

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

**LADAKH STUDIES**

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## EDITORIAL

As many members will have heard, the founder and president of the International Association for Ladakh Studies, Dr. Henry Osmaston, passed away in November at the age of 83. John Bray has written an appreciation of Henry's life and contributions to Ladakh studies and the Association.

I first met Henry in 1989 at the fourth IALS colloquium in Bristol. Since then, and particularly during my years as editor of *Ladakh Studies*, I had frequent opportunities to benefit from Henry's experience, encouragement and support. His unfailing and wide-ranging interest in research on Ladakh, and particularly the generosity he showed students asking for advice, were remarkable. Henry had a gentle, often humorous way of making sure that the association and its newsletter fulfilled their purpose. Henry's advice and hard work for this Association, which he was instrumental in creating, shaping and directing for so many years, will be very much missed.

On a different note: this issue of *Ladakh Studies* is the final one for which I have editorial responsibility. Part of the task, as I saw it, was to try and establish a more standardized format and to strive for more regular, and more frequent, publication intervals. On the second count, I must admit increasing failure to meet this goal. In addition to changes in my professional and personal responsibilities that have made time to work on LS a more scarce resource, I think that the kinds of needs a paper newsletter must cover to be of use to the readership has changed quite considerably with the extension of the internet into ever more homes, also in Ladakh. There are, also for that reason, undoubtedly a significant number of changes that my successor, Martin Mills, will introduce in order to improve this newsletter. I wish him well with all his efforts.

## FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY

The years 2006 and 2007 are proving to be a time of change for the IALS but also, of course, of opportunity.

Looking ahead, the most important IALS event for 2007 is the forthcoming IALS colloquium in Rome from 7th to 11th September. A conference announcement and call for papers appears elsewhere in this issue. Elena de Rossi Filibeck of La Sapienza University, who is convening the conference together with her colleagues, has been working hard on our behalf. Italian scholars have a strong tradition in the field of Himalayan studies, and the programme will include a special exhibition of historical photographs by Italian travellers to Ladakh. We look forward to strong participation by IALS members, and to an exciting variety of papers.

The most momentous change last year was the death in June of Henry Osmaston, our President, who led the initiative to found the IALS in 1987. In September I visited Henry's wife Anna at their home in the English Lake District to help go through his papers and computer files. His extensive paper and e-mail correspondence covered not only Ladakh but also Uganda and other places still further afield. Henry brought a sense of commitment and excitement to everything that he did: Anna mentioned that even in his final months he had been apt to return to his desk in the early hours of the morning in order to capture some night-time inspiration. Three months later, in early December, Bristol University hosted a memorial 'celebration' for Henry. It was truly a celebration, with more than a hundred of Henry's family and friends in attendance. There were presentations covering his family life and his activities as a forester, mountaineer and university lecturer as well - of course - as his contributions to Ladakh studies.

Some time after Henry's death I had occasion to ring Anna in Finsthwaite. After a short delay, Henry's voice came through on the answerphone, inviting me to leave a message and adding that if I really wanted to get hold of him I should ring his mobile on the following number... It is a source of continuing regret that he is now beyond the reach even of mobile phone technology.

One important outstanding issue - on which Henry's continuing advice would have been helpful - is the IALS constitution. The association continues to evolve and, twenty years after it was founded, it is right that it should do so. Until now, its governance has been largely informal. However, for a combination of reasons, it now seems clear that we need a formal constitution. A draft is now nearly ready. We propose first to distribute it to the Advisory Committee for comment, and then to put it on the website for further comment, before officially ratifying it at the General Meeting at the Rome conference.

There are two more important pieces of news on the theme of continuity and change. First, Tashi Morup has taken over from David Sonam as Hon. Treasurer (Leh), while Gulzar Munshi is serving as Hon. Treasurer (Kargil). Secondly, and even more momentously, this is the last *Ladakh Studies* which will appear under the editorship of Martijn van Beek. Martijn has put an enormous amount of labour and creativity into the development of *Ladakh Studies* over the last ten years, and we are very grateful to him for all his hard work. I am delighted to be able to announce that Martin Mills has agreed to take over the editorship in Martijn's place.

## Henry Osmaston (1922-2006): a tribute

We regret to report the death of Henry Osmaston, the President of the IALS. Henry died of a heart attack at his home in the English Lake District on the morning of 27th June. He had lived a particularly active and creative life, working simultaneously on a multitude of different projects right until the last moment. He was 83.

As I compare notes with Ladakh friends after Henry's death, the same kinds of phrases keep recurring: "a true gentleman", "a wonderful man", "one of those people that you were truly glad was out there in the world", and of course "the IALS will never be the same without him." It won't be the same. Perhaps it shouldn't be. Henry himself embraced change. The best tribute that we can give is to allow the association to continue to evolve, while retaining his spirit of friendship, mutual support and enthusiasm.

Henry was born on 20th October 1922 in Dehra Dun, northern India, where his father was serving in the Indian Forestry Service. His uncle Bertram Osmaston, another Forestry Service officer, wrote two pioneering articles on the birds of Ladakh in 1925 and 1926; and a cousin, Gordon Osmaston, conducted several expeditions into the Himalaya in the service of the Indian Military Survey. Henry came to see these family links with the Himalaya as precursors to his own research in Ladakh. However, in the first part of his life, his own career took him in entirely different directions.

Henry went to Oxford University in 1940 to study Forestry, and then served in the British army from 1942 to 1947. After demobilization, he returned to Oxford for a further year. By the time that he had completed his studies, India was already independent, and there was no prospect of his working there. He therefore applied successfully for a post in the Ugandan Forestry Service, and married his wife Anna shortly before setting out for Africa in early 1949. All four of their children—Amiel, Janet, Nigel and Charlotte—were born in Uganda. Henry's family was always at the centre of his life, and he wrote warmly of the support that he had received across the generations from his grandmother to his "ever-tolerant wife" and grandchildren.

During his time in Uganda, Henry began his investigations into the geomorphology and history of climate change in the Rwenzori mountains, thus preparing the way for his D.Phil research back at Oxford in 1963. After completing his thesis in 1965, Henry took up a post at the Department of Geography at Bristol University, while simultaneously launching on a second new career as a Somerset dairy farmer.

According to Henry's own account, his opportunity to visit Ladakh came about through a lucky chance. One day, during a boring university meeting, he noticed that his colleague John Crook was doodling in Tibetan script. Ever curious, Henry wanted to know why. It emerged that John had made an exploratory trip to Zangskar in 1977, and was planning to go back there with a multidisciplinary team of Bristol specialists and Indian colleagues. Henry joined the team as a farming expert.

Henry and his colleagues spent the summers of 1980 and 1981 in Zangskar, conducting a comprehensive survey of life in the valley before conditions were changed for ever by the construction of the new motor road from Kargil to Padum. Their research culminated in the publication of *Himalayan Buddhist Villages* (1994), a major collective volume edited jointly by John and Henry. Henry's particular contributions were the chapters on geology, agriculture, the Tibetan calendar, weights and measures, and the environment.

The first of what was to become a series of conferences on Recent Research on Ladakh took place in Konstanz in 1981 at the instigation of Detlef Kantowsky and Reinhard Sander. Patrick Kaplanian and Claude Dendaletche organized the second conference in the series at the University of Pau in early 1985, and Henry presented a paper on Zangskari farming: I recall being particularly impressed by the comparisons he drew between milk yields in the Himalaya and at his own farm in Somerset.

The third Ladakh conference, which was organized by Gudrun Meier and Lydia Ickw-Schwalbe, took place in 1987 in Herrnhut in what was then still the German Democratic Republic. It was there that Henry proposed the formation of the IALS. His suggestion was partly inspired by his earlier experience with the Uganda Mountain Club, which had proved an effective vehicle for obtaining grants for improving access to the mountains. Henry's proposal was happily accepted. He himself then took on the dual role of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, and produced the first pioneer editions of *Ladakh Studies*.

His immediate task was to organize the fourth Ladakh conference which took place in Bristol in 1989. Henry himself contributed a paper on 'Farming, nutrition and health in Ladakh, Tibet and lowland China,' drawing on research in all three regions. The fifth Ladakh conference was supposed to take place in Ladakh but, for a variety of reasons, this proved impractical, and an interim Ladakh colloquium took place at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London in 1991. However, the sixth conference eventually took place in Leh in 1993. Henry co-edited the proceedings of the fourth and fifth conferences with Philip Denwood, and the sixth with Dr Nawang Tsering. This task included the tortuous process of producing camera-ready copy on his word-processor, as well as dealing with the Indian publishers.

Henry took part in the seventh IALS conference in Bonn (1995), though without reading a paper. At the eighth conference, which was held in Aarhus (Denmark) in 1997, he resigned from his original post of Honorary Secretary/Treasurer/Editor. However, he was unanimously elected IALS president, both in recognition of his past services and because no one was willing to envisage the future of the association without him.

Henry continued to be actively involved with the IALS throughout the last nine years. He took part in the Leh conference in 1999, combining this with a memorable camping expedition to Rupshu. Family commitments prevented him attending the 2001 Oxford conference, but he returned to Leh for the 11th colloquium in 2003. By then he was 80 years old, and this was to be his last visit to Ladakh. He sent a warm personal message to the Kargil colloquium in 2005, recalling his first visit to the region more than 20 years earlier, but his doctors advised him against attending in person.

We in the IALS knew Henry best for his interest in Ladakh, but this was only one of many enthusiasms. His first published article, shortly after arriving in Uganda, was in the *Empire Forestry Review* on the subject of "Photogrammetry without funds"; and the second in the *Uganda Journal* was on "Termites and their uses for food." His recent activities include joint authorship of an important book on *Tropical Glaciers* (2002) as well as a *History of the Uganda Forest Department 1951-1965* (2003), and an article on "Quaternary glaciation of the Bale Mountains, Ethiopia" (2005). Shortly before his death, he had completed his last major project, a completely revised edition of his *Guide to the Rwenzori Mountains*, first published in 1972. Mountains had always been an important part of his life: he had spent the night before his 65th birthday sheltering from a particularly severe blizzard in Tibet.

Henry was conscious of his place in the history of his family, of his various professions and of the many places with which he was associated. His writings include a series of personal and family memoirs, and he was keen to put not only his papers but also his family inheritance in order. I remember travelling with him on a London bus, bearing the skin of a crocodile that one of his forebears had shot in India, and that was now on its way to a final resting place in the Natural History Museum.

At the same time, Henry was never anything less than completely contemporary. In the early 1960s he must have been among the first geographers to use a computer to analyze his thesis data. In the 1970s and 1980s he seized with delight on the research possibilities of satellite imagery. In the 1990s and 2000s he was a prolific user of the Internet. One of his last services to the IALS was to organize the re-launching of the IALS website.

Most of all, Henry was contemporary in the way that he engaged warmly with people of all ages and cultures on equal terms. Latterly, he had a habit of making pre-emptive apologies for deafness and for forgetting people's names. It is true that he needed a hearing aid. His grey beard gave him an air of distinction. However, his most striking characteristics were not old age and venerability, but youthful enthusiasm combined with an insatiable curiosity about people and things. Henry was unfailingly generous in the encouragement and support that he gave to younger researchers on a whole variety of subjects. The IALS as it stands today is an important part of his legacy. He has set an example for us all to follow.

## **NEWS FROM LADAKH**

Collected by Abdul Nasir Khan, selected and edited by Martijn van Beek

### **LAHDC discusses development of Pashmina industry**

*Daily Excelsior*, Apr 25, 2006:

The Pashmina Society of Changthang has procured as much as 3000 kgs of raw Pashmina for de-hairing purpose at the de-hairing plant Leh. The Society has targetted to procure 20,000 kgs of Pashmina from the Pashmina growers of the two blocks of Nyoma Sub-division during the current year. This information came up in a meeting of the Board of All Pashmina Growers Cooperative Society of Changthang (APGSC). The meeting was chaired by the Chief Executive Councilor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh, Chering Dorjee, here today.

Besides the board members and concerned officers, the meeting was also attended by the Executive Councilor Health, Dorje Motup, who is also president of ACPGCS Leh.

