

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
December, 1989
#43

New Trustees

The membership of the Burma Studies Group has nominated John Badgley and Hugh MacDougall to be trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation. Voter participation was strong, and competition was keen. They both then were elected formally by the Foundation's trustees. Congratulations to both friends of Burma.

Current Foundation trustees are Maureen Aung Thwin, Michael Aung Thwin, John Badgley, Sarah Bekker, John Ferguson, Kris Lehman, Hugh MacDougall, John Musgrave, Joe Silverstein, David Steinberg, and Jon Wiant.

AAS Meeting in Washington

The meeting of the Burma Studies Group in Washington on March 18, 1989, was the best attended of any meeting in your editors' memories. "The Situation in Burma Today" was the roundtable topic. Emotions ran high as speakers dealt with recent events, but an important aspect of the meeting was the civility of all involved. Unfortunately an invitation to Burmese government representatives in America was not accepted.

Speakers were Tom Reich of the Dept. of State, Christopher Redfern of the World Bank, Ward Keeler, Bob Pranke, David Steinberg, and Josef Silverstein. Video tapes were shown and introduced by Dr. Saw Shwe Dah.

Unforgettably painful were the hours of video interviews of students at the Thai border. So clearly they believed in a brotherhood of those who strive for democracy. But the evening's discussions gave one of your editors (JPF) the feeling that in terms of outside help from the big governments, Burma had fallen through the cracks -- vital to neither American nor Russian interests, for example. An awkward neutrality.

A panel on Burmese Monks and Hermits also took place the next day. Juliane Schober chaired, read Mark Woodward's paper on asceticism in the Jatakas, and delivered a lively portrait of Mt. Popa's former abbot. John Ferguson discussed some past and present Burmese arahats, and Bob Pranke pitched in on short notice to discuss canonical aspects of asceticism he found operative with Mandalay monks. Kris Lehman was the discussant.

The annual Burma Studies Group dinner was held at the Rincome Restaurant in Arlington and was organized by the mysterious Emerald Queen. Group behavior was deemed exemplary by your Mahadanwun in disguise.

Join us in Chicago next spring or at DeKalb in the fall. It is not too early to start thinking about what you are going to contribute to our next Colloquium on Sept. 28-30, 1990.

New AAS Affiliate Guidelines

Chairman Lehman has prepared the following:

"In order for the Burma Studies Group to maintain its status as a committee of the Association for Asian Studies under the guidelines recently issued by AAS under agreement with the Internal Revenue Service, all persons subscribing to this BULLETIN are hereafter to be known, technically, as "subscribers." The payment for such a subscription will continue, under agreement with Dr. L. A. P. Gosling of AAS, to be made directly to our publisher, The Center for Burma Studies of Northern Illinois University. Any other moneys that the Group as such may come to seek, acquire or possess must, and will, be maintained as an account with AAS as per the aforementioned guidelines.

Under the same guidelines, technically, the "members" of the "Committee" will be just those persons chosen under the following arrangement: every year, at the Annual Business Meeting (held in conjunction with the AAS annual meeting), the "subscribers" attending will be asked to vote to elect two members from among themselves, and to confirm in office (or elect anew, if such be their pleasure), a Chair and a Secretary -- it being the established tradition of the Group that unless otherwise proposed the standing officers are there for indefinite term provided a motion is taken at the meeting, and accepted by vote, to continue them for the ensuing year. This arrangement is necessarily subject to the condition that the Members of the Committee be all members in good standing of the AAS (Association for Asian Studies), and when subscribers are billed they will be asked to check off whether they are AAS members and therefore want to vote for the Membership of the Committee; this will also be used at the annual meeting to determine if there is present a voting quorum of subscribers who are also AAS members. Our tradition lets us use such votes as binding if a quorum be present."

Books Given to the Burma Studies Foundation

Certainly one of the most successful of the Foundation's activities has been receiving and giving books to the Center for Burma Studies. At its March meeting, the Foundation trustees asked their Secretary to draw up a statement on duplicates; such a statement follows:

The Burma Studies Foundation encourages gifts of books and other bibliographic materials. The Foundation's trustees donate, in turn, such "Burmese books" to the Center for Burma Studies under certain conditions set by

the trustees:

1. the Center must keep all books it receives from the Foundation until it has triplicates of a given item [the philosophy is that duplicates will be useful as loans to scholars];
2. when the Center has a triplicate of a book donated by the Foundation, the Director of the Center may trade (without the usual written permission) that triplicate for an item useful to the Center; the Director shall prepare an annual detailed list of all such triplicate transactions for the trustees [the philosophy is that by trade the Center's library may increase its value to students of Burma, but the trustees' supervision insures that the original donor's interest in promoting Burma Studies is honored].

