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OSKAR VON HINÜBER

Report on the XIIth Conference of the IABS

1. Report on the Conference

After an unavoidably long interval following the XIth conference held in Mexico City (24th – 28th October 1994), the very well attended XIIth conference was held at Lausanne between 23rd and 28th August 1999. With 260 participants (members of the Organizing Committee and auditors not included) it was the largest meeting of IABS members ever. During the conference 57 persons enrolled as new members of the IABS.

The conference began on the 23rd (Monday afternoon) with registration and a get-together party. During the opening session T. J. F. Tillemans as the local organizer, M. Pascal Bridel, Vice-rector of the University of Lausanne, and Mme Jacqueline Maurer, *Conseillère d'Etat*, Minister of the Economy of the Canton of Vaud, welcomed the participants to the congress. The president of the Association, C. Caillat, delivered her address "Comparing Buddhism and Jainism". Finally, J. Bronkhorst gave practical advice to the participants.

All contributions were either organized within a panel or a section. The following scholars each initiated one of the 23 panels:

1. Ch. S. Prebish: Recent Works on *Vinaya* Studies
2. J. Newman / G. Orofino: Conservative and Evolutionary Elements in Buddhist Tantra Literature
3. B. Dessein: *Abhidharma*
4. B. Oguibénine: Buddhist (Hybrid) Sanskrit
5. M. Baumann: Buddhism in the West
6. R. Kritzer: *Antarābhava*
7. Ch. Müller: Electronic Texts, Internet and Computer Resources in Buddhist Studies
8. S. Katsura: Buddhist Logic: The Function of Examples (*drṣṭānta*)
9. L. Schmithausen: The Value of Nature in Buddhism
10. M. Hara: Buddhism and Brahmanism
11. J. Braarvig: New Discovery of Early Buddhist Manuscripts
12. A. Saito: *Mādhyamika* and *Yogācāra*

13. R. Sharf: What is a Sūtra? Reflections on the Material Culture of Buddhist Sūtras in China and Japan
14. P. Harrison: Early Mahāyāna and Mahāyānasūtras (I)
15. R. Gombrich: Buddhism and Society in South and South-East Asia
16. S. Batchelor: Buddhist Psychology
17. M. Mohr: Japanese Buddhism since the Seventeenth Century: The Quest for Sectarian Identity
18. J. Silk: Early Mahāyāna and Mahāyānasūtras (II)
19. J. Ducor: Buddhism and Pure Land
20. A. W. Barber: Tathāgatagarbha
21. S. McClintock / G. Dreyfus: Is there a Real Distinction between Svātantrika and Prāsaṅgika Mādhyamika?
22. R. Salomon / C. Cox: New Discovery of Early Buddhist Manuscripts
23. S.P. Bumbacher: Buddhist-Daoist Interaction in Traditional China.

The 16 sections were chaired by:

1. S. Yamakami: Logic and Epistemology
2. Ch. Müller: East Asian Buddhism (I)
3. R. Duquenne: East Asian Buddhism (II)
4. J. S. Strong: Early Buddhism
5. C. Gianotti: Mahāyānasūtras (I)
6. C. Dragonetti: Mahāyānasūtras (II)
7. E. Mikogami: Logic and Epistemology
8. F. K. Erhard: Buddhism in Tibet and Nepal (I)
9. B. Steinmann: Buddhism in Tibet and Nepal (II)
10. P. Schalk: Aspects of Buddhism in South Asia
11. Bhikkhu Pāsādika: Pāli and Theravāda Tradition (I)
12. L.S. Cousins: Pāli and Theravāda Tradition (II)
13. H. Ogawa: Philosophy (I)
14. G. Bugault: Philosophy (II)
15. F. Bizot: Vinaya
16. Chr. Cüppers: Contemporary Buddhism

Furthermore, there was a round table discussion chaired by M. T. Kapstein on The Cult of Vairocana.

Tuesday (24th) evening there was a reception by the Rectorate of the University of Lausanne, and on Thursday (26th) evening the participants met in the Hôtel de la Paix for a cocktail dinner.

The excursions on Thursday (26th) were well attended, with participants going either to the castle of La Sarraz and the abbey of Romainmôtier, or to Gruyères, with a visit to the chocolate factory.

The conference, which was universally acclaimed as a great success, first of all due to the excellent local organization by T. J. F. Tillemans and his staff, ended officially with the closing session including the business meeting, and socially with a dinner and farewell party during a magnificent evening cruise on Lake Geneva.

