NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nepalese and Italian Contributions to the History and Archaeology of Nepal. Seminar held at Hanuman Dhoka, Kathmandu, 22-23 January 1995

A seminar on "Nepalese and Italian Contributions to the history and archaeology of Nepal", organized by the Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East (IsMEO) and by the Department of Archaeology of HMG, was held in Kathmandu on January 22nd and 23rd 1995. The event, which was held to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Giuseppe Tucci (*1894), was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Social Welfare of HMG of Nepal, Mr M.N. Prashrit, by the Director General of the Department of Archaeology HMG, Mr K.M. Shrestha and by the President of IsMEO, Prof. G. Gnoli. Papers were read by Nepalese and Italian scholars on recent historical, archaeological, epigraphical and art historical research done in Nepal.

The role played by G. Tucci since his first pioneering explorations in the '30s, and above all in the '50s - when his pupils, R. Gnoli and L. Petech, began their own important research on Nepalese epigraphy and history - was underlined at the beginning of the seminar. D.R. Regmi began by saying that G. Tucci "... was the first to initiate the second line of Italian travellers" who revived a tradition which goes back to the 17th century when Italian missionaries first came to Nepal, and began a tradition of fieldwork which Italians have since continued, particularly during the last ten years when archaeological activities were undertaken in the Kathmandu Valley (Harigaon, Dhumvarahi, Deopatan, Patan) and in the Terai (Simraongarh, Gotihawa, Sisania) along with the restoration of wall-paintings in the palace of the Fifty-five Windows and of the Pujari Math of Bhaktapur.

L. Petech and G. Verardi gave a joint paper reviewing the results achieved by Italian scholars on the ancient and medieval history of Nepal.

T.N. Mishra presented a wide ranging survey of Nepalese architecture based on Licchavi epigraphy. Starting from an analysis of some technical terms, the Nepalese scholar demonstrated the abundance and specificity of architectural elements in the monuments of the Kathmandu Valley.

An interesting paper concerning post-ancient Nepal was given by H.R. Joshi, who linked several different aspects of late-Licchavi culture and political history. He highlighted some of the problems concerning the social and religious conflicts and dynastic changes characteristic of a period of crisis in the 7th and 8th centuries.

G. Verardi's paper provided the archaeological evidence found during the excavation of the Satya Narayana temple at Harigaon where Narendradeva's Buddhist phase was cancelled by the successive phase related to the Vaishnava restoration. Verardi aimed to clarify the social and economic nature of the political and religious conflicts of the 8th and 9th centuries, comparing them to the conditions in which Buddhists found themselves under similar circumstances in China and India.

Preliminary reports on the archaeological sites of Dhumvarahi, Patan and Simraongarh, were presented by O. Volpicelli, S. Pracchia and M. Vidale, who, in the last five years, directed several archaeological campaigns at these sites. Besides presenting some new data and documenting their activities, the lecturers demonstrated the archaelogical importance of these sites during the Licchavi and medieval periods.

R.N. Pandey outlined the preliminary results of his recent research on the artistic evidence found in Western Nepal. He stressed the importance of some sites (Dullu for example) for the development of the sculptural style that characterises the western Himalayan regions. Light was thrown on numerous series of sculptures (mostly ignored by scholars) made in this area during the medieval period.

A careful analysis of the sources and of the historical and archaelogical data concerning the identification of Kapilavastu was made by M.R. Aryal who underlined the more obscure points of the Anglo-Indian research.

A contribution to the study of the *ḍhuṅge dhārā* of the Kathmandu Valley was given by R. Pradhan; in addition to stressing the historical and artistic importance of these monumental fountains, she emphasised their specific ritual character and their function as social aggregate which, in many cases, is still valid.

An attempt to show the diverse paleographic and epigraphic aspects of the inscription recently discovered at Mahankal was made by R. Garbini who made a preliminary analysis of the historical and chronological problems (pertaining to the calendar) found in this text.

In addition to the seminar there was an exhibition on view where photographic and didactic panels documented the different activities of IsMEO, G. Tucci's explorations, the different archaeological campaigns and the restoration of paintings.

