a direct bearing on the political crisis. The others addressed aspects of Bhutan's heritage: architecture, environment, religion, and textiles. There were contributors from Bhutan (3), India (1), Nepal (1), the USA (3), France (2), Germany (1), Belgium (1), Hong Kong (1), Japan (1), Holland (1), and four from the United Kingdom (of whom one was a Bhutanese national).

A minor crisis arose a few weeks before the conference. Two leaders of exiled dissident groups were planning to attend, either to present papers or as members of the audience. It became apparent that if they did attend, the Bhutanese government would be reluctant to send delegates. The choice thus became one between a conference at which the Bhutanese government would be represented, or a gathering from which it had withdrawn. In view of the effort that had been expended to draw in government representatives, it was decided that the former option was preferable. Therefore, the conference was attended by Dasho Jigmi Thinley, Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, but not by any representative of the exiled opposition. Ultimately, the politics of such a conference had to be the art of the possible. As the convenor, I had to do douse rumours of political blackmail, but after the event there was general agreement that the conference had been benefited from the presence of the Bhutanese government more than it would have from the presence of the opposition.

The conference was attended by 120 people. They included not only academics and journalists but also representatives of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, VSO, the World Bank, donor agencies from New Zealand and Holland, the Nepalese Embassy, the Indian High Commission, Amnesty International, and members of the general public with an interest in Bhutan from 16 different countries. Of the two central themes of the conference (Bhutan's cultural heritage and its present political crisis), various aspects of the crisis tended to dominate discussions. Since this was the first international conference that had ever focused on Bhutan, and the first occasion on which a gathering had ever discussed the highly contentious political issues, there seemed to be a general consensus that this was appropriate.

The non-contentious papers were on the environment (from Bruce Bunting of the World Wildlife Fund), textiles (from Diana Myers of the Peabody and Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts and Francoise Pommaret of the CNRS in Paris), architecture (from Wolf Kahlen of the Technische Universität, Berlin, and Marc Dujardin of the St. Lucas School of Architecture in Ghent, Belgium), and Buddhism (from Michael Kowalewski and Sonam Chhoki of SOAS). Most of these provoked interesting and constructive discussions. Dujardin's illustrated presentation, backed up by an exhibition in the foyer, was especially appreciated.

The conference was addressed early on Monday morning by Michael Aris of St. Anthony's College, Oxford, who is the leading western authority on Bhutanese history. Aris described several instances in which disputes had been settled through traditional means of conciliation. His scholarly but adventurous paper set the tone for much of the rest of the conference. Another paper of particular value and interest was that presented by Leo Rose, who discussed the role of the monarchy in Bhutan's present crisis. Other speakers were Yasuyuki Kurita (Osaka), George van Driem (Leiden), A. Sinha (Shillong), Thierry Mathou (CNRS, Paris), Brian Shaw (Hong Kong), Karma Ura (Thimphu), Nicholas Nugent (BBC World Service), Kanak Mani Dixit (Kathmandu) and Kinley Dorji (Thimphu).

The discussion of the political issue was dominated at first by the government's view, which is that Bhutan has become the victim of an orchestrated campaign designed to destroy its distinctive culture and to reintegrate thousands of illegal immigrants who were recently expelled. The alternative view - of Bhutan as a despotic feudal state that has expelled one-sixth of its population to forestall demands for democracy - was less thoroughly propounded in the papers presented, but the various debates that took place over the two days, as well as a vigorous protest from the UNHCR representative against allegations of careless registration of Bhutanese refugees, meant that both sides of the argument were presented less dogmatically by the end of the conference. By popular demand, a woman who had worked in the refugee camps in Nepal gave a brief impromptu presentation and answered questions.

The Kathmandu-based Human Rights Organisation of Bhutan, in an editorial in the December 1992 issue of its monthly Bhutan Focus stated: "The conference is to take place in faraway England gives us some cause for rejoicing. There is hope that unafflicted members on the panel will bring pressure to bear so that objectivity does not become a casualty." The conference, inevitably, failed to clarify the political issues; instead, it impressed upon the minds of all those present the complexity of the real situation. It also demonstrated the extent to which research is required into the historical process of eastward migration from Nepal.

