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IV. NOTES AND NEWS

A Report on the 5th Conference of the IABS

Hertford College, University of Oxford,
Oxford England

August 16–21, 1982

The 5th Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies opened with registration and a reception on the Hertford College lawn, August 16, 1982. An All-Conference Dinner was held that same evening, after which Dr. the Ven. Walpola Rahula, President of the 5th Conference, was introduced to the conference participants by Professor Richard Gombrich, Local Secretary and organizer of the conference. Dr. Rahula gave his opening address, which is printed in this issue of the *Journal*.

The conference was organized by Professor Gombrich so that when reading of papers began the next morning, Tuesday, August 17, there were two sessions running simultaneously: a Special Session arranged by organizers far in advance of the conference on very specific subjects, on which papers had been written and circulated in advance to the participants, and a General Session, arranged closer to the conference dates to accommodate all other papers. The Special Sessions included three sessions on Buddhist Logic and Epistemology, organized by Bimal Krishna Matilal of Oxford University; two sessions on Art and Iconography organized by T. S. Maxwell of SARAS; a session on Anthropology organized by Michael Carrithers and Nicholas Allen, both of Oxford University; a session on Tibetan Religious and Philosophical Thought organized by Paul Williams of the University of Bristol; and a session on Contemporary Japanese Buddhism organized by Michael Pye of the University of Leeds. Dr. Richard A. Gard, Director of the Institute for the Advanced

Study of World Religions (IASWR), organized a Plenary Session entitled "The Progress of Academic Projects Concerning Buddhism," which may be the first in an on-going IABS tradition of holding a session on such a topic at every International Conference.

Professor Gombrich also arranged sight-seeing tours of historic Oxford and the vicinity, as well as two guided coach tours to near-by areas of historical interest: Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of the Churchill family, and Stratford-on-Avon, home of Shakespeare. Time was left in the program for participants to see a Shakespeare play, *Othello*, or to do as they pleased. One evening was devoted to films and slides by IABS members: Dr. Edward Bastian showed a film entitled "Tibetan Buddhism: Preserving the Monastic Tradition," Dr. Anne Vergati showed slides on the marriage rituals of Newari Buddhists; and the Ven. Hiu Wan showed slides of Buddhist paintings entitled "Cool Purity."

Because of the variety of participants in the conference, this year Professor Gombrich arranged an entirely vegetarian fare for the guests. Everyone seemed pleased and surprised at the quality and quantity of the food, served by the normally traditional "meat and potatoes" cooks, and the conference ended on Saturday, August 21, with a delightful conference luncheon. As in past conferences, it was agreed by all that the papers were excellent, stimulating, and well presented, and that Oxford was indeed a wonderful site for a conference.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the IABS, 5th Conference, Oxford, England, August 18, 1982

Present: A. L. Basham, Chairperson; Richard A. Gard; Richard Gombrich, Regional Secretary for Europe and Local Secretary, 5th Conference; L. M. Joshi, Editor, *JIASBS*; Leslie Kawamura; Beatrice D. Miller, Treasurer; A. K. Narain, General Secretary and Editor-in-Chief, *JIASBS*; D. Seyfort Ruegg; Jikidō Takasaki, Editor, *JIASBS*; Robert Thurman, editor, *JIASBS*; Alex Wayman; and Akira Yuyama, Regional Secretary for Asia. Also invited was Amalia Pezzali.

Professor Basham opened the meeting with greetings, and asked the General Secretary to give his report.

Report of the General Secretary, Professor A. K. Narain

Professor Narain reported that since the last international conference in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, the main concerns of the IABS have been financial and membership numbers. He noted that the IABS still needs to increase its membership, not only in economically developed countries that are largely represented already, but in countries such as India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Kampuchea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Pakistan, etc. Membership statistics as of July 28, 1982, were given as follows:

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	NUMBER
Full Member in good standing (dues paid up to and including 1981)	298
Subsidized Members in good standing	25
Student Members in good standing	2
Institutional Members in good standing	93
Honorary Fellows	15
Members not in good standing but still on the mailing list for one year	60
TOTAL	<u>493</u>

The regional distribution of the total membership, representing 29 countries, is:

WORLD AREA	NUMBER
Asia and Australia	159
Europe	78
North and South America	256

Professor Narain pointed out that even though many from economically-developing countries are eligible for subsidized rates, only 25 individuals from those countries have applied for membership in the IABS.