A.A. Di Castro (IsMEO, Rome)

Interdisciplinary Workshop: "Himalayan Space in Language and Culture" Nijmegen, April 3-4, 1995

The workshop, which was organized by Balthasar Bickel, Eve Danziger, and Martin Gaenszle on behalf of the Cognitive Anthropology Research Group at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics at Nijmegen (Netherlands), brought together anthropologists and linguists concerned with Himalayan societies. The aim was to enter into dialogue and to compare what has been found in cultural conceptualisation and symbolisation to linguistic patterns of encoding spatial relations.

The first day was dominated by papers dealing with the constitution of spatial orientation through ritual journeys which are an important feature of the religious traditions of Tibeto-Burman speaking communities in the Himalayas. Martin Gaenszle (Heidelberg), taking up ideas developed in an early article by Nicholas J. Allen, focused on the vertical dimension in Mewahang Rai oral ritual texts. That local case suffixes marking the vertical dimension in various parts of grammar are indeed a unique phenomenon found only in Kiranti languages was stressed in the contribution by Karen Ebert (Zürich). Michael Oppitz (Zürich) spoke on the cardinal directions in Magar mythology as expressed in the auxiliary chants which deal with the origin of ritual tools. The paper presented by András Höfer (Heidelberg) discussed various examples of Tamang oral ritual texts (e.g. an "incensing of the universe", a ritual journey and a song on the wanderings of a mythic hero) and inquired into their poetical techniques of constructing spatial orientation.

On the second day Alexander Macdonald (Paris) spoke on the "Mandalaization" of the Himalayas and described the installation of a *maṇḍala* in a landscape in terms of an "intellectual colonization". The contribution by Asif Agha (Los Angeles) dealt with spatial anchoring, orientational schemas, and spatialization effects in Lhasa Tibetan and focused particularly on deictics. Gérard Toffin (Paris) spoke on the inside/outside opposition which is one aspect of spatial categorization among the Newars of Kathmandu. This opposition reappears on various levels, e.g. in domestic space, temple symbolism and urban space, and is enacted in ritual. Returning to the issue of the vertical dimension, Tej Man Angdembe (Leiden) demonstrated the importance of "up"/"down" metaphors which are at the base of Limbu emotion terms. Finally, Balthasar Bickel (Zürich) discussed the interrelationship of formalised practice and spatial language in the case of the Belhara (a Kiranti group). In this context he raised the crucial issue of pragmatic knowledge.

Most papers pointed out the strong grammaticalization of spatial categories in various Himalayan languages, a feature which became particularly clear in the case of the Kiranti languages' emphasis on the vertical dimension. But while these grammatical inscriptions in some cases seem to be directly correlated with cultural phenomena, this is by no means necessarily the case as historical processes have lead to a highly complex situation in the Himalayas.

Martin Gaenszle (Heidelberg)

Himalayan Languages Symposium
Rijksuniversiteit Leiden
June 16th and 17th, 1995

This year the first international Himalayan Languages Symposium was convened in the Netherlands under the auspices of the Himalayan Languages Project of Leiden University. For over a decade, scholars in France, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands had expressed the desirability of a regularly convened forum for scholars of Himalayan languages. This year the research team of the Himalayan Languages Project in Leiden took the initiative of organizing the first such symposium in the Netherlands. The symposium proved to be highly successful, and Zürich has already been proposed as the venue for next summer's meeting.

Participants expressed the shared hope that this symposium will establish a tradition. The first Himalayan Languages Symposium brought together scholars stationed in Europe, and it is hoped that the symposium will grow into a global forum for Himalayan language scholars. The Himalayan Languages Symposium was envisaged as a podium for contributions from linguists and specialists from kindred disciplines on any language of the Himalayas, whether it be Tibeto-Burman, Indo-Aryan, Burushaski, Kusunda or any other tongue. The fact that the first Himalayan Languages Symposium included contributions on the languages of Sichuan and the Tibetan Plateau demonstrates that the term 'Himalayan' is intended not in a restrictive, but a panoramic sense.

