INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION for LADAKH STUDIES

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Back Cover: Eagle copied from Thikse Monastery. Joanna Bristow

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I.A.L.S. membership application forms.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the I.A.L.S. is open to all who are interested in Ladakh studies. The initial subscription is £5 or US$5 to cover stationery and postage. We shall ask for further subscriptions when necessary. Please send your subscription as a cheque on a UK bank or as cash. Other cheques cost more to cash than they are worth. If you are in India please send your subscription of RS5 to Dr. Nawang Tsering, Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Choglamsar, Leh, Ladakh, INDIA, with one copy of the application form, and send another copy to the Hon. Secretary:

Dr. Henry Osmaston, 3 Plum Green, Finsthwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria
LA12 8BJ UK Tel. & Fax: 05395-31070

The membership application forms enclosed in this newsletter do not imply that any further subscription is due from established members, though I should be grateful to receive information about changes of address, telephone number etc. Please pass the form on to any colleague who may be interested.
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

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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 Himalayas by the natural ecology of this rugged desert and the skillful 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 these have been published*. The 4th IALS Colloquium was at Bristol (UK) in 1989, and the 5th at SOAS in London in June 1992; it is planned to hold the 6th in Ladakh in August 1993.

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.

N.B. The first two are out of print and the third is nearly so. The 4th & 5th proceedings are in press.
LADAKH STUDIES No.6
JANUARY 1993
Editor: Henry Osmaston

SIXTH COLLOQUIUM ON LADAKH
LEH 1993

Everyone will be glad to learn that the political situation in Ladakh has so eased that the main and local committees of the IALS have agreed that we should go forward with plans for a meeting in Leh this year, on 16-20 August 1993. A main factor in this decision has been the cessation of the Buddhist three-year social boycott of the Muslims on 29th November 1992, so that we can be confident that everyone who wishes will be able to attend. Talks with the Delhi Government on the grant of Hill Council Status are proceeding and will be smoothed by the ending of the boycott.

A detailed programme has not yet been prepared, as it was thought more important to inform members as soon as possible of the decision to hold the meeting, but it is envisaged that there will be both formal presentations of papers and day trips to local places of interest. Information on travel and administrative arrangements is on a later page.

THE FIFTH COLLOQUIUM ON LADAKH
SOAS 1992

Prompted by Peter Marczell of Geneva, a successful colloquium was organised at SOAS by Philip Denwood and a London committee on 1-2 June 1992, to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Csoma de Körös the Hungarian scholar and linguist who, from studies mainly carried out in Zanskar, Ladakh, laid the foundations of the formal study of Tibetan. The following papers were presented to an audience of over 60:
Bethlenfalvy, G.: Moorcroft and Csoma de Körös.
*Bray, J.: Kashmir: Ladakh and Western Tibet: episodes in frontier diplomacy during British rule in India.
*Denwood, P.: The Tibetanisation of Ladakh - the linguistic evidence.
*Dollfus, P.: Ethnohistoire des musulmans du Ladakh central.
*Grist, N.: Moorcroft’s contribution to the anthropology of Ladakh.
*Gutschow, K.: Kinship, idioms and practice in Zanskar.
*Le Calloc’h, B.: Historical background of Csoma de Körös’s sojourn in Ladakh (Zanskar) between 1822 and 1826.
*Marczell, P.: Bodhisattva Csoma de Körös. myth or reality?
*Toth, E.: Sources used by Alexander Csoma de Körös for his Tibetan studies Giorgi, Alphabetum Tibetanum.
*Vohra, R.: Inscriptions of the late first millennium AD from Tangste in Ladakh.

*Text of paper already received for publication.
In addition there was an exhibition of colour photographs from the "Projekt Save Alchi" by J. Poncar. Videos were shown on the Buddhist Dards (Vohra), Alchi (Poncar) and Ladakh Bethlenfalvy).

**COLLOQUIUM PROCEEDINGS**

There has been a good demand for the proceedings of the Third Colloquium on Ladakh published by the Dresden Museum of Ethnology as *Wissenschaftsgeschichte und gegenwärtige Forschungen in Nordwest-Indien*, and only a few copies remain unsold.

