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Yale Himalaya Initiative

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Nepal Studies Association Newsletter, Issue 2

Nepal Studies Association

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NEPAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 2 - July 1972

Membership

1. Roy Coates, 4 Woodgate Lane, Ithaca, New York, 14850, worked as a general and thoracic surgeon, Shanta Bhawan Hospital, Kathmandu from Sept. '66 to June '69. He "fosters his continued interest in Nepal by private study and speaking engagements on the people, the country and medical needs."
2. Roger Conant Cranse, 216 Melwood Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15213, lived in Nepal for four years as a PC English teacher and Family Planning Worker for AID. He is married to a Nepali citizen, Chandrakala. At present he is a Teaching Assistant in International Education at the University of Pittsburgh. He would "like to work in Nepal in education or family planning." He lists a book.
3. Dennis E. Donham. Apartment #1, 110 1/2 E. Illinois Avenue, Carterville, Illinois, 62918, is doing dissertation-level research on higher education at Southern Illinois University and is negotiating for research and travel funding to continue his work in Nepal. He is especially interested in "student-personnel services in institutions of higher learning, or problems associated with teacher training colleges."
4. Allen C. Fanger, 2 Maryland Circle, #247, Whitehall, Pennsylvania, 18052, teaches a course on South Asia including Nepali Ethnography at Kutztown State College. He did his fieldwork in Kumaon and "would like more information about western Nepal near the Kumaon border."

5. Melvyn C. Goldstein, 3635 Strathavon Road, Shaker Heights, is teaching in the Department of Anthropology, Western Reserve. His main interest is in "Tibetan populations and the Himalayas. He plans to study ethnic relations in Sikkim."

6. Martha B. Hoagland, RFD-Northfield, Massachusetts. 01360, was a volunteer secretary for two doctors at Shanta Bhawan from December '57 to March '59. She is interested in "the art of the Himalayas (including religious iconography) and would like to be able to return to Nepal for further study" and to work as a secretarial - editorial assistant to anyone doing research there. She has taken a number of courses on India and South Asia at Harvard and the U. of Mass.

7. David T. Mason, Moss Hill Road, Russell, Massachusetts. 01071, was a PC science teacher in Mukti High School, Piuthan District, in '69 - '70 and also during this time and until '71 for the Peace Corps as Curriculum Writer, Language Officer, and Training Assistant. He is presently working on "a translation of the Shri Swasthani, a religious work supposedly derived from the Puranas." He hopes to publish it. He is also planning an "essay about the implications of the Hindu world view for Nepal's development, and organizing photo materials for exhibit."

8. Don Messerschmidt, Box 248, Vancouver, Wn. 98660; c/o American Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal until Oct. '72 has been in and out of Nepal since 1963, first as a PCV, then as a teacher in Lincoln School, and later as a trek conductor for Mountain Travel. He also studied Tibetan loggers in the U.S. At present

he is pursuing his PhD. "research among the Gurungs of Lamjung and Manang Districts, concerned with social identity, religious symbolism and social change." He lists a report and an article.

9. R. Bruce Morrison, Entrance, Alberta. was a PCV in Panchayat Development in Kuncha, Lamjung Jilla, and is at present studying for his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Alberta. He is "especially interested in the new towns which were created in the south following malaria eradication programs and would like to compare them with the work he has been doing on a new town in Canada."

10. Creighton Peet, 203 Ridgefield Road, Wilton, Connecticut 06897 has been a PCV from '66 to '69 both as a teacher and trainer-supervisor. He is at present studying for his Ph.D. at the Dept. of Anthropology in Columbia, preparing to go to Nepal for research. He is especially interested in development work within Nepal and how Nepal fits into the broader South Asian area socially, culturally, economically, politically, etc."

11. Philip M. Phibbs, Acorns, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. 02181, is serving as a college administrator but his "field of special interest is international relations, particularly Indian foreign policy. In terms of Nepal, this means that I am keenly interested in India's relations with Nepal and with Nepalese foreign policy." He lists articles.

