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Nepal Studies Association Bulletin, Nos. 19-20

Nepal Studies Association

Donald A. Messerschmidt
Washington State University

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NEPAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Bulletin No. 19-20

Double Issue: Spring and Fall, 1979

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Reviewed by Donald A. Messerschmidt

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INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERS
NEPAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Address all correspondence about dues and subscription and membership to our temporary Acting President,

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Cleveland, Ohio 44106 U.S.A.

Membership: \$5.00 (U.S.) for individuals
\$10.00 (U.S.) for institutions

Make checks payable to "Nepal Studies Association"

PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES PROMPTLY. We normally acknowledge membership as paid annually, January to December. If you are delinquent for 1979, please pay. Dues for 1980 are also being accepted at this time. We can only function when full dues are paid!

We also need your input. If you have a news item of interest to scholars and others who receive our Bulletin, please send it to Donald A. Messerschmidt, Editor, *Nepal Studies Bulletin*, Anthropology Department, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164 USA; (509) 335-7019

This edition of the Nepal Studies Association Bulletin was compiled and edited with the help of David Whelchel, and with the assistance of the East and South Asian Program, Washington State University.

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NEPALESE STUDENTS

1979-80 FULBRIGHT-HAYS AND EAST-WEST CENTER STUDENT PLACEMENT

Fulbright-Hays

<u>Name</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>U.S.Placement</u>
Mr. Prem Kumar Khatri Lecturer, Dept. of History and Culture Kirtipur Campus	M.A.	University of California at Riverside
Mr. Bijaya Kumar K.C. Lecturer, Inst. of Business Administration and Commerce, Kirtipur Campus	M.B.A.	in process
Ms. Srijana Maskey Lecturer, Inst. of Science Trichandra Campus	M.Sc. Ecology	in process
Mr. Kedar N. Baral Lecturer Trichandra Campus	M.Sc. Meteorology	in process

East-West Center

Mr. Shanker R. Sharma Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics Kirtipur Campus	M.A. Mathematics	University of Hawaii
Mr. Madan Pathak Lecturer, Dept. of Mathematics Trichandra Campus	M.A. Mathematics	University of Hawaii
Mr. Govinda Koirala Lecturer, Dept. of Economics Kirtipur Campus	M.B.A.	University of Hawaii

APROSC: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL

- Prepared by Clive Wing, APROSC Documentalist (ADC)
Kathmandu, Nepal
(6/79)

The Agricultural Projects Services Centre (APROSC), or Krishi Ayojana Sewa Kendra, was established in Kathmandu in 1975 as a semi-government autonomous institution. With the growing investment along project lines in agriculture and rural development, late 1976 saw the Centre granted the status of a national institution affiliated to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Irrigation. Briefly, APROSC's objectives are these:

1. Conduct feasibility studies and formulate investment projects related to agricultural and rural development.
2. Evaluate on-going projects.
3. Provide consultancy services.
4. Undertake appraisal work for projects already prepared.
5. Provide technical backstopping and training to improve and strengthen the capabilities of HMG Departments, banks and other institutions.

Along these objectives, APROSC has completed more than sixty studies, the result of which have been published for private distribution. These studies range from the integrated rural development project for the Mahakali hills to apiculture in Dolakha. Sponsoring agencies are as diverse as the projects themselves, with recent contractors including the World Bank, USAID, Punarvas Company, OMD, et cetera.

As the volume of work has increased, so has APROSC's staffing levels and accommodation. Permanent staff now exceeds 130 and are scattered throughout our five offices. One of these, the Agriculture Sector Implementation Project (ASIP) deserves special mention. Its primary activity, with USAID support, is to conduct short management skills development courses for officials with supervisory and management responsibilities in organizations concerned with agricultural and rural development. The training is unusual in the sense that lectures, textbooks, theoretical discussions are not used. ASIP believes that management skills can only be acquired through experience and practice, so tasks with real substance and learning aims, is the training medium.

A very important part of the APROSC set up is the Agricultural Documentation Centre (ADC). Our aim is to collect and preserve

all documentation relating to Nepali agriculture in its widest sense, produced both within and outside Nepal. Although we have made an extremely good beginning, problems do remain. First, because of the disastrous fire at the Singha Darbar in 1972, the most comprehensive collection of documents ever assembled in the country was destroyed overnight. We therefore have no record of what existed and for tracing pre-1972 documents, a great deal of slog and detective work is being undertaken by us.

