

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
March, 1986
#33

Annual Meeting:

Those present included J. P. Ferguson, W. Keeler, S. M. Bekker, F. Colley, D. I. Steinberg, J. Silverstein, L. Silverstein, J. Badgley, M. Nicholas, F. J. Shulman, R. A. Morse, N. Kammerer, N. Eberhardt, N. Tannenbaum, J. R. Hanks, L. M. Hanks, P. M. Young, L. Lefferts, L. T. Kho, T. B. Cooler, R. Cooler, C. B. Ferguson, L. Ashman, B. Thielkeld, F. K. Lehman, C. Compton, J. Wright, Jim Guyot, Ingrid Jordt.

Chairman Lehman suggested that Burma scholars should play a prominent part at the SEASSI conference at DeKalb this summer from July 31 through Aug. 3. Toe Hla and F. K. Lehman will be teaching the Burmese language there. Plans to establish the new Burma Studies Center at DeKalb should be well under way. The time is auspicious for a spirited show from our members. There was mass support for a Lucian Hank's suggestion that a pwe was in order, but Chairman-for-Life had no easy time coaxing the masses to volunteer to deliver papers or create a panel. Sarah Bekker will "say something" about the collection of art she plans to donate to the Burma Studies Foundation. A panel on recent and future developments in Burma will be formed by the chairman and secretary. Also this year we will inaugurate a series of in-depth new book reviews. Your editor, to get matters moving, will send a free review copy of Spiro's Kinship and Marriage in Burma, Aung Thwin's Pagan, or Hla Pe's Burma to the first member to volunteer to present a cogent review of any one of these books at DeKalb this summer. Please contact your chairman or editor as soon as possible if you are coming and can make a contribution to the pwe or the panels or presentations.

Ron Morse, secretary of the Asia Program at the Wilson Center, spoke of the forthcoming international conference on Burma to be held in the Washington area June 23-25, 1986. He explained that the Wilson Center is a presidential memorial that concentrates on research, provides fellowships, and puts on conferences on various international topics. The focus on Burma in this case does not signal permanent attention, for the Center's energies will move on to other countries and topics, but the Burma conference will bring together at least 35 scholars not to deliver the usual "paper" but to discuss, think together, and conceptualize about Burma Studies. Attempts are under way to bring scholars from Burma, Russia, Japan, England, and France. Helping Ron Morse plan the event have been various members of the Burma Studies Group.

Burma Studies Group members will receive a free copy of F. J. Shulman's Doctoral Dissertations on Burma, 1900-1985. Those members who have not been invited to the conference but will be in Washington on June 25th and would like to attend the reception, dinner, and final session, are asked to write to Dr. Ronald A. Morse, Secretary, Asia Program, The Wilson Center, Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Also to be prepared will be An Introduction to Resources on Burma, edited by W. P. Tuchrello and A. Hibler, and Burma Studies Options for the Future, ed. by R. A. Morse, the latter publication being a summary report on the conference.

Ron Morse reported that a recent talk by Ambassador Daniel A. O'Donohue at the Smithsonian was very well attended. The Ambassador stressed the improving climate of relationships between Burma and the United States.

Your secretary reported that the Burma Studies Group treasury contained \$558.12 and that there were 104 U.S. members, 10 U.S. organizations, 18 foreign organizations, and 11 individual members outside the U.S. The Burma Studies Group funds are kept in Account #36-0513213 at the Mechanics Exchange Bank, Cobleskill, N.Y. 12187.

Your secretary reviewed the evolving events in the creation of a Burma Studies Center. Three of the trustees of the proposed Burma Studies Foundation (J. P. Ferguson, F. K. Lehman, and D. I. Steinberg) visited Northern Illinois U. on Wednesday, March 19. Through the kindness of Richard Cooler, the trustees met at DeKalb the president of the university, the provost, the assistant provost, the director of the library and many of his staff, the director of the art gallery, and the director of the NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies. The enthusiasm for the proposed Center was evident always in discussions.

Being explored is the possible loan to N.I.U. by Sarah Bekker of the art collection as soon as the loan can be arranged, with title to the collection being given eventually to the Burma Studies Foundation when it has its IRS determination of status letter. The Foundation would then transfer the title, under certain conditions, to the Burma Studies Center when the latter is formally approved by the higher Illinois ruling bodies.

All present at the meeting were invited to attend the subsequent Burma Studies Foundation meeting and to come to the Ananda Restaurant the next day for the annual BSG feast.

NEWS

At the founding meeting of the Burma Studies Foundation elected chairman of the trustees was F. K. Lehman and elected secretary-treasurer was J. P. Ferguson. The address of the Foundation is 1316 Grandview Drive East, Champaign, IL 61820. The Foundation will now start the process of registering with Illinois and the Internal Revenue Service. At N.I.U. the founding document will be further evaluated and put before the Illinois ruling bodies of the university. The public will be notified when the Foundation received a ruling from IRS and can receive donations which are tax-deductible.

JOHN BADGLEY is in the process of writing a novel on Burma. ROBERT TAYLOR will have an article on the Burmese revolution in the forthcoming Meaning, Context, and Power in Southeast Asia (Cornell SEA Program). Involved with the Buddha Sasana Foundation is Ingrid Jordt, who has spent considerable time in Burma as a Buddhist nun. She hopes to be helpful to Burmese monks who may come to the United States in the future from the Mahasi Meditation Center. KRIS LEHMAN delivered a paper on the Burmese concept of a:na during the AAS panel in the grand tribute to JANE and LUCIEN HANKS. Also chairing and commenting at that panel was CHARLES KEYES. Studying Burmese at Cornell with Aye Chaw is CAROL COMPTON.

In a welcome communication from ANNA ALLOTT are the following notes about Russian studies of things Burmese: Prof. Vadim Kasevich at Leningrad

University is working on Burmese grammar, syntax, and phonology. Elena Zapadova is doing work on modern Burmese literature. Yu. Osipor is working on classical Burmese literature. Anna Muranova wrote an article in Soviet Oriental Studies (in English) on Soviet historiography. At the Moscow Oriental Institute is V. F. Vasilyev, who studies Burmese history. Also writing on Burmese history is Mozheiko (alias Vsevolodov), whose most recent work deals with the WW II period. Anna notes that Dr. Anne Marie Esche has published much on Burmese literature from East Germany. In Czechoslovakia Jan Becka writes on political developments and Dagmar Beckova deals with modern literature.

NEW MEMBERS:

John H. Badgley, 1229 Ronald, Missoula, MT 59801
Lawrence F. Ashman, Librarian, University Libraries, Northern Illinois U.,
DeKalb, IL 60115
Thecla B. Cooler, 314 So. Main St., Sycamore, IL 60178
Carol Compton, Slaterville Rd., Ithaca, NY 14853

SEND NEWS AND EXCESS MERIT TO YOUR SECRETARY WHENEVER YOU ARE SO INCLINED.

John P. Ferguson
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