

INDIRAN

The newsletter of the Ancient India and Iran Trust

Issue 6: Spring 2012



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Editor's Letter

*News from the Ancient
India & Iran Trust*

WELCOME to the sixth edition of the Ancient India and Iran Trust's newsletter, *Indiran* - Spring 2012.

Before last summer's hiatus, the Trust's events calendar was full. Friday lectures included 'Nakhichevan and its sacred geography': a unique insight into Christian Art between 14th and 15th century Europe and the Middle East by **Dr Christiane Esche-Ramshorn** and a talk by **Professor Herman Tiekens** on 'The Function of the so-called Ashoka Pillars'

Highlights in June 2011 included the Trust's annual Garden Party (featured on **page 8**) and a special Friends event - a fascinating talk given by one of our Trustees, Sir Nicholas Barrington, entitled 'A Diplomat's Contacts with History and Archaeology'. Sir Nicholas' illustrated account of his experiences included an opportunity to view his wonderful collection of artefacts and mementos.

Following on from our Friday lecture on 19th April 2011, we have a report about the ongoing archaeological research at Lumbini, 'the Birthplace of the Buddha' in Nepal, written by former trustee **Professor Robin Coningham**, Pro-Vice Chancellor at Durham University and Co-Director of the UNESCO project. Read more on **page 7**. The image on the cover page is of the Bodhi tree and Mayadevi pond in Lumbini, Nepal.

In this issue we remember the late Greg Possehl, former Trustee, distinguished archaeologist and expert on the rise of the Indus civilisation. There are interviews with one of our newly appointed Trustees, and long time supporter of the Trust, Professor Sam Lieu and last year's Pakistan Visiting Fellowship recipient, Dr Zakirullah Jan. On **page 4** we have an excellent piece on Whitley Stokes by **Dr Elizabeth Boyle** and **Dr Paul Russell**, who gave our final Friday lecture before Christmas.

Remember to catch up with 'People at the Trust' on **page 8**, where you'll find pictures, 'news in brief' and details of upcoming events.

We hope you enjoy this issue - and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have a story, book review or information you'd like to share with us at the Trust.

Jo Salisbury, Editor

The Gomal Plain:

A Quest for the Indus Civilization

Dr Zakirullah Jan, Assistant Professor in Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Peshawar, talks about his current research to Anna Collar

ZAKIRULLAH JAN HAS BEEN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, since 2001. During this time he completed his PhD, entitled 'The Bronze Age cultures of the Gomal Plain - with special focus on the cultural traits from Gandi Umar Khan'. He visited Cambridge between May 2010-May 2011 as a postdoctoral researcher at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, and for the last three months as the Visiting Pakistan Fellow at the Ancient India & Iran Trust.

During his time in Cambridge, Zakirullah has been working on finishing writing up two monographs - 'Later Prehistoric and historic period archaeology of the Gomal Plain, Northwest Pakistan' and 'Gandi Umar Khan and the Indus Civilisation', as well as six research papers, based on his survey and excavation work in the Gomal Plain.

The Gomal Plain is situated in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (former North West Frontier Province) area of Pakistan, and is today a semi-desert area that has suffered from considerable environmental degradation - mainly overgrazing and deforestation - and few people now make it their home. In antiquity, this was not the case - the area was fertile, and rich, with more than a hundred hill torrents and natural springs to water the land - and of course, the area was much more populous. In the previous century of archaeological work in the area, only 49 sites were discovered, but Zakirullah Jan's comprehensive survey projects, undertaken between 2003-2004, have revealed a staggering 166 new sites. These range in date from the Palaeolithic to the period of British occupation, and were discovered by physically driving through the landscape with a local guide, going to each and every village and settlement to ask the local people if there was a place they knew where pottery, buildings, graveyards and so on could be found.

It seems that the dense occupation of the area was due to the fact that it is a place of intense geographical connectivity. On the eastern side, the Gomal opens out to the Indus Plain, whereas on the western

side, some 125 passes connect through the mountains to Afghanistan, Iran and central Asia. Nomads, traders, and armies came down south through these passes, and the Sanskrit name of the Plain, gomati, means 'possessing cows' - testimony to the richness of this transhumance route.