Our second problem, one which the readers of the NSA Bulletin can go a long way to alleviate, is the acquisition of reports produced outside Nepal, especially theses, conference papers, discussion papers, et cetera. These are very difficult to trace and obtain as citations rarely reach us, or if they do, they often arrive too late for effective action. Because of this, we request all Nepal Studies Bulletin readers to send us copies of their reports. These will be catalogued and added to our permanent collection for general use. Anything of a confidential nature will be treated as such until we hear from the author to the contrary.

Perhaps our most exciting work, something which NSA Bulletin readers can utilize directly, is our participation in the Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS). The ADC has been designated Nepal National AGRIS Input Center and Liaison Office. Under this programme, we are inputting our total collection of documents and journal articles produced in Nepal, be it a two page type-written article or a four volume masterpiece. Our first input should appear in AGRINDEX (the monthly bibliography) and the computer tapes, this year. By the end of the year our total contribution should amount to more than one thousand references. Readers with access to AGRINDEX or the tapes should find this service extremely useful.

Having said this, I must now add that the documents cited in AGRINDEX are, for the present, difficult to supply. Many of you will be familiar with the paucity of duplicating facilities in Kathmandu. Even if we can locate a machine, the odds are that it will be out of order. There is, though, one commercial duplicating service available and if readers are willing to pay up to Rs. 7/- per page we will fulfill requests. If it is any consolation, the ADC hopes to have its own photocopy and microfilm facilities before mid-1980.

Regarding the availability of APROSC publications there is another problem of a different nature. Distribution and copy-

right exists with the contractor, not APROSC. Any attempt by us to copy these reports would be in contravention of a formal agreement. However, we are doing our best to reconcile this state of affairs, and will inform readers, through the NSA Bulletin, of any significant developments.

The publications which we can provide free of charge are those produced by the ADC itself. We have an Occasional Bibliography series and a monthly accessions list. To date, the Bibliographies have been:

1. Irrigation
2. Integrated Rural Development
3. Marketing
4. Credit (in press)
5. Project Management (being prepared)

Requests for these publications should be addressed to:

The Librarian
Agricultural Documentation Centre, APROSC
P. O. Box 107
Kathmandu, Nepal

The ADC will also arrange distribution of the APROSC Newsletter (monthly) if an exchange of publications is involved. If no exchange programme is envisaged, please contact:

The Editor
APROSC Newsletter
P.O.Box 197
Kathmandu, Nepal

Finally, I would like to add that the ADC is open for use to anybody. Next time you are in Nepal, drop in and see us; we will be very glad to give you all the assistance we can.

RADIO EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING

NEPAL PROJECT

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

It hardly seems possible, but for almost a year now the College of Education at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, has been involved in a vital teacher education project in the shadows of the towering Himalayan mountains in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. This is a country where television is yet a dream, but where radio is about to play a vital role in training of primary teachers for the nation's elementary schools. The Radio Education Teacher Training Project (RETT) in Nepal is one of twenty-seven international development projects involving the systematic use of media and radio.

Sponsored by USAID funds and implemented under a contract with Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, RETT has the specific objective of developing Nepal's capability to train 2,000 to 2,500 primary-school teachers per year through regular radio broadcasts, residence workshops and self-instructional support materials. The four-year project, under team leader, Dr. Donald Paige, former DEO, Curriculum, Instruction and Media, SIU-C, will be developed in three phases.

Phase I will concentrate on project development and will include the procurement and installation of equipment; the creation of a management structure; staff training, the preparation, testing and production of self-instructional materials and radio programs; and the design of an evaluation system.

Phase II is the pilot year during which 100 teachers will receive the initial radio broadcasts and work with the newly-developed self-instructional materials. Four specialists from SIU-C will work closely with Institute of Education (Tribhuvan University, Nepal) faculty to determine the effectiveness of the radio programs and the quality of the print materials. The SIU-C staff involved will include the Project Leader, who is an experienced teacher educator; a self-instructional materials development specialist; a radio specialist; and an evaluation specialist.

Phase III will span a period of approximately 18 months and will involve the broadcast of the validated radio programs to some 2,000 teachers nationwide. As Phase III comes to an end, it is hoped that the management structure will have been estab-

lished and quality radio and print materials produced which will make it possible to train an additional 2,000 to 2,500 primary teachers each year thereafter.

