

Recent Books from Nepal – Oct 2020

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Anthropology/ Archaeology

Besting the Best : Warriors and Warfare in the Cultural and Religious Traditions of Tibet : A Historical, Ethnographic and Archaeological Survey of Martialism Over the Last Three Millennia / John Vincent Bellezza
Bhairahawa, Dist. Rupandehi: Lumbini International Research Institute, 2020
xvi, 564p.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9789937063043
\$ 110.00 / PB
1290gm.

Employing historical, ethnographic and archaeological sources, this monograph explores the human and material agents of war and warriors on the Tibetan Plateau. The cultural and religious foundations of combat and other bellicose traditions are surveyed through Tibetan textual and anthropological evidence, establishing an interpretative framework for analyzing the significance of the ancient rock art, monuments and artifacts also featured in this work. Set against such archaeological and artistic records, the investigation of martial ideas, practices and technologies permits the postulation of longstanding links in the conception and conduct of warfare in Tibet.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=735138>

Exorcising Ancestors Conquering Heaven : Himalayan Rituals in Context / Brigitte Steinmann, Mukta Singh Tamang & Thuden Gyalchen Lama

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2020

xx, 380p.

Includes Bibliography

9789937624039

\$ 35.00 / PB

This volume is a first attempt at gathering together, translating, describing and analysing an immemorial textual and oral Nepalese Buddhist heritage, doomed to disappear: a most antique form of veneration of major figures of the Buddhist religion of the Tamangs, based on Tibetan corpus. The analysis is centered around the recreation and final dissolution of both ferocious and pacific images of their gods and ancestors.

Multiple dramas and rehearsals featuring the complex rules of the society and all the obstacles encountered by people in their day to day lives, are played theatrically under the guidance of the Head rnyingmapa Lama and/ or the Bard. Books, dramas, recitations, speak of fiercely combatting hordes of demons, enemies of the group, of eliminating a scapegoat and of using for this all the resources of a very high-mountain environment, though far away in fact from where the ceremony in question is performed. People claims loud and clear to have descended from kings who came from the top of an original mountain situated in the centre of the world and touching the sky.

Similarly, Funeral rites founded on a conceptualisation of the phases of death, and Teachings for the laity recited by the local bard, suggest that today's Tamangs' ancestors may well have been contemporaneous with ancient Mongolian societies, all of them adepts of the old Bon religion and prior to periods when the great literature of the northern Treasure-texts gterma disseminated in Nepal from the seventeenth century onwards, was introduced.

This long-term work is the result of a collective effort bringing together the skills of researchers, ethnologists and historians,

passionate about the world of these Buddhist populations of Nepal.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=735139>

Literature

Annapurna Blues / James Ellison Wills

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2020

vi, 266p.

9789937733236

\$ 12.00 / PB

202gm.

ANNAPURNA BLUES is the story of a trek around the world's 10th highest mountain in 1978. It focuses on the adventures and misadventures of trek leader Jerry Taylor and members of his first trekking group. Set in an era of adventure travel, the novel combines the trekking experience with a gritty tale of redemption and karma in the roadless Himalaya of central Nepal. Humor and empathy mix along the trail of mountain peril. Betrayal and hate walk with trust and love in the mountains known as "the abode of the gods." Though the story is fictional, it is based on actual events. There were not so many tourists in those days and the world beyond roads was still in medieval times. People lived in traditional ways, facilities were few and the tourists had just begun to make their mark. Brought together by fate and luck, the members and staff of the trek share secrets and dreams along the trail for 23 days. More is revealed than anyone anticipated, things take an unpredictable turn. It is a story of discovery and survival in the Himalaya.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=735140>

Religion - Buddhism

Present for Buddha : The Meaning of the Eight Auspicious Symbols in Tibetan Buddhism / Rudolf Hogger (Ed) Judith Dowling (Translator)

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2019

288p. ; (410)col. illus., (1)map, appendices, gloss., 30cm.
9789937733090
\$ 75.00 / HB
1540gm.

