

## EDITORIAL

The work involved in producing a scholarly journal is, more often than not, a labour of love. Academics based in the Euro-American world are given scant credit by their employers for editorial work, but we do it because of our sense of belonging to an academic community, for which a Bulletin such as the EBHR provides a focal point. It is therefore very heartening to draw readers' attention to two noteworthy examples of academic generosity within these covers.

On 22 June I received an email from one Mr William Eustace of Malvern, which read as follows:

A colleague of yours gave me your e-mail address as she thought you may be able to help me. Whilst sorting out some old papers I came across an old exercise book which was given to my Grandfather, Sir Harold Glover, whilst he was Chief Conservator, Punjab Forestry Service. Dated 1937 it is hand written and describes folk-lore stories in the Kunawar region of Northern India. In spite of my being born in Lahore (my father was in the Indian Civil Service and for a time was District Commissioner of the Kangra District), my knowledge of Hindu and Buddhist Gods and Deities is very limited and I find reading the stories difficult. If I could find someone who understands this subject, together with the place names, and is prepared to type the contents of the book (only 66 pages), then it would bring to life a part of my family history that both I and other members of my family could enjoy. Whether the contents are of any interest to a wider audience, I have no idea, but perhaps you would be able to answer that.

I forwarded this email to Arik Moran, and the result is the article published in this issue entitled 'An Unpublished Account of Kinnauri Folklore'. I am most grateful to William Eustace for offering this to us, and to Arik Moran for taking the time to edit and introduce this most interesting text.

The second example of academic generosity to which I would like to draw readers' attention is the contribution made by John Whelpton, Mark Turin and Burkhard Quessel to the completion and online publication of the Hodgson Catalogue, on which we report in this issue. I urge EBHR readers

to visit the catalogue website and browse there at leisure: the Hodgson archive contains something for almost everyone.

I am also very grateful to Anne de Sales for granting us permission to publish the text of the lecture she delivered in London on 31 October. Writing of this quality deserves an audience far wider than a university lecture theatre can accommodate.

A specialist peer-reviewed journal such as the EBHR can provide young scholars with an opportunity to present their work for the first time to a Himalayan Area Studies readership. Usually, this is the work of researchers working at postdoctoral level: Chiara Letizia's highly topical article on the evolving understandings of secularism in Nepal is a prime example. But in this issue we are also very happy to publish an article by a Ph.D student, Jelle Wouters, which recommended itself to us because of its focus on India's little-studied Northeast and its critique of a key text.

This issue also includes an interview with Sapana Malla-Pradhan, a leading Nepali human rights lawyer, marks the passing of the great Tibeto-Burman linguist Keith Sprigg and the Himalayan explorer Michel Peissel, and ends by celebrating the achievement of Jhamak Ghimire, who is an inspiration to us all.

Michael Hutt, January 2012