

BULLETIN OF THE BURMA STUDIES GROUP
Association for Asian Studies
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#41

Upcoming Meeting at Center for Burma Studies

We will gather on October 14, 1988, at DeKalb, Illinois, for our first biannual gathering at the Center for Burma Studies. If you have not received an invitation, call Ken Rick, secretary of the Center, at 815-753-0512. We have the usual tidbits of erudition for your enlightenment; in addition on Friday night we will hear informally from all who have been in Burma this year, including at least one of our group who was present during the brief Sein Lwin period. As usual, we urge you to bring your slides, tapes, posters, or other media you would like us to see or hear. The main purpose of meeting at the Center is to share with each other our enthusiasm for Burma. In these historic and exciting times, we have much to share and learn.

Special Medicine Relief Project

The suggestion has been made that we send medicine to help those hospitalized in Burma. Medicines (about \$25,000 worth) have been sent by the U.S. Government. Some Thai pharmaceutical companies have sent medicines also. The main problem has been entrance to Burma in recent weeks.

If you wish to send non-perishable medicines, you should send them to John A. Fredenburg, American Embassy, Rangoon, c/o Department of State, Washington, DC 20521. Weight limit 40 lbs.; size limit is 24 x 62 inches. John has said he will do his best to get such medicines to the Rangoon General Hospital.

Maung Maung Gyi

We mourn the passing of our friend and colleague Dr. Maung Maung Gyi. "Gyi," as he asked his friends to call him, was elected a trustee of the Burma Studies Foundation in 1986. Long interested in government and history, he was an active member of the Burma Studies Group, contributing his insights with a lively wit and smile. A professor of history at Bates College, Maung Maung Gyi's most recent publication was Burmese Political Values: The Socio-Political Roots of Authoritarianism. He earned his doctorate at Yale University in 1958 in political science; his thesis was "An Analysis of the Social and Political Foundations of the Burmese Executive (1948-1956)." "Gyi" came to the United States in 1966. He had been professor of history and political science at Mandalay College as well as Dean of that college up to 1963. His higher education began at Judson College and then at the University of Rangoon. He was a State Scholar.

A strong proponent of democracy and a critic of the NeWin regime, Maung Maung Gyi was also a director of the Committee for Restoration of Peace and Democracy in Burma.

We shall miss him.

Burma Studies Group in San Francisco

We convened on Friday, March 24, 1988, at the San Francisco Hilton. With our chairman Kris Lehman off to Burma for a few months, we were easily able to elect him chairman for an 1988-89 term, with John Ferguson elected secretary.

We agreed to meet in DeKalb at the new Center for Burma Studies in October, 1988. All were urged to submit papers.

A suggestion was made that we try through the Foreign Service Journal to reach American diplomats who had served in Burma and might have materials to donate to our Center for Burma Studies.

With surprising unanimity, we re-convened at the Mandalay Restaurant in San Francisco and enjoyed delicious Burmese food. Even our cab driver had eaten there!

Those present at our meeting were John and Catherine Ferguson, Richard Cooler, Hugh and Eleanor MacDougall, Paul Sarno, Annemarie Esche, Carol Compton, John Badgley, Jim Guyot, Nancy Pollock, Lindsey Reber, Lynn Silverstein, Juliane Schober, Patricia Young, Frances Colley, Wilhelm Solheim, Maureen Aung Thwin, Larry Ashman, Jane and Lucien Hanks, Melford Spiro, Jim Gardner, George Bond, Nicole Tannenbaum, Sarah Bekker, Herbert Phillips, Louise Cort.

Presenting papers at our back-to-back AAS panel on March 24, 1988, "Independent Burma at Forty Years" were Michael Aung-Thwin, Josef Silverstein, David Steinberg, Sarah Bekker, John Ferguson, John Badgley. Chairing the two sessions were Josef Silverstein and Melford Spiro.

The Burma Studies Foundation Annual Meeting

The Foundation met on March 25, 1988, for its open annual meeting. Trustees present: J. Ferguson, Michael Aung-Thwin, Maureen Aung-Thwin, Sarah Bekker, Josef Silverstein, and David Steinberg. Represented by proxy was Maung Maung Gyi, Kris Lehman, John Musgrave, and Jon Wiant.

The trustees transferred to the Center for Burma Studies Burmese materials that had been donated to the Foundation. Such transference occurred under the conditions of the Declaration of Trust of October, 1986, when the Burma Studies Foundation was established. Basically, the Foundation trustees give to the Center, and the Center agrees to certain conditions in order to retain the Foundation's gifts.

