

Notes and News

The period since the appearance of the last number has been fruitful in many ways.

An important development in the field of exploration and excavation was the signing of an agreement, between the Department of Archaeology and the Risho University of Tokyo, Japan, for the conduct, of excavations at Tilaurakot with the express purpose of obtaining tangible archaeological evidence for the largely accepted and established identification of Kapilavastu with Tilaurakot on the basis of available literary and inscriptional evidence. The Japanese team took up a small trench this year and have since completed its work. The Department's own Exploration and Excavation Officer, Shri Tarananda Mishra, assisted by Shri Pushpaman Chitrakar, Photographer, Shri Hariman Amatya, Surveyor, and Shri Devaratna Chitrakar, Draftsman, continued last year's work on this site, and discovered the western gateway through the mud fortifications, with three stages of brick revetment, and presumably the principal road, about 19 ft. wide and tamped with haematitic nodules, across the citadel running east-west through the western gateway, and probably leading on to the eastern gateway as well, besides confirmatory and supplementary evidence on the already established sequence of Cultures on the site, obtained earlier in the excavations of 1961-62, and 1967, respectively. The earliest occupation

on the site would date back to circa 700 B.C. This date is however provisional and would have to await confirmation by C. 14 analysis, materials for which are already under study.

The Guthi Jirnodhar tatha-Nirman Samiti, working under the chairmanship of the Director of Archaeology, has undertaken during the period under review repairs to the following monuments:

- (i) The Dasain Ghar at Hanuman Dhoka,
- (ii) Ishta Devata temple at Hanuman Dhoka,
- (iii) The Vihara at Naghaltole,
- (iv) the Pasupati temple, and (v) the stone temple of Mahadeva at Baneshwar, all at Kathmandu;
- (vi) Bhimasena temple, (vii) Taleju Bhavani temple, (viii) Degu Taleju temple,
- (ix) Sotha Narayan temple (x) Krishna temple, So thatol, (xi) the brick temple of Vishnu at Sundhara and the (xii) Matsyendranatha temple at Tangal, all at Lalitpur;
- (xiii) the Pasupati temple, (xiv) Bhadrakali temple and (xv) the Majadegal, all at Bhaktapur; and the Bhairavi temple at Nuwakot.

It is proposed further to take up the repairs of the following monuments in the near future:

- (i) The Rama Mandir in the Pasupati temple premises, (ii) Nanak Math at Mhaipi Phanta, near Nayabazaar. (iii) the Sattal

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of the Sarasvati temple at Swayambhunatha (iv) the octagonal temple near the Hanuman Dhoka, all at Kathmandu; (v) Uma-Mahesvara (stone) temple at Mahapal, (vi) Ganesa temple behind the Krishna temple in the Durbar Square, (vii) Matsyendranatha temple at Sundhara, and (viii) the Nava Durga temple at Thecho, all at Lalitpur and; the Dattatreya temple at Bhaktapur.

The period also witnessed the completion of the Information Centre building of the proposed Open Air Museum at Bhandarkhal, to the east of the Mulchowk in the Durbar Square at Lalipur.

During the period under review the Director visited the International Preservation Centre in New York, and various cultural centres, Museums and conserved monuments in the United States, in December '67-January '68, on an invitation from Rockefeller III Funds, and Mexico for a week in January '68, on an invitation from the XIX Olympic Committee.

The bulk of the exhibits of Nepalese art displayed in various exhibitions held in the different cities of Northern Europe in 1966-67 came back to Nepal early in

December, while twenty-two selected specimens have been sent to Mexico to be displayed at the International Exhibition of Selected Works of World Art to be held in Mexico during the XIX Olympiad in October '68.

With the inauguration of the National Archives Building and the transference to it of the manuscripts of the Bir Library and the Rashtriya Pustakalaya, respectively, and the pooling together of all the books therein germane to the works of the Department, it came to possess a library of its own. The library service is going to be still further enlarged by the transference of the Kaiser Samsher Library in the very near future. The subjectwise classification and cataloguing of the library is in progress.

In the course of the works related to the Back to the Village Programme in the Budha Nilakantha area, officers of the Department, Shri Janaklal Sharma, Shri Babu Krishna Rijal, Shri Upendra Nath Sapkota and Shri Narayan Prasad Sharma discovered two unpublished inscriptions in the Lichchhavi script and it is intended to publish them in a subsequent issue.

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