Of the 166 new sites, of particular interest to Zakirullah Jan were the twelve mature Harappan sites that have been discovered in the area - six of which were previously known, discovered by Professors Dani and Rehman, and six of which were found in Zakirullah's survey project. The Harappan culture of the Bronze Age can be distinguished by certain diagnostic artefacts, including typical black on red pottery, perforated ware, half-baked 'terracotta cakes', and beads made of carnelian. These are very different from the artefacts of the earlier (and often overlooked) Kot Diji culture - whose pottery is thin, and decorated with polychrome geometric designs on white and red backgrounds, showing patterns of fish scales and leaves.

The reason that the discovery of these Harappan sites is so important is that the Gomal Plain has long been considered to be an area that was occupied in the Bronze Age by the Kot Diji culture, and that Harappan culture had not found its way this far north. The prevailing view was that the Kot Diji represented an early phase of Harappan culture - however, from Zakirullah's survey work, it now seems as though the picture is changing. In the



Obituary: Dr Gregory L. Possehl (1941-2011)

*Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Curator Emeritus of
the Asian Collections at the University of Pennsylvania*



Photo Credit: Zakirullah Jan

Gomal Plain at least, there is a definite occupational and cultural break between the Kot Diji and Harappan cultures - and although there are certain similarities between them, it seems that these cultures were distinct from each other. Although the research is in its early stages, and Zakirullah is waiting for carbon 14 dates to confirm, it may be that the Harappan culture developed in the Gomal Plain and was influenced by the Kot Diji and other local cultures.

Zakirullah Jan has now returned to his post as Assistant Professor in Peshawar, where he is working on the report from further surveys of another district close to the Gomal, Lakki Marwat, where another 30 sites were discovered. The amount of new data that is being revealed by these survey and excavation projects shows us that this transitional zone between mountain and plain has much to teach us about the development of civilisation in Pakistan, and in south Asia.

**Left: Professor Zakirullah Jan at the Trust.
Above: Examples of Bronze Age
Harappan pottery from the Gomal Plain**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death, in October, of Greg Possehl, Professor Emeritus of South Asian Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania and former trustee of the Ancient India and Iran Trust. Greg, an expert on the Bronze Age civilisation of western India and author of 14 volumes on the Indus Civilisation, directed excavation projects at Oriyo Timbo, Babar Kot and Rojdi in Gujarat, Gilund in Rajasthan and at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bat, in the Sultanate of Oman. Alongside Indian colleagues, he was one of the first archaeologists to identify a cultural continuity at the end of the Urban Phase, which led him to suggest that the Indus "civilisation did not end as a cultural tradition".

Greg's major fieldwork projects were in western India with a clear focus on non-urban Bronze Age sites, giving him a unique perspective away from the heartland of the cities of the Bronze Age Indus Civilisation. As early as 1977, he drew attention to what he saw as the unbalanced nature of Indus research and suggested that pastoral nomads may have played an integral role within the economy of the Indus. Focusing on research at Barbar Kot and Oriyo Timbo, Greg later moved on to Rojdi and developed a strong academic premise that the communities of Saurashtra formed a distinctive grouping within the Indus Civilisation. His excavations at the site also demonstrated that Rojdi survived the eclipse of the great cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa and continued to thrive and attract organised, communal investment.

Having worked along coastal Western India for many years, Greg also took a keen interest in the various attempts by scholars to identify the lands of Dilmun, Megan and Meluhha and began to explore the evidence for Bronze Age cultural and economic networks across the Arabian Sea. He became directly involved in this study when he joined an international team developing an experimental project to rebuild one of the famous black ships of Magan in 2005. The team used archaeological finds, ancient texts and fragmentary graffiti to allow the reconstruction of a 40 foot long boat built of bitumen water-proofed reed bundles. Aiming to retrace one of the pioneering voyages of the Bronze Age across the 600-mile distance separating Oman from Gujarat, the experimental reed boat was launched, only to sink seven miles off the coast on the first day with a rescue of academics and crew by support ships! In 2007, Greg was invited by the Sultanate of Oman to begin fresh excavations at Bat.

