

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

ALEX MCKAY has a Ph.D. from the London University School of Oriental and African Studies (1995). He has held various research and teaching fellowships at SOAS, UCL and at the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, The Netherlands. He is affiliated to the Namgyal Institute and has written or edited more than 30 books and articles on the Indo-Tibetan Himalayas, including *Tibet and the British Raj: The frontier cadre 1904-1947* (1997), and *Footprints Remain: Biomedical beginnings across the Indo-Tibetan frontier* (2007). He has recently completed a history of the Kailas pilgrimage.

MARLENE ERSCHBAMER is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis 'The 'Ba'-ra-ba bKa'-brgyud-pa: Historical and Contemporary Studies regarding an almost forgotten School of Tibetan Buddhism' within the Doctoral Program for Buddhist Studies at the University of Munich. She received an M.A. in Tibetology, Philosophy and Sociology from the same university in 2012. Her research interests include Tibetan Buddhism, philosophy and Himalayan Studies.

EDWARD GARRETT (PhD Linguistics, UCLA 2001) is a linguist and software developer at SOAS, University of London. His work focuses on tool creation for language documentation and analysis. He was the initial developer of Jskad, an early Tibetan language text editor, and has since worked on endangered language archiving, interactive transcripts for language learning and research, and natural language processing for Tibetan. Edward is co-founder of Pinedrop, a company that creates websites and collaborative research tools for scholarly communities and archives. In addition to his technical work, Edward maintains an active interest in linguistic theory.

NATHAN W. HILL (PhD Tibetan Studies, Harvard 2009) is Lecturer in Tibetan and Linguistics at SOAS, University of London. His research focuses on the descriptive linguistics of early Tibetan and Tibeto-Burman/Sino-Tibetan historical linguistics. His books include *A Lexicon of Tibetan Verb Stems as Reported by the Grammatical Tradition* (Munich, 2010), and, with Kazushi Iwao, *Old Tibetan Inscriptions* (Tokyo 2009). He is Co-Investigator on 'Tibetan in Digital

Communication' a research project to develop Tibetan corpus linguistics.

ABEL ZADOKS is a PhD student in linguistics at SOAS, University of London. His thesis will describe certain features of Old Tibetan syntax and trace their development in later periods.

AZALEA BIRCH currently lives in Singapore, where she teaches speech and drama to young children. From 2007 until 2012, Azalea worked as an editor and translator at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. There, she worked closely with the chair of the musicology department on projects such as the first English translation of a dictionary of Chinese music, and texts for displays at a musical instrument museum. In 2011, she was sent to Sikkim, India by the Central Conservatory to research music. Her paper, 'A Musical Journey to Sikkim,' will be published in forthcoming Chinese and English anthologies of Himalayan music. Azalea is also a tabla player, an instrument she started studying as a child in Kathmandu, Nepal. She graduated from Wesleyan University in 2005 with a B.A. in music.

TSHERING TASHI is the co-author of *Bold Bhutan Beckons, Symbols of Bhutan* and author of *Mysteries of the Raven Crown, Legacy of Gongzim Ugyen Dorji* and *Myth and Memory-Untold Stories of Bhutan*. He writes for Bhutan's national newspaper, *Kuensel*, and contributes articles to international magazines. He is a board director of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature and the Director of Australian Bhutan Friendship Association. Kyoto University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, have invited him to give talks on Bhutan. Similarly, he has given talks in England, US and Australia.

ANNA BALIKCI-DENJONGPA is Research Coordinator at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim, and editor of the Bulletin of Tibetology. An anthropologist whose research interests centre on Sikkim's indigenous cultures, history and the medium of ethnographic films, she received her Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, which was published as *Lamas, Shamans and Ancestors: Village Religion in Sikkim* (Brill 2008). Together with Dawa Lepcha and Phurba Tshering Bhutia, she completed a series of seven ethnographic films on Sikkim's Lepcha and Bhutia communities which were screened at several ethnographic film festivals worldwide.

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TSULTSEM GYATSO ACHARYA was born in Gangtok in 1969. He first studied at Enchey School before joining the Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies (Shedra) where he obtained his Acharya degree in 1992. He then joined the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology where he works as Cataloguer in the Tibetan Library. He currently carries out research on Tibetan and Sikkimese history and religious culture.

