

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
January, 1987
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The Center for Burma Studies:

The Regents of Illinois have formally approved the establishment of a Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University at DeKalb. The Center will have its formal opening on July 29 and 30, 1987. Richard Cooler, the Director of the new Center, will send out a detailed announcement later, but Burma Studies Group members should save the dates. Also it will be the time for you to deliver your best paper or talk. We should publish a volume to celebrate, should we not? The Headquarters for the Center are being repainted and should be momentarily ready for occupancy. A shelf list of Burmese books is being prepared. Details are being worked out to ship the Sarah Bekker art collection to DeKalb from Basel, Switzerland. It should be in place for the opening. All we need is you there to admire it.

Visiting the Center on February 19 and 20 will be the new U.S. ambassador to Burma, Burton Levin.

At DeKalb as a research professor will be U Than Tun, who will be in the United States on a Fulbright grant. He will teach a history course on Burma and Thailand this summer, be at Michigan this fall, and then return to DeKalb for the spring semester.

From Leon R. Lawton of the Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society to the Center for Burma Studies have come a gift of seven volumes in Lushai, three translations into Lushai of works by Billy Graham and four by Rev. L. Sawl Thanga.

The Burma Studies Foundation and Boston:

The Foundation is applying to IRS for determination of its tax status. It revised its "Declaration of Trust" document in October to include matters suggested by legal advisors to both the Foundation and the Center. The Foundation will hold its annual meeting on April 10, 1987, immediately after the Burma Studies Group meeting, which is scheduled for 4:30 PM, April 10, 1987, at Dalton A, Sheraton Boston Hotel. All are welcome, of course, to both meetings. We will have our usual dinner party that night or next. Suggestions? Whose decorum do we rattle this time?

Note to Burma Newsletter Subscribers:

From Maureen Aung-Thwin
1846B New World Apartments
Kowloon, Hong Kong

To those who have already sent in your subscriptions, hearty thanks and apologies for not having acknowledged your support sooner. Others--who have not subscribed but would like the upcoming first issue of the Newsletter--rush to your check books and send \$5.00 to the Burma Studies Group.

The Burma Newsletter, previously under the auspices of the Asia Society in New York, has been reincarnated by popular demand (under a new patron, the Burma Studies Center). But its success depends on you; so don't forget to subscribe

and even more important (to me the compiler), send news and information of ANY nature on Burma, directly to me at the above address. (If in doubt, send it.)

The first issue will be mailed to you early in 1987.

A Modern Modest Proposal:

Richard Cooler looks forward to welcoming us all at the Burma Gallery at Northern Illinois University this July. He proposes that we try to enrich the Gallery by having the capacity to show video presentations about the Sarah Bekker collection and other cultural aspects of Burma.

His proposal is that we raise up to \$800 with which the Center could purchase a color monitor, video-recorder, and stand. He would then use the "state-of-the-art" equipment in the Art/Photo-Unit at N.I.U. to film and edit a series of tapes on the collection that would add much meaning to a visitor's experience in the Burma Gallery.

Richard also suggests that friends of Burma around the world could send video messages to help celebrate the opening of the Center. The monitor could carry their greetings to us all. The long-term result of this proposal would be to enable the Center permanently to use the equipment to deliver its message to the legions who will visit the Gallery in the future.

If you would like to help this modest proposal to prosper, please send \$800 or any part thereof to the Burma Studies Foundation, c/o J. P. Ferguson, Secretary-Treasurer, SUNY Cobleskill, NY 12043. How does one earn a bit of merit in this American landscape?

NEWS:

LARRY ASHMUN of N.I.U. will be in Burma for a visit in March. He reports on gifts to the N.I.U. Library of a number of volumes of Light of the Dhamma, Light of the Buddha, and other materials from the South Asia Collection at Wisconsin-Madison. He also calls our attention to Sherry Lee Cox's M.A. thesis in 1985 at the U. of Hawaii on a Burmese classical song (Masters Abstracts International #MA1326545), by Caroline Courtland (intro. by Hugh Tinker), F. Muller, London, 1984. From LEEDOM LEFFERTS is a very interesting edition of the Toyota Foundation Occasional Report (Sept., 1984), in which translations of Burmese literary works into Japanese are critically evaluated by translators and readers. Your editor highly recommends this material for its lively and intelligent presentations. The University of Michigan is looking for a candidate as an assistant professor to teach language and literature of mainland SEA and would prefer Burmese and Thai language expertise (deadline of Dept. of Asian Languages & Cultures is 2/15/87). VIC LIEBERMAN has published "How Reliable is U Kala's Burmese Chronicle?: Some New Comparisons" in the Journal of SEA Studies (Sept., 1986) and will publish "Reinterpreting Burmese History" in Comparative Studies in Society and History (Jan., 1987). Vic passes on the information on Burmese numismatics published, written, or translated by M. Robinson: The Coins and Banknotes of Burma (W.L.A. Shaw), 1980; Arakanese Coins by San Tha Aung, 1979; The Die Varieties of 19th Century Burmese Copper Coins (W.L.A. Shaw), 1984; The Lead and Tin Coins of Pagan and Tenasserim, 1986: (contact Dr. M. Robinson, 31 Priory Rd., Sale, Cheshire M33 2Bu, England). A new Asian Cinema Studies Society has been formed to advance Asian film and media scholarship and to support the teaching of Asian cinema.

For information, write Mira R. Binford, Quinnipac College, Box 91, Hamden, CT 06518. BRUCE MATTHEWS reports a small medical Burmese community in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. New Member MARTHA P. SIV sent a letter on Burma to the editor of the N.Y. Times Travel section (7/27/86). SARAH BEKKER leaves soon to guide the Smithsonian tour of Burma and Thailand. SHALARDCHAI RAMITANONDH will be visiting Burma this March on a preliminary visit from Chiangmai to prepare for a project that will compare the cultural structure of Tai speaking groups in Thailand, Burma, and Assam. JOHN BADGELY is curator of the John M. Echols Collection at Cornell. He delivered a talk at the Southeast Asia Program on "Fiction and the Image of Burmese Characters." SEASSI will be offered at DeKalb this summer, June 8 through August 14. Burmese language will be taught. Fellowships available. Contact the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115 (815-753-1771). CHARLES KEYES will lead a Thai trip (January 17-February 8) for Archeological Tours/Lindstone Travel. RICHARD COOLER will lead a tour for the same organization (November 7-November 29). They will visit sites in both Thailand and Burma. An appraiser of Southeast Asian Art is Elisabeth Weikert Douglas, 9106 Streamview Lane, Vienna, VA 22180 (703-790-5530). The latter reference is from Sarah Bekker. Leedom Lefferts asks if anyone knows of U Sao Htun Hmat Win's 2 published volumes (on Burmese Buddhist art and iconography) being in any U.S. library. Your editor would also be most interested. Leedom also asks for any information on Mrawati (Vol.4, #12, 1956; Vol.20 #11, 1972); Nwe ta ri (June, 108, 1969), and Masu (3, 1972). He is working on a pottery topic. His query? Are those journals Burmese? MICHAEL AUNG-THWIN is back from Japan and is at Elmira.

New Members (individuals only. Organizations not included.)

Denise Bernot, 47, Avenue du Bois-de-Verrieres, 92160 Antony, FRANCE.
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Address Change: F.W.S. Milne, Australian Embassy, Fitzwilton House, Wilton
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John P. Ferguson, Editor

January 19, 1987