In addition to the 93 Institutional Members, *The Journal of the IABS* has an exchange relationship with 3 institutions: The Oriental Institute in Baroda, India (for the *Journal of the Oriental Institute*); Punjabi University in Patiala, India (for the *Journal of Religious Studies*); The Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in

Dharamsala, India (for the *Tibet Journal*); and an exchange relationship with *The Pali Buddhist Review*, published in London, England.

In discussing ways to increase the membership in the IABS, Professor Narain noted that although affiliation with the North American Buddhist Society (NABS) was discounted at the last conference, due to the by-laws of the IABS, the possibility of their dissolution brings on the prospect of inviting the NABS members into the IABS in the form of a national (North American) chapter of the IABS. Other countries could increase IABS membership in a similar manner, that is, by instituting local chapters.

As can be expected, the main activity and lifeblood of the IABS is the production of the *Journal*. There are problems that are hard to avoid, such as uneven representation of the various disciplines in Buddhist Studies. Most of the papers received by the editors are in Buddhist doctrine, philosophy and textual studies, with little representation in areas such as Theravāda Buddhism, etc. Professor Takasaki is getting so many papers in Chinese and Japanese Buddhism that he could use another editor to assist him.

As far as the *Bibliographie Bouddhique* is concerned, there was no progress to report. A lot of suggestions have been made, but no one is willing or able to finance the ideas.

Professor Narain was pleased to announce that after a long process of detailed correspondence, *The Journal of the IABS* is officially copyrighted from all of its back issues through the present, and will continue to be protected by the copyright laws in the future.

There has been a lot of discussion among the members as to whether or not the IABS should continue to hold annual international conferences. Although some say that conferences should be held every 2 years because they can't attend an international conference every year, yearly conferences boost IABS membership greatly, and since the Association is still fairly young, this is needed. Professor Narain noted that in other societies, not all of the members and Directors attend every conference, and that the IABS is getting invitations every year, and wanted to record his inclination to accept yearly conferences as long as these circumstances prevail.

Report of the Treasurer, Dr. Beatrice D. Miller

Dr. Miller announced that the IABS has finally fully complied with the regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of Revenue, to qualify as a tax exempt organization.

The Treasurer's report for the period from 8/6/81 to 8/1/82 is as follows:

CURRENT ASSETS		CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Checking Acct.	\$577.23	Thomson-Shore (Printer, Volume V #1, JIABS.)	\$1,860.00
Savings Acct.	\$3,553.44	Estimates:	
1-Year Passbook	\$2,558.01	Thomson-Shore (V #2)	\$1,700.00
Checks	\$1,068.00	Ries Graphics (Typesetter, Volume V, #2, JIABS.)	\$2,500.00
TOTAL	<u>\$7,756.68</u>	5th Conference:	
		Land transport (3)	\$120.00
		1 night hotel (3)	\$75.00
		Registration (3)	\$534.00
		TOTAL	<u>\$6,789.00</u>
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues, subscriptions, etc. ¹	\$7,442.00	Coda Press (Typesetter, IV #2, JIABS.)	\$1,960.60
4th Conference	\$1,310.50	Ries Graphics (V #1)	\$2,547.06
5th Conference ²	\$1,068.00	Thomson-Shore (IV #1,2)	\$3,012.26
Donations, JIABS ³	\$200.00	5th Conference:	
2nd Conference ⁴	\$425.00	airfare (2)	\$1,374.00
Payments from Japan ⁵	\$650.00	airfare (1)	\$638.00
Interest on passbook, savings	\$339.03	IUOAS dues ('80-'82)	\$150.00
TOTAL	<u>\$11,494.53</u>	Copyright registrations (JIABS I#2-IV#2)	\$70.00
BALANCE FROM		4th Conference ⁶	\$2,162.16
1981	\$8,945.00	Dept. of South Asian Studies (xerox, postage, telephone, etc.)	\$522.80
TOTAL	<u>\$20,439.53</u>	Miscellaneous (petty cash, bank charges, postage, telephone, etc.)	\$245.97
LESS EXPENSES	\$12,682.85	TOTAL	<u>\$12,682.85</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$7,756.68</u>		