The meeting discussed in detail the functioning of the project and the problems being faced by the Cooperative Society, which is presently handling the dehairing plant. After thorough discussion, the Deputy Commissioner M K Dwivedi assured the Board to release the LAHDC share of revolving fund and the amount received from UNDP for skill up-gradation/training and consultancy.

Mr Dorje informed the meet that the OSWAL Industries Ludhiana has shown keen interest in Ladakhi Pashmina and has desired to enter into an agreement with the LAHDC, Leh for future collaboration.

### **LAHDC Kargil discusses action plan under BADP**

*Daily Excelsior*, Apr 26, 2006

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil today reviewed and discussed Rs 371 lakh action plan of the current financial year under Border Area Development Programme (BADP). The meeting was chaired by Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Kargil Haji Asgar Ali Karbalaie, who with the help of District Officers sorted out various measures to complete the ongoing schemes within the stipulated time. The meeting was apprised that an amount of Rs 196.71 lakh was incurred under R&B sector while Rs 170.71 lakh under education sector, Rs 26.72 lakh under irrigation and flood control, Rs 35.92 lakh under Public Health Engineering sector. Likewise, Rs 31.22 lakh were incurred under Rural Development sector. The meeting was further informed that Rs 13.28 lakh and Rs 8.15 lakh were spent under Sheep and Animal Husbandry sector respectively. Under power development sector, Rs 6.75 lakh were utilized and Rs 23 lakh were spent under other sectors like health, handloom, handicraft, consumer affairs and public distribution.

The Councillors put-forth their suggestions and projections for completing different ongoing developmental works in their respective constituencies at a fast pace by pouring adequate funds.

Addressing the meeting, Haji Karbalaie asked the Councillors and District Officers to formulate plan as per the need of the people. He sought the cooperation of Councilors and District Officers for all round development of the Kargil district. Others who attended the meeting included Executive Councillors Nasir Hussain Munshi, Haji Mohammad Ishaq, Sonam Namgyal, Kachoo Gulzar Hussain Khan, Councillors of border blocks and engineers and officers concerned.

### **Mysore team spots rare fox in Ladakh**

*Deccan Herald*, April 28, 2006

Four nature lovers from Mysore spotted in far away Ladakh a rare animal previously not known to live in India, reports Kalyan Ray from New Delhi. The Tibetan Sand Fox (*Vulpes ferrilata hodgson*), no sighting of which has been reported in India before this, was spotted by members of the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Mysore, during field surveys in eastern Ladakh over the last two years. "We identified the animal from its morphological features and after talking to locals. The animal was spotted at Hanle near the astronomical observatory," Tsewang Namgil, one of the NCF researchers who saw the animal, told Deccan Herald.

Also known as the Tibetan Fox or simply the Sand Fox, the animal is a small carnivore that weighs 3-4.5 kg, belongs to the Canidae family and is generally found in China. The Tibetan sand foxes have a distinct morphology, which helped the NCF team identify the specimen. The dorsal part of the animal and its flanks are sandy to pale red, while the neck, thighs and rump are grey. The ventral fur is white to light grey and the tail is bushy with a white tip. Mr Namgil with two NCF colleagues, Sumanta Bagchi and Yash Veer Bhatnagar, and Rinchen Wangchuk from the Snow Leopard Conservancy have reported the spotting in the latest issue of *The Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*. The animal was spotted by chance as the NCF team was looking for Tibetan gazelles, another mountain animal on the verge of extinction. "Since the area is close to Sino-Indian border, it is a restricted zone and researchers could not spot the fox earlier. Even for domestic researchers, special permissions were required," said Mr Namgil, who visited the restricted zone twice in the summer of 2004 and winter of 2005.

The Tibetan Fox has long been known to the local people of Changthang as "Sili". Its occurrence remained unreported, perhaps because large tracts of remote eastern Ladakh bordering China remain out of bounds for many surveyors and also because those who did see the animal mistook it for the red fox, found in great numbers in Ladakh. The NCF work was funded by the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation in the UK, the International Snow Leopard Trust and the Wildlife Conservation Society, USA.

### **IAF not to shift airfield even if Siachen is demilitarized**

*PTI, LEH, May 11:*

The Indian Air Force, the Army's lifeline in maintaining troops in the world's highest battlefield Siachen, today ruled out shutting its airfield here in the event of any demilitarisation along the glacier. "There is no question of shutting this airfield. Its importance is not only from the strategic point of view, but also as a lifeline to the civilians," Air Officer-in-Chief of the Western Command, Air Marshal A K Singh told reporters at Thoise, IAF's northern most airfield, which is also a gateway to the Glacier.

"If de-escalation takes places, like everybody else I hope it does, the role of IAF will remain. Certain role will be played in maintaining the troops. Our role will certainly remain," he said. The airfield is located at a height of 10,060 feet, at the confluence of three great ranges, the Karokaram in north-east, the Ladakh ranges in the south and the Salto ranges in north-west. [...] Asked if the de-escalation is in the pipeline, with a ceasefire in place along the LoC and with CBMs having bettered Indo-Pak relations, Singh said, while any decision on this would be taken by the Government, the process could never be a one-step affair.

The Air Marshal stressed that only after studying if the ceasefire was "leading us to a solution" would a clear picture on the feasibility of sector wise de-escalation along the Glacier would emerge. He further laid emphasis on Pakistan authenticating the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) and added that "a broad based arrangement has to be in place where both sides say we will respect our positions rather than have aspirations to move forward or behind".

On the possibility of UAVs for surveillance of the AGPL and the use of technology in place of humans who now face extreme mercury fluctuations between 35 degrees Celsius to as low as minus 30 degrees C, Singh whose area of Command stretches from Siachen to Bikaner in Rajasthan, said replacing human factor was not entirely possible. "You cannot totally depend on technology to man your vast boundaries. We have got to consider that wind speed here can exceed 120 kmph and there are other factors too. It is difficult that satellite link for the UAV will work in these conditions," he said.

Asked about former Army chief, General V P Malik's recently released book on Kargil war, Air Marshal Singh termed it as incorrect that there had been any delay on IAF's part in joining hands with the Army or that it had risen a bit late to the occasion to ward off the enemy threat. "I was incharge of all operations during the Kargil War. There are several dichotomies in what he (Gen Malik) has said. The Air Force cannot be blamed for any delay. We made 3000 sorties during the war period," he said. He said what Malik has written is his "individual perception and it is not on official record". The Air Marshal stressed that when 65 to 70 per cent of the IAF's purchases are to assist the Army, then there was no reason why they would have swung late into action. Defending his Force and putting the ball in the Army's court, he said to say whether Army had faulted in analysing how many invaders had entered our territory or how much intelligence had poured in or was not "pondered over" was a different issue. He said his

Force was laying much emphasis on working in coordination with the Army and sharing intelligence wherever it was required.

"Post Kargil, we have heightened our surveillance. We are now holding on to the posts that we used to vacate during the winters," he said. In reply to a question, Singh said the IAF required 80 helicopters, a large number of radars for guidance and surveillance among other equipment.

Highlighting the role played by the IAF in guarding the Siachen sector, he said the conditions where the men operated were extremely difficult, inaccessible and caused many casualties besides involving huge sums of money. "The place remains snow-bound for most part of the year, temperatures drop to as low as minus 35 degree celsius, the atmosphere is rarified due to which oxygen concentration is about 30 per cent less, but the IAF men work round-the-clock and no wonder we are known as Siachen Saviours," he said. He said there were instances when soldiers manning the posts in Siachen have to be force fed with chocolates because they lost appetite and feared to defecate knowing that they would have to take out clothes in harsh conditions. "There is constant requirement of oxygen and medicare for our men. We have lost a lot of men-officers here. There are virtually bottomless areas as 8,000 feet where even a body cannot be retrieved," he said.

The Air Marshal also talked about the role played by the IAF in the counter-insurgency operation in J&K, especially in Rajouri and Doda sectors. To a question, he said two MI 17 helicopters are kept ready round-the-clock at two different locations in J&K to assist the Army in launching counter-insurgency operation. He also talked about the work done by the IAF in reaching out to the earthquake victims of October last year and those stuck at different locations in the Valley, which experienced heavy snowfall early last year.

He said the IAF had lifted 47,000 people during the earthquake and the snowfall in a record number of 21 days. Besides guarding the frontiers, he said the IAF also injected money into the local economy by providing employment opportunities to the civilian population who work as casual labour. On the modern age warfare becoming hi-tech, he said "we have a stake in knowing and dealing with the space. The Air Chief has said there is a requirement of having an Aero Space Command and a cell has been set up to deal with this".

## **Rs 1,300-cr Rohtang tunnel to open by 2014**

*Business Standard, May 13, 2006*

Work is expected to finally begin on the construction of the 9 km-long tunnel in Himachal Pradesh at a cost of Rs1,300 crore early next year, according to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The BRO has been assigned the task of building the strategic tunnel by the defence ministry. "The work on the 9 km-long tunnel is expected to finish by 2014," said KP Singh, chief engineer of the BRO. "The environment clearance for the project has been obtained from the union environment and forestry ministry," he said.

The foundation stone of the mammoth project was laid by former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee four years ago but there have been delays since then including environment clearance from the Centre. "We have deposited Rs10 crore with the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board (HPSEB) which will provide us power infrastructure. The same amount has also been allotted to the forest department for carrying out tree plantation and disposal of debris," said Singh. "We have now finalised the consultancy firm to carry out the tunnelling and boring through the hill," he added. Overlooking the popular resort town of Manali, the Rohtang tunnel will be located at around 9,500 feet and would reduce the distance on the 480 km-long Manali-Leh road by 46 km, BRO officials say.

Currently this high altitude road remains closed for traffic for over six months in a year due to heavy snow over the 13,050 feet high Rohtang pass. The tunnel will by-pass the dangerous pass and connect the tribal Lahaul valley, during most of the year once the tunnel is built. "Lahaul farmers will benefit greatly as they are often unable to sell their cash crops to markets located outside the Lahaul valley as the road is often blocked for several months, causing huge losses," he said. The tunnel would also help the Indian army in transporting supplies to landlocked Ladakh, a strategic region in Jammu & Kashmir. Singh said two roads leading up to the tunnelling site on both sides of the mountain had made considerable progress and Rs19 crore had already been spent on this. When the project was conceived some fifteen years ago, the cost of the tunnel was expected to be around Rs700 crore but delays have almost doubled the cost.



## **Alchi Monastery to be nominated for World Heritage Site status**

*Zeenews*, June 26, 2006

Alchi Monastery, one of the most important Buddhist cultural sites nestled in the scenic Himalayan region of Ladakh, has made it to the shortlist of Indian locations vying for world heritage site status. The World Heritage Committee has approved the monastery for nomination by India, a Culture Ministry official said.

Alchi has been included in India's list of sites to be taken up for nomination with UNESCO for conferring the heritage site status, the official said. Union Tourism and Culture Minister Ambika Soni, during her recent tour of Ladakh, gave an assurance that the nomination of Alchi for World Heritage Site status will be taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India, he said.

As one country can give only one nomination for a cultural site in a year and India has already proposed the nomination of Delhi's Red Fort in the year 2007, the Buddhist monastery will be taken up by ASI thereafter, she said. Also known as the Ajanta of the Himalayas, the Alchi complex is one of the most important cultural sites in the Himalayan region.

The ASI, under the Ministry of Culture, protects 69 monuments in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 11 are in the Leh district. The allocation of funds for 2006-07 for conservation works by ASI in the state is Rs 282 lakh and for other regional works Rs 40 lakh.

## **Cloudbursts inflict heavy damage in Kargil villages**

*Kashmir Observer*, Aug. 2, 2006:

Severe damage has been caused in several mountain villages of Kargil by heavy rains and flash floods following a cloud burst.

Flood waters swept away two mosques and a Sumo vehicle while the damage to irrigation canals, link roads and standing crops is estimated to run into crores of rupees.