Radio was selected as the focal point of this project because Nepal is geographically isolated. The hilly and mountainous terrain has made communications between and among valley population centers extremely difficult. Television is envisioned in 1984 and then probably only in one or two major population centers.

Radio receivers are not in plentiful supply in the country, so one of the major elements in RETT is the purchase and distribution of 2,750 radio receivers to the teachers scheduled for training in the project.

The project has international aspects as well. It is not just a USAID undertaking. The British Council and UNICEF are also involved in some of the technical training components of the project. It is possible that, with the type of multi-lateral interest from donor agencies and after successful demonstration of the feasibility of the RETT concept, such radio training techniques could be utilized in Nepal for other aspects of development.

But for the moment, the specific objective of RETT will remain the development of Nepal's capability to train 2,000 to 2,500 primary school teachers utilizing daily radio programs, periodic workshops, and self-instructional support materials and to do so in a cost-effective manner.

Recently two faculty members joined Team Leader Don Paige in order to assist in the transition from Phase I to Phase II. On May 1, 1979, Dr. Kathleen Krumus joined the RETT team as the self-instructional material specialist on an eighteen month assignment. Dr. Krumhus is a graduate of and a former faculty member at Western Michigan University. Since arriving in Nepal she has organized the training of faculty members at the Institute of Education which will result in the establishment of four teams of writers of self-instructional materials.

It is envisioned that the radio programs will carry the greater portion of the content of the courses and will be reinforced by the self-instructional materials in four curricular areas: Nepali, Mathematics, General Interest, and other subjects. The teams preparing the materials will be patterned somewhat after the Open University development committees in that they will be composed of curriculum specialists, materials writers, radio script writers and radio production specialists.

Dr. Jack Graham joined the Nepal RETT team on July 1, 1979. His will be a dual role on the project. He will be training the project research staff in research methods for formative and summative evaluation tasks of the project and he will be responsible for the development of an evaluation research design to gauge the overall effectiveness of the project. Dr. Graham will be in Nepal eighteen months. He is, however, not new to Nepal. Both he and Dr. Paige served in Kathmandu on another USAID/SIU project in the early 1970s.

One other team member will be joining Dr. Paige, Dr. Krumhus, and Dr. Graham this fall--the Radio-Production Specialist. This person will train Nepali producers, assistant producers and content specialists in the production of instructional programs and will be deeply involved in script preparation. This position is a twelve-month assignment.

Another major component of the contract is the training of 60 Radio Nepal Technical Assistants and Junior Technical Assistants. This training will concentrate on the basics of electronics and radio. Mr. James Hicks had begun this assignment on June 15, but because of his unfortunate and untimely death, the technical training will be delayed for several months.

The College of Education and SIU-C have accepted a tremendous challenge in assisting the government of Nepal in creating the capacity of the Ministry of Education in providing inservice training to at least 2,500 primary school teachers annually through radio broadcasts, brief residence instruction and text/workshops at a per teacher cost well below the present cost. If the project is successful, it will lead toward a longer run goal which is the increasing of the access of the rural and remote populations of Nepal to relevant and quality education.

-Charles B. Klasek, Director
SIU-C/RETT Project

SIU NEPAL BIBLIOGRAPHY UPDATED

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale has announced the updating of their Bibliography of Nepal, compiled by Dr. B.C. Hedrick and J. O. Anderson. This bibliography was originally published in 1973. For more information, write to:

Nepal Bibliography
Department of Education
Southern Illinois University/Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901 U.S.A.

BOOK REVIEWS

Schmidt-Thome, Marlis and Tsering T. Thingo
1975

Materielle Kulture und Kunst der Sherpa. Mit
einem Anhang zum Gemeinschaftsleben. (Material
culture and art of the Sherpa, with an appendix
on communal life.) In Khumbu Himal, Ergebnisse
des Forschungsunternehmens Nepal Himalaya, Vol.10.
Beiträge zur Sherpa-Forschung, Part III. With a
foreward by F. W. Funke. 478 pp., 797 ink drawings
and 13 colour plates; 27x18cm. Munich-Innsbruck:
Universitätsverlag Wagner

- Reviewed by Andras Höfer
Südasiens-Institut: Seminar Für Ethnologie
Der Universität Heidelberg

