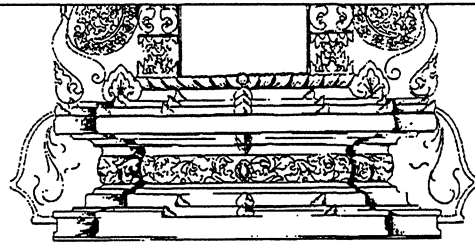


Center for Burma Studies



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Juliane Schober, Editor

Burma Studies Group Business Meeting held at AAS - Los Angeles:

In light of the interest of the Association for Asian Studies to internationalize its scope, nominations are being sought for international correspondents to the Burma Studies Group on the state of Burma Studies abroad. Please contact the editor with your suggestions.

Lehman will develop a grant proposal for submission to SEAC to improve the format of the Burma Studies Bulletin.

Nominations of Burma scholars for the AAS Benda Prize were also solicited and should be forwarded to Carl Trocki who chairs that committee.

Leedom Lefferts was elected Book Review Editor for the Bulletin. A book review section in the Bulletin had been envisioned for some time, and the immediate impetus for it was the presentation of a sophisticated museum/artifact computer program at the BSG Business Meeting. This computer program was developed as a pilot project by Haskia Hasson and essentially provides a digital catalogue of images - complete with art historical information - of a private collection of Burmese art objects that were shown in two exhibits at the Raffles City Convention Centre (19-21 Feb., 1993) and at Taisei Gallery (22 Feb. - 19 May, 1993) in Singapore. A review of this computer program by Dr. Richard Cooler is forthcoming; Dr. Sarah Bekker is reviewing the exhibit catalog in book form that resulted from this work. Both reviews will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

The membership re-elected its current President, Kris Lehman and Secretary, Juliane Schober. Lehman reported on the meeting of the AAS/SEAC, announcing plans for a possible panel on deforestation and ecology in SE Asia to be held at next year's AAS meetings in Boston. Suggestions relating this topic to Burma should be submitted to Lehman for presentation to the SEAC.

Materials, Media, and Book Review Section Established in the Bulletin:

The last meeting of the Burma Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies established a materials/book/media review section for the Bulletin. Leedom Lefferts was appointed Materials/Book/Media Review editor. Readers of the Bulletin who would like to become reviewers should send their name, address, and a brief description of qualifications and interests to him at

the Department of Anthropology, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey 07940, U.S.A.

Lefferts encourages non-traditional participants in the review process. Reviewers will be expected to submit reviews of no more than 500 words in one paper copy and computer disc, using Word-Perfect 5.1 or better, within one month of receipt of the material for review. Discs will be returned to review authors. Lefferts will edit and forward these to Dr. Juliane Schober for inclusion in the Bulletin.

Lefferts has contacted Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program and Kiscadale Press; and both publishers have agreed to send copies of new materials on Burma to him. The Review Editor also encourages authors and publishers of ephemeral material, such as pamphlets, mimeographed works, and computerized material to send items to him for possible review in the BSG Bulletin. The Bulletin offers a rapid turnaround time in coordination with the next issue of the Bulletin.

Burma Studies Foundation:

Trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation also met in conjunction with the AAS meetings in L.A. and elected Michael Aung Thwin as the Foundation's new Secretary Treasurer. Among other matters, the trustees discussed expanding the current number of trustees on the Foundation's Board.

Research Notes and Membership News:

Paulette Hopple recently wrote to Richard Cooler, informing him of a new computer font she developed for the Summer Institute of Linguistics at Payap University in the early 1980s. The system works in conjunction with a word processing program developed by the SIL for the MS DOS operating system. NIU now has a copy of this program. For more information, contact Richard Cooler. Mac users are familiar with John Okell's Burmese fonts.

Kris Lehman and Julian Wheatley presented papers at the recent conference of the Southeast Asia Linguistics Society at the University of Hawaii. Lehman spoke on "Burmese to. and thei: Reconsidered as Second Order Aspectuals." Wheatley's topic was "A Functional Study of Sentence Nominalization in Burmese."

Juliane Schober was awarded a research grant from the Social Science Research Council for a project examining recent developments in contemporary Burmese religion.

Michael Aung Thwin is reviewing The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia. Volume I: From Early Times to c. 1800, edited by Nicholas Tarling in the Journal of Asian Studies. Michael Aung Thwin's review of William Koenig's The Burmese Polity, 1752-1819: Politics, Administration, and Social Organization in the Early Kon-baung Period (University of Michigan, Center for South and

Southeast Asian Studies, Michigan Papers on South and Southeast Asia, no. 34 Ann Arbor, 1990) appeared in the Journal of American Oriental Society, 112, no. 4 pp. 654-56. He also wrote a review for Anthropological Forum (to appear) of The Fashioning of Leviathan: The Beginnings of British Rule in Burma (reprinted from The Journal of Burma Research Society vol. 29, no. 1, April 1939, pp. 3-137), by John S. Furnivall and edited by Gehan Wijeyewardene.

