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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

for

LADAKH STUDIES

**LADAKH STUDIES**

**№.3**

Editor: Henry Osmaston

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## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION for LADAKH STUDIES

LADAKH STUDIES No.3, June 1990

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- Members at the Fourth Colloquium at Bristol, 1989, in the garden of Burwalls Conference Centre. *K-A. Lofquist*
- Some members at the Fourth Colloquium at Bristol, 1989, in front of Wells Cathedral. *K-A. Lofquist*
- Indian members at the Fourth Colloquium at Bristol, 1989 in the garden of Burwalls Conference Centre. *K-A. Lofquist*  
L to R, back:- Nawang Tsering Shaksपो, Lobsang Tsering, Sonam Wangchuk, Tashi Chombel, Dr. Rohit Vohra.  
L to R front:- Jamyang Gyaltzen, Dr. Kulbushan Warikoo, Dr. Harjit Singh, Dr. Nawang Tsering, Abdul Ghani Sheik.
- L to R:- Francesca Merritt, Abby Ripley and Amelie Schenk at the Fourth Colloquium. *(Abby Ripley)*
- L to R:- Henry Osmaston, Neil Howard, David Mallon & John Bray at the Fourth Colloquium. *Abby Ripley*

**BACK COVER.** Eagle copied from Thikse Monastery. *Joanna Bristow*

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the I.A.L.S. is open to all who are interested in Ladakh studies. The initial subscription is £2 or US\$3 or R50 to cover stationery and postage. We shall ask for further subscriptions when necessary. If you wish to join please complete two copies of form A in this newsletter and send one to the Hon. Sec. and one to the Chairman of the 5th Colloquium. If you

# ཕྱི་རྒྱལ་གྱི་ཕུ་ལོ་ལ་དུགས་སྤོབ་སྤོང་ཚོགས་པ།

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Only in the last decade has Ladakh (northwest India, once known as Little Tibet) been readily accessible for study, but in that short time it has been the focus of much attention by students in many disciplines. These have been attracted by the interest of its physical situation at high altitude in the rain-shadow of the geologically active Himalaya; by the natural ecology of this rugged desert and the skilful adaptations of pastoralism and agriculture; by the sociology, history and cultural tradition, especially as a surviving example of Tibetan Buddhism; and by the problems presented by modern development and conservation. Informal study groups organised international colloquia on Ladakh in 1981 at Konstanz (Federal Republic of Germany), in 1985 at Pau (France) and in 1987 at Herrnhut near Dresden (German Democratic Republic). The proceedings of the first two were published\* and publication of the last is imminent. The 4th Colloquium was at Bristol in 1989, and the 5th will be in Ladakh in 1991.

At Herrnhut the International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) was formed with an international committee of distinguished scholars. The functions of the IALS are to provide contacts between all who are interested in the study of Ladakh, and to disseminate information about proposed and completed research and publications. To do this the IALS organises colloquia, arranges publication of the proceedings, and publishes an occasional newsletter, "Ladakh Studies". This includes information about conferences, planned and current studies, requests for specific information and help, short reports, publications and general information about Ladakh. The close integration of resources, culture and religion in Ladakh demands a holistic approach, and members of the IALS are concerned with a wide variety of topics. Membership is open to all who are interested in Ladakh; for further information apply to the Hon.Sec.

\*D.KANTOWSKI & R.SANDER (eds).1983 Recent Research on Ladakh: history, culture, sociology, ecology. Weltforum Verlag,Munich.

\*C.DENDALETCHÉ (ed) 1985 Ladakh, Himalaya Occidentale: ethnologie, ecologie. Recent Research No.2. Acta Biologica Montana 5, Pau.

N.B. Both are out of print but the second is being reprinted.

Editor: Henry Osmaston June 1990

## FIFTH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON LADAKH

The Fifth Colloquium on Ladakh will be held at Leh in Ladakh in September 1991, probably 16-20th. There has been some delay in fixing the precise dates because of the civil disturbances, which took place in Ladakh during August-November 1989. Though the winter has been quiet, further unrest has been reported in early June (see report below). Nevertheless a Colloquium Committee has been formed in Leh, under the chairmanship of Dr. Nawang Tsering of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, with representatives in Delhi, Dr. Warikoo

and Dr. Harjit Singh of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Further details are given later in this newsletter. All members who hope to come should now complete two copies of provisional registration Form B and please send one copy to Dr. Nawang Tsering and one to Dr. Osmaston, keeping the third copy (on p.16) for their own records. Please do not delay; it does not commit you to coming but will greatly help the organising committee.

