

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP  
ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES  
SOUTHEAST ASIA COUNCIL

May, 1982

No. 23<sup>1/2</sup>

IMPORTANT NOTE:

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Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Burma Studies group was held at the Palmer House, Chicago, on April 2, 1982. Those present included: Kris Lehman, John Ferguson, Jon A. Wiant, Tom Gibson, Chuck Smith, Marta Nicholas, Maureen Aung Thwin, Richard Cooler, Vern Jensen, Khin Khin Jensen, Margaret Aung Thwin, Sarah M. Bekker, Frances L. Colley, Bennet Bronson, Charles O. Houston, Flor de Lys S. Houston, Victor S. Doherty, Anna J. Allott, E. Michael Mendelson, Jim Guyot, Josef Silverstein, Wilhelm G. Solheim II, Michael Aung Thwin, Catherine Ferguson.

The matter of elections was easily disposed of when our fearless leader Kris Lehman accepted life-long service towards things Burmese and in the same breath included your secretary in such blessed servitude. Maureen Aung Thwin was acclaimed as social planner but demurely feigned resignation.

The Fourth Annual Colloquium for Burmese Studies will be held at Elmira College, Elmira, N.Y., on October 15, 16, and 17th, 1982. Our host will be Michael Aung Thwin, who has promised us an enthusiastic reception there. Details on travel and lodging will be announced later, but a few low-cost dormitory rooms will be available on request from Mike, "first come, first served."

We will plan a few topic-oriented panel sessions which grow out of main issues introduced at the "State of the Art" panel of April 3 at Chicago, such as legal codes, private vs. state economic ventures, permanence of bureaucratic elites in Burmese history, class distinctions. If you have a particular theme or topic for group discussion, please write either to Jon Wiant, 700 Warren Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850, or Michael Aung Thwin, Elmira College, Elmira, NY 14901.

We also are calling for individual papers or presentations for the Colloquium. If you wish to present a paper or report, let Mike Aung Thwin know as soon as possible, even if the paper is still in the planning stage.

Chuck Smith will determine if there are any ways to include the next contingent of visiting Burmese scholars in the Colloquium.

If space and security permit, we will have another "bring your own art" exhibit at the Colloquium. Opium weights, posters, and lacquer ware were suggested as items participants might bring. More details will follow:

Bulletin

Regular issues will continue to be sent out as in the past, but when bibliographic information is added that increases postage costs, we will apply to SEARC for monies. Members who wish to help us pay for costs are urged to send a few dollars to your secretary. We wish to avoid charging subscription fees if at all possible.

Brill Book

A few copies of Brill's Essays on Burma are available at \$25.00 each (considerably below usual price). Contact Richard Linn, Bookstore Manager, The Asia Society, 725 Park Ave., New York, NY 10021.

Burmese-English Dictionary

The Burmese-English Dictionary, begun in 1924 by Stewart and Dunne, has been terminated by SOAS. Six small sections have been issued. John O'Kell is now working on putting into a computer the mass of material contained in the new five-volume Burmese-Burmese dictionary published in Rangoon, the Burmese-Chinese dictionary published in the 1960's, and the Burmese-Russian dictionary released in the 1970's.

Ford Funds

Our readers are reminded that the Ford Foundation will match every dollar given to AAS endowment fund with three dollars from Ford. This is the perfect time to make your donation.

News Items

VISHAL SINGH sent a note announcing a new book, Burma and India, 1948-1962 by Uma Shankar Singh. New Delhi: Oxford and IBH. The book is based upon a Ph.D. thesis for Magadh University in Gaya. ANNA ALLOTT went to Burma in 1981 and JOHN O'KELL in 1980. Anna pursued her interest in current Burmese literature, and John worked on linguistic terms and the extensive slide collection being compiled. GUSTAFF HOUTMAN is now in Burma studying meditation. Gustaff, who has a good command of Burmese, will be there until mid-1982. Also in Burma now are MARK WOODWARD and JULIANNE SCHOBEN. Mark is studying the history and significance of Mandalay Hill; Julianne is studying Buddhism. Likewise in Burma is ROBERT TAYLOR from SOAS, who sent a fine paper to the Chicago AAS panel; "The State of the Art in Burmese Studies" offering some fascinating alternate interpretations of history since the 1940's. Recently returned from adventures in Burma is JON WIANT, who told us at the Chicago panel what he sees in his somewhat cloudy crystal ball. KRIS LEHMAN, home from Burma since late last summer, also spoke at the Chicago panel on the state of academic studies in Burma at present. Among his many fascinating notes was the news the Journal of the Burma Research Society has been abolished. Kris is planning to return to Burma this summer for a few months. MICHAEL AUNG THWIN presented a paper at the Chicago panel on Burmese archeology and history. He also organized the back-to-back panel, which was enjoyed by all. SARAH BEKKER at the panel presented an overview of how scholars have dealt with the Burmese views of the supernatural. ANNA ALLOTT, all the way from England for her first visit to the U.S., joined the panel to review how Burmese writers have dealt with extremely difficult conditions for publishing in Burma today. JOSEF SILVERSTEIN deftly reviewed and evaluated the material written in English literature about Burma, pointing out how much of such writing there is, often a valuable source of information on attitudes.

L. E. BAGSHAWE has translated The Maniyadanabon of Shin Sanda Linka, and it has been published as Data Paper #115 by the Southeast Asia Program of Cornell University. This complex work provides numerous insights to conventional Burmese thoughts on the arts of governance. SAO SAIMONG MANGRAI has translated the Padaeng Chronicle and the Jengtung State Chronicle. They have been published as #19, Michigan Papers on South and Southeast Asia by the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, the U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Interesting are the

many details of differences between forest and village sects, and the translator's notes are extensive and most valuable in their own right. U MAUNG MAUNG has written From Sangha to Laity: Nationalist Movements of Burma, 1920-1940, Australian National University Monographs on South Asia, #4, New Delhi: Manohar Publications. 1980. A review of the book for JAS has been written by your secretary. ROBERT GARFIAS has published "Speech and Melodic Contour Interdependence in Burmese Music" in the College Music Symposium 21(1), Spring, 1981. FRANK and HELEN TRAGER have retired and sent a nice note with their new address: 3024 Santa Lucia St., Carmel, CA 93923.

A new group, South Asian Religious Art Studies, has been formed to study religious imagery in sculpture, architecture, painting, music, and the performing arts. Their geographic scope includes Burma. For more information, write Dr. T. S. Maxwell, Director, SARAS, P.O. Box 168, Reading RG1 7NA, England.

New News

Please send your news to Dr. John P. Ferguson  
 Department of Social Science  
 SUNY Ag. Tech. College  
 Cobleskill, NY 12043

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