Greg Possehl received his BA in Anthropology from the University of Washington in 1964. He was introduced to South Asian archaeology after volunteering to work with Professor W.A. Fairervis in a survey of the Quetta Valley, Pakistan and, in 1967, returned to Washington to complete his MA. Following army service, he began a PhD at the University of Chicago focused on 'A study of prehistoric Gujarat with special reference to the Post-urban Harappan'. Just before the award of his PhD in 1974, Greg joined the University of Pennsylvania as a

Lecturer in the Department of South Asian Regional studies and Assistant Curator at the University Museum. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1981, granted a Professorship in the Department of Anthropology in 1989, of which he was Chair between 1995 and 2001. Although retired in 2004, he continued to be actively engaged as Professor Emeritus of South Asian Archaeology and Curator Emeritus of the Asia Section and was due to return to direct excavations at Bat, winter 2012.

Greg Possehl edited and authored synthetic studies, linking the archaeology of western India with the general chronologies for the Indus Civilisation. Mindful of the needs of archaeologists and researchers, he also provided a set of invaluable reference sources, as well as the publication of a comprehensive list of radiocarbon dates for the region. Greg also gained the thanks and respect from many a graduate student by editing and republishing a collection of highly significant early, but inaccessible, papers in his 1979 volume 'Ancient Cities of the Indus'.

Greg Possehl's contributions to our knowledge of the Bronze Age archaeology of Western India were internationally recognised and he was appointed a Corresponding Member of the Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente; an Overseas Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge; and a Visiting Professor at College de France in 2003. He was also acclaimed in India; receiving a Fellowship of the Indian Archaeological Society in 2004, was honoured by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for his Lifetime Contribution to Indian Archaeology and received the President of India's First Prize for his 1982 book 'Harappan Civilisations'.

**Below: Professor Greg Possehl in the
garden at the Ancient India and Iran Trust**



Photo Credit: Ancient India And Iran Trust

Ireland and India: the life and scholarship of Whitley Stokes (1830-1909)

Elizabeth Boyle & Paul Russell

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY'S DEPARTMENT OF ANGLO- SAXON, NORSE AND CELTIC

(ASNC) may seem an incongruous place for the Ancient India and Iran Trust (AIIT) to be supporting academic research, given that the two institutions focus respectively on the westernmost and easternmost limits of the Indo-European world.

However, Celtic languages, Persian literature and Indian history are all inextricably linked in the life and work of one remarkable scholar: Whitley Stokes (1830-1909). The AIIT first supported our research on Stokes' wide-ranging interests in 2009, when we were organising a conference to commemorate the centenary of his death. A bursary from the AIIT enabled us to pay the travel and subsistence expenses of a number of speakers who were undertaking research on Stokes's twenty-year legal career in India, his scholarship on Sanskrit literature, and on the conjunction between his colonial career and his scholarship. This year, the AIIT awarded us a generous second bursary, this time to support the costs of publication of a volume of essays arising from the conference. Specifically, this money contributed towards the costs of image reproduction fees to allow us to publish, among other images, the striking photograph of Whitley Stokes seated, with an Indian clerk standing beside him (right). As one of the volume's contributors, Nigel Chancellor, notes, this photograph has generally been misinterpreted by Celtic scholars, who presumed that the Indian gentleman was a servant, holding Stokes' umbrella. Dr Chancellor shows that he was, in fact, an educated clerk, and that the umbrella was likely his own, and being held in the photograph as a symbol of status.