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN LADAKH

Most members will know of the growing political unease of many Ladakhi Buddhists in recent years and their dissatisfaction with inefficient and corrupt rule by the state government of Kashmir. Though relations with the numerous Shia Muslims of the Kargil area and with the small but long-settled Muslim minorities in Leh and neighbouring villages have traditionally been harmonious, tensions have arisen from the influx of traders and officials from the Vale of Kashmir. These culminated in demands for "Union Status" - direct rule from Delhi - supported by civil disturbances and riots in August and September 1989 in which about five people were killed: these were minor events on the general scale of riots elsewhere in India where fifty or more people have been shot on a single day, as in the more recent disturbances in Srinagar, but a sad innovation in traditionally peaceful Ladakh. Regrettably too, relations between local Buddhists and Muslims deteriorated, and in the country villages Muslim families were threatened and their houses burnt. The administration met this unrest with curfews, the armed police and the army. Visitors like myself were inconvenienced but little more. Eventually the road to Srinagar was closed

by barricades and stone-throwing in the villages, and the military road from Manali had to carry a heavy burden of traffic, despite its high passes and bad condition.

A general strike and a boycott of government services were eventually called, and these prompted the Indian Government to offer "Scheduled Tribe Status" and "Hill Council Status", the former providing reserved places in education etc., the latter a limited measure of autonomy. With this prospect, unrest was temporarily suspended but since then Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress(I) party fell from power in the elections. V.P. Singh's government is reluctant to fulfil the promise of Hill Council Status and has met problems in defining the qualifications of the numerous ethnic groups in Ladakh for Scheduled Tribe Status. The situation has been further complicated by the riots in Srinagar against the oppressive state government which then fell, followed by more riots in favour of secession from India. Delhi has imposed an administrator but unrest continues, with the risk of provoking a military confrontation between India and Pakistan. A fuller account of the situation appeared in the Geographical Magazine for June 1990 (see bibliography).

## FUTURE PROSPECTS

It seems unlikely that peace will return to Srinagar during the summer of 1990, so intending visitors to Ladakh should be prepared to enter by other routes: by air; by the Manali road using the daily bus or a hired jeep, for which foreigners officially need a permit from the DC or an authorised travel company and which takes a minimum of 30 hours; or by foot over one of the high passes. Visitors during the winter found Ladakh itself peaceful, despite a Buddhist

boycott of Muslim social and commercial contacts. However further disturbances, arrests and curfews have been reported in June, and political protests are likely to continue until Delhi grants Union or Hill Council Status. The situation in 1991 is impossible to predict, but the Fifth Colloquium is being planned in the hope of calm conditions. Even during the unrest of August 1989, it was possible to hold a very successful agricultural conference in Leh.

## FOURTH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON LADAKH

The International Association for Ladakh Studies held its Fourth Colloquium at Bristol University on 31 March - 3 April, attended by over 60 participants, of whom eleven were Indians, including seven from Ladakh itself. In order to give participants an introduction to the main centres and resources for Ladakhi and Tibetan studies in Britain, a preliminary day was spent in London based on SOAS, where Dr.Philip Denwood described the work of the School and recounted the results of his own research into the strange tale of Henry Moorcroft's apparent reincarnation in Lhasa. Next day we were welcomed on special visits to the Victoria & Albert Museum where we were shown their collections of metalware and *thanka* not normally on view, and to the British Library where we saw special displays of relevant books and manuscripts, maps and drawings, both in the Oriental Collections and at the India Office Library & Records.