1. This figure excludes the payments made in Yen to Dr. Akira Yuyama, and not yet forwarded to the Treasurer.
2. Subvention paid in through Pounds Sterling through Professor Gombrich of \$534.00 (£.300) to General Secretary and Assistant, toward travel/registration expenses.
3. Contribution to *JABS*, by Professor, the Rev. Chang Sheng-Yen.
4. As the new Director of the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Professor Gustav Roth was able to arrange to "unfreeze" the Rupees due since the 2nd Conference.
5. Payments made in Yen that were transferred to the IABS Treasurer in August, 1981.
6. The actual expenses incurred for the 4th Conference came to \$3,019.21. Thanks to the generous support of the South Asian Studies Department of the University of Wisconsin, the IABS was responsible only for \$2,162.16. The balance of \$857.05 was provided by the Department. In addition, the South Asian Studies Department has met:

Salary for Ms. Rena Haggarty, Assistant Secretary, (8/31/81-8/31/82)	\$2,600.00
Mailing costs	\$201.94
Correspondence costs, etc.	\$312.00
Duplicating services	\$150.00
Xerox	\$30.00
Telephone	\$52.98
Stationary	\$171.97
TOTAL	<u>\$3,518.89</u>
minus amount repaid by IABS	\$522.80
BALANCE	<u><u>\$2,996.09</u></u>

Dr. Miller pointed out that with the current economic conditions it is highly questionable that the IABS can continue to receive such life-saving assistance. We must face the prospect that the IABS will need to meet most of these expenses from its own funds in future years. She added that there is only about a \$1,000 difference between assets and liabilities, partially because the cost of the *Journal* exceeded expectations, due to inflation and a larger volume.

Report on developing plans for the 6th Conference, to be held in Japan

Professor Takaski Jikidō, Editor for *JABS* and Secretary General for the 31st International Congress of Human Sciences

in Asia and North Africa (CISHAAN), announced that plans are progressing well for the 6th Conference of the IABS, to be held in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, August 31 – September 7, 1983, in conjunction with the 31st CISHAAN. This year, in response to an idea from Professor Yamamoto Tatsuro, President of the 31st CISHAAN, CISHAAN is organizing its conference around themes rather than fields of study. As an autonomous IABS section was logistically impossible to arrange, the CISHAAN Secretariat has planned special sessions for the IABS. In most cases, any paper proposed by IABS members will be allotted to Sectional Meeting 3: "Spread of Buddhism and Hindu Culture in Asia." The following sub-sections have been set up within Sectional Meeting 3: A.I. Buddhism and Hinduism in Ancient Central Asia; II. Buddhism and Hindu Culture in East Asia; III. Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia; IV. Hinduism in South and Southeast Asia; V. Buddhism in Inner Asia (Tibet, Mongolia, etc.); VI. Buddhism and Hinduism in the Modern World; and B. Transmission of Buddhist Texts: I. Indic Tradition (including Southeast Asia); II. Chinese Translation; III. Tibetan Translation (including Inner Asia); IV. Translation into Modern Languages.

Special sessions or seminars may be arranged for groups of papers, if there are enough good papers to warrant them. It is planned that a special session on "Current States, Trends and Methods of Buddhist Studies" will be organized within Sectional Meeting 3.

There was some discussion and questions about the roles of the two organizations in the joint conference. In particular, there was concern that the high registration fee (\$150.00 U.S.) would keep away most IABS members. Professor Leslie Kawamura moved a resolution that:

Whereas CISHAAN has graciously accommodated the IABS by providing several sub-sections within its Sectional Meeting 3, "Spread of Buddhism and Hindu Culture in Asia," and whereas the IABS Secretariat has been in correspondence with CISHAAN, we resolve that the 6th Conference of the IABS will be held in conjunction with the 31st CISHAAN provided that the IABS members approve the motion at the General Meeting."

This resolution was seconded and passed.

Report on an Invitation by Dr. Amalia Pezzali for a future IABS Conference in Italy

Professor Pezzali reported that she has asked the University of Bologna, who has agreed, to host a conference of the IABS in a future year, as yet to be decided, and that a cultural center will help provide accommodations.

