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GANGTOK, SIKKIM

The Bulletin of Tibetology seeks to serve the specialist as well as the general reader with an interest in the field of study. The motif portraying the Stupa on the mountains suggests the dimensions of the field.

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Submission guidelines. We welcome submission of articles on any subject of the history, language, art, culture and religion of the people of the Tibetan cultural area although we would particularly welcome articles focusing on Sikkim, Bhutan and the Eastern Himalayas. Articles should be in English or Tibetan, submitted by email or on CD along with a hard copy and should not exceed 5000 words in length.

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Volume 43 Number 1 and 2 2007

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEPCHA STUDIES

CONTENTS

ANNA BALIKCI-DENJONGPA Editorial introduction	7
CHARISMA K. LEPCHA When Nurkit returns	11
HELEEN PLAISIER In awe of so many <i>múng</i> : Halfdan Siiger in the Sikkim Himalayas	15
PEMA WANGCHUK Lepchas and their hydel protest	33
JENNY BENTLEY Change and cultural revival in a mountain community of Sikkim	59
KERRY LITTLE Lepcha hunters' narratives of their hidden landscapes	81
 <i>Book review</i>	
BRIGITTE STEINMANN <i>Khangchendzonga: Sacred Summit</i> . Pema Wangchuk and Mita Zulca	99
 <i>Obituaries</i>	
Dzongsar Ngari Chödje Thingo Rinpoche (1945-2008)	
In English by SUSANNE VON DER HEIDE	103
In Tibetan by KUNGA YONTEN HOCHOTSANG	111
 <i>Notes on contributors</i>	 117

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

Buddhist Himalaya: Studies in Religion, History and Culture
The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, Sikkim;
October 1-5, 2008

The Namgyal Institute of Tibetology in Gangtok, Sikkim, will celebrate its Golden Jubilee in 2008. Since its inauguration by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet in 1957 and official opening by the then Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1958, the Institute has been India's leading centre for the study of Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist culture. As the centrepiece of the Jubilee celebrations, the NIT will host an international conference in Gangtok from 1-5 October 2008 on the theme of *Buddhist Himalaya: Studies in Religion, History and Culture*. The conference will be officially opened by a distinguished guest and include a programme of cultural events. It will coincide with the presentation of an Atisha relic to the NIT's museum, as well as the release of new publications by the Institute. The conference will also suitably inaugurate the Institute's new library and conference facilities wing, which is scheduled for completion early in 2008.

The conference, which is being organised by the Institute Director Tashi Densapa and the Research Coordinator Dr Anna Balikci-Denjongpa, will bring together around 90 leading scholars, educators, dignitaries and interested persons in the field of Himalayan Buddhist studies (particularly as they relate to Sikkim). While the majority will come from various parts of South Asia, there will also be a number of distinguished scholars attending from Europe, Japan and the United States. Participation is by invitation only, although observers are welcome to attend under their own auspices.

The language of the conference will be English, which is widely spoken in Sikkim, however there will be panels for local scholars which will be held in Sikkimese/Tibetan. The academic programme will include a maximum of 60 papers to be presented by local and foreign participants during the course of the conference.

The conference proceedings will subsequently be published under the editorship of the conference's Academic Convenor, Dr Alex McKay, a historian of the Himalayas and affiliated fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, The Netherlands, and the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim.

