

# Newsletter

Number 8 June 1986

Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud EHESS, 54 bd Raspail, 75006 Paris, France



## International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

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### Arthur L. Basham Award To Be Established

Prof. Arthur L. Basham, world-renowned scholar of Indian culture and history, and founder of IASTAM, has left us forever. His memory will be kept alive not only through his many scholarly books and articles, but also by all those who had the privilege of knowing him personally. To honor the specific contribution which A.L. Basham has made to the field of Asian medicine - a contribution that he would have loved to continue if his health had permitted him to do so - IASTAM will establish an "Arthur L. Basham Medal" to be awarded for outstanding studies in the social and cultural history of traditional Asian medicine. Six medals will be coined, to be awarded to two scholars at each of the three forthcoming ICTAM meetings, following the recommendations of an award committee. Each medal will carry the head of A.L. Basham, his name and his dates of life, on one side, and the name of the scholar awarded the medal, as well as the year of the award and the name of IASTAM, on the other side. It is expected that the Arthur L. Basham Medal will honor outstanding works by younger scholars who specialize in any field of research on Asian health care traditions.

*Paul U. Unschuld*  
President, IASTAM

Arthur L. Basham  
(24 May 1914 - 27 January 1986)  
Founder of IASTAM

## Chinese Medicine in Munich

*The First International Symposium  
on Traditional Chinese Medicine -  
An IASTAM Meeting in Munich,  
W. Germany, August 25-29, 1986*

Participants and papers to be presented:

- Dr. Akira Akahori, Research Institute for Humanistic Studies, Kyoto University, Kyoto  
"The Interpretation of Classic Chinese Medical Texts in Contemporary Japan: Achievements, Approaches, and Problems"
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Bauer, Institute for East Asian Studies, University of Munich, Munich  
"Chinese Studies and the Issue of Fachprosa Research"
- Prof. Dr. Paul E. Buell, Department of Liberal Studies, Western Washington University, Bellingham/Washington  
"Translating the Yin shang cheng yao: Philological Issues and their Solutions"
- Prof. Dr. Chang Hsien-Cheh, School of Chinese Medicine, China Medical College, Taichung  
"The Pen-ts'ao pei-yao. A Modern Interpretation of its Terminology"
- Dr. Donald Harper, East-Asian Studies, Stanford University, Palo Alto/California  
"The Ma-wang-tui Medical Manuscripts: Recent Research Findings"
- Dr. sc. Jutta Harig-Kollesch, Institute for Ancient History and Archaeology, Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic, Berlin  
"The Corpus Medicorum Graecorum et Latinorum: Problems and Experiences Related to the Philological Rendering of Medical Texts from Classic European Antiquity"
- Dr. Dr. E. Kahle, Institute for the History of Medicine, University of Würzburg, Würzburg  
"The Philological Rendering of Arabic Medical Texts into Modern Western Languages"
- Dr. Jürgen Kovacs, Taiwan University, Taipei  
"The Yin hai ching-wei: Terminological Considerations from Perspective of an Ophthalmologist"
- Prof. Dr. Ma Kanwen, The China Institute for the History of Medicine and Medical Literature, Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Peking  
"Classic Chinese Medical Literature in Contemporary China. Texts Selected for Modern Commentated and Uncommentated Editions, and the Problems Associated with this Work"
- Ms. Elisabeth Rochat de la Vallée, Institut Ricci, Chinese Studies Center, Paris  
"Obstacles to the Translation of Classic Chinese Medical Texts into Western Languages, and how they can be overcome"
- Prof. Dr. Paul U. Unschuld, Institute for the History of Medicine, University of Munich, Munich  
"Terminological Problems Associated with, and Experiences gained in the Process of Editing a commentated Nan-ching Text"
- Dr. Zheng Jinsheng, The China Institute for the History of Medicine and Medical Literature, Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Peking  
"The Collation and Annotation of the Rare Book 'Lu Ch'an-yen pen-ts'ao' - A Medical Literature Research Project"
- Dr. Francis Zimmermann, Center for Indian and South-Asian Studies, EHESS, Paris  
"Terminological Problems Associated with the Philological Rendering of Ancient Indian Medical Texts"

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*All lectures are open; no registration fee will be collected. For further information write to: Prof. Paul U. Unschuld, Lessingstr. 2, 8 München 2, W. Germany.*

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## Tibetan medicine in London

*Body and Mind in Tibetan Medicine.*

An exhibition on this topic with special emphasis on thankas, manuscripts and xylographs formerly owned by L.A. Waddell, Principal Medical Officer to the Younghusband Expedition 1903-4, will be on view from April the 7th to July the 31st, 1986, at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

In conjunction with her Exhibition on Tibetan Medicine, *MARIANNE WINDER* organized a one-day conference at the Wellcome Institute, on the 18th of April, 1986, entitled *Aspects of Classical Tibetan Medicine Reflected in Central Asian Literature.*

Speakers: Ven. Dr. Trogawa Rinpoche (Darjeeling), Prof. Charles Bawden (London), Prof. R.E. Emmerick (Hamburg), Prof C.I. Beckwith (Bloomington, Indiana), Dr. Elisabeth Finck (Hamburg) and M. Nagwang Dakpa (Paris).

