

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The present volume of *South Asian Archaeology* contains most of the papers read at the second international conference of the Association for the Promotion of South Asian Archaeology in Western Europe. The Association was founded in 1970, when a group of South Asian archaeologists met informally at Cambridge University. In 1971, the first international conference was held at Churchill College, Cambridge, while the second conference took place in 1973, at the Institute of South Asian Archaeology, University of Amsterdam. This conference which was held from 4th-6th July was officially opened by a representative of the Ministry of Education, Dr. J. M. van Boetzelaer, himself a trained Indologist. The organizers of the conference are deeply grateful to the Ministry for this token of interest as well as for the grant which greatly facilitated the material arrangements of the conference. The conferences at Cambridge and Amsterdam were both well attended by a comparatively large number of scholars from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and the United Kingdom, while guests from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United States graced the occasion. It seems, therefore, that the Association serves a useful purpose in offering an opportunity for much needed international contacts and an exchange of ideas. In order to stimulate this aspect the organizers of the conference in Amsterdam drew up a program which allowed time for informal personal contacts and discussions.

During the meeting at which the Association was founded in 1970, some pertinent statements were drafted with regard to its scope, aims and purposes. The scope of the Association was to comprise "the prehistoric and historic archaeology of the Indian subcontinent with its Iranian and Burmese borderlands". The aims and purposes of the Association were stated to consist of a) stimulating contacts between South Asian archaeologists by organizing biennial conferences; b) publishing regular proceedings or, if possible, a journal; and c) exploring means of co-operation between teachers of South Asian archaeology both nationally and internationally. The conferences at Cambridge and Amsterdam, and the appearance of their proceedings have already set a pattern for the future. Co-operation between teachers of South Asian archaeology, the third objective, should now be stimulated more vigorously, the more so as such subjects as South Asian archaeology are bound to be in the frontline of academic subjects, which will suffer severely from the effects of the present financial and economic crisis. An example of such co-operation at the national level can be seen in the annual sym-

posia on problems of South Asian art history organized by the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and London, and attended by teachers and students from those bodies. On a small scale international co-operation has already started with Professor Härtel's series of lectures at Paris on the excavations at Sonkh, while a slightly more ambitious attempt is now under way as a result of an invitation to Dr. Allchin from the University of Amsterdam. It is hoped that a more regular exchange of teaching between Western European universities can be organized in the future along these lines.

At its meeting on 5th July 1973, the Board of the Association appointed me as editor of *South Asian Archaeology*. However, owing to various heavy responsibilities I was unable to carry the load of editing the volume alone. At my request the Board subsequently appointed as co-editor Mr. J. M. M. Ubaghs, Lit. Drs., who has acquitted himself of his burdensome task in an admirable way, for which I should like to thank him in public. In addition to this Mrs. M. G. C. Fanchamps, secretary of the Institute of South Asian Archaeology, was of immense help in checking and typing the index, a task which she cheerfully carried out with great accuracy. To both these collaborators I should like to extend my grateful thanks for their unstinted support and help.

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