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THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

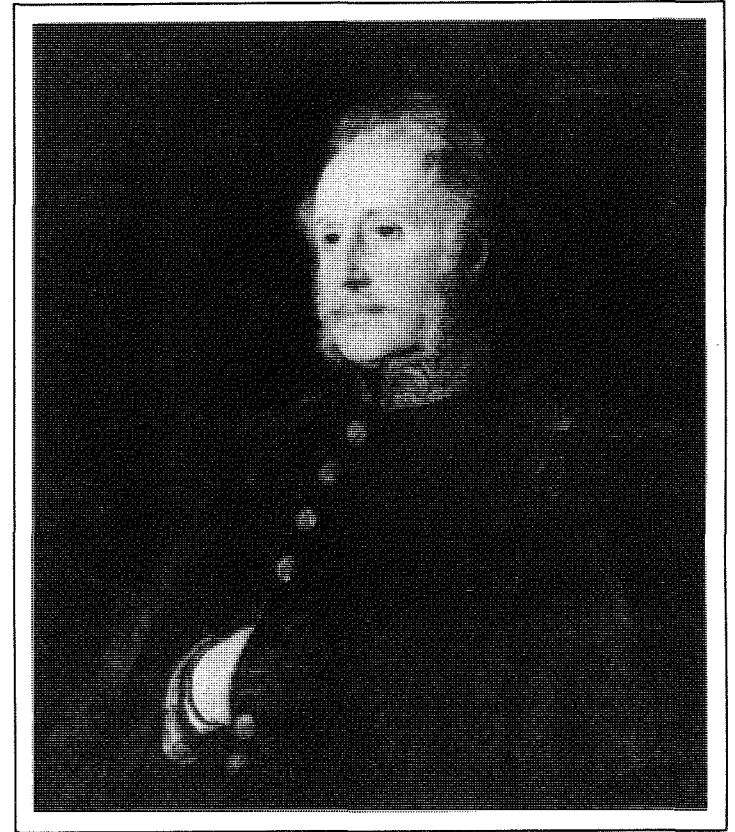
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*J o u r n a l*

Number 12

1988

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*Brian Houghton Hodgson F. R. S. 1800-1894*

**Orientalist and Naturalist  
Servant of the Hon'ble East India Company  
British Resident in Nepal 1833-1843  
(Assistant Resident at age 20 and already  
well versed in Sanskrit and Persian)**

**"To whose labours we are indebted for almost all that is known  
of the natural history of this wonderful country"  
(Percival Landon's "Nepal")**

**"The greatest, least thanked, of all our Residents" (Cecil Bendall)**

**See Editorial**



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## THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

### Journal

Number 12

1988

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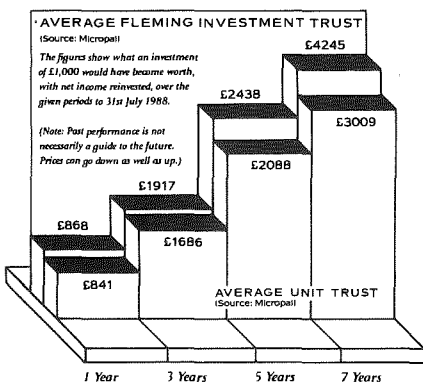
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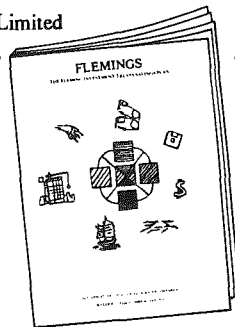


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## EDITORIAL Another Full Year

Journal No.12 reflects yet another active and successful year which included several well attended evenings at the Alpine Club and memorable gatherings in the Palace of Westminster, the Royal Nepalese Embassy, New Zealand House and (for the first time) the Cabinet War Rooms. As usual the Honorary Secretary's newsletter (The Society's News) in this Journal recalls the events of the past twelve months and refers to the future programme.

Suffice it to mention here the Society's formal farewell to His Excellency Ishwari Raj Pandey and Madame Pandey at the House of Commons, on 15th January, which was attended by Mr. Speaker himself who said how pleased he was that the Palace of Westminster had been chosen for this occasion. The Chairman of the Anglo-Nepalese Parliamentary Group, Mr. Neil Thorne OBE, TD, MP, spoke of Mr. Pandey's dedication to his job, his efficiency in dealing with all matters concerning the Parliamentary Group and his accessibility at all times but particularly whilst working closely over the various issues that had arisen in connection with Her Majesty the Queen's visit to Nepal the previous February.

Of the many interesting talks given at the Alpine Club (see The Society's News) we are pleased to be able to publish in this number of the Journal the talk by General Sir Roy Redgrave on his journey from Kathmandu to Lhasa. The author's comments are of course his own. The journey was arranged, as mentioned

in the talk, by the late M.J. ('Mike') Cheyney, a very well known and popular member of our Society, now greatly missed both here and in Nepal, whose talk last year, also at the Alpine Club, on "Twenty-five Years in Nepal" attracted the biggest audience ever.

Regarding the subject of General Redgrave's article in this Journal (and of his talk) it is indeed true that we are concerned in this Society with Nepal rather than Tibet but the two countries are so closely associated historically and geographically that no apology is felt to be needed for presenting it in this Journal.

In Journal No.8, a former British Ambassador to Nepal, Mr. John B. Denson CMG, OBE, who is a strong supporter of our Society, contributed a fascinating survey of "British Envoys in Nepal", based on the talk he gave us at the Alpine Club, and, it will be remembered, was extremely interesting on Brian Houghton Hodgson, in many ways the most remarkable of all those very remarkable men. A new biography of Brian Hodgson has been talked about for some time and we eagerly await its appearance, as Sir William Hunter's "Life of B.H. Hodgson", published in 1896, is probably available only in the British Library, the India Office Library and perhaps now also the Gurkha Museum, and there seems little likelihood of it appearing as a paperback, as have so many famous books now out of copyright. The portrait chosen for our frontispiece has been kindly provided by the National Portrait Gallery.

It remains only to thank our contributors and to refer to the Book Reviews by Lieutenant Colonel Lowe which each year draw the attention of members to new publications likely to be of special interest to them. One member invited our attention to a new book by his daughter about life in Nepal. We have read with delight "A Window On To Annapurna" by Joy Stephens. This beautifully illustrated book is published by Victor Gollancz Ltd and a review will be found in this Journal.

Finally a warm welcome to the new Ambassador, His Excellency Major General Bharat Keshar Simha and Madame Simha and every best wish for a happy and successful stay in London.

*P.S.* As we go to press we are grieved by the tragic news of the devastation caused by the earthquake in Nepal. Our thoughts are with the bereaved and the suffering who can count on us to do all we can to help. It is at least of some comfort that the Hospital and Recruiting Depot at Dharan have been able to come to the rescue.

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In 1988 the members of the Society bade farewell to Their Excellencies Mr. Ishwari Raj Pandey and Madame Pandey and their family at a reception held in the House of Commons on Friday 15th January and nine months later the Society welcomed Mr. Pandey's Successor at a Reception held at the English-Speaking Union. Their Excellencies Major-General Bharat Keshar Simha and Madame Simha arrived in London in July; they are no strangers to the Society having been active members during His Excellency's term as Military Attaché in London during the 60's. The gathering on the 15th September gave many of Their Excellencies' friends and members an opportunity to welcome them to London once again.

Members can look back to a busy and successful year of activities and for the benefit of our overseas members I will summarise the year's programme of monthly meetings and functions.

#### ■ *Monthly Meetings at the Alpine Club*

In October Mr. Peter Lloyd, a well known climber, gave an illustrated talk on "Mount Everest in Perspective". Mr. Lloyd was a member of several Himalayan Expeditions, including the 1938 Expedition to Everest.

Mr. Tony Schilling and Dr. C. Grey-Wilson's beautifully illustrated talk on "Himalayan Plants of the Jade Dragon Mountains, Yunann, S.W. China" (with special reference to the flowers of Nepal) was held in January. Tony who is well known to our members is Deputy Cura-

tor at Kew and at Wakehurst Place, Sussex which was badly affected in last October's storm. Dr. Grey-Wilson is a well known Botanist at Kew.

In March an illustrated talk was given by Sir Arthur Norman on the progress of "The Annapurna Conservation Area Project" for which the Society raised funds two years ago. Sir Arthur is the Chairman of the UK Committee of the King Mahendra Trust.