Stokes is the foremost scholar of Indo-European philology that Ireland has produced. He published prolifically on medieval Celtic languages and literatures, particularly on Old and Middle Irish, but also on Welsh, Breton, Cornish, and Continental Celtic, and on the relationships between those languages. He produced editions and translations of a large proportion of the surviving corpus of medieval Irish narrative literature. The



Photo credit: Syndics of Cambridge University Library

rather surprising aspect of this is that much of his scholarly output was published in India, during his twenty-year career as a colonial jurist. Stokes was the right-hand-man to Sir Henry Sumner Maine, and his influence on Maine's jurisprudential thinking is exemplified in Maine's dedication of his *Lectures on the Early History of Institutions* (London, 1875) to Stokes, 'in recollection of a long official connection and still longer friendship'. Stokes became President of the India Law Commission before he returned to London in 1882.

When Maine wrote of 'reuniting ... [the] wings of the Indo-European race which separated in the far infancy of time', he was articulating a discourse which would now be recognised as thoroughly colonialist. The perception that Irish and Indian societies shared aspects of governance,

social hierarchy and religious observance which survived as relics of a shared, primitive Indo-European past, has long been shown to tell us more about nineteenth-century Britain's imperial ambitions, and the attempt at intellectual justification for Empire, than it does about the historical structures of medieval Irish or Indian societies. However, Stokes' attitudes were more complex, and shifting, than Maine's, perhaps as a result of his own ambiguous position as an Irishman in the upper echelons of the judicial administration in India. Stokes resisted the urge to draw easy parallels between Ireland and India, but he invested great intellectual energy in both. Not only was he responsible for the codification of much of Anglo-Indian law (his seminal publication in this area was the two-volume *Anglo-Indian Codes* of 1887-91), but he was also interested in India's native legal traditions (hence his *Hindu Law Books*, published in 1865).

Two New Books on FitzGerald's Rubaiyat

William Martin and Sandra Mason

In the volume, as at the original conference, John Drew (Cambridge) tells the story behind Stokes' pivotal contribution to the popularisation of Edward FitzGerald's translation of the rubáiyát attributed to the Persian poet Omar Khayyám. Nigel Chancellor (Cambridge) outlines Stokes' legal career in India, within the context of a broader discussion of Irish national identity in the imperial administration of nineteenth-century India. Maxim Fomin (University of Ulster) explores Stokes' scholarship on linguistic parallels between Sanskrit and Old Irish, and Ananya Jahanara Kabir (University of Leeds) elucidates Stokes' place within the phenomenon she terms 'imperial medievalism', that is, the conjunction of the British colonial presence in India and scholarly interest in the European Middle Ages.

We can see this conjunction expressed perhaps most clearly in the short colophon which Stokes composed in Old Irish, and which he appended to his edition of the medieval Irish narrative Togail Troí ('The Destruction of Troy'). Stokes tells us that this work has just been completed *isimla* ('in Simla'), *itír nacóicabann* ('in the land of the five rivers', that is, in the Punjab region). This astonishing unification of Old Irish literature and nineteenth-century Indian geography elegantly encapsulates Kabir's 'imperial medievalism', but it also tells the very human story of one representative of the British colonial administration in India: Stokes goes on to tell us that *istromm mochride arismarb mobanchélese rocharfad inlebránso. 7 isgalrach mingen báid beccsa .i. medb. 7 itili mocharait mairb acht itúati mocharait bíi. 7 istrúag hériu tri intleda 7 bréic 7 fingail 7 saraighthius dogníat drochdóini etir saxanchu 7 hérenchu* ('my heart is heavy, for my wife - who would have loved this little book - is dead, and my dear little daughter, i.e. Medb, is ill, and many of my friends are dead, and few are my friends who are living, and Ireland is sad through the traps and deceits and kin-slaying, and outrages which evil men are doing, both English and Irish'). Stokes' wife had died in India - as had one infant son - and Stokes' grief at his loss is palpable. Furthermore, his sadness on behalf of his homeland adds further political resonance to the colophon, since Ireland was at that time embroiled in the

Land Wars which Stokes so interestingly condemns as *fingal* ('kin-slaying'), a term which removes the sectarian, and artificial, separation of 'Irish' and 'Anglo-Irish'. This human, and humane, element of Stokes' personality is as significant as the wider political implications of his colonial activities and his outstanding contribution to scholarship.