It is hoped to publish the proceedings of the Fourth and Fifth Colloquia together with the help of financial sponsorship from SOAS.

**OTHER MEETINGS, RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS**

The Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation held its first national seminar at JNU on 9-11 December 1991 on *Society & Culture in the Himalaya* with four main themes:

1. Ecological and geopolitical perspectives of the Himalayas,
2. Himalayan society and culture in a historical perspective,
3. Himalayan frontiers in recent history,
4. Modernisation and change in the Himalayas.

Only two of the numerous papers were directly on Ladakh, by J.S. Lall on the Sino-Indian border in the western sector and by Harjit Singh on the problems of changing society and cultural dilemma faced by Ladakhis. The proceedings are in press; further details from the Hon. Sec., our member Dr. K. Warikoo, Central Asian studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067.

Dr. Warikoo and Dawa Norbu have edited *Ethnicity & Politics in Central Asia* just published by South Asian Publishers, 36 Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002 (R300). This deals particularly with former Soviet policy in its central Asian Republics and with Chinese policy in Tibet. Ladakh is not covered.

The European Bulletin of Himalayan Research No.3, 1992, deals mainly with Nepal and Tibet, but has the first part of a long review *Himalayan Archives in Paris* by Lucette Boulnois. This is a comprehensive guide to the numerous relevant libraries in Paris which hold specialist resources on the Himalayan region. Copies are obtainable from Sudasiens-Institut der Universität Heidelberg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 330, 6900 Heidelberg, Germany.

The United World College of S.E. Asia (one of several World Colleges, including South Wales, inspired by Kurt Hahn) has started a development project in Ladakh, working through the Ladson Social Welfare Society, and in 1992 delivered and started the operation of an ambulance at Leh. To help collect funds for this work they have published a 1993 calendar with twelve beautiful pictures of Ladakh and Ladakhis, obtainable from: Alastair Christie, United World College of S.E. Asia, Pasir Panjang P.O.Box 15, Singapore 9111 (Fax 65-778546). The same pictures will also be used for a 1994 calendar available after June 1993. Price of 1993 calendar by airmail £5; 1994 calendar by sea-mail £5. Send a UK cheque made out to A.G. Christie.

The Ladakh Project and the Ladakh Ecological Development Group held a meeting in Leh on 7-11 September 1992 entitled 'Rethinking Progress'. There were numerous speakers both Indian and from overseas and a large Ladakhi audience. The proceedings will be published by the Ladakh Project, 21 Victoria Square, Bristol UK.

SECMOL (Students' Educational & Cultural Movement of Ladakh) report that their school and hostel are running well and they now have 21 students in the latter.
STUDY VISAS

Further to the brief note in the last number of Ladakh Studies on difficulties encountered in obtaining Study/Student Visas for India, a little more information is now available. It seems that the fundamental problem lies with the Home Ministry in New Delhi, who insist on vetting all applications for such visas, and not with the High Commission in London who take as constructive an approach to applications as they can. The presence of the word 'research' or anything similar in any visa application causes instant suspicion on the part of Indian ministry officials and in consequence a slow processing of the application, with a high rate of rejection unless the correct approach is used. To propose research in a politically sensitive district like Ladakh increases the risk of rejection.

On the other hand it is widely understood in India that many foreigners carry out informal studies while travelling on a Tourist Visa, but this is ignored unless a specific instance comes to official notice in which case the authorities may feel obliged to prohibit it.

If a Study/Student Visa is essential (e.g. to qualify for a grant) the following procedure will increase the chance of success. First the applicant must obtain affiliation to a prestigious Indian academic institution – certainly one of more than local influence. Second the appropriate application forms, accompanied by proof of affiliation, should be sent to the High Commission in London. Third the applicant must be prepared to wait at least 4 months for approval by the Home Ministry in India.

It is impossible for any other visa to be issued while a Study/Student Visa is under consideration and rejection of such an application may make it very difficult to obtain any other kind of visa subsequently. Any Tourist Visa needed for a preliminary or preparatory visit, before the period or work for which the Study/Student Visa is needed, should be obtained first.

MEMBERS' TOURS etc.