"The Road from Kathmandu to Lhasa" - with a title such as this, it was not surprising that the gallery in the Alpine Club was packed! Major-General Sir Roy Redgrave showed over 100 slides and an article about his trek appears elsewhere in the Journal. The talk took place in April.

On the 19th May Lt. Col. A.A. Mains told "The Story of the Gurkha Brigade." As the Gurkha Museum will be moving from its present site at Church Crookham to Winchester shortly, it was appropriate for the Society to hear about the famous regiments whose history it commemorates so impressively.

The Chairman and Committee wish to thank the speakers who gave their time generously; the attendances were excellent and we hope that the members will continue to enjoy the meetings at the Alpine Club.

#### ■ *Annual General Meeting*

On Wednesday, 30th November the business of the Society was dealt with at a well attended Meeting held at the Royal Nepalese Embassy, by kind permission

of HE Mr. Ishwari Raj Pandey. Sir George Bishop presided and also thanked His Excellency for providing the wine for the evening. The business of the evening was conducted by the retiring Chariman Lt. Col H.C.S. Gregory who is succeeded by Colonel J.M. Evans. A delicious Curry Supper laid on by Mr. Manandhar and his family followed the Meeting.

#### ■ *The Annual Nepali Supper*

Once again the Society was fortunate to hold this annual event at New Zealand House on Tuesday, 16th February. There were over 300 members and guests present, and we were very pleased to welcome Field Marshal The Lord Bramall and Lady Bramall as Guests of Honour, Mr. B.P. Khanal, Charge d'Affaires at the Nepalese Embassy, and Mrs. Khanal, members of the Embassy staff, representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Group, the President of Yeti Association and its members.

Special thanks are due to the Committee members for their help, the Commanding Officer of 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles for providing the Gurkha Orderlies and the piper and to Lt. Col. J.S. Roberts for making the arrangements, the Nepalese Embassy for their generous contribution of wine, and to Mr. Anthony Wieler who supplied the flowers for the tables, including rhododendron sprays for the top table, which was quite an achievement in February, the month in which the rhododendrons are in full flower in Nepal.

#### ■ *An Evening Function at The Cabinet War Rooms Museum*

On 19th July a cocktail party was held

at the Cabinet War Rooms Museum in Whitehall where members had the opportunity of seeing the most important surviving part of the underground emergency accommodation provided to protect Winston Churchill, the War Cabinet and the Chiefs of Staff of Britain's armed forces against air attacks during the Second World War. This interesting and well attended evening function concluded the Society's programme of activities for this year.

#### ■ *Seminar on Business Opportunities in Nepal*

A pioneering delegation of Nepalese businessmen, led by Mr. R.D. Sharma, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Industry, visited the UK under the auspices of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation in April. The British and South Asian Trade Association organised a Seminar on Business Opportunities in Nepal during Mr. Sharma's visit at which Mr. Khanal, Chargé d'Affaires at the Nepalese Embassy gave an opening address. The delegation was able to meet some forty members of the Trade Association. Col. J. M. Evans and Mr. Harish Karki of the Britain-Nepal Society also attended.

#### ■ *The Budhanilkantha School in Kathmandu*

Mr. John Tyson, Headmaster of this school for many years, was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours list for his dedicated work in the field of education in Nepal. He will be retiring in January. His wife Phebe writes from Kathmandu that "besides teachers doing courses in Nottingham, Leeds and York,

we shall have the first boys from the School, in the UK from October this year. The ODA has offered six bonded scholarships to this first batch to take A-Level in Nepal, and the British Ambassador has raised one for our best result (2As and a B, and a place at Cambridge), and one has won an overseas scholarship at York, so we shall have ex-students in Oxford, Cambridge, London, Liverpool, York and Bradford. All most exciting."

#### ■ *The Ryder-Cheshire Mission - Jorpati Home in Kathmandu*

At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed that the Society should "adopt" the Jorpati Home for its fund raising project this year. In response to the Mission's Honorary Appeals Secretary's moving letter to the Society, we have already raised £1,000 with more donations coming in weekly. The Chairman and Committee would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have contributed so generously to this worthwhile cause.

#### ■ *Messages*

A message of congratulations was sent to His Majesty the King of Nepal on his birthday on 28th December.

A message of congratulations was also sent to our Patron HRH Prince Gyanendra of Nepal on his birthday in July.

The following message was received from the President of the Nepal-Britain Society and read out by Sir George Bishop at the New Zealand House party on 16th February:- "The Annual General Meeting of The Nepal-Britain Society

took place on 8th February here in Kathmandu and I had the Honour of being elected President of the Society for the coming year. It was a special pleasure, as my first official duty as President, to read out the message of good wishes from The Britain-Nepal Society. 1988 marks the Silver Jubilee of The Nepal-Britain Society. We are proud to have reached this landmark in our history, and we will make every effort to ensure that our twenty-fifth anniversary year will be a great success. I know that our sister society in London is already twenty-seven years old, and thriving. We send you best wishes for another successful year in 1988".

#### ■ *Subscriptions*

At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed to raise the Ordinary members subscription from £5 to £7 and that the increase would take effect from the 1st October 1988. Members have been informed and sent banker's orders to fill in and return to me. Would members please make sure that their subscriptions are up to date as this will help me and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Brian Smith to keep administrative costs down.

Please note that it was also agreed that the Life membership subscription should be increased from £60 to £100, and that this was to take effect immediately.

#### ■ *Society Tie and Ladies Scarf*

The price of the Britain-Nepal Society tie is £5 including postage, and the ladies scarf £6 including postage. The Secretary holds a large stock of these high quality ties and scarves.



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### ■ *Future Programme*

Details of the monthly meetings at the Alpine Club and functions to be held during 1988/89 will be given by the Secretary at the Annual General Meeting which is to be held at the Royal Nepalese Embassy (by kind permission of HE The Ambassador) on Thursday, 10th November and this will be followed by a Curry Supper.

The Chairman and Committee hope you will enjoy the next season's programme and they look forward to seeing as many members as possible.

Celia Brown  
Honorary Secretary  
1 Allen Mansions  
Allen Street  
London W8 6UY

September 1988

## MR. BADRI P. KHANAL, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES Addresses The Society

*(This speech was delivered at the Annual Supper of the Britain-Nepal Society at New Zealand House, London, on February 16th, 1988, in reply to a welcoming speech by Sir George Bishop, President of the Society).*

Mr. President,  
Chief Guests, Lord and Lady Bramall,  
My Lords  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great pleasure to me personally to have this opportunity to participate in the Annual Supper of The Britain-Nepal Society and to say a few words. I am deeply grateful to you Mr. President for the occasion. I am really touched by your warm feelings towards Nepal.

The Annual Supper has, I am told, always been an occasion many members look forward to with anticipation. The presence of so many distinguished well-wishers and friends of Nepal makes it even more so a memorable occasion. I was told in Nepal that The Britain-Nepal Society is the friendliest of societies and I have now begun to appreciate the full meaning of it.

Nepal and Britain share many things in common and we have enjoyed the most cordial relations for almost two centuries now. Great Britain, of all the countries, is known to people in Nepal in the nooks and corners of the country. People even in the remotest parts still recollect interesting reminiscences about Britain heard

by them through their fathers and grandfathers.

It is indeed interesting how two countries so distant geographically could have so much of goodwill and understanding towards each other.

The institution of monarchy enjoys esteem and respect in both countries. The state visits of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal in 1980 and of Her Majesty the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh in 1986 are still fresh in people's minds. These visits have no doubt strengthened relations and have also helped in bringing the people of the two countries together.

Nepal faces considerable handicaps as she strides forward in the path of development. But we are determined not to slacken this pace. Under the guidance of His Majesty the King, His Majesty's Government is now set to raise the living standards of the masses to the Asian level by the turn of the century. Basic need areas have been identified and a time-bound programme for fulfilment has already been drawn up.

We have always appreciated and are indeed profoundly grateful for the friendly assistance of many countries. British assistance has been through all the years immensely helpful as it has not only covered a wide area, but has also been addressed to the fields which are in acute need.

