Joint ventures in the transfer of know-how and technologies (Klaus Dieter Schätte)
-Water-management (Wolf Donner)
-Traditional forest use (Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt)

The symposium was convened by Susanne von der Heide.

Oral Tradition Study Group-Himalaya

As a follow-up of the French-German Conference on the History and Anthropology of Nepal held in Arc-et-Senans, June 1990, a study group on "Comparative Study of Oral Tradition in Nepal" was constituted. Researchers interested in oral traditions met in Heidelberg on January 30th 1993 at the invitation of the Seminar für Ethnologie, South Asian Institute of the University of Heidelberg. Reports about ongoing research were presented as follows:

C.P. Zoller: "A regional version of the Mahābhārata." Field research was done in the upper Tons Valley, H.P., India, among Dewal singers (language: West Pahari). It is urgent to collect such epic songs as the tradition seems to be vanishing.

A. de Sales: "The grotesque in a shamanic song." Anne de Sales is currently studying Magar shamanism in Nepal and analyses the different poetic styles which are expressed.

A. Malik: "The oral epic of Devanāryāṇ." The study deals with oral narratives associated with the Gujars, a semi-pastoral group of Rajasthan. The itinerant bards (Bhopa) use visual representations for their performances.

A. Höfer: "Hyperpragmatic patterns in Tamang shamanic texts." His contribution discussed the phonic-prosodic richness of these recitations.

M. Gaenszle: "The ritual of "Raising the Vital Soul" - a ritual text of the Mewahang Rai in East Nepal." The paper discussed the problems of translation and interpretation of such texts.

The next meeting of the study group is planned for 25 February 1994 in Meudon. Venue: CNRS UPR 299, 1 Place Aristide Briand, 92195 MEUDON, France.

Topics suggested for presentation and discussion:
- the interrelationship between myths and rituals (performance, text/context etc.)
- the methodological problems of presentation, translation and interpretation of oral texts (e.g. systems of transcription, poetics, comparative analysis etc.)
- the interpenetration of oral and written traditions (the process of "textualization", cultural hegemony etc.)

We plan to invite two or three French colleagues interested in oral tradition to exchange views and share our experiences in oral tradition.

Note:
The papers presented during the Arc et Senans Conference have been published:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publications


Ramble, Charles & Martin Braun (eds.) Anthropology of Tibet and the Himalayas. Zürich: Ethnological Museum of the University of Zurich 1993. (Price: SFr. 28)

The book contains the proceedings of the international conference with the same title which was held September 21-28, 1990 in Zürich. It includes altogether 39 contributions concerning aspects of Tibetan culture and its context in the Himalayan region. A wide range of topics is dealt with, such as kinship and caste, material culture, myth, ritual, and the performing arts.
Conferences

Second International Conference on Vedas

The International Foundation For Vedic Education, U.S.A., and its affiliate Sri Sarvaraya Veda Pathasala, Kapileswarapuram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India, in collaboration with the Department of Sanskrit & Indian Studies, Harvard University, U.S.A., and the Department of Asian & African Studies, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, will be holding the Foundation's Second International Conference on Vedas (Sama Vedam), and its Upavedam, Gandharva Vedam, during the week of December 11 through December 18, 1994, in the Harvard University Campus, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. Contemporary scholars and specialists in Sama Vedam and Gandharva Vedam from around the world, and traditional vedic scholars from India and Nepal, are being invited to participate in this 5-day conference. Please contact the Foundation for further details at:

International Foundation for Vedic Education, U.S.A.
Post Office Box 318
Rahway, New Jersey 07065, U.S.A.
Telephone: 908-396-VEDA
Fax: 908-396-0574

"Towards a Definition of Style: The Arts of Tibet"
13th - 17th June 1994
A SOAS Conference in Association with the Victoria and Albert Museum

The Department of Art and Archaeology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, is to host an international conference on Tibetan art. Over thirty of the world's leading scholars of Tibetan art are gathering at the Victoria and Albert Museum during the week of 13th - 17th June 1994 to discuss and illustrate the complex issues of styles, sub-styles, schools, workshops, individual artists, textual sources for styles and related issues. The aim is to deepen our understanding of styles in Tibetan art and to clarify the language by which these styles are described.

All forms of the visual arts (painting, sculpture, textiles and architecture) from Tibet, the Tibetan speaking regions of the Himalayas, and the exile community fall within the parameters of the conference. It is hoped that this occasion will become a benchmark in the field, enabling the sharing of recent research and consolidation of earlier studies. Lectures will be organised according to major themes e.g. "Architecture", "Painting, Sculpture and Textiles", "Textual Sources for Style", "Sites: Central and Western Tibet" and "Style and Taxonomy" and there will be an opportunity to see exhibitions of rare examples of Tibetan art, specially conceived to coincide with "Towards a..."