

*THE SEVENTH COLLOQUIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES*

Conference Report by Isabelle Riaboff

The International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) was formed in 1987, during the meeting of the Third International Colloquium on Ladakh. Since then it has organised further colloquia. Thus, last June (12th to 15th 1995), the Seventh meeting, convened by T. Dodin, was held at Bonn, Germany, gathering Western and Indian scholars (among the latter, a number of Ladakhpa). About thirty papers were given.

A wide range of papers underlined the increase in the number of anthropological works regarding Ladakh, an increase which was already noticeable in 1993 (when the IALS's Sixth Colloquium occurred at Leh, Ladakh).

Contemporary Ladakh appears to be an important issue, concerned this time less with ecology (a main topic in previous colloquia) than with politics. History remains mainly focused on the nineteenth century, while several other historical papers dealt with the relations between Ladakh and Central Asia. One session treated Baltistan, showing a will to enrich Ladakh Studies through comparisons with Western Himalayan data.

*THE SEVENTH COLLOQUIUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL
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The Seventh Conference of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS) was convened by Professor Ernst Steinkellner at Graz, Austria, June 18th to 24th 1995.

This international meeting gathered as usual scholars from many countries (including Tibet itself) belonging to various disciplines, reflecting the growing scope of contemporary Tibetan studies.

Considering the over 200 papers which were given, one can get an idea of the main current issues raised by tibetological research. Almost half of the presentations treated philological topics: history, philosophy, linguistics and mainly religion (a full panel was concerned with the "Transmission of the Tibetan canon").

A number of anthropological works were mostly concerned with secular festivals (feasts and rituals; a full day workshop focused on "Mountain deities and their cults"), while others dealt with the meeting of two traditions, either within ancient Tibet or on the present-day borderlands. Furthermore, the sessions in anthropology showed a deep interest in socio-cultural and economic changes today, both within the Tibet and the diaspora (cf. "Development, society and environment" and "Tibetan culture in the Diaspora" panels). Epigraphic, artistic and archaeological issues have drawn interest,

besides Tibet itself, towards the Western Himalayas and towards Middle Asia (cf. "Middle Asian (?) international style 11th-14th century" referenced as a panel).

Last, "The computer and its relevance to Tibetan studies"'s panel gave a range of presentations of various enterprises mainly consisting in the cataloguing inputting and editing of Tibetan texts. R. Prats and P. Kvaerne proposed to compile a bibliography which would be sent to IATS members, whom they request to send their own publications' full references to Ramon Prats (Av. Icaria 150, 3-2 08 005 Barcelona, SPAIN). As a beginning, one should send a list of his/her works he/she has published from January to December 1995.

ART EXHIBITION AND SYMPOSIUM (BONN, GERMANY)

Exhibition :

**Wisdom and Compassion
The Sacred Art of Tibet,
10 May to 25 August 1996**

*Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
Museumsmeile Bonn, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4, 53113 Bonn, tel.
0228/9171. Opening hours : Tues. through Sund. 10a.m.-7 p.m.*

Due to its geographical isolation and its strongly Buddhist-influenced culture, Tibet has always been quintessentially exotic and mysterious. Tibetan Buddhist art, especially the pictorial language of sexual symbolism, exerts a powerful fascination. This symbolism represents the union of the two main spiritual factors: wisdom and compassion. According to Buddhist teachings, the interaction of these two forces brings enlightenment, bliss and benediction to all sentient beings.

The exhibition divides the rich imagery of Tibetan Buddhism into three subject areas. It first familiarises us with the basic ideas

which originated in India, then presents the schools which developed in Tibet itself and finally leads us into the Buddhist visions of paradise.

In its historical breadth, the exhibition covers the entire development of the sacred art of Tibet from the 9th to the 19th century. On display are 190 objects of sacral art, mainly precious scroll-paintings (tangka) and ornate metal sculptures, but also splendid application work and tapestries as well as wooden, ivory and stone sculptures with a strong religious expression.

The exhibition was created by Tibet House New York and organised in co-operation with the Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle.