At Bristol about 25 papers and audio-visual presentations were given and discussed, starting with the more factual topics of history, archaeology and artefacts, and moving on through social studies and health to the more philosophical or debatable fields of development and religion. Prof. Robert Roaf (Liverpool) gave us a fascinating glimpse of what Ladakh was like half a century ago when he travelled to Leh, then still functioning in its traditional role as a major *entrepot* for international trade, and preparing what was to be nearly the last of the triennial Lopchak missions to Lhasa, bearing trade and tribute. The economic

background to these activities was then illustrated with detailed trade statistics by Dr.Warikoo (Delhi), who emphasised the close links between Ladakh and Baltistan; Mr.John Bray (London) complemented this with an entertaining account of the Indian Government's ambivalent attitude to the relations between Leh and Lhasa. Mr. and Mrs. Howard (UK) described their surveys and dating of Zangskar forts, mostly now in ruinous condition, and of Ladakhi chortens of which there are many fine examples. Mr.John Clarke (V & A) complemented our visit to the V & A by a detailed account of traditional copper- and silver-smithing, and Mr.Tim Malyon (UK) described the Sumda Gogpo (Maitreya), a wooden statue thought to be over 1000 years old, still deeply revered and feared but in urgent need of protection.

The interlinked subjects of health, nutrition and agricultural production were next discussed. Prof.Roaf and Dr.Keith Ball (London) described some of the types of chronic illness, especially those associated with the local environmental conditions of smoke and dust such as silicosis and tuberculosis; Dr.Nigel Padfield (UK) recounted the results of nutritional surveys sponsored by the Save the Children Fund in eight villages, which indicated that deficiencies existed among certain groups, such as some women and especially young children at the time of weaning. Mr.Tim Malyon showed a video that he had produced in Ladakh to assist in the training of S.C.F. field-workers involved in projects to improve child health and nutrition.

There was considerable discussion as to the validity of different criteria for the assessment of nutritional status, illustrated by the way in which FAO standard dietary requirements have been progressively reduced over the last few decades. Another aspect of uncertainty was represented by two contributions on agriculture: one by Dr.Harjit Singh (Delhi) emphasising the environmental constraints on production, the other by Dr.Henry Osmaston (Bristol) showing that on the limited areas of good irrigated land the productivity of staple crops much exceeded official estimates, and compared favourably with western world agriculture.

We were especially glad to have Dr.Gudrun Meier from Dresden, who had organised the 3rd colloquium there in 1987; her contribution on social structures in Hunza villages related these to the influences of political relationships, especially with China and with local chiefships such as Gilgit. Mr.Abdul Ghani Sheik recounted the history of the Muslim community in Ladakh, starting with the arrival of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani in 1384 AD and describing how, even within the same family, some brothers might have been Muslim and others Buddhist, sharing a common pot of stew, but with individual morsels distinguished by different coloured strings to show meat conforming to the requirements of different faiths. Mr.Nawang Tsering Shakspo described similar co-existence of Shia Muslims and Buddhists in the village of Kushko, where all the villagers used to join in common dances and offerings to the village deity. Ms. Helena Norberg-Hodge (Bristol) brought us firmly face to face with the social and economic problems which are now posed by various aspects of 'Development' in Ladakh, and Mr.Sonam Wangchuk emphasised the particular difficulties facing the younger generation, torn between respect for tradition and the attractions of western style life. Naturally this provoked considerable discussion, but in view of the constraints of environment and communications it was agreed that development must be cautious and 'appropriate', such as the technology promoted by the Ladakh Ecological Development Group.

This led naturally into the last session on religion, ritual and myth, launched by Dr.Nawang Tsering's discussion of the fate of traditional Buddhist education in present-day Ladakh, and the measures which are in hand to maintain it, spearheaded by the School of Buddhist Philosophy and the Cultural Academy, and using such channels as All India Radio transmitting from Leh. Mr.Jamyang Gyaltzen described the practice of Buddhist tantra in Ladakh's gompas, showing that even quite young people take part, and Ms.Amelie Schenk (W.Germany) described and illustrated with a dramatic video the training and testing of Ladakhi oracles. Mrs.Abby Ripley (USA) discussed the importance of food as a ritual, since it plays a major part in so many occasions of social exchange or spiritual entreaty in Ladakh. Mr.Patrick Kaplanian (Paris) explained the classification of the traditional Ladakhi spirits into the categories of *lha*, *tsan* and *thu*, and finally Dr.John Crook (Bristol) analysed in terms of social psychology the interactions of both individuals and groups in modern Ladakh, emphasising the stresses arising from monetization, inflation and competition.