This book is based on field research conducted in 1965 and 1971, both sponsored by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and carried out as a part of the Research Scheme Nepal Himalaya (Munich). Although the work was published four years ago, it is necessary to introduce it to all those who do not read German. The authors' contribution is to present an inventory, as complete as possible, of all the material manifestations of Sherpa culture in Khumbu, Solu and Pharak. If the store-rooms of our museums contain a large number of insufficiently identified artifacts, it is due to the fact that such enterprises such as the present one are still rare. (Many of us anthropologists tend to view traditional tools and technologies with obvious contempt as something rather ordinary--unless we discover what we think of as artistic value in them. This bourgeois high-handedness is certainly one of the reasons why this sphere is still left to a relatively small number of museologists or amateurs.)

The book consists of the following parts:

- I. Clothing, hair-dress, jewelry and amulets (pp. 17-120).
- II. Traditional technology and working tools; agricultural implements, bamboo-plaiting and wicker work, weaving and spinning, manufacture of various dyes, vessels and tools for food processing, mills, balances, lamps and other household utensils, weights and measures, and carpenters tools (pp.121-243).

- III. House-building and furniture (pp. 243-263).
 IV. Food stuffs, their processing and storage, spices, tea, milk products, beer and liquor, etc. (pp. 263-279).
 V. Sherpa art; dances and songs, musical instruments, painting, wood carving, architecture, ornamental figures (in a far-flung comparative framework), etc., preceded by brief remarks on autochthonous and borrowed elements, on religious (Tibetan) literature, tales and clan genealogies (pp.280-435).

The appendix deals with the ritual relevance of child-birth and name-giving, with toys and children's games (pp. 436-460). The book concludes with a (rather meager) bibliography and an index.

The author's understanding of material culture even encompasses the fields of what Marcel Mauss called "body techniques" (*techniques du corps*) as manifest in games and in the method of counting with one's fingers; traditional hair-dress or the (chiefly ornamental) coating the teeth with silver and gold are considered as important as wood-carving or household utensils.

Among the further merits suffice it to mention two: Whenever possible, the description of each object is followed by some indication on its provenience and on its formal or terminological equivalents in Tibet proper. As to the latter, we are often given a list of terminological variants in several Tibetan provinces; here the book obviously draws from Mr. Thingo's first-hand experience and interviews with refugees.

Such brief comparisons with Tibet contain a lot of data hitherto unpublished. However, as roughly one third of the inventory of Sherpa material culture is of Indo-Nepalese origin, the authors should have paid some more attention to the southern neighbors of the Sherpa population. Astonishingly, they do not even feel the necessity to consult the dictionaries of Turner or B. Ch. Sharma, or to make use of important sources on the material culture of Northern India and Nepal. Not even Grierson's *Bihar Peasant Life*, a classic, is quoted. Some flaws were then inevitable. To mention a few, sukul (a particular kind of mat) is not a Sherpa but a Nepali word; the sickle in question is not kurpa but khurpā, and the Nepalese knife is not kukri but khukri. The authors look in vain for a Tibetan equivalent of Sherpa dōri as this word certainly derives from Nepali torī (mustard seed); and it is incorrect to say that Sherpa paisama is an English loan-word, for both English pyajamas and Sherpa paisama derive from Hindi paijamā.

On the whole, the authors tackle the problem of spelling in a rather lighthearted manner. One may turn a blind eye to the fact that Sherpa terms are not given in a correct transcription, all the more as the bulk of the field work was done well before the publication of the first phonemic summaries of the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the Tribhuvan University. However, the merit of having collected a large number of Tibetan terms and their regional variants is somewhat diminished by the way the authors spell them. The existence of prefixes (prefixed letters) is almost completely ignored, and sometimes even that of aspirates (on p.70 we find tse instead of tshe/che, 'life,' and the word for 'beer' is incorrectly spelled chang, instead of chhang/ĉhañ, throughout the book). A consequently correct translation--at least of those words which do have an established orthography in Tibetan, and at least in the index--could have facilitated future comparative and etymological research.