Adhering to the foreign policy of peace and friendship, we have made some advances in the field of inter-

national relations. It is gratifying to note that the Zone of Peace Proposal, a proposal which is so dear to the hearts of the Nepalese, has already been recognised by over eighty-six countries of the world. Nepal is currently occupying a seat in the United Nations Security Council. On the regional level, the successful conclusion of the SAARC Summit in November in Kathmandu last year was another milestone. Initially designed to ameliorate the economic conditions of all the seven countries of the group through joint efforts, SAARC has already started producing tangible results in many areas in a short span of time. As you all know, Kathmandu has also been the headquarters of the SAARC Secretariate.

Nepal, today, is known throughout the world as more than just the home of the Gurkhas and the mighty Himalayas. Increasing numbers of tourists, more than twelve thousand from Britain alone, research workers, explorers and mountaineers have also started appreciating our unique cultural heritage, religious harmony and the natural flora and fauna. The British media has been giving good coverage to the many-faceted personality of the country. This society has equally been effortful in this direction by arrang-

## THE FLOWER CHILDREN RETURN

A recent article on Kathmandu in the National Geographic Magazine strikes a hopeful note. "Some of the flower children from the West of the late 1960's and early 70's are returning as tourists to boost the economy."

ing lectures and slide shows frequently. I commend their efforts.

Through regular gatherings of the friends of Nepal in Britain, the Britain-Nepal Society has made a considerable contribution. This gathering today has happily coincided with the celebrations of Maha Shivaratri, the day Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of Nepal, was born. Lord Shiva is worshipped by Hindus all over the world as creator, preserver, and destroyer, the omnipotent God bringing good luck to everybody. No day could have been more auspicious.

I wish the Britain-Nepal Society all success.

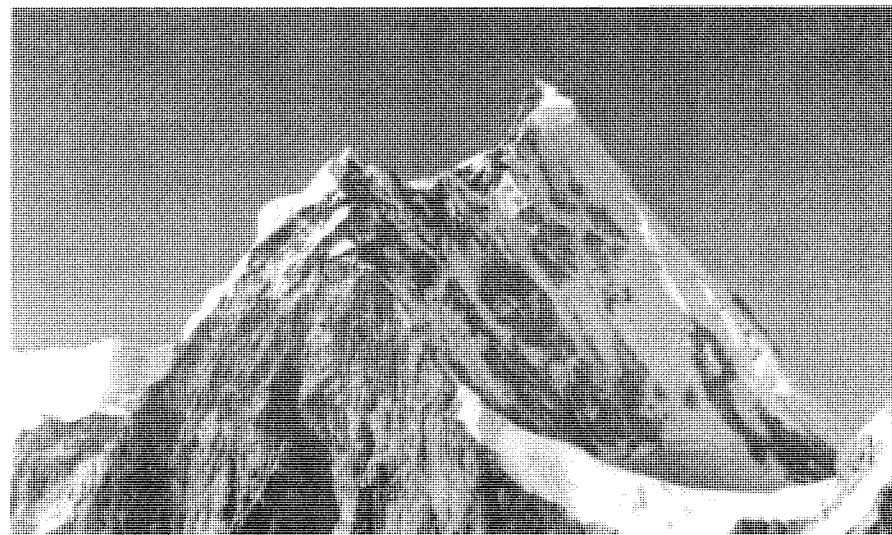
Thank you

### *Biographical note:*

Mr. Badri P. Khanal (44) joined the Foreign Ministry in 1966 after a brief spell of teaching at a local college. He served in various diplomatic posts in New Delhi and Moscow before coming to London early last year. He is married with one son and two daughters. (Having represented his country as Chargé d'Affaires in London for several months he welcomed the new Ambassador His Excellency Major General Bharat Keshar Simha on the 8th July).

## BRITISH SERVICES EVEREST EXPEDITION 1988

A Situation Report by Lieutenant Colonel H.R.A. Streater OBE



When speaking to the Society at the Alpine Club on 29th October 1986, about my mountaineering experiences, I mentioned the attempt that the Services planned to make on the West Ridge of Everest in 1988. At the Society's Supper in early 1987 our President, Sir George Bishop, kindly extended the best wishes of the Society for a most successful expedition and pointed out that the Patron of our sister society in Kathmandu, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, was also Patron to the Expedition.

In spite of the initial success of the team in establishing a route up the West Ridge, sadly I am unable to report that the summit was reached. Three successive determined attempts were turned back by appalling weather and snow conditions - the third when the pair of climbers were less than 1,000 feet from their goal. It was

sensible and brave of them to turn back rather than risk their own lives and those of others who might have had to come to their rescue.

All thirty-six climbers returned safely to base, twenty-four of them having been to over 25,000 feet and of these fifteen went to around 27,000 feet, which is higher than the summit of Annapurna. This in itself was a great achievement and compensated in some way for the disappointment of not reaching the summit.

Undaunted, application has already been made for a further attempt in 1991 or sooner if it can be arranged!

*Our congratulations to the BSEE 1988 on their gallant attempt, their well-judged decision when so near the summit and our very best wishes for 1991 (or sooner). Editor*



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## KATHMANDU TO LHASA

Major General Sir Roy Redgrave KBE, MC  
Alpine Club 21st April 1988



*The High Steppes*

In the Autumn of 1987 I left Kathmandu with three companions on a memorable journey of over 2000 kilometres by road to Lhasa and back. The trip had been arranged by the late Mike Cheney who ensured that we would have our own vehicle, Chinese driver and a Tibetan interpreter, but numerous landslides indicated there would also be a need to walk. He mentioned that food was scarce; so it was essential to stock up with provisions while we waited for the necessary Chinese visas.

### ■ *The Link Road*

The Chinese began to build a road from Nepal into Tibet in 1967. We set off to join the road on a steamy hot day,

drove through Bhaktapur, across a lush green subtropical countryside as far as Lamosangu where the road had disappeared into the river. The rest of the journey was made on foot or in short bumpy runs in vehicles whose lack of suspension and labouring engines reflected the fact that they had been cut off from regular fuel and maintenance for several weeks. We spent a night in Tatopani, a village hopelessly overcrowded with travellers and without a single water tap, electric light or latrine but all this was to some extent mitigated by the natural hot water springs which gushed out of the mountain between the village and the icy white waters of the River Bhote Kosi below.

### ■ Frontier Villages

A short walk away is Kodari on the frontier, where friendly Nepalese officials gave us advice and a welcome cup of tea. High above at 7000 feet we could see Zhangmu the first town in Tibet on the South side of the mountain. Although Friendship Bridge still stands beside a deserted Chinese guard house, which looks like a battered villa in Beirut, the zig-zag road has been swept away. A stream of porters passed each other like ants on the move as we climbed 1200 feet through damp undergrowth taking care not to brush against the leaves because the gallant Colonel Blashford-Snell, whom we had met earlier returning from Everest Base Camp, warned of monstrous leeches.

### ■ Zhangmu and Onward to the Roof of the World

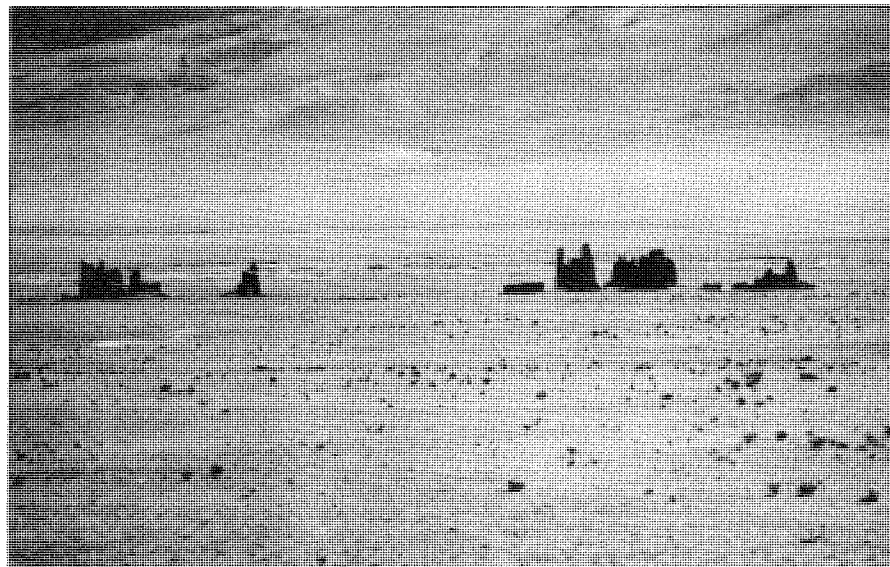
Zhangmu had become a transshipment centre between Chinese trucks marooned above the town and Nepal, with porters carrying two or three large cardboard

boxes containing thermos flasks, bed covers and cooking utensils. There is a military garrison in Zhangmu and it was with some dismay that I was stopped by three Chinese soldiers after I had passed through immigration, but all they wanted was to compare my "yeti" hairy arms with their own smooth skins. The Chinese authorities had provided a small bus, but while we waited to move off there was an almighty rumbling sound and another section of road had slid down the mountain. So once again we began to climb.

