

the Tarai; and *Janamukti* is the paper of the Rastriya Janamukti Morcha.

Finally mention should be made of the valuable service Mahesh Chandra Regmi has provided for non-Nepali speakers interested in political developments as reported in the Nepalese press. His *Nepal Press Digest*, abstracting in English translation, press-clippings from a broad variety of private newspapers, has been published from Lazimpat (Kathmandu) since 1963. For anyone interested in the ups- and downs of Nepalese politics or in the language of politics, there is no substitute for the newspapers themselves; but for anyone seeking quick and easy access to current political issues, *Nepal Press Digest* is a must [SAI 1963-present].

LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR NEPALESE STUDIES IN LONDON

Michael Hutt

London is a long way from Kathmandu: the two cities have little in common except, perhaps, a growing traffic problem and the palace of a constitutional monarch. But for historical reasons there are several valuable collections in London of material relating to Nepal. Although these are readily accessible to bona fide researchers, they are currently somewhat under-used. My intention here is to bring these collections to the notice of European scholars. This is by no means a comprehensive survey - there are many other oddities tucked away here and there, no doubt, and several of London's enormous museums

possess large collections of art and sculpture from the Himalayan region. But here I shall mention the main centres for library research, as well as some of the more interesting and unique material they contain.

There are at present three libraries with substantial holdings of books in Nepalese languages (principally, but not exclusively, Nepali), of books in European languages relating to Nepal and of Nepalese manuscripts. These are the India Office Library and Records (IOLR) near Waterloo Station, the Oriental Manuscripts and Printed Books (OMPB) division of the British

Library and the Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), both in Bloomsbury. In early 1991, the collections of the IOLR and the OMPB are to be merged to form one single library within the general framework of the British Library. Here I shall treat the IOLR and OMPB as two separate collections, since they are currently catalogued as such and likely to remain so for some time.

Publications in Nepali

One of the problems I have faced while conducting research into Nepali literature is the speed with which Nepali publications go 'out of print' in Nepal and the non-appearance of second editions. Thus, any library collection of Nepali books and pamphlets is of great value, since most of the material it contains will not be available elsewhere, even (in some cases) in Nepal itself. Each of these libraries holds a Nepali collection: SOAS has about 650 volumes, the IOLR some 750 (about 570 different titles) and the OMPB some 400 volumes. The majority of these are published works of Nepali literature: collections of poetry and short stories, dramas, novels, essays and works of literary history and criticism. Although numerically dominant, these sections of each collection are the least-used by scholars working on Nepal, who have by and large ignored the considerable literary interest and socio-political relevance of much Nepali literature. Each collection also contains many studies of other topics in Nepali.

The oldest collection is the IOLR's: it contains a copy of the Serampore

Bible of 1821, the first book ever printed in Nepali, and a copy of the first edition of Bhanubhakta's celebrated *Ramayana* from 1886. Although dominated by Nepali literature - and within that category by works published in the early decades of this century, including numerous translations from the *Gita*, the *Mahabharata*, various *Puranas* and several interesting ritual and astrological texts (*Khando Jagaune Kabitta*, *Svasthan Vrata Katha* etc.) - there are also biographic verse descriptions of caste in Nepal (*Tharagotravaravali*), and studies of Nepalese art, festivals and folk literature, public finance, health care provision, epigraphy, law, linguistics, history, economics, politics, Panchayat and so on. An item of particular usefulness is *Mecidekhi Mahakali* a four-volume compendium of information on Nepal arranged by geographical region and published in 1974. A catalogue of all Nepali books and pamphlets acquired by the IOLR after 1902 was published in 1985, after which date British Library responsibility for the acquisition of Nepali materials was passed to the OMPB.

The SOAS collection is of more recent origin than that of the IOLR and most of the material it contains dates back no further than the 1930's. Much of it was assembled by Sir R.L. Turner and Dr. T.W. Clark. Again, Nepali literary works form the majority: the SOAS collection is broadly representative of Nepali literature from 1930 to 1960, containing almost every work by Laksmiprasad Devkota, Lekhnath Paudyal and Balkrishna Sama as well as fiction and poetry by many other

authors and a fair number of critical studies. The coverage of more recent literature is, however, somewhat patchy.

