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L.M. Joshi: a Brief Communication

I write this short communication while still reverberating with the shock and sorrow at the death of our mutual friend, Lalmani Joshi. His untimely departure is an immeasurable loss to us all, not only personally but also professionally.

As many of you may know, he had just returned to India after three years of visiting professorships at Amherst and Haverford Colleges. He was in a very happy frame of mind in that he was going to take up a very distinguished newly created Chair Of Buddhist Studies affiliated with the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies at Saranath. This chair had been created especially for him by the Government of India's Ministry of Education, in view of the central contribution he could make from that vantage to Indian scholarship's systematic recovery of many of its greatest "Shastric" treasures from the great Tibetan language storehouse, the *bsTan-'gyur*. This wise and creative move by the Ministry was tragically frustrated by Lalmani's sudden death.

Lalmani's last work of this life was to return to Patiala in June to pay his farewells to the University and Center of Religious Studies where he had spent so many productive years. He also packed up his extensive Buddhist Studies library, perhaps the best such library in India. He shipped the many crates of these books to Saranath, went to Delhi to join his family, and suffered the intestinal attack that proved fatal before ever reaching Saranath. I would like to know how many of you feel as I do that we should all join in an effort to establish a fund that could purchase his library from his bereaved family and establish the collection in a memorial building or room at the Central Institute, in Saranath. I think it would be the best way to fulfill his intention and carry on his own life's work. It could be connected with our international effort to support the GOI Ministry of Education in maintaining the chair they had established, naming it after Lalmani, and filling it with another scholar who would continue in such a direction of research, translation, and publication.

I have not at this stage thought through the mechanics of collection, negotiation with the GOI Ministry and with the Central Institute, and with Mrs. Joshi, so it is too early to begin contributing just yet. But I would like at this time to know what support there is for the idea and what suggestions for its execution.

Robert A. F. Thurman