

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP

Association for Asian Studies

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Note: Somehow serial numbers went awry. Previous issue (#24) should be #25.
Issue #23 should be renumbered #24.

NEWS:

We regret that the very useful Burma Newsletter of the Asia Society had to be terminated due to funding problems. Perhaps it will have a rebirth. ROBERT TAYLOR kindly sent your editor a copy of "Working Paper No. 28, An Undeveloped State: The Study of Modern Burma's Politics," Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash U., Melbourne 3168, Australia. Bob also has in the March, 1983, edition of the Journal of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore U. Press) an article entitled, "The Burmese Communist Movement and Its Indian Connection: Formation and Factionalism." Prolific Robert has also published "Perceptions of Ethnicity in the Politics of Burma" in Southeast Asian Journal of Social Science 10(1):7-22, 1982. In the September, 1983, issue of JSAS is "The British Administrator in Burma: A New View" by EDITH PINESS. WILLIAM TUCHRELLO writes from the Library of Congress that about 90 Burmese manuscripts have this past summer been transferred from the Manuscript Division to the Southern Asia Section and can now be used by scholars. The palm leaf texts, mostly on Buddhist subjects, were obtained in the early 1900's by Rev. W. H. S. Hascall, who worked in Lower Burma. A complete list of the texts is given in the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress, 1905:42-46, or can be obtained from your editor. SARAH BEKKER was a guest lecturer at Smith College recently and will be guest scholar on Burma aboard the Salen-Lindblad Explorer when it visits Burma again in May, 1984. TERRY BAILEY is now engaged in Appraisals of Asian Art (614-452-8017) and is located in Ohio again at 2692 Center Drive, Zanesville, OH 43701. BRUCE MATTHEWS visited Burma in 1982 and talked with U Thattila and U Narada. He is interested in doing future research on the concept of the pacceka Buddha.

RICHARD COOLER, who spent the year at the Universiti Sains Malaysia, was hoping to visit Pagan to savour glazed tiles and greet old friends again. HIRAM WOODWARD delivered a paper, "East Asia and the Indianization of Southeast Asia" at the AAS March meeting. At the same meeting DAVID STEINBERG chaired a panel on "Agriculture under Military Rule in Burma," with papers presented by JON WIAN in absentia, EUGENE DORRIS, and JOHN AMBLER and with TOM GIBSON and SAMUEL POPKIN as discussants. EUAN BAGSHAWE has left behind the rigors of New Hampshire and moved to 5 Celastrus Drive, Rt. II #5, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. DONALD E. HERR, from Ohio State University, heads the international oilseed production project in Burma. Under the Burmese-U.S. project, nine Burmese were scheduled to study on U.S. campuses in this year. Donald and his wife Joan live at 116 G University Ave. in Rangoon. Their telephone is 32-597, and they would be happy to be of assistance to any of our members passing through. MAUREEN AUNG THWIN'S address is Apt. 1642B, New World Apts., 24 Salisbury Rd., Kowloon, Hong Kong. JANICE LEOSKO, of the Art Dept. of Denison University now heads the University's Burmese Newsletter, copies of which can be obtained from her at Art Dept., Denison U., Granville, OH 43023. MURIEL WILLIAMSON's article, "The Correlation between Speech-tones of text-syllables and their musical setting in a Burmese Classical song," was published in Musica Asiatica, Vol. 3, pp. 11-28, 1981. Muriel mentioned a reunion with JOAN BRIGHAM WEST, who also studied the Burmese harp. Joan now lives at 900 Leigh St., Long Beach, MS 39560. JOHN MUSGRAVE was scheduled to teach elementary Burmese at the summer program at the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor. MICHAEL AUNG THWIN will publish an essay in The Classical States of Southeast Asia, a Yale U. Southeast Asia Studies monograph.

