

example I know that in anthropology there are quite a lot of students...

A: Now we don't have that problem. Our department was one of the biggest. Since the department of Sociology and Anthropology started, many young students joined it. But still Political Science is one of the popular departments.

Q: Being a political scientist, have you ever been tempted to enter politics yourself?

A: No. Now I have come to the conclusion that I will not join politics on my own initiative. If my government wants my service, if tomorrow the government nominates me and gives me some role to play, perhaps I may do that. But I will not go and fight elections, join a party, I don't like that. My freedom will be totally curtailed if I become the member of a party.

Notes:

¹On 17.8.93 the two parties agreed on ten points (mainly by establishing a number of committees and task forces to look into the disputed problems, e.g. the circumstances of fatal accident of UML leader Bhandari, treatment of recent movement victims, inflation etc., and by extending the time limit for solving the Tanakpur issue, s. The Independent 25.-31.8.1993). With this the movement, which was going on since spring, was called off, but the most crucial point, the demand for the Prime Minister's resignation was not mentioned.

NEWS

Symposia

Adapted Technologies and Environmental Education as Possibilities of Inter-Cultural Communication in the Himalayan Region

Ittenbach, August 13-14, 1993

On the occasion of the exhibition in honour of Toni Hagen (see EBHR No. 5) the German committee of the King Mahendra Trust of Nature Conservation (Nepal) organised a symposium on the problems relating to the introduction and sustainability of environmental projects in the Himalayan region. Papers related to the following topics:

- New strategies in nature conservation projects in Nepal (C.P. Gurung, Bikash Pandey, Dibya Gurung, Manjushree Thapa)
- Urban Planning (P.L. Singh, Christian v. Hatzfeld)
- Income generating projects (biogas, microhydropower, medical plants) (Toni Hagen, Klaus Rudolph, Klaus Duerbeck)
- Solid waste (management, hygienic education) and waste water (Eckhard Spreen, Verena v. Hatzfeld, Oskar Werner Pawel)

- Joint ventures in the transfer of know-how and technologies (Klaus Dieter Schütte)
- Water-management (Wolf Donner)
- Traditional forest use (Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt)

The symposium was convened by Susanne von der Heide.

Oral Tradition Study Group-Himalaya

As a follow-up of the French-German Conference on the History and Anthropology of Nepal held in Arc-et-Senans, June 1990, a study group on "Comparative Study of Oral Tradition in Nepal" was constituted.¹

Researchers interested in oral traditions met in Heidelberg on January 30th 1993 at the invitation of the Seminar für Ethnologie, South Asian Institute of the University of Heidelberg.

Reports about ongoing research were presented as follows:

C.P. Zoller: "A regional version of the *Mahābhārata*." Field research was done in the upper Tons Valley, H.P., India, among Dewal singers (language: West Pahari). It is urgent to collect such epic songs as the tradition seems to be vanishing.

A. de Sales: "The grotesque in a shamanic song". Anne de Sales is currently studying Magar shamanism in Nepal and analyses the different poetic styles which are expressed.

A. Malik: "The oral epic of *Devanārayān*." The study deals with oral narratives associated with the Gujars, a semi-pastoral group of Rajasthan. The itinerant bards (*Bhopa*) use visual representations for their performances.

A. Höfer: "Hyperpragmatic patterns in Tamang shamanic texts." His contribution discussed the phonic-prosodic richness of these recitations.

M. Gaenzle: "The ritual of 'Raising the Vital Soul' - a ritual text of the Mewahang Rai in East Nepal." The paper discussed the problems of translation and interpretation of such texts.

The next meeting of the study group is planned for 25 February 1994 in Meudon Venue: CNRS UPR 299, 1 Place Aristide Briand, 92195 MEUDON, France.

Topics suggested for presentation and discussion:

- the interrelationship between myths and rituals (performance, text/context etc.)
- the methodological problems of presentation, translation and interpretation of oral texts (e.g. systems of transcription, poetics, comparative analysis etc.)
- the interpenetration of oral and written traditions (the process of "textualization", cultural hegemony etc.)

We plan to invite two or three French colleagues interested in oral tradition to exchange views and share our experiences in oral tradition.

Note:

¹The papers presented during the Arc et Senans Conference have been published:

Nepal Past and Present. Proceedings of the French-German Conference. Arc et Senans, June 1990. (Editor: Gérard Toffin), Paris, CNRS/New Delhi, Sterling Publishers, 1993, I-VIII, 377 p., illus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publications

Toffin, Gérard (ed.): *The Anthropology of Nepal: From Tradition to Modernity. Proceedings of the Franco-Nepalese Seminar held in the French Cultural Centre, Kathmandu 18-20 March 1992.* Kathmandu: French Cultural Centre 1993. (Price: NRs. 250).

The book includes contributions on "religion and society", "change and development," and "documentation": 1. Introduction by G. Toffin who stresses, among other things, that the main aim of the Seminar was to present to Nepalese counterparts the results of some recent research by French scientists. 2. Cultural pluralism in Nepal, by I. and D. Baral. 3. The 32 Maharjan tols of Kathmandu City, by A. Hollé, G. Toffin and K.P. Rimal. 4. Religious traditions and beliefs of the people of Western Nepal, by R.N. Pandey. 5. A ritual king: The Dasain Festival in Argha Rajasthal, by P. Ramirez. 6. A Sherpa pilgrimage, by K. Buffetrille. 7. The emergence of Buddhist monasteries around the stupa of Bodhnath, by M. Helffer. 8. Continuity and change in the Gurung culture of Nepal, by J. Gurung. 9. Socio-economic determinants of women's work in the service sector, by N. Mercier. 10. French anthropological studies and development issues in Nepal, by C. Jest. 11. French research on the anthropology of Nepal 1954-1993, by L. Boulnois, P. Massonet, G. Toffin and F. Vigny.

Ramble, Charles & Martin Brauen (eds.) *Anthropology of Tibet and the Himalayas.* Zürich: Ethnological Museum of the University of Zurich 1993. (Price: SFr. 28)

The book contains the proceedings of the international conference with the same title which was held September 21-28, 1990 in Zürich. It includes altogether 39 contributions concerning aspects of Tibetan culture and its context in the Himalayan region. A wide range of topics is dealt with, such as kinship and caste, material culture, myth, ritual, and the performing arts.