

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
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#31

FINAL "HLUTDAW" DECISION

The final vote of the Hlutdaw was to accept the offer from the University of Northern Illinois to host the proposed Burma Studies Center. The group selected at the last meeting of the Burma Studies Group in Philadelphia earlier this year consisted of Jon Wiant, Kris Lehman, Mike Aung Thwin, Dave Steinberg, John Musgrave, Hugh MacDougall, Jerry Bennett, Sarah Bekker, and John Ferguson. This group, known informally as the Hlutdaw, studied carefully the proposals submitted by The California Institute of Integral Studies, N. Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Cornell. Because the offers were most impressive, making the choice was most difficult. To avoid any possible conflict of interest, John Musgrave removed himself from the voting process.

The highlights of the proposal from No. Illinois accepted by the Hlutdaw are as follows (the Regents of the University will still have to approve the final form that the Center takes):

- Director of Burma Studies Center in F1987 would be half-time tenured art professor, whose full salary would be paid for by the university. The Director would also curate the collection. (cost \$17,000)
- Library will hire a Burmese student to assist in cataloging.
- Secretarial help will be provided by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Art Department.
- University will pay to ship the Bekker collection from Switzerland to the U.S. (about \$5000)
- University will allot \$4,000 toward modification of the Swen Parson Annex, where the permanent Burmese Gallery (17-1/2' x 18-1/2') will be.
- Burma Studies Group meetings would be held in the adjacent Gallery.
- Special exhibitions will be arranged in the NIU Art Gallery in Chicago, the Anthropology Museum, and the Swen Parson Gallery.
- A Burma Studies Center office (140 sq.ft.) will be located close to the Burmese Gallery.
- Help, if needed, will be provided in publishing materials on Burma, such as the Bulletin, art newsletter, colloquia proceedings, or monographs.
- The Library will maintain a central list of bibliographic items in the Center's collection.
- The Center will encourage the study of Burma, including offering Burmese language options

Thanks to all who wrote or communicated somehow their feelings on the Center. Your contributions helped.

BURMA STUDIES FOUNDATION

The next necessary step is to create a Burma Studies Foundation, which would be the legal entity which receives donations and passes them on to the Burma Studies Center as long as the Center continues to meet certain well-defined criteria. We need to establish a foundation because the Burma Studies Group has no legal identity apart from AAS, we have been told.

We are asking all our individual members to help in this process by nominating 15 of our number on the enclosed sheet. Your secretary will then

publish a list of the twenty with the most nominations, and from that list our membership can vote for the 10 founding directors of the Foundation, who in turn would establish the foundation and work with Northern Illinois to create the Center. Please return your nominations today. Nominations to be counted must be received by your secretary by January 20, 1986.

A BOON

From a long-term member of the Burma Studies Group came a recent letter announcing the change of a will to bring some day to the Burma Studies Center, if established, an estimated \$20,000 in cash in addition to "all books or manuscripts printed or made in Burma, or in Burmese or Pali; all artifacts, furniture, works of art, or handicrafts made in Burma or in the Burmese style; and all papers, documents, maps, files, records, photographs, slides or other materials, relating to Burma or to adjoining areas, and relevant to the Burma Studies Center collection. There is a proviso that no individual item valued in excess of \$500 shall pass under these clauses, but shall pass as part of my residuary estate." The member wishes to remain anonymous for the time being. After the Center is established, annual donations are also envisioned.

The spirit of this generous gesture is very heartening. Such eventual support for the Center will make it a treasured place where Burma Studies members will always feel specially welcome.

NEWS

In Southeast Asia: Problems and Prospects, December 1984, A Conference Report (Defense Intelligence Analysis Center, Defense Intelligence College, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., 1984) is an article by DAVID STEINBERG, "The Role of the Military in Burmese Politics"; the future prospects panel was moderated by JON MIANT. A copy at no cost can be obtained from Director, Academic Research Center, Defense Intelligence College, Wash. DC 20301-6111. ROBERT TAYLOR has published Marxism and Resistance in Burma, 1942-1945. Thein Pe Myint's "Wartime Traveler" (Ohio U. Press, Athens, OH, 1984). Bob did the translation and wrote the introduction. Your editor has reviewed this welcome publication for the Journal of Asian History. SYLVIA FRASER-LU's Burmese Lacquerware has been published by the Tamarind Press (GPO Box 1996, Bangkok, Thailand). The Cornell Southeast Asia Program announces fellowships for incoming graduate students from Burma and other SEA countries. Deadline is 12/15/85, 120 Uris Hall, Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14853. BRUCE MATTHEWS has published "Post-classical Developments in the Concepts of Karma and Rebirth in Theravada Buddhism" in Karma and Rebirth (SUNY Press, Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14850).

