

Notes and News

The excavations at Tilaura-kot undertaken jointly with the Rissho university of Tokyo was continued even after the departure of the Japanese team, especially in the trenches across the defences on the western side, and in the interior immediately behind the lines of defence. The evidence gathered is under study, and while it may be recorded that the results are at once encouraging and interesting, a fuller report or account must await the excavator's (in this case Shri T. N. Misra, Chief of the Exploration and Excavations Branch) final analysis. Among the discoveries recorded is a well built road about 19 ft wide across the defences, which was reported in the last number also. Among the repairs to ancient monuments, mention may be made of the following

- (a) Dattatreya temple of Bhaktapur
- (b) Mahapal temple (stone) of Lalitpur
- (c) Manjushri temple of Kathmandu and others

One of the important activities of the Department during the period under review is the selection of a few sculptures in stone, wood and bronze in addition to the pieces catalogued in *Nepalese Art*, 1966, for an exhibition of Nepalese art objects to be inaugurated at Tokyo on the 28th June '68, which would display a larger collection than that in the European exhibition of 1966-67. The exhibition is being organised under the joint auspices of the Dept. of Archaeology, Yumori shimbun, and Phisso University.

An important discovery brought to the notice of the authorities of the Department by Shri Babu Krishna Dhakal of National Archives is a group of inscribed bricks discovered in the

course of earth work excavations for the foundations of a temple in Hadigaon. These bricks measuring on an average $13'' \times 8\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{3}{4}''$, bear the words *Shri Mahasamantamsuvarmanah'* in sanskrit language and in early Lichchhavi script on one of the broader sides, pointing to the existence on the premises of an important structure that can undoubtedly be associated with Amsuvarma, when he was still in a subordinate position of a vassal of Siva Deva, towards the end of the sixth century A.D. This discovery would set us on the trail of more substantial discoveries of the relics of the Lichchhavis in Nepal and would, therefore need assiduous pursuit. These bricks have been already collected by the department.

The period also witnessed the visit for a month in March-April, 68 of Dr. P. H. Pott, Director of the Ethnological Museum, Leyden, for the study of museums in Nepal with a view to offering suggestions for bringing about improvement. This was arranged by the United Nations at the request of H.M.G.

The visit of Dr. P.H. Pott was followed by the visits of Mr. John Pollaco for suggestions as to cultural tourism and of Mr. Conrad wise to coordinate the reports of Dr. Pott and Mr. Polaco respectively.

Beginings were made during the period in the preliminary survey of the world famous site of Lumbini by experts deputed by the United Nations for the purpose of bringing about improvements to the site in various ways. It may be recalled that H. E. U. Thant visited Lumbini on the 14th June 1967, and being struck by its importance and scope, at once

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felt that something must be done for the otherwise impressive site on behalf of the United Nations, and hence the works.

A contour plan of the site has been prepared by the Indian Cooperation Mission and it has been followed by the preparation of an index plan for laying a garden at the site under the auspices of the Indian Cooperation Mission.

The remains of the stupas and monasteries and other structural remains around the Asokan pillar and Maya Devi's temple at Lumbini have been planned by the department in detail as the preliminary step for the undertaking of their conservation after the monsoons.

R. J. Thapa.