Discussion on the Topic of Yearly Conferences

The possibility of an invitation from the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) for a joint conference in Australia, in 1985, was brought up by Professor Leslie Kawamura.

Discussion revolved around Dr. Pezzali's invitation and the implications involved in accepting a conference in 1985 in Australia, should such an invitation arrive, which led to the question of even holding annual international conferences at all, instead of moving to a bi-annual schedule. Professor Richard Gombrich moved that:

After 1983 our IABS conferences shall be held every two years.

This resolution was seconded and passed. (This resolution was later amended at the General Meeting to read "after 1985.")

Financial Problems of the IABS

Professor Narain reported that *Journal* costs keep going up, and that the *Journal* is the main activity and life blood of the IABS. He also noted that the IABS could lose the support of the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, due to their loss in support from the State Government. There were three suggestions for ways to increase income:

1. Request donations specifically for *Journal* publication.
2. Sell more ads to other publications and institutions, to be run in the *Journal*.
3. Increase IABS membership numbers by opening regional branches of the IABS.

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Membership for the IABS, 5th Conference Oxford, England, August 20, 1982

Professor A. L. Basham, Chairperson of the IABS, opened and chaired the meeting, which was attended by virtually all 5th Conference participants.

The first item on the agenda was thanks given to the many and various people who helped make the conference a success:

1. Professor Richard Gombrich, Local Secretary and organizer of the 5th Conference and Regional Secretary for Europe for the IABS.

2. The Director and staff of the Oriental Institute, Oxford University.

3. The Chairperson of the Department of South Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Dr. Narayana Rao, and staff, Madison, WI USA.

4. The organizers of special seminars held during the 5th Conference: Bimal Krishna Matilal, T. S. Maxwell, Michael Carrithers, Nicholas Allen, Paul Williams, Michael Pye, and Richard A. Gard.

5. The members of the Board of Directors of the IABS and the Secretarial and Editorial Assistants.

6. The following conference assistants: Louisa Watkins, Leonie Gombrich, Carl Gombrich, Paul Griffiths, Dheeresh Turnbull, Julia Leslie, Dominik Wujastyk, Dr. Sanjukta Gupta, Dr. Berti, Mr. Cook, Richard Holder, Mrs. Slopes, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Godfrey, and Mr. Munro.

7. All those who attended the 5th Conference of the IABS and contributed to the many discussions.

As at the meeting of the Board of Directors, the General Secretary's report was again given at the General Business Meeting, with the additional note that changes in the Constitution and By-laws of the IABS approved at the 4th Conference in Wisconsin, are presently printed in Volume V #1, 1982 of the *Journal, IABS*. Separately bound and printed copies of the new Constitution and By-laws are available upon request from the Madison, Wisconsin office of the IABS. Professor Narain also prefaced a coming discussion on continuing yearly international conferences by pointing out that he has been exploring possibilities for conferences right from the founding of the IABS, and had informed the last meeting of a possibility of an invitation

from Peking, but that it had to be postponed. In the meanwhile, the IABS has explored invitations from scholars in Japan, Italy, and Paris, and Professor Narain has asked Dr. Walpola Rahula to look into the possibility of a conference in Sri Lanka. Professor Narain stressed the importance of making a careful decision on whether or not to hold yearly conferences.

The Treasurer's report as given at the meeting of the Board of Directors was reiterated at the General Business Meeting, with the added emphasis on the position the IABS holds within the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, and the possibility of losing their support due to budget cut-backs taking effect throughout the entire University of Wisconsin system. Specifically, they contributed almost \$3,000 last year to meet secretarial expenses as well as close to \$1,000 towards hosting the 4th Conference, in Madison. In addition, they provide office space and equipment, very expensive items that are often taken for granted. The Chairperson of the Department, Professor Narayana Rao, has assured the IABS that he will do his best for the rest of the 82-83 academic year, but as Professor Miller pointed out, the approximately \$1,000 difference between assets and liabilities the IABS now enjoys would become a deficit of over \$4,000 should we lose that support, not to mention the office and equipment.

