

AIIT Update



ANCIENT INDIA & IRAN TRUST NEWSLETTER NO. 3 JULY 2000

RECENT EVENTS

INDO-IRANIAN LANGUAGES & PEOPLES, Harold Bailey Centenary Symposium, 16th to 18th December 1999.

TREASURES PRESERVED, Symposium on Recent Discoveries on the Indo-Iranian Borderlands hosted by the Trust for American and British Friends.

PUBLICATION

F. R. Allchin, *The Ancient India and Iran Trust Library*, 2nd edition, 2000.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The Manichaean Dictionary Project, Started 1st January 2000. Funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

NEW AND ON-GOING RENOVATION AND LIBRARY PROJECTS

Library Cataloguing Project, started 1st January 1996. Funded by a grant from the National Lottery Foundation.

Manuscript Preservation Project, started August 1998. Funded by grants from the Thriplow Fund, the National Manuscripts Conservation Fund and the Bestway Foundation.

Library Refurbishment Project, started March 1999. Funded by a donation of £100,000 from an anonymous donor.

Harold Bailey Off-print Cataloguing Project, started March 1999. Operated voluntarily by Mr James Rankin.

Harold Bailey Archive Project, started November 1999. Funded by gifts from the Committee of American Friends of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

Library Book Conservation Project, started March 2000. Funded by a donation of £10,000 from Mr Nigel Chancellor a British Associate of the Ancient India and Iran Trust.

THE HAROLD BAILEY CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM: Indo-Iranian languages and peoples

To mark the centenary of the birth of Sir Harold Bailey on 16th December 1899 a Symposium on "Indo-Iranian languages and peoples" was held at Brooklands House from 16th to 18th December 1999. The symposium, which brought together 44 participants from the UK, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Russia, India and the USA, was planned by Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams. It was jointly sponsored by the British Academy—of which Sir Harold was a Fellow for a record-breaking fifty-two years, from 1944 until his death in 1996—and the Ancient India and Iran Trust of which he was the first Chairman.

The three-day symposium began with a centenary anniversary tea party on the lines of the many birthday parties he himself gave, with three cakes inscribed with the numeral "100" in the Sogdian language, and ended with a festive dinner in the Old Library at Pembroke College. In between, the participants heard a series of excellent lectures, beginning appropriately enough with the First Sir Harold Bailey Memorial Lecture, delivered by R. E. Emmerick, a distinguished pupil of Sir Harold's. The scheduled sessions, held in the homely but impressive surroundings of Sir Harold's library at Brooklands House, were interspersed by enthusiastic discussions, to which all present could contribute. In keeping with Bailey's own interests, the chronological, geographical and linguistic span of the papers was wide, and not all of them can be mentioned here.

James Mallory gave the opening paper in

which he examined archaeological models that might provide clues about the migrations of Indo-Europeans to Asia, and admitted how difficult it is to identify an "Indo-Iranian culture" across so vast an area. His tentative hypothesis was that some Indo-European steppe-land tribes had passed through the distinctive Bactria-Margiana/Oxus zone, emerging and moving southwards with the same language, but with a different material culture, social organisation and religion.

The only paper on Sanskrit was Asko Parpola's discussion of how Vedic dialect features may be correlated with the movements of Indo-Aryan tribes during the second and first millennia B.C. However, Bailey's Middle Indic interests were strongly represented by three papers on the languages of Buddhism: K. R. Norman on Pali, Oskar von Hinüber on Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit and Richard Salomon on the new materials available for the study of Gandhari.

The most archaic Iranian languages present considerable problems, because of the small size of the Old Persian epigraphic corpus, and the transmission of the Avesta via a very defective medieval manuscript tradition. Jost Gippert explained how this manuscript tradition is now being re-evaluated with the aid of present day electronic technology: a digitized data-base of variant readings can be used to study not only the interdependence of the manuscripts, but also dialect variation with the corpus, and correspondence between Avestan and Vedic.

