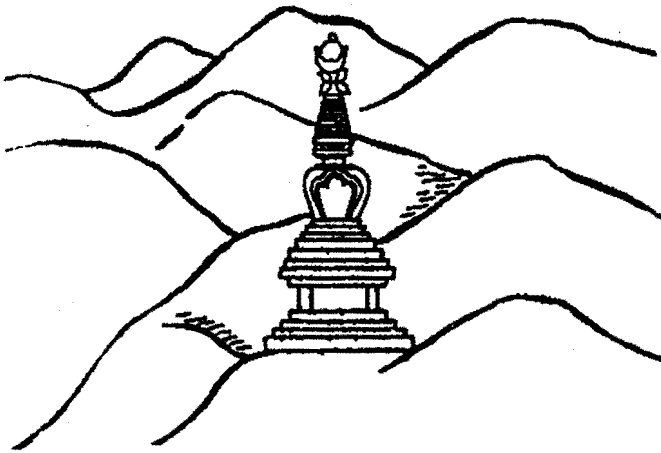


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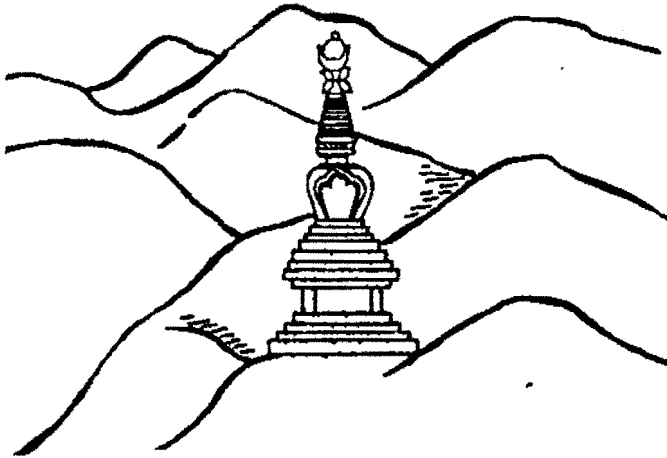
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*The Bulletin of Tibetology seeks to serve the specialist as well as the general reader with an interest in this field of study. The motif portraying the Stupa on the mountains suggests the dimensions of the field.*

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Generous offerings of large quantity of gold and articles to the monks. The Dharma Raja Asoka becomes famous as the Chos-rgyal Mya-ngan Med.

### CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS ISSUE

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## **PREFACE**

The Asoka Volume of the Bulletin of Tibetology is another in a series of offerings from the Institute for the Tibetan as well as non-Tibetan readers of Tibetan Buddhism. Here I would like to inform that the Asoka Volume has been possible due to the efforts of Acharya Samten Gyatso Lepcha, a Research Officer (I) with the Institute. It would also be improper not to shed some light upon the man to whom this Volume is dedicated, The Great King Asoka. There must be hardly anyone in the world of readers who has not heard of Asoka, or not read about his valour and extraordinary deeds he performed after he embraced Buddhism.

A grandson of Raja Chandra Gupta and a prince of the Mauryan dynasty of ancient Northern India, Asoka was a valorous ruler. He is said to have conquered a number of neighbouring princely states while expanding his kingdom only to realise the horrible effects of war after his bloody victory over Kalinga, a small kingdom near the Bay of Bengal. Appaled by the misery and horrors of war, his conscience awoke and he soon converted to Buddhism and started devoting more time to propagating the true message of Lord Buddha. Simultaneously, he began relief operations in a number of places in the name of his faith. The stone inscriptions erected by him at the time have continued to inspire and encourage people to the present day.

This Asoka Volume which was compiled and written from Tibetan sources is to add another gem to the chain of volumes written from Sanskrit, Pali and Chinese sources by other renowned scholars. The English translation is given simultaneously with the aim to feed the further researchers with information on the life and deeds of Asoka. I hope, perhaps, this will open the eyes of some groping minds to the true legacy of Buddhism.

***(Sonam Gyatso Dokhangba)***

**Assistant Director**