

Editorial

SINHAS IS 20!

This issue marks the 20th year of publication for this journal, *Studies in Nepali History and Society* (SINHAS). Counting from the inaugural issue of SINHAS in mid-1996, we have published 38 separate issues of the journal prior to this one. In the completed 19 volumes of the journal, apart from a few editorials and notes, we have published 182 full-length articles, 52 commentaries, seven literature review essays, four bibliographies and two interviews. We started publishing reviews of single books from volume eight (2003) only and have managed to carry reviews of 100 books. An author-index of all the published contents is now available online at www.martinchautari.org.np/2012-08-27-08-45-41/journals/12-publications/journals/45-author-index-to-studies-in-nepali-history-and-society.html. Despite occasionally falling behind in our schedule, it gives us pleasure to say that we have managed to keep SINHAS going for 20 years now. It is heartening to note that scholars of Nepal, both those located in Nepal and elsewhere, now consider this journal to be a leading forum for publishing their important works. Articles and other materials published in the pages of this journal are also increasingly being cited in publications by younger scholars of Nepal.

To mark this occasion, the editors of SINHAS have concurred on a few things. First, we have decided to expand the size of the editorial collective by inviting some colleagues to join it. Beginning with this issue, Dr Sanjog Rupakheti will be an associate editor of this journal. Sanjog did his PhD on the history of state-formation in modern Nepal from Rutgers University in 2012 and is currently an assistant professor of history at Loyola University, New Orleans, US. Apart from his dissertation, he has written two important articles. From the next issue (volume 20 number 2), Dr Mallika Shakya will join the SINHAS editorial collective, also in the capacity of an associate editor. Mallika did her PhD in economic anthropology from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2008 and is currently an assistant professor of sociology at South Asian University, New Delhi, India.

She has written several important articles and has, on occasions, commented upon contemporary issues in newspapers, magazines, and online forums. Some of her publications and those of Sanjog are listed in the ‘References’ below.

Second, the editors are committed to intensifying the existing international collaboration. SINHAS is made possible by an expanding set of scholars located in Nepal and elsewhere who choose to publish their work in this journal and who assist in its production by participating in the review process of articles submitted to it. We are especially keen on publishing the works of scholars whose full-length articles have not appeared in this journal before. On this point, we are happy to note that four of the contributors of articles in this issue (not counting the founding editor Mark Liechty) are first time authors.

Third, the editors are committed to expanding the diversity of contents in SINHAS in future issues. While full-length academic articles, commentaries from non-academic practitioners and book reviews will continue to be the mainstay, we will increase the frequency of other types of texts we have published only occasionally in the past. These include assessments of the status of Nepal Studies (organized by theme, period, region, discipline or particular national tradition of research on Nepal), multiple-book or literature review essays, and interviews with senior academics about their careers and works related to Nepal. A translation of thoughtful writings on issues within the scope of SINHAS in languages other than Nepali or English, with their originals, will also be included.

We will also publish a new section called ‘Notes from the Archives’ at least once in each volume of the journal. Despite the fact that the publication of primary materials related to the history of Nepal has been going on for many decades, access to the repositories in Nepal by researchers remains critical owing in part to the closed nature of these institutions and also in part to the ways collections are deposited and listed. The need for expanding access to archival materials from Nepal for the SINHAS readers, particularly transliterated in Roman/Devanagari and translated in English/Nepali, often accompanied with an insightful note on their significance, therefore cannot be overemphasized. We hope that this new section in SINHAS will generate new questions and revise old questions in the history and society of Nepal. In addition, we also hope to provide a forum for analyzing the intent behind the making and use of these archives. We also hope that the section will trigger

conversations among the SINHAS readers that would eventually lead to more sharing of their own personal notes, primary materials and collections with others and to opening up wider avenues for continuing critical dialogue on the state of their knowledge about Nepali society and history.

Finally, the editors of SINHAS reiterate our commitment to publishing top quality scholarship on Nepal. In the first issue of SINHAS, we claimed that we would “seek and encourage work that makes use of Nepali scholarship whenever it is relevant to the topic under study.” We also claimed that we would make SINHAS “a journal where theoretical innovations are based precisely on careful and detailed study of Nepali history and society” (SINHAS 1996: 1). We leave it to our readers to judge how successful we were in consistently meeting these objectives in the past 19 years. However we can say with some confidence that we have published some of the best examples of academic writings that meet both of these objectives in the various issues of SINHAS. These two objectives will continue to guide what we publish in this journal during its third decade. We look forward to receiving well argued articles that add to our collective understanding of Nepal.

We are grateful to many individuals and organizations that have helped us in the first two decades of this journal’s existence. In particular, we would like to thank all contributors whose articles, commentaries, review essays, interviews, bibliographies, and book reviews were published in previous issues of the journal. We take this opportunity to thank many colleagues for giving their time to review the submitted manuscripts. Since SINHAS is a product of voluntary effort, without their generosity, we would not have been able to maintain high standards in the contents we have published. We are also grateful to many colleagues at Martin Chautari who have helped us in different ways over the years to make the journal possible. We also thank our publisher Madhab Lal Maharjan of Mandala Book Point for his continuing commitment toward this journal and Dongol Printers for its layout work and printing.

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