The latest cloud burst occurred on July 29 in Amba and Satkpa areas which have been witnessing torrential rains since. The area was flooded, and the waters swept away two mosques besides damaging several residential houses, irrigation canals and standing crops, the sources told Kashmir Observer. Damage was also reported in Sangra, some forty-five kilometres from Kargil, where huge boulders slipping from the hillsides blocked the Kargil-Zanskar road. Cloud bursts have also been reported from Tikat, Khadi and Barsu villages causing damage to roads, crops and canals. The district administration has started emergency rescue operations and begun evacuation from the areas where flood waters threaten human lives.

District officials led by Hill Council members Asghar Karbalai, Nasir Hussain Munshi and Hami Ishaq toured the affected areas and provided relief to the victims.

MLA Zanskar, Ghulam Raza, met the deputy chief minister, Muzaffar Hussain Beig and demanded immediate relief for the affected areas.

## **Two children killed, 7 hurt**

Kargil, Aug. 3, 2006:

*Daily Excelsior*

Two children were killed and seven members of a family were injured when a house collapsed at Langmi in Zanskar area of this district last mid-night due to heavy rains. SSP Kargil Gareeb Dass said the house gave way after heavy rains killing two children and injuring seven others. A three month child Stenzing Kusal son of Sonam Dorjay and four year old Stenzing Palkit son of Tsewang Gyalson were buried under debris of the house.

Local people and police rescued seven other family members trapped in the house after two hour long rescue operation. Injured were later shifted to hospital where they were responding to the treatment.

## **Measures taken to combat damages due to floods in Ladakh: Mangat**

*Daily Excelsior*, Aug. 5, 2006:

Government have taken all necessary steps to combat the hazardous and damages caused due to the floods in various areas of Ladakh region. This was stated by Transport Minister Mangat Ram Sharma in reply to a Calling Attention Notice moved by P. Namgyal and Nassurullah in Legislative Council today. He said during the intervening night of July 31, and August 1st torrential rains and cloud burst took place in Leh, Saboo, Phyang, Igoo and Shara areas of Leh district and different pockets of block Sankoo in Kargil district which caused heavy floods, damages and devastation to standing crops. Plantations, roads, bridges, irrigation kuhls and some residential houses. The exact loss caused due to the flood is being assessed and will be available shortly.

He said irrigation facilities have been restored to standing crops by restoring most of the Zamindari khuls to avoid further loss to standing crops. Services of the Army have also been sought to supplement the efforts of the District Administration in restoration/relief work. They are providing men and material to their possible limits.

He said officers of the Rural Development Department, R&B, PHE are already present in the affected areas to conduct detailed assessment of the losses and damage caused which is expected to be completed shortly. A tentative assessment of cost of restoration of damaged assets and public utilities have been received from Kargil district.

The Government has issued instructions to the Revenue Department for release of Rs. 10 lakhs each out of the Calamity Relief Fund as immediate assistance for restoration of public utilities works of emergent nature in Kargil/Leh districts, he added.

### **Army to help in flood-hit areas of Ladakh**

*PTI, Aug. 4, 2006:*

Jammu and Kashmir government has sought the army's help in supplementing its relief work in flood-hit areas of Ladakh region. "Services of army have been sought to supplement the efforts of the district administration in restoration and relief work in flood-hit areas of Ladakh region," Transport Minister Mangat Ram Sharma said in reply to a calling attention notice in the legislative council here.

During the intervening night of July 31 and August 1, torrential rains and cloud burst in Leh, Saboo, Phyang, Igoo and Shara in Leh district and different pockets of block Sankoo in Kargil district caused floods. Massive damage was caused to standing crops, plantations, roads, bridges and some houses in the flood-hit areas, Sharma said adding government has taken all necessary steps to combat the damages caused due to the floods.

Although the exact loss is being assessed, the minister said district administrations of Leh and Kargil have taken immediate steps to rehabilitate the affected families and provided immediate succour to them. He said affected areas have been divided into zones and zonal teams of officers have been constituted and deployed to oversee flood control measures.

Irrigation facilities have been restored to standing crops to avoid further loss to standing crops; Sharma said adding government has issued instructions to the revenue department for release of Rs 10 lakhs each out of the calamity relief fund for restoration of public utilities works of emergent nature in the districts.

### **Flood situation grim in Leh: Army evacuates 500**

*PTI, Aug. 6, 2006:*

With the flood situation in Ladakh turning grim, the army has stepped up rescue efforts evacuating over 500 people from several submerged areas of Leh and Kargil district.

The army has been put on a red alert in the region where incessant rains and flash floods have left seven persons dead and hit 20 villages. "We have launched a major relief and rescue operation in Leh and Kargil district of frontier Ladakh region as the flood situation has become very grim. We have rescued 500 people from submerged area till now," top army officials said.

Rains since the past one week have triggered flash floods in the Ladakh region with Diskit located at the base of Siachen glacier in Kargil sector the most affected, they said.

Five hundred people have been taken to safer areas and food and other essential items provided to them since last evening.

Army is trying to reach out to people in all effected places and for this operation, army has deployed 300 jawans and officers and set-up five tented village camps, they said.

Army has also pressed in four columns of engineers for setting up temporary brigades and communication facilities to help people caught in submerged areas, they said.

Nearly 20 villagers have been hit due to flash floods and 22 bridges have broken. Seven persons, including three army jawans, two army porters in Batalik area of Kargil and two children in Leh have been killed due to the floods.

Several areas have been totally cut off and flash floods in water channels have washed away roads too, they said adding almost the entire Ladakh is affected. "Things are very grim in Ladakh and it is likely to become worse if rains fail to stop," they said adding army's men and machines are trying to save several villagers. Entire army in Ladakh has been put on high alert and all the army contingents, and formations have been asked to help people, they said.

Several army formations have also provided food, medicines and shelter to the affected people, they said.

### **Azad announces relief for Leh, Kargil**

*Daily Excelsior, Aug. 8, 2006:*

Expressing solidarity with flood affected people of Leh and Kargil districts, Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad assured them every possible help of Government for relief and rehabilitation. He directed the administration to be vigilant even if rains have stopped and water is receding saying that heavy downpour unabated for so many days has made the soil highly saturated and any further rain could trigger eventualities.

Addressing a high level meeting at Leh after conducting aerial survey of the flood-affected areas today, Chief Minister said that the magnitude of damage is beyond imagination and the damage he has witnessed from the aerial view calls for perspective planning for not only early relief and restoration of damaged infrastructure but evolving effective flood protection measures in future.

The Chief Minister said it has been observed for last some years that Ladakh comes constantly under the grip of floods and torrential rains have become a phenomenon. This, he said, has to be kept in view and measures initiated to combat such a natural cycle emerging in the area.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Power Nawang Rigzin Jora, Social Welfare Minister Haji Nissar Ali, Chief Executive Councilor LAHDC Leh Tsering Dorje, Member Parliament Thupstan Chhewang, P. Namgyal MLC, Chief Secretary C. Phunsog, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Basharat Ahmad, Executive Councilors Dorje Motup, Tsewang Rigzin and Mohammad Khan, Councilors of LAHDC and Deputy Commissioner Leh M. K. Dwivedi besides senior police and security forces officers. The Chief Minister announced immediate relief of Rs. 50 lakh each to Leh and Kargil districts in the first instance to attend to the urgent relief works. Mr. Azad directed the authorities to make assessment of losses within 24 hours and submit the same to the Government for assistance. Asking them along with providing relief to the affected and ensuring protection to the people in vulnerable areas, he stressed for restoring connectivity on priority adding that connectivity between Leh and Kargil districts and interior villages is must to carry out restoration work of public infrastructure.

Chief Minister announced ex-gratia relief of Rs. 50,000 to the next of kin of each victim of the floods in Leh and Kargil. He also announced one month's free ration to the affected families. Assuring adequate funds for relief, Mr. Azad said that apart from Rs. 10000 each to a family whose house is completely damaged, he announced additional Rs. 10000 for each of such families out of Chief Minister's relief fund. Similarly, the families whose houses have received partial damage would get Rs. 2000 out of Chief Minister's relief fund in addition to Rs. 2000 under normal relief programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Power Minister Nawang Rigzin Jora asked the district administration to go ahead for restoration and repair of footbridges, irrigation channels, water supply schemes, roads and other infrastructure damaged due to floods and also submit a comprehensive assessment of damages to the Government.

Chief Executive Councilor LAHDC Leh Tsering Dorje also urged him for providing funds immediately for taking up relief and restoration measures.

Member Parliament Thupstan Chhewang apprised Mr. Azad about the flood damages in Ladakh and pleaded for release of adequate funds out of natural calamity and Chief Minister's relief fund as well to provide succour to the affected families.

### **Agriculture experts visit Ladakh region**

*Daily Excelsior*, Aug. 15, 2006:

A Central high level team headed by Aman Jha, Director Agriculture, Union Ministry of Agriculture reached at Changthang to examine the cause of infestation of 'locust' in Changthang region and to find out ways and means to curb the locust.

Changthang area of Ladakh region which breeds Pashmina goats and produce high quality Pashmina has received a great threat since last two years and with the infestation of locust in the pasture area. Hardly last year, locust was seen in pasture area but this year its population multiplied and attacked the standing crop fields. In July this year locust were present in big number at pasture area but in August they began to start attacking crop fields at Rongo, Anlay and Loma. There is every apprehension that more villages and pasture areas are likely to affect and destroy fields.

Mr Jha alongwith Executive Councillor, Agriculture, LAHDC Leh Mr Tsering Norboo made an aerial view of the pasture areas by helicopter and met people at Demjok, Anlay and Kuyul areas closer to China border. The team members surveyed the area and assessed the losses and the outbreak of locust. The main purpose was to study the root cause of sudden and violent occurrence of numberless locust in the region and to find concrete solution to stop its rapid breeding.

The Agriculture experts from SKUAST Srinagar and other National Agriculture experts including those from Rajasthan are with the team visiting area. The local agriculture experts and nomads of the area however, say that it is happening due to imbalance in nature. They say many species of birds have disappeared in the past several decades.

### **Locust control measures launched in Leh**

*Daily Excelsior*, Aug. 18, 2006:

To control and check the deadly locust post in Kargil and Leh districts, agriculture department has taken measures on war footing basis. Ghulam Hyder Bhat director of Agriculture Kashmir alongwith Joint Director Agriculture Extension and team of officers are supervising the control measures at Zanskar, Changthang and Neema areas. Reportedly, the deadly Locust has spread in thousands of hectares of land causing a great damage to standing crops.

During last one week two thousand and five hundred liters of pesticides have been sprayed in the affected crops areas to check the further advancement of the post. A team of scientists/experts from the Central government is also assisting to control the invasion of deadly Locust. The Department of Agriculture Kashmir has rushed more power sprayers and pesticides to the affected areas. It is pertinent to mention here that the Locust pest eat all the vegetation whatsoever comes in their way in no time and the land looks barren and bald.

### **Locust Control Operation launched on war-footing in Kargil**

*Daily Excelsior*, Aug. 20, 2006:

Locust Control Operation has started on war footing in Pipiting, Ufty, Padum, Salapi, Stara, Sani, Aating, Rarumoni, Rantagsha, Phay villages etc. of Zanskar sub division under the guidance and supervision of Ram Asre, Deputy Director Locust Control Farid-Abad, who is camping at Zanskar during these days. The Executive Councilor for tourism, LAHDC, Kargil, Sonam Namgyal and SDM Zanskar, Ghulam Rasool Wani are also monitoring and supervising the locust control operation.

Locust control works are being carried out in four phases. In this connection, the villagers are advised not to graze animals in the sprayed fields. The Sub Divisional Magistrate Zanskar appealed to the people not to use the water where the nallah flows along the treated fields/sprayed areas. He also sought peoples cooperation for Locust Control team by way of providing manpower.

It is pertinent to mention here that Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad was briefed about locust infestation at a meeting at Kargil recently and he expressed his deep concern over the matter and directed for urgent measures to check the spread of this dangerous insect. On the personnel intervention and efforts of Chief Minister, a high level team from New Delhi headed by Director Agriculture Union Ministry of Agriculture, Ama Jha visited Zaskar to see the reason of infestation of locust in the Zaskar sub division and find out the ways and means to curb it. The experts from New Delhi, and from SKUAST, Srinagar and other from Rajasthan also accompanied the team.

