

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
May, 1987
#38

ANNUAL MEETING:

At the third level of heavens of the Boston Sheraton, the merit sharers convened on April 10, 1987, for the annual meeting of the Burma Studies Group, led by Chairman Kris Lehman.

Those present also included Secretary John Ferguson, Richard Cooler, Jon Wiant, David Steinberg, Leedom Lefferts, Lucian and Jane Hanks, Rand Engel, Aye Kyaw, Elaine Koretsky, Bruce Matthews, Khin Maung Kyi, Josef Silverstein, Paul J. Bennett, Hugh MacDougall, John Musgrave, Larry Ashman, Joyce Wright, John Badgley, Barbara Hand, Betty Musgrave, Maung Maung Gyi, Mrs. Maung Maung Gyi, David H. Amdur, Michael Aung-Thwin, Ingrid Jordt, Jim Guyot, Eleanore MacDougall, Thecla Cooler, Wilhelm Solheim, Brian Threlkeld, Patricia Myint Hswe, Won Yoon, Vic Liberman, Will Tuchrello, Catherine Ferguson, Frances Colley, Sarah Bekker, Richard O'Connor.

News on the "Modest Proposal": Secretary Ferguson reported that a deva in the wings had offered to match donations for the video equipment at the Center for Burma Studies up to \$400. Exhortations to the faithful were made. By May 18, 1987, we had raised \$410, and the Foundation will give \$810 to the Center. Thanks to all who helped. Ed.

Papers for the Dedication and the SEASSI sessions at DeKalb were solicited. It is not too late to become inspired.

Josef Silverstein "volunteered" (he was asked) to head a AAS panel on Burma at next year's meeting. The subject will be the anniversary of Burmese Independence. Please contact Josef if you would like to contribute (Dr. Josef Silverstein, Dept. of Political Science, Rutgers U., New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Tel. 201-932-7563).

Richard Cooler will head the effort to discover what video tapes are available in private hands in this country. He will be in touch with the membership.

A Burmese font is available for Macintosh computers. Contact Ecological Linguistics, P.O. Box 15156, Washington, DC 20003. Khin Maung Gyi spoke of his interest in starting a Burma Research Annual out of Singapore to fill the void left by the loss of the Journal of the Burma Research Society. If interested, write him at Cornell U., Ithaca, NY 14853.

Larry Ashman will be at Cornell Libraries this fall. He reported on his trip to Burma, mentioning his acquiring a country-wide telephone book and three out of five volumes of the recent census.

Elaine Koretsky reported briefly on her interest in paper-making in Burma, noting that ancient ways can be documented still. We hope to hear more. Rand Engel spoke of the Dhamma Resource Foundation, Pelham, MA, and its acquisition of Burmese Buddhist texts which it was working to describe in such a way that the information could be shared. They operate a non-profit meditation center in Barry, Mass.

After the meeting, most of the group enjoyed a very fine meal at the Mandalay, 329 Huntington Ave., Boston (617-247-2111), owned by Wain and Hilda Chin, and ably managed by Fred Chin, their son. Another "Mandalay" is located in Cambridge.

CENTER FOR BURMA STUDIES:

Director Richard Cooler reported that with formal approval from the Illinois Higher Board of Education, the Center for Burma Studies began to operate in late February at 140 Carroll Avenue, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. New furniture has been generously provided by the University, as well as an independent budget, enabling the Director hire a full-time secretary and two part-time student helpers.

The Bekker Collection should be arriving within a few weeks at DeKalb. It will be installed in the Swen Parson Gallery for the opening of the Center on July 29, 1987.

The goal of the NIU Library is to double its holdings on Burma in the next year, and donations will be welcome. Thanks were expressed to John Badgley and Cornell University for the gift of 300 volumes in Burmese. John, in turn, thanked Myo Myint. Xerox copies of articles on Burma are also welcome. Please contact the Center.

Work is planned to survey the existence of Burmese art in private collections. Richard would like to publish a resource guide for collectors and scholars, with names and addresses kept in confidence. The publication would include advice on proper conservation practices for Burmese art.

At the dedication U Nu will be the keynote speaker. U Than Tun will also speak. Planned is a multi-media presentation on Burma. (Short of Thi-ja himself, what else can Cooler and DeKalb offer to get you to come to mid-America in late July? Ed.)

The Bagshawe translation of the "Iconography of Images of Certain Periods," by U Maung Maung Tin and U Min Maung, is being prepared for publication by the Center.

Jon Wiant donated to the Center a very special publication which is well-known to visitors to Jon's offices in the past: Visit of His Excellency Prime Minister of the Union of Burma to the United States of America, April 29 to July 14, 1955. This treasured commemorative volume was gratefully received by Director Cooler. Enjoy it at DeKalb in July.

THE BURMA STUDIES FOUNDATION

The annual meeting of the Burma Studies Foundation took place Friday, April 10, 1987, at the Boston Sheraton Hotel. Present were trustees F. K. Lehman, J. P. Ferguson, J. A. Wiant, J. Silverstein, J. Musgrave, Maung Maung Gyi, S. Bekker, D. Steinberg, and Michael Aung-Thwin. Absent was Maureen Aung-Thwin. Present ex-officio was R. Cooler.

