

ACTIVITIES OF SRIT 1995-97

- B. Gosh & Tenzin Samphel

1. NATIONAL SEMINAR

Following the decision of the Executive Board and the General Council of the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok a 'National Seminar' was organised by the Academic Council of SRIT under the Presidentship of the Governor of Sikkim.

This is in fact, the first of its kind and for the first time in the history of the Institute that a scholarly deliberation and exchange of the thought on historical perspective on (i) Guru Padmasahbhava's contribution to Sikkim and (ii) Cultural Aspect of Sikkim, took place in the beautifully decorated ground floor/Museum Hall in front of the imposing images of Guru Padmasambhava and Manjushri of the SRIT. The Seminar was held on 29th and 30th March 1995 and was inaugurated by the President SRIT, His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim.

It is a well-known historical fact that, Guru Padma Jungne, the great Indian Acharya and the unparalleled exponent of Tantric doctrine of Mahayana blessed this Hidden land of Sikkim in the eight century A. D.. Later on, following the prophecy of Maha Guru, four yogin 'Rnal-'byor mChed-bZhi' including first consecrated king of the Namgyal dynasty, Phuntsok Namgyal visited this holy land 'Demozong' and disseminated the doctrine of Buddha.

The Seminar was attended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, cabinet minister, M.L.A., distinguished delegates, venerable Lamas, students of schools and college and other ladies and gentlemen. Professors, scholars, researchers from Universities participated and read out their learned papers and following deliberations. The salient features of the Seminar was the active participation of Lamas of Sikkim and monk students of Nyingma SHEDA Institute, Gangtok in the deliberation. Much of the history and culture of Sikkim is shrouded in mysteries and legends and much has to be done to unravel the antiquity of this part of the country. Many unwritten facts and conventions were unfolded in the personal discussion and interviews.

The President in his inagural address stated that 'In-fact had not Guru Rinpoche visited Tibet and spread the gospel of Buddhism, there would have been no trace of Buddhism in Tibet or the Himalayan region. This precious teacher's miracles and achievements are the concrete historical facts.

The Seminar Volume 1995, B. T. was released by His Excellency the Governor of Sikkim, Shri Chaudhury Randhir Singh on Guru Tshechu Duechen 'Symposium' on the 13th August 1997 at the Institute.

II

SYMPOSIUM ON GURU TSHECHU DUECHEN 25TH JULY 1996

A Symposium was organised by SRIT authorities on 25th July 1996 to commerate the 1886th birth anniversary of Guru Rinpoche in the main hall of the

Institute's ground floor. H. E. the Governor of Sikkim Shri Chaudhury Randhir Singh inaugurated the Duechen after the benedictory prayers by their eminent lamas. Following the welcome address by the Director SRIT Mr. Tashi Tobden, the President SRIT read out the inaugural address.

In the afternoon session, H. E. Chusang Rinpoche, the head of the Urgyen-Mdo-sNgags Chos-'Khor-Gling, Taktse, Gangtok, H. E. Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche, Dorji Lopon of the Lachen Monastery, H. E. Serdup Dhungzin Rinpoche, seat holder of Serdup Lineage of Rdzogs-chen tradition gave the benedictory address on the life and teachings of the Guru Rinpoche and also his contribution to Sikkim. Besides, Principal of Nyingma SHEDA Khenpo Dechen Dorji and Sr. Lecturer Dr. Lha Tsering also contributed articles in Tibetan whereas some lecturers from SHEDA read out their papers in English and Hindi.

III

SYMPOSIUM ON GURU TSHECHU DUECHEN 13TH AUGUST 1997

The auspicious occasion of Guru Tshechu Duechen being the annual feature to be organised by the Institute as approved by the Executive Board/General Council members. This year too, on 13th August 1997, the SRIT authority organised the Symposium to commemorate the Guru Tshechu Duechen, the birth anniversary of the Guru Rinpoche. As usual, the invocation of the Guru was made by the lamas followed by the welcome address of the Director SRIT. Immediately, after the welcome address, the Governor/President SRIT read out his inaugural address emphasising the precious religious activities of Guru Rinpoche in Tibet and Himalayan region particularly in Sikkim.