### **Flights to Leh being increased to promote tourism: Azad**

*Daily Excelsior, Sept. 2, 2006:*

Trying to put the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir on the international tourism map, the State Government is taking slew of measures to develop the connectivity and infrastructure to the untapped scenic region of mountain passes. "In days to come we will try to increase flights to Leh both in terms of frequency and also links from other States including Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad," State Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said while inaugurating 'Ladakh Festival-2006' here today.

Giving the details of the various projects undertaken by the State Government, he said a 220 KV transmission line from Srinagar has been approved at the cost of Rs 634 crore, besides Rs 200 crore project of construction of a double lane road between the two States.

Though the foreign countries issue travel advisory for their citizens not to visit Jammu and Kashmir but they don't know about this region which is untouched by the militancy, the Chief Minister said, adding no part in the globe - be it Europe or any other western country - was free from violence but Ladakh was.

The 15-day long festival showcasing the rich culture and heritage of the region is being organised by the Tourism Department of the State Government. Pointing out that due to militancy the development work in the State has suffered including construction of roads and hospitals and other crucial infrastructure projects, Azad said, however, in last three years things have improved. Since the Congress Government has come in power both at the Centre and the State things are improving, he said, adding there was better coordination and understanding between the two.

He said nearly 22,000 foreign visitors had come to Ladakh this year and the measures will ensure that there will be a steady increase in the number of travellers to the region.

Saying that equitable development of all the three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is the focal point of Government policy Mr Azad said that recent passing of legislation for constitution of Finance Commission is a historic step taken by the Government in this direction. He said the Commission would look after the equal distribution of resources at regional and sub-regional level and suggest measures for bridging the gap between hitherto left under-developed and the developed areas.

Chief Minister was addressing public meetings at Nobra and Turtuk after inaugurating the festival. Mr. Azad said speedy development of hilly, backward and far-flung border areas is receiving priority attention of the Government and a network of schemes has already been initiated to open up these areas for economic growth and development. Chief Minister said that under the new work culture introduced to ensure responsive administration and proper spending of funds and comprehensive monitoring, a temperament of commitment for public good is gaining ground both in Government offices and in the field. Launching of double and triple-shift system of work to complete public-importance projects within shortest possible time is also started yielding good results.

Referring to liberal financial support by the Central Government for reconstruction of public infrastructure and expansion of development activities, the Chief Minister lauded Central leadership for this gesture and stressed for translating the Prime Minister's reconstruction plan into a success by devoting honest service in implementation programme. He said he has already asked the Central authorities to reduce the gestation period of power and other projects for obtaining quick results to ensure that benefits accrue to common masses early.

Mr. Azad said that Ladakh possesses great tourist potential and requires proper grooming for international tourism, adding that as a Union Tourism Minister he had initiated various schemes for tourism development for Ladakh area and as Chief Minister of the State, he has placed tourism development on top of development agenda.

He said under the recently announced creation of new administrative units, Ladakh has received due share. He said in the education expansion programme a good number of high and higher secondary schools and ITI institutions have been established in Ladakh region. He said two prestigious power projects of Rs. 637.97 crore Nemo-Bazgo 45 MW and Rs. 651.52 crore Chutak 44 MW are coming up in Leh and Kargi districts under Prime Minister's reconstruction plan. He said Srinagar-Leh power transmission line project and installation of power lines side by side with Nemo-Bazgo and Chutak hydel projects has also been conceived at a cost of Rs. 634 crore. The 375 km long power transmission line will be having four sub-stations at Drass, Kargil, Khaltai and Leh and State cabinet has already sanctioned the project.

Chief Minister said double-laning of Srinagar-Leh road at a cost of Rs. 560 crore has also been sanctioned while as Rs. 171 crore Nemo-Padam-Darcha road is being constructed to open Ladakh region for larger economic activities.

Expressing deep gratitude on behalf of the people of Ladakh for the keen interest Chief Minister is taking in the development of Ladakh region, Minister for Power Nawang Rigzin Jora said that Mr. Azad as a Union Minister also extended full support for the upliftment of the people of this region.

While inaugurating Ladakh festival at Leh, Chief Minister highlighted the cultural mosaic of Jammu and Kashmir and added that there is fantastic and unique unison in the diverse cultural ethos of the State and every tradition of every place of the State reflects love, brotherhood, tolerance, peace and mutual amity. He said this specialty of this part of the country makes it miniature India with a novel character of unity in diversity.

Chief Minister said that organizing of cultural festivals not only provide for reminding the people of their heritage and historic richness but showcase the high values of people and society for others to learn about these.

### **Electrification of Ladakh by 2010: Jora**

*The Hindu*, Sept. 25, 2006.

Jammu and Kashmir Power Minister Nawang Rigzin Jora said the State Government would take every possible step to improve the power situation in Ladakh region and complete its electrification by year 2010. Mr Jora was addressing a gathering on Friday, on the second day of the five-day-long Central Government's Bharat Nirman Programme in collaboration with other units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting here at the Polo ground.

He said that electrification of all the remaining 62 villages would be completed by 2010 under the centrally sponsored scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) at a cost of Rs 66.93 lakh. Under this scheme 35 villages in Leh district would be electrified at a cost of Rs 39 crores.

He said there are 240 inhabited villages in the region, of which 178 have been electrified so far. He said though the power situation in the region was not satisfactory, almost all the villages have been provided power supply either through diesel generator sets or solar power system.

The Minister said at present the demand for power in Ladakh region is 58.54 MW whereas only 16.19 MW is available, out of which 8.39 MW is diesel-based and 7.80 MW is through hydro-power.

The Power Ministry at the Centre introduced RGGVY in April, 2005, which aims at providing electricity in all left over villages and habitations in five years and access to electricity to all rural households. This programme has been brought under the ambit of Bharat Nirman.

Mr Jora also said Nimoo Bazgo (Alchi) project is scheduled to be commissioned by November 2010 with an estimated cost of Rs 611.01 crores. The project would also provide 14 MW power in the winter months. The infrastructure work of the project is complete and the main work of the project will commence in October 2006.

### **Ladakh being covered for environmental development**

*Daily Excelsior*, Sept. 27, 2006:

Under the assistance of the World Bank, the Ladakh region is being covered for environmental development to improve the lot of the people in sectors like Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development, etc. An amount of Rs. 260 crores would be spent on these schemes.

This was stated by the Forest and Environment Minister Qazi Mohammad Afzal at World Bank's Preparation Mission review workshop of participatory Watershed Management Project (PWMP) here today.

The Workshop was attended by Chief Executive Councillor, Leh Tsering Dorje, chief Executive Councillor Kargil, Haji Asgal Ali Karbalie, Executive councillor Agriculture Mr. Tsering Narboo Lampa, Executive Councillor Health Dorje Motup, Executive councillor Works LAHDC Kargil Nasir Hussain Munshi, Deputy Commissioner, Leh M. K. Dwivedi, Deputy Commissioner Kargil Kacho Isfandyar Khan, and other senior officers of the district. The Principal Chief Conservator Forest J&K R. D. Tiwari, Daniel Semell, team leader of the World Bank team, Adalpo, Sector Manager World Bank also attended the workshop. Mr. Qazi Afzal said that under Integrated Watershed Development Project, Jills I and II has already launched in Kashmir and Jammu. Now the State Government has chosen Ladakh to bring it under the ambit of World Bank Mission Scheme, the Minister added. The Forest Minister said that Leh and Kargil districts has a typical ecological system with harsh climatic conditions. He said it is the endeavour of the Government to provide every facility to Ladakh to improve its flora and fauna and arrest the desertification and to bring ecological balance.

In the workshop the Chief Executive Councilors Leh and Kargil projected their suggestions and urged for environmental development in Ladakh to protect its flora and fauna. The Deputy Commissioners Leh and Kargil also gave a brief of the developmental activities and the line areas where the World Bank assistance is needed.

### **Now, Kargil to be on world tourism map**

*Indiatimes.com* Oct.7, 2006:

Recognising the vast tourist potential of Kargil district, which hit international headlines with the Pakistani intrusion in 1999, the Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated steps to bring it onto the world tourism map. Steps have already been taken to make Kargil, 200 km from here, an attractive tourist destination, chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said at a public meeting on Friday.

"The government has launched a series of mega projects, including upgradation of the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh road into a national highway, construction of the prestigious 220 km Srinagar-Kargil-Leh transmission line, construction of two power projects - one each in Kargil and Leh, connecting remote areas of the region with a network of roads and communication to change its economic scenario and making it a modern and developed area of the state," he said. Azad said he would take up the matter of starting air-service to Kargil during winters with concerned authorities.

Earlier, addressing people in Drass, the second coldest place in the world, Azad said Drass, the 'Gateway of Ladakh', would be developed into a beautiful modern town.

"Granting sub-division status to Drass is a step forward in the direction of fulfilling the people's cherished desire," he said, adding that tourist villages and other such tourism-related infrastructure were being set up there to host visitors to Ladakh. The chief minister said development work worth five crores has already been started in Drass.

Azad said special attention was being paid to strengthen and expand the education sector and ensure universalisation of elementary education besides laying stress on higher and technical education, particularly in remote areas.

### **ISK seeks Division status for Ladakh**

*Daily Excelsior*, Dec. 17, 2006:

Islamia School Kargil, a politico-religious body of the Muslim community in Kargil, has called for unity among all people of Ladakh, particularly the Muslims and the Buddhists, so as to launch a struggle for an independent Division status to the lofty Himalayan region.

In a statement faxed to the EXCELSIOR, Islamia School Kargil called upon all residents of Ladakh, particularly the Muslims and Buddhists, to unite for a separate regional status, at par with the administrative divisions of Kashmir and Jammu. As of now, Ladakh, comprising the hill districts of Kargil and Leh, happens to be an administrative constituent of Kashmir division. Even at the middle rung of

Police administration, DIG Srinagar holds the control of Leh and Kargil districts, in addition to his Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal Police districts.

"Today Ladakh region is a part of Kashmir Division like any other district in Kashmir valley, which in no way is justifiable from any standard" said the Islamia School statement. It said that instead of getting divided into controversial options, opinions and suggestions for a permanent settlement of the vexed issue of Kashmir, Ladakhis must unite over the most realistic, practical and achievable goal of economic justice and development.

"All the Commissions of Inquiry constituted by the state government in the past to look into the grievances of regional disparities have strongly recommended equal rights to all the regions of the State. The State Government can create a separate Province for Ladakh through an executive order in the same manner as it created eight districts for Kashmir and Jammu regions without any legal or constitutional implications" said the statement.

It claimed that the Buddhist Association of Ladakh had also agreed to raise the issue together with the Muslim community. It implored all the Ladakhi organisations---political, religious and social---to gear up for a united struggle with the realistic and practical demand of division status to Ladakh.

### **LAHDC appeals for opening of Kargil-Skardu route through LoC**

*Zeenews*, Jan 12, 2007: On the eve of External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Pakistan, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, today appealed for opening of Kargil-Skardu road for vehicular traffic on the lines of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes.

"You are visiting Pakistan to discuss various issues for the development of peace process between the two countries. The people of Kargil appeal to your wisdom and compassion to take necessary initiatives for reopening of Kargil-Skardu road," Chairman of LAHDC, Kargil, Asgar Ali Karbalaie said in a letter to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Lauding the leadership of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for improving Indo-Pak ties, Karbalaie said the opening of the Kargil-Skardu road across the line of control would bring about a "sea change in socio-economic condition of the people of Kargil in particular and Ladakh region in general". It would also help in establishing contacts between the divided families who have been separated since long.

The people of Kargil see a ray of hope in the opening of routes like Srinagar-Muzaffarabad in Kashmir and Poonch-Rawalakot in Jammu divisions and were looking for a similar initiative for Ladakh, the two-page letter said.

