

EDITORIAL

Issue number 45 of the *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* contains two essays based on material from the Northeast Himalayas. Pierre-Arnaud Chouvy's article convincingly argues that opium production in India has been underestimated for years, and gives a rare glimpse into the world of opium production in the foothills of the Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh. Devjyoti Das's article takes a close historical look at the Yimchunger Nagas of Nagaland, also in the foothills of the Himalayas, and how their notions of ethnic identity have changed over time. The third article, by Mitsuru Niwa, discusses Nepalese Protestants' ideas about and uses of the Nepali word *calākh*, or "cunning." In addition to the usual raft of book reviews, this issue also includes the obituaries of two prominent scholars of the Himalayas.

It has now been 24 years – two *yugas* – since the *European Bulletin of Himalayan Research* first appeared in 1991, under the guidance of the late Professor Richard Burghart. In their introductory editorial Richard Burghart, András Höfer and Martin Gaenzle wrote of their intention to produce the *Bulletin* "over a trial period of two years on the understanding that we would retire with dignity at the end of that period, should the interest and commitment of a sufficient number of scholars prove illusory."

That interest and commitment was certainly forthcoming, and over time it has proven to be anything but illusory. Rotating between the Centre d'Etudes Himalayennes in Paris, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and the South Asia Institute in Heidelberg, the *Bulletin* has established itself as a lively and reliable source for the most up-to-date scholarship on the Himalayan region. This is an appropriate place to thank Prof. Michael Hutt and his team at SOAS, who were its last editors, for doing such a superb job. As we now commence the *Bulletin's* *Dwaparayuga*, we at Heidelberg can only hope to maintain this tradition.

Bo Sax