Once on firm ground we began an incredible drive leaving the tropical monsoon forest of oak, chestnut and maple behind and climbing through Alpine wet forest of conifers and rhododendrons. The road winds ever upwards through a cleft in the mountains beside a cascading river into the drier Northern Himalayas where juniper and shrubs gradually give way to a bleak treeless landscape of stones, spear grass, jasmine and sandwort. We had arrived in Tibet.



*Summit of Lak Pala Pass Bedecked with Flags*



*Ruined Monasteries Look Like Tree Stumps*

Unlike climbing most mountains and being able to descend the other side, Tibet really is the "Roof of the World". You go up through the Himalayas and never come down, indeed the lowest part of our five day journey to Lhasa scarcely dropped below 12,000 feet. It is an incredibly harsh land in which to live. There is virtually no rainfall, there are high winds which blow dust into the eyes, it can be very cold and yet there is a relentless burning sun. There is very little food for the inhabitants and even less for the traveller. It is a land of moss, lichens, fungus, barley, sheep and yaks and, for the traveller, exhaustion, due to the conditions and high altitude sickness.

### ■ Tibet History

Tibetan history before the 7th century is not recorded and the next thousand years are a most complicated story of Chinese, Mongol and Indian invasions

and their influence on religion and culture. There was already a 7th Dalai Lama in power when the Manchus invaded in 1720 who then ruled until 1788 when a Gurkha army invaded from the South. The Chinese eventually pushed them out in 1792, and continued to rule Tibet with declining influence until 1856 when the Gurkhas again invaded from Nepal. This time the Gurkhas made a treaty with Tibet which enabled them to extract an annual tribute.

### ■ British Influence

The British links with Tibet began as early as 1780, although it was initially only the Indians who were actually allowed trading privileges. Following an incident on the Sikkim border in 1902 one of the 13th Dalai Lama's tutors went to see Tzar Nicholas II of Russia. This thoroughly alarmed the British in India who always feared that Russian influence

might move South into India and so in 1904 they sent a small force of British and Gurkha troops under Colonel Younghusband into Tibet. They established permanent trade and telegraphic links with India and before leaving in 1908 had reached an agreement with the Russians that it really was the Chinese who had suzerainty over Tibet.

#### ■ *Chinese Occupation*

The 13th Dalai Lama proclaimed Tibet to be independent in 1912, but sadly no other nation recognised this fact; the British preferred to call Tibet an autonomous country within the Chinese sphere of influence. Tibet however was left in peace to run its own affairs and remained neutral during the second World War. In 1947 the withdrawal of British forces from India encouraged the Chinese to "liberate Tibet peacefully", so troops and settlers began to arrive in 1949. It remained reasonably peaceful until 1958 when the Tibetans had had enough and revolted. Their hopeless struggle ended with the flight of the 14th Dalai Lama in 1959 over the mountains into India. By 1965 the Peoples Republic of China had made Tibet an autonomous region and a year later the appalling excesses of the ten year cultural revolution spread to Tibet, evidence of which is still visible to this day.

#### ■ *Mountain Sickness*

The small town of Nylam, at 12,300 ft, possessed a 'hotel' still under construction where we were able to creep into our sleeping bags among the wood shavings. Acute Mountain Sickness begins to be felt at 10,000 ft and

manifests itself in a feeling of general weakness and shortness of breath which can be accompanied by headaches, nausea, catarrh, a dry cough and loss of appetite. After four days we became accustomed to the lack of oxygen and only felt the symptoms when the road crossed the four passes over 16,000 ft on the way to Lhasa. The crest of each was marked by stone cairns bedecked with little flags.

#### ■ *Effects of Cultural Revolution*

The treeless high plateau was covered in moss, rocks and sparse tufts of grass amongst which a few sheep grazed. The ruins of many monasteries stood out like tree trunks hit by lightning in a lunar landscape. Before 1959 there had been 4600 monasteries in Tibet, but in 1987 there were just ten, partially restored, active monasteries, although the Chinese ambassador, in a well reasoned letter to *The Times*, stated that work was going on to rebuild 200. As for the lamas, the 1959 figure of 110,000 has been reduced to 1000. It should however be borne in mind no religious group in the world has ever quite equalled the power and influence which the lama hierarchy exerted over the people of Tibet.

#### ■ *The People*

Whenever we stopped near a group of shepherds, they would bear down on us clamouring for postcards of the Dalai Lama, importation of which we had been warned was unwelcomed by the Chinese authorities. The people of Tibet, now that Lamas are so few, can be divided into five broad categories. Firstly noblemen, then merchants who manage business in the towns, thirdly farmers who are by far the

most numerous but seldom own their land, fourthly nomads and herdsmen living on the high altitude steppes and finally so-called outcasts who are by trade butchers whose task it is to dispose of all dead bodies, human and animal. Children are good humoured and adapting to social changes more easily than their parents.

#### ■ *The Great Highway*

The road is unsurfaced to within a few miles of Lhasa. It was cut in a great many places by land slip due to an unprecedented storm and teams of women were at work with long-handled shovels and wooden wheel barrows repairing the damage. Sometimes hours passed before another vehicle went by. A military check-point at milestone 483 showed more interest in the movements of the guide and driver than us foreigners, although rumour had it that they pursued evaders with baying rabid dogs.

#### ■ *Sakya*

Thirty miles off the road lies Sakya which contains one of the best preserved monasteries in Tibet. It was built in the 11th century and became the centre of the red hat sect who had close links with the Mongols and Ghengis Khan and indeed this can be seen in its architecture. It contains a marvellous variety of artefacts, all in semi-darkness and covered in dust, including a set of ancient chain mail lying in a heap on a wall and a set of leather horse armour. The visit was a sad one for our Tibetan guide who explained that it was the first time she had been to the village where her grandfather had been killed in 1959.

#### ■ *Shigatse*

The second largest town in the country is Shigatse at 13,000 ft with a population of 40,000 and contains the Trashilhunpo Monastery built in 1447 by the first Dalai Lama. It is a fine example of Tibetan architecture and contains an enormous gold plated bronze image of Champa, 88 feet high. It is also the official residence of the Panchen Lama, who at present lives in Beijing and is second in importance to the Dalai Lama, who lives in India and USA. Pilgrims walk round clockwise, some prostrating themselves as they circumvent the steep hill on which the monastery stands.

#### ■ *Gyantse*

We continued the journey along a fertile valley at 12,500 ft which leads to the spectacular small town of Gyantse dominated by a 14th century Fort, captured after a short siege by Colonel Younghusband and his small force of Gurkhas and Royal Fusiliers. After the British departed a Field Post Office remained and a wool agent whose task it seems was to provide wool for the Royal Navy and possibly yak hair for the plumes in the helmets of the Household Cavalry. Inside the Palkor monastery beneath the fort there is a unique eight-sided, nine story chorten or pagoda which contains 10,000 images of Buddhas. After looking at the first hundred my attention began to be drawn to the monks and their dogs. The average monastery seemed to contain dozens of contented shaggy dogs who are thought by some to be the reincarnation of lamas who did not quite make it to heaven and are being given another chance.



*Yak - strong, stubborn, extremely serviceable*

■ *The Yak*

Between Gyantse and Lhasa the road climbs to 17,000 ft, the Karo La pass, site of the highest battlefield in the world where the British and Gurkhas climbed to 18,000 in order to out flank 3,000 Tibetan soldiers holding the pass. A glacier, one of 17,000 in Tibet, stops short of the road and there was a profusion of gentians and rock jasmine. The rocky river valley provides grazing for yak and sheep. Wild yak are huge animals weighing over one ton, brown and very rare, and they are called 'dong'. It is the smaller domestic animals, usually black, which are called 'yak' if male, 'dri' if female. They can carry up to 160lbs in saddle bags, draw ploughs, their hair makes canvas and their rich milk provides butter and fuel for lamps.