Some minor deficiencies must also be mentioned. Unfortunately, the authors fail to indicate the (average) measurements of most of the objects described. The terminology referring to the parts of each object is seldom given, and we are not told, for example, what the moun, neck and base of a vessel are called in Sherpa. The provenience of raw materials is only touched on, and the botanical names of the plants used are conspicuous by their absence. The reader will also miss some of the indigenous terms in the index. Personally, I find that a few more details on the techniques of processing and manufacturing would have been useful. To give just one example, in the chapter on wicker-work it is not mentioned whether the Sherpa people distinguish (I presume they do) between the hard bark (Nepali coyā) and the soft marrow (Nepali gicarā) of the bamboo and whether they use the latter for fences and chicken-pens as do other population groups.

In spite of some gaps and inaccuracies the book is a substantial work, and the authors' effort will be gratefully acknowledged by all those who specialize in the material culture of Sino-Tibetan-speaking ethnic groups.

Glover, Warren W., J. R. Glover, and D. B. Gurung
1977

Gurung-Nepali-English Dictionary, with English-Gurung and Nepali-Gurung Indexes. Pacific Linguistics Series C. No.51. (Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University, Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T.2600, Australia.) xiii, 306pp, indexes, appendices, Gurung kinship chart, references. \$11.50, hd.cover, ISBN 0-85883-147-3.

- Reviewed by Donald A. Messerschmidt
Washington State University

The linguistic research conducted in Nepal over more than a decade by researchers and affiliates of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) has netted some excellent results. Much of it was published or otherwise available in printed form while SIL was still in Nepal. Since SIL's departure in 1976 [see NSA Bulletin No.11], many of their efforts are still being published, and a number of them are of considerable importance to Nepalese and foreign scholarship.

Pacific Linguistics, in its several series, has published or announced the forthcoming publication of five separate items (two occasional papers, Series A; one monograph, Series B; one book, Series C; and one special publication, Series D [defined as bulletins, archival materials and other]) which deal directly with Nepalese languages. See References, below.

Warren Glover (with several others), whose work in Nepal has dealt primarily with Gurung language, is the principle author of four of these five publications. The most recently published is his Gurung-Nepali-English Dictionary, co-authored by Jessie Glover and by his principle informant, D.B. Gurung. This work contains about 4,000 Gurung words collected between 1967 and 1974 under agreement between SIL and Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu. Previously, a Gurung-Nepali-English Glossary was published by SIL in the Devanagari script (1976). This new publication is the first edition in the Roman script, and is a valuable contribution to Gurung linguistics specifically and to the study of Himalayan languages generally.

Gurungs inhabit a broad region of high mountain slopes, hills and valleys in west-central Nepal. According to the 1971 census,

there were 171,609 people who claimed Gurung as their mother tongue. 135,118 of them (79%) live in the seven administrative districts of Gandaki Zone (listed here in order of greatest to least concentration of Gurungs): Lamjung, Syangja, Kaski, Gorkha, Tanahun, Parbat and Manang. Gurungs are also found scattered in other districts of Nepal, principally east and south of Gandaki Zone. Some of the latter have lost touch with the Gurung language and speak Nepali as their mother tongue. Altogether, Gurung speakers account for about 1.5 percent of the entire Nepalese population, and together with Nepali-speaking Gurungs that figure is closer to 2 percent.

The Gurung dialect represented in the Glover dictionary is primarily that of one informant, Deu Bahadur Gurung, of Ghachok village near Pokhara, in Kaski District. Hence, this is a Ghachok Dialect dictionary, and is not entirely representative of the Gurung spoken in other areas. Here, and in another publication (Glover and Landon n.d.), Glover tells us that the study of the Gurung language more widely reveals at least three major geographical dialects--East, West and South--with continuous variation within the dialects. (Many Gurungs of the Ghale clan speak the Ghale language which Glover and Landon describe as "a radically more different form of speech from Gurung than either Tamang or Thakali." Ghale is spoken chiefly in the district of Gorkha.)

The Ghachok Dialect falls within the West Gurung classification. From my own observations of the Gurung spoken in and around Ghanpokhara, in Lamjung District (East Dialect), one significant difference lies in the greater or lesser use of Nepali loan words. Ghachok Dialect strikes one as being considerably dependent on Nepali loans, which is reasonable given its close proximity to Pokhara, a major Nepali-speaking center of education and business. In this regard, the present dictionary would have been greatly enhanced if more of the difference between the dialects were discussed, and perhaps comparable lists of terms were provided which were representative of each of the major dialect areas. As it is, this dictionary is only partially useful to researchers in the region of the East Dialect (Lamjung and western Gorkha districts) and the South Dialect (Syangja District). Interested persons will have to await the publication of Glover and Landon's study of Gurung Dialects by Pacific Linguistics sometime in the near future.