"It is the aspiration of the people of Kargil district, indeed the whole of Ladakh region to establish some physical linkage with Skardu and it is in this context that we see some hope from the reopening of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakote routes in the state," Karbalaie said.



## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

- Ravina Aggarwal is on leave from her job as Associate Professor at Smith College and has taken up a position as Programme Officer at the Ford Foundation in New Delhi. Her contact details are:

Ravina Aggarwal  
Programme Officer,  
Higher Education, Arts and Culture,  
The Ford Foundation  
55, Lodhi Estate  
New Delhi 110003  
India  
e-mail: raggarwa@email.smith.edu

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

### 13TH IALS COLLOQUIUM IN ROME

7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

We are delighted to announce that the 13th IALS Colloquium will take place in Rome from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007. We are most grateful to Elena de Rossi Filibeck and her colleagues at the La Sapienza University of Rome for agreeing to host the conference.

The IALS has reserved accommodation at the Villa Aurelia which is in central Rome close to St. Peter's Cathedral. Please make bookings via Francesca Merritt, whose contact details are below. The cost per person for half board is a total of 240 Euros or 160 UK Pounds in a shared room for the four days' duration of the conference. A limited amount of accommodation in single rooms may be available. There will be a conference fee of 100 Euros (£66-00), half-price for full-time students.

#### **Papers**

As in previous colloquia, we welcome proposals for papers on a wide range of topics related to Ladakh. All papers should be based on original research, rather than a restatement of material that is already available elsewhere, and proposals are subject to review by the conference committee. Please send abstracts of approximately 250 words by May 1st 2007. Participants are welcome to propose panels for presentations on related themes. You will find a form for preliminary registration in the back of this issue.

We hope to publish a selection of the conference papers in the Rivista degli Studi Orientali.

#### **Pre-registration**

If you are planning to attend - even tentatively- please could you inform John Bray as soon as possible, copied to Francesca Merritt and Elena de Rossi Filibeck at the following addresses:

John Bray Hon. Secretary IALS.  
1208, 2-14-1 Furuishiba, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0045, Japan.  
E-mail: JNBray1957@yahoo.co.uk

cc: Francesca Merritt. Hon Membership Secretary and Treasurer  
254 West End Road, Ruislip, Middx.HA4 6DX U.K.  
E-mail: francesca@merrittf.fsnet.co.uk

cc: Elena de Rossi Filibeck E-mail: [edrf@libero.it](mailto:edrf@libero.it)

Further details will be sent out by email and posted on the IALS website ([www.ladakhstudies.org](http://www.ladakhstudies.org)).

#### **Provisional programme**

##### *Friday September 7th*

Registration followed by dinner and an evening meeting in Villa Aurelia.

##### *Saturday September 8th*

Morning conference session at the Facoltà di Studi Orientali (FSO - Faculty of Oriental Studies) of La Sapienza University, Via Principe Amedeo 184.

Lunch at the FSO.

Afternoon conference session followed by inauguration of a special exhibition of historical photographs by Italian travellers in Ladakh at the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale "Giuseppe Tucci" in Via Merulana 248.

Dinner in Villa Aurelia.

*Sunday 9th September*

Morning: a free visit to the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale.

Lunch in a typical Rome restaurant.

Afternoon conference session in Villa Aurelia

*Monday 10th September*

Morning and afternoon conference sessions in FSO

Conference dinner in Villa Aurelia.

*Tuesday 11th September*

Departure of participants.

*Subsidies for South Asian participants*

We expect to be able to subsidise the participation of at least four South Asian participants. As ever we are particularly keen to encourage new research from within the region, especially by younger scholars. Applicants for subsidies will be requested to send a full paper, not just an abstract, for review by the conference committee.

# REPORT

## LOCUSTS IN ZANGSKAR

By Seb Mankelov

In recent years the concerns of Zangskari farmers have largely centred on the shortfall in irrigation water and the damage caused by pea moth. Now Zangskari agriculture is facing a new challenge: locusts. Reported in Ladags Melong (August 2006), plagues of locusts (*Shistocerca gregaria*) have been eating their way through vegetation in parts of the Chang-thang and in Zangskar, where the problem is particularly acute.

Whilst local media and the District administration have only recently acknowledged the scale of the locust problem, Zangskaris in Stod and Junkhor have now endured their second summer of locust infestation. First observed in Zangskar in June 2005 in the Ating area, the range of the locusts quickly expanded from the Stod valley into Central Zangskar, decimating crops from Tungri and Sani across to Padum. In 2006 the expansion continued into the Karsha area and up into Lungnak destroying the harvest in Mune, Reru and the north facing fields of Ichar. In August, farmers in Stongde managed to complete their harvest before clouds of locusts also descended onto their fields, although subsequent breeding and egg laying does not bode well for next year's crop. By mid-September 2006, locust sightings were reported from Kargyak, Zangla and the top of the Pensi La, and by early October breeding locusts had also penetrated up into Shun-Shade region (personal observation 03/10/06).

The locusts have devastated crops and the field margins relied upon for cutting hay. In 2006, the majority of households in Stod, Central Zangskar and lower Lungnak had, at most, managed to salvage only half a sack (6 khal/ approx 60kg) of barley each. Many farmers enduring their second summer of locust infestation no longer possess any barley for sowing and the widespread intention is to buy seed from villages in Sham. The market price of barley has increased to around Rs100 per khal (from Rs60 in 2004) and is predicted to reach RS 200 per khal by summer 2007. Farmers from locust affected areas were unsure whether sowing next spring would be worthwhile, but few were prepared to risk abstaining completely should the locust numbers miraculously decrease. Most justified sowing at least half of their fields under the pretext that, at the very least, they would harvest some fodder for their animals. The locusts' appetite has also resulted in a shortage of winter fodder and the cost of hay and straw has now peaked at Rs120 per khal. Interviews with concerned farmers in September 2006 confirmed a shortage of fodder for the coming winter and for many the easiest way to relieve this burden has been to sell their least valued livestock.

Zangskar administration's response to the locust problem was initially hampered by disbelief in Kargil. Zangskaris had been requesting assistance since June 2005 but the gravity of the situation was not recognised at District level. Admittedly in 2005 Zangskar's Department of Agriculture was largely responsible for exceeding the District's 1 Lakh pesticide budget by Rs 70,000, but this had little affect on the locust population that returned in 2006 in ever-greater numbers. It was not until the summer of 2006 that the combined efforts of the Information Officer Zangskar and the Councillor for Padum managed to get 80 minutes of locust video footage in front of the Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Kargil and the Deputy Commissioner. The subsequent tour by the Deputy Commissioner of affected areas in Zangskar Sub-Division was also filmed and this footage was shown to the visiting Chief Minister and Chief Secretary (who were touring the flood damaged areas of Kargil District in August 2006). The severity of the situation was eventually realised and a pledge was made to send Agricultural experts to Zangskar. Within 2 days the Deputy Director of Locust Control of India arrived in the State Helicopter and more experts followed by road in the proceeding weeks.

With external technical support and confirmation of funding, the Department of Agriculture in Padum (which is now manned by two enthusiastic Junior Agricultural Assistants from Zangskar) has begun the implementation of a wider pesticide-spraying programme. On August 31st 2006 a seminar was held in Padum with the objective of educating Zangskaris on diluting and spraying the pesticide Chlorpyrifos 20%. Around 85 farmers (mainly from Padum) attended the demonstrations that were coordinated by the Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO) G.M. Bardi. Whilst encouraging farmers to assist with the spraying programme, efforts were also made to discourage Zangskaris from unorganised and ill-informed use of pesticide. Unaware of the hazards involved a number of farmers have apparently been diluting and spraying with no protective equipment and because the locust was not dying immediately on contact with the spray some farmers had resorted to spraying undiluted concentrate. Classed as a medium hazard pesticide the paperwork that accompanies Chlorpyrifos 20% confirms that it is a "contact and stomach poison" that may also result in polyneuropathy. Domestic animals must also be kept off sprayed areas for ten days to avoid any contamination of dairy produce (which may result from ingesting large numbers of dead locusts).

The Department of Agriculture has amassed 23 powersprays and 16 operational knapsack sprays (16L capacity) with which to start the offensive, although the number of suitable sets of protective mask, gloves and eyewear was not confirmed. Officials estimated pesticide application in 2006 to be in the region of 2000L; enough to cover 1000+ hectares considering half of the sprayed Chlorpyrifos 20% was thought to be undiluted. However, there appears to be little coordination at the village level in terms of organised blanket spraying of affected areas. The geographical scale of the problem combined with strong winds makes controlled spraying very difficult. Furthermore, many Buddhist Zangskaris refuse to participate in killing the locust, preferring instead to rely on religious intervention. To this end, Lotsawa Rinpoche toured Zangskar in June/July 2006, performing fire rituals in Reru, Padum, Yulsom and Tsazar, to appease those deemed responsible: the earth lord (sa bdag) and the nagas (klu).

The locusts are well suited to Zangskar's environment and they have also proven to be incredibly mobile. Methods to eradicate or contain their numbers have so far been ineffectual and their potential to multiply and spread further remains. Locust eggs clearly survive Zangskar's harsh winter and disturbance with an autumn plough (as recommended by the Department of Agriculture) only affects the few laid in cultivated soil. A long term spraying programme over such a large geographical area is not only financially questionable, it is also ethically unacceptable for some and may also have far-reaching and unforeseen environmental consequences. For now, the failed harvest is being offset by an extra rice ration from Zangskar's Government Stores, but this will prove increasingly inconvenient for remote villages that have no road connection. Moreover, extra rice does not recognise the shortage of winter fodder and the implications for Zangskar's livestock. Settling into another long winter, Zangskari farmers can do little now other than contemplate an increasingly uncertain future.

## ISSUES FOR DEBATE

### *Editor's note:*

The following is a response by Patrick Kaplanian to "On Plagiarism, Primacy, and the Indigenous Voice," a piece by Martin Mills published in LS 18. Dr Mills has been offered the opportunity to present a brief response to Patrick Kaplanian's rejoinder, but is of the view that his original piece remains an accurate representation of his views.

Of course, publication of the contributions to this debate should not be construed as support for either author's position. We believe it is important that generally accepted standards of scholarship be maintained and that credit is given where credit is due, including recognition of the importance of Ladakhi collaborators' contributions to research, data collection and analysis.

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### REPONSE A MARTIN MILLS

L'article publié par Martin A. Mills dans Ladakh Studies 18 sous le titre " On plagiarism, primacy and the indigenous voice " mérite à mon avis une réponse énergique et circonstanciée.

1) Martin écrit tout d'abord : " one cannot plagiarise a work one has never encounter. Thus if a researcher A explicitly quotes from researcher B who has (unknown to A) plagiarised the material from researcher C, A is not plagiarising C. "

Je veux bien admettre qu'un article de C n'ayant circulé qu'à quelques dizaines d'exemplaires puisse avoir échappé à A et qu'il n'en connaisse que le plagiat de B sans savoir que c'est un plagiat. Mais ceci est exceptionnel. Les bibliothèques modernes disposent de fichiers manuels et informatiques très pointus, et il y a peu de chances que l'article de C échappe à A, s'il a fait ses recherches correctement. Sans oublier les longues bibliographies à la fin des thèses et, dans le cas particulier du Ladakh, l'excellente bibliographie de John Bray, et ses mises à jour régulières dans L.S.

Mais il y a quelque chose de plus grave. Imaginons que A veuille citer B pour des raisons personnelles, d'amitié par exemple. Dans ce cas ce serait trop facile à A de citer B en prétendant qu'il ne connaissait pas le travail de C. En droit français celui qui achète un objet volé est coupable même s'il peut prouver qu'il ignorait qu'il était volé. Cela porte même un nom, cela s'appelle du recel.

2) Pour appuyer sa thèse Martin ajoute : " Research in Ladakh, in particular, is a multilingual milieu, and individual scholars cannot reasonably be expected to know all possible precursors to their work whether in English, Dutch, German, etc. ". Certes c'est exact. Un chercheur qui débute aujourd'hui un travail sur le Ladakh devrait s'enfermer cinq ans dix heures par jour dans des bibliothèques pour se mettre à jour, lire les travaux de ses prédécesseurs sans parler de ce qu'il devra dépenser en traductions s'il ne lit pas 10 ou 12 langues.