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Thanks are due to Dr. Mitchell Weiss for sending us the photograph printed on the front page. This photograph was taken by Dr. Weiss in Surabaya in 1984.

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# Newsletter

International Association for the  
Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

Arthur  
Llewellyn  
Basham

(24 May 1914 - 27 January 1986)

by Kenneth G. Zysk

It is with much sorrow that we announce the death of Professor A.L. Basham, founder of our Association, on January 27, 1986. At the time of his death he was the Swami Vivekananda Professor of Oriental Studies at the Asiatic Society in Calcutta. Among his last wishes, he asked that his final remains be buried at "home." For a man like Professor Basham with roots in so many places, the meaning of "home" was not clear. When Mrs. Basham asked which home he meant by that, he told his wife that he meant Shillong in Meghalaya, where she and her family live. His body was buried in the cemetery of the old military church there.

Messages of condolence may be directed to his widow: Dr. Namita Catherine Basham, c/o The Ramakrishna Institute of Culture, Gal Park, Calcutta 27, India.

The following texts contributed by Prof. Friedrich Wilhelm and Dr. Kenneth G. Zysk recount a few facts of his life, and evoke the charming and inspiring personality of a great friend, an outstanding scholar.

## A. L. Basham

by Friedrich Wilhelm, Munich

The founder of IASTAM, Arthur Llewellyn Basham (born 1914 in Loughton, Ess.), was one of the most distinguished indologists of our time. His main field was ancient Indian history, but his interests also included Sanskrit and Pali studies, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Indian medicine. He studied at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London since 1938. Being a conscientious objector he faced the German blitz in the Auxiliary Fire Service. At SOAS he was appointed Reader in the History of India (1952) and Professor (1957). From 1966 to 1979 he was the Head of the Department of Asian Civilizations at the Australian National University in Canberra. Basham was a prominent figure in the panels of international conferences. After retiring from his position at Canberra he was a visiting professor in Mexico city, Toronto, several universities in the United States, and eventually in the Asiatic Society in Calcutta, where he died on 27 January 1986 at the age of 71.

His Ph.D. thesis (London, 1951) is regarded as the standard work on a vanished Indian sect: the Ajivikas. Basham gained worldwide reputation with his best-selling survey of ancient Indian civilization *The Wonder That Was India* (1954). With M. Wheeler he revised part I of the *Oxford History of India* (1958). In 1960 he convened at SOAS the Conference on the Date of Kanishka, the papers of which he edited in 1968. A collection of his historical essays was published in Calcutta (1964). Among his numerous papers is "The practice of medicine in Ancient and Medieval India" (in Charles Leslie, ed. *Asian Medical Systems*, Berkeley, 1976).

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A.L. Basham - "Bash," as he was affectionately known to his friends and colleagues - will be remembered for his unselfish and tireless commitment to Indian Studies. He began as an aspiring poet, but soon realised that his true calling lay in the study of ancient Indian history and culture. After completing a first class honours degree in Indo-Aryan Studies at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies in 1941, he undertook work toward a Ph.D. in Indian History with L.D. Barnett. He completed his degree in 1951, with a thesis which has become the classic study of an obscure ancient Indian religion, *The History and Doctrines of the Ājīvikas*, which was published the following year.

He had already, in 1948, been appointed Lecturer in the History of India at the School of Oriental and African Studies, where he rose to the rank of Professor in the History of South Asia in 1957. He was called to Australia in 1965 to become Professor and Head of the Department of Asian Civilisations at the new Australian National University in Canberra, and there he remained until he retired in 1979. During his academic career, Professor Basham received the degree of D.Lit. for his work in the history of South Asia from the University of London, as well as honorary doctorates from Kurukshetra University and Nava Nālanda Mahāvihāra (Buddhist Studies Research Institute). He held many visiting professorships before and after his retirement, in South Asia and in North and South America.