■ *Yandrok Lake*

Below the pass at 14,000 ft lies Yandrok Lake, a vast clover leaf shaped fresh water lake containing scaleless fish. There was no activity on the water except a boatman ferrying provisions to a distant village. He was an 'outcast' because his coracle was made of yak skins stretched over a frame of willow and thorn scrub.



*Mother and Son Visit Potala Palace*

■ *Marriage Customs*

Our Tibetan guide had learnt her English and Chinese at Beijing University, and her comprehension was rather weak but she was such an enchanting person that when she smiled 'yes' and had no idea what we had said, it did not matter. She had done better than most girls in Tibet whose life can be hard. The majority of marriages are one man one wife, but polygamy is also practised as a status symbol if a man can afford it. Poor families may have to do with an arrangement where a widow and her daughter might



*The Potala Palace*

share a husband or where several brothers share a wife. Lamas were not allowed to marry and as there were more women than men polygamy was widespread. The important factor is the happiness and survival of the family and the fact that only a son can inherit property.

■ *The Potala Palace*

Lhasa is dominated by the Potala Palace, one of the most impressive buildings in Asia, somewhat like a giant Windsor castle perched on a red rock. It is also a sacred place whose title means High Heavenly Realm and when it was built in the 7th century it had 900 rooms. Then it gradually fell into decay until when almost a ruin in 1645 the 5th Dalai Lama decided to rebuild it. The Potala then became the traditional residence of all Dalai Lamas and contained the seat of national government, the treasury, library, muni-

tions depot, granary, state prison and torture chambers. In 1959 the Chinese shelled it but inflicted less damage than a fire caused by an electrical fault in 1984 or today's army of wood-boring insects. It is an amazing construction of stone, earth, clay, lime and wood without a single nail. It is apparently resistant to earthquakes because it was built with a central core into which molten copper was poured.

■ *The Jokhang Temple*

Much of the city, population 150,000, contains new, ugly, functional buildings used by the Chinese settlers and a very large military garrison. There are a few modern hotels which even supply oxygen above the bedheads for use by intrepid travellers who have just flown in from California for the weekend. The old religious and geographic centre of Lhasa is



*Well Disciplined Children*

#### ■ *The Lamas*

It is quite difficult to decide whether the people of Tibet are better off under the rule of Beijing or of the Lamas. Drepung Monastery just outside Lhasa is still a sort of university and was where young lamas were taught. There were ten thousand monks there once and they controlled seven hundred other monasteries. Drepung was by Tibetan standards very wealthy and had to be maintained, as all monasteries were, by the toil of local villages because lamas did no work outside the compound. The main source of all government income came from land taxes, but land belonging to the lamas was exempt from taxation. The village headmen collected the revenue for the lamas.

#### ■ *Government*

Most Tibetans previously had no say in the government of their district. Now it is said at least fifty per cent participate in government but they are closely supervised by their Chinese Han superiors. In spite of great social changes, the provision of roads, schools, hospitals and electricity it seemed to me that Tibetans still maintained a deep religious faith and yearned for a chance to govern themselves in the 'bad' old way. Returning through the Chinese border checks and past boisterous green uniformed soldiers at Zhangmu, I could understand the Tibetan point of view. I began to scramble down the mountain path into Nepal, anxious to reach the friendly Nepalese frontier post.

the Jokhang Temple built in 650 AD and containing the image of Sakyamuni Buddha. This is such a 'powerful' image that even the Chinese Red Guards did not destroy it but turned the temple into Guest House No.5. All round the temple is a thriving street market which as elsewhere is circumambulated clockwise, avoiding the pilgrims who prostrate themselves two metres at a time. It was outside the Jokhang Temple that anti-Chinese demonstrations began in October 1987.

#### ■ *Moslems*

Apart from the Tibetan and Chinese quarters of Lhasa there is also a small Moslem community with their own green and white Mosque. Moslems came to Tibet from Ladakh about 1660 AD and at least a thousand continue to run shops and restaurants in Lhasa.

#### ■ *The Summer Palace*

The 7th Dalai Lama created a park of 100 acres in which he built a Summer palace in 1755. The Norbulingka or 'Jewel Park' is an oasis of flowers and shady trees, it also contains a depressing zoo and many interesting buildings including the New Summer Palace built in 1950. It was from here that the 14th Dalai Lama fled before the Chinese attack on 17th March 1959 leaving everything behind. In the 1930's the British in India had given his father two motor cars which were carried on the back of yaks through the mountains to Lhasa. Evidently the Chinese tourist authorities were unaware of this and so we were happy to find the red and yellow wrecks of the cars in the outbuildings behind the palace.

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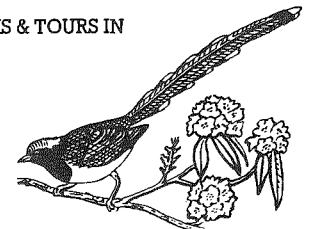
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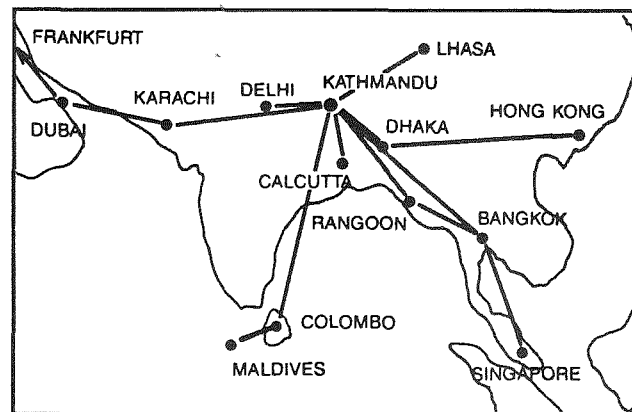


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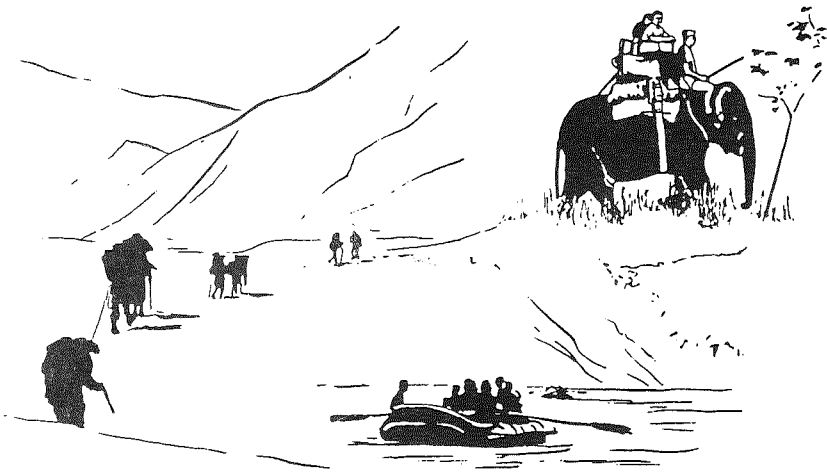
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## THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM

Outstanding amidst the flood of new books on Nepal is certainly "The Mountain Kingdom" by Colonel Bruce Niven which is reviewed elsewhere in these pages. Colonel Niven's book is a striking tribute to the mountain people and vividly portrays their way of life and qualities of character and temper which have made them so widely known and admired. The author is both an experienced soldier and an enthusiastic mountaineer with a distinguished academic background, all of which qualifications come out vividly in his seven absorbing chapters lavishly illustrated with colour photographs of the highest merit. His many years of service with Gurkhas he describes as "a spiritual experience".

We have borrowed the title of this article from Colonel Niven's remarkable book and, faced with so many outstanding productions, "The Mountain Kingdom" prominent among them, which make the fullest possible use of the marvels of modern photography, we have allowed ourselves to take a backward look at some of the older books, starting with Perceval Landon's "Nepal," published sixty years ago, a monumental work in two volumes, now hard to come by.

Perceval Landon acknowledges his debt to Maharajah Chandra Shamsher whose kindness and help he enjoyed while gathering the material for his book and who had "the power of setting any man at his ease." In the 1920's, Nepal was of course still very much a closed country and Kathmandu "known to some six score Englishmen and to as many

Europeans as one may count on the fingers of two hands. The rest of Nepal... is to this day as completely closed to Western observation and research as when the Emperor Asoka in 250 BC set up the five great stupas of Patan."