12. Johan Gjeffsen Reinhard, 155 Fir Street, New Lenox, Illinois 60451, work address: Institut für Völkerkunde, Universitätsstrasse 7/IV A-1010 Vienna, Austria was in Central and Western Nepal '68 - '71 "studying Kusunda, Raute and Raji. I am currently

writing my dissertation on the Raji of Western Nepal. I may return later this year for further research." He lists articles.

13. Sheldon Rose, Rt. 2, Fritz Road, Verona, Wisconsin 53593, was in Kathmandu in '68 - '69 as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps. He is at present teaching in the School of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin. His main interest in Nepal "is in the fields of Social Welfare, Language, and Religion."

14. Frank Joseph Shulman, Center for Japanese Studies, 108 Lane Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104 is a bibliographer and graduate student in history and library science. He has completed a partially annotated bibliography of North American, European, and Australian doctoral dissertations on South Asia, 1956-1971. He lists articles.

15. Franklin C. Southworth, 315 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, 10025, taught Nepali at the University of Pennsylvania '61 - '63. His main interest in Nepal is "linguistic-cultural (present as well as historical)." He lists an article.

16. James W. Stone, 2426 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, is working for the Foreign Service Institute. "As South Asian languages specialist in FSI, I am occasionally called upon to teach Nepali."

17. Norman D. Sundberg, 3635 Glen Oak Drive, Eugene, Oregon, 97405 is at present Dean of the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs. He teaches occasional courses on cross-cultural research in psychology and on behavioral ecology. His main interest in Nepal is in research on psychological cross-cultural studies of children and adolescents. His publications so far have had to do with children's drawings as they relate

to cognitive maturity, development and conceptualization of the world. He has also worked with PC training programs. He lists articles.

18. Walter L. Washburn, 1122 Shorewood Blvd., Madison, Wisconsin, 53705 is "interested in Nepal historically and culturally."

As a physician he is particularly interested in medical problems and their solutions. "Ben" worked in Shanta Bhawan in '68 as a volunteer physician and recently he and Sally returned from a medical trek to Sherpa villages in the Helambu area.

19. Sarah T. Washburn (See above) joined her husband on both of his trips to Nepal and assisted him in his work.

20. Myron Weiner, 93 Ivy Street, Brookline, Massachusetts, 02146, is teaching at MIT in the Department of Political Science. He visited Kathmandu as a consultant to US/AID on population issues. He is interested in political developments in Nepal but his work has been mainly in population growth and population movements. He lists a report.

21. Francis A. Westbrook, Department of East Asian Languages and Literature, Van Hise Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 53705, was a PCV English teacher in Bhojpur, East No. 4 from '64 - '66. His interests are in Nepali language and literature. He is the guardian of a 15-year old boy (Dambaru Ballab Gautam) studying at Phillips Exeter. He hopes someday to do a study of the poet Laksmi Prasad Devkota.

22. Paul Wood, Box 795, Mattapoisett, Massachusetts 02739, was a PCV and was active in Peace Corps training. Paul and his wife have been working in the pastoral ministry in a New England Quaker church.

23. M. Sajjad Yusuf, 311 Park Place, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903 is getting his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He is from Bangladesh and since "Nepal is a neighbor of Bangladesh, my interest in the political development of the country has increased manifold." His Ph.D. topic will be on the foreign policy of Nepal.

Questionnaires from the following members of NSA have yet to be viewed or were received too late for this issue:

1. Noel-David and Mrs. Burleson, 1817 Woodburn Road, Durham, North Carolina 27705
2. Jim and Lynn Campbell, c/o Creighton Peet, 205 Ridgefield Rd., Wilton, Conn. 06897 (temporary)
3. John A. Dettman, Department of Business Administration, University of Minnesota, Duluth, Minn. 55805
4. Paul E. Harshbarger, Route 2, Anna, Ohio 45302

Other members or organizations on our mailing list:

