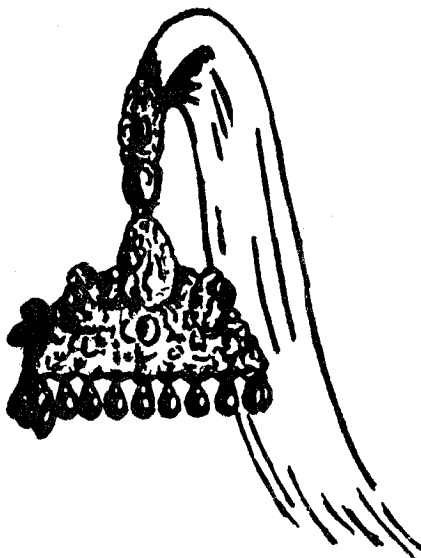


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Contributions To Nepalese Studies

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EDITORIAL

We are happy to devote this number of the Journal to marking the auspicious coronation of His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev which is to take place in Kathmandu on Phagun 12, 2030 (i.e. February 24, 1975). Nepal, to-day, is the only Hindu Kingdom in the world whose monarchical traditions go back to a dim past. The work of unification, leading to the creation of present-day Nepal, was begun more than two hundred years ago by the illustrious ancestor of King Birendra, Prithvinarayan Shah, and the destiny of Nepal ever since that time has been guided by the latter's successors in that line. King Birendra is the eleventh descendant of Prithvinarayan Shah and the tenth monarch to ascend the throne of Nepal. He succeeded his father as the king of Nepal in a brief ceremony held in the Hanuman Dhoka Palace on January 31, 1972, after the sudden and untimely death of his august father His Late Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev. A fuller and complete ceremony to herald the reign of a new King in this country is marked by the coronation which is held at a suitable time and on an auspicious date, fixed by the royal astrologers, after a year's mourning for the departed king has been observed. The coronation is an occasion symbolising Nepal's reaffirmation of national unity, integrity and sovereignty by its people. The Institute for its part pledges, on this historic occasion, to serve the King and country with complete loyalty and dedication and to the best of its capacities. It would like to offer to their Majesties, King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, hearty felicitations at this happy moment.

The Journal enters the second year of its publication with this number. So far the Journal has been well received by its readers both within the country and abroad. We are constantly pressed to make it into a quarterly and this we will surely do in due time. There is perhaps a feeling in certain quarters that a majority of the contributions to the Journal are the work of foreign rather than local scholars. But this situation cannot be merely wished away. A lot of ground-work is necessary before this picture can alter. However, local scholars do need a standard Journal in Nepal in which they can publish. The existence and the maintenance of such a Journal is a necessary pre-condition for the growth of scholarship. And our Journal will not develop with a view to imposing restrictions on the writings of foreign scholars. At present there is no dearth of space in the Journal for all of us: and we hope to continue to learn from each other in its pages. If more Nepalese scholars send us good material, the frequency of the Journal will be increased to absorb this creativity.

All forms of printing, including this Journal, have recently been faced with great difficulties caused by the scarcity of paper and the consequent price-rise. This is not a simple apology for the increased price of the Journal but a warning of more serious difficulties which may lie ahead for printing business as a whole in Nepal. We are confident that the government will find an effective solution to the problem, and give help to the University by providing it with a ready source of paper.

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