Your Foundation's Secretary would appreciate comments on this policy that anyone might have.

News:

Leading the news is the enrollment of 12 students in Beginning Burmese at the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois U. They and two students in Medieval Burmese Poetry are being taught by U Saw Tun, Assistant Professor of Burmese. U Saw Tun is also writing a history of Burmese literature of the pre-colonial period** Kris Lehman is taking a short trip (14 days) to Burma between fall and spring '90 terms. ** Richard Cooler will be spending this coming term at the University of Singapore; please continue to write him at DeKalb, where mail will be promptly forwarded. ** Maureen Aung Thwin's "Burmese Days" appeared in Foreign Affairs (Spring, 1989). ** Michael Aung-Thwin will be in Southeast Asia in early 1990 visiting various academic institutions. He will also be working there on the Burma Acquisitions Project (funded by the Luce Foundation) that involves NIU, Cornell, and Rangoon University. ** "The Crisis in Burma" by "Moksha Yitri" appeared in Asian Survey (XXIX, No.6, June, 1989). ** Sarah Bekker led a tour this fall to Southeast Asia, including Burma; the tour is sponsored by the Institute for Asian Studies in NYC. ** Leedom Lefferts wrote to say that he would be at Srinakharinwirot U. in Mahasarakham, Thailand, for some months. ** Making an inventory of private collections of Burmese language materials was Than Than Win, who came last summer to Warnerville from DeKalb to record the Mendelson and Ferguson materials. ** James Guyot presented his paper, "The Media and the Student Uprising Against the Military in Burma," at the NY Conf. on Asian Studies in November. ** He has published "Burma in 1988: Perestroika with a Military Face" in Southeast Asian Affairs 1989. ** Hugh and Eleanore MacDougall report that the International School in Rangoon has an exchange program in place with the East Syracuse Minoa School (contact Don Thompson at the school, Fremont Rd, Syracuse, NY).

In 1989 Daw Ivy came from Burma; U.S. teachers will visit in the future. ** Robert Maule wrote to say that he hoped to be in London last summer to complete research on his thesis, "Indirect rule on the periphery of the British Empire: The creation of the Shan State Council in 1922." ** Ann Marie Esche wrote from Potsdam to say that she was working on her German-Burmese dictionary and hoping to get to Chicago. ** ** Haig Roop has edited Maung Maung's Burmese Nationalist Movements 1940-1948. ** Than Tun's Essays on the History & Buddhism of Burma are published by Kiscadale (1988). ** Terry Bailey sent notice of "An Exhibition of the Denison University Burmese Collection PLUS the Recent Acquisition of a Collection of Burmese, Chinese and Thai Art from the Estate of the Late William Hensley," (12/1/89-1/21/90). ** Sao Ying Sita, Executive Director of The Burma American Fund has kindly sent your editors a steady flow of her untiring efforts to expand the network of people interested in Burma. ** Dr. Rewata Dhamma spoke on "Burma: Human Rights & Buddhism" at the Church Center for the UN in November.

Newsletters

Among the newsletters, etc., dealing with Burmese affairs are:

The Burma Bulletin, edited and published by U Kyaw Win, 24941 Mustang Drive, Laguna Hills, CA 92653. Issued from time to time (latest issue seen: July/August 1989). No fixed subscription rate; donations welcomed. English language. Articles and reprints on current events in Burma.

The Burma Review, published by The Burma Review Committee, P.O. Box 30963, New York, NY 10011-0104. Management: U Kolay Tun. Editor: U Khin Nyo. Monthly (latest issue seen, No. VIII, Sept. 1989). No subscription rate indicated. English and Burmese language. Articles and reprints on current Burmese events. Many photos.

CRDB Update, produced for the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma, P.O. Box 8093, Falls Church, VA 22041, by Sunda Khin et al. (Only issue seen, Vol. I, No. 1, Jan-Mar. 1989.) No subscription rate indicated. English, Burmese and Thai language. Articles and reprints on current Burmese events. Photos.

Foundation for Democracy in Burma, P.O. Box 8093, Falls Church, VA 22041. President: U Bilal M. Raschid. Occasional reports. (Latest seen, Jan. 12, 1989)

Project Maje, 14 Dartmouth Rd., Cranford, NJ 07016. Has published releases on environmental (aerial spraying) and human rights issues in Burma. (Latest item at hand, dated July 1987.)