The keynote speaker at the Leiden symposium was Bernard Comrie. Participants presented contributions on a variety of Himalayan languages , viz. Bantawa, Dumi, Byangsi, Tibetan, Limbu, Mewahang, Lepcha, Belhare, Yamphu, Kulung, rGya-rong and Nepali. No proceedings will be published, but many of the symposium contributions will be included in a 'Trends in Linguistics' volume to be entitled *Himalayan Linguistics* (Mouton de Gruyter, Berlin). This volume will also comprise contributions not presented at the symposium.

The Himalayan Languages Symposium will convene each summer at a location to be announced one year in advance. More information about the 1996 Himalayan Languages Symposium will be made available in the autumn. The Himalayan Languages Project at Leiden University will act as the caretaker of the permanent mailing list of the symposium. You can be put on the mailing list by sending your name, complete address, e-mail address, fax and telephone numbers to: Himalayan Languages Project, Leiden University, Postbus 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Abstracts for next year's symposium can be sent for review to the same address.

George van Driem (Leiden)

Symposium Series on "High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography"

The symposium series on "High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography" (HMRSC) was created in 1989 by M. Buchroithner to provide a forum for scientists to facilitate the exchange of experiences and ideas on sustained interdisciplinary remote sensing studies in high mountain areas and to promote these activities. Topics addressed within the technical sessions of the HMRSC symposiums represent many fields of remote sensing application and integration of geoscientific information into geographic information systems (GIS). Besides presenting new developments in the field of remote sensing, one major topic discussed during the symposium was interdisciplinary studies dealing with remote sensing techniques as a useful tool for thematic mapping and environmental monitoring of high mountain areas. Papers dealing with the production of suitable satellite tracking maps were also presented as different thematic mapping approaches in the fields of geology, geomorphology, glaciology etc.. The lectures given showed clearly that the scientific goals of cartographic and geoscientific projects in extended high mountain areas can only be reached by the application and synoptic integration of information gained from the interpretation of multitemporal and multisensoral airborne and spaceborne images and traditional interdisciplinary methods. To obtain quantitative and objective results a lot of time must be dedicated to the ground checking and referencing of the digital image information. The importance of the application of Digital Elevation Models (DEM) for the geocoding of digital satellite data sets from areas showing a pronounced topograpy was underlined. To emphasize the commitment of the organizers of the symposium series to mountainous terrain, technical sessions and post-symposium field excursions will take place in the important mountain chains.

The first symposium in 1990 was organized and hosted by the Institute for Image Processing and Computer Graphics (Buchroithner M.), Joanneum Research, Graz, Austria. After the technical session in Graz, the post-symposium field trip visited the Schladminger Tauern area in the Austrian alps.

The second symposium in 1992 was co-organized by the Institute of Geology, University of Vienna/Austria (Häusler H., Leber, D.), the Institute for Image Processing/Joanneum Research, Graz/Austria (Buchroithner, M.), and the Institute of Remote Sensing Application (Liu Jiyuan), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing/China, which also hosted the symposium. After technical sessions in Beijing and Lhasa/Tibet Automomous Region, the participants had the opportunity to discuss in the field the topics addressed in the conference presentations. The post-excursion field trip, in the south of the Tibetan plateau and in the northern part of the Himalayas, covered the route from Lhasa, via Xigaze, Dingri and the Qomolungma (Mt. Everest) base camp to the Tibetan/Nepalese border at Zhangmu. It closed with a visit to the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in

Kathmandu/Nepal with the presentation of the Mountain Environment and Natural Resources Information System (MENRIS).

The third International Symposium on High Mountain Remote Sensing Cartography, in 1994, was organized and hosted by the Institute for Applied Research in Space Sciences (Leguizamón S. - Instituto de Investigaciones Aplicadas de Ciencias Espaciales, IIACE) at the Regional Center of Scientific and Technical Research (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, CONICET) in Mendoza city/Argentina. The post-symposium excursion led from Mendoza to Uspallate, Punta de Vacas, Puente del Inca to Las Cuevas, near the Chilean border, where the Central Argentine Andes culminate in the impressive Cerro Aconcagua (6959 m), the highest mountain of the Andean chain. References to papers dealing with the Himalayas presented during the HMRSC symposiums are given below.

