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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

This double issue of **HRB** stretches both disciplinary and regional boundaries. Our "Himalaya" stretches northwest to the Karakoram, and our contributors include geophysicists, geographers, politicians, political scientists, anthropologists, linguists, religious scholars, philosophers. Perhaps this issue achieves the multi-disciplinary synergy that Rasoul Sorkhabi calls for in his lead-off piece, *One Himalaya*. Certainly that is our hope. Sorkhabi's argument for broadly conceived Himalayan studies is followed by a set of papers drawn from the 24th Annual Conference on South Asia, held at Madison. The papers by Vasant Saberwal, Mark Baker, Arun Agrawal, and Kenneth MacDonald deal with access to resources and organization of labor in Himachal Pradesh, Kumaon, and the upper Braldu Valley, respectively. That continuity of topic and territorial focus breaks with the next piece, a historic interview with Ratna Padma Tuladhar conducted by David Gellner and Father Gregory Sharkey.

We offer an analysis of RECENT PUBLICATIONS that includes extended review essays as well as a selection of reviews on an unusually wide variety of new books. The timing of publication--after the annual South Asia meetings at Madison--means that we can include in the CONFERENCE DIGEST a whole year's worth of major meeting abstracts. This issue's DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS is particularly extensive owing to the sleuthing talents of compiler Frank Shulman, who has provided descriptions of dissertations completed in Europe as well as the United States. We conclude with a DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS, and hope that you will provide us with updated information and corrections as appropriate.

This issue draws on the talents of old contributors--Book Reviews Editor Todd Lewis, Frank Shulman, Conferences Coordinator John Metz--and introduces new ones. The extraordinary photography of Kenneth Hanson, Connecticut-based photographer, enriches this volume front, back, and in between. We hope Mr. Hanson's cover photograph will also enrich **HRB**'s coffers and extend our journal's reach: we invite you to invest in a few posters derived from the cover image, and put them up in prominent places. In the **HRB** offices at Portland State, meteorologist/geographer Kathleen O'Connor joins Tenzing Gyazu Sherpa, who will now concentrate on pulling together next year's special issue on Solukhumbu and the Sherpa people. (Tenzing would welcome additional contributions to add to the varied collection of articles and information already in hand.) These generous contributors of time and talent to the cause of **HRB** allow the bulletin to survive, and I thank them. Further thanks are due as well to Paul Kalmes, who followed up his offering of Vittorio Sella's photograph's to the last issue of the bulletin by serving as volunteer editor for this one; to my colleagues Ric Vrana and especially Joe Porascky, who labored over map design; and to Brenda at Express Copy, whose skill and patience produced the promotional poster.

This volume is dedicated to James J. Parsons, a geographer with a specialty in Latin America and a curiosity about the world broad enough to take in--and to encourage others to explore--its farthest corners. He said recently about **HRB**: "I can't imagine a better example of a top line Area Studies publication or, for that matter, a more closely knit group of scholars with their sights focused on one quite restricted but utterly fascinating part of the earth's surface." We will take that as our editorial exhortation, and try to make it true.