

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

VEN. KHENPO L TSHERING is presently serving as Principal of the Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies (SIHNS), Gangtok. He obtained his Acharya degree from the SIHNS and was conferred his PhD degree by the International Nyingma Studies, Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan. He is a keen innovator in the field of Nyingma Buddhist studies and a lama of Tashiding monastery.

TSULTSEM GYATSO ACHARYA was born in Gangtok in 1969. He first studied at Enchey School before joining the Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies (Sheda) where he obtained his Acharya degree in 1992. He then joined the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology where he worked as Cataloguer in the Tibetan Library. He currently carries out research on Tibetan and Sikkimese history and religious culture.

MÉLANIE VANDENHELSEN is a Doctor in anthropology from the University of Montpellier, France. Her dissertation is entitled: *The Buddhist Monastery of Pemayangtse in Sikkim (Oriental Himalayas, India): a Monastery in the World* (completed under the direction of Dr HDR Brigitte Steinmann). She is presently affiliated to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology where she directs the anthropological part of a project on Sikkimese monasticism. She has authored one previous article on Pemayangtse monastery in the *Bulletin of Tibetology*, Vol. 39 (1).

HISSEY WONGCHUK BHUTIA was born in 1981 in Chumpong, West Sikkim. He studied Buddhist Philosophy at the Institute for Higher Nyingma Studies in Gangtok and obtained his Acharya degree (M.A.) from the Institute of Sampurananda Sanskrit Visva Vidhyalaya, Varanasi. He works at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology as Research Assistant for the Sikkimese Monasticism project while simultaneously doing his PhD on the *History of Tashiding Monastery* at Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan.

ALICE TRAVERS (alicetravers@yahoo.fr) is a doctorate student in social history at the University of Paris X-Nanterre and at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris. Her research

concerns the aristocracy of central Tibet during the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. She uses the prosopographical method (collective biography) and focuses on the matrimonial strategies and the careers of the lay officials of the Ganden Phodrang government.

TULKU THOGMED was born in Kurtod, Eastern Bhutan, in 1972. From the age of nine, he studied under the guidance of H.H. Dodrupchen Rinpoche at the Chorten Monastery in Deorali, Gangtok. He later received teachings from Lama Gyalwang Nyima, Khenpo Dazer, Lama Tsondru Senge, Khenpo Thubten Odzer and studied the Sutra and Tantra under his father Lopon Thegchok Yeshe Dorje. From his most revered root Guru H.H. Dodrupchen Rinpoche, he received the oral transmissions and treasure teachings and particularly the complete teachings on upper and lower Nyingthik. He is presently residing and engaged in religious activities at the Chorten Monastery.

CARL YAMAMOTO is a doctoral student at the University of Virginia. He is currently working on a dissertation on Lama Zhang, founder of the Tshal pa bKa' brgyud pa order.

TENZIN SAMPHEL obtained his Bachelors degree from North Bengal University and his Shastri degree from the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi. Also holding a Bachelors degree in Library and Information Sciences, he is presently working as Librarian at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology.

ROGER CROSTON is an independent researcher who, since 1996, has been tracing and interviewing the few westerners who were and are still living who witnessed the old Tibet before China annexed the country in 1950. He is especially interested in the British Mission to Tibet of 1936 and in August 2007 gathered most of the second generation of the mission members to a one day meeting at the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford. He is currently researching the Ernst Schaefer Expedition to Sikkim and Tibet of 1938-39. His particular interest is in old photographs of Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet.