

Medicine to Burma

We are pleased to report that the Burma Studies Group has contributed a total of \$3,425 to UNICEF to purchase medicines for the Burma Emergency Programme. The money has been sent to UNICEF, and each donor should have received a letter of acknowledgement from UNICEF. If not, please contact either of your co-editors.

The merit list is as follows: Amdur, B.H., Amdur, D. H., Aung-Thwin, M., Bailey, J.E., Bagshawe, L.E., Becker, J.O., Bekker, S.M., Bennett, P.J., Campbell, L.J., Castelli, H.S., Cooler, H.P., Cooler, R.M., Courter, S.R., Crank, J., Engel, R.Z., Ferguson, J.P., Guyot, D., Hartung, R.L., Hopple, P., Jensen, J.V., Jones, R.B., Kammerer, C.A., U Khin, Lassers, E., LeBow, G.D., Lehman, F.K., Lindley, A.N., Liner, E., Lu, S.E., MacDougall, H., Martin, E.W., Maung, M.I., Moscotti, A.D., Musgrave, J.K., O'Connor, P.T., Phillips, E.M., Piness, E.L., Roop, D.H., Sarno, P., Schochet, J., Smith, C.B., Solheim, W.G., Sprey, J., Spiro, M. & A., Steinberg, D.I., Stermer, C.L., Sturgis, R.B., Tarn, N., Taylor, C., Thomson, J.S., Tin Hla, Trager, H.G., Tubbs, G.A., Wiant, J.A., Williamson, M., Williamson, R.M., Woodward M./Schober, J., Young, P.M.

This is the most successful financial effort ever for the Burma Studies Group. Many thanks to all the contributors and to Agnese Lindley for her help in getting things going. May the effort help a little to relieve the suffering of the Burmese people.

New Burma Studies Foundation Trustees

The trustees of the Foundation met in DeKalb, Illinois, on October 14, 1988. The present trustees are J. Wiant, K. Lehman, Michael Aung-Thwin, Maureen Aung-Thwin, D. Steinberg, J. Musgrave, J. Ferguson, S. Bekker, and J. Silverstein. R. Cooler was present ex-officio at the 10/14/88 meeting.

The trustees voted to add two new trustees and authorized their Secretary-Treasurer, J. Ferguson, to conduct an election by asking the Burma Studies Group to nominate 10 individuals not presently on the board. The ten with the highest number of votes will be the slate from which the Burma Studies Group will then elect two trustees. This election will be carried out by the Foundation. The trustees could have nominated and elected the new trustees themselves but felt it would be better for the vitality of the Foundation if the Burma Studies Group as a whole made the decision. Individual members of the Burma Studies Group will be receiving their ballots shortly.

Burma Studies Foundation Report

The trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation, at their DeKalb meeting on 10/14/88, reviewed the special relationship they have with the Center for Burma Studies.

The Foundation is a legally established trust that receives gifts of things Burmese and then must give the Center for Burma Studies the right of first refusal on these things as long as the Center continues to meet ten conditions: (1) the Center, in most cases, is to receive things Burmese only from the Foundation; (2) these gifts must be on public exhibit or open storage for at least a

month every five years; (3) the Center must have an active exhibitions program; (4) the Center may not de-acquisition any gifts from the Foundation and may trade only with written consent from the Foundation; (5) the Center must maintain an office open 20 hrs/wk for 46 weeks/yr.; (6) the Center shall have adequate storage spaces; (7) the Center shall have at least one faculty member devoting no less than half-time to the Center; (8) the Center shall have a central record of all gifts, no matter where housed on campus; (9) the Center shall encourage the study of things Burmese; (10) the Center shall be at NIU.

The trustees found that all these ten conditions had been met, and they commended Richard Cooler for his fine work in helping to establish the Center and in directing it. They did request he submit an annual report, work out a policy statement on the donation of books, and expand the storage area for art works, which is adequate at present but does not yet meet the minimum specified in the ten conditions. Also stressed was the need for a Burmese cataloguer.

As of 10/12/88, the Foundation had received 661 "things Burmese" from donors, including art, ethnographic items, books, bibliographic items, photographs, etc. Everything given to the Foundation has been turned over to the Center and is thus covered by the ten conditions noted above.

The Foundation is classified by IRS as a 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization, and gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The Foundation welcomes gifts of cash, securities, or things Burmese from the public so that it may "promote the study, understanding, and appreciation of Burma, including its people, society, art, literature, language, religion, and culture." To inquire about donations of any kind, contact Kris Lehman, Burma Studies Foundation, 1316 Grandview Dr., E., Champaign, IL 61820 (tel. 217-359-1325) or John P. Ferguson, Burma Studies Foundation, Star Route 1 Box 144, Warnerville, NY 12187 (tel. 518-234-2276). If you have Burma material or know of people who do, please consider or have your friends consider putting the Foundation in future plans.

As yet, the Foundation has no endowment, and its cash for operating is donated from the pockets and purses of the trustees themselves. The trustees are paid no fees or expenses. The trustees were elected by the membership of the Burma Studies Group. They serve five year terms. Their responsibility is to insure that materials donated to the Foundation are used properly to promote the study of Burma.

Those who have donated Burmese things to the Foundation as of 10/12/88 are: P.J. Bennett, H.L. Lefferts, J.T. Bailey, S. Bekker, D. Stadtner, P. Herbert, A. Balaz, J. Badgley for Cornell U., Seventh Day Baptists, S.E. Lu, E. Musgrave, J. Musgrave, E. Bagshawe, H. MadDougall, J-M Rastorfer, A. Esche, P. Bixler, R. Cooler, J. Davis, A. Parsons, and L. Cooper.

Upcoming Washington AAS Meeting

The Burma Studies Group will hold a special meeting this year at the Association for Asian Studies Meeting at Washington, D.C. The Group will meet on Saturday, March 18, at 7:30 PM, in the Farragut Room in the Washington Hilton Hotel. We have been assigned this room until 11 PM in order to hold a round table discussion to which have been invited a number of people who have visited Burma within the past few months. Members of the Washington area Burmese community will be invited also.

The topic of the round table discussion is "The Situation in Burma Today." Invited to participate in the round table discussion are Tom Reich (Burma Desk Officer), David Steinberg (author and consultant), Christopher Redfern (World Bank), James Bu (film-maker), Dr. Saw Shwe Dah (Overseas Burma Foundation, chairman), Ward Keeler (anthropologist), Ingrid Jordt (graduate student in anthropology, Harvard U.), and Josef Silverstein (political scientist and author). As always, the hope is that we can all learn from listening to each other. Maureen Aung-Thwin and David Steinberg have been organizing this event. If you have questions, call Maureen (212-877-8298). David is out of the country right now.

At 6:30 on Friday night, March 17, we will meet by the "B's" at the AAS message bulletin boards to plan and launch our usual invasion of some hapless restaurant in the immediate area or do something even better if it can be arranged. Everyone is on their own for dinner on Saturday. We expect a crowd on Saturday night; please come early.

Burma Studies Group Colloquium, DeKalb, October 14, 15, 16, 1988

Our first colloquium at DeKalb was a great success. We met in a setting of a textile exhibit by Sylvia F. Lu, who gave a tour of the exhibit to many of us and gave a formal paper also. Others giving papers were Donald Stadner ("Dharmaceti's Pegu"), Kris Lehman ("Some Observations on Burmese Ethnomusicology"), Bob Taylor ("Scholarship on Burma Since the Coup of 1962" - also a lecture on Burma the day before the Colloquium), Jean-Marc Rostorfer ("The Context of the New Kayah Script"), Daw Khin Yi ("The Dobama Anti-Colonial Movement in Burma"), Than Tun ("The Provincial Administrative Reports of Burma: Sittans"), U Aye Kyaw ("Crimes Against Religion in the Penal Code of Burma and Thailand"), Jim Guyot ("A Demographic Detective Story: The Burmese-Thai Growth Differential in the 20th Century"), and Daw Yee Yee Lay Stein ("Asian Women: Past, Present, and Future").

A special treat was the video tape of the Konrad Bekker Collection that was shown in the Gallery, using the equipment provided by contributions from the Burma Studies Group.

We look forward to our next Colloquium at the Center for Burma Studies in the fall of 1990. It is not too early to think about what wisdom you can dispense to us at that time.

Daw Mya Sein (1904-1988)

One of the most remarkable Burmese women of this century, Daw Mya Sein, passed away on November 10, 1988, at Wankegan, Illinois. She served her country in many vital ways, spanning the nationalist era as a delegate to the League of Nations in 1931 and to the UN in 1946 and the early 1960's, having also been a participant in the famous Round Table Conference in London. Her career in education, after obtaining an Oxford M.A., involved administrating secondary schools, being a lecturer in history at the University of Rangoon, and traveling to be a visiting scholar in many foreign countries. Not only a lecturer but also a writer, she is well known for her Administration of Burma (1938) and Burma (1944). An ardent Buddhist and self-declared feminist, she headed many organizations, including the University Women's Association of Burma and the Burma-American Association. Your co-editor (J.F.) first met Daw Mya Sein in 1973, when he drove her from a lecture at the Asia Society in New York City to another one in Ithaca. She talked with great pride and energy of her days as a nun and of the importance

of women in Buddhism. We met again when she delightfully defied the clock as a speaker at a Burma Studies Group meeting at Denison. Her memory was encyclopedic, and she had met everyone you could imagine. Daw Mya Sein had the dignity and wit we associate with the greatest of Burmese women. We shall miss her very much.

Lucien Hanks (1910-1988)

We shall miss our friend Lucien Hanks, who died in the Barbados on December 23, 1988. Lucien's inquiring mind and fresh spirit enlivened many a Burma Studies meeting, particularly when events became a bit too academic or arcane. Always ready with a question at AAS panels, Lucien would try to give a regional perspective to discussions, particularly bringing Burma and Thailand together. One of his most memorable qualities was his kindly encouragement of those starting out in Asian Studies, those just reporting back from field work. He paid attention to them, took them seriously, and made them feel welcome. Others will detail his distinguished career as educator at leading colleges and universities, his important field work, and his publications on the peoples of Burma and Thailand. We just wish to say we were honored to have this gentleman of much "merit" join us on many of our annual "pwes," which was what he always called our social gatherings. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Jane and his family.

News

Kindly received from Jan Becka an offprint of a thoughtful review of BOB TAYLOR's Marxism and Resistance in Burma entitled "The Communists and the Anti Fascist Resistance Movement in Burma (1942-1945), Archiv orientalni, 3, Vol.55, 1987, pp.284-287.*** Elementary and possibly intermediate Burmese will be taught at the SEASSI Summer Institute at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For details, call 808-948-6085. The SEASSI Conference will be July 28-30, 1989 at Manoa. For details write SEASSI, 1890 East-West Rd., Moore 416, Honolulu, HI 96822.*** The first Japanese Meeting on Burma Studies was held on August 23, 1988 at Osaka University. The executive committee includes Toru Ohno of Osaka U., Ryuji Okudaira of Tokyo U., Katsumi Tamara of Kanazawa U., Toshikatsu Itoh of Aichi U., and Norio Takatani of Kagoshima. Papers were presented on drama, Brahmanism, linguistics, fauna and flora carved images on inscriptions, and architecture of Japan. For information, write Burmese Dept., Osaka U. of Foreign Studies, 8-1-1 Aomadani-higashi, Osaka, 562 Japan.*** Listed as published in Sojourn (Social Issues in Southeast Asia, Singapore) are "Minorities in Burmese History" by Ronald D. Renard, and "The Sangha and Sasana in Socialist Burma" by Tin Maung Maung Than. Listed as contributing to the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies publications are ROBERT TAYLOR in Defense Spending in Southeast Asia and Governments and Rebellions in SEAsia, JOSEF SILVERSTEIN in Durable Stability in Southeast Asia, and DAVID STEINBERG and JON WIANT in Soldiers and Stability in Southeast Asia. From the same source is "Burma in 1987: Twenty-Five Years After the Revolution" by Tin Maung Maung Than in Southeast Asian Affairs 1988.*** Kiscadale Publications, Scotland, is planning an architectural history of Pagan, due this spring. They published Essays on the History and Buddhism of Burma by Professor Than Tun (see Burma News Letter 2,3:24). *** PETER WELDON of SRG, Hong Kong, was good enough to write that John A. MacDougall is Editor, Indonesian Publications, North College Park Station, P.O. Box 895, College Park, MD 20740. Thank you.

Change of Address:

Brian Threlkeld, 5220 So. Kenwood Ave., #303, Chicago, IL 60615

Send Your News to: John P. Ferguson
Burma Studies Group
SUNY Cobleskill
Cobleskill, NY 12043

H. C. MacDougall
J. P. Ferguson
Co-Editors