The colloquium was a great success and Burwalls Conference Centre with its gardens provided a most agreeable venue. Other activities included receptions at SOAS, and at Bristol City Museum, to mark the opening of a special exhibition of Ladakhi and Tibetan artefacts; photographic exhibitions by Mr.Lofquist (Sweden) and Mr.Malyon (UK); and botanical displays by Mr.Chadwell (UK) who undertakes seed-collecting expeditions in Ladakh. Our foreign visitors were introduced to some aspects of the British cultural heritage during visits to Bath & Wells, and during extended stays in London and Bristol as guests of local members. We and they are very grateful for generous support from the Spalding Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, the British Academy, the British Council, Dr.Keith Ball, Exodus Travel, Mr.John Randall, Himalayan Kingdoms, Bristol University, Wycliffe College and the Ladakh Project.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD & FOURTH INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIA

The proceedings of the Third Colloquium have been edited by Gudrun Meier and the corrected page proofs returned to the printer. However the political upheaval in East Germany this spring has temporarily delayed the printing.

It is intended to publish the proceedings of the Fourth Colloquium. Those contributors to the meeting who have not yet submitted their papers should please do so as soon as possible to the Hon. Secretary.

### OTHER CONFERENCES

A conference on **The Future Of Agriculture In Ladakh** was held in Leh on 22-23 August 1989, sponsored by the Ladakh Project and the Ladakh Ecological Development Group. Besides several speakers from outside Ladakh, staff from the local Agricultural and Animal Husbandry departments took part, together

with an interested and often participating audience of local farmers. There were particularly animated discussions about the official policy of encouraging and subsidising the use of synthetic fertilisers and of subsidising the import of staple foods; and about criteria of malnutrition. The main topics and speakers were:

1. Traditional Ladakhi agriculture:- Crowden, Osmaston
  2. Animal husbandry:- Mohamed Din (Dep. Dir. Animal Husb.), Osmaston
  3. Nutrition & Health:- Ball, Crowden, Osmaston
  4. Lessons from Industrial Agriculture:- Shirin Gadhia, Christiane Busch-Luty, Giovanna Malendri, Pandita (Chief Agric. Off.), Crowden, Osmaston
- Finally Joseph Fox gave an illustrated talk on the wild-life of Ladakh. It is intended to publish the proceedings this year.

Unknown to most members of the IALS, a conference on **Ladakh: Life and Culture** was held at the Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Srinagar, 11-13 Sept. 1985. The Proceedings have been published under the same title (see below).

### THE HIMALAYAN FORUM

A series of lectures and seminars is being arranged at the School of Oriental & African Studies, London, beginning in the autumn of 1990, on the accelerating process of change in the Himalaya, thus providing an overview of culture, politics, economics and environment there, together with an examination of specific instances of

dramatic change. Eventually it is planned to publish these. There are limited funds to cover the expenses of speakers from within Britain and possibly to help those from overseas. If you wish to contribute or attend please contact: Michael Hutt, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., London WC1H 0XG (tel: 071-323-6240 or 071-637-2388 x2440).