He and Professor Saw Tun are translating, in the style of the old Epigraphia Birmanica, Narapati's inscription of s872/1510 commemorating the building of his palace. It is an extremely interesting inscription which describes the procedures involved in erecting the palace which are virtually identical to those followed by King Kyanzittha when he built his palace nearly 400 years before.

U Saw Tun has completed his first part (two volumes) of "The History of Burmese Literature" which deals with the subject during the Pagan period. He has submitted it to Rangoon for a competition in literature. Win or lose, he intends to have it published in Burma soon.

Sun Lai Chen, graduate student at NIU in Burmese history from the PRC brought with him from China copies of 155 Chinese sources referring to Burma and its environs. He is studying Burma-China relations in the precolonial period with Professors Aung-Thwin and Constance Wilson. He has just completed an annotated bibliography of these 155 sources from the Han to the Ching for the NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies. It will be given to the Donn V. Hart Southeast Asia Collection along with bound copies of the sources that were analyzed. Professor Aung-Thwin and Sun hope to apply for a NEH translating grant next year to translate some of the most important of these.

The NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies will very shortly publish John Okell's magnum opus, Beginning Burmese, in several volumes. The text is due to go into production soon. The purchase price will be announced in the Center's Mandala.

Report on the International Myanmar Conference at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany by Juliane Schober

Several members of the BSG presented papers at the international conference on **Tradition and Modernity in Myanmar**, held in May at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany and organized by Uta Gärtner, Annemarie Esche, and U Khin Maung Saw. More than fifty scholars of Burma and of Southeast Asia attended the conference. The following topics were presented by participants: Authority and Freedom of Action in the Burmese Buddhist Tradition (U Kyaw Tha Tun, Göttingen); Fundamentalism and the Struggle for Modernity in Contemporary Burmese Theravada Buddhist Society (Schober, Arizona State U.); The Ari Cult of Myanmar (Swapna Bhattacharya, Calcutta); Talent for Trance:

Dancing for the Spirits in Burma (Bekker, Arlington); A Study on the Burmese Versions of the Rama story and their Peculiarities (Toru Ohno, Osaka); Balance Between Tradition and Modernity in Myanmar History (Khin Maung Nyunt, Rangoon U.); Principles of the Traditional Burmese State (Aung Thwin, Northern Illinois U.); The Legacy of Pagan: The Case of the Dhammathat (Frasch, Heidelberg U.); Foundation of the Konbaung Dynasty and Compilation of Manugye Dhammathat - with special reference to the intention of inserting a mythological story in Volume I (Ryuji Okudaira, Tokyo U.); Burmese Praetorianism (Guyot, Baruch C.); The Ideology of Aung San and Aung San Suu Kyi (Heikkilä-Horn, Helsinki U.); Firma Fritz Werner - A Study on German-Burmese Relations after WW II (Zöllner); A Case History of Freedom in Burma (U Thaug Aung Bala, Florida); The Constitution of 1947 and the National Issue in Myanmar (Becka, Prague Ac.); Kaya Development of National Identity (Rastorfer); On the Evolution of the Muslim Problem in Rakhine State (U Khin Maung Saw, Humboldt U.); Ancient Arakan (Raymond, INALCO, Paris); Trash from Treasure: In the Case of Judson's Burmese Dictionary (U Tin Htway, Heidelberg U.); Some Problems of Hybridity in Burmese Language (Esche, Humboldt U.); Writing Burmese Language Courses (Okell, SOAS); Evolution of Contemporary Burmese Language (Bernot, INALCO, Paris); Russian Contributions to Research on Burma (Sarkisyanz, Heidelberg U.); Tradition and Innovation in Modern Burmese Lacquerware (Fraser-Lu, Potomac); and Old Festivals Newly Adorned: On the Revival of Precolonial Cultural Traditions (Gärtner, Humboldt U.).

Official participants from Burma were Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt and Prof. U Tin Ohn, both of the Historical Commission, Yangon. Others included Heinz Bechert (Heidelberg U.), Willem van Schendel (Erasmus U., Rotterdam), Anna Allot (Great Britain), Günter Siemers (Inst. of Asian Studies, Hamburg), Bernhard Dahm (Passau U.), and Rüdiger Kroff (Bielefeld U.).