John Crook hopes to lead a three-week cultural tour to Ladakh in early August, which will include visits to monasteries and palaces and a trek through Zanskar. It would be possible to add attendance at the colloquium as a supplement. Anyone interested in joining should write to him at Winterhead Hill Farm, Shiplham, Winscombe, Avon, U.K. (Tel: (-44)-934-842231).

COMMUNICATIONS WITH LADAKH

Airmail from abroad to Ladakh is still slow and unreliable, taking from 10 days to a month. However it is now possible (with luck) to telephone directly from overseas to Ladakh by direct dialling. The exchange at Kargil sometimes yields better results than that at Leh. The following numbers of committee members may be useful to members in connection with colloquium arrangements.

LEH:  Mr. Sonam Dawa, LEDeG office 91-1912-680 Home: -646
       Mr. Sonam Anuchuk, SECMOL office 91-1912-686 Home: -492
       Himalaya Hotel (and Dr. Din sometimes) 91-1912-236
KARGIL  Dr. Mohamed Din, Animal Husbandry Office 91-1985-236
HINTS AND TIPS FOR TRAVEL IN SPITI AND KANAWAR

Neil Howard

Spiti and Kanawar were opened to tourists in the early summer of 1992 and I spent 10 days in Spiti. The following notes may be helpful to members thinking of visiting Spiti in 1993.

Permission
In theory, clear rules had been laid down by the government of HP and any DC or SDM could issue the necessary permits but in practice there was much uncertainty and only the DC's offices in Keylong (Lahul) and Rampur (Kanawar), and the authorities in Simla, were issuing permits. Also the rules seemed to change from time to time. By 1993, no doubt, things will be working more smoothly. However Tourism Department offices - even in Manali - were not up-to-date and if there is still doubt in future the only solution is to visit the entry points, Keylong and Rampur, and make enquiries. The PA to the DC in Keylong, Mr Hiralal Thakur, is most helpful; he is an amateur historian himself and welcomes visitors with a serious interest in Kulu, Lahul and Spiti-Kanawar.

In the early summer of 1992, permission to enter was necessary for all visitors and Indians who are not residents of Spiti-Kanawar. Later it had been relaxed for tourists entering from Lahul, going only as far as Tabo and returning to Lahul.

The only permitted purpose of a visit is Tourism, and wandering freely about the district is discouraged. The authorities expect tourists to stick to the through road in Spiti-Kanawar and the trekking route along the Pin and Parvati rivers. They like visitors to be based in Kaja, the district centre, and to make local visits on a day-out basis, by road. No overnight stops or diversions from the road were permitted south of Tabo in 1992.

Permission could be refused: a party of senior school children on bicycles were refused in July. The authorities looked favourably on individual travellers who applied personally for their permission but were reluctant to grant group permissions in advance to parties proposed by travel agents (however, some travel agents had more successful contacts than others).

The authorities' worries over permission seemed to be three: that impostors might engage in activities injurious to India's security in this sensitive border area, that tourists might find the physical environment more hostile than they expected and get into difficulties and that visitors might find the few facilities available to them less civilised than they expected.

Places to visit
Kaja is the administrative and commercial centre of Spiti but is of no other interest. Kibar is the highest village on a road; agriculture at over 17,000 feet may be inspected. Dankar is the pre-1947 centre of administration and is a spectacular village on a rocky ridge, with an interesting monastery. There are no longer any defences. The Pin valley is also spectacular and leads down from the Pin-Parvati Pass, a difficult trekking route which opens in the later summer.

Monasteries and temples: Tabo, founded in the early 11th. century AD, now Gelugpa, contains magnificent mural paintings and stucco statuary. It has been restored and conserved by the Archaeological Service. The government buildings and the growth of Tabo village have crowded the temple enclosure in an unlovely manner and destroyed a number of outlying stupas. There is an unattractive modern temple nearby. Lalung has two temples of the same period whose murals and stucco statuary have unfortunately been repainted but which are still impressive. Unusually for temples of this period there are no remains of a monastery and the temples are on a hill-side instead of on flat land. Dankar has a group of Gelugpa temples, quite old and picturesque, perched on the end of the village ridge. Tangyut monastery, three hours very steep walk from Kaja, is Sakyapa. Kye monastery, Gelugpa, is usually combined with a visit to Kibar. Guling in the Pin valley is Nyingmapa
and has a summer festival, August 7th and 8th in 1992, with cham dancing and folk dancing. The dancing monks were trained in Kalimpong and the clown was outstanding. There were few tourists and the atmosphere was entirely natural.

