

for his lucid understanding of one 'unmapped region' of the European psyche which could startle most of his readers. Two letters are meant to stimulate the peace-discussion here.

I found it easier to write a whole volume on this "fascinating personality" (so Lutze) than to restrict myself to these few remarks.

Irmtraud Höhn

Klaus Seeland (ed.): Recent Research on Nepal. Proceedings of a Conference held at the Universität Konstanz, 27-30 March 1984. (Schriftenreihe Internationales Asienforum, 3). München-Köln-London: Weltforum Verlag, 1986. 351 pages, 24 plates with b/w prints, DM 74.-

The book presents contributions to the conference "Recent Research on Nepal" which was held at the university of Konstanz in March 1986. Klaus Seeland, author of the valuable book "Ein nicht zu entwickelndes Tal. Bambustechnologie und Subsistenzwirtschaft in Ost-Nepal" (1980) was responsible for the conference and for the edition of this book. It comprises eleven contributions by the participants and on pp. 221-349 a bibliography with 2300 titles of books and articles published between 1975 and 1983. This bibliography continues those of H. Heuberger and A. Höfer "Deutsche Forschung in Nepal 1950-1975", Heidelberg/München 1976 and of L. Boulnois "Bibliographie du Nepal 1963-73", Paris 1975.

Most of the participants were ethnologists, two were geographers, one an Indologist, one an architect, one a development expert and one a sociologist. This composition shows the broad multidisciplinary interest in Nepal which is indeed necessary in order to do justice to such a complex subject.

The bibliography is of particular value because it also contains Nepalese government bulletins, conference papers, feasibility studies and evaluation reports. For these concrete references Nepal-experts will be especially thankful since everybody who has worked intensively in and on Nepal knows that there is indeed a lot of material existing in Nepalese institutions and in those dealing with Nepal. Now, thanks to this bibliography it is easier to gather material as at least the titles are at hand. Some day, when the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is fully established such a search will be less onerous, one of the tasks of ICIMOD being a comprehensive collection of such materials in its library.

The major part of the eleven papers is ethnological, including an interesting article from the field of parapsychology (Walter A. Frank). Veronique Boullier deals with initiation rites and wandering ascetics. Joanna Czarnaiecka writes about

the status of affines among high caste Hindus, Gerard Toffin describes cooperative forms of agriculture among the West-Tamangs vis à vis the increasing monetization of the hill economy and new cultivation methods. Anne de Sales reports on the gradual disappearance of the Kham-Magar dancers who move from village to village in order to ward off evil spirits and to obtain fertility for man and earth. These articles are little gems. Their direct utility may not be convincing to the pragmatist, but, as so often, one day they may render valuable services, as for example the knowledge about local cooperative forms (see Toffin's article) in view of the present trend of development cooperation to support self-help groups. The other articles deal with interrelations between ecology and economics in the Manang area (Perdita Pohle), with the appreciation of environment and economic behaviour of small societies exemplified by the Lohorong Rai (Klaus Seeland), with trends in the Kathmandu valley and in Gorkha since the land reform 1959-72 (Ulrike Müller) and with changes in the law of succession since 1853 (Jean Fezas) – here the author also includes a series of relevant translated texts.

Ruedi Baumgartner describes the influence of tourism and reactions of the Rolwaling-Sherpa and Marc Barani writes about Newari dwelling patterns in Kirtipur.

A short biography of the authors would have been appreciated and also an introduction to recent research results on population growth, decline of land fertility, soil erosion, deforestation, health, development cooperation, political articulation, decentralization of planning and implementation of development projects. On all these subjects research has been done and published during recent years. Klaus Seeland would doubtless have gladly complied with this desire, but, as he explains in the introduction, he could not invite representatives from those fields to the conference due to shortage of funds. This is regrettable since it was on the initiative of the University of Konstanz that this conference was convened and the Federal Republic of Germany plays no small role in Nepal as regards development cooperation, research work and tourism. But that can be made good, as the intention and quality of the book show. All interested in Nepal will be glad if the work here started is continued.

Hermann Warth

Gerard Toffin: *Société et Religion chez les Néwar du Népal.* (Cahiers Népalais). Paris: Editions du Centre de la Recherche Scientifique, 1984. 668 pages, 173 illustrations, FF 520.-

With this magnum opus G. Toffin has presented a unique scholarly work on the Newar of Nepal, an ethnic group of Tibeto-Burmese origin predominantly inhabit-