

Notes on Contributors

Eberhard Berg is an anthropologist (PhD Zurich University), presently affiliated with the Lumbini International Research Institute (Nepal). He began fieldwork among the Sherpas in 1991 on ritual practices involved in Sherpa pilgrimage to local, regional, and pan-Buddhist sacred places. Since 2001, he has conducted field research on the main annual festival among the Sherpas, and on various related aspects that constitute the building blocks of a distinct local tradition in Sherpa culture.

Stuart Blackburn is a Senior Research Fellow at SOAS (London), the author of five books, and the co-editor of five volumes on oral traditions and related topics. His most recent monographs are *Moral Fictions: Tamil Folktales from Oral Tradition* (2001) and *Folklore, Print and Nationalism in Colonial South India* (2003) He is currently working on culture change and oral traditions in Arunachal Pradesh.

Martin Gaenzle teaches anthropology at the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg. He has carried out field work in various parts of East Nepal and in Banaras, India. Presently he works together with linguists in a project documenting two endangered language traditions in Nepal. His books include: *Verwandtschaft und Mythologie bei den Mewahang Rai in Ostnepal. Eine ethnographische Studie zum Problem der 'ethnischen Identität'* (1991), Stuttgart; *Himalayan Space: Cultural Horizons and Practices*, with Balthasar Bickel (eds.) (1999), Zürich; *Ancestral Voices: Oral Ritual Texts and their Social Contexts among the Mewahang Rai of East Nepal* (2002), Münster.

Grégoire Schlemmer is a PhD student in Anthropology at the University of Nanterre (Paris 10), France. He began field research in Nepal in 1996. His main study concerns the social and religious life of a Kirant group, the Kulung Rai. In 1997 he submitted his "Memoire de Maîtrise" on "Dieux du dedans, dieux du dehors: officiants et spécialistes du religieux chez les Kulunge Rai du Népal oriental" (Nanterre).

Ruth L. Schmidt is professor of Urdu at the University of Oslo. She has been researching the Shina of Indus Kohistan for 30 years, working with her Pakistani colleagues Muhammad Manzar Zarin and Razwal Kohistani. She has also worked on Nepali and is the editor-in-chief of *A Practical Dictionary of Modern Nepali*.

Brigitte Steinmann is professor of anthropology at the University of Montpellier (France), and research member in the 'Languages and Cultures of the Tibetan areas' team at the CNRS, Paris. She has conducted extensive research in Nepal, among the Tamang and Tibeto-Burman speaking populations since 1980, and in Sikkim since 1993. In addition to numerous articles on the ethnology and anthropology of Nepal she has published, *Les Tamang du Népal, usages et religion*, Paris, éditions ADPF (1986); *Les Marches Tibétaines du Népal*, Paris, éditions l'Harmattan (1988); *Les Enfants du Singe et de la Démone. Mémoires des Tamang, récits himalayens*. Nanterre, Société d'Ethnologie, collection Haute-Asie (2001). She is presently publishing collected essays about the Nepalese revolution at the CNRS, Paris.

Peter Sutherland gained his D. Phil at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University in 1998 after a first career in architecture and architectural photography. He currently directs the International Studies Program at Louisiana State University, where he teaches classes on South Asia, colonialism, diasporas and globalization. In addition to completing a book on the western Himalaya, *Travelling Gods and Foreign Power*, his interest in the anthropology of religion, memory, movement and space now includes new published work on transnational practices of African diasporic identification linking vodun in Benin, Haiti, Louisiana, and a global Japanese Buddhist pilgrimage project concerning the Nipponzan Myohoji sect.