Mais qu'est-ce qu'il l'oblige à travailler sur le Ladakh ? J'ai commencé il y a 30 ans. Une des raisons pour lesquelles j'avais choisi ce terrain était justement qu'il y avait peu à lire et que j'avais envie de passer mon temps sur place et non pas dans des bibliothèques. Depuis j'ai pu me tenir au courant au fur et à mesure. Mais si aujourd'hui j'avais 25 ans et j'avais à choisir un terrain, jamais je ne choisirais le Ladakh. Il existe de nombreux terrains sur lesquels la bibliographie est tenue voire inexistante. Rien n'oblige personne à choisir un terrain saturé.

3) Ensuite notre auteur écrit : " Researcher A writes an ethnographic work discussing [par exemple] the patrilineal inheritance of household in Stongde village. Ten years later, researcher B carries out similar fieldwork in Stongde, and from the results of his own fieldwork writes a similar piece (with similar findings) about household inheritance in Stongde. B makes no reference of A's writings, even though B had, subsequent to doing his fieldwork, read A's work. B work (...) does not constitute plagiarism because the source of his published knowledge was his field research in Stongde, not A's writings ".

Voici une argumentation que je trouve un peu surréaliste. Ainsi n'importe quel chimiste qui verse de l'acide chlorhydrique sur de la soude caustique et obtient du sel et de l'eau pourra s'approprier cela comme une découverte originale au prétexte qu'il a utilisé une autre éprouvette, un autre stock de NaOH et de CLH que le premier qui a fait cette constatation, et qu'il a lui-même pesé les quantités de produits avant et après l'expérience. C'est nier tout progrès scientifique. Car enfin quel est l'intérêt d'aller refaire ce qui a été fait ? Ou bien B ne fait pas confiance à A, mais si finalement il obtient les mêmes résultats il doit le lui reconnaître. Ou bien B utilise une autre méthode, mais là aussi même réflexion. Ou bien B veut voir s'il y a eu une évolution depuis 10 ans ce qui implique une fois de plus de citer A. Sinon quel est l'intérêt ? J'ajoute que si B fait son enquête dans le village à côté, à Karsha par exemple, il doit aussi citer A : " Les résultats obtenus à Karsha coïncident ou pas sur tel ou tel point avec ceux obtenus par A il y a 10 ans à Stongde ".

Et qu'est-ce qui me dit que B ne s'est pas servi des travaux de A ? Je n'ai que sa parole. Peut-être même n'est-il jamais allé à Stongde.

4) Ensuite Martin fait remarquer que certaines choses sont tellement connues que ce n'est plus la peine d'en citer la source, laquelle source se perd dans la nuit des temps. Et de donner l'exemple de la bataille de Hastings (1066). Là je serai assez d'accord avec lui à condition de ne citer personne. Si une chose a été dite 100 fois, on ne cite pas le 72ème qui en a parlé : on cite le premier ou personne.

5) Ensuite notre auteur écrit qu'il y a un danger, " a danger of knowledge itself of being "ownable", and therefore "stealable" ". Non il ne faut pas confondre la propriété intellectuelle et artistique (une œuvre d'art, un roman, un logo dessiné par un graphiste, un slogan, un morceau de musique, une photo, un brevet pour une invention) avec la propriété scientifique. Le scientifique ne touche pas de droits d'auteur, d'honoraires ou de royalties. C'est même le contraire. Si je veux reproduire une photo dans un livre je dois en demander l'autorisation à son auteur et éventuellement lui payer des droits. Dans le cas du travail scientifique je n'ai pas à demander l'autorisation, mais par contre j'ai l'obligation de citer l'auteur du travail utilisé. Il ne s'agit ni de droits (au sens de rights), ni d'émoluments, il s'agit de reconnaissance.

6) Enfin Martin fait remarquer que " Rarely if ever [dans le cas des sciences humaines] does the actual knowledge that we contribute to "Ladakh studies" come from ourselves, but rather from our informants ". Il précise que dans un travail scientifique sérieux les chercheurs doivent bien spécifier " the precise persons and circumstances from which they gleaned their knowledge ". Certes, mais est-ce possible ? Pour faire un travail sérieux on ne peut pas se contenter d'un seul informateur. Je prends un exemple. Dans les années 70 je me suis beaucoup intéressé aux divinités du monde surnaturel, lha, lhu (klu), tsan (btsan) etc. Et j'ai interrogé des dizaines et des dizaines de personnes. Certes j'aurais pu donner leurs noms, âge etc. Mais cela n'était pas l'objet du travail. Il s'agissait d'arriver à un portrait robot du tsan par exemple. Un portrait général, global, acceptable par tous les Ladakhi. A supposer qu'il y en ait un. Dans la mesure où plusieurs dizaines de personnes avaient fait peu ou prou les mêmes réponses, je pouvais conclure que " le tsan est un démon rouge, très beau de face, horrible de dos etc. ". Autrement dit c'est l'abstraction, la généralisation qui fondait mon

travail. Ce n'était pas la position de Sonam ou de Dorje, mais celle des Ladakhi en général. C'est l'abstraction qui fonde la science.

Martin insinue-t-il que parce que je suis redevable à mes informateurs d'une description du tsan, je ne dois pas être cité ? Le travail de l'ethnologue (lequel peut très bien être Ladakhi) est très différent de celui de l'informateur. Le premier livre des données brutes, le second fait la synthèse, interprète etc. Si l'informateur disait lui-même : " nous sommes une société qui repose sur des groupes de patrilignage patrilocaux etc. " l'ethnologue n'aurait plus rien à faire.

En fait je vois deux cas où il est intéressant non seulement de citer l'informateur mais de le décrire (âge, formation, appartenance sociale etc.) c'est a) lorsque son opinion diffère justement de l'opinion moyenne, générale. Quelqu'un qui dirait que le tsan est bleu par exemple b) lorsqu'il s'agit d'un expert, d'un spécialiste avec lequel la collaboration peut dépasser quelques heures d'interview : un lhaba dont on a suivi de nombreuses séances, un amchi avec lequel on peut travailler pendant de longues semaines, un rinpoche etc.

Mais revenons au texte de Martin. Ainsi nous dit-il : " if an American historian (...) cites a set of English parish records as the basis for an argument about population movement in the 18th century, he is not making an intrinsic claim to be the first person to have cited those (...) records (a claim to primacy), nor is he under to make reference to everyone else who has used these resources ".

Ce à quoi je réponds 1) qu'il faut donner acte au premier qui a utilisé ces données paroissiales d'en avoir eu l'idée. 2) qu'il faut citer ce qu'il en a tiré. Que celui qui vient après en tire autre chose, ou aille plus loin que son prédécesseur, ne le dispense pas de citer ce prédécesseur, ne fût-ce que pour faire un point sur les recherches à ce sujet.

En conclusion les points de vue que cite Martin pour les récuser me paraissent fondés. Ainsi Harvard : " plagiarism is the theft of someone else ideas and work. " Ainsi sa propre université : " plagiarism is the substantial use, without acknowledgement and with intent to deceive [others] might be deceived, of the intellectual work of other by representing, whether by copying or paraphrase, the ideas or discoveries of another or of others as one's own ".

On notera le mot " ideas ". C'est moins les données que l'on plagie que les idées que l'auteur en tire, qui sont bien à lui et pas à ses informateurs.



## BOOK REVIEW

***Sacred Landscape of the Himalayas.* Sous la direction de N. Gutschow, A. Michaels, C. Ramble et E. Steinkeller. Proceedings of an International Conference at Heidelberg 22-27 May, 1998. Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Wien 2003. 212 pages. ISBN10: 3-7001-3109-7. ISBN13: 978-3-7001-3109-0. \_ 64.**

Le thème de ce colloque qui s'est tenu à Heidelberg en mai 1998 sous la direction de 4 grands spécialistes est l'espace. Il s'agit plus particulièrement de l'espace sacré, quoique — cela ressort de la lecture du livre — il n'y ait pas d'opposition ou de distinction entre espace sacré et espace profane. Le ton est d'ailleurs donné dès l'introduction.

A. Michaels montre en effet comment l'espace « indigène » est différent de celui de notre géométrie. Ainsi le haut et le bas s'opposent par homologie avec des paires qui ne sont pas sans rappeler C. Lévi-Strauss. Mais « haut » peut désigner le domaine des dieux, tout comme un monde sauvage dans lequel il est impossible de vivre. Les paires dieux (lha)/hommes et monde sauvage/champs cultivés sont donc contradictoires. C'est qu'il y a plusieurs espaces : sacré, vécu, etc. et non pas notre seul unique espace, continu, homogène, isotrope.

M. Dujardin présente deux cas de démolition et de reconstruction à Rukubji (Bhoutan central). Le village est très minutieusement décrit : le répertoire architectural religieux y est relativement limité : un lhakhang, 4 chortens, un *tsenkhang* (btsan-khang, l'équivalent de nos *yuli lhatho*) et 15 *lhubang* (klu-khang). Les événements qu'il décrit amenèrent les villageois à reconstruire le *lhakhang* et déplacer le *tsenkhang*. Mais « transfert » n'est pas « restauration » et il ne s'agit pas de reconstruire à l'identique par dévotion pour les monuments anciens. L'auteur montre que religion et architecture ne sont pas figées mais que, à partir de principes de base, le système s'adapte sans arrêt.

A. Gansach examine l'aspect spacial de 3 rituels dans 3 villages du nord-ouest du Népal. Le *losar* à Nyimatang (Humla), un rituel contre la sécheresse à Tugkhyu (Dolpo) et *targya* (mtha'-rgyas) ; un rituel d'après la récolte en automne à Braga (Manang). Les trois ont en commun d'inclure une procession, mais les parcours à travers champs et maisons sont très différents. L'auteur rattache ces différences à des évolutions historiques divergentes.

J. Harrison reconstitue le premier plan de Lo Manthang. Il montre que la capitale du Mustang n'avait pas été conçue pour être une place séculière, une simple ville, mais un centre cérémoniel et un symbole du pouvoir royal.

F.-K Ehrhard choisit un angle original en prenant pour sujet les itinéraires de pèlerinage de deux lamas au Mustang, Orgyen Chöpel (né en 1755) et Sangye Sangpol (né en 1891). Il conclut que leurs pèlerinages ont moins pour but de visiter des lieux saints, but avoué, que d'en créer.

Si F.-K Ehrard étudie les pèlerinages des lamas, W. Sax analyse, quant à lui, ceux des divinités elles-mêmes, et ce au Garhwal. Il montre que le pèlerinage de certaines divinités aux sources du Gange est récent et parallèle à l'arrêt des sacrifices sanglants. Il s'agit pour les Gahrwali de s'intégrer à la société indienne et hindoue des plaines et de ne plus se sentir méprisés par elle.

N. Gutshow et C. Ramble s'intéressent à 4 villages de Baraogon (Bas-Lo, district du Mustang) qui sont décrits, cartographiés et photographiés avec beaucoup d'acuité. Ils montrent que la démarcation que fait un village entre l'interne et l'externe n'est jamais absolue et que tel objet « externe » peut être reclassé « interne » pour le besoin des circonstances. Ils donnent des exemples, déplacement des limites et décrivent aussi l'axe vertical par lequel transitent les bienfaits divins.

Penchons-nous un peu plus sur les trois contributions consacrées au Ladakh. On se rappelle l'excellent travail de R. Herdick sur Yangthang dans RRL8. On n'est pas déçu par la suite. L'auteur décrit cette fois-ci, avec une précision de géomètre, la localisation des *nyitho* (qui indiquent le lever et le coucher du soleil aux solstices), la répartition spatiale des *lhatho*, *lhubang* et *tsandos* (btsan-mdos), aussi bien dans les champs que sur les maisons, la répartition des *tshatshakhang*. Et si tous ces éléments sont connus en tant que tels, il fallait un architecte pour en étudier aussi précisément leur distribution spatiale. L'auteur étend ensuite son étude au monastère de Rizong et à la nonnerie de Chulican. Il montre comment

tout l'ensemble est ordonné en cercles concentriques, avec entre eux des seuils, et aussi du haut vers le bas, selon les points cardinaux etc., le tout formant un ensemble très complexe mais cohérent. Un bel exemple d'ethno-urbanisme.

