

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP

Association for Asian Studies
Southeast Asian Council

#11

25th September, 1977 မြန်မာ့သင်္ကြံ: အစုအဝေး: ယတင်း: ၀၃

CONTAINS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

On 25th March, 1977, the annual business meeting of the Burma Studies Group was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, at the Belmont Plaza Hotel, New York City. The following persons are recorded as attending: Margaret Aung Thwin, Maureen Aung Thwin, Michael Aung Thwin, Konrad Bekker, Sarah Bekker, James J. Dalton, Lee Dutton, John P. Ferguson, Catherine B. Ferguson, Irene Khin Khin Jensen, Vernon Jensen, F. K. Lehman, Maung Maung Gyi, John K. Musgrave, Manning Nash, A. Kohar Rony, Paul Sarno, William L. Scully, Josef Silverstein, Wilhelm G. Solheim, Melford E. Spiro, David Steinberg, Joyce Wright, Won Z. Yoon, William J. Ko enig, David Hytha, Frederick Crossman, William W. Gage, Lian Tie Kho, Major Denny Lane, and William P. Tuchrello.

During the course of the meeting, the annual election of the chairman for the ensuing year was held and Dr. F. K. Lehman, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, was reelected.

Two main items of business were taken up. They are of sufficient importance to our sole object of promoting the scholarly study of Burma in this country to take up almost the whole of this bulletin.

1) We commenced with a discussion of how our Group might most effectively and immediately do something to keep Burma scholarship before the academic public. Members are particularly urged to seek to present papers on Burma at the regional meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, where in the recent past Burma has been almost wholly unrepresented. We are also informed that the U. S. Office of Education will in future send round a questionnaire, in order to find out what we think is currently needed to be done in Burma studies in this country. One has in mind, for instance, the compilation and making available of scholarly resource guides of various kinds on Burma, and of registers of manuscripts and printed materials on Burma at different institutions as well as guides to who is doing what in Burma scholarship, what research is in progress and what bibliographical resources are being put together in connection with such research. Members are particularly urged to take the questionnaire seriously and to fill it up and return it.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRIZE COMPETITION TOWARDS PUBLICATION

The next item of business had to do with what to do with the money remaining to the account of the Burma Studies Group with the Southeast Asia Council.

The amount under consideration is just short of \$ 900. It is understood, that it has got to be spent by us before the end of the 1977 calendar year, by which time any uncommitted balance is going to revert to the Association or to the Ford Foundation. The Southeast Asia Council has made it quite clear to us that we are very unlikely to get further funds through them, and that our best course is to spend what we now have in some productive scholarly way. If we do this successfully, we will be in position to use the precedent thus established as a basis for applying to some agency or other for new funds -- perhaps on our own rather than through the Association for Asian Studies.

Having spoken at length with the Director and the Co-ordinator of the SEAC at Chicago prior to the meeting, I came to the conclusion that, given the relatively small sum and pressure of time, we had best spend the money in a sort of Prize Competition towards publication of one or two works of Burma scholarship that may be already more or less ready to offer for actual publication immediately. I got approval for this in principle from SEAC and I put the proposal before the meeting. After a fair amount of careful discussion, it was adopted. It was decided to announce such a competition in the present issue of the Bulletin. The Chair is to appoint a panel of three judges from amongst the membership to consider applications. I am therefore asking the following to serve, having regard for the need to have them represent a broad spectrum of Burma scholarship:

Professor Jsef Silverstein	(Department of Political Science, Rutgers University)
Professor Melford E. Spiro	(Department of Anthropology, University of California, San Diego)
Mr. John Musgrave	(Southeast Asian Bibliographer, University of Michigan).

The rules for the competition are to be as follows:

1. Applications will be received up to 1st December, 1977 by the Chairman, who undertakes to distribute them to the panel of judges. The judges may solicit the opinion of the Chair, but otherwise the votes of the panel will be final, although the Chair can vote to break a tie. Decision is to be made as early as possible in December, 1977.
2. Only two sorts of projects will be considered:
 - a. applications for funds to aid in readying for publication work already fully written and, preferably, at least tentatively accepted by some publisher or journal.
 - b. applications for funds to aid in bringing to completion the writing up of work already well along in the writing up or at least demonstrably begun.

This excludes from consideration requests for funds to complete research or to begin converting mere notes or rough drafts into manuscript form.

For an application to be considered, it must contain or be accompanied by some definite and substantial evidence of the current existence of a completed or substantially completed manuscript in better than rough draft form; evidence that some journal or publisher has already expressed interest in the work will be very useful, also. An estimate should be given of the amount needed to complete the work of readying it for the press. It has to be kept in mind, that we have only about \$900. We do not want to provide amounts too small to really finish a piece of such work, since the purpose of the competition is to ensure

that the best sort of scholarship is brought out as rapidly as possible. Consequently two further conditions have had to be imposed upon the competition:

3. Evidence must be given that the amount requested is within what we have available and enough to finish the work in hand.
4. It has to be expected, that there will be at most two -- or at the very most three winners.

