

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES
SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL
October, 1980
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Third Burma Studies Group Colloquium

The Third Burma Studies Group Colloquium will meet at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, November 7-9, 1980. A broad range of papers will be presented running from current political and economic commentary on Burmese developments to all matters of Burma exotica. The final agenda will be distributed at registration. The Colloquium will begin its first panel at 9:00 a.m. on the 7th. Papers and presentations are scheduled to conclude on the morning of the 9th at 11:30.

The Colloquium Committee has planned for two full evenings of activity including two special buffet dinners at the Senior Dining Room at Curtis West. Recent visitors to Burma will review their trips and show slides of their travels during one of the evening activities. Arrangements have been made for a live demonstration of Nat dances by Daw Tin Tin Win. Due to the kindness of BBC-TV, we will also be showing on television monitors the program, "The Haunted Land," which was recently filmed in Burma and shown in England. We also hope to have an opportunity to discuss work currently under progress.

Those definitely giving presentations at the Colloquium include Terry Bailey, Muriel Williamson, Richard Cooler, Jon Wiant, Robert Taylor, Josef Silverstein, Mark Woodward, David Steinberg, Tom Gibson, Sarah Bekker, Joseph Withey, Maureen Aung Thwin, U Thaung, John Ferguson, Paul Sarno, Euan Bagshawe, and Juliane Schober. Undoubtedly there will be others. As always we are maddeningly "loosely structured."

We are pleased to announce that the recipients of the travel awards are Robert Taylor, Muriel Williamson, and U Thaung.

At the Colloquium we will be specially fortunate to have an opportunity to see the "Art of Burma" exhibition which has been lovingly prepared by our hostess Terry Bailey at Burke Hall, featuring some of the outstanding artifacts in the University's famous collection.

The Conference Site. Registration and panel presentations will be in Burke Hall, the Museum of Burmese Art and Culture, at Denison. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. on the 7th, but arrangements for late registration can be made during the course of the Colloquium.

Lodging. Many of the conference participants will be staying at the Granville Inn, 314 E. Broadway, Granville, Ohio 43023 (Tel: 614-587-3333). Reservations may still be available at the Inn. When you call or write be sure to make it clear that you are part of the "Burmese Colloquium."

If there is no room at the Inn, then lodging can be found for those with transportation at the following places: Legend Inn, Church Street, Newark, Ohio 43055 (614-344-2136); Sheraton Inn, 2nd and Church, Newark (614-349-8411); Holiday Inn, Heath, Ohio, and Howard Johnson, also in Heath.

Meals. Terry Bailey has kindly arranged for us to have two special dinners (\$6.30 each, plus tax) at the University, and it will help her considerably if each of us sends her a note saying we are coming so that the cooks can prepare the

proper amount of Mrs. Lehman's chicken curry. Each dinner will be preceded by a wine and punch social hour in an adjoining lounge. Write Jane Terry Bailey, Department of Visual Arts, Denison University, Granville, Ohio 43023. Other meals can be eaten at the nearby University cafeteria or at downtown gourmet centers.

Transportation. Terry Bailey has graciously arranged for ground transportation between Columbus Airport and Granville. Those arriving by air should notify Terry as soon as travel plans are confirmed on when you plan to arrive in Columbus and when you will be departing and on what air lines in order that she may make the necessary arrangements. Since the Colloquium will begin shortly after dawn on Friday, participants should plan to arrive on the evening of the 6th. Terry cautions that the Columbus airport is undergoing major renovations so care should be taken to avoid confusion over meeting places.

Nat Iconography. As noted in the previous newsletter, we are planning a display of contemporary Nat images at the Colloquium. We will be bringing our few examples to Denison to give them a sense of companionship and attention in a foreign land. Terry Bailey is developing a display for them, and if any of you would like to bring your Nats we would be happy to welcome them to the festival.

Edward Law Yone. We were all much saddened by the news of the death of Edward Law Yone, one of the most loyal and energetic members of the Burma Studies Group. Ed's contagious sense of humor, his keen, imaginative wit, and his fearless espousal of causes in which he believed have enlivened our meetings for many years. We shall sorely miss him. I hope some informal tributes to Ed can be given at the forthcoming Colloquium, as we also remember Luce and Hall. - JPF.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Word has come of several recent or forthcoming publications of interest to Burma wallahs. Among the notable:

Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program has recently published General Smith-Dun's Memoirs of a Four Foot Colonel (SEAP Data Paper #113 available from Cornell SEAP for \$6.00).

John Ferguson's paper, "The Great Goddess Today in Burma and Thailand" is scheduled for a Fall 1981 publication by University of North Carolina Press in James Preston (ed.) Mother Worship.

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore will publish Military Rule in Burma Since 1962: A Kaleidoscope of Views. This book is based on the papers presented by David Steinberg, Josef Silverstein, Dr. Maung Maung Gyi, and Jon Wiant on the Panel on Military Rule in Burma at the last annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. The ISEAS book, scheduled for a 1981 release, will also include commentary from the Hon. Edwin Martin and Dr. Charles Keyes.

Jon Wiant's review of Burmese Communist developments and the 1979-80 Party Congress will be published in the 1981 Hoover Institution Yearbook on International Communist Affairs.

Update on Burmese Bibliographical Entries

We have received several new items for our continuing bibliographical index on Burma and we hope to include an update in the next issue of the bulletin.

Noteworthy items should be sent to the Group Secretary Jon Wiant, 112 West Greenway Blvd., Falls Church, Va., 20046.

Burmese Art in Europe

Sarah and Konrad Bekker spent two months last fall in Europe searching out collections of Asian art with special concentrations on Burmese and Thai Things. Sarah writes that, as usual, Southeast Asian art is very little exhibited but that they had found several outstanding reserve collections worth seeking out. The Staatliches Museum fur Volkerkunde in Munich, the Museum fur Indische Kunst in Berlin, and the Hamburgisches Museum fur Volkerkunde und Vorgeschichte are particularly rich in Burma holdings and have their objects stored in such a way that they are readily accessible. The Museum fur Ostasiatische Kunst der Stadt Koln has a wonderful Asian collection with occasional exhibits of Southeast Asian art. It does not, however, have a permanent Southeast Asian collection.

In Switzerland, the Rietburg Museum in Zurich and the Volkerkunde Museum in Basel both have Burmese things in their collections although fewer than the German museums. The Bekkers found the people at the Rietberg outstandingly helpful and like the other museums they were quite willing to show their reserve collections, especially if they had a little advance warning.

In Britain the obvious sources were the British Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum but the holdings here were rather smaller than expected. A small, "teaching" museum in London, the Horniman Museum, has an excellent collection, lovingly displayed. The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford has a collection of Burmese nat figures in addition to a few other Burmese pieces, images and lacquers primarily. The Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford has a few Burmese items, arranged eccentrically. The Bekker's own discovery was the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum in Bournemouth. It is a community museum, obviously much loved, and has a sampling of just about everything -- with one room devoted to a Burmese collection.

The newsletter appreciates Sarah sharing the results of their explorations with the Group. We hope others might also have information on collections neglected, hidden away, or waiting to be discovered.

Your Secretary/Editor awaits your news and looks forward to seeing all in Denison in November.

Jon A. Wiant
Secretary
Burma Studies Group