A detailed summary will be published in a forthcoming issue of the European Newsletter for Southeast Asian Studies.

During the concluding session, charting out some future directions in the field, John Okell announced the formation of the **Myanmar Language Teachers' Association**, an international forum for teachers of Burmese worldwide, chaired by NIU's U Saw Tun. The organization was formed in response to a call by the National Council for Less Commonly Taught Languages. Its agenda centers on instructional and methodological needs in the field of Burmese language and literature.

Report on the International Hani Conference at Yunnan University, Kunming, China

by Jane Hanks

The first International Conference on the Culture of the Hani People was held in Yunnan, China, February 26-March 6, 1993, under the auspices of the Southwest China Border Area Minorities Nationalities Economic and Cultural Research Center of Yunnan

University in Kunming. About 120 scholars travelled for a week in Honghe Hani-Yi Autonomous Province, with stops in Gejiu, Yuanyang, and Jianshui, culminating in a visit to the large Hani village of Quanfu. The scholars comprised Han Chinese, Hani, Naxi and Yi; there were also 10 Japanese, 16 Thai, 5 Akha, 1 Lao, 8 USA, 1 each from France, Germany, Sweden, Holland, Poland.

In scheduled sessions, 43 papers were presented in such fields as history, anthropology, linguistics, economics, music and literature. These will be published by Yunnan University, with the addition of other contributions by Chinese scholars, all with translations into English or Chinese as appropriate.

The Hani are one of the large national minorities in China, with a population of well over a million. Outside of China, these Tibeto-Burman-speaking Hani are called Akha. Sizable numbers of Akha are found in Burma (especially Shan State), Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. It was suggested at the Conference that the whole group be designated as "Hani-Akha", thus reinforcing their historical linkage even though now across national boundaries.

Reflecting the success of the Conference, a decision was made to meet every three years, rotating the locus not only among the countries where there is a Hani-Akha presence, such as Burma, but also Japan and the United States. Consequently, the next Hani-Akha conference will be held in Chiangmai, Thailand, in 1996. It was also suggested that every other meeting or so be convened in China so as to retain contact with the Hani heartland.

An international organizing committee was set up. The U.S.A. representative is Dr. Deborah Tooker (LeMoyne College) (home address: 26 Hutchinson St., Cambridge, MA 02138, 617-576-4638).

Information on the 1996 Conference on Hani Culture to be held in Thailand can be obtained from the two chairmen:

1. Dr. Chob Kacha-Ananda (Tribal Research Institute, Chiangmai 50002, Thailand)
2. Leo Alting von Gesau (MPCDF, Nantharam 137/1-3, Chiangmai 50000, Thailand)

And also in China from Prof. Li Zi Xian, Yunnan University Library, Yunnan University, 52N Cuihu Road, Kunming, Yunnan 650091, China.

Burma Studies in Japan:

Professor Toru Ohno, Dean at Osaka University of Foreign Studies reports that their Burmese language teaching staff has been engaged, for the past three years, in a project to translate U Pe Maung Tin's A History of Burmese Literature. The project has been financially supported by the Toyota Foundation, Tokyo. The Japanese translation of U Pe Maung Tin's work was published by Imura Bunka Jigyosha in September 1992 and consists of 464 pages, including 53 pages of notes and 88 pages of commentary.

The purchase price of the volume is 5,768 Yen. Interested Burma scholars may contact the publisher: Imura Bunka Jigyosha, 2-16-3 Dogenzaka Shibuyaku Tokyo, 150, Japan.

E-Mail Directory of BSG Members, Continued:

For the time being, E-mail addresses for BSG members will continue to appear in the Bulletin. The list below includes new e-mail extensions, in addition to those that appeared in earlier issues. If you want your e-mail extension to be added, kindly send me a note via IFJSS@ASUACAD.BITNET.

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LEEDOM LEFFERTS	LLEFFERT@DREW
HASKIA HASSON	HASKIA@AOL.COM (this is via internet, America-on-line service)

Electronic Access to Library Catalogues at Cornell and Northern Illinois University:

If you wish to verify bibliographic titles on Burma in western languages at either of these libraries, you may do so electronically. You can access the NIU catalogue through the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on Internet garcon.cso.uiuc.edu or dial 815-753-9806 via your modem to gain access to the NIU library catalog directly.

To reach Cornell's library on-line catalog, link up to TELNET 128.253.1.19 and you should get a large screen display saying "Cornell." Press <enter> to get a log-on prompt. Press <enter> again to get a command screen. Then type LIBRARY and press <enter>. You will now be logged into Cornell's on-line catalog system. Follow the instructions listed there for using the catalog.