The main issue discussed involved establishing a policy on duplications and de-acquisitions. The Director of the Center was asked to present a report at the next meeting because all de-acquisitions require written approval from the Foundation. Also discussed were legal issues involving loans. The Foundation will publish its policies as soon as possible.

The following have donated materials to the Foundation: P. J. Bennett, H. L. Lefferts, J. T. Bailey, S. Bekker, D. Stadtner, P. Herbert, A. Balaz, J. Badgley (Cornell U.), Seventh Day Baptist Missionary Society, S. E. Lu, J. and E. Musgrave, L. E. Bagshawe, H. MacDougall, W. G. Huff, J. Rastorfer, J. Parsons, and A. Esche.

You are encouraged to donate items connected with Burma to the Burma Studies Foundation. Contact Kris Lehman, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Burma Studies Foundation, 1316 Grandview Drive, East, Champaign, IL 61820-0000 (telephone: office: 217-333-0801 or home: 217-359-1325). Or contact John Ferguson, Secretary-Treasurer, Burma Studies Foundation, Star Route 1, Box 144, Warnerville, NY 12187 (telephone: office 518-234-5139 or home: 518-234-2276).

Please remember that the central concept behind the Foundation and the Center is that the study of Burma is best served by concentrating our scarce resources in one place. Your elected trustees voted to choose the Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University as that place. Your support is welcome.

Recent Books and Articles in Brief by Editor Hugh C. MacDougall

Adhyatman, Sumarah, Burmese Ceramics. Jakarta: The Ceramic Society of Indonesia Bulletin, May 1985. 41 pp., incl. 89 photographic plates, some in color. (Also includes shorter article by Abu Ridho on "White Kendis.") \$16.50 (available from White Lotus, Box 1141, Bangkok)

The author and her husband visited Pagan, and traditional potteries in Twante, Pegu, Sagaing and Shwe-Nyein in 1984. The article covers both historic pottery and current production, considering both design and production methods.

Amnesty International, Burma: Extrajudicial Execution and Torture of Members of Ethnic Minorities. London: Amnesty International, May 1988. (1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, England.) 71 pp., plus 28 p. printout of cases.

Report on some 200 cases of mistreatment of ethnic minorities (mostly Karen, but some Kachin and Mon) by Burmese troops in 1985-87, as collected from refugees in Thailand.

Ibid, Burma: Extrajudicial Execution, Torture and Political Imprisonment of Members of the Shan and Other Ethnic Minorities. London: Amnesty International, Aug. 1988. 25 pp. (plus Bulletins dated Aug. 10, 11, 12 concerning mass arrests in Rangoon, July-Aug. 1988.)

Report on some 91 interviews with Shan and other ethnic minorities in Thailand during June 1988.

Arts of Asia. Hong Kong (1309 Kowloon Centre, 29-39 Ashley Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.) Bi-monthly magazine: US\$45 per year. Recent articles on Burma:

Mar.-Apr. 1987: Sylvia Fraser-Lu, "Ancient Arakan", pp. 96-109; Introduction to the history, architecture, and images of Arakan.

Jan.-Feb. 1988: Noel F. Singer, "Survivors from a Burmese Palace." pp. 94-102. Objects looted from the Mandalay Palace, 1885, with photos and drawings.

Jan.-Feb. 1988: Ursula Roberts, "The Burmese Collection at Denison University", pp. 132-135. Survey of the Denison collection of Burmese art, with photographs.

Mar.-Apr. 1988: Noel F. Singer, "Tattoo Weights from Burma", pp. 70-79. Introduction to traditional Burmese tattooing, and the brass weights used on tattoo needles.

Bauer, Christian, A Guide to Mon Studies. Clayton, Australia: Monash University (Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Working Paper No. 32), Sept. 1984. 84 pp., 3 plates. \$5.00

An analytical study, and 130 bibliographic entries, covering the history, language and culture of the Mon people.

Boudignon, Françoise, A Letter from Burma. Rangoon: UNICEF, 1984. (132 University Ave., Rangoon.) 98 pp., drawings. Charming introduction to Burmese life and culture for children, in the form of a letter to nephews living in France.

Braun, Rolf and Ilse, Opium-Gewichte: Opium Weights: Poids d'Asie. Landau: Pfalzischer Verlagsanstalt GmbH, 1983. 240 pp., incl. 630 photographs and numerous drawings. Text in German, English, and French. \$37.50 (available from White Lotus, Box 1141, Bangkok)

A detailed study of the history, forms, and significance of the sets of bronze weights in the form of real and mythological birds and animals (popularly called "opium weights") produced and used in Burma and Laos.