The recently retrieved Bactrian documents, ►

THE ANCIENT INDIA

The aim of this Newsletter is to keep Friends of the Trust and others interested in the realisation of its aims and objectives informed of what is happening.

 IRAN TRUST

dating probably from 342–781 A.D., are of outstanding importance for Middle Iranian philology. Nicholas Sims-Williams reported on the linguistic discoveries and Frantz Grenet outlined the history of the Kidarite and Hephthalite kingdoms that encompassed Sogdiana, Bactria, Margiana and N.W. India during the 5th–7th centuries A.D.

Alexander Lubotsky used present-day Ossetic evidence to argue that loans from its remote ancestor, a language of the Ancient Scythians, were present in Old Persian and Avestan. I. M. Steblin-Kamensky discussed the historical position of Wakhi in a most entertaining manner, and proved how Bailey's work is being carried on by distributing a list of 300 Wakhi addenda to Bailey's Dictionary of Khotan Saka.

Publication of all the contributions to this splendidly successful event is planned in a volume "Indo-Iranian Languages and Peoples".

THE MANICHAEAN DICTIONARY PROJECT

Started 1st January 2000

Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams, a Trustee, recently obtained a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHBR), channelled through SOAS for a five-year research project to compile a three-volume Dictionary of Manichaean Texts. The project office, complete with "state-of-the-art" computers, is now set up in one of the newly-converted basement rooms at Brooklands House, where the project's two research assistants—Dr Gunner Mikkelsen, a specialist in Chinese Manichaeism, and Dr Desmond Durkin-Meisterernst, a specialist in Iranian languages have established themselves. For those unfamiliar with Manichaeism, Professor Sims-Williams explains:

"Manichaeism, the religion created by the Mesopotamian prophet Mani in third-century Iran, is one of the most fascinating of the world's great religions. A fusion of elements from many sources, including the Judaeo-Christian tradition, Zoroastrianism, and Buddhism, it teaches a strict dualism of good and evil, light and dark, spirit and matter. Despite almost universal persecution, it spread rapidly and became highly influential both in the Roman empire and in Central Asia, where it was for a time the state religion of the Uighur Turks; it survived longest in South China, where the last remaining Manichaean temple still stands. The scriptures composed by Mani were translated into many languages, forming the nucleus of a huge body of Manichaean literature written in virtually every language of the known world, from Latin in the West to Chinese in the East.

TREASURES PRESERVED SYMPOSIUM, 5th-7th APRIL 2000

The Symposium "Treasures Preserved" took place at Brooklands House (rather than Madingley Hall as given in the previous Newsletter), from 5th–7th April 2000. Accommodation for non-local participants was provided at Madingley Hall.

The object of the Symposium was to bring a number of our friends together, to present some interesting and relevant new research and to demonstrate and promote the work of the AIT.

The Proceedings began on the evening of the 5th with a Reception attended by several members of our American Friends Committee, including its Chair Dr. Martha Carter, the Trustees, and a number of British Friends of the Trust. Wine and light refreshments were served. The Chairman, Raymond Allchin, then gave a talk on The Trust, its Past, Present and Future, briefly indicating its background, present position, and future prospects and needs. The Secretary, Bridget Allchin then spoke about "Outside and International Relationships" which include International Conferences and Exhibitions, Visiting Fellowships, the Committee of the American Friends of the Ancient India and Iran Trust, and Relations with Institutions in Europe, the Americas and South Asia. Together these gave participants a comprehensive overview. A Buffet Supper followed.

The following morning, 6th April, there were two presentations. The first "Recovering the Lost World of the Buddha" was by Professor Richard Salomon of the University of Seattle. He spoke of the discovery in the Gandhara Region of a number of scrolls in large pots of the early centuries B.C.–A.D., their acquisition and preservation by the British Library, and the subsequent reconstruction and reading of documents.

These have opened up a major new chapter in the history of Buddhism in Northwest Pakistan and Afghanistan, and relate to one of Sir Harold Bailey's main fields of interest.