Burma Newsletter, c/o Center for Burma Studies, 140 Carroll Ave., Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL, 60115-2854. Compiled by Maureen Aung-Thwin. (Latest issue, Vol. 3, No. 3, Sept. 1989.) Subscription through Burma Studies Group. English language. Reprints on current Burmese events.

Burma Press Summary, compiled for the Burma Studies Group by Hugh C. MacDougall, 32 Elm St., Cooperstown, NY 13326. Subscription rate \$40 per year (surcharge for foreign postage where applicable). Monthly summary of Yangon Working People's Daily, 20-40 pp. (Latest issue, Vol. III, No. 8, Aug. 1989).

ABC news (All Burma Council newsletter), published by the All Burma Council -- "the party of the concerned burmese citizens"; postage stamped in Switzerland. (last issue: Vol 1, no5, July 20, 1989)

Recent books:

Aung Aung Taik, Visions of Shwedagon. Experiences of a Burmese exile. White Lotus Press, P.O. Box 1141, Bangkok, Thailand.

Aye Saung, Burman in the back row: Autobiography of a Burmese Rebel. From politician to guerrilla. White Lotus Press, P.O. Box 1141, Bangkok, Thailand.

Department of History, University of Rangoon, Glimpses of Glorious Pagan. Rangoon: Universities Press, 1986. 60 pp., color photos, foldout map and panorama. The latest (with certainly the best pictures) in a long series of official Burmese guidebooks to the principal Pagan monuments. (May be available through Paragon Books for ca. \$28.00)

Bechert, Heinz, et al., Burmese Manuscripts. Verzeichniss der Orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland, Bd. XXIII, 1 & 2, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag. Pt. 1, 1979; Pt. 2, 1985. Descriptive catalogue of 431 Burmese manuscripts in the Federal Republic of Germany. Reviewed in Journal of Southeast Asian Studies (JSEAS), Singapore, Vol. XX, No. 1, Mar. 1989, pp. 143-144.

T'ien Ju-K'ang, Religious Cults of the Pai-I along the Burma-Yunnan Border. Ithaca: Cornell University Southeast Asian Program Monograph, 1986. Revised version of a 1948 PhD thesis on the Shan States. Reviewed in JSEAS, Vol. XX, No. 1, Mar. 1989, pp. 144-147.

Khing Maung Nyunt, Market Research of Principal Exports and Imports of Burma with Special Reference to Thailand (1970/71 to 2985/86). Bangkok, 1988. 152 pp. (available from White Lotus Co., Ltd., Bangkok: US\$10.00.)

Pearn, B.R., A History of Rangoon. London: Farnborough, 1985. A reprint of the classic and quite rare edition published in Rangoon in 1939, most copies of which were destroyed during World War II. [May be available from John Randall]

Book Sources:

For collectors of books on Burma:

The Paragon Book Gallery, Ltd., has a new address: 237 West 72nd Street, New York, NY 10023. [Tel: (212) 496-2378. Fax: (212) 721-3823]. One of the best sources in the U.S. for comparatively recent and reprinted books on Burma and Burmese art.

Worldwide Antiquarian, P.O. Box 391, Cambridge, MA 02141. Specializes in Middle East, Africa, and Asia, and issues regular catalogues of Orientalia. Prices seem moderate, and choice material is sometimes to be found.

Kiscadale Publications, Whiting Bay, Arran KA27 8RH, Scotland [Tel. & Fax. 0 770 242]. A new dealer specializing in Southeast Asia. Lots of current and older items, but prices seem high. Issues catalogues.

Asian Rare Books Inc., 234 Fifth Ave. (3rd fl.), New York, NY 10001. Issues catalogues.

White Lotus Co., Ltd., GPO Box 1141, Bangkok, Thailand [Tel: 2587217, 2587219, Telex: 82094 ANDE TH] New and old books on Thailand and Southeast Asia, fairly expensive. Also publishes new books and reprints of old ones on Burmese subjects. Issues catalogues.

John Randall, 47 Moreton Street, London SW1V 2NY, England. [Tel: (01) 630-5331. Telex: 8951182 GECOMS G] Issues catalogue of old and new Southeast Asian books.

New Individual Members:

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[Ed.'s Note: Dr. Judd is now Emeritus Professor of
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60115-2854.

To subscribe to the Burma Press Summary, send \$40.00 US check or
money order to Hugh C. MacDougall, 32 Elm St., Cooperstown, NY
13326.

To Contact the Foundation:

To become non-attached to your fortune and your Burmese
treasure, simply contact the Secretary-Treasurer of the Burma
Studies Foundation, John P. Ferguson, Box 144, Star Route 1,
Warnerville, NY 12187 (Telephone: 518-234-2276)

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EDITORS JOHN & HUGH