

A 19th Century Nepalese Chronicle Published

Kathmandu, September 22, 2015. A popular nineteenth century Nepalese Chronicle (Vamsavali) has been newly edited and translated under the title **Nepalika-Bhupa-Vamsavali: History of the Kings of Nepal – A Buddhist Chronicle**. The book in three volumes, is published by Himal Books. It will be released amidst a function jointly organized by Taragon Regency Hotels Ltd., Hyatt Regency Kathmandu, the Saraf Foundation for Himalayan Tradition and Culture, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University and Social Science Baha. The books have been edited and translated by Manik Bajracharya, Axel Michaels, and Niels Gutschow.

The chronicle was first translated by Daniel Wright and published in 1877, and it was later reprinted not less than ten times. Wright's "History of Nepal," however, does not contain the edition of the original Nepali text, and the translation lacks comprehensiveness in comparison to the original text.

The first volume of the new book contains an *editio princeps* of the Nepali text of the chronicle. The original manuscript of the chronicle has been archived at the Cambridge University. The second volume of the book consists of the introduction and a comprehensive annotated translation of the Nepali Chronicle. The third volume consists of several maps accompanied by drawings of the 19th century which are contemporary to the composition of the chronicle. Some of the included drawings have not yet been published elsewhere. The book includes the drawings made by a Nepalese painter Rajman Singh and the then surgeon at the British Residency in Kathmandu Henry Oldfield.

Among the authors, Prof. Dr. Axel Michaels is the Head of Department at the Department of Classical Indology, Heidelberg University. Prof. Dr. Ing. Niels Gutschow is an Architecture Historian. Dr. Manik Bajracharya works at the Heidelberg Academy of Science, Heidelberg.

Nepal has a large number of vamsavalis and other forms of historical writings from different times. The vamsavalis are the genealogical lists with focus on deeds of kings, high officials, saints and monks. They are the texts entangled in a broad array of past-telling sources containing both facts and legends. They are often complimented by inscriptions, historical documents, eulogies etc.

The new book is expected to contribute to the much needed field of Nepalese Historiography, especially at a time when Nepal is facing the crisis of preservation of cultural and monumental heritage due to the devastating earthquake.