Petroglyphs were found (and photographed by me) in two large areas, apparently old camp sites. These are: by the government godown at Pho, near Dankar, and by the row of 216 stupas east of Tabo monastery. The absence of Buddhist symbols and writing amongst the designs and the deep repatination of the rock suggests that they may pre-date the foundation of Tabo and the other old monasteries of Spiti. These important relics are gradually being destroyed by government development.

Transport
There are daily buses between Manali and Keylong, Manali and Kaja and Rampur and Kaja. Local buses run on most days from Kaja to local centres of interest. There are jeep-taxis based in Kaja; prices range from c. R 2,500 Kaja-Manali (single) to R 600 Kaja-Pin Valley or Kaja-Tabo (return). All roads are dirt-surfaced and rough; there may be breakdowns and obstructions in the road.

Accommodation
In Kaja there were in 1992 a couple of basic hotels and a number of grubby dabhas. In Tabo there is an HP Tourism Department Tourist Rest House with dormitory accommodation and optional food - good, cheap and clean. At Dankar a rest house appeared to be in process of being built at the monastery. There are Government Rest Houses in a number of places where one may stay on application to the caretaker if there are vacancies after official visitors have been catered for but their hospitality must not be abused (as it was being abused in Kaja when I was there, by a self-important English woman who refused to give up her room to a pre-booked government officer after the one night she was allowed. After a few more such experiences it will not be surprising if the rest houses are closed to foreign tourists). Camping can be difficult. There were no recognised tourist camping places at the settlements and few sources of water.

Treking
Spiti has a much harsher environment than either Zanskar or Ladakh. The land surface is a desert of sand and stone, with almost no trees or grass, except where it is cultivated. Streams are usually in deep and precipitous valleys below the surrounding land. Settlements are far from each other and usually separated by broad river beds, by very steep hillsides of several thousand feet or by mountains. The treking map gives no real idea of the terrain, for example Demul to Lalung is roughly 5 miles (8 km) on the map but to walk from one to the other involves a descent into and a climb out of the Lingti river gorge, 2,500 feet on either side. Zanskar, by comparison with Spiti, is flat, lush and densely populated.

Food supplies for trekkers
In Kaja one can buy most things on most days in the general stores and the market, but in the villages the only shops are (usually) the Government's Fair Price shops which may not be prepared to sell to tourists. Villagers are still unused to the idea of selling to tourists; being relatively prosperous, because the road gives them access to markets in the plains, they may have little inclination to do so. Their innocent hospitality should not be imposed upon.

Useful contacts
In Kaja Narain Sing Rawat keeps the best stocked general store and is infinitely resourceful and always charmingly helpful in providing anything which the traveller might want. The DC in Kaja, Mr Shushil Negi, is helpful and keen to welcome visitors and to develop tourism, but, of course, he should be approached only when it is absolutely necessary. In Tabo there is a young graduate of Chandigarh University called Boddh who has a knowledge of local history and culture and wishes to guide tourists. Mr Sharma, the warden of the Tourist Rest House in Tabo is an excellent host.
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LADAKH

Supplement No. 3.

This supplement lists additions to Bray’s Bibliography of Ladakh in addition to Supplements Nos. 1 and 2 in Ladakh Studies 3 and 5 respectively. Please send references to be included in future supplements to Henry Osmaston or John Bray (8 Glendall St, Brixton, London SW9 8AJ, U.K.).


Ribbach, S.H. 1936. "Botschafertdienst in Tibet". In Das Kreuz im Landes des Sudens,


Van Beek, Martijn. 1990. "Unrest in Ladakh. Did the 'Foreign Hand' Strike Again?" *Himal* 3, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 1990), pp. 31-32. Lalitpur (Nepal). Contest the theory that Western intellectual colonialism was responsible for recent unrest in Ladakh (see Wahid 1990).

Voice of the Himalaya 3. Leh, 1990. Articles on the socio-economic profile of Ladakhi Buddhists; Buddhism and Science; the year of Buddha's Mahapararainvana; historical perspectives of Nubra.