It seems fitting that he should have spent his final days as Swami Vivekananda Professor in Oriental Studies at the Asiatic Society in Calcutta. He had always had the utmost esteem for his predecessors at the Society, Sir William Jones, Horace Hayman Wilson, and others, and felt that he belonged to that great tradition of British Indology. There was a gleam in his eyes and joy in his heart when he spoke of going to Calcutta to spend an indefinite period with his friends of the Society in the country he so dearly loved. His goal there was to have begun a project which would eventually lead to the publication of a ten-volume *Encyclopaedia of Indology*, along the lines of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*. The Society is going to undertake this project, which might appropriately be dedicated to his memory. It is a strong testimony to Basham's commitment to Indology that he continued working until the very end. He never felt he could retire.

A complete list of Professor Basham's scholarly achievements up to about 1980 can be found in his Festschrift, *India: History and Thought (Essays in Honour of A.L. Basham)*, which was edited by S.N. Mukherjee (1982). A few deserve special mention. His well-known *The Wonder That Was India* (1954, 2nd. ed. 1963) is still considered the best general introduction to the history and culture of early India, and has been translated into French, Polish,

(continued from page 3)

by Friedrich Wilhelm

Basham's advice encouraged many students and younger colleagues. His genial manner and sceptical common sense impressed all who met him. Liberal humanism as well as cultural pessimism were essential parts of his psychogram. More and more he felt drawn to India. His wife is of Assamese extraction. The Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi expressed his sympathy with "a scholar of great insight and integrity."

## Arthur L. Basham

by Kenneth G. Zysk

Tamil, Sinhalese and Hindi, with German and Spanish versions projected. As well, he edited and contributed to several important Indological works: *Studies in Indian History and Culture* (1964); *Papers on the Date of Kaniṣka* (1968), which derives from a conference on the date of Kaniṣka he organised in 1960; *The Civilizations of Monsoon Asia* (1974); and *A Cultural History of India* (1975), which is an updated reissue of *The Legacy of India*. Widely influential also was his selection and translation of Buddhist and Jaina materials in *Sources of Indian Tradition* (1958). For the academic year 1984-85, Professor Basham was chosen as the biennial lecturer in the History of Religions of the American Council of Learned Societies. In this capacity he delivered a series of five lectures, "The formation of classical Hinduism," on ten key campuses in the United States. Lectures in this series are regularly published by Columbia University Press, and we hope to see his contribution in the near future.

Dr. Basham was also an active and astute administrator and organiser. He was Director of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland from 1964 to 1965, and President of the 28th International Congress of Orientalists when it met in Canberra in 1971. He was instrumental in organising the first International Conference on the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine in 1979; indeed, he was elected the first President of the International Society for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine, which today has branches on most of the seven continents. He also served as President of the International Association of Buddhist Studies from 1981.

Not all of Bash's time was devoted to scholarship. Away from the university in Canberra, he would tend his garden, and on a good weekend he and his family might join some of his students for a picnic at Tidbinbilla, the local game preserve. While we walked, feeding the kangaroos and searching for the elusive koalas, he would frequently talk about his fascination with the Gypsies. It began, he said, when he was a boy in Essex, England, and in India,

during his father's posting at Kasauli as a journalist with the Indian army. He used to visit the Gypsies and came to know them fairly well. He even claimed to have Gypsy blood in him, although there was no proof of it. He planned to investigate their origin and history, but it was not to be. This yearning to know and live the life of the Gypsies may have prompted him to embark upon so mobile a career. It did not bother him in the least to move from one short assignment to another. He had over fifteen visiting professorships in his career; after his retirement he shifted almost yearly from one university to another.

When asked what he considered his own principal achievement Dr. Basham would smile and say: "Certainly I'd say my research (i.e. graduate) students. There have been more than a hundred." In fact, he considered as major contributions the many theses he supervised. As his last student, I hope to speak for all those who preceded me in saying that having A.L. Basham as a guru was one of the most rewarding experiences a young scholar could have. He was demanding, but above all helpful and compassionate. His door was never closed, even during his noontime rest periods. I fondly recall sitting with him hours at a time reading from Sanskrit texts, and jotting down his perceptive comments. Anyone who had the fortune to speak with him went away richly rewarded. His knowledge was at once vast and deep; he was truly a Renaissance man. He tried to instil this love of knowledge in all he met and guided, for he maintained that the more one can know about the history of mankind in general, the more one will understand the particular history and culture one is studying and trying to elucidate. Although Professor Basham has passed from us, his spirit survives in his students and will be carried on in all those whom they teach.

