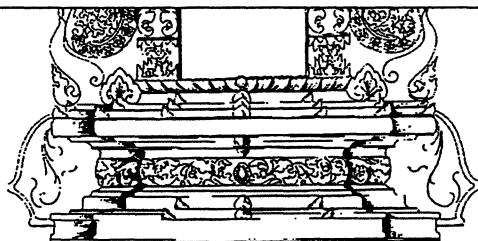




Center for Burma Studies



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BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP

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No #47 - wasn't one?!

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP

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Juliane Schober, Editor

REPORT OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP (BSG) BUSINESS MEETING AT AAS:

Nearly fifty individuals attended the BSG business meeting held at the AAS meeting on Friday, April 3, 1992, from 9:00 to 11:00pm at the Washington Hilton. The group re-elected **Kris Lehman** (University of Illinois at Urbana) as BSG President and **Juliane Schober** (Arizona State University) as Editor/Secretary Treasurer respectively.

Items discussed included a letter circulating at the AAS meetings for signature by its membership which called attention to the political plight, human rights abuses, and concern for the educational needs and intellectual freedom of scholars in Burma. BSG members took exception to the common misspelling in the transliteration of "Myanmar." BSG members voted to endorse the content of letter in general. One member voted against this measure, citing the explicit non-political position of BSG in the past.

Scholars of Burma are invited to present recent research findings at the **BSG conference** held this fall at NIU (for more information, see below). The BSG membership elected **Richard Cooler, Julian Wheatley, and Michael Aung Thwin** as members of the program committee.

In the course of remarking on the strong presence of Burma related panels at the 1992 AAS meetings, **David Steinberg** welcomed perspectives offered in the presentations by members of the U.S. Department of State. He also encouraged future presentations on the role of NGO's and refugee issues in contemporary Burmese affairs.

Other agenda items raised at the meeting involved the need to increase subscriptions for the **Burma Press Summary**, edited by **Hugh MacDougall**, and published by the University of Illinois, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. Back files are for sale through **Hugh MacDougall**. Discussion also focused on the need to raise fellowship support for scholars from Burma and the Open Storage Month of the Burma Art Collection at Northern Illinois University during May 1992.

Presentations on Burma at the AAS:

The following presentations related to the study of Burma were made at the AAS meetings: The Roundtable on **Burma Politics and International Relations** featured talks by **Eugene Burns, Josef Silverstein, Chao Tzeng Yanghwe, and John Badgley**. Another roundtable on **Burma: Economic Dynamics since 1988** included presentations by **David Steinberg, U Tun Wai, Mya Maung, and Robert Taylor**. **Juliane Schober** discussed Burmese notions of pilgrimage during a roundtable on **Buddhist Construction of Sacred Biography**.

Burma Studies Group Conference in the Fall 1992:

The Biennial BSG Conference, will be held Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31 at Northern Illinois University. Abstracts are due as soon as possible but no later than October 1, 1992 and should be sent to **Richard Cooler**, Director of the Burma Studies Center, 140 N. Carroll Ave., Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL 60115-2854. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes in length. For further information, please contact members of the program committee.

Burma Studies Foundation:

John Ferguson (CUNY) resigned as Secretary Treasurer of the BSF. John graciously agreed to carry on the foundation's business until a successor is designated this fall. The membership thanked John for his many years of dedicated service on behalf of the Foundation.

The newly elected members of the Burma Studies Foundation are **Anna Allott, Melford Spiro, Charles Keyes, Juliane Schober, Paul Sarno, and Ward Keeler.**

John Musgrave Passes Away:

It is with deep sadness that we report that Burma scholar and bibliographer **John Musgrave** passed away on June 22, 1992. F.K. Lehman, President of the Burma Studies Foundation writes:

"John Musgrave was one of the founders of academic Burma studies in this country. He was a student and collaborator of the late Professor W.S. Cornyn, in putting together the first systematic materials in this country for the teaching of the Burmese language. He subsequently, first at Yale, then, for many years at Michigan, became one of the foremost Burma and bibliographical specialists. He was originally trained in anthropology, and because of that background his interest in, and knowledge about Burma remained both comparative and broad in the historical and ethnographic sense; it was his capacity for understanding Burma in this broad and comparative context that made him a fine bibliographer and Burma scholar. And it was this most valuable, and highly respected deep scholarly sense that he brought to the original Board of Trustees of our Burma Studies Foundation." He is deeply missed by his friends and colleagues. Condolences may be sent to 2460 James Street, Ann Arbor MI 48104.