The Tripartite Life of Whitley Stokes (1830-1909), edited by Elizabeth Boyle and Paul Russell, was published in September 2011 by Four Courts Press (Dublin). See www.fourcourtspress.ie for further details. The photograph of Stokes here is reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library.

Dr Elizabeth Boyle, Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow and Dr Paul Russell, University Reader in Celtic are both from the Department of Anglo Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge.

Edward FitzGerald's Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám is one of the most popular and widely known poems in the world. The year 2009 marked the 150th anniversary of its publication, and the bicentennial of FitzGerald's birth. Cambridge played an important part in the worldwide celebrations of these events, hosting a major conference of Rubáiyát experts. The programme for the conference included a Garden Party for participants at AIIT, an occasion featured by BBC Television in their documentary *The Genius of Omar Khayyám* shown several times in 2009-10.

Two years later, the 2009 anniversaries have produced further results in the form of two books which represent significant contributions to Rubáiyát scholarship. The first volume contains a series of 15 essays mainly based on papers presented to the Cambridge conference in 2009. It is entitled *FitzGerald's Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám: Popularity and Neglect*, in recognition of the fact that, despite its worldwide popularity, the Rubáiyát has suffered much neglect at the hands of the academic establishment. The papers

address this critical disregard, and explore the reasons behind the poem's dual reception. Investigating the literary, textual and cultural contexts to which it belongs, this collection locates the Rubáiyát within its contemporary intellectual milieu, unveils the key figures that helped create its global celebrity, and discusses the vigorous after-life it has enjoyed. The papers have been edited by Professor Adrian Poole of the Faculty of English at Cambridge, Christine van Ruymbeke of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (and a trustee of AIIT), and Bill Martin and Sandra Mason, independent researchers (and joint chairs of the Friends of AIIT).

Bill Martin and Sandra Mason are also editors of the second new volume, *Edward FitzGerald's Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám: A Famous Poem and Its Influence*. This presents the texts of the three main versions of the Rubáiyát (the first, second and fourth editions) as they were first published, together with the poet's original notes and prefaces. Offering readers the chance to evaluate each of FitzGerald's alternative texts as a whole, this new compendium provides insight into how the poet annotated his verses, revised key lines and stanzas, and presented his work for public consumption. An accompanying commentary discusses the lives and work of Khayyám and FitzGerald, and tells the fascinating story of the publication of the Rubáiyát and its rise to great fame and popularity. Featured analysis examines the poem's message, its worldwide influence since its first publication and its continuing relevance in the twenty-first century. Further discussion also highlights the wide range of adaptations inspired by the text, and investigates the enduring contribution made by the Rubáiyát to English literature, art and music, from the time of its creation through to the present day.

These two new books on FitzGerald's Rubáiyát were introduced and discussed by their editors at one of the regular Friday evening lectures at AIIT in October 2011. Both volumes were published by Anthem Press in June 2011. Further details are available on www.anthempress.com.

William Martin and Sandra Mason

Trust in Progress

Interview with Sam Lieu, Professor of Ancient History and Co-Director of Ancient History Documentary Research Centre, Macquarie University and new Trustee of the AIIT

Sitting in the sunlit Iran room, alongside a portrait of Sir Harold Bailey, newly appointed trustee Professor Samuel Lieu recalls one of his first visits here, in the 1980s to attend one of Sir Harold's birthday parties. Sam's continued support for the Trust and his involvement in the AHRC-funded project to publish A Dictionary of Manichaean Texts resulted in him spending a great deal of time at the Trust, making use of the corpus electronic database that is housed here.

The database, in its fullest form, is still housed at the Ancient India and Iran Trust and remains an essential resource for many aspects of Manichean studies. As Sam observes, the technology on which it is stored may be outdated, but it is still being put to good use. Notably, in 2011, it helped to produce the most recent volume (Vol. 12) of the Corpus Fontium Manichaeorum (CFM) on Greek and Latin texts on Manichaean Cosmogony and Ethics, a copy of which was presented to the Trust last summer. There are also still a number of text volumes dependent upon this resource housed in the basement office, yet to be published.

