

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Chair

Good work always pays off, keep up the good work colleagues

Among the objectives of professional meetings is to give an opportunity for involved individuals to get together and plan for future events, address concerns, or engage in professional discussions. AAMES meetings are no different. However, the level of commitment and enthusiasm showed by our Section's committee members may categorize us among the outstanding committees.

Outstanding committee members are committed to attend scheduled professional activities. You proved it by the record of attendance during our executive and all committee meetings. The few members we missed, I am sure that their hearts were with us but because of one reason or another they couldn't make it. Not only did you attend the meetings, but you were enthusiastic and willing to go that extra mile for a better outcome for our section plans and goals. I salute you for this.

Outstanding committee members always have initiative and get involved in fruitful projects. You also proved this my colleagues. The subcommittees' reports show how hard you have been working to promote our Section's agenda. For example, our membership is up. We are working closely with other ACRL units and sections by co-sponsoring programs that will be offered during the annual conference.

What really pleased me the most during our meeting is your enthusiasms to participate in the efforts to help the victims of the Tsunami disaster to rebuild their library collections. Almost all of you who were there showed not only sympathy and sorrow, but also came up with ideas to help the libraries affected by the disaster. This is a good proof of your patriotism and humanitarianism. Patriotism because you echoed not only an American spirit and what many official, private, and charitable organizations around the country did in their relief efforts, but you also provided suggestions and contact information on what could be done to speed up the process to help these libraries. Some of you pointed out organizations that are willing to help by sponsoring book shipments. Others provided information and suggestions about many agencies and organizations around the country that are involved with the same tasks.

I am sure that all of these efforts will pay off for both you and to the recipients. Proof that your work is paying off is the recognition and the award that our role model, monitor, colleague, friend and the immediate AAMES chairperson, Dr. R.N. Sharma received for his hard work. I am sure that most you were thrilled when you read or heard about his receipt of one of the most prestigious awards in our field. Dr. Sharma is a concerned individual who loves his profession and also loves to help others. Therefore, his outstanding work within and beyond our Section, and his efforts to promote librarianship and assist libraries around the globe qualified

him to earn this award. Let us all be like Dr. Sharma in the way he did, felt and hoped for our profession. Let us follow his lead and build on the good work that he has initiated. It pays off!

Finally, I have faith in all of our Section members. Our upcoming chair is full of energy, our Section subcommittee chairpersons and members are very enthusiastic, and our members at large are there to advise and support us. Our Section goals are practical. Let us put all of these things together to achieve these goals. Believe me, it will pay off.

Majed Khader, Ph.D.
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Editor's Note

I am pleased to present this last edition as editor of the *AAMES Newsletter*. I wish to thank all those who supported and contributed for the last two years. Thanks are also due to Dr. R.N. Sharma, former Chair of the AAMES, who has been a source of encouragement and inspiration for the Section activities. AAMES membership feel great pride that Dr. Sharma has been honored with the prestigious ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year 2005 award. Please join me in congratulating him for this achievement. Details of this award are published in this newsletter. My special thanks to Dawn Mueller of the ACRL for her technical expertise in bringing out four issues of this Newsletter. This Newsletter is a good venue to tell your story, news clips, committee reports and program announcements. I am sure that in future the quality of the submissions will continue to improve and hope that this will serve as a good source for exchanging the Section information. As our membership is constantly growing, the Publication Committee needs to undertake some research and publication projects that will enhance the prestige of AAMES. We do not have a journal that solely deals with the Asian, African and Middle Eastern librarianship. As more and more research is being undertaken and resources are being developed in this area, I suggest that we may start an annual *AAMES Journal* so that member can publish their research findings and other contributions for the benefits of others.

It has been a great privilege to serve the Chair, Publication Committee and Editor of the *AAMES Newsletter* during 2003-2005, and I look forward to seeing you at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago from June 23-29, 2005.