Landon's seventeen chapters and twenty-five scholarly appendices cover the history of Nepal from "The Early Dawn" to his own day. The variety of information in the appendices defies description. It extends from the architecture and pillar inscriptions to the flora and fauna and even includes an amusing account of "the famous Khud race between the 3rd Gurkhas and the 60th Rifles" (1907). The many monochrome photographs, which add enormously to the interest of the text, are as good as anything which could then be done although nothing like what is expected today and in some respects not as good as illustrations in the earlier books which had to rely on lithographs made in London from sketches, often very excellent, by local artists. For example a view of "Swayambunath From Kathmandu," a small photograph in black and white, lacks the charm and richness of detail of the coloured lithograph depicting exactly the same scene in Daniel Wright's "History of Nepal" published in 1877.

According to Perceval Landon, the first two Europeans to penetrate into the hill areas of Nepal, away from the capital, in comparatively recent times, were Brian Hodgson and Joseph Hooker. In Journal No. 9 there was an account of the latter's travels in East Nepal. Both men



*Square in Front of the Palace at Kathmandu*

*(Lithograph taken from Sketch by an unknown Nepalese Artist:  
from "History of Nepal" by Daniel Wright M.D. 1877)*

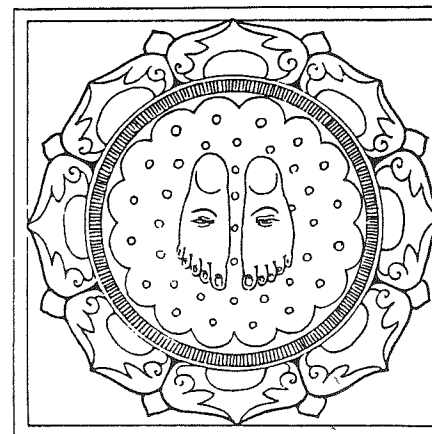
were in Darjeeling during the rainy seasons of 1848-50 and saw much of each other. Hodgson had settled in Darjeeling to continue his researches as he had left the East India Company's Service and could not live in Nepal in a private capacity.

Landon closed his work with a prediction that Nepal stood on the threshold of a new life and regarding the policy of the British towards Nepal he quotes a "high authority" as saying, "We have no policy. We have only friendship."

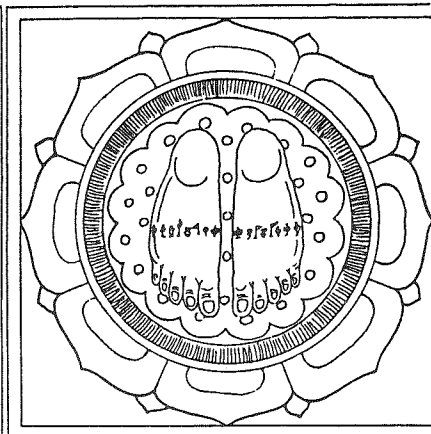
Regarding Daniel Wright's "History of Nepal" it has to be said that during his long residence in Kathmandu as Resident surgeon (1863-75) the almost complete isolation of the Residency and absence of social contacts prevented his getting to know the people and many of his un-

happy remarks may be disregarded. The major part of the book is a translation of the Buddhist version of the Chronicles of Nepal (Vamshavali) by the Mir Munshi attached to the Residency assisted by Pandit Shri Gunanand of Patan "whose ancestors, for many generations, have been compilers of the History."

The narrative has a charm of its own as in this little story of a certain virtuous ruler in remote antiquity who wished to give alms to beggars. "At the time there was an old woman who also gave alms and Dipankar Buddha appeared in corporeal form and took her alms before those of the Raja. The Raja asked why he preferred to take the old woman's alms first and he answered that the gram given by her had been gathered with much greater labour than the Raja's gold." So



*Manjusri Paduka*



*Bauddha Paduka*

*(from "History of Nepal" by Daniel Wright M.D.)*

for two months the ruler engaged in hard manual work and with the money so earned he purchased gifts for beggars.

The Residency Surgeon before Dr. Wright was Dr. Oldfield (1850-1863). Percival Landon refers to him as "that most excellent of Nepalese historians." His well known work in two volumes, published in 1877, is entitled "Sketches from Nipal (sic) historical and descriptive, with anecdotes of Court life and Wild Sports of the Country... to which is added an essay on Nipalese (sic) Buddhism." He was a friend of Prime Minister Jang Bahadur and appreciated the many Nepalese people whose acquaintance he made. His book is of perennial interest and contains fascinating extracts from his diary of the 1850's

"June 30th (1857) - The first detachment of the Gorkha troops started for the plains... They are to proceed to Gorakhpur and thence direct to Lucknow.

July 7th - In conversation with Jang Bahadur he told me the "cartridge question" was a mere pretext and a blind; that the real cause of the mutiny in the plains was a general feeling of distrust and dissatisfaction at the annexation of Nagpur and Oudh."

Oldfield's "Sketches from Nepal" is also illustrated with lithographs made from drawings. But the "first and fairly complete account of the Valley" (in the words of Perceval Landon) is the "account of the Kingdom of Nepal" by Colonel Kirkpatrick who in 1793 was sent to Kathmandu on a diplomatic mission by Lord Cornwallis in connection with the Chinese invasion. That book was published in 1811. May we hope that at the Gurkha Museum, in its new location, interested visitors will have the pleasure of seeing this and other rare books about the mountain kingdom. H.C.S.G.



## THE GURKHA MUSEUM

A Permanent Memorial to Commemorate and Record the Services of The Gurkhas Since 1815 (Registered as a UK Charity No. 272426) (Extract from brochure)

There are to be five military museums in Peninsula Barracks, Winchester. The Royal Hussars, The Royal Hampshire Regiment and the Royal Green Jackets already have their museums there. The Light Infantry Museum will be in the same building as the Royal Green Jackets' Museum and the Gurkha Museum will move in from Church Crookham.

The building allotted for the Gurkha Museum is a listed building with an imposing facade. It is four floors high and the two main occupants will be The Royal Hussars Regimental Headquarters and Museum, who will be moving from another part of the barracks, and the Gurkha Museum.

The running of the Museum and the whole of the interior layout (displays, audio/visual, furnishing and fittings) in the much larger museum area will be the responsibility of the Trustees. They are determined to accept this challenge to produce a museum as a worthy memorial and tribute to the Services of the Gurkhas, and in line with the expectations of a museum for the 21st Century.

A major fund raising effort is in hand to pay for all this work, and the scope of the problem facing us is now sufficiently clear to be able to set out the main features of the requirement. The detailed execution of the interior of the Museum including all displays/diaorama, a shop, the furnishings and fittings and the whole of the second floor will cost in all about £450,000.

However, this is not the end of the problem because the Museum must be properly managed and run with a permanent staff thereafter and for this we shall have to manage our shop and other resources to provide an income unless we receive an endowment. A sum of at least £250,000 is thought to be necessary for that. A most handsome and generous gift of £100,000 towards this endowment has recently been made by HM The Sultan of Brunei and his Government.

As regards the requirement to raise the £450,000 needed for the capital expenditure, the Trustees have for the past few months been appealing to companies, trusts and other grant giving bodies in the UK through the good offices of a few keen supporters headed by The Rt. Hon. Sir John Nott.

This specifically targetted approach will continue, probably throughout the remainder of 1988. The Trustees think it is more appropriate than a public appeal, at the present time. Nevertheless, if we do not succeed in raising at least £450,000 by this means we may have to resort to some form of public appeal.

The Gurkha Museum,  
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Aldershot,  
Hampshire.  
Curator Major J.E.G. Lamond.  
Tel:0252 613541 Ext.63

## A Message from His Royal Highness The Prince Of Wales Concerning The Gurkha Museum

The very name 'Gurkha' is a byword for courage and steadfastness, but why the Gurkha soldier possesses these qualities in such abundance is perhaps less widely appreciated. The Gurkha Museum provides an answer; and also serves as a Memorial to all those Gurkha soldiers who have served and will continue to serve our nation and other nations of the Commonwealth.