Professor Lieu views evolutionary change at the Trust as a positive step and is glad to have been given the opportunity to contribute with a more significant role in some of the Trust's future developments. He sees the ongoing development of the Trust's image online as an important step and is hoping to expand the Friends of the Trust overseas. He has been instrumental in developing the informal Friends society in Australia, whose membership includes Dr Gunner Mikkelsen, who worked on the CFM project at the Trust between 2000 and 2004 and Dr John Sheldon (Sydney), who has also been involved in the CFM project and was formerly a student of Sir Harold Bailey.

Sam is a specialist on the history of Manichaeism, both in the Later Roman Empire and in China, and was a founding director of the CFM project, which received sponsorship from both UNESCO and the UAI (Union Académique Internationale). He became involved with the Trust because the Dictionary of Manichaean Texts project (which is an important sub-series of the CFM) was based in the Trust from 2000 to 2004. In 2010 he was invited to become co-ordinator of a second UAI project: China and the Ancient Mediterranean World, currently funded by the Australian Research



Council, and this new project is well supported by the unique library facilities of the Trust.

Identifying and maximising sources of funding is central to future development that will directly benefit the Trust's infrastructure - improving the library's resources is one key area. As an outstanding resource for Central Asian studies, with open access and a substantial volume of unknown published material, Sam believes the AIIT library is invaluable to scholars publishing in India, Iran and worldwide.

"The AIIT library is an outstanding interdisciplinary resource...its uniqueness has to be preserved"

Other potential projects for the future include the establishment of fellowships for senior scholars. Sam views a project such as this as a unique opportunity for both well-established academics and the Trust, but is keenly aware that the issue of suitable funding is key, in order to make it viable for visiting scholars to spend time at the Trust, whilst they are still in tenure elsewhere.

Sam believes that the links the Ancient India and Iran Trust has forged with institutions in Cambridge and beyond are crucial to ensure a sound financial footing and to secure future projects at the Trust. Cambridge and the UK need research centres that are committed to the study of languages and Sam views the Trust as a cornerstone of study of the history and cultures of Central Asia and the Silk Road - subjects that are becoming important areas of study and research in the modern era.

Sam reflects that the Trust's library began its collecting 50 years before anywhere else and is home to almost a century of works from the collections of professional scholars, all distinguished in their fields. Reason enough why so many eminent academics come here to study. In his words, "the library is an interdisciplinary resource unlike any other for research (and) its functionality and uniqueness have to be preserved".

Sam Lieu is, currently, the Inaugural Distinguished Professor (Ancient History), at Macquarie University, Sydney, and was formerly Professor of Ancient History at Warwick University, UK. He is currently Visiting Professorial Fellow in the Department of the Study of Religions, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and has recently begun a 2-yr Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College Cambridge (2012-2013). Sam and his wife Judith, who is the Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity, Cambridge, have been resident in Cambridge since 2006. This heralded a return to Cambridge for Sam, who read History here, as an undergraduate at Emmanuel College, where he specialised in papers on Ancient, Medieval and Oriental History. Then, following doctoral work and a Junior Research Fellowship at Wolfson College Oxford (1974-

76), he was awarded his Oxford DPhil. in 1981. Sam began his university teaching career at Warwick University in 1974 rising to a personal Chair in 1995 and was Director of the Centre for East Roman Studies at Warwick. He left Warwick in the beginning of 1996 to take a research-focused Chair in Ancient History at Macquarie University.

In addition to his work on the CFM project, Sam has published extensively on Late Antiquity and on Romano-Persian relations, especially in the Sasanian era, and on the history of the Church of the East (formerly known as the Nestorians) in Iran and China. He has been a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities since 1998 and represents the Academy at the UAI.