1. His Majesty the King, Royal Palace, Kathmandu, Nepal
2. Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Laundress Lane, Cambridge CB2 1SD, England
3. Chairman, South Asia Regional Council, 130 Lane Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
4. Dr. Werner Draguhn, Institut für Asienkunde, 2000 Hamburg 13, Rothenbaumchaussee 32, Germany
5. Yadunath Khanal, 244 Kaldhara, Kathmandu, Nepal
6. The Honorable Padama B. Khatrri, Nepalese Ambassador to the U.N., Nepalese Mission, The United Nations, New York, New York
7. Dr. Christoph Reiger, c/o Sudasien-Institut der Universität Heidelberg, Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Abteilung, 69 Heidelberg 1 Im Neuenheimer Feld 13, Germany
8. The Honorable Kul Shekar Sharma, Royal Nepalese Embassy, LeRoy Place, Washington, D.C.

Changes of Address:

1. Davis Herron, 463 Hawthorne Ave. Yonkers, N.Y. 10705
2. April Putnam, 14900 Dogwood Drive, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, is now studying Nepali at the University of Hawaii. Next fall she will be leaving for 18 months fieldwork in the Rapti Valley on a Foreign Area Fellowship.
3. Bedh Prakash Upreti, c/o Andrew Samson Lama, American Embassy Kathmandu, Nepal
4. Walter Winkler, c/o American Embassy, Kathmandu, Nepal

Corrections, Etc.

1. Someone who was a member in good standing when the first newsletter came out in March, 1972, did not get it because it was returned with the sticker removed. If you think it was yours please let the secretary know.
2. Dibiya Deo Bhatt, Botany Department, Tri-Chandra College, Kathmandu, Nepal, writes: "In the first Newsletter of the NSA, I find that among the activities listed under my name, there is one - 'working as advisor to the planning commission' - which is not wholly correct. My last assignment was that of membership on the Experts Committee, which was set up to finalize a report on Human Environment for submission to the forthcoming UN conference."
3. Douglas E. Hall, New ERA 18 Walker St., Concord. N.H 03301 Executive Secretary of New ERA writes: "I would like to note that our organization is called New Educational Reform Associates, Inc., not Association

as reported in the (first) Newsletter."

4. David Henkel's newsletter was returned from Honolulu, addressee unknown. If anyone knows his address please send it to the secretary.
5. Forgiveness is requested from Ratna Rana for the slip: "She lists articles."

Notes

Joe Reinhard: Now in Vienna, hopes to return to Nepal in the fall of 1973 for further research on culture change among the Raji-Raute. He also is revising his analysis of the Kusunda language. He writes "Schneider is preparing a 1:25,000 map of the Kathmandu Valley, Yablonsky is in Nepal collecting Himalayan art with a Ford grant, Hofer is back in Germany preparing Tamang material." He mentions a Carte Ecologique du Nepal, I: Region Annapurna - Dhaulagiri sent him by Corneille Jest. Address: Lindengasse 46/6, A-11070, Vienna, Austria.

Jeff and Sue Malick: Will reach Kathmandu in July. Jeff will be a Peace Corps Regional Officer.

Fürer-Haimendorf: Is organizing a symposium on the Anthropology of Nepal and neighboring Himalayan regions, to be held in London during the summer of 1973, under the auspices of the School of Oriental and African Studies. He left for Nepal in July. Address: Dept. of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Oriental and African Studies, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HP, U.K.

Barbara N. Aziz: Carried out 18 months field research among the Tibetan migrants settled in NE Nepal. She has an appointment at Edinburgh University. Address: Social Anthropology Department, Adam Ferguson Bldg., George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LL, U.K.

N. J. Allen: Worked among the Talung Rai near Okhaldunga in 1969-70. Address: 82A Howard Street, Oxford. U.K.

MUCIA and U.S.A.I.D.: The Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities, Inc. (MUCIA) has contracted with the U.S.A.I.D. to conduct a pre-feasibility study in Nepal in regard to higher education in agriculture.