The Gurung-Nepali-English Dictionary is divided into the following sections: Preface, Introduction (including the Ortho-

graphy, Alphabetizing Order, Structure of an Entry, Comparative Information and Abbreviations), the dictionary proper, a Nepali-Gurung index, two appendices (A: Gurung Kinship Terms, and B: Religious Terms), a Gurung Kinship Chart (foldout), and References. Persons interested in more on Gurung religious practices might also wish to consult Jessie Glover's "The Role of the Witch in Gurung Society" (1972), in addition to Appendix B. Other works by Warren Glover on Gurung language include his 1969 Gurung Phonemic Summary, and his 1974 Sememic and Grammatical Structures in Gurung, in addition to items already mentioned in this review.

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- Glover, W. W. 1969. Gurung Phonemic Summary. (Kathmandu: SIL).
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 Glover, Jessie and Deu Bahadur Gurung. n.d. Conversational Gurung. (forthcoming in Pacific Linguistics, Series D.)
 Glover, W. W., and John K. Landon. n.d. Gurung Dialects. (forthcoming in Pacific Linguistics, Series A, No.53.)
 Glover, W. W., Maria Hari, and E.R.Hope. 1971. Papers in South East Asian Linguistics, No.2. Pacific Linguistics, Series A, No. 29. (\$3.00).

BOOKNOTES

Saubolle, B. R. (SJ) and A. Bachmann. Mini-Technology. Vol. I. Kathmandu: Sahayogi Prakashan. 76pp. (Rs.25/-; U.S.\$6.00 airmail postpaid).

- Reviewed by Brot Coburn
 Seattle, Washington

"Technology strides ahead in seven-league boots; but all the jet planes and rockets and other sophisticated means of transportation will never push off the face of the earth the humble bullock cart, the bicycle and the barrow. There's room for the old as well as the new. Human beings have similar needs and problems no matter where or when they live, and it helps to know how other people have handled a situation one faces oneself.

"This book was based very largely on the experiences of the writer, who was born and bred in India. It gives mostly Indian solutions to problems encountered in an earlier age before the onrush of modernity. It tells how to cool a house without air-conditioning, how to chill beer without a refrigerator, how to produce gas for cooking and lighting where there is no town supply, a way to make crows trap themselves, several ways of making hot water at no expense, and so on and so forth" (From the Preface)

Especially useful are Fr.Saubolle's lucid descriptions and A. Bachmann's detailed diagrams of various energy-conserving cooking, space heating and water heating technologies. These technologies have been tested and found successful in Nepal, and all are inexpensive and surprisingly simple to construct. With Nepal's growing fuel crisis and widening avenues for the application of appropriate technologies, this booklet and its successive volumes will be of immeasurable importance in the development of Rural Nepal.

Mierow, Dorothy and Tirtha B. Shrestha
1978.

Himalayan Flowers and Trees. Kathmandu: Sahayogi
Prakashan. 210pp., illus in color. (Rs.100/-; U.S.
\$10.00 airmail postage paid.)

- Reviewed by Brot Coburn
Seattle, Washington

Himalayan Flowers and Trees now joins the Flemings' Birds of Nepal as Nepal's only color-illustrated guidebooks that are light weight and handy to use. Over 400 high-quality color photographs (printed in Bangkok) of Nepal's flowering and economically important plants are enhanced by 31 pages of comprehensive notes describing their range, habitat, altitude, local uses and historical significance. The notes touch on the distinguishing characteristics of botanical peculiarities of each species, emphasizing more the natural history and the ecology of each plant. The notes are thereby engaging to the generalist, yet include information unavailable in taxonomic keys. Photographs of Nepal's varied ecological habitats also round out the book by helping locate the plants geographically.

Dorothy Mierow's photographs are divided into sections which correspond with the major treks of Nepal, making this volume especially useful for the trekker. Line drawings illustrate descriptions of "Characteristics of Some Plant Families Found in Nepal," a chapter which can be read as a general background to Nepal's flora, a beginning lesson in botany, or used as a key in the field.

Also included are altitude distribution charts for Nepal's gymnosperms, rhododendrons and oaks, plus an index to the plant photographs by scientific and common names, keyed by Dr. Shrestha.