Rajwant S. Chilana, Ph.D.
*Chair Publication Committee
and Editor, AAMES Newsletter*

AAMES Program at ALA Midwinter, Boston

During the ALA Midwinter meeting, the AAMES Executive Committee met at the Marriott Hotel, Boston from 8:00am -10:00 am on Saturday, January 15, 2005. Jade Atwill, Anjana Bhatt, Shi Deng, John Eilts, Kristen Kern, Majed Khader, Pat Kreitz, Binh Le, Yue Li, Sushila Shah, Cindi Tysick, and Jian Wang participated in the meeting. Committee reports were presented and discussed by various Chairs: Program Committee (Anjana Bhatt), Membership Committee (Binh Le), Special Task Force on a Multilingual Thesaurus (Sushila Shah), Bylaws Committee (Jade Atwill), Nominating Committee (Yue Li), and Vice-Chair's Report (Cynthia Tysick). The Committee expressed its thanks to Anjana Bhatt for her work as Chair of the Program Committee and her willingness to continue in this position, Dr. Rajwant Chilana for his work as Chair of the Publication Committee and Editor of the *AAMES Newsletter*, Dr. R. N. Sharma for his services as Past Chair, Jade Atwill for her work on the Bylaws Committee, and Cynthia Tysick for her work on the AAMES Web site.

AAMES Program at ALA Annual Conference (Chicago), June 26, 2005

The African, Asian, and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES), is co-sponsoring the RBMS program in association with the Literatures in English Section (LES) of ACRL. Please plan to attend this Program at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago on Saturday, June 25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The theme of this event is "Collecting World Cultures: African, Asian, Caribbean, and Native American Materials in Chicago Institutions". These institutions have amassed extensive collections of

diverse materials representing cultures from the New World (Native American, Caribbean), Asia, and Africa. Librarians and scholars will discuss challenges such as possible cultural appropriation, opportunities for multifaceted use by native communities, and difficulties presented by linguistic diversity.

These topics will be addressed by Nancy R. Cirillo, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago; David L. Easterbrook, George & Mary LeCron Foster Curator, Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies Northwestern University; Brian Hosmer, Director, D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, CIC American Indian Studies Consortium, The Newberry Library; Nancy R. John, Assistant University Librarian, University of Illinois at Chicago; and James Nye, Bibliographer for Southern Asia at the Joseph Regenstein Library, University of Chicago.

Members in the News

Former Chair of AAMES, Dr. Ravindra N. Sharma Named ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year 2005

Each year, the Association of College & Research Libraries recognizes an Academic/Research Librarian for his/her outstanding national or international contribution to academic or research librarianship and library development. The award, sponsored by YBP Library Services, carries \$3,000 cash and a plaque.

It is a great honor for the minority Librarians in North America that for the first time in the history of ACRL, the award for the year 2005 has been given to Dr. Ravindra Nath Sharma for his significant contributions to the



Former Chair of AAMES,
Dr. Ravindra N. Sharma

profession of academic librarianship. Dr Sharma is the only librarian of color to achieve this distinction so far, and joins with many previous award winners including Tom Kirk (2004); Ross Atkinson, (2003); Shelley Phipps, (2002), Larry Hardesty (2001), Sharon Hogan (2000), and Hannelore Rader (1999).

Dr. R.N. Sharma is the Director of Library at the West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia, and will receive the award on Monday, June 27, 2005, at 4:30 p.m., at a ceremony and reception during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago. Before joining the West Virginia State University in 1996, Dr. Sharma was Director of the University of Evansville Library, Head Librarian of the Penn State University-Beaver campus, Assistant Director of Public Services & Collections at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and Reference Librarian at Colgate University. Dr Sharma is a professional of high repute and is an active librarian who has won many others awards, grants and honors. Earlier, in 1997, Dr. Sharma received the Humphry/OCLC/Forrest Press Award for his "significant

achievements and contributions to International Librarianship" given the ALA.

