

the privileges of the Tulkus relations are strained between the laymen who want the institution of Tulku as their spiritual support and all those Tulkus who want more or less to live undiscovered under secular conditions. It is not so much a problem of proving reincarnation itself but of the institution that requires a special kind of education for such a child at the cost of a real childhood, and a monastic style of life.

Therefore the book is a living testimony of the real and perhaps necessary change of a monastic and hierarchically structured society within secular conditions. A commendable text and source book.

Dieter Back

MARTIN BRAUEN (ed.): Peter Aufschnaiter. Sein Leben in Tibet. Innsbruck: Steiger Verlag, 1983. 304 pages. DM 48.-

As a biographical sketch, this book mainly gives an account of an eight year period Peter Aufschnaiter spent in Tibet. From May 1944, after his escape from British internment at Dehra Dun (Northern India) with Heinrich Harrer, his compatriot and fellow mountaineer, until January 1952, he lived in a country that meant freedom for him and was to become one of the most beautiful times in his life. After an eight-month march through South-Western Tibet, Harrer and he reached Lhasa, the forbidden capital of Tibet, in January 1945. He spent six years there, working as a civil engineer, agronomist and geographer; during this time Aufschnaiter gained a very intimate knowledge of the Tibetan language, customs and people. He left Lhasa only because of the Chinese Communist invasion in 1951, travelling and mountaineering a good deal in Southern Tibet, until he finally left the country that had become his second home.

Martin Brauen from the Ethnological Museum of the University of Zurich (Völkerkundemuseum der Universität Zürich) has edited this book with a manuscript from Aufschnaiter's literary estate, illustrating it with some of the numerous black and white photographs that Aufschnaiter took in Tibet and other recent fascinating colour photographs from various sources. Brauen has arranged the material and corrected some details, but it is the true, authentic Aufschnaiter who gives an account of what he saw as worthy of noting in his diary. Thanks to Martin Brauen's ability to make Aufschnaiter's estate speak, we are now fortunate to have this interesting document which is a complement to Harrer's bestseller "Seven Years in Tibet".

This book is mostly a personal narrative of the events and thoughts of a refugee living in a culture that was less alien to him than that of the West, which had made him a prisoner and a refugee. Some letters to friends and to his mother show how he enjoyed his professional tasks and the life he lived in

Lhasa during the last years of theocratic Tibet.

In the appendix, the editor has compiled tables of data Aufschnaiter collected, such as tables of temperatures of places at different altitudes, tables of precipitation and price tables for goods and services in Lhasa in the late forties.

The book also includes an index, a bibliography of Aufschnaiter's publications and a marvellous 64 x 58 cm coloured facsimile map of Lhasa (the first ever drawn according to the standards of Western cartography), which, unfortunately, has not been put into a wrapper by the publisher.

Observations on the climate, comments on Tibetan policy and travel accounts are given in this book and there is even a chapter on "yeti", the legendary snowman. It is nothing less than a pleasure to read this fascinating book.

Klaus Seeland