The study is a response by A.I.D. to the request of the Government of Nepal to assist with strategy planning as to (a) the desirability of proceeding to expand a program of higher education in agriculture at this time, (b) the shape and pace subsequent institution building should take, or (c) possible A.I.D. assistance to carry out such an institution building program should outside assistance be required.

The MUCIA team traveling to Nepal during July and August 1972 includes: Dr. William N. Thompson, University of Illinois, Field Team Leader; Dr. Jacob Stern, University of Illinois; Dr. Harry Raulet, Michigan State University; Dr. Irving R. Wyeth, Michigan State University; Dr. Rupert Seals, Florida A&M University; and George H. Axinn, MUCIA headquarters.

Journal of Himalayan Studies: NSA members recently received the following communication:

There seems to be a certain need for a journal of Himalayan studies covering all aspects of the cultural and physical environment of the Himalayan civilizations. Hence, we, a group of young scholars and students interested in this field, have decided to start an interdisciplinary journal devoted to the Himalayas. Geographically, we define the Himalayas, very broadly, as the mountainous area stretching from the Mizo Hills to Hunza, including Tibet.

The Journal, which probably will be named KAILASH, will be printed in India in Crown 8vo size, containing from 80 to 200 pages and published three to four times a year. The first issue will, hopefully, be ready in August-September, 1972.

For the present time, the editors will be:

- (a) North and South America: Theodore Riccardi,
Columbia University
611 Kent Hall
New York 10027 U.S.A.
- (b) Europe: Philip Denwood
School of Oriental and African
Studies,
Malet Street
London, United Kingdom
- (c) Asia and Australia: Boyd Michalovsky (Kathmandu)
Hallvard K. Kulöy (New Delhi)

My reason for writing this to you is to request you for a contribution to the Journal in the form of articles, book-reviews, translations, etc. Contributions in Devanagari script as well as in English, French and German will be typeset, while material in Russian, Chinese and Tibetan as well as musical scores will be printed in offset and hence such material needs to be neatly prepared in uniform size (7" x 9"). Both black/white and colour illustrations will be accepted.

In case you are interested in contributing to the Journal, please send the material to any of the editors as soon as possible. Should you not wish to send any material for publication at this time, but be on our mailing list, please let us know. (Please do not send funds for subscriptions yet!)

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Hallvard K. Kulöy

New Educational Reform Associates, Inc. Was formally organized on August 5, 1971, "in response to the critical need for an alternative approach in providing concerned authorities with technical assistance in the solution of their educational research and development problems." The organization is an outgrowth of Peace Corps and US/AID sponsored experience in Nepal. Many members of the NSA have received copies of New ERA's brochure and Newsletter. Any who did not or who wish additional information may write either:

Douglas E. Hall, Executive Secretary
New ERA
18 Walker Street
Concord, N. H. 03301

or:

Melvin Goodman, President
New ERA
P. O. Box 722
Kathmandu, NEPAL

Corneille Jest: Writes that Mrs. Boulnois is preparing an addendum to the Bibliography of Nepal. In July he leaves for Nepal and Dolpo for four months and will go to Nepal again next spring. He has just completed editing two films, on a Thakali festival and an ecological transect around Manaslu. He hopes to attend the Ethnological Congress in Chicago (1973). Address: 56 Rue de Sevres, 92. 100 Boulogne, France.

Dor Bahadur Bista, an anthropologist and formerly Joint Secretary, Remote Areas Development Council, has been appointed Nepalese Consul General in Lhasa, Tibet.

Mahesh C. Regmi's latest work, in an edition of 1000 copies, is titled A Study in Nepali Economic History (New Delhi: Manjusri Publishing House, 1971). The new book is one of a series on economic history. Other works will include the early Rana Period (1846-1920) and the period from 1921-1950. In addition, Regmi is compiling an encyclopedic glossary of terms found in administrative documents.