Dr. Sharma has published more than 250 research papers, editorials, interviews, conference reports, and reviews in various professional journals of Asia, Europe, and North America. He has authored and edited more than ten books, and his latest book *'Impact of Technology on Library Collections and Services'* is being published by the Scarecrow Press. Since 1984 Dr. Sharma has been the Editor of *Library Times International*, and has also served on the editorial committees of books and reputed journals. Professionally Dr Sharma is actively involved in various national and international conferences, workshops and seminars. Because of his enormous contributions and professional involvements, Dr. Sharma is listed in more than twenty biographical resources including *Directory of American Scholars, Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who in the World, Contemporary Authors, and Outstanding People of the 20th Century*.

Edward A. Warro, the Award Committee Chair said that the committee unanimously chose Dr. Sharma because of his unequalled contributions to the field of international librarianship. Dr Sharma has sustained a distinguished record of writing books and journal articles as well as presentations which have made Americans and others more aware of global issues in librarianship. He has served ALA, ACRL and the International Federation of Library Associations admirably by chairing and serving on many committees dealing with international issues. The committee particularly admired Sharma's work with the United Negro College Fund and USAID to establish a partnership with the National University of Benin in West Africa. "He has produced an outstanding body of research and has also ap-

plied his research in meaningful, multicultural programs such as that in Benin. Dr. Sharma has devoted his life to his work and his research and richly deserves this recognition," said Warro.

Dr. Sharma earned his Bachelor's degree with honors as well as Masters in Arts (History) from the University of Delhi, India. He received his M.L.S. from North Texas State University, and was conferred Ph.D. in Information and Library Studies and Higher Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Since 1982, he has presented 25 papers at various conferences and has served on more than 30 committees of ACRL and ALA. During the year 2003-2004, Dr. Sharma chaired the Asian, African and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) of ACRL, and was president of the Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA) (1993-94). Dr. Sharma was also involved in the ACRL International Relations Committee (1998-2002) and served as chair of the Near East and South Asia Committee, a sub-committee of the International Relations Committee (1996-98). He was a member of the ACRL Research Committee (1989-93), and the Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee (1997-98). He is currently serving a term on the ACRL Standards & Accreditation Committee (2001-05).

At the ALA Annual Conference in Orlando in 2004, Dr. Sharma was instrumental in arranging Kay Rase-roka, President of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) to address the ACRL Asian, African and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) program. This marked the first time that a standing IFLA president spoke at an ALA conference. In 1992, Sharma played a key role in inviting and arranging funding for six academic librarians from Australia, Brazil, England, India, Kenya and

Russia to speak on "Research and Academic Librarians" at the 6th ACRL National Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. That same year, he chaired the American/South Asian Librarians Conference Committee for the Pre-IFLA Conference in New Delhi, India, which was attended by librarians and library educators from seven South Asian countries and a large delegation from the United States. Perseverance, courage and commitment are the chief attributes of this dynamic personality. Among his professional colleagues, Dr. Sharma is very popular for his hard working quality, dedication, instant decision making, imaginative planning, leadership, absolute integrity, oratory and terrific sense of humor. He has been a source of constant encouragement and inspiration to many librarians. Members of AAMES congratulate Dr. Sharma on this achievement and hope that he will continue to guide us.

Congratulations Dr. Sharma!

Dr. Rajwant S. Chilana awarded SIS Fellowship

Dr. Rajwant S. Chilana, Chair Publication Committee, AAMES, and Editor of the AAMES Newsletter, has been honored with a prestigious Fellowship by the Society for Information Science, India (<http://sis-india.netfirms.com>) for his outstanding contributions to the development of Library and Information Science. During last 30 years, Dr. Chilana has served as Librarian and Faculty in University and Public Libraries in Canada, India and United States. He is actively involved in various national and international organizations, and has published five books, 35 research papers and over 25 book reviews. At present he is working as an Associate Professor of Library Administration and South Asian Studies Librarian at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

African Studies

- Africana Librarians Council (ALC) members met at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor from May 6-8, 2004. While the focus of the meeting was on Africa, other presentations were also made, and various projects were discussed.
- The Spring Meeting of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) / Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP) will be held at the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois from May 5-7, 2005.