*ye prāpte vyasane'py anānkuladhiyaḥ saṃpatsu naivonnatāḥ  
prāpte naiva parānmukhāḥ prapayini prāṇopayogair api/  
hrīmantāḥ svaguṇaprasaṃsanavidhāv anyastutau paṇḍitā  
dhig dhātrā kṛpāṇena yena na kṛtāḥ kalpāntadīrghāyuṣaḥ//*

(*Subhāṣitaratnaḥ*, 1242)

Those whose thoughts are clear  
when misfortune befalls;  
who are not pompous  
in the midst of success,  
and when a dear friend is acquired,  
from him will they  
not turn away  
even if their breath expires;  
those who are humble  
in the ways of self-praise,  
yet skilled  
in complementing others:  
shame on the Creator,  
by whose niggardliness they were  
fashioned not with  
life-spans lasting to time's end.

Kenneth G. Zysk



# Newsletter

International Association for the  
Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

Establishing  
a Journal of  
Asian Medicine

## IASTAM/N. America

At a meeting called by Prof. Charles Leslie and held at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies at Philadelphia in 1985, the group attending decided that it would be beneficial to follow the lead of colleagues in other parts of the world who are establishing regional branches of IASTAM. A slate of candidates for office was determined, and it was agreed that an election would be held at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago, 1986. Also it was decided that a Symposium on Asian traditional medicine would be held at the Chicago meeting under the auspices of the newly-formed chapter. That symposium was organized and chaired by Clark E. Cunningham (University of Illinois).

At the Chicago meeting of the newly-formed *IASTAM/North America*, the results of the election were announced, as follows: *President*, Clark E. Cunningham; *Secretary-General*, Lorna Amarasingham Rhodes (University of Washington); and *Treasurer*, Kenneth G. Zysk (University of Toronto). During May-August, 1986, the officers will draft the bylaws of the new chapter and these will be circulated to the members. During the period between the Philadelphia and Chicago meetings, the important work of handling the election and sending out information to persons on the North America address list of IASTAM was handled capably by Carolyn Nordstrom (University of California, Berkeley) and Anne Sweetser (Harvard University), both of whom will join the Board of *IASTAM/North America*, along with others who will be invited by the officers.

The newly formed chapter will seek to expand membership in North America and to encourage the holding of symposia and panels on Asian traditional medicine at diverse professional society meetings. It will also hold business meetings annually at the Association for Asian Studies meeting.

Write to:

Professor Clark E. Cunningham  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign, Department of Anthropology  
109 Davenport Hall  
607 South Mathews Avenue  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

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*Contemporary Views of Asian Traditional  
Medicine*, Chicago, March 1986  
Symposium Organized by Clark E. Cunningham

Four papers were presented by: Carolyn R. Nordstrom (University of California, Berkeley) on Ayurveda in Sri Lanka, Nathan Sivin (University of Pennsylvania) on

## Preliminary Announcement

The Editor of *IASTAM Newsletter* keeps receiving encouragements to pursue his current exploratory activities in developing a journal of Asian medicine. Indeed we are committed to strengthening the newsletter, and to establishing a journal. The newsletter might be subsumed by the journal or remain separate: the answer to this question depends on which kind of administrative and financial support will be obtained from outside IASTAM. At this point, a famous publishing company specialized in orientalist publications has offered to publish the journal, and the Editor of *IASTAM Newsletter* has informally approached some authorities in the field, some university departments and other institutions to obtain funds and secretarial help. Such a journal clearly should be subsidized and based in a university or research institute. Another possibility would be for us to act as our own publishers, and to develop the *Newsletter* gradually into a *Journal*.

The first aim of this journal would be to strike a balance between the various scholarly disciplines that explore Asian medicine. For example, the pharmacologists have ample publishing opportunities in their own well-established journals, in various languages, and the same privileged situation prevails in medical anthropology, for instance, where good papers always find their way into *Social Science and Medicine*, or *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry*, or several other first-rate journals. But historians of Asian medicine, and those of us who research into the linguistic, philological and archaeological aspects of Asian medicine, have traditionally faced difficulties in trying to publish erudite papers stuffed with quotations in such or such an exotic language. They do need a journal specifically devoted to Asian medicine, which, furthermore, would constitute a forum, where historians and anthropologists, textualists and practitioners, and experts coming from the various countries of Asia, would collaborate.

The Editor of *IASTAM Newsletter* needs your help, advice and proposals. He would be willing to recommend to the Council, for their appointment as co-Editors, the names of scholars ready to join in, with their own talents and editorial projects. You are invited to send nominations and suggestions.

Francis Zimmermann, *Editor*

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the study of health care in China, Anne T. Sweetser (Harvard University) on a Pakistani exorcist, Francis Zimmermann on Ayurveda in Kerala. They are being revised for publication.

