

Report on the Monuments of Northern Nepal

(continued)

Corneille Jest

Monuments of Nuwakot District

Temple of Bumthang (S. I. Bungtang)

The temple is built above the village inhabited by Tamangs at an altitude of 1700 m.

The walls are of stone, with a slate roof.

The plan is rectangular, two posts support the inner structure. A porch on the southern side gives access to the chapel.

On the altar clay images of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, Guru Dragpo, Sakyamuni, Guru Rinpoche, Senge Dongma and Tsepame.

The temple was built in 1944.

A lama of the Plenden clan is the caretaker.

Temples of Salme (S. I. Salme) (Ta. Sang-Gam)

There are two temples in Salme.

The village temple (Dimdung clan)

The building (ext. dim. : 7, 10 x 8,00 m)

is a simple construction with a chapel (6,00 m x 4,80 m) and a porch open to the South-East.

The temple was built in 1970.

Five generations ago the temple of the Dimdung clan was built against a cliff at Us or Kus Gombo at an altitude of 2300 m. The site was abandoned and the temple is now located in the Dimdung Khor.

Religious festivals

Full moon of Bhadau.

1st day of Magh (Magh Sankranti) — festival of *Tsechu*

Full moon of Bhadau

10th day of Dasai.

The temple of Belche

This temple is built on a terrace at 2100 m.

On a rectangular plan, the entrance porch faces East. Two posts support the ceiling. The

walls are bare and the building contains no decoration.

Temple of Kaule (S. I. Kaule)

The temple of Kaule dominates the settlement of Kaule (alt. 1900 m).

The temple has a rectangular plan (exter. dim. 5,00 m x 7,00 m). The roof is pitched and of simple construction. The entrance porch faces South.

On the altar a statue of Guru Rinpoche. A group of eight *chorten* has been built at the east of the temple.

Near a small oak forest a stream has been diverted into tank around which shrines to Mahadev have been built (the place is called

Kipsang).

The main Hindu festival is held in Kartik Ekadashi.

Temple of Balche (S. I. Bhalche)

The temple of Balche is located above the village at an altitude of 2000 m.

On the altar images of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, Chenresi, Guru Rinpoche, Sakya Tubpa.

Festivals

Full moon of Bhadau (*Teschu*)

Full moon of Phagun (*Mane*)

Lama Nub Dorje is the caretaker.

(To be continued)