

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

MARTIN BOORD currently lives in Oxford, UK, as an independent scholar and Buddhist practitioner. He began his training more than 30 years ago whilst on pilgrimage in India, studying Buddhism under masters of all the Tibetan schools, before deciding to devote his life to the Byang-gter (Northern Treasures) tradition of the rNying-ma school, revealed in the 14th century by Rig-'dzin rgod-ldem. He is the author of several books and scholarly articles on Vajrayana Buddhism and, in 1993, was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of London for his work on the cult of the deity Vajrakila.

RIGZIN NGODUB DOKHAMPA studied Buddhist Philosophy at the Institute for Higher Nyingma Studies in Sikkim and obtained his Acharya degree from the Institute of Sampuranand Sanskrit Visva-Vidhyalaya, Varanasi. He received his doctorate from Santiniketan (Indo-Tibetan Nyingmapa Buddhist cultural preservation Society). His dissertation is entitled: *A study of the significance of tantric ritual objects and mandala*. Dr Rigzin has been with the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology since 1971.

GOS. PEMA GYALTSEN was Senior Lecturer in the Department of Tibetan Language and Literature at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi. He passed away in 2001.

SAUL MULLARD is a doctorate student at Wolfson College, University of Oxford. His research is based on forming understandings of state and religio-political establishments in the early years of Sikkimese history. He has six years of experience in Tibetan language with a focus on historical literature.

FRANÇOISE POMMARET, research fellow at the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research), Paris and lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies, (INALCO), Paris, is director of the 'Languages and Cultures of the Tibetan areas' team at the CNRS, Paris. Since 1973, she has travelled extensively in the Himalayas, Tibet and spends a large part of the year in Bhutan. She has published, in addition to numerous articles on the history and anthropology of Bhutan, *Les Revenants de l'au-delà dans le monde tibétain*, Eds du CNRS: Paris (reprint 1998);

Bhutan, Odyssey Guides: Hong Kong (reprint 2002); *Bhutan: mountain fortress of the gods*, Serindia: London, 1997 (ed. with C. Schicklgruber); *Lhasa in the 17th century: the capital of the Dalai-Lamas*, Brill: Leiden, 2002; and *Tibet: turning the wheel of time*, Thames & Hudson, London, 2003.

THUPTEN TENZIN received his MPhil in Buddhist Philosophy from Delhi University. He has been with the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology since 1989.

MÉLANIE VANDENHELSKEN received her PhD from the University of Montpellier III where she now teaches anthropology. Her dissertation is entitled: *Le monastère bouddhique de Pemayangtse au Sikkim (Himalaya oriental, Inde) : un monastère dans le monde* (2002). It was completed under the direction of Dr HDR Brigitte Steinmann and is based on two years of fieldwork research in Sikkim.