Revised Budget

At the request of the Ford Foundation, whose representatives conferred with members of the NSA Executive Committee during the New York meetings, a revised two-year budget was drawn up and has been agreed upon in principle by the Foundation. It is expected that the grant will be activated during July. A copy of the new budget summary follows. The complete document, as forwarded to the AAS and Ford Foundation, included a history of the formation of the NSA, statement of its aims, and justifications for each item. Though not varying in principle from the document included in the first Newsletter, changes were made in details. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy, please write John Hitchcock.

BUDGET SUMMARY

| | <u>1972/ 1973</u> | <u>1973/ 1974</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Nepal-American Scholarly Relations | | | |
| (a) Annual Seminar for Nepali Scholars in Nepal | \$5,000 | \$5,000 | \$10,000 |
| (b) Mailing costs to cover shipment to the Tribhuvan Library of published and unpublished Nepal-related writing by American scholars. | 200 | 200 | 400 |
| 2. Resource Center Maintenance and Language Training | | | |
| (a) Berkeley resource center | | | |
| (i) Regmi translation project | 2,400 | 2,400 | |
| (ii) Micro-film project | 200 | 200 | |
| (iii) Bibliographer/Librarian | 3,000 | 3,000 | 11,200 |
| (b) Nepali language instructor at University of Wisconsin | 6,000 | - | 6,000 |
| 3. Enhanced Scholarly Communication in the United States | | | |
| (a) Regional or National Conferences | 6,000 | 6,000 | 12,000 |
| 4. Newsletter | 675 | 675 | 1,350 |
| 5. Contingency | 800 | 800 | 1,600 |
| | <u>\$24,275</u> | <u>\$18,275</u> | <u>\$42,500</u> |

Notes for Prospective Researchers and Trekkers

Don and Kareen Messerschmidt sent the following information for prospective researchers and trekkers. Both had been in Nepal in the late 60's and were impressed by the greatly increased number of bazaar items now locally available. They brought much more than they needed and say that what they would have saved on their airfreight bill in most instances easily would have covered the higher Nepali prices. They also include useful comments on visas, mail, banking, and libraries. Don has been doing fieldwork in Gurung communities (see membership list).

WHAT'S IN KATHMANDU (June 1972)

To save you the trouble, the headaches, and some of the wondering if this or that is available in Nepal, we have compiled the following comments and suggestions (incomplete, to be sure) on just what is and is not to be found in Kathmandu. Don't be fooled by what the market may have been in the 1960's. We thought we knew what to expect, looking back on Don's 4+ years living here in the mid-60's. But the market has changed and grown tremendously. There are more stores, more kinds of stores, and far more selection now than ever before. And, unlike India, Nepal stocks a wide selection of imports in all lines. Quite literally--although we don't recommend it--one could come with only his pocketbook and a change of undies and equip himself quite adequately for field work strictly from what is available on the Kathmandu market.

1. GENERAL INFORMATION. First rule of thumb in the bazaar: if you know what you want and see it in some shop, buy it then. Don't put off til tomorrow what you see and want today--it quite likely won't be there tomorrow, nor for many months again. We have learned by frustrating experience!

Imported items are expensive. Import duty is very high and you can't avoid it unless you come in some diplomatic or duty-free status (and order your own goods yourself from foreign distributors). Canned, frozen, and other packaged foods, liquor (other than Nepali brands), electrical appliances, technical equipment (camera, etc.), some books, and other items are downright costly, sometimes 100% over U.S. prices. In contrast, some things are dirt cheap. Chinese manufactured goods, for example, come priced low but are generally high quality.

2. VISAS AND OFFICIAL PROCEDURES. You'll probably arrive with a seven-day visa (from the Nepal Embassy in Washington, D.C.). Once in the country, all scholars are urged to register at the office for research located at Tribhuvan University. They will process your papers and write the necessary letters to appropriate government offices for your visa extension and in-country documents (trekking permits, etc.). Be sure to bring a statement of financial support.

Notes for Prospective Researchers and Trekkers (cont.)

3. MAIL. The American Consulate on Kantipath will hold mail which comes to the Embassy in your name. Best to write and tell them when to expect you.

