

New Appointments at Tribhuvan University

After the former office bearers had tendered their resignation and these were accepted, the following new appointments were made in August of this year: Prof. Kedar Bhakta Mathema (Vice-Chancellor), Dr. Devendra Raj

Mishra (Rector), Mr. Sudarshan Risal (Registrar). The resignation of the former Chief of the Research Division, Dr. Krishna Bahadur Thapa, has been accepted in September. His functions have, for the time being, been taken over by the Chief of the Planning Division, Dr. Panna Lal Pradhan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Symposia

The Himalayan Forum at SOAS 1991-1992

- October 10th - John Bray: "Ladakhi History and Indian Nationhood."
 October 17th - Shelby Tucker: "A Journey through the Kachin Hills of northern Burma."
 November 21st - Mark Temple: "Population Growth and the Labour Shortage in Nepali Agriculture."
 November 28th - Graham Clarke: "Local Views of Development and the Political Order in Highland Nepal."
 December 5th - Yoshiro Imaeda: "Bhutan Past and Present."
 January 16th - Andrew Russell: "Sanskritisation and Identity in the East Nepal Hills."
 January 23th: Dave Richards and Bijaya Sainju: "Nepal in the 1990s: Donor-Driven-Democracy?"
 January 30th: Tsering W Shakya: "Tibet and China in 1950: Coercion or Diplomacy?"
 February 6th: Sonam Chhokipology: "Ritual in a Bhutanese Village: an Historical Perspective."
 February 13th: Surya Subedi: "Monarchy and the Constitution in Nepal and Bhutan."

February 20th: Michael Hutt: "On the Nepali Poet Mohan Koirala."

March 5th: Dipak Raj Pant: "Street-Level Political Action in Nepal."

Sixth Conference of the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Fagernes (Norway)

August 21 - 28, 1992

The conference is to be hosted by the Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture, Drammensveien 78, N-0271 Oslo 2, Norway, (Tel. 02-554207). Workshops have been planned on the following topics (conveners mentioned in brackets): 1. "The Tibetan Canon" (Dr. Helmut Eimer, Indologisches Seminar der Universität Bonn, Regina-Pacis-Weg 7, D-5300 Bonn 1, Germany); 2. "Sacred space, geography and pilgrimage" (Prof. Lawrence Epstein, Dept. of Anthropology, DH-05, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, U.S.A.); 3. Tibetology and social anthropology (Dr. Patrick Kaplanian, 4, Rue Neuve Popincourt, F-77011 Paris, France); 4. Buddhism and modernity in respect of Tibetans (Dr. M.P.S. Chandel, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi 221 007 U.P., India);

5. Old Tibetan (Dr. Helga Uebach, Kommission für Zentralasiatische Studien, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Marstallplatz 8, D-8000 München 22, Germany); 6. Tibetan grammarians (Dr. P.C. Verhagen, Institut Kern, State University of Leiden, P.O.B. 9515, NL-2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands).

The conference will take place at Fagernes, situated in one of the most scenic regions of inland Norway, some 200 kilometers north of Oslo.

Second International Seminar on Tibetan Language, Siena and Arcidosso (Italy) August 30th-September 4th, 1992.

The seminar is convened jointly by Shang-Shung International Institute for Tibetan Studies, The University of Siena and I.S.M.E.O. of Rome. The aim of the seminar is to contribute to a variety of problems regarding the preservation, updating and diffusion of the Tibetan language (e.g. standardization, problems of translation and teaching). Contact address: Istituto Shang-Shung, Istituto Internazionale di Studi Tibetani, Via degli Olmi, 1, 58031 Arcidosso, GR, Italy - Tel. 0564 - 966940, 966941; FAX 0564 - 966846.

The anthropology of Nepal: Peoples, problems and processes Kathmandu 7-14 September 1992
 The Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, and the Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, plan to hold an international conference in Kathmandu on 7-14 September 1992. Whilst CNAS will act as the host for the Conference, the Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, will assume responsibility for the initial organisa-

tion. The title of the conference has been selected to indicate that though papers on a wide range of anthropological topics will be welcome, the conference nevertheless will be distinguished by its concern for some of the contemporary problems in social living in Nepal. There will therefore be a number of either half- or full-day sessions devoted to the following topics: the anthropology of resource management; women and development; medical anthropology; and urban anthropology.