A. Vanquaille et H. Vets réalisent l'exploit de consacrer un article entier à Lamayuru sans citer le travail, sur le même village, publié par R. Herdick dans RRL7. Après un tableau assez exhaustif du village et de la gonpa, ils se tournent vers un phénomène curieux qui, à ma connaissance, n'a jamais été étudié : celui des ombres et des lumières. Ainsi, dans la période autour du solstice d'été, le *lhatho* est le premier illuminé par le soleil, puis vient la gonpa, puis le village. Il n'y a pas de maisons dans la zone qui reste dans l'ombre. Un phénomène analogue se reproduit le soir. Les observations sont intéressantes, mais la conclusion n'est pas à la hauteur. Il y avait, écrivent les auteurs, au VII<sup>ème</sup> siècle, un important culte du soleil au Cachemire. Et ce qu'ils ont découvert à Lamayuru n'en serait que les restes. Nous voilà ramenés au bon vieux diffusionnisme que je croyais mort et enterré ! C'est une chose de savoir qu'il y avait un culte solaire au Cachemire à une certaine époque, et de constater le phénomène décrit à Lamayuru ensuite. C'en est une autre d'établir un rapport de cause à effet. Il faut dans ce cas retracer l'itinéraire.

K. Gutschow et N. Gutschow nous proposent un travail très complet sur le hameau de Rinam (5 *khangpa*) au Zanskar. C'est un chef-d'œuvre d'ethnographie. Les 5 familles sont décrites en détail (il faut avoir un crayon et un papier à portée de main), puis les canaux, les champs irrigués canal par canal, les rotations de l'eau et enfin la distribution des champs entre les *khangpa* et les *khangchung*. La dernière partie élargit l'enquête à l'espace autour. On y retrouve la démons dont le corps, « cloué » par des monastères, couvre le Zanskar central, les influences néfastes qui viennent ces cols, la protection par le *rigsumgonpo* (rigs gsum mgon-po) aussi mentionnée d'ailleurs par R. Herdick. Comme tout travail intéressant, celui des Gutschow suscite de nouvelles questions. On constate ainsi que pour la maison Yogma (p. 121) que tous les champs de la *khangchen* sont regroupés au nord et ceux de la *khangchung* au sud. Mais tel n'est pas le cas pour les maisons Hilma et Gongma où la distribution semble aléatoire. Comment se fait une répartition des champs entre *khangchen* et *khangchung* lorsque qu'une *khangchung* est créée ? Cela a-t-il été étudié ? Autre question : pourquoi retrouve-t-on la démons tibétaine « clouée » au Zanskar comme au Tibet alors qu'elle est, semble-t-il, absente de la vallée de l'Indus entre les deux ?

Un dernier mot : il s'agit d'un livre absolument superbe, abondamment illustré de magnifiques photos en couleurs, bourré de dessins, schémas cartes et plans. Comme quoi un travail scientifique très sérieux peut aussi donner naissance à un bel objet.

## THESIS REVIEW

**Suzanne Fahlén. A woman with several husbands is like a blooming flower: The decline of polyandry as an indicator of social change in Ladakh. Master's thesis. Université d'Uppsala. 81 pages**

L'auteur résume d'abord toutes les théories cherchant à expliquer des causes de la polyandrie: économiques et sociales, psychologiques et psychanalytiques (elle met les deux dans la même catégorie), démographiques, parentales, sociobiologiques etc. Elle dénonce, à juste titre, l'androcentrisme. Tous les ethnologues qui se sont intéressés à ce sujet (elle cite consciencieusement et copieusement ses sources) — même les femmes — se sont avant tout adressés à des hommes pour faire leurs enquêtes. D'où la nécessité d'une nouvelle enquête de terrain pour interroger les femmes : 24 femmes (dont 7 polyandres) de 5 villages différents plus deux interviews de groupes. Trois buts : l'opinion des femmes sur la polyandrie, les changements en cours et la situation actuelle de la gente féminine.

L'opinion des femmes rejoint en grande partie celle des hommes. D'abord c'est le premier mari qui décide si sa femme doit s'unir à ses frères. S'il le décide, elle se soumet. Par ailleurs la polyandrie permet de disposer de main-d'œuvre. On retrouve cette idée fixe de la main-d'œuvre dont parlait déjà N. Grist dans CULE2. Enfin les femmes polyandres insistent beaucoup sur la nécessité de l'harmonie dans la famille, entre la femme et ses maris, entre les frères. S. Fahlén rejoint ici, au niveau familial, les conclusions de N. Pirie au niveau du village : l'harmonie est une chose essentielle. On regrette un peu que rien ne nous soit dit sur la sexualité. Mais ce n'est pas un sujet sur lequel il est facile d'enquêter.

L'évolution actuelle conduit vers un système indifférencié et monogame. La terre est partagée entre frères et sœurs et chaque frère se prend une épouse. De plus les khangchung prennent leur indépendance. L'apparition de travaux salariés permet aux cadets de renforcer cette indépendance. A cela s'ajoute l'opprobre frappant la polyandrie de la part des musulmans et des hindous et le rôle de l'éducation ; deux facteurs qui contribuent au recul de cette institution.

Enfin l'apparition de travail salarié conduit à une chose étonnante. Alors qu'auparavant il y avait une division assez stricte du travail, aujourd'hui l'homme étant dans la journée « au bureau », la femme accomplit presque toutes les activités domestiques et agricoles (sauf les activités strictement masculines comme le labourage) et prend presque toutes les décisions. Mais cette « promotion » (toute relative car elle représente un sérieux surcroît de travail) ne lui a pas permis pour autant d'accéder au pouvoir dans les villages. D'autre part les femmes restent en grande partie exclues de l'éducation.

Un petit livre dont la principale qualité est d'être très clair. Imprimé, il pourrait servir de manuel d'initiation à la polyandrie fraternelle pour tous les ethnologues qui s'intéressent au sujet et non aux seuls « ladakhologues ».

## **NEW BOOKS**

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LADAKH SUPPLEMENT NO. 17

by John i

This supplement lists additions to updates in previous editions of Ladakh Studies and in my *Bibliography of Ladakh* (Warminster: Aris & Phillips, 1988). Entries marked with an asterisk have not been seen by the compiler. Please send new references and suggested annotations to John Bray (1208, 2-14-1 Furuishiba, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0045, Japan; JNBray1957@yahoo.co.uk).

Ahmed, Monisha & Harris, Clare. 2005. *Ladakh Culture at the Crossroads*. Mumbai: Marg, 124 pp. ■ Contains papers on traditional building, Islamic architecture, metalworking, textiles, Buddhist religious art. Further details to follow in next edition of bibliography.

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Dollfus, Pascale. 2004. "Vers une sédentarisation univoque? Le cas des éleveurs nomads de Kharnak, Ladakh, Himalaya Occidental Indien." *Nomadic Peoples* 8 (NS), No. 2, pp. 200-213. International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES). Commission on Nomadic Peoples. ■ The nomads of Kharnak are under pressure to abandon their former way of life and are settling in increasing numbers near Leh.

Dollfus, Pascale, 2006. "The Seven Rongtsan Brothers in Ladakh. Myth, Territory and Possession." *Études Mongoles et Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques et Tibétaines* 36-37, pp. 373-406. Paris. ■ Discusses the legends, rituals and ceremonies related to seven protector deities who are said to have originated in Tibet, but settled in different places in Ladakh. Monks possessed by the White and Red Rongtsan deities play an important role in the Matho monastic festival.

Gielen, Uwe P. 2006. "Death and Dying in Buddhist Ladakh." *International Journal of Health Promotion* 44, No. 1, pp. 24-28. ■ Focuses on the nature of cultural practices and belief systems related to death and dying in Vajrayana Buddhism. Includes some pointers for Western counsellors who may be asked to interact with Buddhist clients. Based on fieldwork in Ladakh.

Gillespie, Alex. 2006. *Becoming Other: From Social Interaction to Self-Reflection*. Advances in Cultural Psychology: Constructing Human Development. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing. 308 pp. ■ Draws on the ideas of George Herbert Mead to conceptualise social interaction between tourists and locals in Ladakh. Discusses how both sides conceptualise themselves from each other's perspectives.

Gillespie, Alex. 2006. "Tourist Photography and the Reverse Gaze." *Ethos* 34, No.3, pp. 343-366. American Anthropological Association. ■ Examines the socio-psychological dynamics of the 'reverse gaze of the photographee on the photographer as perceived by the photographer' drawing on data from Ladakh.

- Golomb, E. 1995. "Oracles in Ladakh: a Personal Experience." In *Spirit versus Scalpel: Traditional Healing & Modern Psychotherapy*, pp. 59-74. Edited by Leonore Loeb Adler & B. Runi Mukherji. London/Westport: Bergin & Garvey. ■ Reports on two oracles in Choglamsar as well as some spiritual counselling/healing by Togdan Rinpoche. Includes remarks by Dr. Lozang Jamspal on Ladakhi monks' attitudes toward spirits and oracles and the effectiveness of treatment by oracles.
- Gutschow, Kim. 2006. "The Politics of Being Buddhist in Zangskar: Partition and Today." *India Review* 5, pp. 470-498. London: Routledge. ■ Discusses Zangskari memories of the conflict between India and Pakistan in 1947 and 1948, and the contemporary politics of identity in the Zangskar valley.
- Hancart Petitet, Pascale. 2005. "Mortalité maternelle au Ladakh: De la santé publique à l'anthropologie." In *Penser le monde, penser les médecines – Traditions médicales et développement sanitaires*, pp. 123-143. Edited by Laurent Pordié. Paris: Karthala. Anthropological study of material mortality during childbirth.
- Jackson, R. 2000. "Managing People-wildlife Conflict on Alpine Pastures in the Himalaya." In *Grassland Ecology and Management in Protected Areas of Nepal*. Vol III. Technical and Status Papers on Grasslands of Mountain Protected Areas. pp. 98-118. Edited by C. Richard, K. Basnet, J.P. Shah and Y. Raut. Kathmandu: ICIMOD.
- Jackson, Rodney and Rinchen Wangchuk. 2004. "A Community-based Approach to Mitigating Livestock Depredation by Snow Leopards." *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* 9, No. 4, pp. 1-16. Taylor & Francis. ■ Human-wildlife conflict is alleviated by predator-proofing villagers' night-time livestock pens and by enhancing household incomes in environmentally sensitive and culturally compatible ways.
- Jackson, R., J.D Roe, R. Wangchuk and D.O. Hunter. 2005. "Camera-Trapping of Snow Leopards." *CAT News* 42, pp. 19-21. IUCN – World Conservation Union. Available on: [www.snowleopardconservancy.org/pdf/cameratrapping.pdf](http://www.snowleopardconservancy.org/pdf/cameratrapping.pdf)
- Jahoda, Christian. 2003. Sozio-ökonomische Organisation in einem Grenzgebiet tibetischer Kultur: Tabo-Spiti Tal (Himachal Pradesh, Indien) – Geschichte und Gegenwart. Ein Beitrag zum Konzept der "peasant societies." Ph.D thesis. Fakultät für Human- und Sozialwissenschaften. University of Vienna. Available on: [www.univie.ac.at/fsp-programm/16.html](http://www.univie.ac.at/fsp-programm/16.html). ■ Analyses the socio-economic organisation of Tabo in Spiti valley from the late 10th century until the present. Draws on a combination of field research and documentary evidence.
- Kauser, Farhana; Hussain, M. Abid et al. 2005. "Comparing Genomes of Helicobacter pylori Strains from the High-Altitude Desert of Ladakh, India." *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* 43, No. 4, pp. 1538-1545. American Society of Microbiology. ■ Compares the genomes of 10 strains of Helicobacter pylori, a bacterium commonly found in the human stomach, from Ladakh. Ladakhi strains share features of the Indo-European, as well as the East Asian, gene pools.
- Kressing, Frank. 2003. "The Increase of Shamans in Contemporary Ladakh: Some Preliminary Observations." *Asian Folklore Studies* 62, No. 1, pp. 1-23. ■ Cited in CNRS Centre d'Études Himalayennes Accessions list 2004.
- Lison, Céline. 2004. "Au Ladakh, le grand retour de la médecine bouddhiste." *National Geographic* (French edition). No. 63 (December 2004), pp. 68-85. ■ Discusses revival of amchi medicine in Ladakh. Cited in CNRS Centre d'Études Himalayennes Accessions list 2004.
- MacDonald, Kenneth Iain. 2006. "Memories of Tibet: Transnationalism, Transculturation and the Production of Cultural Identity in Northern Pakistan." *India Review* 5, No. 2, pp. 190-219. ■ Discusses the

emergence of a movement in Baltistan to promote the region's 'Tibetan' identity, including an emphasis on the region's links with Ladakh.