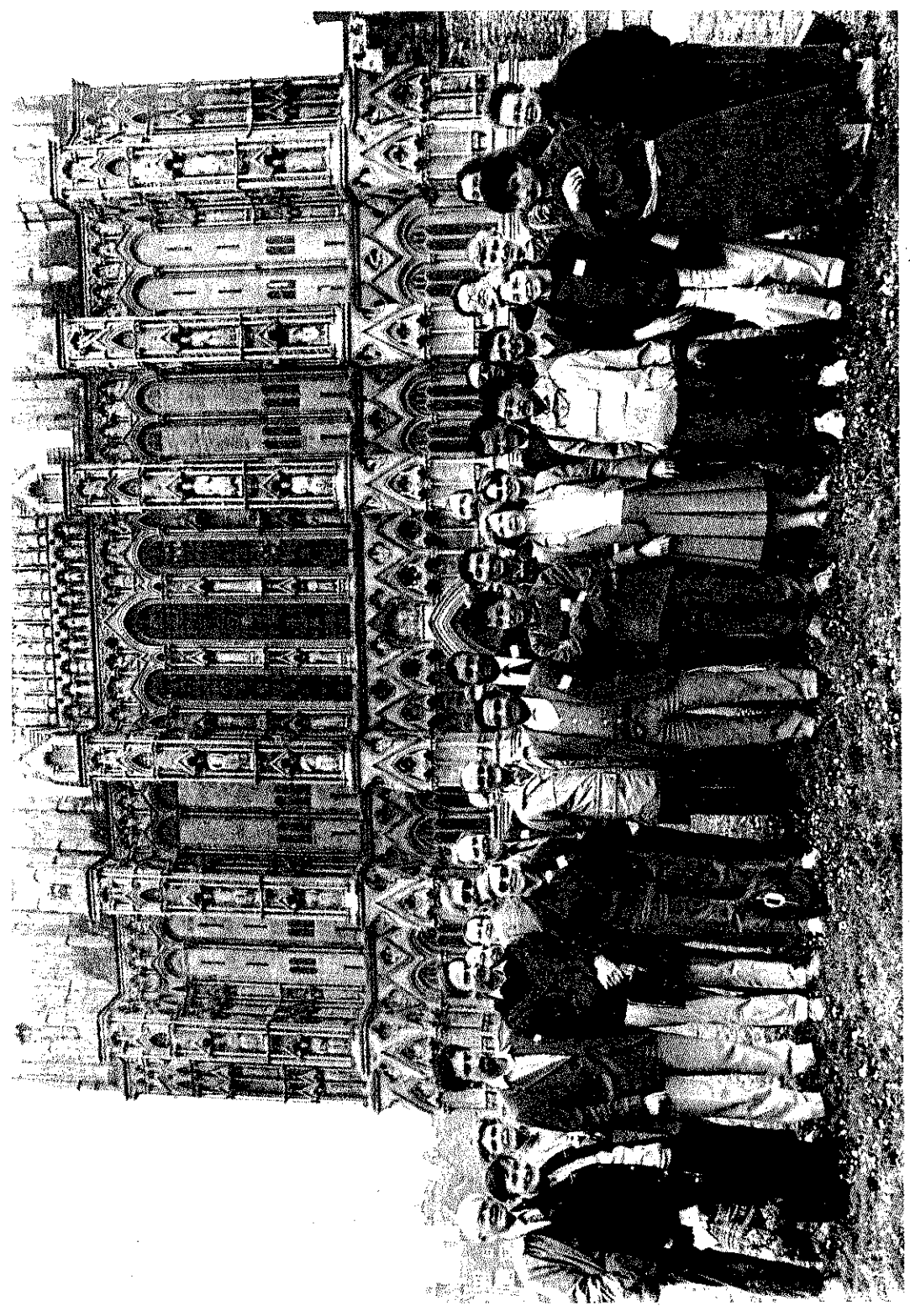
### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Recent books published by our members include Bray's *Bibliography of Ladakh*, Dollfus' *Lieu de neige et de genevriers*, Norberg-Hodge's *Ladakh: Den Tredge Vagen and Ladakh: Da Vesten Korn till Himalaya*, Vlaminc's *Aux marches du Tibet*, Vohra's *Religion of the Dards of Ladakh* and *The Buddhist Dards of Ladakh*, Warikoo's *Central Asia & Kashmir*. In addition three doctoral theses by Day, Dollfus and Phylactou have been successfully defended.

A very beautifully illustrated book on Zaskar has been published by Follmi. Further details of all these and other publications is given below, in the form of a supplement to John Bray's bibliography, which is an invaluable source of reference to all interested in Ladakh. Crook & Osmaston's book on Zaskar is still held up by publication problems, but we hope it may be out this year.







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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

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Date.....
Signed.....
To: Dr.Nawang Tsering, IALS Colloquium, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Choglamsar, Leh, Ladakh, J & K, INDIA.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

FIFTH COLLOQUIUM  
15-20 SEPTEMBER 1991  
FORM B: PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Name..... Title.....(Mrs/Dr etc)

Address.....

.....  
..... Tel.....

I hope to attend the colloquium; please send me further details.

I offer a paper on the subject of .....

.....  
and I enclose/will send a 100 word summary.

OR

I shall not be able to attend the colloquium but please inform me when the proceedings are published.