F. K. LEHMAN and Mike both presented papers at the March AAS meeting panel, "Southeast Asian Societal Organization Prior to the 18th C.: A Quest. Burma and Thailand." The panel was co-chaired by LUCIEN HANKS. Available in Burma, when your editor was there last spring, was NI NI MYINT's Burma's Struggle Against British Imperialism, 1885-1895, 1885-1895, The Universities Press, Rangoon, 1983, with a preface by EMMANUEL SARKISYANZ; also KHIN MYO CHIT's Colourful Burma (Selections - Series I), Theikdi Sarzin, Rangoon, 1983 (3rd Printing); and also Burmese Culture: General and Particular by U KHIN ZAW, Sarpay Beikman, Rangoon, 1981. Also available is Burma The Golden by Wilhelm Klein, with stunning photographs by Gunter Pfannmüller (Apa Productions, The Bookseller, Bangkok, 1982). This exquisite volume is created by the same team that produced Burma for Insight Guides. Your editor was pleased last May to greet U MYO LWIN at the Shwedagon platform and catch up on news. U Myo had been teaching language to Japanese businessmen and has retained his delightful sense of humor.

ANNA ALLOTT, Hon. Secretary of the Britain-Burma Society kindly sent a copy of their newsletter to MARGARET AUNG THWIN (U.S. Citizen), who happily shared it with us. Some gleanings follow: The papers of the late G. E. Harvey have been transferred to the Bodleian Library. If interested, write Professor J.A.A. Stockwin Director Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, St. Antony's College, Oxford OX1. Professor HLA PE is now settled in Moulmein, where he was visited by Anna last Christmas during her six-week visit to keep current on Burmese literature developments. "New" books mentioned in the newsletter include a republication of The Lacquer Lady by F. Tennyson Jesse (Virago Press); My World My Country, the story of Daw Nyein Tha, by Marjorie Procter, Grosvenor Books, London, 1976; and Patricia Herbert's The Hsaya San Rebellion (1930-1932) Reappraised, Working Paper (#27), Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Monash U., Clayton, Victoria 3169, Australia. A letter from U KHIN notes the formation of the Britain-Burma Buddhist Trust to work toward the establishment of a Burmese Buddhist Monastery in London.

ASIAN SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE:

American colleges and universities are invited to submit proposals to bring foreign scholars here to lecture or serve as a resource under the Fulbright Program. US Information agency provides the funding for grants to cover international travel, maintenance stipends of approx. \$60 per day and basic medical insurance. Hosts are asked to provide supplementary funding or in-kind support such as housing. For more information contact Mrs. Mary Ernst, CIES, 11 DuPont Circle, N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, March 23, 1983, San Francisco:

Those present: F.K. Lehman (chair), T. Gibson (ad hoc secy.), D. Steinberg, J. and B. Musgrave, R. Garfias, J. Ambler, G. E. Dorris, S. Bekker, E. C. Piness, P. Bixler, R. B. Jones, R. Renard, A. Spiro, M. Aung Thwin

Tentative approval was given to holding the 1984 colloquium at Michigan Univ. in June, details to be worked out by chairman Lehman, with the assistance of Aung Thwin and Ferguson. We are still welcome at Elmira if Michigan plans do not materialize.

Costs of Bulletin were discussed. Concern was expressed over too small a constituency, not enough scholarly discourse, and carrying a few "non-payers." Institutions were to be charged \$5.00 when their current subscription expires.

Chairman Lehman is willing to Xerox back issues, if necessary, but the cost will be five U.S. cents per page, with institutions, if possible, paying the costs of postage.

Mention was made of the conference on "Change in the Shan States and Northern Thailand, 1886-1940, to be held in Chiang Mai in June, 1983. For information on that conference, write Mrs. Prakai Nontawasee, Payap College, P.O. Box 161, Chiang Mai, Thailand 50000.

The formal business meeting was followed by a fine dinner at the famous Chang Ah restaurant, arranged by EDITH PINESS.

NEXT MEETING:

The annual meeting of the Burma Studies Group will be held in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the 36th Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies.

"NEW" MEMBERS: (since list published in March '83 Bulletin. (Institutions are not listed.)