Subsequently, the Governor released the Bulletin of Tibetology SEMINAR VOLUME 1995 before the audiences, which was attended by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling, his cabinet colleagues, M.L.A.'s, senior officers of the Government of Sikkim, Venerable Rinpoches, Khenpos, Lecturers from SHEDA and students etc. The composite of Guru Duechen Symposium Volume, Bibliotheca Sikkim Himalayica-Series I, 1996 which was brought out in a book form was also released simultaneously by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri. P. K. Chamling during the occasion.

In the afternoon session, H. E. Chusang Rinpoche gave a concise account of the Guru Rinpoche and the significance of Tshechu Duechen and thus commenced the actual deliberations of Symposium. Ven. Khenpo Dechen Dorji, Ven. Khenpo Lha Tsering, Dr. Chowang Acharya and other Sr. lecturers from Nyingma SHEDA, Gangtok read out their learned papers in Tibetan, English and Hindi. Sri N. Dorji, Addl. Secretary, Ecclesiastical Department of Govt. of Sikkim and Mr. Sonam Gyatso Dokham, Asstt. Director SRIT also read out their papers on 'The Monasteries of Sikkim' and "Introduction to Esoteric Doctrine" respectively. The Symposium collectively with the active participation of the scholars and enthusiastic audiences became a grand success.

The Director SRIT announced that to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebration/50th anniversary of Indian independence SRIT decided to present voluminous publication of the collected works of Vth Dalai Lama (25 Vols.) to the six leading monasteries of Sikkim and Chorten Gompa. The Governor of Sikkim thereafter presented each set of the Vth Dalai Lama's Sungbum/Collected Works to the Chief Minister, who in his turn presented the publications to the representatives of the six premier monasteries of Sikkim and Chorten Gompa of Deorali.

IV

SRIT PUBLICATION - 1995-97

SRIT has so far published five Catalogues of Valuable xylographs and manuscripts and four Bulletins i.e. B. T. 1996 No. 1, 2, 3 and Seminar Volume 1995 and also a Symposium Volume on Guru Tshechu Duechen-Bibliotheca Sikkim Himalayica Series - I.

1. TIBETAN CATALOGUES :

- a) Rin-Chen Terzod
Nyingmapa Catalogue, Volume One part - I, 1996.
- b) Rin-Chen Terzod.
- Nyingmapa Catalogue, Volume One. Part. II, 1996.
- c) Catalogue of the Collected Works of YAB-SRAS-GSUM
Gelupa Catalogue Series, Volume One. 1996.
- d) Catalogue of the Collected Works of
Rje Dkon-Mchog Bstan-Sgron
and
Thu-'U-Bkan
Gelupa Catalogue Series, Volume One. 1996.
- e) Catalogue of the Collected Works of
Mnga'-Bdag-Nyang
Nyingmapa Catalogue Series, Volume Three. 1996.
- f) Catalogue of the Collected Works of
Bdud-'Dul Gling-Pa
and Pad-ma Gling-Pa
Nyingmapa Catalogue Series, Vol. Two. 1996.

2. BULLETIN OF TIBETOLOGY

- a) B. T. SEMINAR VOLUME, 1995
- b) B. T. 1996. N. S. No. 1

- c) B. T. 1996. N. S. No. 2
- d) B. T. 1996. N. S. No. 3.

3. SPECIAL VOLUME

- a) Guru Duechen Symposium Vol.
(Bibliotheca Sikkim Himalayica : Series-I)

4. COMPUTER

Installation of Computer Device for SRIT Libraries :-

In recent year SRIT made stride to reorganise the documentation of both General and Tibetan Libraries of SRIT with trained personnel to materialise the objective of installing two computer machine for the purpose of SRIT Libraries.

5. APPOINTMENT

Shri Sonam Gyatso Dokham, Gendrung Ecclesiastical affairs Government of Sikkim has been deputed to SRIT as Assistant Director for the period of two years w.e.f. May 1997.

- i) Ven. Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche.
- ii) Shri Ngawang Thinlay.
(Retired Gendrung of Ecclesiastical Department, Government of Sikkim.)
- iii) Shri Bhajagovinda Ghosh.
(Retired Assistant Director, SRIT)
were appointed for the post of Senior Research Scholar on honorarium basis for the perod of one year.

6. ART OBJECT

The Instsitute purchased the following nos. of Thangkas for installation in the SRIT Museum.

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| a. | Mdzad-Pa Bcu-gNyis | 12 nos. |
| b. | Rgyan-Drug mChog-gNyis | 4 nos. |
| c. | Rigzing Tshogshing | 1 no. |