Chan, Won-Loy "Charlie", Burma: The Untold Story. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1986. (31 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA 94947.) 138 pp., photos and maps. \$14.95.

With Gen. Stilwell in Burma, 1944, by a Chinese-American intelligence officer fluent in Japanese.

Courtauld, Caroline, Burma. Lincolnwood, IL: Passport Books, 1988. (National Textbook Co., 4255 West Touhy Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60646-1975.) 207 pp., photos. \$9.95

The latest and one of the best guidebooks to Burma, in a convenient format, combining historical and cultural information, beautiful photographs, and practical information for travellers. Ms. Courtauld has a sensitivity to Burma, and a respect for its traditions, not always found in guidebooks. We recommend it, alongside the somewhat larger "Insight Guide" and the practical, if irreverent, "Lonely Planet Guide."

Hill, Hal, and Jayasuriya, Sisira, An Inward-Looking Economy in Transition: Economic Development in Burma since the 1960s. Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Occasional Paper No. 80, 1986. 74 pp. \$5.00.

An attempt to analyse economic developments in Burma, from the meagre published data.

Jones, Alexandra, Mandalay. New York: Villard Books, 1988. 485 pp. \$18.95.

Something seems to attract women novelists to Mandalay and the fall of the Burman Empire in 1885. Perhaps it is the enigmatic figure of Queen Supayalat. The first was The Lacquer Lady by F. Tennyson Jesse, a great-niece of Lord Tennyson (1922; reprinted by Dial Press (Virago Modern Classics) in 1979); probably the best of the series, it was based on original research in Mandalay at a time when women of the Court were still living. It was followed by City of Gems by Joanna Trollope, a descendant of Anthony Trollope (Hutchinson 1982; reprinted Arrow books 1983). Now Indian-born Alexandra Jones has returned to the theme in a romantic

tale of a young Englishwoman and her ruthless American husband in Mandalay from 1878 to 1896. Its a good read with a lot of local color.

Khin Yi (Daw), The Dobama Movement in Burma (1930-1938), Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University, Southeast Asia Program Monograph, 1988. 140 pp., plus 137 p. Appendix (published separately) of Burmese language documents. \$20.00.

A detailed monograph on the nationalist Thakin movement in pre-War Burma by a leading contemporary Burmese historian.

Luce, G. H., Phases of Pre-Pagan Burma: Languages and History. London: Oxford University Press, 1985. 2 vols. 185, 138 pp., plus 100 photographic plates. # 95.00.

This work was written in 1972, based on lectures given by Dr. Luce in Paris in 1966, and was only published after the author's death in 1979. In Luce's words, it "attempts to sketch in faint outline...the early history of Burma down to the founding of Pagan." As such it puts together all the evidence, lithographic, linguistic, historical, and archaeological, that the Master could bring to bear on the dawn of Burmese history, and is presented in lavish (if expensive) style by O.U.P.

Ludu U Hla, The Caged Ones. Bangkok: Tamarind Press, 1986. 144 pp. Baht 50. \$6.50. (available from White Lotus, Box 1141, Bangkok)

Ludu U Hla (1910-1982) was a prodigious publisher of Burmese folktales (43 volumes) and writer of short stories and other works (54 volumes), of which some 10 have been translated into English in Mandalay and abroad. The Caged Ones is a series of life histories of young prisoners the author came to know while incarcerated in Rangoon Central Jail in 1954-56; it was first published in Burmese in 1958 when it won a UNESCO award. Tamarind Press is to be commended for bringing us this edition translated into English by Dr. Sein Tu, as part of its series of books on Burma.

Rumpf, Dieter, Thailand-Burma. Frankfurt, 2nd. ed., 1988. English language edition in the Hildebrand's Travel Guide Series. 192 pp., photos, pocket foldout map. \$10.95. Practical and attractive pocket guide, with lots of off-beat information.

Stanislaw, Mary Ann, Kalagas: The Wall Hangings of Southeast Asia. Menlo Park, CA: Ainslie's, 1987 (P.O. Box 7656, Menlo Park, CA, 94026-7656). 64 pp., colored photos. \$12.50.

Introduction to the history and manufacture of Burmese *Kalagas*, with illustrations and thematic descriptions of examples based on the Jataka stories, the Ramayana, the Nats, and other traditional themes.

Steinberg, David Joel, ed., In Search of Southeast Asia: A Modern History. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, Rev. ed., 1987. 590 pp.