The second lecture by Professor Nicholas Sims-Williams "The message of Kanishka: Deciphering the Rabatak Inscription" reported on the recently discovered Bactrian stone inscription from Rabatak, near Haibak in North Afghanistan, which throws major new light on the chronology and dynastic succession of the Kushana dynasty of the first and third centuries A.D. Both lectures were received with great interest and provoked stimulating discussion.

In the afternoon a group visited Ely with Sir Nicholas Barrington and another visited Cambridge Colleges. Mr Peter Avery, of Kings College very kindly took a group round King's College Chapel.

At 5.00 p.m. Dr Nicholas Hadgraft and Dr Cheryl Porter gave a talk on "Preserving some of our own Treasures". Dr Porter had brought with her samples of the pigments used in restoring the early manuscripts she and Dr Hadgraft had conserved for the Trust, particularly the early 17th century illuminated Shahnamah, an illuminated Armenian Christian manuscript, and an early Zoroastrian printed book. She explained how even before the illuminations could be restored she had to repair the actual paper they were on, and then went on to explain how the pigments were applied etc. Dr Hadgraft then spoke about the original state of the manuscripts and what had been done to preserve them. He showed slides of their original state and after they had been repaired and preserved.

The day concluded with a Dinner at Madingley Hall hosted by the Allchins.

For many centuries Manichaeism was known only in a distorted form from the polemics of opponents such as St Augustine. This situation has gradually been transformed by the discovery of substantial extracts from Manichaean texts embedded in Syriac and Arabic works by Christian and Muslim authors, and later, during the present century, of genuine Manichaean texts in Latin (from Algeria), Coptic, Greek and Syriac (from Egypt), Middle and New Persian, Parthian, Sogdian, Bactrian, Tocharian, Turkish and Chinese (from Xinjiang, Gansu and Fujian). This plethora of languages, many of them extremely obscure, is exhilarating but at the same time problematic, since it is hardly possible that any individual would be competent to study all of

these sources in the original. The Dictionary of Manichaean Texts is intended to solve this problem by providing a linguistic key to the complete corpus of Manichaean material. It will be presented as a series of glossaries, each covering the material in one particular language, together with a consolidated English index which will make it possible to locate all the material on any name, term or concept, whatever the language of the text in which it occurs. Volume 1, Texts from the Roman empire, which covers texts in Latin, Greek, Coptic and Syriac, was published in spring 1999. The AHBR funding will make possible the completion of the final two volumes, covering Manichaean texts from Iraq, Iran, Central Asia and China.

NEW AND ON-GOING RENOVATIONS & LIBRARY PROJECTS AT BROOKLANDS HOUSE

1. LIBRARY CATALOGUING PROJECT.

Started 1st January 1996

This is a five year project financed jointly by the National Lottery Foundation and by a private donor.

Mr Wieslaw Mical, our Librarian, has catalogued more than 16,347 books after a little more than four years with the Trust and these appear as full MARC records on the Union Catalogue for the AIIT Library. This represents about 80% of the total number of books at Brooklands House. The Bailey Library has been completed, and the cataloguing of the van Lohuizen Library is now underway. When this is finished (around October 2000) he will still need to catalogue some 84 books in non-Roman script, which require specialist help, all the new acquisitions, and various others, in order to complete the current project financed by the National Lottery Foundation.

2. MANUSCRIPTS AND RARE BOOKS PRESERVATION PROJECT.

Started August 1998

For the last two years work has been going forward on the Conservation and

Preservation of the Trust's manuscripts and rare books. Some of the most outstanding manuscripts have been extensively conserved and are now in a condition in which they can be read under supervision. The Trust is now raising funding for a more comprehensive conservation programme.

3. THE BAILEY OFFPRINT CATALOGUING PROJECT.

Started March 1999

The Bailey Offprint Collection which is being catalogued by Mr James Rankin, a voluntary helper, continues to expand as more offprints are found among the Bailey Archive material and elsewhere. To date more than 5,000 have been catalogued.

