

Announcement

The following announcement was received from Dr. Henry Osmaston.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LADAKH STUDIES

Only in the last decade has Ladakh (northwest India, once known as Little Tibet) been readily accessible for study, but in that short time it has been the focus of much attention by students in many disciplines. These have been attracted by the interest of its physical situation at high altitude in the rain-shadow of the geologically active Himalaya; by the natural ecology of this rugged desert and the skillful adaptations of pastoralism and agriculture; by the sociology, history and cultural tradition, especially as a surviving example of Tibetan Buddhism; and by the problems presented by modern development and conservation. Informal study groups organized international colloquia on Ladakh in 1981 at Konstanz (Federal Republic of Germany), in 1985 at Pau (France) and in 1987 at Herrnhut (German Democratic Republic). The proceedings of these have been published. The 4th IALS Colloquium was at Bristol (UK) in 1989 and the 5th at SOAS in London in June 1992.

At Herrnhut the International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) was formed with an international committee of distinguished scholars. The functions of the IALS are to provide contacts between all who are interested in the study of Ladakh, and to disseminate information about proposed and completed research and publications. To do this the IALS organizes colloquia, arranges publication of the proceedings, and publishes an occasional newsletter, "Ladakh Studies." This includes information about conferences, planned and current studies, requests for specific information and help, short reports, publications and general information about Ladakh. The close integration of resources, culture and religion in Ladakh demands a holistic approach, and members of the IALS are concerned with a wide variety of topics. Membership is open to all who are interested in Ladakh; for further information apply to the Hon. Sec.: Dr. Henry Osmaston, Department of Geography, University of Bristol, Bristol BS8 1SS, U.K.; tel 0272-303750, fax 0272-303746, telex 445938 (BSUNIV G).