To: Dr. Nawang Tsering, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies,  
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Date..... Signed.....  
To: Dr Henry Osmaestran IALS Dept of Geography University of Bristol 1





# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

## FIFTH COLLOQUIUM SEPTEMBER 1991

The Fifth International Colloquium on Ladakh will be held at Leh in Ladakh in September 1991, probably 16-20th. There has been some delay in fixing the precise dates because of the civil disturbances seeking independence from Kashmir, which occurred in Ladakh in August - November 1989. The immediate outlook remains unclear, but in the hope of a satisfactory settlement by 1991 a Colloquium Committee has been formed in Leh, chaired by Dr. Nawang Tsering of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, with representatives in Delhi, Dr. Warikoo and Dr. Harjit Singh of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

### ACCOMMODATION

We think that most participants will prefer to make their own arrangements for meals and accommodation, but the Committee can supply a list of hotels and guest-houses, and can help with bookings where necessary. Bed & breakfast in a simple guest-house is R50-R75; in a hotel R100-R400.

### TRAVEL

Participants must make their own travel arrangements.\* If the Vale of Kashmir is peaceful by then, there are advantages in arriving by bus via Srinagar, with 3 or more days stay in Srinagar (1600m)(R50-200 B&B on houseboat), both for scenery and to allow acclimatization to altitude (Leh is 3500m).

#### Possible routes in India

Indian Airlines, Delhi-Leh: Often difficult to get seats, and often cancelled due to cloud. (Twice a week, R1000 single)

Indian Airlines, Delhi-Srinagar-Leh: Several flights daily to Srinagar, several a week to Leh, but see above about bookings and cloud. R900 + R400.

Super-bus Delhi-Srinagar: daily, 24hrs, scenic but partly in dark (R300)

Night train Delhi-Jammu 8hrs, second class sleeper, R100; super-bus Jammu-Srinagar 12hrs, R100.: daily, scenic.

Class A bus Srinagar-Leh: daily, 36hrs (incl. night stop at Kargil), very scenic, occasionally blocked by landslides (R200 plus cheap hotel)

Super-bus Delhi-Manali 10hrs; bus Manali-Leh 48hrs: this scenic but very rough route is now open but is only recommended for hardy travellers accustomed to altitudes of 4000m-5000m; sometimes blocked by landslides. Keep this for your return route. R200 plus Manali hotel.

N.B. You should allow at least 2-3 days in Delhi for all bookings (air, train or bus) which you intend to make yourself. Alternatively they can be made through a travel agent with a Delhi office or agent\*. Taxis or jeeps can be hired for all these routes at much higher costs (e.g. R8000 Manali-Leh). All costs are approximate: in 1989 R27=£1, R16=US\$1.

### ADMINISTRATION

The provisional dates planned for the Colloquium are 16-20 SEPTEMBER 1991. Escorted visits to museums, monasteries, research stations etc will be arranged both before and after the colloquium, so you should plan to spend at least two weeks at Leh.

If you hope to attend, please complete and post both of the provisional registration forms attached, one to Leh and one to Bristol as soon as possible. We will then write to you again later with information about the programme, asking for your registration fee of £25 or R500; the Committee may approve a reduced fee and possibly grants for travel within India for members who apply to the Committee in writing.

If you are not yet a member and wish to join, please complete two membership applications and send them to Bristol and Leh, with your subscription.

If you need a formal invitation to get permission or financial support to come, please ask Leh if you are in India, otherwise Bristol.

The Delhi representatives of the Colloquium Committee are Drs. Harjit Singh and Warikoo, both of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

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\*Himalayan Kingdoms, 20 The Mall, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4DR (Tel:0272-237163 Fax:0272-744933) have agreed to offer IALS members a discount on fares and to donate a further sum to the IALS. Please contact them direct.



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Bristol BS8 1SS, U.K. (Office tel:0272-303750 Home tel:027-587-2648)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LADAKH  
SUPPLEMENT NO.1**

This supplement lists additions to the following bibliography and also embraces a wider field of scientific topics. Information about additions to be included in future supplements will be welcome.

BRAY, JOHN, with NAWANG TSERING SHAKSPO 1989 *A Bibliography of Ladakh*. Aris & Phillips, Warminster, U.K. 153 pp. ISBN 0 85668 435 X.  
Detailed references and brief descriptive notes for a thousand published articles, reports and books on the history and culture of Ladakh.  
Excludes some studies of natural and earth sciences.

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