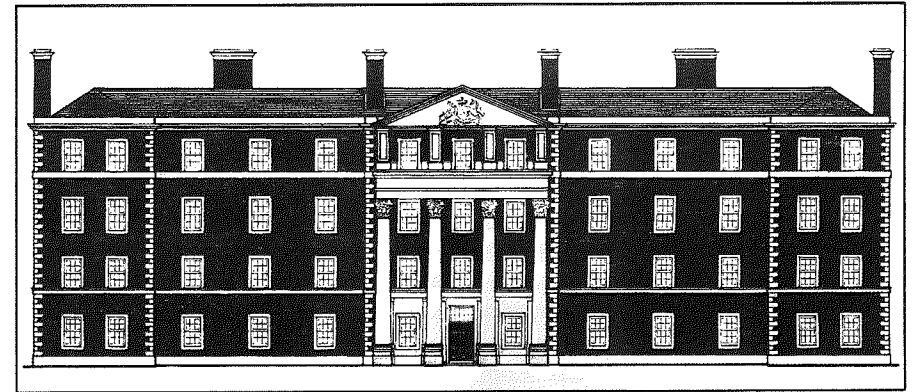
This service dates back to 1815 and the Gurkha museum records the highlights of their story and provides a home for the records of their Regiments.

The Ministry of Defence has recently allocated part of a splendid old building in Peninsula Barracks at Winchester as the future permanent home for The Gurkha Museum. These barracks are the former home of The Royal Green Jackets

with whom the Gurkhas have had such close associations over many years. Their own Museum is in a nearby building.

The task before the Trustees of the Gurkha Museum is to create a new and exciting Museum which will attract both the public and the military historian. The Trustees have accepted this challenge to provide a Museum which will be a fitting tribute and a lasting memorial to the services of all Gurkha soldiers.

The need is now to raise sufficient money to meet this obligation in full. To be associated with the Gurkhas as Colonel-in-Chief of one of their Regiments is one of the greatest privileges of my life, as well as being one of the greatest pleasures. I warmly commend to you the project set out in the brochure.



*The New Museum Building in Winchester due to open in 1989*

## OBITUARIES

### ■ *Jeanne Stonor Dowager Lady Camoys*

We heard, with very deep regret, of the death of the Dowager Lady Camoys on the 28th September 1987.

Jeanne Stourton was one of the most beautiful debutantes of her day, and despite the difficulties in the 1930's for a young socialite to have a successful business career she achieved that before her marriage in 1938.

During World War II and with young children to care for, Lady Camoys nevertheless joined the Women's Auxiliary Police Corps and remained a special constable for 25 years. Besides being a member of the W.R.V.S. during the War, she gave many years of service to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, joining the Henley Division in 1954. By 1969 she was appointed to the rank of County Superintendent and was honoured with the Order of St. John in that year. The long service medal was given to her in 1973. For most of her life Lady Camoys served in numerous organisations, local, national and international.

In February 1987 though she was rather frail, she attended our Nepali Supper when our Guest of Honour was H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.

During the time H.M. King Birendra was Crown Prince and a pupil at Eton he was in the care of the present Lord Camoys whose parents, the late Lord and Lady Camoys, made their home, Stonor Park, available to the young Prince; indeed Lady Camoys told me she looked on herself as his "foster Mother". Later

the Order of Gorkha Dakshina Bahu of Nepal was bestowed on her. It must have given her great joy to receive a visit from the King and Queen of Nepal just a few weeks before her death.

Jeanne Camoys was a deeply religious person and served her country with great distinction. *M.B.*

### ■ *Sir Christopher Summerhayes*

The following obituary is reproduced here with the permission of the Editor of The Times:-

"Sir Christopher Summerhayes, KBE, CMG, who died on July 12 at the age of 92, was one of the now almost forgotten group of Levant Consular Service experts who provided the groundwork of support for British interests in the Middle East up till the 1950s.

Summerhayes ended a long diplomatic career as Ambassador in Nepal and collaborated enthusiastically with the 1953 Everest Expedition led by Sir John Hunt. It was indeed from this embassy that the coded message which he had personally devised with the then James Morris was sent to The Times in London, breaking the news to the world of the successful ascent by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing.

Summerhayes, a parson's son, began his association with the Middle East serving in the First World War with the Gloucester Regiment in Iraq and Persia.

In 1918 he went on an excursion through the Caucasus as a member of the

Dunsterforce, the special unit sent to assist White Russian and Cossack troops protecting the local oilfields from the Bolsheviks after the Revolution.

Summerhayes, now with a taste for those parts, decided to read languages at Cambridge.

He was sent first to Alexandria in 1920 and later to consular posts at Hamadan, Shiraz, and finally to the Teheran Legation, where he served both as consul and also Oriental Counsellor, advising on local affairs as a Farsi-speaker.

When the war came again, the Gloucesters welcomed him as lieutenant colonel in command of a training battalion.

But soon Summerhayes was recalled to political duties and he spent the rest of the war years in Syria with the Spears Mission, which had been sent by Churchill to run that country following the expulsion of the Vichy French. He was the political officer based on Aleppo.

Summerhayes was posted in 1946 to Alexandria as Consul-General to look after a British community there.

In 1951 he was appointed ambassador in Kathmandu.

Summerhayes retired from the service and was knighted in 1955. He then chaired for several years the Royal Geographical Society's expeditions committee.

He leaves two sons and two daughters. His wife died in 1972."

Lord Hunt adds:-

All of us who took part in the triumph on Everest in 1953 will for ever remember the support and hospitality provided by Christopher Summerhayes, then resi-

dent as our Ambassador in the palatial building which is now the Indian Embassy. He was already known to some members, who had taken part in the expeditions led by Eric Shipton to Everest in 1951 and to Cho Oyu in 1952. For myself, as the leader in 1953, he was an invaluable counsellor in our contacts with the Nepalese authorities. His home was put at our disposal for the huge task of assembling our baggage and organising our small army of porters. He accompanied us as far as Banepa on the first day of our Trek to the Sun Kosi, on the way to the mountain; his welcome on our return was something never to be forgotten for his warmth and joyous enthusiasm.

It was Christopher's prompt intervention, when the message conveying the news of our success reached Kathmandu by the runners despatched by (the then) James Morris of The Times, which ensured that the information travelled onwards over diplomatic channels on 1st June, to be conveyed by the Foreign Office to Buckingham Palace that same evening, before the Coronation of the Queen the following day. His initiative, at that crucial point in time, made history.

After our return, Christopher was considered by members of the Expedition to be an honorary member. He was invited to our annual reunions in North Wales, and attended some of them in the early years.

Christopher Summerhayes was a man of exceptional modesty, whose hesitant manner belied a firm resolve and deep spiritual convictions. *John Hunt*

## BOOK REVIEWS

by Lieutenant Colonel T.M. Lowe

**Desperate Encounters** by RM Maxwell.  
Pentland Press £12.00 264 pages

**My dear Walter** by Portland (RW Morland-Hughes).  
Quiller Press £6.95 60 pages

What have these two books in common? At first sight not much, except that both are the work of two Regular officers of the 5th Royal Gurkhas (FF). Maxwell traces the stories of the 5th in a series of encounters from the earliest days in the life of the Regiment (it was raised in 1858) up to the time when the 5th Gurkhas became part of the army of an independent India.

As "Piffers" the Regiment had active, exciting and often painful experiences on the NW Frontier and in Afghanistan. The Regiment's campaign in two World Wars have been well covered, some more and some less than others. The encounters in the Second World War have been divided into those which occurred in each of the four battalions of the Regiment - one battalion in the Middle East and Italy, the other three in Burma and the Far East.

A book such as "Desperate Encounters" deserves an index. It is almost impossible to read the map without the aid of a powerful magnifying glass. These, however, are minor criticisms of a readable book.

If "My dear Walter" is a very different sort of book, then be reminded that officers of Gurkha Regiments were not all cast in the same mould. Portland had a light touch with the pen and the paint

brush, but he was very determined when he came face to face with the King's enemies. The letters to his young schoolboy brother (Walter) were illustrated by himself and show a nice sense of humour and wit. They must have impressed Walter. He joined the 3rd Gurkhas during WW II, though sadly he contracted polio from which he died in 1947.

