

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

SAUL MULLARD is a D.Phil candidate at the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, where he is currently working on his doctoral thesis on the formation of religio-political and state institutions in seventeenth century Sikkim. He is also affiliated with the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, where along with Melanie Vandenhelsken, he is co-directing a social and historical survey of Sikkimese monasticism. He is also Director of the Sikkimese Manuscript Project, a project which aims to make a large quantity of rare Sikkimese manuscripts and legal documents available to the wider academic population through the use of digital technology. He has authored two previous articles on Sikkimese history and religion in the *Bulletin of Tibetology*, Vol. 39, Issues 1 and 2.

HELEEN PLAISIER (PhD, Leiden 2006) is an expert on Lepcha language, literature and culture based in the Netherlands. Her recently-completed thesis, *A Grammar of Lepcha*, was based on extensive linguistic fieldwork in Darjeeling and Sikkim as part of the Himalayan Languages Project at the Department of Comparative Linguistics, University of Leiden. She is currently working on a Lepcha dictionary based on manuscript sources from the 1890s with the aim of annotating it and seeing it through publication.

BAL GOPAL SHRESTHA (PhD, Leiden 2002) is currently writing a monograph on Sikkim in his capacity as a post-doctoral fellow at the Centro Incontri Umani, Ascona, Switzerland. He is also lecturer at the Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS), Kathmandu, Nepal. His PhD dissertation deals with Newar culture and rituals in Nepal. He has conducted extensive fieldwork in Nepal and India, and published widely in Newar, Nepali and English. His current research focuses on culture, ritual, religion, ethnicity and nationalism in South Asia, with a particular focus on Nepal and India.