The editor thankfully acknowledges information contributed by Daw Mae Kyi Win, SEA Curator at NIU's Library and Richard Richie, Southeast Asia Bibliographer at ASU.

Burma News on the Electronic Network:

Several electronic networks routinely report on news concerning Southeast Asia, but none are dedicated exclusively to news or scholarship concerning Burma. If interest among the

scholarly community warrants it, the establishment of such a network dedicated to the academic study of Burma may be desirable because it would provide an efficient way for interacting with scholars around the world at no cost to most academic users. Similar networks, some monitored and others not, are already in place serving scholars of Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. As your editor, I would be interested in initial responses from BSG members who might be willing to serve as list owner/monitor for such an experimental list.

The **SEASIA-L** and **SEANET-L** (though less active in recent months) are networks covering news and scholarly discussion about all of Southeast Asia. They also include sporadically news about Burma from different media sources in Burma and foreign newspapers or wire services. If your institutions offers you a link to electronic mail, you may use it to subscribe (at no cost to the user) to the SEASIA-L BITNET Listserv at SEASIA-L@MSU. The **SEANET** subscription address is **SEANET-NUSVM**.

Those interested in the academic study of Buddhism may want to check out **Buddha-L@CULKYVM**. Please note, however, that queries about the personal practice of Buddhism are not addressed on this list and should be directed instead to another list, **Buddhist-L**.

Contributions to the BSG Bulletin:

A special note of appreciation goes to Leedom Lefferts, Daw Mae Kyi Win, Jane Hanks, Michael Aung Thwin, Kris Lehman, Rich Richie, and Toru Ohno for their contributions to the fiftieth issue of the Bulletin. The publication of the BSG Bulletin is a voice for its readership. All members of the Burma Studies Group are invited to send their contributions to the editor. Of interest is information about 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 the BSG Bulletin editor, Juliane Schober, Department of Religious Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-0402 or via e-mail to IFJSS@ASUACAD.Bitnet.

Subscriptions to the Burma Studies Bulletin:

Subscriptions to the BSG Bulletin or inquiries concerning your subscription should be directed to The Center for Burma Studies, c/o BSG Subscriptions, Adams Hall 410, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL 60115.

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For well over a decade now, art historians and museum curators have been debating and producing various systems for the computerized storage and retrieval of visual images. Their best efforts have been confounded by advances in technology so rapid that the most advanced systems have fallen into almost "instant" obsolescence. Challenged by the need to include in any program access to current and even unformulated analytical categories as well as by the need to add to and update old information, many programmers have abandoned the quest. A new system, ARThive, is now available and is sufficiently flexible and adaptable to retain its utility for some time to come - precise capabilities are described below. Of particular interest to Burma scholars is that this system has been worked out using images (photographic, video, drawn, etc.) of Burmese art, much of which has not been published and is unavailable elsewhere. Both the database and the database with information concerning Burmese Art, are available from HUSK.

Current Capabilities

- * Links a digital image or video of an object with numerous fields relevant to the object such as dimensions, date, media, provenance, etc.
- * Links different views (or different digital images) of the object with all of its relevant information.
- * Links a chronological table to the object based on the date of the object.
- * Links digitized maps of the object based on the provenance of the object.
- * Displays the images in many formats including grouped (eg.3,12, or 18 images on the screen), front and reverse, and full-screen. Display formats can be readily customized.
- * Displays and prints the images and information in many formats that can be readily customized.
- * The size, quality and resolution of the image is determined by the user.
- * Numerous data entry shortcuts including 'clairvoyance' which automatically finishes the typing of a word for you (the word must already exist in the database) are available.
- * Import/export data to/from another computer or application. In particular, printed material can be scanned using OCR techniques to rapidly incorporate large amounts of information.
- * Sophisticated search techniques allow the user to organize the database by any criteria (i.e. field). The user can search for any text within a field or for any text that "sounds like" a text within a given field.
- * Blazing speed compared to other databases on the market.
- * Compact storage. Requires much less disk space than competing products.
- * Compatible with standard graphic or graphic compression file formats.

Requirements

- * Any Apple Macintosh computer running under System 6 or 7.
- * A color monitor is recommended for image display, but will work fine on black and white or gray scale monitors. (I use the database on my Powerbook computer - I don't like to leave home without it!)

- * Any one of many methods may be used to create the digital images of the object. These include scanners, video capture boards or CD (i.e. use Kodak's Photo CD processing to create a CD from your photo negatives or slides).
- * Apple Quicktime software is required for video or file compression.

Other Features

- * On-line help
- * Technical support
- * Runtime version of Panorama database engine included

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