Mellor, Beth. 2001. *Culture Matters: Developing Ladakhi Education on the Margins of India*. Edinburgh Papers in South Asian Studies 17. University of Edinburgh Centre for South Asian Studies. 51 pp. Available on: [www.csas.ed.ac.uk/fichiers/MELLOR\\_Ladakh.pdf](http://www.csas.ed.ac.uk/fichiers/MELLOR_Ladakh.pdf). ■ Explores understandings, experiences and understandings of 'culture' in relation to education and development in Ladakh. Draws on five months' fieldwork including interviews with SECMOL and at a government school in Gya.

Mishra, Charudutt; Prins, Herbert H.T., Van Wieren, Sipke E. 2003. "Diversity, Risk Mediation and Change in a Trans-Himalayan Agropastoral System." *Human Ecology* 31, pp. 595-609. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers. ■ Describes social, agricultural and livestock husbandry practices in Spiti. Argues that the production system is high dynamic, characterised by continuous innovation and experimentation in response to integration of local economy with regional markets.

Nadwi, Abu Bakr Amir-uddin. 2004. *Tibet and Tibetan Muslims*. Dharamsala: Library of Tibetan Works & Archives. xiv, 93pp. ■ English translation of an Urdu-language book first published in 1979. Covers both the general history of Tibet and the Tibetan Muslim community, many of whom originated in Kashmir and Ladakh.

Nawang Tsering Shakspo & Henry M. Vyner. (Eds.) 2007. *Kushok Bakula Rinpoche. Saint and Statesman*. New Delhi: World Buddhist Culture Trust. 151pp. illus. ■ Contains 20 tributes from India, China, Mongolia and Russia, reflecting different facets of Kushok Bakula's life. Also includes four speeches by Kushok Bakula, and a report of his visit to Tibet in 1956.

Nippa, Annagret. 2003. "West-Himalaya. Christen und Buddhisten." *Ethnographie und Herrnhuter Mission*. Katalog zur ständigen Ausstellung im Völkerkundemuseum Herrnhut. Aussenstelle des Staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde Dresden, pp. 72-87. Dresden: Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde. ■ Introduces the history of Ladakh and the Moravian mission there; discusses the artefacts in the Herrnhut Völkerkundemuseum which they collected.

Norberg-Hodge, Helena. 1994. "May a Hundred Plants Grow from one Seed: the Ecological Tradition of Ladakh Meets the Future." In *Buddhism and Ecology*, pp. 41-54. Edited by M. Batchelor and K. Brown. ■ Cited in CNRS Centre d'Études Himalayennes Accessions list 2005.

Pirie, Fernanda. 2006. "Secular Morality, Village Law, and Buddhism in Tibetan Societies." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 12, pp. 173-190. Available on: [www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1467-9655.2006.00286.x](http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1467-9655.2006.00286.x) ■ Ladakhi villagers are strong adherents of Buddhism, but see no reason to draw upon its texts or practitioners to legitimate their leaders' authority or resolve internal conflicts.

Pirie, Fernanda. 2006. "Legal Autonomy as Political Engagement: the Ladakhi Village in the Wider World." *Law & Society Review* 40, pp. 77-104. Available on: [www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1540-5893.2006.00259.x](http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1540-5893.2006.00259.x) ■ While Ladakhi villagers acknowledge wider social and religious hierarchies, they quietly maintain their own autonomous forms of order. Based on fieldwork in Photoksar.

Phuntsog Tsering, Norbu Tsering and Dorje Yeshe. 2004. "Balancing Pashmina Production and Wildlife Conservation in the Chang Tang of Tibet and Ladakh." In *Strategic Innovations for Improving Pastoral Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Highlands*. Vol.1, pp. 30-33. Edited by C. Richard and K. Hoffmann. Kathmandu: ICIMOD. ■ Cited in CNRS Centre d'Études Himalayennes Accessions list 2004.



Pordié, Laurent. 2000. "Tibetan Medicine and the Environment in Modern Ladakh: A Threat to Medicinal Plants." *IUCN Medicinal Plant Conservation* 6. pp. 14-16. Gland (Switzerland: IUCN- The World Conservation Union. ■ Available on: [www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/mpsg/news\\_download/mpc6.pdf](http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/sgs/mpsg/news_download/mpc6.pdf).

Pordié, Laurent. 2003. *The Expression of Religion in Tibetan Medicine. Ideal Conceptions, Contemporary Practices and Political Use*. Pondy Papers in Social Sciences 29. Pondicherry: French Institute of Pondicherry. 83 pp., ill. ■ Reviews the role of religion in the life of Ladakhi amchis and discusses the part played by local amchi associations.

Rinchen Wangchuk and Jackson, Rodney. 2004. "A Community-based Approach to Mitigation of Livestock-wildlife Conflict in Ladakh." In *Strategic Innovations for Improving Pastoral Livelihoods in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Highlands*. Vol.1, pp. 75-76. Edited by C. Richard and K. Hoffmann. Kathmandu: ICIMOD. ■ Local communities in the Hemis National Park have tended to regard snow leopards as dangerous pests because of their attacks on domestic livestock. Article discusses initiative to improve livestock corrals and raise community awareness of the value of snow leopards.

Ripley, Abby. 1990. *Ritual Synthesis in the Ladakhi Tradition*. Ph.D thesis. State University of New Jersey. ■ Discusses rituals performed by monks for villagers and by villagers for themselves, and how these two levels of ritual reinforced and interrelated with each other in connection with the larger historic religious tradition.

Rösing, Ina. 1999. "Lies and Amnesia in Anthropological Research: Recycling the Waste." *Anthropology of Consciousness* 10, No. 2-3, pp. 13-34. San Diego. ■ Based on field research on Andean medicine men and Ladakhi shamans. Delineates research problems arising from the lies told and amnesia experienced by indigenous informants.

Sabharwal, Alka. 1996. *Changpas—Nomads of Rupshu. A Study on the Ecology, Economy and Exchange of the Pastoral Nomadic Population of Ladakh*. Unpublished M.Phil thesis. Delhi University. ■ Details from the author.

Sharma, Girish Kumar. 2003. "Study of Chromites from the Ultrabasic Rocks Around Dras, Ladakh Region, N.W. Himalaya." In *Dimensions of Uttaraanchal*, pp. 43-52. Edited by C.M. Agrawal. Delhi: Indian Publishers Distributors. ■ Cited in CNRS Centre d'Études Himalayennes Accessions list 2004.

Sonam Joldan. 2006. *Ladakh's Traditional Ties with Buddhist Tibet*. Ph.D thesis. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. 215pp. ■ Presents a historical overview of Ladakh's religious, cultural and trading links with Tibet. Draws on interviews with elderly monks who had been trained in Tibet before 1959.

Tsewang Namgail, Sumanta Bagchi, Yash V. Bhatnagar and Rinchen Wangchuk. 2005. "Occurrence of the Tibetan Sand Fox *Vulpes ferrilata* Hodgson in Ladakh: A new record for the Indian subcontinent." *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 102, No.2 pp. 217-219. ■ Researchers from the Nature Conservation Foundation and the Snow Leopard Conservancy have observed the Tibetan Sand Fox, which was previously unknown in India, in Hanle, Chumur and Chushul.

Trewin, Mark. 1999. "Tibetan and Ladakhi Popular Music in India". In *Intercultural Music*. Edited by Cynthia Tse Kimberlin & Akin Euba. Vol 2. Point Richmond, California: Music Research Institute Press. ■ Details from author's website.

Vickery, C. 1984. "My Student Elective. Applied Child Nutrition in the Himalayas of Ladakh." *British Medical Journal* 288 (10 March 1984), pp. 778-780. ■ Account of a medical student's stay with the Leh Nutrition Project (LNP) working to reduce infant mortality.

Vohra, Rohit. 2001. "Notes on Irrigation and the Legal System in Ladakh: the Buddhist 'Broga.'" In *Sharing Water: Irrigation and Water Management in the Hindukush-Karakoram-Himalaya*, pp. 146-162. Edited by H. Kreutzmann. Karachi: Oxford University Press.

Vohra, Rohit. 2005. *Facsimile Edition of Inscriptional Documents from Nubra in Ladakh*. Grosbous (Luxembourg): Ethnic Unlimited S.A.R.L. 8pp. b/w illus. ■ The documents are texts from Yarma Gonbo, a Kagyudpa monastic village close to the Siachen glacier, and a temple inscription from the Lha khang dMar po of Hundar monastery. Field notes include an account of New Year ceremonies at Yarma Gonbo.

Vohra Rohit. 2005. *Petroglyphs in Purig Area in Ladakh*. Himalayan Studies. Ladakh Series Vol.V. Grosbous (Luxembourg): by the author. 35 pp. b/w illus. ■ Photographs from Khalatse, Skurbuchan, Lhedho, Kuksho, Dargo, Da, Hanu and the Hambuting La.

Wiley, Andrea S. 1994. "Neonatal size, infant mortality, and high altitude adaptation in the Himalaya." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 94, No.3 pp. 289-305. ■ Investigates the effects of small average birth size on neonatal mortality. Draws comparisons with high-altitude environments in the Andes.

Wiley, Andrea S. 1994. "Neonatal and maternal anthropometric characteristics in a high altitude population of the western Himalaya." *American Journal of Human Biology* 6, No.4. pp. 499-510. ■ Reports on a study of neonatal anthropometric characteristics in a sample of 168 Ladakhi women and their newborns. Compared to Andean and Tibetan samples, Ladakhi newborns were between 300 and 550 g lighter. Discusses reasons for this variation.

Wiley, Andrea S. 1998. "The Ecology of Low Natural Fertility in Ladakh." *Journal of Biosocial Science* 30, No. 4, pp. 457-480. Cambridge. ■ Presents hypotheses to explain low fertility drawing on an analysis of 1981 Indian census data and findings from fieldwork in the early 1990s.

Wiley, Andrea S. 2002. "Increasing Use of Prenatal Care in Ladakh (India): the Role of Ecological and Cultural Factors." *Social Science and Medicine* 55 No. 7, pp. 1089-1102. Oxford: Elsevier. ■ Discusses increasing use of biomedical services for prenatal care and birth in the past 20 years. However, there is little indication that birth outcomes have improved significantly.

Wiley, Andrea S. 2004. *An Ecology of High-altitude Infancy: a Biocultural Perspective*. Cambridge Studies in Medical Anthropology No. 12. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. xviii, 244 pp. ■ Investigates how ecological, historical and socio-cultural factors affect the birth weights of Ladakhi newborns and raise the likelihood of infant mortality.

Wirth, Thierry; Wang, Xiaoyan et al. 2004. "Distinguishing human ethnic groups by means of sequences from *Helicobacter pylori*: Lessons from Ladakh." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* 101 (14), pp. 4746-4751. ■ *Helicobacter pylori* is a bacterium commonly found in the human stomach. DNA samples of *H.pylori* from Ladakhi Buddhists and Muslims differ in their genetic structure. This diversity is consistent with the history of population movements in Ladakh. Available on: [www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/101/14/4746.pdf](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/101/14/4746.pdf).

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