An updated version of a classic, first published in 1971. Robert H. Taylor and David Steinberg, among the seven joint authors, contributed heavily to the sections dealing with Burma.

Taylor, Robert H., The State in Burma. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1987. 395 pp. \$25.00.

Robert Taylor of the University of London has tracked the role of the State in Burmese society from the Konbaung period to the present, and in doing so has given us a readable, thought provoking, and detailed political and social history of Burma since the eighteenth century. It is a tale both of continuity and of change, as the Burmese concept of the State and its proper role in domestic and foreign affairs has changed. His extensive notes and bibliography reveal both the thoroughness of his research and the comparative paucity of materials available to the Burma scholar. The State in Burma is a major event in our field, and must reading for all of us who seek to understand what makes Burma tick.

Van Lustbader, Eric. Shan. New York: Random House, 1987; reprinted Fawcett Crest Books, 1988. 524 pp. \$4.95.

If you are looking for Burma in this adventure tale, forget it! In the one scene in Mandalay, a protagonist climbs Mandalay Hill in hiking boots and stops off at a cafe on top for a beer and to watch the twinkling lights of the city below. 'Nuff said?

News

Daw Khin Yi, Burmese scholar, will present a talk, "The Dobama Anti-Colonial Movement in Burma" at Cornell on October 13, 1988. She will, we understand, be at our meeting at the Center the next day. *** SARAH BEKKER is recovering from surgery at her apartment in NYC. She hopes to make our meeting in DeKalb. She published recently a thoughtful essay on her favorite subject, "Talent for Trance: Dancing for the Spirits in Burma," in New Observations, #59, July/August, 1988, p.4-11. On the cover is a fine photograph of the Mahagiri Nat. *** Annemarie Esche spent 6 months at the Wilson Center; she has been working on a paper entitled, "The Genesis of the Novel in Burma." *** BILAL RASCHID sent to your editors a copy of his powerful and moving open letter to General NeWin of May 12, 1988. Your editors will be glad to Xerox a copy for you if you so request and send us a self-addressed stamped envelope. *** TIN TIN RASCHID sent us "The Year in Review" for the American Association of Burmese Women. *** The International Meditation Center-USA is holding Theravada Buddhist Meditation classes, mail address: Box 183, Woodstock, MD 21163 (tel. 301-461-8946), taught by Daw Mya Thwin. *** The Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute at the University of Hawaii offered Burmese last summer as a language. *** Chao Tzang Yawngwe has written The Shan of Burma: Memoirs of a Shan Exile, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, 1987. *** TIN MAUNG MAUNG THAN has published "The Sangha in Burma" in Sojourn 3:1. *** SHALARCHAI RAMITANONDH has been on a fellowship to Osaka's Museum of Ethnology, working on his social forestry project. *** Cornell's Southeast Asia Program, 120 Uris Hall, C.U., Ithaca, NY 14853-7601 is offering fellowships for first-year Burmese graduate students. Applications due by November 15, 1988. Contact Benedict R. Anderson, Director. *** JON WIANIANT has been appointed the Director for Intelligence Policy on the staff of the National Security Council, the White House. *** INGRID JORDT, who was in Burma during the Sein Lwin period, reports that LEEDOM LEFFERTS was also in Rangoon, and she also saw Bob Pranke from Michigan in Mandalay.

Address Changes

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Ave. NW, Washington, DC (tel. 202-395-3371).
Ingrid Jordt, 7 Forest St., Cambridge, MA 02140 (617-661-0491)

We welcome the following new members:

- Ameer Khusro Soc. of America, 410 S. Michigan Ave. #739,
Chicago, IL 60605-1401
- Boston University, Center for Asian Development, 264 Bay State
Rd., Boston, MA 02215
- C.N.R.S. (Bat.3), Bibliotheque A.S.E.M.I, Rue A. Einstein,
Sophia Antipolis, Valbonne 06560, France
- Mr. Willard G. Clark, 15840 Tenth Av., Hanford, CA 93230
- Dr. H. Paul Cooler, 300 Oakbrook La., Summerville, SC 29483
- Mr. & Mrs. Sawyer A. Cooler, 205 Fishburne St., Walterboro,
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- Mr. Yoon Whan Choe, U. of Washington, University Libraries,
Gowen Hall DO-27, Seattle, WA 98195
- Mr. Rand Z. Engel, Wisdom Publications, 45 Water St.,
Newburyport, MA 01950
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MA 02138
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Please keep us informed.

H. C. MacDougall

J. P. Ferguson

Co-Editors Under the Tattered Umbrella at the Bazaar