Research Notes:

In response to **William F. Strobridge's** contribution on the American Baptist Missionary Union's archives (BSG Bulletin no. 47), **Michael Aung Thwin** writes:

Most, if not all of the original letters of Baptist missionaries are now housed at the American Baptist-Samuel Colgate Historical Library, at the Colgate Theological Seminary, Rochester, New York, 14620-2532 (phone: 716-473-1740), whose director, when I last visited, was James R. Lynch. Most of the letters have been copied on 16mm microfilm. A catalogue entitled **A Guide to Manuscript Collections in the American Baptist Historical Society** (Valley Forge, PA and Rochester, NY, 1986) can be sent for. The catalogue entries are by name, so you have to know the name of the missionary for whom you are looking. However, there is a subject index with the same entry numbers, for example, under "Burma," so even if you don't know the name of every missionary to Burma, you can get all the microfilm on Burma.

NIU has purchased a set of some 60 plus reels, sent two copies to Cornell which sent one to Burma under the NIU-Cornell-RASU consortium with Luce funding.

One of these reels has a very interesting letter from then Prince Mongkut to Judson in English, addressing him as "pongyi" and using honorific terms. He was asking Judson about the Burmese language since the Prince was interested in languages.

There are other entries, one of April 29, 1879, which is interesting historically and also in terms of current affairs. It is a letter from what looks like a G.B. Thomas about Mindon's death and Thibaw's accession. It states:

"There were, between Saturday night of the 15th of February and Wednesday night the 20th, as admitted and well known, sixty-eight brutal murders in the palace yard. Among these were the Queen, Myouk-tsoung-dan, (North building,) [sic] mother of Meh-ka-ra Prince, with four married daughters and ten of their children; six other Princesses, twenty Princes and ten nobles. Others have been killed outside the Palace both before and since, and the work is still going on. Only three or four days ago, a man was brought in from a distant province, where he was on duty, and killed as soon as he got here. He was a brother of one of the Queens. Probably more than two hundred have been killed. Many others are in confinement."

..."Theebau says his murders were not because of his enmity towards the victims, but because the peace and prosperity of the country required that all his rivals should be put out of the way."

Correction: Allen Wittenborn's request was for information about the Chinese nationalist movement in Burma since 1949 - and not 1919 - as mistakenly printed. You may contact him at the University of San Diego, Department of History, Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110. Sorry about the typo.

News about Burma Studies in Britain:

contributed by Robert H. Taylor, SOAS

Patricia Herbert, British Library, published her CLIO bibliography of Burma. It is a major addition to the tools of research on the country. Anna Allott has been working to get the late Eugene Henderson's Bwe Karen -- English dictionary into print. U Thaw Kaung, Chief Librarian at Yangon University Central Library, has spent the year in London working on cataloguing 19th century Burmese manuscripts and books at the British Library on a Leverhume Foundation grant. John Okell is teaching this summer at SEASSI in Seattle. Elizabeth Moore has visited Myanmar during the year on her research into art and a member of the Archaeology Department in Yangon has been in London working with her this year. She was visited by U Than Maung, Director General of the Department of Archaeology, and a member of his staff, in London. They gave a joint seminar on developments at Pagan and elsewhere at SOAS in the spring. R.H. Taylor gave the Kingsley Martin Memorial Lecture at Cambridge on 13 May entitled: "Disaster or Release? J.S. Furnivall and the Bankruptcy of Burma." He was made Pro-Director of SOAS on 1 July but continues to teach.