Studying at Pennsylvania State U. have been U Win, Ph.D. candidate in geography, and U Tin Cho, a Hubert Humphrey Fellow, who is with the Burmese Ministry of Banking and Finance. Thanks to DONALD CRIDER for his sending the information.

Mrs. Cao Thi Lieu-Mignot, a Burmese-Vietnamese linguist, wrote to tell us of Bibliographie Birmane, 1960-1970 (3 Vols.) by DENISE BERNOT, professor of Burmese at the National Institute of Oriental Civilisations and Languages. They are published by the National Scientific Centre of Research in France, 1982, 1983, and 1985. They can be ordered from C.N.R.S. (National Scientific Centre of Research, Publications, 15 quai A. France, 75007 - Paris, France.

EUAN BAGSHAW has received from Anna Allott a new book entitled A Catalogue of the Burney Parabaiks in the India Office Library, on which Thaung Blackmore has been working. Euan says her translations of Burney's letters to Bagyidaw and the Hlutdaw are very interesting. Krishna Murari has written Cultural Heritage of Burma (D.K. Agencies Ltd., H-12, Bali Nagar, New Delhi 110015). Thanks to WILLIAM JONES for this item. HUGH MAC DOUGALL and JON MIANT teamed up to write "Burma in 1984" for Asian Survey, April, 1985. MI MI KHAING's The World of Burmese Women has been published by Zed Books of London (1984). The book was reviewed in Inside Asia by Khin Thitsa in the June-August, 1985, issue. In the same magazine was "The Karen Struggle in Burma: Burmese Army Closes In" by Martin Smith. KHIN MAUNG has completed a manuscript on the population of Burma, based upon the 1973 census. Teaching Burmese at SEASSI at Michigan last summer was JOHN OKELL from London. At the annual Mid-Atlantic Region meeting of the AAS were JOE SILVERSTEIN (Chair), HUGH MAC DOUGALL, and DAVE STEINBERG for the panel, "Burma after the Fifth Party Congress." Also on hand was TOM GIBSON, SARAH BEKKER, and LEE LEFFERTS. Science News 128:116-117 notes in "A Common Ancestor of Higher Primates" the discovery of Burmese primate that makes its bid for being an early common ancestor of us all (Your editor feels the Leakeys should have moved to Burma long ago). Arts of Asia, July-Aug., 1985, in "Tak Halltop Burial Sites," discusses some glazed ceramics probably from Burma. For these last two items, thanks to R. COOLER. WILLIAM JONES continues to work on his project to catalog Burmese art and artifacts in American museums and private collections.

The 1986 Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) will be held at Northern Illinois University from June 9 to August 16. Intensive instruction will be offered in the following Southeast Asian languages: Burmese, Hmong, Indonesian/Malay, Javanese, Khmer (Cambodian), Lao, Sanskrit, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese. Instruction will be available at the beginning level for all of the above languages, and at the intermediate and advanced levels according to demand. In addition to the ten weeks of language instruction, the SEASSI will offer a series of courses on Southeast Asia in anthropology, art history, business, communication studies, history, literature, music, political science, and sociology. A total fee of \$1,100 covers all language and area studies courses taken, and includes registration for the SEASSI Conference, to be held at NIU July 31 - August 3, 1986. Fellowships are available. For further information and applications, write to: Director, SEASSI, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Sent by Cornell University to your editor was "A Guide to the Burmese Photograph Collection." This typescript copy of a document by Ingeborg Wald (1981) in the Dept. of the History of Art describes a collection which was a gift of the Breezewood Foundation to the Southeast Asia Program. The photographs were amassed by Gordon H. Luce, with many relating to his Old Burma-Early Pagan. The N.Y. Times ran an article by Barbara Crossette entitled "Burma's Eroding Isolation" (N.Y. Times Magazine, 11/24/85). DAVID STEINBERG has been named president of the Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs in Helena, Montana. The Center is "dedicated to the improvement of U.S./Pacific Basin relationships and understanding." David will be leaving his present position with A.I.D. to take on his new position. New member DON STADTNER reports that he "...was in Burma last summer on a Smithsonian Research Development Grant in order to initiate a project on the pre-Pagan period art of the Pyus and Mons."

NEW MEMBERS:

Tsing Yuan, Dept. of History, Wright State U., Dayton, OH 45435
Jennifer Lane White, 1115½ E. Grove St., DeKalb, IL 60115
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Need correct address for the following:

Fred Wetzel Eckart Diezemann
Anna May Say Pa Philip Siegelman
Myo Myint

Change of Address: Carl Taylor, Jr., 98-106 Alania St., Aiea, HI 96701

Coda

Your nominations will be most welcome. Do plan to be with us at Chicago in March for our annual meeting and noisy feast. Please also drop me a note with news.

Yours at the bazaar,

John P. Ferguson
Editor - Secretary