The quality of Portland's work is a reminder that the Raj didn't consist exclusively of bureaucrats (civilian and military), but had its fair share of agreeable, enthusiastic and sharp-eyed young soldiers. General Sir John Hackett in a Foreword reminds us of the debt we owe to the Gurkha and to those who, like Portland, gave the Raj a secure place in the history of India.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the production of this entertaining little book which they have done in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trusts. (Room 9, Archway North, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE)

**The Mountain Kingdom** by BM Niven.  
Imago Productions (FE) Pte Ltd.  
Singapore 97 pages

"Gurkhas" by Sandro Tucci contained a selection of first rate photographs of men of the Brigade of Gurkhas. Now we have another book of photographs, all in colour, many of which are even better than those by Tucci. These photographs are the work of Colonel B.M. Niven, a former officer of 10GR. Niven who ob-

tained a 1st Class Honours Degree in geography at Edinburgh University has brought to the pictures the ethos which is characteristic of the Gurkha, his family, his military life and the mountain kingdom from which he comes. Each photo is identified by a short explanatory note. In addition, there is a chapter which precedes each group of photos and which sets the scene for what follows.

**Carpet Sahib - A life of Jim Corbett** by M Booth.

Constable £12.95 278 pages

The name Corbett must be familiar to anyone who served in India before 1948 and today there is a National Park in northern India which bears his name. Corbett enjoyed a reputation as a big-game hunter. His skill in tracking down and destroying man-eating tigers and leopards is legendary. When Corbett took to writing about his many successes, and few failures, he became a best seller. Many of his works have been reprinted again and again. In 1987 he figured in a TV programme.

In due course Corbett exchanged the gun for the camera. His unrivalled knowledge of what happened in jungles was put to good use when he was employed as senior instructor in jungle craft with one of the Indian Training Divisions during World War Two.

At heart, Corbett was a conservationist and eagerly espoused any cause which would help to ensure that wild animals were not slaughtered for enjoyment, or profit.

This book is the life story of a modest and likeable man, a friend to many, an enemy to none, except man-eating tigers

and leopards.

**The Mountains of Central Asia** by the RGS and the Mt Everest Foundation.  
Macmillan £8.95

This excellent little publication contains the first modern map of the area together with a gazetteer, a glossary and a comprehensive bibliography. Since it has become fashionable for old and young to visit the Himalayas, this book will be a great help in the early stages of planning a trip to the mountains.

**Journey Through Nepal** by Mohamed Amin, Duncan Willetts and Brian Tetley.  
Bodley Head £22.50 192 pages.

In recent years Nepal has figured frequently in books about Gurkhas, but "Journey through Nepal" is more than just a little different. The author and photographer have divided their joint work into four parts - the Journey, Tigers and the Terai, the Valleys and Temples, and finally, the Mountains and the Monasteries.

The photographs whether of mountains, rivers, temples, religious events and, above all, people are often somewhat different from those which have appeared in other publications. Mr. Amin, a Kenyan, is a photographer with outstanding skills and he is also a FRGS. His partner, Mr. Willetts, is no less talented. The quality of the photographs is matched by the text of Mr. Tetley. It is clear, precise and easy to read. A first rate map of Nepal is also provided for the benefit of the reader.

The introductory chapter has something for everyone - history, geography and the changing pattern of life over

the years in Nepal. The title of Part 2 - Tigers and the Terai - is a little misleading as it includes the story of the Gurkha soldier and his place in the former Indian Army and now the British Army. There is specific reference to the two VCs awarded to men of the 3rd Gurkhas in World War One. The author also quotes the Argentinian Press description of Gurkhas as a cross between dwarfs and mountain goats who presented such a ferocious mien as they advanced on the Argentinian positions that the Latin-Americans dropped their weapons and turned and fled. The Royal Chitwan National Park - a truly magnificent game reserve, though some prefer the term wildlife sanctuary - gets a lot of coverage in this chapter.

"Valleys and Temples" (Part 3) includes the historical background of the religious faces of Nepal.

For many readers Part 4 will be a trip down memory lane heavily laced with nostalgia because, for them, the Himalayan scenery is the real Nepal. This chapter is a mini history of the high peaks and the stories of those climbers, foreigners and Sherpas alike, who tried, and sometimes failed, to climb them. The legendary yeti gets more than a passing mention.

The publisher, the photographers and the author are to be congratulated on the production of this book about a small country and its inhabitants which in the words of the author is 'too marvellous by far to be anything but a dream, the astonishing thing is that it exists.'

**Window On To Annapurna**  
by Joy Stephens

Gollancz £14.95 206 pages

In recent years too many books about Nepal have concentrated on journeys through the country or on the spectacular scenery of the mountain ranges in that country. Joy Stephens has given us something rather different. She and her husband, a civil engineer, spent a whole year in a very small village near Baglung. They lived under conditions virtually no different from those of the Gurkha families in the same village.

This book is a fairly detailed account of life in the village of Titeng. Mrs. Stephens who is an Englishwoman speaks Nepali and had already spent eight years in the country. As a result, she was able quickly to establish a rapport with the families in Titeng at every level - the Headman, his two wives, grandmother and, of course, the children. There was little Mrs. Stephens could not discuss with the females - everything from child-birth to religion. The men, too, would speak freely, but the Headman - he had served in British Gurkhas - was something of a male chauvinist.

Mrs. Stephens writes: "Almost a year ago these people had been unknown faces to us, masks from which two slanting, inscrutable eyes stared out. Now we could see behind the masks. Yet we did not fool ourselves that we know them well; their deeper secrets couldn't be unlocked in a year."

Anyone who proposes to go to Nepal for something more than a fleeting visit would benefit greatly from reading this book.

The colour photographs in the books are good, as also are the line drawings which are the work of Mrs. Stephens.

## OTHER BOOKS OF INTEREST

**Nand Devi The Tragic Expedition**  
by John Roskelley  
£9.95 Oxford Illustrated Press

**Victory of a Sort**  
The British in Greece 1941-46  
by E.D. Smith £14.95 Robert Hale (By the author of Britain's Brigade of Gurkhas, East of Kathmandu, Johnny Gurkha etc.) - Foreword by The Lord Hunt of Llanvair Waterdine. Excellent narrative. Superb photography.

**King of the Cloud Forests**  
Michael Morpugo £7.95 Heinemann

**The Shamba Raiders** by Bruce Kinloch  
Ashford Press Publishing  
£15.95 405 pages

**Dreams of the Peaceful Dragon**  
by P. Hickman £12.95 Gollancz

**Over the High Passes**  
by C. Noble £12.95 Collins

**Alan Rouse - a Mountaineer's Life**  
by G. Birtles £12.95 Unwin

**Himalaya - trekking from Sikkim to Pakistan** by A. Metcalfe & D. Wilson  
£16.95 Hodder

**K2 - Triumph and Tragedy**  
by J. Curran £12.95 Hodder

**Through Tibet to Everest**  
by Capt. J.B.L. Noel  
£7.95 Paperback Hodder

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## NOTES ON THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

Patron: H.R.H. PRINCE GYANENDRA OF NEPAL

Our aim is to promote and foster good relations between the peoples of the United Kingdom and Nepal. The Society was founded in 1960, under the patronage of His late Majesty King Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah Deva of Nepal during his State Visit to London: Lord Hunt became the first President.

British and Nepalese subjects, and business firms or corporate bodies resident in Britain or Nepal are eligible for membership.

Members include serving and retired Gurkhas, mountaineers, members of the Diplomatic Service, schoolmasters, doctors, nurses, businessmen and scholars.

Ordinary members pay a subscription of £7 per annum. Life members - a single payment of £100. The Journal is sent free to all members.

The "Yetis" - a Nepalese studying or resident in Britain - are welcome at all functions. They are eligible to join as full members in the usual way. They have a flourishing organisation of their own and publish their own attractive journal.

The Society's programme includes:

Monthly lectures at the Alpine Club and elsewhere, meetings and films;

A Spring or Summer outing to a place of interest;

Receptions and hospitality for visiting Nepalese;

An AGM in November and an annual supper party in February or March.

We keep in touch with the Nepal-Britain Society in Kathmandu which the late H.H. Field Marshal Sir Kaiser, a Life Member of the Society, founded shortly before his death.

The Britain-Nepal Society has a growing membership and there is tremendous enthusiasm for Nepal. Our Meetings, which are usually attended by about one hundred people each, provide an excellent opportunity for members and their guests to get together. Our membership, not counting Honorary Members and Corporate Members, is now well over five hundred.

The President of our Society, Sir George Bishop, CB, OBE, has been President of the Royal Geographical Society.

The Committee welcome new members amongst people with a genuine interest in Nepal. The address of the Honorary Secretary is:

Mrs. C. Brown  
1 Allen Mansions  
Allen Street  
London W8 6UY

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THE BRITAIN-NEPAL SOCIETY

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