Mrs. Anna J. Allott, SOAS, U. of London, Malet St., London, WC1E 7HP
 Norman & Jane Brown, 1746 Q St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009
 Charles Bryant, 33 Westerfield Rd., Hamden, CT 06514
 Truong Buu Lam, Sakamaki Hall 203, U. of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822
 Dr. Richard Cooler, Dept. of Art, N. Illinois U., DeKalb, IL 60115
 Carol J. Compton, SEA Program, 120 Uris Hall, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14853
 Erling Dessau, UNOP, Rangoon, Burma, c/o P.O. Box 20, Grand Central Sta., NY NY 10163
 Ronald K. Edgerton, Michner Hall, U. Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO 80631
 Donald K. Emmerson, National Fellows Program, Hoover Institution, Stanford U.,
 Stanford, CA 94305
 Dr. Thomas T. Gibson, Rm 8-200, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC 20431
 Drs. James & Dorothy Guyot, 124 Maple St., Leonia, NJ 07605
 Dr. & Mrs. Donald E. Herr, Rangoon, Burma/AID Mission, Dept. of State, Wash., DC 20520
 Karl D. Jackson, Center for South & SEA Studies, U. of Cal., Berkeley, CA 94720
 R. B. Jones, DMLL, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14853
 Irving Kopf, DiLoreto Hall, Central Conn. State Col., 1615 Stanley St., New Britain,
 CT 06050
 John A. Larkin, Hist. Dept., Ellicott Complex, SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14261
 Dr. Leedom Lefferts, Dept. Anthropology, Drew U., Madison, NJ 07940
 Janice Leoshko, Art Dept., Denison U., Granville, OH 43023
 John A. Lent, Journalism Dept., Temple U., Philadelphia, PA 19122
 Ngo Vinh Long, P.O. Box 705, Cambridge, MA 02139
 Hugh C. MacDougall, Rangoon, Dept. of State, Washington, DC 20520
 M.A. and E.M. Madha, 10 Barton Rd., Cambridge, CB3 9JZ, England
 Bruce Matthews, Acadia U., Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada, B0P 1X0
 Dr. M. Ismael Maung, Dept. of Sociology, WIU, Macomb, IL 61455
 Dr. Maung Maung Gyi, 389 College St., Lewiston, ME 04240
 Anna May Say Pa, 100 Stockton St., L3, Princeton, NJ 08540
 Edwin E. Moise, Assoc. for Asian Studies, 1 Lane Hall, U. of Mich., Ann Arbor MI 48109
 K. Mulliner, Assoc. for Asian Studies, 1 Lane Hall, U. of Mich., Ann Arbor, MI 48109
 Christopher and Noreen Myint Oung, 10634 Waverly St., Apt. 2, Montreal, Quebec H3L 2W6
 Clark D. Neher, Dept. Pol. Sci., N. Illinois U., DeKalb, IL 60115
 Gayl D. Ness, Dept. Sociol., U. of Mich., Ann Arbor, MI 48109
 John Okell, SOAS, Malet St., London WC1E 7HP, England
 Tin Tin Nu Raschid, 307 Yoakum Pkwy., Apt. 1726, Alexandria, VA 22304

Lawrence A. Reid, Dept. Linguist., Moore Hall, U. of Hawaii-Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822
 Geoffrey B. Robinson, c/o Dept. of Govt., McGraw Hall, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14853
 D. H. Roop, Dept. of Indo-Pac. Lang., Webster Hall 311, 2528 The Mall, U. of Hawaii
 at Manoa, Honolulu, HI 96822

James Rush, 5484 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520

Dr. Josef Silverstein, Dept. Pol. Sci., Rutgers-State U., New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Ellis Gene Smith, New Delhi-LC, Dept. of State, Washington, DC 20520

Dr. A. Wilber Stevens, Col. of Arts & Letters, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV 89154

David L. Szanton, 5204 Delafield Ave., Riverdale, NY 10471

U. Thaug, 1321 S. Powerline Rd., Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Penelope Van Esterik, Savage Hall, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14853

Izabella Van Raalte, 7710 Glenmore Spring Way, Bethesda, MD 20817

Dr. Won Z. Yoon, Dept. Hist., Siena College, Loudonville, NY 12211

Hiram Woodward, Williams Hall, U. of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405

FINANCES AND PUBLICATION:

As this Bulletin goes to press, we have \$318.20 in our treasury. We have 114 paid subscriptions. There is no need at present to assess our membership for further dues. Typing is volunteered by C. B. Ferguson, and paper is provided by SUNY Ag. Tech. Cobleskill. The only costs therefore are postage. Thanks to all for helping us keep this modest publication on its feet. To bewildered librarians and others who cannot fathom our publication schedule, may they be patient and understanding. We are dependably erratic.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Now is the time to plan and develop your dazzling contribution to our 1984 Colloquium. Write a paper, organize your slides, rehearse your mongoose-cobra show, or start packing your mobile pwe. Help us continue to prove that Burma Studies yet thrive.

John P. Ferguson
 Editor-Secretary