Asian Studies

- **The Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation (CONSALD).** During the Annual Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, the CONSALD members will meet at the Grand Ballroom D North Hyatt Regency, Chicago on Thursday, March 31, 2005 to discuss several issues relating to South Asian librarianship including British Library's Endangered Archives Program, Khwaja Collection, and South Asia Union Catalogue.
- **Council on East Asian Libraries Association and Asian Studies 2005 Annual Meetings (CEAL):** The annual meetings of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL), the Association for Asian Studies (AAS), and related organizations will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago (<http://chicagoregency.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml/>). The AAS panels and roundtables are scheduled from Thursday, March 31–Sunday, April 3, 2005.
- **The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA)** will have many programs during

the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, June 24-27, 2005. Board Orientation will be conducted from 7:00-9:00 pm on Friday, June 24, while the Board Meeting will be held on Saturday from 7:00-9:00 pm. From 1:30-3:30 pm on Sunday there will be CALA 2005 Program on "Riding the Electronic Rooster: Equal Access Anytime, Anywhere in Your Language!" And the CALA Awards Banquet will be held on Sunday from 7:00-10:00 pm.

Middle Eastern Studies

The annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MELA) is held concurrently with the Middle East Studies Association of North America's annual meeting, usually in November. MELA's annual meeting consists of two parts: a program on one or more designated topics, and a business meeting. All members are welcome to attend all or part of our annual meetings and associated events (such as special workshops) sponsored by MELA.

- The last Annual Meeting of the MELA (Middle East Librarians Association) was held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco from Thursday-Saturday November 18-20, 2004.
- And the Next Meeting will be held at Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC in November 2005.
- Future Meeting in 2006 at Boston

Forthcoming Conferences

- **ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago.** The American Library Association Annual Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois from June 23-29, 2005. The exhibits will be held June 25-28, 2005 in the McCormick Place Convention

Center. <http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/annual/2005a/home.htm>

- **World Library and Information Congress: 71st IFLA General Conference and Council** “*Libraries—A voyage of discovery*” August 14th–18th 2005, Oslo, Norway. <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/index.htm>
- **IFLA Satellite Conference** prior to the General Conference and Council “The Multicultural Library: Staff Competence for Success” will held from 10-12 August 2005 at Stockholm, Sweden. The conference is organized by the IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations in conjunction with the Swedish Library Association, the International Library in Stockholm and the National Council for Cultural Affairs. For more information: <http://www.ifla-stockholm2005.se/>
- **ACRL 46th Annual RBMS Preconference**, “Bridging the Gap: Education and Special Collections” St. Louis, Missouri, June 21-24, 2005 ACRL’s 46th Annual RBMS Pre-conference will explore a crucially important issue in our profession: the rift between the growing variety of educational roles played by special collections librarians — as teachers, advocates, interpreters, impresarios — and the shrinking opportunities for formal training and continuing education available to prepare special collections librarians for these roles. Please check program details at <http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec/rbms/>

Members Contributions

- **Bollywood Comes to Broward** (Contributed by Mou



Participants from the Indian Student Association in the fashion show during “Bollywood Comes to Broward”

Chakraborty Nova Southeastern University Library)

To everybody else, it was probably another pleasant January Saturday afternoon in Ft. Lauderdale. But to the couple hundred fans of Bollywood movies, January 22nd was no ordinary Saturday. Fans of Hindi movies and Indian culture were in for a surprise treat as they walked into the gorgeous Alvin Sherman Library at the Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale. The new 325,000 sq. ft. joint-use facility is Florida’s largest library building and issues public library cards to the residents of Broward County. In the huge atrium of this academic/public library, people wandered around to see the exhibition of Indian arts and handicrafts, and to savor the mouthwatering Indian snacks including Tandoori chicken and Mango drinks. The event, called “**Bollywood Comes to Broward,**” was organized to unveil the Hindi DVD and CD collection at the Alvin Sherman Library. Bollywood or Hindi movies are popular in the rest of the Indian subcontinent, the Middle East, parts of Africa, parts of Southeast

Asia, and among the South Asian diaspora worldwide. It has made waves in Europe and America as well.