2. Report on the Meeting of the Board of Directors on Wednesday 25th August.

The Board of Directors met on 25th August between 18.35 and 20.55 hours over dinner. The following points were discussed and decided unanimously:

1. Prof. Dr. Cristina Scherrer-Schaub was appointed as *interim* Treasurer until the next election of IABS officers.
2. A suggestion to exempt members of the Board of Directors from paying membership fees was rejected.
3. An invitation by the Mom Rajavong Kalaya Tingsabadh, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, to host the XIIIth IABS conference in December 2002 was handed over to the president by Peter Skilling, Regional Secretary for SE-Asia, and accepted with thanks. A further provisional invitation for the XIVth IABS conference to be held in London in 2005 was accepted from Ulrich Pagel, SOAS, London.
4. It was decided by majority vote to make the JIABS available also on the internet for a trial period provided that the IABS incurs no extra costs and that the technical problems involved could be mastered. The JIABS will of course continue to appear in hard copy as well.
5. Jacques May, professor emeritus of the Université de Lausanne, was elected as Honorary Fellow.
6. The proceedings for the business meeting were prepared.

3. Report on the Closing Session and Business Meeting.

The president opened the business meeting, which was attended by about 125 members of the IABS, on 29th August at 14.00 hours. She gave warm thanks to all local organizers and, at the same time, thanked the previous president, D. Seyfort Ruegg, and the previous secretary general, A. Macdonald, for their work for the IABS.

T. Tillemans offered his thanks to those assisting him in organizing the conference, especially Johannes Bronkhorst, Toru Tomabechi and Danielle Feller, and to all those who assisted him during the conference: Nicolas Mirimanoff and other students. He pointed out that there will be no comprehensive publication of the papers read. However, organizers of panels are invited to take care of the publication of their respective panels.

The president communicated the results of the business meeting (see separate report) to the audience.

During the meeting the following information was passed to the members of the IABS:

I. Christian Wittern and Tu Aming, acting on behalf of the Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies and the Chinese Buddhist Electronic Text Association (CBETA) in Taipei, presented two CD-ROMs to the Section de Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Université de Lausanne to express their gratitude to the organizers of the conference. The first CD-ROM containing a computerized version of volumes 5 to 10 of the *Taishō Tripiṭaka* is the first publication of CBETA.

Moreover, the offer was put forward to all those present and to the readers of this announcement that everybody can register for a free copy of this CD-ROM, which will be mailed in due course. It can be used on almost any computer provided it is equipped with the ability to display Chinese characters. The address for postal orders is: Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies, 276, Kuang Ming Road, Peitou, Taipei, Taiwan. E-mail orders are also accepted <cbeta@ccbs.ntu.edu.tw>. CBETA plans to release a second CD-ROM, which will contain volumes 1-17 and 22-32 of the *Taishō Tripiṭaka* within the next six months. The second CD-ROM also contains an introduction to the Chung-Hwa Institute of Buddhist Studies as well as an electronic version of the *Chung-Hwa Journal of Buddhist Studies* (including back issues) and other journal articles. It is regularly sent to institutions engaged in Buddhist Studies on the basis of exchange of publications.

II. Jan Nattier announced a new journal, *Buddhist Literature*, designed expressly to provide a forum for publication of primary texts in translation. The subscription is US\$ 25.- (US\$ 30.- outside the US) for individuals, reduced to US\$ 15.- (US\$ 20.-) for students, or US\$ 35.- (US\$ 40.-) for institutions. Subscription orders should be sent to: *Buddhist Literature*, c/o East Asian Center, Memorial Hall West 210,

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA. The first issue is due in fall 1999. For further inquiries contact: Jan Nattier, Editor, Buddhist Literature, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405, USA <buddhlit@indiana.edu>.

III. Charles Müller draw attention to the e-mail list called *Buddhist Scholars Information Network* (Budschol) that has been created for the purpose of communication and exchange of information within the Buddhist scholarly community. The list is exclusively for the purpose of posting announcements regarding new publications, book reviews, conference information, internet resources, etc. Therefore, despite a fairly large membership (170, steadily climbing), the average number of messages is fairly small. At present, designated members of Budschol are monitoring and reporting on the Buddhism-related articles contained in over 20 journals. We are also receiving regular publications from several academic publishers. Membership in the network is strictly limited to those possessing an advanced degree in Buddhist Studies, or those enrolled in an advanced degree program. You may subscribe to the list by sending an e-mail message to Dr. Charles Müller at <acmuller@human.toyogakuen-u.ac.jp>. Please include your name, e-mail address, and academic affiliation. If you are not personally known to Dr. Müller, please include also a brief description of your academic background.

IV. Max Deeg announced the formation of a network for scholars working on Sino-Indian Buddhism. This prospective network, which was discussed by a group of scholars during the conference, should enable participants first of all to exchange bibliographical and research information pertinent particularly to Sino-Buddhist terms. For, it was felt that multilingual glossaries (e.g., Chinese-Sanskrit-English) for certain works or translators, badly needed by all who are working in the field of translating Chinese Buddhist texts, should be created in the course of time as one result of the discussions. Access to the network should be given primarily to scholars really doing research in Chinese Buddhist texts, mainly in texts translated or claiming to be translations (apocrypha). Inquiries about the network should be sent to Max Deeg <Deeg-Max@t-online.de>, and about subscription to <dharmarakṣa-subscribe@onelist.com>.

The president, thanking once again all participants for their contributions, closed the meeting and the conference at 14.25 hours.