I am therefore asking the panel of judges to consider the applications in this way: each judge should not only rank them as to the relative merit of the scholarship and its importance to the field, but he should also say how he wishes to disburse the prize money amongst them, having regard to (3) and (4) above. If he feels that there is one of the applications that is so wholly outstanding that it should get the entire prize, he must say so and identify that application. Otherwise, he must identify two, or at most three, and say how they rank between them. The Chair undertakes to keep the judges informed of each others' decisions, in order that some reasonable degree of consensus finally be reached amongst the three judges; the panel are also urged to consult with one another directly to this end.

A Bulletin will again be issued towards the end of December, 1977 or the start of January, 1978, announcing the final decision of the panel and the details of the successful applications.

SECOND ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

The next major item of business had to do with our First Burma Studies Colloquium (October, 1976) and with the possibility of having a subsequent one. After considerable discussion, it was decided to hold a Second Colloquium. Because it takes time to organize it and to accumulate interesting new papers for presentation -- and also to avoid putting members to too many instances of spending time and money going to all sorts of meeting -- it was decided to hold the Second Colloquium not in the autumn of 1977 but rather at the time of the Spring 1978 Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies at Chicago. In so doing, we hope to ensure good attendance by members who are likely in any case to be there for the AAS meeting.

Two general guidelines for the Colloquium have been adopted. First, the main session will be hold, as two or three sub-sessions, on the day following the AAS meetings proper. The Chair has already begun negotiations for meeting space with a colleague at the Field Museum.

The main session will be largely devoted to papers on the "State of the Art" of Burma studies in this country to-day. We shall solicit major presentations from persons representing each of several academic disciplines and interests bearing upon Burma and they will be asked to prepare papers assessing the current state of their respective branches of Burma scholarship: what has been done over the last few years; where that has taken us -- say, since the obvious date of 1962; what is currently being done and where it is all leading us; and what it seems has to be done next, in the foreseeable future to further advance our knowledge.

Professor Josef Silverstein and Dr. Michael A. Aung Thwin (University of Michigan) have agreed to be on a three-man committee, with the Chair, to

arrange things for the Colloquium and develop more detailed plans for it. I hereby ask them to get in touch with me as soon as possible, giving me their detailed suggestions for organizational and format arrangements and for the persons to be asked to make presentations.

It was further urged, that some effort be made to looking towards publication of the State of the Art papers from the Second Colloquium, with a view to wider dissemination of the live presence of Burma scholarship in this country and to making it known, in particular, to our colleagues inside Burma, with whom we all desire to renew and maintain scholarly dialogue.

It is not intended wholly to exclude from this session all papers other than State of the Art papers. The committee will look into the possibility of having perhaps one sub-session for volunteered papers and members are asked to make suggestions along these lines to the chair or other members of the committee.

Second, it was also thought a good idea to have another session of the Colloquium as a regularly scheduled part of the program of the annual AAS meeting proper. The members attending the Spring 1977 meeting were asked to make suggestions for a Burma session to the current Southeast Asia program chairman of the up-coming, 1978, AAS meeting. However, neither he nor I received any such proposals and the deadline for proposing AAS meeting sessions passed by at the end of August, 1977. The Chair did indeed make some attempt to get such a panel accepted -- on the subject of The Effect upon Burma Scholarship of the 1963 Coup and the Subsequent Policies of the Burmese Government. The attempt, however, was made too late and I have been informed that the request had to be denied by the AAS program committee.

Nevertheless, all is not lost! A meeting of the Burma Studies Group is itself a regularly scheduled part of the program of the annual meeting of AAS and, within broad limits, we can do with it as we please. I therefore propose that, setting aside a brief period for elections and other purely business matters, we take about an hour and a half to hold a panel on precisely the subject above mentioned, viz., The Effect upon Burma Scholarship of the 1962 Coup and Subsequent Policies of the Burmese Government. This has reference as much to scholarship in Burma and in other countries outside the United States as in this country; indeed, we need to have a better idea than most of us have now, of what Burma scholarship is in Burma these days. I am especially eager to receive concrete suggestions for this along the stated lines from Drs. Silverstein and Aung Thwin and others, especially those who have been fortunate enough to maintain direct scholarly contacts with Burma in recent years. Please get in touch with me, if you have something to present in this way!

Finally, Mr. Kohar Rony reported for the Library of Congress that materials are coming in from Burma these days from the Rangoon University Central Library. The Library of Congress would like to learn from persons from the Burma Studies Group what types of materials are particularly needed. They are especially interested in the names of newspapers being published in Burma and the titles of works on Burma published outside the country. If scholars wish to use the Inter-library Loan procedure to obtain un-catalogued Burmese material from the Asia Section, Library of Congress, Jefferson Boulevard, Washington, D.C. 20540.