The Foreign Post Office receives incoming parcels, sends a notice, and holds them free up to 10 days (after which they charge a storage fee). The current limit for non-duty-free foreigners is two packages of up to Rs.200 value each year (from mid-April). Anything over these limits requires buying an import license from the Department of Commerce at Singha Durbar (Secretariat Building). The government is strict in this regard, inspectors at the Post Office are thorough, and duty is HIGH, all the more so when they charge a fee on "PIF"--postage, insurance, and/or freight costs! Best advice: Bring all you need with you on the plane; airport customs are more lenient.

Important out-going mail should be registered.

4. BANKING. Unless you come in some official capacity with the U.S. government, or can make special arrangements with the Embassy to cash your checks (difficult!), you will rely on the Nepal banks. You can open an account, or just cash your travellers checks periodically in exchange for Nepalese rupees. Current official exchange rates fluctuate around Rs. 10 to \$1. (There is a black market, of course, but it is VERY RISKY! If caught, you can be deported immediately.)

5. VARIOUS AGENCIES & LIBRARIES. These are just a few of my own acquaintance:

(a) SIL, or Summer Institute of Linguistics, at Tribhuvan University, has linguists working on all major Nepalese languages. They have many good publications and their work is excellent. Recommend to anyone engaged in social or linguistic research. Address: Tribhuvan University, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Box 115, Kathmandu.

(b) Mahesh C. Regmi's research project has its office in Lazimpat (northern part of Kathmandu) and may be helpful to scholars interested in certain historical and contemporary government and economic documents.

(c) The Royal Drug Research Laboratory and Herbarium, in Thapathali (near the Patan bridge) is well equipped, well staffed, and extends its plant-identification services to interested scholars. For example, I have just had them identify various plants of symbolic importance used in Gurung ritual. Contact Dr. S. M. Malla, Director. Among their botanical publications, one entitled MEDICINAL PLANTS OF NEPAL (Bulletin of the Department of Medicinal Plants, No. 3, HMG, Nepal. 15 rupees) may be of interest to medical anthropologists.

(d) Tribhuvan University Library is fairly well stocked. Membership and a Reader's Ticket cost Rs. 25 for scholars, plus 1 rupee per month fee.

(e) The Kaiser Shamsheer Library, across Kantipath from the west entrance of the Royal Palace, is a government-operated library stocked with many old and out-of-print works on Nepal. The library is open to the public and does not require special permission as before.

Notes for Prospective Researchers and Trekkers (cont.)

6. BOOK DEALERS. Kathmandu abounds in book stalls, too many to name. Ratna Pustak Bhandar in Bhotāhiti stocks most Nepali titles, locally published: historical, genealogical, and religious works, etc. The Educational Book Exhibit has a Kathmandu showroom at 1-200 Kupandol, in Lalitpur (just south and west of the Patan Bridge, on the Shanta Bhawan Hospital road). This company stocks a wide variety of books, particularly rare and out of print works on Nepal, Tibet, and the Himalayas (all subjects, as available). They can order any book in print that you need. Mailing address: P. O. Box 422, Kathmandu.

Reprint editions of certain old works on Nepal (Hodgson, Kirkpatrick, and others) can be purchased in the better bookstores. Some are already out of print again, however. Publishers: Manjusri Publishing House, Kumar Gallery, Sundernagar Market, New Delhi, India. They will send a book-list on request; refer to "Bibliotheca Himalayica" editions.

A source of anthropological books is Ram Advani, P. O. Box 154, Hazratganj, Lucknow-1, Uttar Pradesh, India.

7. STATIONERY SUPPLIES & MISC. FIELD EQUIPMENT. There are a number of well-stocked stationery stores. Bond typing paper, carbon paper, typing ribbons, ink, pens, pencils, art supplies (limited), staplers, paper clips, "cover files", notebooks, tracing paper, rulers, etc... Indian, Chinese, Japanese, and European brands (prices rise respectively). (It is sometimes hard to find the correct ribbon for some typewriters; bring some of your own.)