The principal issue that loomed over this conference was the presence in Nepal and India of about 100,000 displaced people, the majority of whom have probably come from Bhutan, representing a significant proportion of its total population. Because the issue is highly emotive in Bhutan - where it is tied up with a perceived threat to the nation's sovereignty - and in Nepal - where it is considered to be a part of a repression of democracy and human rights - frank and open discussions are only possible far away. Up until this conference, the Bhutanese government had never exposed itself to uncensored and unpredictable questioning in an open public forum. SOAS had an important role to play in bringing together proponents of differing views: the academic environment was felt by the Bhutanese government to be relatively safe. Perhaps the most satisfying memory of the conference is of the second evening, when members of the Nepalese Embassy, the UNHCR and the Bhutanese government, having consistently disagreed with one another for a total of 16 hours, relaxed together over drinks in the Senior Common Room.

The conference is receiving coverage in the Bhutanese and Nepali media, and has been reported on the BBC World Service and Deutsche Welle. It is intended to produce a volume of selected papers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Conference**

**14th Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of Nepal**

The Linguistic Society of Nepal (LSN) will hold its 14th Annual Conference at Kirtipur Campus, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, on November 26-27, 1993.

The Society invites papers in the following areas:

- Tibeto-Burman and Indo-Aryan languages; phonetics and phonology; syntax and semantics; sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics; orthography and lexicography; historical and comparative linguistics; applied linguistics; and literature.

A copy of your paper or an abstract of about 200 words should reach the Society by October 31, 1993. The Society regrets for not being in a position to provide any funds.
for travel, board, or lodging. It will, however, be helpful in arranging lodging. LSN welcomes your participation.


Correspondence should be addressed to:

C. P. Sharma, Secretary cum Treasurer,
LSN, Tribhuvan University, Campus of
International Languages, Pradarsani Marg,
Kathmandu, Nepal.

Manfred G. Treu

Exhibition

Building the Bridges to the Third World - Toni Hagen's memories of Nepal

An exhibition on the occasion of his 75th birthday

A special exhibition of photographs and objects from Toni Hagen's Nepalese collection will be held at the Wissenschaftszentrum Bonn-Bad Godesberg from 1st of July to 22nd of August 1993.

The geologist Toni Hagen was the first person to undertake geological explorations 1950-1958 (largely commissioned by the UNO) in the hitherto forbidden land Nepal. During his work he gained an intimate knowledge of the people and their problems; from 1960 to 1961 he conceived and led the successful program for integrating Tibetan refugees and helped set up their carpet industry. After 1962, Toni Hagen worked in many countries as a specialist in development for the UNO. Since then he has visited Nepal regularly and witnessed all the stages of its rapid development. Today he is still renowned as one of the best experts on Nepal.

A book comprising Toni Hagen's memories of Nepal is also available.

The exhibition is open to the public Sundays till Friday 10-17, Thursdays 10-18 and closed on Saturdays. For further information phone 0228-3029.

Susanne von der Heide

Notes to Contributors

The European Bulletin of Himalayan Research welcomes for consideration manuscripts and short notices dealing with any of the following topics:

1. Topical reports on ongoing, or recently completed, research projects.
2. Information about archives with literary, historical, archaeological, ethnographic, botanical, etc. materials collected in the Himalayan region.
3. Reviews of books on the Himalayas, including books published in Nepal, India, Pakistan and China which because of poor distribution may be inadequately known in Europe.
4. Current political developments in Nepal, India, Pakistan and China and the implications of these developments for research carried out by European scholars.
5. News about recent or forthcoming conferences, and on funding opportunities for European scholars working in the Himalayas as well as for scholars from the Himalayan region itself to visit Europe.

Manuscripts should not exceed 5,000 words (ca. 20 pages) in length. All contributions will be published in English. Copy can be submitted in German or French with the understanding that the editors in Heidelberg will arrange for its translation. Anything submitted in English by a non-native speaker will be copy-edited in Heidelberg by a native speaker.

The deadline for submissions for our sixth issue is October 30, 1993. Anything received after that date will go into the seventh issue, expected in spring, 1994.

The views expressed by individual contributors are their own and do not represent those of the Editorial Board. All correspondence to The Editors, European Bulletin of Himalayan Research, Südasien-Institut der Universität Heidelberg, Im Neuenheimer Feld 330, D-69120 Heidelberg, Federal Republic of Germany.