The eight auspicious symbols, which play a central role in Tibetan Buddhism, have been considered since time immemorial as the original presents that the Vedic gods handed to the newborn Buddha.

The present book throws a different light on the millennia-old history of these auspicious symbols, retracing their origins in the Stone Age and revealing their earliest manifestations on various continents. The Tibetan auspicious symbols reflect a cultural world heritage of overwhelming colourfulness and almost inexhaustible richness of meaning. They are symbols of universal validity for outer, worldly realities as well as for inner, spiritual processes. In his preface, the Dalai Lama writes: I am glad that the Institute is coming out with this book that not only explains the meaning of the Eight Auspicious Symbols of Buddhism, but also places them in context with the cultures of other historical traditions. It thus symbolises the very objective behind the setting up of the Tibet Institute:

spreading awareness about Tibetan Buddhist cultural values and placing them in relation to the broader world. "Presents for Buddha" was first published in 2018 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Tibet Institute Rikon (Switzerland), the first Tibetan monastery in Europe. The monastery is under the patronage of the Dalai Lama and, according to his wishes, "has been a facilitator of dialogue between Tibetan Buddhist and Western cultures". This has become especially evident in this book: while in the first part Tibetan people, including the Abbot of the Rikon Monastery, explain the meaning of the auspicious symbols in their lives and their faith, in the second part Rudolf Högger leads through an illustrated cultural history of the symbols that goes far beyond Buddhism. Thus, the originality of this book lies in the combination of personal accounts of religious lives and a cultural-historical portrayal.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=735142>

The Eighty Mahasiddhas of the Mother Tantra : The Sacred Art of Tibetan Thangkas / Tsadzin Lopon Geshe Monlam Wangyal (Ed) Ann Brunila

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2020

xiv, 180p.

Includes Bibliography

9789937733205

\$ 90.00 / HB

990gm.

This book presents Geshe Monlam's unique and beautiful thangka paintings together with short hagiographies of the great early Masters, their main teachings, meditation practices, and stories of their miraculous deeds. By means of his artistic work, the author wishes to preserve this precious spiritual and cultural heritage for future generations.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=735143>

Lama of Lamas : The Life of the Vajra-Master Chogye Trichen Rinpoche (2 Volumes Set) / David P. Jackson

Kathmandu: Vajra Books, 2020

2v.

9789937933018 (Vol.1.)

9789937933025 (Vol.2.)

\$ 120.00 (Set) / HB

Book I:

xliv, 312p.

9789937933018

1090gm.

Book II:

313p. – 740p.

1270gm.

Lama of Lamas is the inspiring and amazing life story of a modern buddha. Born in Tibet in 1919 into a venerable family of religious nobility, Chogye Trichen Rinpoche was enthroned as abbot of Nalendra Monastery when he was still just a

teenager. After leaving his homeland as a refugee in 1959, he would eventually become in India and Nepal the revered guru of many of the greatest masters of Tibetan Buddhism. "Khyabje Chogye Trichen Rinpoche was a very great master and important lineage holder in the Sakya tradition. He was a highly respected teacher, not only for me, but also for tens of thousands of devoted disciples throughout the world. His influence extended far beyond the Sakya tradition. Recognizing his excellent good qualities, the greatest masters of our time from every tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama himself, requested Chogye Trichen Rinpoche to bestow empowerments and teachings upon them. He is one of the most important root gurus, as I received the entire Collections of Tantras empowerments, teachings and transmissions from him. He is still revered and supplicated even after his parinirvana in 2007. Khyabje Chogye Trichen Rinpoche was a pure holder of the Vinaya, a true bodhisattva and a great Vajrayana master. He developed these qualities to a high degree of realization through years of retreat. To preserve the Dharma and create opportunities for others to practice, he also established several monasteries and retreat centers.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=711434>