Hill bazaars stock "copy" books for school children, "full scape" (double width, legal length) paper, ball point pens, ink, and glue... Do not rely on hill bazaars for field work supplies.

In general, paper supplies are not expensive, and quality is good. Some imported brands are the same as found in the U.S.

Cameras, film, typewriters, tape recorders, tapes (cassette and reel), and related technical equipment are all available, but EXPENSIVE! Best to bring your own. Repairs can be made.

Film: Kodak, and various European and Japanese brands are for sale (but not always fresh). Bring all you need with you; prices here are prohibitive! Ektachrome and black-and-white films can be processed locally, but be prepared to send other color films away to be processed.

8. FOOD. Many stores carry large varieties of canned goods with local or Indian brands (and sometimes choice items from China). Kathmandu has a number of "Fresh Houses" and "Cold Storage" stores where all kinds of meat, including "fillet" (Calcutta beef) and sausages, can be brought. Also, dairy products--fresh and canned. Imported liquor is very costly. Western cigarettes, ditto. Pipe tobacco: bring your own. Something new: Nepali "Star" brand beer, processed under German supervision, is less expensive than imported brands, and much tastier than its Indian look-alikes.

Examples of food types: canned fruits, vegetables, jam, peanut butter, fish...powdered "jello" mixes, custard, fruit drinks, cocoa, soup, instant coffee, spices...dried onions and peas...sugar--all kinds and qualities...

Notes for Prospective Researchers and Trekkers (cont.)

chocolate bars and hard candies...cookies and crackers...salad oils, vinegar (fruits are best), baking soda, baking powder, tinned yeast...extracts and flavorings...local noodles, rice, flour, tea, cheese, etc. Some stores specialize in outfitting for treks (or field work) and will package dry goods in sealed plastic bags on request.

9. HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES. A wide variety of pots, pans and utensils, pressure cookers, food grinders, thermoses, plastic bags, and plastic sheeting in rolls...Stainless steel wear and procelain-coated dishes and pans (they chip). Cheap china and glassware...Primus-like Indian kerosene pressure stoves and wick stoves (most common cooking medium, next to wood fires). Also, wick and pressure ("Petromax") lanterns which burn kerosene. Butane, is available, but butane refills are not found in the hills. Kerosene is found everywhere.

Soaps, toiletries (luxury items = luxury prices!), sanitary napkins (no tampons), disinfectants and insect repellants (powder, spray and coils), toothbrushes and paste, imported stainless razor-blades, razors...bedding, mattresses, blankets (the Chinese wool blankets are A-#1 quality, for 1/10th the price for same in U.S.).

Local electricity is 220V, 50 cycles, Step-down transformers for 110V are available. Electrical appliances--stoves, refrigerators, freezers, fans, mixers, etc.--are all VERY EXPENSIVE.

10. BABY FOODS AND RELATED NEEDS. If you come with a young family, this is important. There are good powdered milks and formulas available (many brands); baby cereals, and glucose powder (highly refined, sterile sugar). Some baby toys and books. Hong Kong made rubber pants on occasion. Indian made baby bottles (glass) and nipples are quite adequate. Diapers cannot be purchased, but can easily be made from a material called "malma" found in all yardage stores, There are knitting wools and synthetics, Indian and European, but they are expensive.

11. DRUGS AND MEDICAL CARE. A recently published little book by a Stanford medical student is highly recommended for details concerning medical problems and their solutions in Nepal: A GUIDE TO TREKKING IN NEPAL, by Steve Bezruchka (1972, Sahayogi Prakashan, Tripureshwar, Kathmandu). \$2 in North America--write to 1 Hutton Ave., Toronto 360, Ontario, Canada.

12. CLOTHING, FOOTGEAR, AND FIELD CAMP EQUIPMENT. There are many professional tailors who make good clothing for men, women, and children. Many of them need only see a picture of the style you want to reproduce it. The cloth stores stock Nepali, Indian, Japanese, and Chinese yardage, including some wash-and-wear fabrics. You don't really save very much having clothes tailored locally, except in terms of luggage space getting here.