Top centre: Professor Samuel Lieu in the Iran Room at the Trust.

Focus on: Nepal - The Birthplace of the Buddha

Archaeological Research Commences at the UNESCO

World Heritage Site of Lumbini, Nepal

ON THE 19TH APRIL 2011, THE TRUST'S FRIDAY LECTURE served as an introduction to the Britain-Nepal Academic Council's Nepal Study Day, held the next day at CRASSH (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities). The Lecture, entitled 'Lumbini: preserving and protecting a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Nepal, was given by Trustee Robin Coningham (Durham).

The first field activities of the new UNESCO Project, 'Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha' commenced in January 2011 with the arrival of a team of national and international archaeologists in Lumbini.

The new project is funded by the Japanese-Funds-in-Trust through UNESCO and, led by Professor Yukio Nishimura of Tokyo University, will address a number of outstanding issues and challenges facing the UNESCO World Heritage Site. These range from the deteriorating condition of the Marker Stone, Asokan Pillar and ruins contained within the new Maya Devi Temple to the inadequately understood and mapped associated archaeological remains both within the UNESCO Property and in the adjacent buffer zone, such as the Village Mound. Furthermore, there is a need to identify the presence or absence of archaeological deposits, invisible below the surface, so that appropriate placing of pilgrim facilities may be made without damaging valuable archaeological resources. Finally, there is a pressing need to prepare a plan for the area immediately outside the levee of the Sacred Garden in order to ensure that other developments within the Master Plan are implemented in compatibility to the UNESCO World Heritage Property.

The project's team of national and international archaeological specialists is directed by Mr Kosh Prasad Acharya, former Director-General of the Department of Archaeology, Nepal, and Professor Robin Coningham, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Archaeology at Durham University in the UK. This combination of expertise is particularly valuable as Mr Acharya was also involved in the original joint Department of Archaeology, Government of Nepal and Japanese Buddhist Federation excavations of the Maya Devi Temple in the 1990s and



Photo Credit: Robin Coningham

Professor Coningham participated in a UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission in 2000 and UNESCO International Technical Meeting in 2001 in Lumbini prior to the construction of the new temple. Both Mr Acharya and Professor Coningham also participated in UNESCO missions to the associated sites of Tilaurakot and Ramagrama in 1997 and 1999 along with colleagues from the Lumbini Development Trust and the University of Bradford.

In January 2011 the team focused on the evaluation and interpretation of three main areas of the World Heritage Site of Lumbini: The Maya Devi Temple, the Sacred Garden and the Village Mound. Inside the Maya Devi Temple, they temporarily removed the modern protective fills of the earliest brick-built Temple and cleaned back the original sections in order to take scientific samples for dating the monument and investigating its character and sequence of development. This knowledge will allow the earliest levels in the Temple to be recorded and assessed to preserve them for the future.

The team also mapped the monasteries, stupas and other religious monuments surrounding the Temple and conducted a geophysical survey to record existing structures and additional monuments not visible on the surface. Finally, the team conducted an additional geophysical survey, an auger profile and excavated evaluation trenches on the Village Mound, to the southwest of the Maya Devi Temple. This

work will allow us to explore the character and sequence of developments of South Asia's earliest named village, Lumbini-game, as recorded on the Asokan Pillar, and protect it for the future. In addition to evaluating and mapping these components of Lumbini's 'Outstanding Universal Value', it is anticipated that these activities will shed light on the date of the Buddha's birth, as well as the origins and development of this major world pilgrimage site.

The first season of archaeology finished in February 2011, when a team of conservators under the direction of Dr Costantino Merucci of Rome, commenced their work on the urgent conservation of the Asokan Pillar, Marker Stone, Nativity Sculpture and associated archaeological ruins. The conservation and archaeology teams will return to Lumbini for the second field season in 2012.

