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LADAKH STUDIES No. 1

1 August 1988

FOURTH COLLOQUIUM ON LADAKH, 29 March - 3 April 1989

Three previous colloquia have been held at Konstanz (W.Germany), Pau (France) and Dresden (E.Germany). The fourth will be held mainly at Bristol (England), sponsored jointly by the Geography and Psychology Departments of the University of Bristol, preceded by a preliminary visit to London sponsored by the School for Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London.

The intention is to provide a forum for short papers describing recent research on Ladakh and subsequently to publish these proceedings, to encourage contact and discussion between all those interested in Ladakh studies, and to introduce participants to some British libraries and museums which hold relevant research material. The programme will be:-

- Wed.29 March Assemble in London. Evening reception at SOAS and display of current research. Accommodation at Connaught Hall, 41 Tavistock Square, London WC1
- Thurs.30 March Visit India Office Library and Records, British Library, Victoria & Albert Museum, Tibet Foundation etc. Coach to Bristol in evening; accommodation at Burwalls Conference Centre.
- Fri.31 March - Sun. 2 April Colloquium at Burwalls. Half-day visit to Bath (Roman Baths, Abbey & Georgian city) and Wells (Cathedral) on Sat. Visit Bristol City Museum.
- Mon.3 April Disperse. Coach to London. Some discussions may extend to Monday morning.

If you are already a member of the IALS this _____ space will be ticked. If not, but you wish to join, please complete Form A and send your subscription.

If you have already responded to the preliminary invitation to the colloquium, this space _____ will be ticked. If not, please complete Form B and return it as soon as possible.

BOOKING

If you intend to come, please return one copy of Form C with a deposit of £15 as soon as possible. To book accommodation please send an additional deposit of £8 per night; bookings received after 30 Sept. may not secure a room. If you cancel your booking before 15 December most of your deposit will be refunded; cancellation after 15 December may result in loss of your deposit. Please send cheques drawn in sterling on a U.K. bank or international money orders in sterling. Overseas participants who cannot do this should add £5 to their payment to cover

bank charges on each draft. If you anticipate any problems in paying your deposits (e.g. due to currency regulations) please inform us as soon as possible. The balance of your account will be payable on arrival at the colloquium.

Cheques, drafts or money orders should be made payable to:

International Association for Ladakh Studies
and sent to: Dr. Henry Osmaston, Department of Geography,
University of Bristol, BS8 1SS, U.K.

Further details about the meeting will be sent later.

PAPERS

If you wish to give a paper, please send an abstract of about 100 words as soon as possible, and in any case by 15 December, so that the programme can be selected and arranged. Please ensure that your paper can be presented in 20 minutes, leaving 10 minutes for discussion. A 35mm slide projector and an overhead projector will be available. It is hoped that papers will reflect the wide range of interests of our members, ranging from ecology, sociology, medical and development studies to history, musicology, the Moravian Church and Buddhism. However the committee may not be able to accept all papers offered, and may decide to concentrate on specific themes.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

The IALS wishes to keep records of your title, name, address, tel.no., post, research interests and subscriptions on a word processor. These will be for administrative use, sending mail, publishing membership lists, providing research contacts and publishing information on current research in the newsletter and elsewhere. The Data Protection Act requires us to ask whether you object to this. If you do, please inform us, otherwise we shall assume that you don't. At any time you may ask for a copy of the information we hold about you.

NEWS OF LADAKH

H.H. the Dalai Lama, following his successful visit to Britain in April, is currently visiting Zangskar for the second time and offering initiation in the Kalacakra-tantra. His first visit in 1980 (which I was fortunate to attend), attracted many thousands of people from even the remotest villages such as Shade. That visit was plagued by dust-storms which forced the cancellation of his afternoon discourses. This one may suffer from delayed opening of the high passes, blocked by the exceptionally heavy snows which fell throughout the Himalaya last winter. Panchok Dawa, rGyalpo of Padum, in a recent letter to me, said that 45 people had been killed and many houses destroyed by avalanches.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Rohit Vohra is documenting rock-carvings and inscriptions in Ladakh, and already has over 1700 photos, to be archived in New Delhi and Luxembourg. These have an advantage over manual copies of showing the antiquity of the script, thus aiding dating. In 1986 many inscriptions were recorded in the Indus Valley, Pangong and Nubra, some previously recorded by Francke, others not. Many sites however are endangered or have already been destroyed by road-widening. He found over 30 Sogdian and Tokhanian inscriptions dating from 7-8th century A.D. and two Tibetan inscriptions in an archaic version, inscribed within the body of an ancient stupa drawing. Help would be welcomed in locating, photographing and documenting all such evidence of the culture and history of Ladakh. It is hoped to complete the documentation in 1990, but the trans-literation and translation of the inscriptions will continue with the help of Prof. Dieter Schuh and others.

Address: 31 Rue de la Foret, L-8317 CAPELLEN, Luxembourg.

A HISTORY OF BUDDHISM IN LADAKH by Nawang Tsering Shakspo, ed. John Bray, has been published by the Ladakh Buddhist Vihara. Bela Road, Delhi 110056 (Rs.50; 51 pp.)

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LADAKH by John Bray with Nawang Tsering Shakspo is to be published soon by Aris & Phillips, Teddington House, Warminster, BA12 8PQ, U.K. It will list all relevant published books, articles, sound discs, tapes and academic theses which have appeared before mid-1987 in India, Europe, N.America and some in Japan. Each entry is annotated to indicate the contents and there is a subject index.

CENTRAL ASIA FILE, the newsletter of the Central Asian Studies Assoc., is published 3 times a year and sent free to members. Membership costs £8 or US\$15 (registered full-time students - 50% reduction).

Address: Dr.S.Akiner, SOAS, University of London, Malet St., London, WC1E 7HP, U.K.

THE TIBET FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER (£5 per year) contains some items referring to Ladakh. The Foundation also runs courses in Tibetan language, culture, Buddhism etc.

Address: Tibet Cultural Centre, 43 New Oxford St., London

Henry Osmaston, Hon. Sec.

