

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

FRANZ-KARL EHRHARD is Professor of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Munich, Germany. His research work centres on religious and literary traditions in Tibet and the Himalayas. His latest publication is *A Rosary of Rubies: The Chronicle of the Gur-rigs mDo-chen Tradition from South-Western Tibet* (Collectanea Himalayica, 2). Munich: Indus Verlag, 2008.

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 Professor Brigitte Steinmann). She is presently lecturer in the University of Lille 1 (North of France). She has authored two previous articles on Pemayangtse and Tashiding monasteries in the *Bulletin of Tibetology*: Vol. 39 (1) and (with Hissey Wongchuk) Vol. 42 (1&2).

P.K. GAUTAM is a former officer of the Indian Army. In August 2005 he joined the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses as a Research Fellow. His present interests are environment, Himalayan ecology, Buddhism, Tibet, composition of the army and trends in warfare. He has authored a number of books and contributed chapters to edited volumes. *Environmental Security: New Challenges and Role of Military* (2010: Shipra Publishers) is his latest book. He has also contributed chapters in IDSA Working Group Report *Security Implications of Climate Change for India* (2009) published by Academic Foundation.

SONAM WANGDI is a retired IAS officer and a former Chief Secretary to the Government of Sikkim. An alumnus of the London School of Economics and Life Member of LSE Society, Sonam Wangdi holds an M.Sc. from London University. He developed an interest in Tibet in the 1960s when he met the Founder-Director, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, N.C. Sinha. In 1968, the Tibetan Review published his *Tibet Today: A Nation in Chains*. The present article succinctly discusses Tibet since 1968. He was Rehabilitation Officer for Tibetan Refugees in Sikkim from 1966 to 1969.

JENNY BENTLEY is a doctorate student in cultural anthropology at the University of Zürich. Her present research centres on the Lepcha community rituals, their meaning in constructing collective identity and their adaptations to the changing Sikkimese context. She previously studied the cultural revival among the Sikkimese Lepcha during her master's degree program at the University of Zürich and the University of Delhi, where she was admitted as a casual student. She is at present affiliated to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and conducting fieldwork in Sikkim and Kalimpong.

PEMA WANGCHUK DORJEE is a Gangtok-based journalist and has been reporting on Sikkim for the past 14 years. He is the editor of NOW! daily and has worked in the past with Himal (Kathmandu), Sikkim Observer and Weekend Review. *Khangchendzonga: Sacred Summit*, a book co-authored by him with Mita Zulca was released in March 2007.

DR P.W. SAMDUP was born in 1936 in Darjeeling to T.T. Samdup. He completed his MBBS from Assam Medical College in 1961, and his MPH from Hawaii University in 1989. From 1963 to 1985, he served in the Royal Government of Bhutan in various capacities, the last as Superintendent of Health Services. During his tenure in the government, he also served as one of the physicians to His Majesty the Third King of Bhutan. During the same time His Majesty the King honoured him with the red scarf, and the title of 'Dasho'. From 1985 to 1996, Dr Samdup worked in the WHO, seven years of which he lived in Sri Lanka where he was able to visit the temples and statues dedicated to Kazi Dawa Samdup's brother Reverend S Mahinda Thero.

JOHN BRAY is an independent scholar, currently based in Kumamoto, Japan. His research interests include the history of the Himalayan border areas, particularly Ladakh and Sikkim, and the history of missionary engagement with Tibet. His recent publications include papers in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society and Zentralasiatische Studien as well as two edited collections: *Recent Research on Ladakh 2009* (co-edited with Monisha Ahmed, Kargil and Leh, 2009), and *Mountains, Monasteries and Mosques* (co-edited with Elena de Rossi Filibeck, Rome, 2009). He is President of the International Association of Ladakh Studies (IALS – www.ladakhstudies.org).

SAUL MULLARD completed his doctorate from the University of Oxford (Oriental Institute) in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies. His thesis was titled *Opening the Hidden Land: State formation and the construction of Sikkimese history*. He is currently holder of a Leverhulme grant for a period of two years and is working in collaboration with the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology on a project involving rare Sikkimese manuscripts. He is the author of numerous articles on early Sikkimese history and is a regular contributor to the *Bulletin of Tibetology*.

ANNA BALIKCI-DENJONGPA is the Research Coordinator at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and Editor of the *Bulletin of Tibetology*. She received her Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, which was recently published as *Lamas, Shamans and Ancestors: Village Religion in Sikkim* (Brill, 2008). She is currently supervising a research project on the social history of Sikkimese society through the use of historic photographs and a visual anthropology project aiming to document the social life and rituals of the Sikkimese Bhutias and Lepchas.

ALEX MCKAY has a BA (Hons) and a PhD (1997) from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University. He has held research and teaching posts at London University (SOAS and UCL) and in Leiden (International Institute for Asian Studies). His publications include *Tibet and the British Raj: The Frontier Cadre 1904-1947* (London 1997, 2nd edition by LTWA Dharamsala 2009), *Footprints Remain: Biomedical Beginnings Across the Indo-Tibetan Frontier 1870-1970* (University of Amsterdam 2007) and a 3 volume edited work, *The History of Tibet* (London 2003).

MARK TURIN is a linguistic anthropologist. He studied archaeology and anthropology at the University of Cambridge, and holds a PhD in descriptive linguistics from Leiden University. He has held research appointments at Cornell and Leipzig universities. From 2007 to 2008, he was Chief of Translation and Interpretation at the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN). At present, he continues to direct the Digital Himalaya Project which he co-founded in 2000, and recently established the World Oral Literature Project, an urgent global initiative to document and make accessible endangered oral literatures before they disappear without record.