A unanimous vote of appreciation was adopted to thank Peter G. Johannsen for all the legal work he has done gratuitously to establish the Foundation.

Secretary Ferguson noted that all the paper work was finally complete so that Form 1023 can be sent off to the Internal Revenue Service to obtain tax-exempt status for the Foundation. In the meantime, R. Cooler will investigate how the NIU Foundation may be able to serve as an intermediary until gifts to the Foundation are ruled tax-deductible. Funds donated to the Foundation for the television equipment at the Center were expected to reach \$800, Secretary Ferguson announced.

"There being no further business," all trustees adjourned to the Mandalay six blocks away.

NEWS:

SARAH BEKKER's last tour to Burma was for the Institute for Asian Studies in New York City (for whom she will be also going to Indonesia), not for the keepers of the "Spirit of St. Louis," as announced earlier by your fallible editor. Sarah notes that Mrs. Elisabeth W. Douglass, a recommended appraiser of SEA art, has moved to 6615 LaConcha Pass, Austin, TX 78749 (Tel. 512-288-0402). MURIEL and ROBERT WILLIAMSON are putting "the finishing touches" on their article, "Burmese Harp Tunings and Notes." The Wilson Center has published Glimpses of the White Elephant: International Perspectives on the Study of Burma, edited by Ronald A. Morse and Helen L. Loerke. For a copy, write Asia Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1000 Jefferson Drive, S.W., Washington, DC 20560. Glimpses contains much bibliographic information of interest. Forthcoming from WILLIAM P. TUCHRELLO and Anita Hibler are Burma: A Selective Guide to Scholarly Resources and Burma: A Selective Guide to Periodical Literature, both dealing with the 1970-1976 literature at the Library of Congress. Mrs. Cao Thi Lieu-Mignot of the Centre National De la Recherche Scientifique writes that her 1980 doctorate was a comparison of Vietnamese and Burmese linguistics. She is currently a documentaliste at the Ce Drasemi, Valbonne. At the East-West Center in Honolulu a public forum on Burma on April 18 and May 9 will feature U Paw U, Benji Bennington, Sherry Cox, HAIG ROOP, WILHELM SOLHEIM, and ALBERT MOSCOTTI. BRUCE MATTHEWS sent your editor a copy of his essay "Buddhism, Modernization, and National Purpose" from Religion, Values and Development in Southeast Asia (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies), 1986, ed. by B. Mathews and J. Nagata, and a copy of his "Islam As a Minority Religion in Some Theravada Buddhist States of South and Southeast Asia" from Ressources, Problèmes Et Défis de L'Asie Du Sud-Est (Quebec: Les Presses de L'Université Laval), 1986. Sarah Bekker kindly loaned your editor a copy of Hugh Tinker's "The Place of Gordon Luce in Research and Education in Burma During the Last Decades of British Rule (Professor G. H. Luce Memorial Lecture), May 8, 1986, from a Royal Asiatic Society issue. Sarah also notes a beautiful book on Burma, Stupa Shwedagon: Das Goldene Wahrzeichen des Buddhismus in Burma (Leipzig und Weimar: Gustav Kiepenheuer Verlag), 1985, text by Annemarie Esche, photographs by Otto Escher. JULIANE SCHOBER is Program Coordinator for the Program for Southeast Asian Studies, Arizona State U., Tempe, AZ 85287. Also at Arizona is MARK WOODWARD, who joins thirteen other faculty to teach undergraduates who may elect a Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies in conjunction with their elected majors. From MICHAEL AUNG-THWIN we can look forward to "Heaven, Earth, and the Supernatural World: Dimensions of the Exemplary Center in Burmese History" in the Journal of Developing Studies, 2:2, Jan.-June, 1987 (Netherlands); "Burma Before Pagan: The Status of Archaeology Today" in Asian Perspectives, Summer, 1987; "Southeast Asian Kingship" in the Encyclopedia of Religion edited by Mircea Eliade at MacMillan; and short articles in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Asian History from Scribner. Irene Moilanen (Ahmantie 17, 70400 Kuopio, Finland) would most like to contact those interested in nats and sculpture.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Your last issue was the last one cranked out by hand on the 1834 A.B. Dick machine under the faded umbrella in the bazaar. No longer will abfuscation be the willful defense for the truly lazy. Daw Kat-ar-in will still pound her 1921 Smith-Corona, however, but we will send the typed product out to DeKalb to the Center for Burma Studies where the modern world has arrived, we are told. The Center will mail out the Bulletin.

Please send all future address changes to the Center for Burma Studies.

Send all money and news to your editor, as in the past.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Erling Dessau, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme,
G.P.O. Box 224, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh
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NEW MEMBER:

Mr. D. Ande, Mgr., White Lotus Co., 16 Soi 47, Sukhumvit, P.O. Box 1141, Bangkok,
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