

Bibliography of the Works of Prayag Raj Sharma

by Pranab Kharel and Gaurab KC

Prayag Raj Sharma belongs to the first generation of trained social scientists in Nepal who made mark in the post-Rana period. The entire corpus of his work holds a valuable contribution in making and furthering of the Nepali social science. He was born in Kathmandu in 1938. He received his school education from Ranipokhari Sanskrit Pathshala, where his father was a Sanskrit teacher. He obtained an intermediate and a BA degree in arts from Trichandra College. In BA his major subjects were Sanskrit, Nepali, Ancient History and English.

Sharma received a Colombo Plan scholarship in 1957 to do his MA from Allahabad University, India, majoring in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology. After his graduation he returned to Nepal in 1959 and started his career as a history teacher at Bhaktapur College. During the spring of 1960 Sharma applied for a PhD scholarship in Archaeology in Deccan College in Poona, India where he specialized in historical archaeology. He submitted his dissertation 'The Archaeology of Nepal' in 1963 which was based on the surface objects in archaeology of Kathmandu Valley.

After his doctorate Sharma engaged himself in archaeological excavations in collaboration with an Indian archaeologist S.B. Deo. From 1963 to 1965 Sharma was engaged in an extensive archaeological exploration in Central Tarai - in Banjarahi and Paisia around Lumbini - and in Handigaun, Kathmandu. The sites around Lumbini were Grey Ware and NBP (Northern Black Polished) sites, while the dig at Handigaun revealed Licchavi, late Licchavi and Malla period artifacts.

In May 1965 Sharma was appointed a lecturer in Ancient History and Archaeology at Tribhuvan University (TU) where he taught subjects like pre-history, numismatics and ancient Indian history for the next seven years. Later on his interest veered into anthropology due to his association with many researchers, particularly French anthropologist Marc Gaborieau. From 1965 to 1970 Sharma accompanied Gaborieau as his research assistant conducting fieldworks in Tanahun, Jumla, Dailekh, Surkhet, and the west of Mahakali River in Kumaon, India. To quote Sharma himself: "I was his [Gaborieau's] assistant while he conducted his field research on the hill

Muslims (Cureta), the cult of the Masta, and the ballads of Kumaon's folk hero, Malu Shahi" (Sharma 2004: Xii). This fieldwork inspired Sharma to do a comparative work on the art and architecture of Karnali and Kumaon. This resulted in a book *Preliminary study of the Art and Architecture of the Karnali Basin, West Nepal* (1972). The book was also translated into French by Gaborieau.

Under the New Education System Plan of 1972, twelve research institutes were formed under the TU. Sharma was appointed the Dean of one of the twelve research institutes, the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies (INAS). He served the institute as its head for four years. In 1976 INAS became CNAS - Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies - and he continued to head this institute as its Director till 1978. In 1979 Sharma went to Columbia University, New York as a visiting scholar for one academic year. He utilized his time at Columbia in polishing his ongoing research on Nepal's Newars, their history and sociology, and also gave a seminar on Nepal's ethnic diversity at the South Asia Institute of the University. After his return he joined CNAS as a professor and served there till his retirement in 2002. He was the founding chief editor of the journal *Contributions to Nepalese Studies* (estd. 1973) and also the member of the editorial board of the journal *Kailash*.

The writings of Prayag Raj Sharma touch upon the various facets of Nepali society and culture both in time and space. The diachronic and synchronic methods are features of his writings which are of high significance from the social, cultural, historical, archaeological, anthropological and sociological understanding of the past and present of Nepali society. His writings are well informed, thought provoking and are helpful to readers interested in Nepal. For Sharma the reality of Nepali society is Hindu-Tribal interface based on syncretism.

The bibliography underneath has become possible after our week-long archival investigation in Martin Chautari library. We submitted the first draft of this bibliography to Prayag Raj Sharma in February 2016. He added some of his works which we had missed in our first draft. We would very much appreciate receiving information on items missing in this bibliography or suggestions regarding any corrections that are needed in the entries given below. Our e-mail addresses are pranabkharel@gmail.com and gauravdoti@gmail.com.

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