———. 4. Leh, 1991. Includes articles on 'The Middle Way'; Matho monastery; the changing life style and pattern of diseases in Ladakh; the development of Pashmina; musical studies; and Rupshu.


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES
SIXTH COLLOQUIUM ARRANGEMENTS
16-20 AUGUST 1993

The Sixth International Colloquium on Ladakh will be held at Leh in Ladakh on Monday 16th to Friday 20th August 1993. A Colloquium Committee has been formed in Leh, chaired by Dr. Nawang Tsering of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, with representatives in Delhi, Prof. Harjot Singh and Dr. Warikoo 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 Rs50-Rs100; in a hotel Rs100-Rs500.

TRAVEL
Participants must make their own travel arrangements. The easiest route is by air from Delhi or Chandigarh though this is often fully booked and is always liable to cancellation owing to cloud. The bus route from Delhi via Manali is very scenic but also very rough and liable to landslides. It goes over several high passes of 4000-5000m so a few days pleasant acclimatization in Manali is advisable. It is only recommended for hardy travellers.

Srinagar and the Vale of Kashmir are still unsafe for travel and there is little prospect of improvement this year, so entry to Ladakh by the previously popular road route via Srinagar and the Zoji La is inadvisable. Even travel by air via Srinagar is risky in case of delay there. However 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) on houseboat, both for scenery and to allow acclimatization to altitude (Leh is 3500m).

It is also possible to trek into or out of Ladakh by various routes over high passes in the main Himalaya, taking two or three weeks; for those with time and energy this is the ideal way (consult the Lonely Planet Guide; also see*).

Details
Indian Airlines, Delhi-Leh: Thrice a week, Tues., Thurs., Sat., $172 return but due for an increase. The only way this flight can be booked in advance for travel from abroad is (a) by booking the international flight on Air India, or (b) by getting someone in Delhi to book and pay for it in advance and to give you the ticket on arrival. This can be arranged by some overseas travel agents*.

Super-bus Delhi-Manali 12hrs, bus Manali-Leh 36-48hrs, but allow a safety margin for delays. Rs250 plus Manali hotel. It is also possible to fly from Delhi to Bhuntan (Kulu) and then take a taxi to Manali (c. 3hrs).

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. Rs12,000 Manali-Leh). All costs are approximate. In Jan 1993 Rs43 = £1, Rs28 = US$1.
ADMINISTRATION
The dates planned for the Colloquium are 16-20 AUGUST 1993. Escorted visits to
museums, monasteries, research stations etc will be arranged before, during 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 U.K. as soon as possible. Please note the Secretary’s
new address. Registrations will not be individually acknowledged but those who
register will be sent further details when available.

If you wish to present a paper or make some other presentation at the colloquium, please send
provisional details on your registration forms, followed by an abstract NOT
EXCEEDING 100 WORDS as soon as possible afterwards.

The registration fee for attending the colloquium will be Rs.100 for Indian nationals resident in
India and Rs.1000 for foreign members, payable on arrival in Leh before the
colloquium. It is not yet clear whether any local funds will be available for the
colloquium overheads, so we cannot say whether this fee will cover some of the
expenses of the excursions.

It is unlikely that funds will be available for assisting members with their travel or
accommodation expenses, but any who will be unable to attend without such assistance
should write to Dr. Nawang Tsering (if in India) or Dr. Henry Osmaston (if elsewhere)
explaining their circumstances, in case we may be able to help them.

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

If you need a formal invitation to get permission or financial support to come, please ask
Dr. Nawang Tsering in Leh if you are in India, otherwise the Hon. Secretary in U.K.

*Himalayan Kingdoms, 20 The Mall, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4DR (Tel:(-44)-272-237163 Fax:
(-44)-272-744933) have agreed to offer IALS members a discount on fares and to donate a
further sum to the IALS. They also plan a trek in the Markha Valley leaving UK on 22 June
and ending in Leh on 10 August which could be extended to include the colloquium. Another
trek Manali- Zanskar-Leh reaches Leh on 17 August, but this would miss two days of the
colloquium. Individual treks can also be arranged.