

*Join us!  
Ramble on about  
Group or files?*

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP  
Association for Asian Studies  
Southeast Asia Council  
April 1984  
# 27

Next Burma Studies Colloquium. NEW DATE: August 2, 3, and 4, 1984.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Date: March 24, 1984. Place: Hilton, Washington, D.C.

Those present: W. W. Gage, J. S. Thomson, P. J. Bennett, D. I. Steinberg, Maureen Aung Thwin, B. Matthews, J. A. Wiant, J. Guyot, H. Berg, P. M. Young, W. G. Solheim, J. Musgrave, Michael Aung Thwin, Margaret Aung Thwin, J. P. Ferguson, F. K. Lehman, F. Colley, C. B. Ferguson, S. Bekker, G. Po Oey, L. Lefferts, R. B. Jones, L. M. Hanks, J. R. Hanks.

The gathered multitude was informed that the forthcoming Burma Studies Colloquium will be held at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus this August 2, 3, and 4th. We will meet under various blessings provided by the Southeast Asia Summer Institute (SEASI), one of which is that other area groups will be meeting concurrently, and thus there will be opportunity for valuable interchanges.

We will arrange both thematic panels and ones where everyone is welcome to make their own unique contribution whether it be an individual paper, presentation, or performance. Suggested themes include Sangha Purification, the Role of Women, The Current Political Scene, History, but these are by no means definitive. Send in your suggestions to your editor, Mike Aung Thwin, or Kris Lehman. More details will follow.

We have some funds to help bring people to the Colloquium who could not otherwise financially arrange to be with us. Please write your editor if you wish to apply or wish to suggest that we help a particular person. If there are special people whom you would like to have invited to the Colloquium, please let your editor know.

We would like to hear now from those who are just planning to attend and those who can also contribute their talent in some fashion to make the Colloquium live up to its predecessors. We will reserve the appropriate nearby rooms and facilities once we have heard from you. Just a postcard to your editor will do! Send it now, please.

Your secretary reported some incorrect figures, as usual, for membership and funds. The correct figures are 125 paying subscribers to our Bulletin and a balance of \$319.00. We thus remain in a fiscally healthy state, and subscribers need fear no imminent dunning nor pleas for mercy.

At the conclusion of the meeting, our Chairman reminded everyone that our officers are apparently immune to democratic cries for elections. Whatever protests existed were too weak to record. With such closing remarks, our World Emperor and his one-man Hludaw vanished, hoping to reconvene court at Ann Arbor.

Prior to the meeting the group thoroughly bewildered the staff of David Lee's Empress restaurant, where we had a fine Chinese dinner. The only criticism (there are always some!) your Secretary heard this time was that we were too well behaved for a typical Burma Studies gathering.

### BURMA LUNCHEON GROUP

Those in the Washington area who would like to gather for lunch every one to three months to hear visiting speakers on Burma are asked to contact David Steinberg 6207 Goodview St., Bethesda, MD # 20817, or call him at work, 202-632-8342. About thirty people have already signed up. Suggestions are also welcome for possible speakers.

### MID-ATLANTIC AAS MEETING

This gathering will take place on October 22 at Princeton, N.J. JOE SILVERSTEIN (office: 201-932-7563) and DAVID STEINBERG are organizing a Burma panel. If interested, contact either.

### TRANSLATIONS

A grant of \$800 is available for a manuscript of a SEA translation. The money is not limited to U.S. nationals. If interested, contact Michael Aung Thwin, Dept. of History, Elmira College, Elmira, NY 14901 (607-734-3911).

### ARCHEOLOGY IN BURMA

MICHAEL AUNG THWIN wrote to report the exciting news that the Smithsonian has approved a \$122,000 grant for archeological research in Burma. The five-year plan will be administered through Elmira College, making about three-quarters of a million kyats available in Burma for the archeologists there to investigate the pre-Pagan, urbanized Pyu culture. The Burmese will be in charge of the actual hiring, digging, and publishing. Michael will act as investigator and coordinator at this end, and WILLIAM SOLHEIM, who helped Mike to draw up the plan, will make periodic visits as part of the grant and probably as part of a separate exchange program involving the University of Hawaii. The plan now awaits the anticipated approval of the Burmese. If the program makes everyone concerned happy, Michael hopes the grant can be extended beyond the initial five years.

### NEWS

The return to Burma of Pyu figurines stolen from the Pagan museum is a matter about which devoutly to rejoice. Gratitude is due to all involved from Robert Ellsworth to Nancy Reagan, who effected the happy event. SARAH BEKKER continues to return to Burma, last time with the Smithsonian tour and next with the Lindblad in May. MARGARET AUNG THWIN is hard at work translating an important Burmese novel into English. JERRY BENNETT is at work on a paper on early Burmese pre-Pyu history in the Arakan area. Hopefully we will hear from him at the Colloquium. JON WIANT paid his dues, his dacoit followers should note. MURIEL WILLIAMSON writes that her stepson Robert M. Williamson, physics (acoustics) professor at Oakland U., has worked with tunings of the Burmese harp. They are publishing a joint paper. Dr. Lowell W. Bloss, Religious Studies, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY 14456, is studying organization of nuns in Sri Lanka. He would like to hear from any of us regarding groups of nuns in Burma. BILL JONES recently visited Burma and kindly reported that a copy of Essays on Burma was on the desk of one of his hosts. VIC LIEBERMAN is working on a paper, "The Structure of Burmese History" and hopes to present a version of it at the Colloquium. KRIS LEHMAN will be teaching elementary and intermediate Burmese language from June 11 through Aug. 17 at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at Ann Arbor. To

enroll, contact Director, SEASI, CSSEAS, 130 Lane Hall, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 48109 (313-764-0352). Fellowship deadline was March 1, 1984. BOB TAYLOR, whom we sorely missed at Washington, had his paper read at an AAS panel: the title was "Burma in 1945: Delaying or Forestalling the Revolution." Bob also sent me a copy of his article, "Burma's Foreign Relations Since the Third Indochina Conflict, Southeast Asian Affairs 1983, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, 1983, p.102-112. HUGH and ELEANORE MAC DOUGALL continue a busy life at Rangoon, but they are due back in Washington this summer.

The United States Information Agency is interested in finding host institutions willing to help bring scholars from abroad on Fulbright fellowships. For applications and assistance, contact Mrs. Mary Ernst, CIES, 11 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20026.

MIKE AUNG THWIN has an essay in Centers, Symbols and Hierarchies: Essays on the Classical States of Southeast Asia, ed. Lorraine Gesick, Yale Southeast Asia Studies, Monograph Series No. 26.

"New" members since Last Issue (individuals, not institutions):

Juliane Schober, Dept. of Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, University of Illinois  
607 So. Mathews Ave., Urbana, IL 61801.

William B. Jones, 432 Jones Ave., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Mrs. Erika Drucker, DC2-0790, United Stations, NY 10017

Dr. Thomas J. Hudak, 104 Irvine Rd., No. 4, Lexington, KY 40502

Patricia M. Young, The Asia Society, 3417 Milam, Houston, TX 77002

Dr. Jon A. Wiant, 112 W. Greenway Blvd., Falls Church, VA 22046

John P. Ferguson  
Editor-Secretary  
Burma Studies Group