At the Bekkers' party, it was suggested that we might wish to invite Professor Gordon H. Luce to the 1978 Chicago Colloquium. In view, however, of the

(late news: summer 76: LINGUISTICS - Graham W. Thurgood of the University of California at Berkeley, has his thesis on The Origins of the Burmese creaky tone, accepted for Ph.D.)

spring 77: Research visit to Burma by Anna Allott (Dec. 1976 to Jan. 1977) (SOAS) a fairly detailed report of this two-month visit is circulated with this newsletter. She will be happy to answer questions arising out of her account, and to try and help anyone proposing to visit the country in the near future. (The chairman of the Burma Studies group has a copy of this 8-page report and will send a copy to whoever requests it.)

summer 1977: ROMANIZATION: a CORMOSEA (committee for research material on SEA) subcommittee, after many meetings and consultation with outside advisers, arranged a discussion with the Library of Congress for July 77, with a view to reducing anomalies and possibly settling an agreed code for romanizing and cataloguing Burmese books in major libraries of the west. John Okell has been invited to attend and will visit USA end of June 77 to mid-July 77.

Soviet Publications: 'Folktales of the Peoples of Burma' (Skazki Narodov Birmy), Moscow 1977, a collective work containing over 200 tales translated into Russian, with foreword and short notes; drawn almost entirely from tales collected by Ludu U Hla.

Addenda and corrigenda: translation of Thèin Pe Myínt's novel 'From the East..' was by K Shan'gin, not by I Mozheiko. K. Shan'gin has also translated a novel of Teggathe Hpòn Naing 'We shall not be slaves' (Thú-kyun mahkan-bi) Moscow, 1970 and a novel of Tin Hsàn, 'We will not starve' (Angat mähkan) Moscow, 1977

Four recent articles should be mentioned:

Burman, A.D., Standardised forms of address to royalty in Burmese drama of the 19th century, in book of collected articles 'Theoretical problems in studying Far-Eastern Literature.' Nauka Publishing House, Moscow 1977

Omelyanovich, N.V., Simple subject-less sentences in Burmese, in book of collected articles 'Simple sentences in Eastern languages'. Nauka M. 1976

Kasevich, V.B., Burmese constructions with auxiliary verbs as their focus (?) in 'Vostokovedenie 2' (Uchenye sapiski LGU no. 383 series of oriental studies, publication 18) Leningrad 1976 pp 43-54.

Yanson, R.A., Tones in old Burmese, in 'Vostokovedenie 3' (Uchenye Sapiski LGU no. 389 Series of Oriental studies, publication 19) Leningrad, 1977 pp. 50-57.

summer 77: British Institute in South-East Asia: This institute has recently been set up in Singapore, under the auspices of the British Academy. Its task is to assist scholars working in the area and to disseminate information about research being carried out in South-East Asia. Dr. Milton Osborne, the Director of the Institute, was in London in May and June to talk about his work. More information can be obtained from the British Institute in South-East Asia, c/o The British Academy, Burlington House, Picadilly, London W 1

latest news of his state of health and of the delay in getting plans for the Colloquium firmed up, it has, so far, appeared to me inadvisable to pursue the matter.

With the new academic year, our new Secretary is Dr. John P. Ferguson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, State University of New York Agricultural and Technical College, Cobleskill, New York, 12043. He is writing you, or many of you, for news of what you are doing currently. Please reply to him, so that we can have more personal items of interest in later Bulletins.

Enclosed with this Bulletin, please find a recent informal newsletter from John Okell of SOAS, London, and a report of recent Burma activities of the Asia Society's Burma Council.

BURMA COUNCIL FUNCTIONS SEPT. 1976-1977

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Title</u>
Sept. 14, 1976	Luncheon Briefing	"Possible Futures for Burma" (or Whither Goeth It- Part I)
Oct. 12, 1976	Briefing, Frank Trager, (N.Y.U.)	
Oct. 22, 1976	Lecture, Sergey S. Ozhegov (Moscow Inst. of Architecture)	"The Development of Burmese National Architecture"
Nov. 18, 1976	Illus/Lec. Drs. Konrad & Sarah Bekker	"Invoking the Spirits: <u>Nat</u> Worship in Burma"
Dec. 1, 1976	Illus/Lec., Ulrich E. Zagorski, German (Consulate General Cultural attaché)	"An Introduction to a Burmese Dramatic Art: The Marionette Theatre"
February 23, 1977	Briefing, Richard Howarth, (recently ret'd Foreign Service Officer from Rangoon)	
Mar. 1, 1977	Reception	In Honor of Amb. U Maung Maung Gyee (Burma's Permanent Representative to the U.N.)
Mar. 1, 1977	Illus/Lec., Jane Bailey (Curator, Burmese Collection, Denison U.)	"East Meets West in Burmese Painting"
April 12, 1977	Lec., Lionel Landry (V.P., Asia Society)	"Women in Burma are Equal Because They are Unequal: The Economic Consequence of the Buddhist Virtue of Detachment"
May 2, 1977	Luncheon discussion	"Whither Goeth Burma - Part II"
May 26, 1977	Films taken in 1945-46 by Dr. Clarence Hendershot	"Post War Burma: The Way We Were"