Some ready-made clothing such as sweater, cardigans, shirts, pants, and jackets--in small and medium sizes only--are available. Large sizes: not! Stockings, other than small-sized synthetic varieties, are simply not found. Bring your own wool and cotton socks enough to last the whole time you are here. They wear out fast on treks. Underwear is available only in small sizes. The basic women's "dainties" can be found.

Notes for Prospective Researchers and Trekkers (cont.)

Footgear: Again, smaller sizes only. Good Chinese and Indian rubber-and-canvas shoes are available. Also dress shoes, street shoes, and rubber thongs... But if you are a big-foot or have trouble fitting shoes, bring all your own, enough to last. Tennis or basketball shoes, if trekked in, don't last long; bring several pair (and shoelaces!). There is nothing in the way of leather hiking or climbing boots, except what the expedition periodically sell after a climb.

Camping gear: If you are particular, bring all your own. If you are willing to take the risk and don't mind a mismatched outfit, you can sometimes find great bargains with the Sherpas. They frequently have expedition gear for sale (off and on -- not dependable): tents, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, packsacks, climbing boots, ice-axes and miscellaneous hardware (pitons, crampons, etc.), down parkas and pants, goggles, woolen caps and mits, etc....

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Note: Addition to list of booksellers:

Educational Enterprise Pvt. Ltd.
P. O. Box 425, Kathmandu
office: Kantipath
trade counter: Mahankal

Panel During Annual AAS Meeting

A panel chaired by His Excellency Padma Bahadur Khatri, Permanent Representative of Nepal at The United Nations, met on March 29 during the annual Association for Asian Studies meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York (March 27-29, 1972). The topic was Nepal: A Unique Sociocultural System? Papers were presented by James Fisher ("Sociocultural Process in Transhimalayan Nepal"), John Hitchcock ("A New Perspective on Unique Features of the Nepali Caste System"), Rex Jones ("Limbus vs. High Caste Hindus: A Look at Sanskritization in Nepal"), Ruth Schmidt and N. R. Kharel (both in absentia) ("Honorific Registers in the Multi-ethnic Society of Kathmandu"), and Ter Ellingson ("Common Aspects of Tibetan and Nepali Shamanism"). Discussants were Frederick Gaige, Sherry Ortner, and V. Shukla. As noted by Ambassador Khatri, the panel was the first during an AAS meeting to be devoted to Nepal scholarship. Papers are available from the authors. Ter Ellingson's address: Department of Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Annual Meeting of the Nepal Studies Association

Monday, March 27

The annual NSA meeting was held during the AAS meeting with 30 persons attending. Merrill Goodall, chairman of the Executive Committee, reviewed the history of the new organization and discussed his recent trip to Nepal (see Newsletter No. 1).

It was decided that tenure of the present 9-member Executive Committee would begin from this meeting.

Since a number of NSA members had expressed interest in helping the organization by in turn assuming responsibility for production of the Newsletter it was decided to rotate editors of the Newsletter every two years. This is in keeping with the goal of making active participation in NSA affairs as broad as possible. Ruth Schmidt, Department of South Asian Languages, University of California 94720, will be editing the Newsletter for the coming biennium. Anyone who would like to assist NSA by taking subsequent responsibility for the editorship and who has not already indicated this, should write Merrill Goodall.

It was suggested that the Newsletter publish addresses of organizations to which individuals could mail offprints and other scholarly materials. Of particular importance in this regard is the Documentation Center, CEDA, Kathmandu. Another suggestion was that the Newsletter abstract materials not readily available. In general, it was agreed that the Newsletter could play an important role in forwarding communication among persons with Nepal interests both in the U.S. and in other countries.

The Executive Committee of the NSA now is a committee of the South Asia Regional Council of the AAS. At the open meeting of the Council Monday evening John Hitchcock spoke of the goals and present programs of the NSA.

Notes for Prospective Researchers and Trekkers (cont.)

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