Professor Robin Coningham, University of Durham

**Top: Excavations at Lumbini
Below: The Maya Devi Temple at Lumbini**



Photo Credit: Robin Coningham

People at the Trust

& upcoming events

We were blessed with blue skies

for last year's annual Garden Party, on the 19th June. Over 80 guests enjoyed some rare sunshine with their strawberries and cream and the afternoon was completed with the planting of a FitzGerald rose bush, donated by Bill Martin and Sandra Mason, Chairmen of the Friends of the Trust

Photo Credit: Jo Salisbury



Above: A warm welcome from our Chairman

Upcoming Events

4th May: Professor Julius Lipner (Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge) - A Hostage to Fortune? Hinduism and the Classical

11th May: Sue Stronge (Asian Department, V&A) - Court Art in the Reign of Jahangir

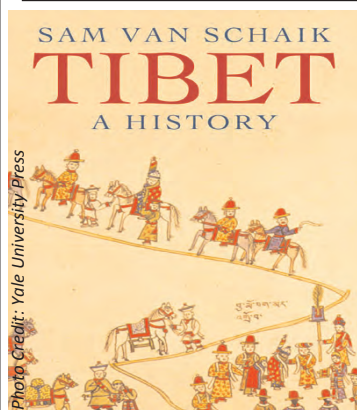
Keep up to date with events at the Trust at:
<http://www.indiran.org> or at
<http://indiairantrust.wordpress.com>

As many of you will know

our Administrator, Anna Collar, recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Wilfred Arthur Altai Midsummer Eve - a gift from the Altai Mountains and Anna's Mongol Rally, born on 20th June, of course! Wilf has already been in to visit us at the Trust a number of times - with mum in tow, obviously.



Right: The youngest member of the AIIT? - Wilf enjoying some precious time with Mum.



Don't forget you can also keep in touch with us via our blog <http://indiairantrust.wordpress.com>, on Facebook or on Twitter @INDIAIRANTRUST.

BOOK REVIEW - Sam van Schaik's *Tibet: A History*

Whatever your knowledge or understanding of Tibetan history, Sam van Schaik's book rewards you with a tale that blends the colourful history of the people and beliefs that ruled and shaped this country with detailed research that guides the reader through the complexities of a unique culture.

From the early divine rulers of the 7th century to the more recent, turbulent half century since Communist Chinese rule, van Schaik explores the evolution of Tibet and its identity through vivid tales of the rise of Buddhism and the role of the Dalai Lamas. His narrative reveals the controversial relationships between this landlocked country and its powerful neighbours and explains Tibet's precarious involvement in the Great Game of the early twentieth century. The concluding chapter explores a government in exile and the difficult, yet necessary, path through modern politics and diplomatic relations that Tibet's ruling classes had to follow, in order to find a place for Tibetan identity and culture in the 21st century.

Left: *Tibet: A History* is published by Yale University Press.

Issue 4 of Indiran (Summer 2010) featured a report on the devastating effect that use of the drug diclofenac (used to alleviate pain in cattle) was having on the vulture populations of South Asia. We can report that Phase 2 of SAVE - Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction is now well under way. So far the project has reared 34 vulture chicks in captivity from three vulture species. The next phase of this urgent campaign includes:

- Intensive localised efforts to create 'vulture safe zones' - 100km radius areas where intensive awareness work is carried out to remove all diclofenac and into which vultures can be released in the future;
- Advocacy support at a national level to stop human diclofenac being used by vets and entering the vulture food chain;
- Packaging and publicity to warn of the dangers of using human diclofenac for animals and research and development on other NSAIDs, testing whether they are safe alternatives for veterinary use;
- Support for the vulture breeding centres, release phases and the recovery programme.

The project partners are seeking a greater role for industry in supporting the work needed so vultures can be safely returned to the natural environment of Asia in the future.

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CONTACT DETAILS

Joanna Salisbury, Temporary Administrator
23 BROOKLANDS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 8BG
Tel: 0044 (0)1223 356841 -Fax: 0044 (0)1223 361125
email: info@indiran.org - website: <http://www.indiran.org>
BLOG: <http://indiairantrust.wordpress.com/>
Find us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter: INDIAIRANTRUST

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