

## EDITORIAL

The first issue of our Bulletin was sent to European scholars with the request that the enclosed questionnaire be returned in order to receive free of charge the second number. The present issue is being sent out to 133 scholars, representing 17 different countries. Additional copies have been distributed to research institutes in Nepal and India in the hope of establishing collaborative links with the Himalayan countries themselves. In the meantime we have begun to enlist the support of contributing editors (see below) to provide us with news and ideas from colleagues in their respective countries. In short, we are well on our way to having a viable bulletin, serving as a network for European scholars active in research on the land and peoples of the Himalayas.

You will find the present issue somewhat broader in scope than the first. We are grateful to Graham Clarke, Franz-Karl Ehrhard, Corneille Jest, Alan Macfarlane, Michael Torsten Much, Ulrike Muller-Boker, Philippe Ramirez, Anne de Sales and others for having helped in its preparation. Also we wish to thank Jonathan Benthall of the Royal Anthropological Institute for permission to publish a version of Alan Macfarlane's report that originally appeared in *Anthropology Today*. Although our editorial policy is to publish only original articles, we intend that our section on archives become a regular feature that will eventually, when indexed, provide subscribers with useful information about where materials on the Himalayas are stored. With this aim in mind, it seemed justifiable to publish a version of Alan Macfarlane's report on the Cambridge archive that most of our reader-

ship will not have seen.

As for the future, the rubrics that we have established in this issue should become standing features in the Bulletin: each issue will contain a commissioned review article and an interview, plus shorter papers of topical interest (sent to us unsolicited by subscribers). There will also be reports on archives, current research and conferences; book reviews; and announcements. Our third issue has already taken shape along these lines and will contain, among other things, a review article on recent publications on oral tradition and the first of a major two part report by Lucette Boulnois on the various Himalayan archives in Paris. Our fourth number will contain additionally a special index on current research and researchers in Europe, based on the returned questionnaires.

We present this brief look into the future as the Bulletin enters a critical stage in which we must appeal not only for your interest but also your support. The 'seed money' from the South Asia Institute lapses with this, our second, number. We aim to meet the costs of the next two issues out of subscription fees, but contingency funds from the Institute will cover any shortfall. In short, production of the next two issues is guaranteed, but only those persons who return the enclosed subscription form will receive them. From Number 5, to be published in Spring 1993, we must be entirely self-supporting.

As mentioned in our first issue, the Bulletin will survive only if its existence is the collective intellectual and financial responsibility of all European scholars engaged in Himalayan research. We

are grateful for the interest already shown in the Bulletin and urge you to continue to send us your articles, reports, news and suggestions. Finally we reiterate that from our next issue the Bulletin will be sent only to *bona fide* paid-up subscribers. For further information about subscriptions see the leaflet enclosed with this issue.

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