The fourth HMRSC symposium, scheduled for September 1996, will be hosted by the University of Karlstad, Sweden. The technical session will be held in Karlstad, the post-symposium field trip will lead to Kiruna in northern Sweden and finish in Troms in the fjords on the Atlantic coast in northern Norway.

Further information concerning HMRSC-IV: Dr. Gerhard Bax, Remote Sensing Laboratory, University of Karlstad, P.O. Box 9501, 65009 Karlstad, Sweden.

Papers of the HMRSC series dealing with the Himalayas:

Antoninetti, M., Bortolami, G., De Vito, C., Iabichino, G. & Tartari, G. 1994. "Geographic Information System of the Khumbu Valley (Himalayas, Nepal); Integration of Remote Sensing Data with the Data Collected During the EV-K2-CNR Project Expeditions."- *Proc. 3rd Int. Symp. High Mountain Cartogr. Mendoza/Argentina* (in press).

Badrinet, C., Bournay, E., Shrestha, S. & Wang, C. 1992. "Accessibility of Data for Global Change on Critical Zones in Nepal and Tibet: The Case of ICIMOD." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp.High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 1-19.

Bardinet, C., Bournay, E., Amatya, K., Rivas P. & Trouvé, E. 1994. "The Use of SPOT Stereo Model, LANDSAT TM and GIS for Producing 2-D and 3-D Analysis in Land-use Mapping: The Malanchi Project and of the Arun River Basin."- *Proc. 3rd Int. Symp. High Mountain Cartogr. Mendoza/Argentina* (in press).

Bardinet, C., Le Tourneau, F.M. & Jalon, J. 1994. "Multisatellite Thematic Mapping using LANDSAT TM, SPOT and IRS-1 for 2-D and 3-D Analysis of the Urban Area of Kathmandu (Nepal)."- *Proc. 3rd Int. Symp. High Mountain Cartogr. Mendoza/Argentina* (in press).

Bax, G. 1994. "The Geology of the Mt. Everest from Space - Preliminary Results of an Interdisciplinary Study."- *Proc. 3rd Int. Symp. High Mountain Cartogr. Mendoza/Argentina* (in press).

Buchroithner, M., Häusler, H., Leber, D., Liu, J. & Zheng, X. 1992. "Geo-oriented Digital Landscape Modelling in the 'Three River Valley Area', Xizang (Tibet), Based on Multisensor Remote Sensing Data." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 53-58.

Guan Zequn, Li Deren. 1992. "Improving Grass Land Classification in Northern Tibet using Spatial Knowledge and GIS." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 97-105.

Häusler, H., Leber, D. & Buchroithner, M.F. 1992. "Geoecological Studies using Multitemporal Multisensor Remote Sensing Data in the 'Three River Valley Area', southern Xizang (Tibet), China. " - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 106-119.

Häusler, H. & Leber, D. 1994. "Remote Sensing-Based Environmental Monitoring in Southern Tibet (P.R. China)." - *Proc. 3rd Int. Symp. High Mountain Cartogr. Mendoza/Argentina* (in press)

Jüptner, B. 1992. "Application of Satellite Images for making Trekking Maps." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 120-127.

Kostka, R. 1992. "Remote Sensing Activities for Glacier Mapping in the Langtang Himal, Nepal." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.*, pp. 145-155, Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House

Leber, D., Waich, G., Raggam, J. & Häusler, H. 1994. "Preliminary Analysis of the Mapping Capability of ERS-1 SAR Data for Geologic Applications in Southern Tibet (P.R. China)." - *Proc. 3rd Int. Symp. High Mountain Cartogr. Mendoza/Argentina* (in press).

Lui, J. 1992. "Landuse Investigation in Tibet Plateau by using Remote Sensing." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 169-176.