Professor Basham moved a resolution that

The General Business Meeting of the IABS expresses its deep gratitude to the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI USA, for its continued support of the IABS, its *Journal*, and its activities, since its inception in 1976.

This resolution was passed by unanimous acclaim.

Before reading the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors and inviting discussion and approval, Professor Basham read a letter of resignation from Professor A. K. Narain, General Secretary.

Professor Robert J. Miller's name was proposed as successor to Professor Narain, and was unanimously approved by acclamation. A vote of thanks to Professor A. K. Narain for his devotion to the IABS was passed by acclamation as well.

The first resolution passed at the meeting of the Board of Directors was discussed. Professor Takasaki made a special invitation to the members of the IABS to participate in a concurrent

conference with the 31st CISHAAN, and added that the following conditions obtained:

1. The CISHAAN registration fee will include the registration fee for attendees of the 6th Conference of the IABS, and payment of this fee will enable IABS members to attend and participate in all CIAHAAN activities.

2. At the 6th Conference, IABS attendees will be issued special identification tags and a special schedule of IABS papers, in addition to the more extensive CISHAAN program.

3. Special rooms will be provided for regular IABS conference activities, such as the Opening Session and Presidential Address, the General Business Meeting, and the meeting of the Board of Directors, and will be indicated on the special IABS program.

4. In most cases, papers proposed by IABS members will be read in Sectional Meeting 1.3, Spread of Buddhism and Hindu Culture in Asia. He also announced the special sub-sections set up within Sectional Meeting 1.3 (see report of the Board of Director's Meeting for details). In other cases, papers will be assigned to other sections if appropriate, and special seminars may be arranged for groups of papers that do not fit any of CISHAAN's existing categories. He also agreed to the plan of the IABS to continue holding a session on the current state of Buddhist Studies.

5. IABS members may obtain a registration fee receipt specifically mentioning the 6th Conference of the IABS by requesting this at the time of payment of fees. The CISHAAN registration fees, which include the 6th Conference of the IABS registration fees, do not include the annual membership dues of the IABS, which are required for participation in any IABS conference.

Professor Takasaki added that the CISHAAN invitation to the IABS members to participate in their 31st Congress held whether or not the membership decided to hold the conferences concurrently.

The resolution passed by the Board of Directors was unanimously approved by the General Business Meeting.

The next item was to propose the name of the President of the 6th Conference. Dr. Akira Yuyama proposed that

Professor Gadjin Najao, Honorary Fellow and Founding Chairperson, IABS, be the President of the 6th Conference of the IABS in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, August 31 to September 7, 1983.

This resolution was passed unanimously.

The next item of discussion concerned to so-far annual international conferences held by the IABS, and whether to continue the yearly schedule. This topic required a lot of thought and discussion, but because of a time shortage, had to be carried on over dinner and picked up again formally later in the evening. After a long and colorful discussion, an amendment to the second resolution passed by the Board of Directors was proposed by Dr. K. K. Mittal, seconded, and passed, that

After the year 1985 the international IABS conferences shall be held every two years, and not annually.

A final resolution was passed thanking Professor Pezzali for her invitation for an international conference of the IABS to be held in Italy in a future year, with the endorsement to take the matter up with the University of Bologna as soon as possible.

Discussion and suggestions from the General Membership

A resolution was proposed by Dr. Beatrice Miller commending Dr. Edward Bastian for the film he produced and showed at the conference, and encouraging further films in the same direction:

This meeting, being most impressed by the splendid work of Dr. Edward Bastian in producing films on Buddhism, strongly supports his work and urges all authorities and educational television stations and institutions to give him whatever support possible.

The resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

Professor Robert Miller, on behalf of graduate students in Japan, invited all interested in work with micro-computers in Buddhist Studies to contact him.

When asked if any proceedings would be published from this conference, Professor Basham said that probably it would be too expensive, but that it would be up to Professor Gombrich. However, he pointed out that the best papers read at the conference would stand a chance of publication in a future issue of

JIABS, if presented to the editor in proper form, described on the inside back cover of every issue of the *Journal*.

Since there were no further points from the floor, Professor Basham closed the meeting with a final comment on the pronunciation of Buddhist Sanskrit terms correctly by scholars in the field, something often glaringly overlooked.

Rena Haggarty