The OMPB collection dates from the period 1958 to 1977, although there are a few stray items from earlier in the century. Literary works are predominant. Due to the somewhat haphazard manner in which these collections have been assembled, many of the books in the OMPB are duplicates of those at SOAS and the IOLR. Each collection, however, contains rare items unavailable elsewhere. Thus, the OMPB contains several important works of Nepali literature (Parijat's first collection of short stories, *Sadakra Pratibha*, was one that delighted me) that I have not found elsewhere - even in Kathmandu bookstores. There are also miscellaneous issues of several Nepali journals - *Purnima*, *Nirdesan* etc. - from the late 1950s and early 1960s which are of great interest.

Books in other Nepalese languages

Each of these libraries holds a substantial number of books (and, in the instance of the IOLR, manuscripts) in Tibetan (much of the IOLR manuscript collection dates back to the Younghusband Expedition of 1904), Hindi (SOAS holds over 5,000 books) and Maithili - all languages spoken in Nepal, but very little of this material is Nepalese in origin. There is really no collection of books in any Nepalese language other than Nepali worth mentioning - chiefly because Nepal's other languages (with the exception of Newari) rarely enter print. There

are, nonetheless, a few stray items of interest; dictionaries of Limbu, Gurung and Kulung Rai, as well as a rare collection of articles and poetry in the Tharu language *Tharu Sanskriti* are available at the IOLR; and dictionaries and grammars of Lepcha and Limbu at the OMPB. The SOAS collection contains a copy of the *Tamba Kaiten vhai Rimthim* discussed by A.W. Macdonald (1975) in his article 'The Tamang as Seen by One of Themselves', as well as grammars and linguistic studies of other Nepalese (mainly Tibeto-Burman) languages.

Each library holds a very small number of books in Newari, although none of these collections could be described as being in any way representative of Newari literature. The largest collection appears to be at the OMPB - there are approximately 150 items there, mostly of poetry, fiction and drama, but also one or two interesting historical and political studies.

Books on Nepal in European languages

The SOAS collection is perhaps the most extensive of these, amounting to about 1,000 volumes in all, and containing almost every work on Nepal published in Europe and the USA, as well as most that have emanated from India and Nepal itself. The oldest standard works on Nepal are those by Hamilton, Kirkpatrick, Hodgson, Oldfield, Lévi, Landon et al. Many works on Nepalese history are present, ranging from those of Mahesh Regmi to Ludwig Stiller and Mary Schlusser. There are endless reports, feasibility studies and surveys from aid

agencies and from the Nepalese government, as well as the published results of each national census. Most are in English, but there are also publications in French, German and Russian.

Periodicals

The Periodicals Section of the SOAS library subscribes to the following journals of relevance to scholars interested in Nepal:

Ancient Nepal, Himal (full collection from 1988), *Himalayan Research Bulletin/Newsletter of the Nepal Studies Association* (full collection), *Kailash* (full collection from 1973), *Contributions to Nepalese Studies* (full collection from 1973), *Journal of the Nepal Research Centre, Parbate* (British Gurkha newspaper) and *Nepali* (beginning with 1968). Back issues of each of these are held in bound volumes.

There is a series of the essential *Nepal Press Digest* from 1963-1986 (we hope the SOAS subscription will soon be renewed to this). The Library also holds issues of several now-defunct journals, including the *Gorkha Khabar Kagat* vol. 28 nos 1-12 (Darjeeling, 1927) and three issues of *Indreni*, an influential bilingual poetry magazine, edited by L.P. Devkota, from 1956. There are also four volumes of the Newari journal *Nepala* from 1952-56.

Manuscript collections

The most important of these is undoubtedly the Hodgson Collection, held at the IOLR. Brian Houghton Hodgson (1800-1894) was a British Resident in Kathmandu from 1820-1843, and also lived in Darjeeling from 1844-1858. He was one of the

first Europeans to conduct and publish research on Nepal and the subjects he covered included history, geography, ethnology, biology, zoology, religion and linguistics. The Hodgson Collection is enormous: there are over 100 large bound volumes of papers, but a catalogue exists only for material in English. Most of this has already been published in Hodgson's *Essays on the Language, Literature and Religion of Nepal and Tibet* and in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal* between 1828 and 1880. In addition to material in English, there are also papers in Nepali, Persian, Tibetan, Newari, and some interesting specimens of writing in what I assume to be Lepcha and Limbu.

