

(1931 & 1955-56). Held in SOAS Library, Ref. PP MS 21: Box 6.

Lectures

Lectures on Nepalese music (1934-63) in English, Dutch, French & German. Draft of a chapter on Nepalese music (c.1957). Originals held at Barchem, The Netherlands. Photocopies at SOAS Centre of Music Studies.

Letters and memorabilia

14 letters from Bake in Nepal to his mother (in Dutch), 1931. 23 letters from Bake in Nepal to his sister (in Dutch), 1955-56. Held at the India Office Library, Ref. MMS.Eur.F.191: Boxes 1 & 2.

As an aid to scholars using Bake's Nepalese field-work material, Carol Tingey has produced an annotated guide to the collection (M.Mus.Diss., London 1985). For a review of the collection, see her paper "The Nepalese field-work of Dr. Arnold Adrian Bake" in *Ethnomusicology and the Historical Dimension* ed. M.L. Philipp (Ludwigsburg 1989).

WHAT'S NEW AT TU:

An interview with Vice Chancellor Basudev Chandra Malla
Martin Gaenszle

1990 brought sweeping political changes to Nepal. The popular movement, organized by the previously banned Congress Party and United Left Front (ULF), succeeded in forcing the Palace to reform the constitution and introduce

a multi-party democratic system. How have these political changes affected Tribhuvan University (TU), the country's major institution of higher education? And what do the changes mean for foreign researchers who seek affiliation with TU?

On 26 December 1990 I talked with Professor Basudev Chandra Malla, the new Vice-Chancellor of TU, and raised these very questions. Professor Malla is a political scientist, who headed the Political Science Department at TU during the seventies. He was dismissed in 1976 on grounds of his political affiliation with the Nepal Congress Party. He later worked as a visiting professor at the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA). The following is a selective summary of my talk with Professor Malla.

Relating to my first question concerning changes at the University, Prof. Malla pointed out that after the success of the People's Movement, all the higher office-holders were forced to resign. The University was thrown into "a pell-mell condition" in which he along with all his new colleagues, "had to start from scratch". After the posts of Vice-Chancellor, Rector and Registrar had been filled, new faculty deans, research centre directors (CEDA, CNAS, CERID, RECAST) and campus chiefs were appointed.

To cope with the demands and interests of students, teachers and non-academic employees, several university committees were formed to make suggestions for institutional changes. Prof. Malla said, "We had the very great task of making a new university *ain*, or you may say university constitution. This has now been completed and given to the government for rectification. The old existing *ain* does not take care of all the problems and aspirations of the students, teachers, and administrative staff." Among the planned institutional changes is

provision for a senate which will allow adequate representation of these three interest groups. Under the previous system the heads of representational bodies were often appointed from above rather than elected. Now this is being changed in line with the new democratic values.

The second important institutional change noted by Prof. Malla, is that the contracts of teachers, who had previously worked on a temporary basis ("There was always a sword of Damocles hanging over them") are being offered on a longer term and a selective time-bound promotion scheme has been introduced.

Another of my questions concerned the role of foreign universities in the reorganized Nepalese academic system. Prof. Malla emphasized that institutional linkages with foreign universities and research institutes and exchange programmes will continue. Indeed, he added, "They must be enhanced also."

As far as research in general was concerned, the Vice-Chancellor pointed out that in the future new policies will be designated to bring forth "more viable programmes". By this he meant more coordinated programmes which may also be larger in scale; and in this way an improvement on the present "ad hoc practices".

Responding to the question whether there will be a shift in the emphasis of research, Prof. Malla stressed the importance of both applied and academic research. Applied research in such fields as economics, management, administration, education, etc. will remain

crucial for the formulation of policy as there is collaboration with political bodies like the Planning Commission. "We feed them with our findings". On the other hand, academic research in such fields as history, anthropology and sociology will also continue to play an important role. Moreover, the new constitution "will open new avenues for research studies". For example, language studies will assume new significance, as the "constitution has recognized that all these *rastriya* languages - the various languages of the nation together with Nepali, the state language - should be encouraged". Asked about other fields which may gain a new impetus, Prof. Malla drew attention to the study of Ayurvedic medicine. "We have been giving lip service to the promotion of Ayurved (. . . but) in spite of this, nothing has been done".

Eventually I raised the issue of the affiliation of foreign researchers and the difficulties and complaints that have often been voiced by both researchers and members of affiliating institutions that there was not enough cooperation and academic feed-back. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the problem, expressing the feeling that mutual harmony is somehow missing. He has discussed this with the Chief of the Research Division. Part of the problem is due to the sometimes lengthy process of one's application through the bureaucratic system and meeting all the requirements necessary to obtain a research visa. Though being aware of the fact that "red tape" cannot easily be eliminated, Prof. Malla expressed confidence that the administrative

process can be speeded up: "I think this should be streamlined, and mutual confidence on both sides must be forged".

My last question was a more personal one: What kind of research would he as a political scientist like to see being done? Here, Prof. Malla mentioned the topics of administrative accountability and productivity, or, more generally, the role of administrators in the democratic system. He also named constitutional problems as a potential field of study, as well as contemporary political processes.