All scholars who have done anthropological research in Nepal are invited to participate. There will probably be a registration fee of US-\$ 50 for scholars employed on a full-time basis in the United States, Canada, Europe, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Other scholars and post-graduate students will not have to pay any registration fee. The conference will be held in the Hotel Vajra, Kathmandu, and daily room rates range from US-\$ 20 to US-\$ 30. Scholars interested in attending this conference should write to: Professor Michael Allen, Department of Anthropology, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia.

SASON National Congress: "Structure and Transition. Society, Poverty and Politics in Nepal." (planned for July or August 1992)

The Sociological/Antropological Society of Nepal (SASON), which was founded in 1985 "with the twin objectives of promoting the disciplines of sociology and anthropology in order that they contribute towards the development of the country", has in August 1991 elected a new Executive Committee with Kailash N. Pyakurel as President and Bihari K. Shrestha as Vice-President. The National Congress

planned for next summer will be the first in several years - and the first after the political changes in Nepal. For details contact: SASON, P.O.B. 4771, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ladakh: History and Culture

A Conference to mark the 150th Anniversary of the death of Alexander Csoma de Körös

Alexander Csoma de Körös (1784-1842) travelled from Europe on foot in search of the origin of the Hungarian people. Arriving in Ladakh in 1822, he began the study of Tibetan at the instigation of an Englishman, William Moorcroft. His studies in Ladakh and Zangskar were to culminate in the publication of a dictionary, grammar and other works which laid the foundations of the scientific study of Tibetan in the West.

A two-day Conference is to be held at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London on 1st and 2nd June 1992. Offers are invited of 20-minute papers to be delivered on subjects relating to the history, culture or anthropology of Ladakh, and/or the life and work of Alexander Csoma de Körös. This will be the fifth in a series of conferences on Ladakh starting at Konstanz in 1981. It is hoped to publish the proceedings.

Several distinguished foreign scholars have been invited to participate, including Dr. Bethlenfalvy, Chairman of the Csoma de Körös Society in Budapest. Various events are planned to accompany the conference, including an exhibition of relics of Csoma de Körös.

The Conference is being sponsored by SOAS and organized by a sub-committee of the International Association for Ladakh Studies, with the co-operation of the Hungarian Embassy in London.

For further information contact Mr. Philip Denwood, Far East Department, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG. Tel: 071-637 2388 Fax: 071-436 3844.

Organisations

The Association for the Ethnological Research of Tibet and the Countries of the Himalaya

Address: Institut für Tibetologie & Buddhismuskunde, Maria-Theresien-Strasse 3/26, A-1090 Vienna, Austria.

The association was founded in Vienna in March 1991. According to its statutes the association serves the following aims:

1. scientific field research in Tibet and the countries of the Himalaya;
2. ethnological work for the counselling of projects concerning development policy and environmentalist aims in the Himalaya;
3. establishment of a special library and data bank;
4. scientific exchange with national and international institutions; and
5. public information in Austria for a better understanding of the cultures and political situation in Tibet and the countries of the Himalaya.

The funds for the realization of these aims will be raised through membership fees, donations and subsidies, contributions, legacies and profits from the association's publications and events.

At present the main research objective is a detailed treatment of environmental problems. An analysis of "emic"

relations with the environment shall furnish the basis for a programme which is directed at using the autochthonous population's conceptions of the world so that the world might also be protected on their terms.

The results of these studies shall be put at the disposal of development-policy makers and environmentalists of diverse organisations.

The Association wishes to take up contact with institutions and persons with similar aims and interests.

Natural History of Nepal

After initial preparation for creating a Natural History Society of Nepal (NAHSON) for about four months, it was finally established in July by a general assembly of members and registered with HMG. One hundred founder members are now preparing for an inaugural ceremony to be held at end of this year.

