

## Editorial

The hazards of starting a journal are considerable, and it is only through the enthusiastic support of scholars and students interested in the Himalayas that *Kailash* at long last is a reality. When we formed our editorial board in the summer of 1972 and announced our intention of starting an interdisciplinary journal of Himalayan studies, we did not realize that the need for such a journal was as great as the response has indicated nor did we anticipate the number of technical difficulties and delays we eventually would have to face.

The basic aims of the journal are to give the younger generation a chance to have their material published and critically discussed along with contributions from the older savants in the field; to serve as a forum for students and scholars from both the East and the West; and to make available in the Himalayas themselves more of the research done on the area. All too often we see researchers from outside doing work on the Himalayan region without the results being made available locally. Similarly, valuable work being done by students and scholars from countries bordering the Himalayas is not always encouraged or made available in the West. We hope to be able to contribute a little bit to breaking down this isolation.

We have tried to make the journal as broadly based as possible, but we would welcome more material on Assam and the Eastern Himalayas, on the Western Himalayas and on the natural sciences.

The journal is named after the 22,000-foot mountain Kailash in the Central Himalayas, a place of great spiritual significance. For the Buddhists, Kailash is the abode of Buddha, the Enlightened, and his five hundred Boddhisattvas as well as of the Guardian Deity Demchog and his consort Dorje-Phagmo. To the Hindus, Kailash is the abode of the all-blissful Lord Shiva, or Pashupati, and his divine Parvati. While we might be a little more modest regarding *our Kailash*, we do hope it will become an enlightening meeting-ground of views and research from the East and the West.

B. M. / H. K. K.