4. THE HAROLD BAILEY ARCHIVE PROJECT.

Started November 1999

Mrs Pat Flett, under the direction of Dr Almut Hintze, another Trustee, has done a wonderful job bringing order out of chaos. When she began work on the Bailey Archive the room was completely covered in cardboard boxes containing all manner of notes, offprints, letters, papers, photographs etc. The floor is now clear and the

materials arranged neatly on shelves. Much still needs to be done, as the material will have to be sorted further. Work on this project was made possible by donations received from American Friends, and from the Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum for this project.

5. THE LIBRARY BOOK CONSERVATION PROJECT.

Started March 2000

Conservation of the books in the India Room, with the aid of a donation from Mr Nigel Chancellor, an Associate of the Trust began in March. This is being undertaken by Mrs Jenny Pearson, an assistant book conservationist, on a part-time basis under the supervision of Dr Hadgraft our Conservation Consultant. She has already repaired and conserved a number of books. The repairs have been carried out economically, but using the best materials and the repaired books are now in a state where they can be used without danger of further damage. Mrs Pearson has been allocated a small room in the newly refurbished basement as a workroom.

CHARLES WALLACE VISITING FELLOWSHIP

Our next Charles Wallace Visiting Fellow, Dr Shanti Pappu, of Deccan College, Pune, is due to arrive in mid-September. She is a Prehistorian and has a programme of visiting sites around Cambridge and elsewhere in Britain, meeting scholars working in her field, and has also two research topics on which she will be working. One is to go into the latest computer applications in archaeology, and the other is to make a study of South Indian Palaeolithic collections at Cambridge. She has also been invited to attend a Seminar at Valbonne in France.

THE ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

took place on 17th June from 5.30 p.m. It was attended by many friends of the Trust, old and new from the University, from in and around Cambridge, and from London and Oxford. It went very well and was generally considered the best AIIT party ever.

**Turn to the back page
for details of
forthcoming events**

AIIT Update



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DONATIONS

Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum	£1,000.00
Drs Martha and Tom Carter	£ 578.45
Dr Carolyn Woodford-Schmidt	£ 591.43
Drs F. R. and B. Allchin	£1,000.00
Professor Ron Otsuka	£ 157.00
Mr Harold Wicks	£ 500.00
Miss Shirley Day	£ 250.00
Mr R. Senior	£ 200.00
Dr & Mrs J. C. Harle	<u>£ 100.00</u>
	£4,376.88
£293.38 was received in a number of donations in connection with the Symposium Treasures Preserved	<u>£ 293.38</u>
Total	£4,670.26

A fine carved wooden garden bench was presented by Dr Ilya and Mrs Lisbeth Gershevitch in memory of Sir Harold Bailey.

Forthcoming ••EVENTS••

The Heritage Open Weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday 16th and 17th September.

There will be an exhibition of books, and conducted tours of the library.

Last year's Open Weekend was extremely well attended.

The help of local Friends of the Trust in supervising different rooms will be much appreciated.



SALES OF PUBLICATIONS

Since the beginning of this year 39 copies of The Crossroads of Asia: Transformation in Image and Symbol have been sold—35 of them ordered by the State University of Ohio, USA—totalling £1,040.

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

The Trustees would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have made covenants, or gifts in money or in kind to the Trust. These are all very much appreciated and are being put to good use. Please do continue to support us.

All those in Britain who regularly give us £100 or more p.a. we automatically regard as "FRIENDS OF THE ANCIENT INDIA AND IRAN TRUST", and they receive our Newsletter, our lecture programmes, invitations to our annual garden party and notification of other events.

We would like to extend this category and to include friends in Europe who help us in various ways.

Members of the COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE ANCIENT INDIA AND IRAN TRUST receive our Newsletter and if they wish can receive lecture programmes, invitations and notifications of events, all of which they are most welcome to attend when in Britain.