The objective of the Society is to study, promote and develop the natural history of Nepal by encouraging research and the exchange of information on the natural history of Nepal within and outside Nepal.

To achieve the above objectives, to popularise and promote NAHSON in Nepal and in foreign countries, the following activities will be carried out on a regular basis:

- to conduct talks seminars and workshops
- to publish a newsletter bulletin, journals and books
- to extend Natural Conservation Education in villages, towns and educational institutions
- to encourage regional and international agencies that are interested in

natural history to exchange research information, share knowledge and hold national and international seminars and conferences.

For further information, contact Dr. M. K. Giri, President, NAHSON, Chief, Natural History Museum, Manjushree Bazar Swyambhu, Kathmandu, Nepal. Phone No. 271899

Courses

Courses in Himalayan Languages at the Campus of International Languages, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal

Apart from catering for the needs of Nepalese interested in learning foreign languages the Campus of International Languages (CIL) offers long-term courses in Himalayan languages for foreigners. The CIL, an institution of the state run Tribhuvan University established about 30 years ago, conducts at present language courses for foreigners in Nepali, Sanskrit, and Tibetan.

The courses aim at persons with an interest in in-country language learning. Although Tibetan is regionally spoken only in corners of the country far away from Kathmandu, learners will find ample opportunities of outside classroom language contacts, be it with some of the numerous Tibetan refugees or with members of local institutions of Tibetan Buddhism. Students of Sanskrit are given the chance of familiarizing themselves with Sanskrit pro-
sody through the guidance of a tradi-

tional Nepali Pandit. This may be useful in a basic approach to the language or as a complementary component for advanced learners. A knowledge of Nepali for theoretical or practical purposes has been felt ever since the beginning of the interest in the Himalayan region. Especially anthropologists working on Nepal are sooner or later faced with the necessity of knowing Nepali. The courses are conducted by enthusiastic and academically qualified native teachers.

The courses in Nepali are of a maximum two-year duration, the courses in Tibetan and Sanskrit of one-year. The introduction of second year courses for Tibetan and Sanskrit is currently under consideration. Each year is divided into two semesters at the end of which examinations are held. For successful participation in each one-year term a certificate equalling twenty credit hours is issued. A regular visit of the classes, held five times per week for two hours, is necessary for formal and academic reasons.

All adult bona fide learners are eligible for admission. Permission to reside in the country at personal risk for the period of the course is granted to the successful applicants by the Nepalese immigration authorities. The present visa fee is 60 US Dollar per annum.

The next term starts on August 1st, 1992 and will end in June/July 1993. The course fee for the term 1992/93 amounts to approximately 250 US Dollar or equivalent foreign exchange. Requests should be mailed to: The Campus Chief, Campus of International Languages, Tribhuvan University, Pradarsani Marga, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Manfred Treu

PUBLICATIONS

Himalaya Environment and Development: Twelve Years of Research

The study on Himalayan ecology has a long project tradition in the Department of Geography at the University of Berne, Switzerland. Since 1979 numerous projects have been undertaken on various regions and themes, but always turning around the same basic questions: What are the most important natural processes within the Himalayan ecological system? What is the human impact on these processes and what are the ecological consequences for the future planning towards sustainable development, especially with regard to the use of natural resources? Many of these studies took place in collaboration with United Nations University as well as local partners in the Himalayan states.

A forthcoming volume "Himalaya Environment and Development" edited by B. Messerli, T. Hofer and S. Wymann will summarise the results of the Bernese Himalayan research and at the same time anticipate future activities.

Chapters included: Regionalization of the Himalaya, WYSS, M.; The Himalayan-Lowland interactive system: Do land-use changes in the mountains effect the plains? LAUTERBURG, A.; Deforestation-changing discharge and increasing floods: Myth or reality? HOFER, T.; Forest changes in the Indian Himalaya. KUSTER, H.-J.; Mountain hazards mapping in Nepal's Middle Mountains. Maps of land use and geomorphic damage (Reprint). KIENHOLZ, H., HAFNER, H., SCHNEIDER, G., TAMRAKAR, R.;