Bibliography of Writings by Mahesh Chandra Regmi and a List of Reviews of Regmi’s Books

Compiled and introduced by Pratyoush Onta, Martin Chautari, Kathmandu.

Mahesh Chandra Regmi (1929-2003) was the preeminent economic historian of 18th and 19th century Nepal. In a career that spanned for four and half decades (1957-2003), he researched and wrote prolifically on Nepal’s modern economic and political history. He was the sole historian operating at the Regmi Research Centre Pvt. Ltd., an institution he had founded in 1957. Through his writings, Regmi fundamentally changed our understanding of the economics of political-territorial unification of Nepal that took place between the 1740s and the early 1800s and its consequences for the rest of the 19th century.

Apart from a few articles written in Nepali for the popular press, Regmi wrote mostly in English. He published many dozen signed and unsigned research notes in the Regmi Research Series (RRS), a monthly periodical he edited between November 1969 and December 1989. He also published a few articles and a book review in Asian Survey, Contributions to Nepalese Studies, RRS, and some books edited by other academics. However he preferred the monograph format for publishing the results of his research, producing 14 books between 1960 and 2002. Out of these 14 books, one was a booklet (Regmi 1960), two were collections of his short articles and translated primary materials (Regmi 1979, 2002), and the rest were monographs of various length focused on a number of related topics.

Regmi was awarded the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1977 for recognition of his “chronicling of Nepal’s past and present, enabling his people to discover their origins and delineating national options.” The citation presented to him on that occasion can be found at www.rmaf.org.ph/Awardees/Citation/CitationRegmiMah.htm. Regmi’s career was the subject of an interview he gave to the German anthropologist Martin Gaenszle (1992). In honor of the contributions made by Regmi to the scholarship on Nepal, the Kathmandu-based academic NGO Social Science Baha instituted the annual Mahesh C. Regmi lecture series in 2003, the first of which was attended by Regmi himself, just weeks before his death. Further information on that series and the various lectures that have been delivered as part of it can be found at www.soscbaha.org/activities/lectures/mahesh-chandra-regmi-lecture.html. A brief overview of his life and work can be found in an obituary published after his death (Onta 2003).

In the bibliography given below, Regmi’s original book review, articles and books have been listed. I have also selectively listed a few signed research notes published by him in RRS but his many research notes published therein without his name have not been included. I have also listed a few of the compilations of English-translated texts prepared by Regmi but have omitted the hundreds of other translations of articles and related text he published (they deserve a separate bibliography). I have also provided a list of reviews of Regmi’s books published in various journals and other print media for those who are interested in finding out how fellow academics evaluated his various books.
I have come up with this bibliography after looking for his writings in RRS (21 volumes in total and available online in pdf and word formats at: www.digitalhimalaya.com/collections/journals/regmi/), several academic journals published from Nepal (list given in Annex One below), and his books. I have also consulted the online catalogs of the US Library of Congress (catalog.loc.gov) and World Catalog (www.worldcat.org). I have also searched the JSTOR and Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) archives and consulted some printed bibliographies of works related to Nepal such as those by Wood (1959), Malla (1975), Shiwakoti (1986) and Whelpton (1990), the printed index to some Nepali academic journals compiled by Amatya (1989) and the Catalogue of The Japan-Nepal Society Collection (Nawa 2013). Most of Regmi’s books mentioned in this bibliography are available in the library of Martin Chautari (MC) in Kathmandu (http://www.martinchautari.org.np/library).

I would like to receive information about missing items in this bibliography and suggestions regarding any necessary corrections in the items listed here. Such information should be sent to me at my email address: sinhas@mos.com.np. This bibliography will be updated when new information needs to be added to what is given here.

Acknowledgements
Thanks are due to Dr. Bronwen Bledsoe (South Asian Librarian, Cornell University), Dr. Lokranjan Parajuli (MC) and Ramita Maharjan (MC Library) for their help in locating the relatively obscure works by Mahesh Chandra Regmi. Dr. Tatsuro Fujikura (Kyoto University) reconfirmed the title of a Japanese translation of one of Regmi’s books. Additional research for this bibliography was made possible by a small grant from the Foundations of Open Society Institute made to Martin Chautari in early 2013 under the research project title ‘Knowledge Production beyond Academia’.

References
Nawa, Katsuo, ed. 2013 Catalogue of The Japan-Nepal Society Collection Owned by the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo. Tokyo: The Research and Information Center for Asian Studies, The Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo.

**Bibliography**


1960. *Some Aspects of Land Reform in Nepal*. Kathmandu: Mahesh Chandra Regmi. [32 + pages; It seems like this was reprinted in July 1962 by Nepal Today Press; sometime during the early 1960s, most likely in 1962, a slightly revised version was printed as *A Note on the Land Tenure System in Nepal*. Reprint No. 27. Center for South Asia Studies, Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley; this version is of 24 pages.]


1962a. Recent Land Legislation in Nepal Vol I. Kathmandu: Regmi Research Project. [47 pp., publication dated 1 November 1962; compilation of laws related to land promulgated between 1956 and 1962; text in English translation from the original Nepali with some 7 pages of prefatory comments including a glossary of terms used in the text; in the foreword Regmi states that “Vol II will contain recent legislation relating to land taxation, as well as major policy pronouncements and official notifications”; nothing with Vol II written as part of the title has been found; possibly it became 1964b?]


1977c. Nepal’s Land Reform. *Regmi Research Series* 9(10): 129-136. [This is the full text of a paper read by Regmi at an informal group discussion at the Perez Lecture Room, Ramon...]

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Magsaysay Centre, Roxas Boulevard, Manila on 1 Sept 1977 following his receipt of the 1977 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. Reprinted in Regmi 2002 as chapter 12 (pp. 174-184).


1979a. *Readings in Nepali Economic History*. Varanasi: Kishor Vidya Niketan. [This is a collection of his various notes and articles published for the most part in *Regmi Research Series*]


2002. *Nepal: An Historical Miscellany*. Delhi: Adroit Publishers. [This is a collection of his various notes and articles published for the most part in *Regmi Research Series*].


**Reviews of Mahesh C. Regmi’s books** (in alphabetical order by the last name of the reviewer)


Annex One:
**Journals checked for Regmi’s writings and reviews of his books**

1. Anveshan
2. Contributions to Nepalese Studies
3. European Bulletin of Himalayan Research
4. Historia
5. Kailash
6. Regmi Research Series
7. Studies in Nepali History and Society
8. The Economic Journal of Nepal
9. The Himalayan Review
10. Tribhuvan University Journal
11. Voice of History