That Hodgson had academic ambitions is demonstrated by his obvious annoyance at the discovery that the Hungarian scholar Csoma de Körös had pre-empted his work on the Tibetan Kangyur: I came across the following note in Hodgson's own hand in Vol. 97 of the collection:

"The Karchuk or Catalogue of the Kahgyur, translated with aid of Bhotias, and held back owing to De Coros' more authentic labours being just then available. This, however, was done and sent to Cala before De Coros had arrived or written on the subject and therefore his discovery of the true nature of the Kahgyur [translations from Sanscrit] had been anticipated by me. BHH"

In 1984 I compiled a preliminary list of the Nepali material in this collection, and the following summary should give an impression of what is available. Since Hodgson was confined to the Kathmandu Valley, and his movements within

the Valley were restricted too, he relied heavily upon local informants. There are over 400 items in Nepali, written in various hands and ranging in length from a single folio to over 80 pages. In terms of their subject matter, these can be grouped under six very broad headings.

1. Statistics

Some 3,000 folios are filled with land revenue statistics relating to various places in various years. For example, three whole volumes (about 1,100 folios) are dedicated to Kathmandu revenues in nine different years between 1806 and 1824, and a similar quantity to revenues from 'Bhatgaon' (Bhaktapur) for five different years between 1800 and 1828. Other tables document land revenue assessments and receipts in the Tarai and Jumla; from mines and various categories of cultivated land; set out the receipts of Nepal's customs houses; army pay scales; government employees' pay scales; imports and exports; the contents of national arsenals; and the monthly expenses of various members of the royal household.

2. Genealogies, Vamsavali, historical accounts, etc.

About a dozen recensions and several summaries of the *Gorkha Vamsavali*, and innumerable lists of kings, both Shahs and Mallas. Hodgson's informants also supplied accounts of the reigns of several kings, of the conquest of Garhwal and the campaigns of Prithvi Narayan Shah.

3. Ethnography

Copious descriptions of the 'manners and customs' and sometimes the

funerary rites of most of Nepal's hill-tribes: Newars, Lepchas, 'Murmis' (Tamangs), Magars, Sunuwars, Hayus, Limbus, 'Kiratas' and Gurungs. Innumerable lists of castes and clans from various ethnic groups and regions.

4. Political intelligence

Several interesting notes, presumably passed to Hodgson by spies within the Nepalese government, informing him of intrigues at court. Also lists of Chinese officials in Kathmandu, and of Nepalese soldiers. Unable to leave the capital, Hodgson acquired a knowledge of topography by commissioning route itineraries from travellers arriving from Peking, Khasa and outlying districts of Nepal. Lists of towns, villages, pilgrimage sites and forts, and several rudimentary charts and maps (including four forts in Sikkim).

5. Law and administration

Hodgson evidently acquired much of this information by compiling questionnaires in Nepali, and having them filled in. Many of these shed light upon the tax system, the operation of the judiciary and police courts, scales of punishment for various crimes, caste laws and the postal relay system.

6. Religion and art

Data on iconography and philosophy, chiefly in the form of completed questionnaires. Lists and Nepali translations of inscriptions in the Valley; the texts of folktales; notes on silver coinage; religious calendars; descriptions of various festivals.

References

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THE ETHNOMUSICOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF DR. A. A. BAKE

Carol Tingey

Arnold Bake pioneered ethnomusicological research in Nepal, as well as in many other areas of South Asia. The recordings and data collected during his two field trips to the Kathmandu Valley in 1931 and 1955-56 have survived as an invaluable resource for scholars today. The collection, which is distributed between a number of locations, may be itemized as follows:

Sound recordings

- i) Wax cylinders (1931). 75 recordings, including Buddhist mantras and Newar devotional and seasonal music. Originals and tape copies held at the National Sound Archive (NSA).
- ii) Reel-to-reel tapes (1955-56). 92 recordings, including *caca* (*carya git*), Vedic chants, *dapha*, other Newar and Nepali devotional, seasonal and festival music, *nava baja*, women's songs, *gaine* songs, music of peoples outside the Valley and army *jhyaure*. Originals held at the NSA. Copies at SOAS Centre of Music Studies.

Ciné films

Approximately 3 hours of b&w and colour film (1931 & 1955-56), covering *mudra*, *carya* dance, Newar masked dances and festivals. Also included a documentary film on Newar life, *A Year in Nepal*, by Colin Rosser (1956). Originals held at the National Film Archive. Video (VHS) copy at SOAS Centre of Music Studies.

Photographs and transparencies

Approximately 650 b&w photographs (1931 & 1955-56) including musicians, portraits, buildings, architectural features and sculptures. Approximately 50 colour transparencies (1955-56), mostly of festivals. Photos & negatives held in private collection, Barchem, The Netherlands. Transparencies held at SOAS Centre of Music Studies.

Field notes and research reports

Including song texts and English translations, reports and other data