

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
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#34

BURMA STUDIES CENTER THIS SUMMER:

The Burma Studies Group will meet between July 30 and August 3, 1986, at DeKalb, Illinois. We hope to see everyone there to rejoice that we have found a home. The formal activities of the Burma Studies Group will begin Thursday afternoon at 5 P.M. with a welcome reception at the Swen Parson Galleries and an introduction to the Center by RICHARD COOLER, who took up his position as director of the Center on July 1st. While the Center awaits formal approval by the Board of Regents and the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and while the Burma Studies Foundation awaits approval by IRS, plans for the Center are moving along smoothly enough so that part of the Sarah and Konrad Bekker Collection of Burmese art will already be on hand in the Swen Parson Gallery as a loan to be made a gift later. SARAH BEKKER will present an introduction to and explanation of the collection. A Burmese dinner will follow to celebrate the occasion.

On Friday and Saturday, other Burmese programs and events are scheduled. JIM GUYOT has organized a Thailand-Burma panel on the roles of women in the two countries. Working with Jim will be Penny and John Van Esterik, Sarah Bekker, and Carmela Chiswick. JANE HANKS hopefully will audit and comment. A panel on the religious use of architectural space in Burma and Thailand will include presentations by RICHARD O'CONNOR, KRIS LEHMAN, JOHN FERGUSON, and RICHARD COOLER. A report on a special Buddha image will be given by TERRY BAILEY. JERRY BENNETT will talk about a southern Chinese water festival (Tai style) he observed on a recent visit. A review of MEL SPIRO'S Kinship and Marriage will be given by PAUL SARNO. A report on northern Thailand's Burmese "temples" will be given by SARAH BEKKER. KRIS LEHMAN will present "The Feast of Merit System, Inflation and Economic Change: North Burma Examples" on Thursday. Aye Kyaw will discuss on Sunday "The Development of Colonial Education in Burma: 1826-1910." RICHARD COOLER will show slides on a trip from Mandalay to Pagan, and various films on Burma will be made available.

Other delicacies will doubtless be presented as the occasion inspires those assembled. Two new donations to the Center, for example, will be announced.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BURMA STUDIES

Twenty-nine scholars on Burma attended a conference on Burma under the direction of the Wilson Center. The following were there: ANNA ALLOTT, MAUREEN AUNG-THWIN, MICHAEL AUNG-THWIN, L. E. BAGSHAW, SARAH BEKKER, PAUL BENNETT, DENISE BERNOT, RICHARD COOLER, Annemarie Esche (Humboldt Universitat), JOHN FERGUSON, THOMAS GIBSON, DOROTHY GUYOT, MAUNG MAUNG GYI, KRIS LEHMAN, VICTOR LIEBERMAN, HUGH MAC DOUGALL, TORU OHNO, JOHN OKELL, RYUJI OKUDAIRA, JULIANE SCHOBBER, FRANK SHULMAN, JOSEF SILVERSTEIN, MELFORD SPIRO, DAVID STEINBERG, NATHANIEL TARN, U THAUNG, WILLIAM TUCHRELLO, THAN TUN, and JON WIANT.

Issued at the Conference was Burma: An Annotated Bibliographical Guide to International Doctoral Dissertation Research, 1898-1985, by Frank J. Shulman. Members of the Burma Studies Group can request a free copy of this volume by writing Dr. Ronald A. Morse, Secretary, Asia Program, The Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Also issued was Burma: A Selective Guide to Scholarly Resources, edited by Anita Hibler and William P. Tuchrello, published by The Asia Program, The Wilson Center and the Asian Division, the Library of Congress (1986).

The Wilson Center will issue later a report on the outcomes of the conference. One suggestion might be acted upon sooner than latter -- the revitalization of the Burma news clippings publication formerly originating at the Asia Society. MAUREEN AUNG-THWIN has offered to edit the new versions, possibly publishing it out of the new Burma Studies Center. If you are interested, contact your editor or Maureen. Suggestions are welcome.

NEWS:

In the February, 1986, issue of Asian Survey (XXVI, No.2:186-195), HUGH MAC DOUGALL and JON WIANIANT published "Consolidation Triumphs Over Innovation." MARGARET AUNG-THWIN's "Coffee," a translation of Gya-ni-Kyaw Ma Ma Lei's short story, is due to be published in Tagalog in the Philippines. LEEDOM E. LEFFERTS will be in Rangoon for a while this summer at the U.S. Embassy. Volunteer students are sought by the Office of Pacific Basin, dealing with countries of that area including Burma. For information, write Gary Bouck, Office of Pacific Basin, Rm.2310, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 14th & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.20230. The Asia Society bookstore offers In Search of Burma by Caroline Courtland (68 color plates). From Elizabeth Moore, via Ron Morse, we learn that in the Williams-Hunt Collection there are about 800 plus aerial photographs of Burma taken between 1943-45. A White Orchid Press reprint is Wilbraham Egerton's An Illustrated Handbook of Indian Arms; Including Those of Nepal, Burma, Thailand and Malaga (1880). Arranged by JOHN FREDENBURG, who will be the new Public Affairs Officer at Rangoon, was a program on the Voice of America featuring the new Burma Studies Center. Khin Maung Htay interviewed RICHARD COOLER, JOHN FERGUSON, and KRIS LEHMAN in Washington last month. The new president of the American Association of Burmese Women is Tin Tin Nu Raschid. Marle Heikkila-Horn from Helsinki would be most interested in cooperating with the Burma Studies Group. Her address is Tiirasaareentie 2, SF-00200 Helsinki, Finland. She is interested in Burmese history and language. U THAUNG writes that the recent shinpyu ceremony in Silver Springs, MD, was a success, with two of our group present as guests. In International Wildlife (16,5:16-21), May-June, 1986, is "Burma: The Hermit Stirs" by David Alexander (a fine photograph of the Mt.Popa complex). M. Ojanpera is the chairman of the newly-formed Finland-Burma Society, c/o Kolkejarventie 36B, SF-02940 ESPOO, Finland. They would welcome contacts with our group.

NEW MEMBERS:

Ryuji Okudaira, Dept. of Indochinese Studies (Burmese Course), Tokyo U. of Foreign Studies, 4-51-21, Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo 114, Japan.
John Fredenburg, U.S. Embassy Rangoon, c/o Dept. of State, Washington, DC 20520.
Ono Toru, Osaka, U. of Foreign Studies, 2734 Aomadami Minoo-shi, 562, Osaka, Japan.
MaryBeth Heston, Art Dept., Denison, U., Granville, OH 43023
Khin-Thi-Da Lwin, 1401 Blair Hill Rd., #510, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
Win Win Kyi, Young Presidents' Organization, 52 Vanderbilt Av., NYC, NY 10017.

NEW ADDRESS:

David Hytha: 2-11-2 Tomigaya-cho, Shiboya-ku, Tokyo 151, Japan.

John P. Ferguson, Editor/Secretary
The Burma Studies Group
SUNY Ag.Tech. College
Cobleskill, NY 12043