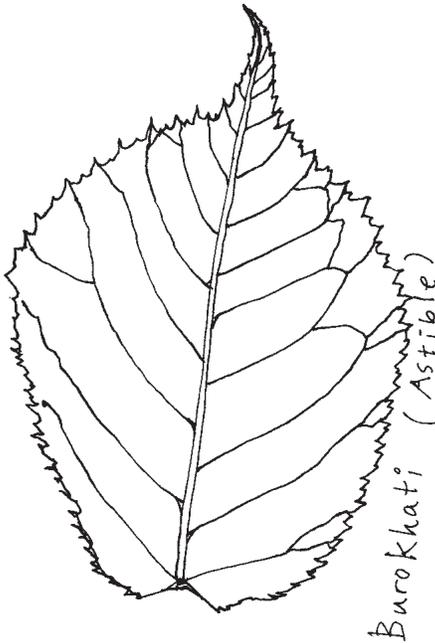


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# Editorial



We are honored to be the new editors of *HIMALAYA*. Both of us have read, subscribed to, and published in the journal since the beginning of our professional careers but never imagined that we would one day have the privilege of editing it. It is an exciting challenge and has already been a very rewarding experience for the months that we have been at the helm.

Our greatest thanks go to our two immediate predecessors, Arjun Guneratne and Barbara Brower. Their many years each as sole Editor of *HIMALAYA* (and the Himalayan Research Bulletin that preceded it), have made our task immeasurably easier. We have the pleasure of inheriting an established, internationally recognized publication that reflects the diversity of scholarship on the Himalayan region. This is no small feat. The achievement of transforming the Nepal Studies Association Newsletter into a premier scholarly journal speaks to the industry, commitment and endurance of Arjun, Barbara and the many other editors before them.

We are mindful that as editors, we serve as the temporary stewards of an ongoing story that far precedes us, and are conscious of the editorial lineage. Just as we remain thankful for all that was done by those who came before us, we trust that in the present readership lie the seeds of future editors to whom we may hand the journal some years from now.

Volume 33, Numbers 1 & 2 of *HIMALAYA* that you are now holding

in your hands, or reading on a screen, represents an important departure from the previous issue. The makeover is as substantive as it is cosmetic. Our new layout and design are the result of a creative collaboration between Angie Hurlbut (a graphic designer in New Haven), SoftNEP (Kathmandu-based web designers), Bepress (a company supporting scholarly publishing online), and the DeWitt Wallace Library at Macalester College (who generously continue to host our digital archive and assist with layout and production). We have worked together to ensure that for the reader, the end result is a seamless whole, and we hope that you enjoy the new design and typography. Our thanks go to Angie, Sunil, Lushna, Kelsey, Terri, and Jacki for all of the patience and good humor that they have shown in this process.

On first reading, while the substantive changes may appear less apparent, they are just as important for the future of the journal. We are pleased to introduce our new editorial board. Drawn from across the world and from across the disciplines, we are thrilled to be working with scholars who share our vision of a Himalayan studies that is diverse, engaged, and connected. We are grateful for the support of our Reviews Editor, Dr. Jessica Vantine Birkenholtz at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and for our editorial teams based in Hanover, NH, New Haven, CT, and Saint Paul,

Above and Opposite:  
Saori Ogura, *Sketchbook Detail*



MN. Together, we look forward to taking *HIMALAYA* to new levels.

We are delighted to announce that *HIMALAYA* is now a fully open access journal. The key steps towards this goal were taken many years ago when former editor Arjun Guneratne worked with senior staff in the Macalester College library system to scan back issues of the journal and host them online for free, for all, forever. Yet at that time, in order to protect the print subscription and membership base of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS), a two-year ‘moving wall’ was maintained between the release of the print version in ‘hard copy’ and the online release of a version that was free for all. Thanks to a combination of important developments in open access scholarly publishing, the rapid growth of the ANHS as an organization that now offers services and benefits to its members far beyond the journal, and a generous grant from the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, we have been able to remove this moving wall once and for all. Beginning with this issue, the print and online versions of the journal will be released simultaneously. We are confident that full open access will lead to a better, more networked, and more durable journal in the long term.

On a related point, a complete archive of the Nepal Studies Association Newsletter is now available as a searchable, downloadable online resource. Through a new partnership

with colleagues at the Yale University Library, these twenty-one issues printed over eight years (1972-1980) were selected for inclusion in Yale’s digital repository. We are grateful to Dr. Michael Dula, chief technology officer for the Yale University Library system, for his enthusiastic support of this project. With the digitization of the Nepal Studies Association Newsletter complete, forty years of scholarship on the Himalayan region is now available for free to anyone with access to an Internet connection. Please visit our website [www.himalayajournal.org](http://www.himalayajournal.org) where you will find all of these links prominently highlighted.

Finally, we are committed to widening the scope of the journal to regularly include literature and visual arts drawn from the Himalayan region. With our newly enhanced web presence, we hope that writers and creative artists will find *HIMALAYA* to be an attractive platform for the dissemination of their work. We are grateful to Sushma Joshi and Saori Ogura for choosing to publish their work in this issue of *HIMALAYA*.

Alongside Sushma’s powerful writing and Saori’s memorable illustrations, this issue includes a short story by Pema Tseden, translated from the Tibetan with assistance from Editorial Board member Françoise Robin, and six original research articles on topics ranging from the Hindustan-Tibet Road in the 19th century to the contemporary human impacts on the alpine ecosystems in the Makalu-Barun National Park. In this volume, we

also honor the life and work of Willem (‘Wim’) van Spengen (1949-2013) and include a posthumous scholarly contribution from this exemplary Himalayanist.

Our final words of appreciation are reserved for the many editorial assistants and associates involved in the production of this issue. In New Haven, we are grateful to Hannah G. Klein and Priyankar Bahadur Chand who generously offered their time over the summer of 2013 as we assumed the editorship. In Saint Paul, we remain ever indebted to Jacki Betsworth and her Office Aides Erin Porter, Lilly Bock-Brownstein and Jessica Del Fiacco in the DeWitt Wallace Library at Macalester College, for seeing the journal through layout, production and onto the Web. We are enormously grateful to Doug Tifft, Production Coordinator at the University Press of New England, for guiding and supporting us through the printing process. Our greatest thanks go to Hannah McGehee, a junior at Dartmouth College and our chief editorial assistant. Hannah’s care and precision are reflected in this issue: no request is too complex, nor correction too small to warrant her cheerful attention. Thank you all.

We hope that you, our readers and subscribers, enjoy this issue—the most recent of the journal’s many incarnations. We look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts, comments, and any suggestions.

**Sienna Craig and Mark Turin**  
Editors, *HIMALAYA*