

NOTES & TOPICS

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF INDIA

India as Phag-yul (Aryabhumi) has featured much in Tibetan literature, both ancient and modern. A work on geography written in the first quarter of 19th century contains an interesting account of India. An English translation of the India portion is now presented in the **Bulletin**. The editors have not attempted to revise the script, the English rendering as well as the spelling of Indian words in Deva Nagari. When the translation is completed, improvements in the English translation and all necessary annotations will be made in consultation with the author. Regarding Indian words it may be noted that the words in the Tibetan text were spelt or transcribed as per information available then; one can read reflections of Sanskrit, Prakrit, Maithili, Nepali, Bangala or Urdu words. Comments and criticisms from readers are welcome. It is proposed to publish the completed work with Tibetan text in Tibetan script and English translation, introduction, annotations etc next year.

For information of the general reader, it may be noted that the Tibet portion of this famous work has been ably translated and amply annotated by Turrell Wylie thus : **The Geography of Tibet according to the 'Dzam-gling rgyas-bshad** (Rome 1962)

HISTORIC PLACE NAMES

In the same connection it may be noted that many place names in India are repeated or have migrated. Kamboja first occurs in the Hindukush-Pamirs and last beyond the eastern most boundaries of India in the estuary region of Mekong river. Pragjyotisha now in north eastern India (Kamarupa, Assam) was in ancient days in north western India, towards Karakoram region. Oddiyana/Urgyen, famous in Tantra, had locations in north, central, and south India. Zahor/Shahar occurred in Riwalsar (Himachal), Bhagalpur (Bihar), Jessore (Bangladesh) and Dacca (Bangladesh). The mythical land Shambhala, first reported across the Pamirs, was later reported from places in north India and Nepal. Some of these historic places are referred to by Lama Chimpa and N.C. Sinha in this number of the **Bulletin**. More on these place names will be presented in future from Tibetan sources.

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