Ph.D. students at SOAS working on Burma topics include:

Mr. Raymond Bryant, a Canadian finishing a thesis on the politics of forest management and ecology in colonial Burma. U Tin Maung Maung Than, writing on industrialization politics and policies in Burma, 1948-1988. Mary Callahan, from Cornell, spent two months at SOAS in the autumn last year before going to Yangon for research on the Myanmar military and politics in the 1950s. Zunetta Liddell, also a SOAS Ph.D. student, has been working at Amnesty International as a researcher on Burma.

Talks at the Britain-Burma Society during the past season included: Sylvia Lu on Wooden Monasteries of 19th Century Burma; John Okell on Burma on a Tourist Visa; U Khin and John Okell on Burmese Life as Seen on Burmese TV; U Thant Myint-U, 1992-92 Cold Weather Offensive; Lt. Col. A A Mains on the British Retreat from Rangoon; and Anna Allott on Images of Mandalay.

Other News:

The Goldbeaters of Mandalay is an account of Elaine and Donna Koretsky's adventures as they investigated the extraordinary bamboo paper that is used by the Burmese goldbeaters in the process of beating gold leaf. Donna showed slides of these processes at a meeting of the Burma Studies Group in 1988 at Northern Illinois Univ. The book has been published by the Carriage House Press, 8 Evans Rd., Brookline, MA 02146, (617-232-1636), and a prospectus for the book may be obtained there.

The Goldbeaters of Mandalay has been published in two editions: Special Edition and Trade Edition. The Special Edition

9.75"x9.50", 120 pages, is composed in Monotype Dante by Michael Bixler and letterpress printed by Henry Morris at Bird & Bull Press. The paper is Arches mould-made paper. The book is quarter-bound in leather by Campbell-Logan bindery, with side papers and end-papers created by Donna Koretsky at Carriage House Handmade Paper Works. The text is accompanied by ninety photographs, 20 in color and 70 in duo-tone, printed at Nimrod Press. Tipped into each book is a sample of the unique bamboo paper made in Mandalay. The Special Edition also has cloth-covered folder that contains twenty-six samples, showing all the various papers collected by the Koretskys in Burma, plus

gold leaf and the handwoven cloth of the moulds. The book and folder are contained in a slip-case. Three hundred copies of this Special Edition have been printed. Cost is \$400 plus \$5 domestic shipping or \$15 for foreign shipping.

The Trade Edition

9.75"x9.50", 120 pages, has been printed at Nimrod Press, the typography reproduced from the letterpress version. The book contains the same text and photographs as the Special Edition. Tipped into each book is a sample of the unique bamboo paper made in Mandalay. It is hard-bound in a Dutch cloth and blind stamped with a peacock motif. Cost is \$60 plus \$3 domestic shipping or \$10 for foreign shipping.

In December **Elaine Koretsky** escorted a group of paper artists and historians for two weeks, visiting goldbeaters and hand papermakers in remote areas of central Myanmar. Much of the success of the expedition was due to **Tin Tin Nyo**, a friend of the Koretskys who is now in Boston working with them on a special one-year project.

Editor's Note:

Thanks are due to **Michael Aung Thwin**, **Daw May Kyi Win**, and **Robert Taylor** for their contributions to this issue of the BSG Bulletin. The continued publication of the Bulletin depends on the input of its readership and all of you are cordially invited to share information about any germane topic, e.g. scholarship on Burma in the U.S. and abroad; conferences and public lectures; submissions on research notes; reports on recent developments in Burma or about Burmese communities abroad; and brief substantive articles on special topics or points of interest explored in your research.

Please send your contributions, preferably on disk in Word Perfect 5.1 format, to me at the Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-3101 or by E-mail to IFJSS@ASUACAD.

Subscriptions to the Burma Studies Bulletin:

If you wish to subscribe to the BSG Bulletin or to check on the status of your subscription, please contact the Center for Burma Studies, c/o BSG Subscriptions, 140 Carroll Ave., Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL 60115.

E-Mail Directory for BSG Members:

In an effort to assist BSG members to communicate by E-mail, those of you interested in being included in a BSG E-mail directory are asked to E-mail your address to me at IFJSS@ASUACAD. The list will be published in the next issue of the BSG Bulletin.

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