Matthews, J.P. & Jones, A.S.G. 1992. "Mapping the Xigaze (Tibet) Ophiolite Complex with Landsat Thematic Mapper Data." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 177-187.

Matthews, J.P., Wenhua, Z., Li, X., Jones, A.S.G., & Bax, G. 1992. "Mapping the Xigaze (Tibet) Ophiolite Complex with Landsat Thematic Mapper data: Comments Based on Field Observations Following HMRSCII, 1992." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 256-263.

Shi Changan, Liu Jiyuan. 1992. "Studies on Glacier Change During Recent Decades Period in Tibet by Using Remote Sensing and GIS." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 189-197.

Wang Jinfeng. 1992. "Integrated Research on Natural Disasters of China - Sample Area Test Planning on Tibet Plateau." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 211-220.

Yang Ping, Liu Jiyuan. 1992. "Study on the Spatial Distribution Pattern of the Tibetan Landuse." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 227-246.

Zilioli, E. Mazzoleni, G., Brivio, P.A. & Antoninetti, M. 1992. "Contribution of Satellite Remote Sensing to Some Investigations of Geostructural Interest Within the EV-K2-CNR Programme." - *Proc. 2nd Int. Symp. High Mountain Remote Sensing Cart.* Beijing: Astronautic Publishing House, pp. 247-255.

Diethard Leber, Hermann Häusler (Vienna)

Information Centre and Archive for Central Asia / Himalaya

Central Asia consists of three large cultural and linguistic areas: The Turkish, the Mongolian and the Tibetan/Himalaya area. Throughout history these were interconnected politically, culturally and economically. Today these three areas consist of a fairly large number of independent or more or less autonomous units:

- Kasakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzistan, Xinjiang
- Mongolian Republic, Inner Mongolia, Tuva, Kalmyk, Burjat
- Tibet, Chinghai, autonomous areas in Szechuan, Gansu and Yunnan, Bhutan, Himalayan regions of India and Nepal.

In present times the whole of Central Asia is undergoing dramatic changes leading to a highly volatile state of affairs. This has been caused first of all by the breakup of the former Soviet Union, but also by the reawakening of local and ethnic independence movements in many of the above-mentioned areas. No end to this phase seems to be in sight.

The recent political changes caused an urgent demand for information about the whole area which up until now had only been recognised - if at all - as belonging to either the Soviet Union, China or India. While the dominance of Moscow, Beijing and Delhi decreases, the importance of regional and local conditions and processes for Central Asia increases proportionately. In view of the increasing economic and geopolitical importance of Central Asia these regional conditions and processes themselves exercise a growing influence on the surrounding powers. Recently it has been felt and lamented that there is a grave deficiency of information about these regional circumstances. On account of this deficiency the Institute of Central Asian Studies at Bonn University is currently preparing an Information Centre and Archive on Central Asia and the Himalayas. This is planned to be a joint project of Turkish, Mongolian, Tibetan and possibly Iranian studies. This long-term project aims at collecting, processing and passing on sound and dependable information on the politics, societies and cultures of Central Asia. Special attention will be given to the present processes of transition and transformation while constantly considering the historical backgrounds and the traditional norms and values of the respective societies.

Constant analysis of local and regional media, unpublished, scientific, and other relevant literature plus making use of a large net of informants will supply the necessary basic information. This will be filed in a data base which includes a central file for "facts", a "Who' s Who" of important persons and institutions, and several other files (time tables, indices of maps, photographs, films, etc.). A specially designed complex retrieval system helps to find and list information under thematic, geographical, chronological and formal criteria. The original documents will be collected and made available in the archive. Besides the availability of the materials in the data base and the archive, the results will be published in periodical reports, and enquiries by all interested parties (scientists, politicians, development workers, journalists, economists, etc.) will be answered. The structure of the data base as well as the retrieval system can be used by other similar projects with a different geographical focus. This project shall establish interfaces between the various areas of Central Asian studies and the systematic academic disciplines on the one hand and academic research and development projects in Central Asia on the other.

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