International symposium

"Mythos Tibet"

Provisional Programme

Friday, May 10, 1996 : The Historical Development of the Tibet Image

- 11:00 a.m. Greetings by Wenzel Jacob (Director of the Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland) and by Max G. Huber (Rector of the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms- Universität, Bonn)
- Introduction to the symposium by Michael Weirs (Head of the Seminar für Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft Zentralasiens, Universität Bonn)
- 11:30 a.m. Rudolf Kaschewski (Seminar für Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft Zentralasiens, Universität Bonn): *Das Tibethild im Western vor dem 20. Jahrhundert (The Image of Tibet in the West up to the 20th Century)*
- 00:15 p.m. Donald Lopez (Dept. of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor): *The Tibet Images of the "Great Mystifiers"*
- 02:00 p.m. Peter Bishop (School of Communication and Information Studies, University of South Australia, Magill): *Images of Tibet in Western Literature*
- 2:45 p.m. Per Kvaerne (Dept. of Anthropology, Oslo University): *Tibet Images among Researchers on Tibet*
- 03:45 p.m. Heather Stoddard (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris) : *The Development of the Perceptions of Tibetan Art in the West*
- "Weisheit und Liebe. 1000 Jahre Kunst des Buddhismus"

4:30 p.m. Robert A.F. Thurman (Center for Buddhist Studies, Columbia University, New York): Getting beyond "Orientalism" in approaching Buddhism and Tibet: A Central Concept Underlying "Weisheit und Liebe"

05:15 p.m. A tour of the exhibition

Saturday, May 11, 1996 : Function and Intentions of Idealized Images of Tibet

10:00 a.m. Poul Pedersen (Inst. for etnografi og socialantropologi, Aarhus Universitet, Højebjerg): *Tibet, Buddhism and Theosophy*

10:45 a.m. Reinhard Greve (Institut für Ethnologie, Universität Hamburg): *Das Tibetbild der Nationalsozialisten (The Tibet Image of the Nazis)*

11:45 a.m. Thomas Heberer (Institut für die Erforschung des modernen China, Universität Trier): *Tibetbild in der modernen chinesischen Kunst und Propaganda (The Tibet Image of Modern Chinese Fine Arts and Propaganda)*

00:30 p.m. Oskar Weggel (Südsee Institut, Hamburg): *Tibet und die politische Rechte und Linke (Tibet and the Political Right and Left)*

02:15 p.m. Frank Korom (Museum of International Folk Art, Santa Fe): *The Role of Tibet in the New Age Movement*

03:00 p.m. Michael Oppitz (Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich): *Das Tibet bild in der modernen Produktwerbung (The Image of Tibet in Modern Advertisement)* (requested)

04:00 p.m. Toni Huber (Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch): *Tibetan Exile Self-Representation and Global Liberal Discourse: The Recent Creation of Environmentalist, Pacifist and Feminist Tibet Images*

04:45 p.m. Loden Sherab Daygab (Seminar für Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft Zentralasiens, Universität Bonn): *Die Problematik der Nutzung des Tibetbildes für die buddhistische Mission im Westen (The Tibet Image as a Problem for the Teaching of Buddhism in the West)*

05:30 p.m. Dawa Norbu (School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi): *Repercussions of Western Projections on Tibetan Self-Conception*

Sunday, May 12, 1996 : Perspectives and Projections in the Western Discourse on Tibet

10:00 a.m. Samdong Rinpoche (Chairman of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile, Dharamsala) (invited, *no title given yet*)

10:45 a.m. Helena Norberg-Hodge (Chairwoman of Ladakh Development Group, Leh/Bristol) (*no title given yet*)

11:15 a.m. Graham E. Clarke (Dept. of Development and Anthropology, Oxford University) (*no title given yet*)

11:45 a.m. Panel discussion with H. Norberg-Hodge, G.E. Clarke, Tony Huber (Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch), Tsewang Norbu (Chairman of Eco-Tibet Germany, Sankt Augustin), Lambert Schmithausen (Institut für Indologie und Buddhologie, Universität Hamburg)

01:45 p.m. Robert A.F. Thurman (Center for Buddhist Studies, Columbia University, New York): (*no title given yet*)

02:15 p.m. Elliot Sperling (Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington): *"Orientalism" and Aspects of Violence in the Tibetan Tradition*

02:45 p.m. Panel discussion with R.A.F. Thurman, E. Sperling, Michael Aris (Dept. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University), Jamyang Norbu (Amnye Machen Institute, Dharamsala), Thubten Jigme Norbu (Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington).

Pilgrimage in Tibet

An International Seminar organised by Alex McKay, International Institute for Asian Studies, September 1996 (the dates will be decided later).

International Seminar at Tabo (Spiti)

27th June-1st July 1996

Organised by Kagyur Rinpoche, Karuna Foundation, Centre for International Buddhist Studies, New-Delhi.