

## PROJECT OF A BIOGRAPHICAL FILE—SYSTEM OF PROMINENT REPRESENTATIVES OF LAMAISM

During the course of an informative discussion at Mátrafüred, Professor R. A. Stein advanced the idea of compiling a reference work which would contain data on prominent Tibetan, Mongolian and Central-Asian representatives of Lamaist culture. The idea was well received and as a consequence, Item 6 of the *Resolution* called for the establishment of a working file in Hungary, which would contain biographical information on prominent representatives of Lamaist culture. The nature of the task involved is such that its successful implementation can be achieved only by international co-operation. Those who have dealt with similar problems are aware of the difficulties involved in the organization of even the simplest file-system. Decisions have to be taken on a permanent structure and order of names, on cross-referencing of name variants and part-names, a simple and unambiguous system of transliteration has to be adopted, the problem of Indian and pseudo-Indian names solved, etc. In the case of some personalities, there are going to be chronological problems in establishing the date of birth, death and other factual data. The identification of place names, locations and/or names of monasteries will not always be an easy task either. It will also have to be decided if a reference list is to be included, which would contain the place names of the main file-system. Though these problems should not be underestimated, yet I believe that we may at last try to evolve an acceptable project for the systematization organization of the material. For this purpose we propose that all those who intend to participate in this work, should send a model of the bio(biblio)graphic data of a *single* personality in the order, form and structure they recommend for the file-system, and should also send their proposals regarding the systematization of the file.

I would also like to recommend for consideration the inclusion of all those European personalities (scholars, travellers and missionaries) who came into some contact with Central-Asia (the time limit could be around 1900): research into their activities may prove useful for the history of scholarship.

If sufficient material is received, the Hungarian members of the Permanent International Committee are ready to elaborate a detailed project which be submitted for debate.

So far as we are concerned, we can contribute to the work with the following:

1. All data sent by colleagues will be put on cards with their names (or initials).
2. A list of the material received would be regularly published in the Bulletin.
3. Upon request, xerox copies of the cards would be sent to all who participate in the work, except when the author of the card does not permit us to do so.\*
4. We are ready to add to old and new cards, and we will naturally also participate actively in the processing of important sources.

\*I am thinking of cases where a scholar is involved in major work related to the data and for this reason requests that the latter should be temporarily withheld from publication.