Mythological History of Nepal Valley from Svayambhu Purana, translated by Mana Bajra Bajracharya; edited by Warren W. Smith. And W. W. Smith, Naga and Serpent Symbolism. Kathmandu: Avalok Publ. (P.O.Box 1465, Kathmandu). 78pp. (Rs.30/-).

-Reviewed by Brot Coburn
Seattle, Washington

Dr. Bajra and Mr. Smith have collaborated closely to produce this engaging first translation of the Svayambhu Purana. It is carefully footnoted, with indepth interpretations of each historical event, bringing to life the spirit of this ancient text as well as elucidating its literal meaning. The authors go on to convincingly demonstrate that the Kathmandu Valley creation myth is consistent with scientific accounts of the probable geologic events of the region.

The contents include chapters on: Introduction to the Svayambhu Purana, Vipaswi Buddha, Sikkhi Buddha, Viswabhu Buddha, Krakucchanda Buddha, Kanakamuni Buddha, Kasyapa Buddha, Sakyamuni Buddha, Santikar Buddha, Pratapa-Malla; Kulpas, Yugas and Geologic Time; Svayambhu Purana as creation myth; The Buddhist Chaitya; Naga and Serpent Symbolism; Naga Iconography; Dhyani Buddha Amoghasiddhi; The Devi Kundalini; Naga rituals in other parts of Nepal; Relations to Chinese Geomancy; Telluric Currents; The Living Earth; Bibliography.

An 18 x 27 inch (46 x 68 cm) map is included which shows the Nagavasahrada, the former Great Lake of Nepal, with locations of the Twelve Naga Tirthas.

NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE ON NEPAL AND THE HIMALAYA

From D.K.Agencies, International Booksellers and Subscription Agents, 313/74-D, Inderlok, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-110035, INDIA:

Awasty, Indira. 1978. Between Sikkim and Bhutan: The Lepchas and Bhutias of Pedong. 1st edition. Delhi: B.R.Publ.Corp. xi, 128pp, illustrated. U.S.\$8.00

Fürer-Haimendorf, Christoph von, editor. 1978. New Edition. Caste and Kin in Nepal, India, and Ceylon: Anthropological Studies in Hindu-Buddhist Contact Zones. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers. vii, 364pp, illustrated, maps. \$20.00

----- South Asian Societies: A Study of Values and Social Controls. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers. 1979. xi, 264pp, illustrated. \$15.00.

----- The Sherpas of Nepal. Reprint Edition. New Delhi: Sterling Publishers.

Hansan, Amir. 1978. The Buxas of the Tarai: A Study of their Socio-Economic Disintegration. Dehli: B.R.Publishing Corp. xi, 264pp, illustrated, map. \$15.00

From Dharma Publishing, 2425 Hillside Avenue, Berkeley, California 94704, U.S.A.:

Govinda, Li Gotami. forthcoming. Tibet in Pictures, in two parts. Pt.1 - 120pp; Pt.2 - 120pp. Cloth \$37.00.

Tulku, Tarthang. 1978. Sacred Art of Tibet. 4th edition. 100pp. 44 b/2 plates.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, contact:

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The Winter 1979-1980 issue of the Nepal Studies Association Bulletin will be in the mail in late December.

Book reviews appearing in the Winter issue will include:

*Hellrigl, W. and C. Hepper. 1978. THE NATIVE POSTMARKS OF NEPAL. (Reviewed by Roger D. Skinner)

*Rose, Leo E. 1977. THE POLITICS OF BHUTAN. (Reviewed by Seymour Scheinberg)

Also appearing in the next issue -- an update on Dissertations on Nepal, from DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL (Courtesy of F. J. Shulman, editor).

WE INVITE Book Reviews and Booknotes on current publications. We need volunteered reviews for these, and many other, books:

R.M. Bernier, THE NEPALESE PAGODA and THE TEMPLES OF NEPAL

H.K. Kuloy, THE KULUNG RAI

D.L. Snellgrove, THE IMAGE OF THE BUDDHA

G. Tucci, RATI-LILA

G. Axim, NEW STRATEGIES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

R. Fleming, THE GENERAL ECOLOGY, FLORA AND FAUNA OF MIDLAND NEPAL

C. McDougal, THE FACE OF THE TIGER

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