Mou Chakraborty, Distance and Instructional Services Librarian, and LeThesha Harris, Audiovisual and Adult Services Librarian, organized and co-hosted the event. The audience, composed of South Asians, the Caribbeans, African Americans and Caucasians interested in the Indian culture, made this fun-filled event a grand success. The event ended with a colorful fashion show with participants from the Indian Students Association, the local Indian community, small children, and even librarians some of whom brought Canadian and African American flavor to this multicultural event. There was also a display of Indian as well as India related books. Although there were long lines at the Henna (mehendi) stations, there were hardly any people at the movie (*Hum Tum* starring Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukherjee). The idea for the exhibit started more than a year ago, when we started buying the DVDs and CDs. The collection now

consists of couple hundred DVDs and CDs—from oldies to current blockbuster hits, for example the Oscar-nominated *Lagaan*, *Devdas*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gam*, *Kal Ho Na Ho*, Indo-US, Indo-British movies, and the list goes on! The collection will expand as we continue adding to it. The CDs range from popular Hindi songs to classical music, ghazals, bhajans, and meditation music. Some folks in the audience were thrilled to learn that the collection also includes a cricket series! Some popular TV shows, like *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Sri Krishna*, *Chanakya* etc. are also part of the collection.

- **Poetess Ho Xuan Huong: The Brilliant Bad Girl of Eighteenth Century Vietnam at the Library of Congress. (Contributed by Binh P. Le, Associate Librarian, Penn State University)**

Last year in December, under the sponsorship of the Library of Congress' John W. Kluge Center, the LC Asian Division, and the LC Asian American Association, John Balaban, accompanied by Ngo Thanh Nhan, a computational linguist at New York University and Lien Huong Fiedler, a Vietnam specialist at the Library of Congress, discussed the recently translated work, *Spring Essence: The Poetry of Ho Xuan Huong*.

To some, this seemed like an "ordinary event" at the Library of Congress. However, for many Vietnamese, it was indeed a noteworthy literary event, for a couple of reasons. To begin with, Ho Xuan Huong (1775-1820) was no ordinary poet. In fact, Ho Xuan Huong, as *Utme Reader* has fittingly noted, "was, simply, one of the most remarkable poets ever lived." Furthermore, what distinguishes Ho Xuan Huong from many other Vietnamese poets is that she was perhaps not only one the first Vietnamese but also

one of the world's pioneering literary feminists. Through her work, she daringly ridiculed Vietnam's most revered but archaic political, religious, and social institutions, including the Buddhist church. Above all, practically all of her poems, written in classic literary style, were loaded with sexual insinuations. In this regard, Ho Xuan Huong, in the words of Francis Fitzgerald, is the "brilliant bad girl of eighteenth century Vietnam, throwing her erotically-charged darts into the sexual hypocrisy of all ages and cultures."

It is also noteworthy that *Spring Essence: The Poetry of Ho Xuan Huong* is printed in three scripts: English, *quoc-ngu* (modern Vietnamese), and the original "Nom." "Nom" is the ancient "ideographic vernacular script" of the Vietnamese language which was used in Vietnam from the 10th to the early 20th century. In fact, much of Vietnam's written history (literature, philosophy, history, law, medicine, religion, etc.) was printed or hand-written in "Nom." Unfortunately, today only a tiny number of Vietnamese can read "Nom." This work is the first reproduction of a book written in "Nom" by computer using Unicode. Now, the "Nom" texts can be digitized and translated into *quoc ngu* as well other foreign languages. It is hoped that it will not be long when the texts of nearly 1,000 years of Vietnamese civilization will be accessible!

- **Compilation of an 'International Bibliography of Sikh Studies' (Dr. Rajwant Chilana, Associate Professor of Library Administration and South Asian Librarian, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)**

Sikhism is one of the youngest religions of South Asia, and its followers, Sikhs, are renowned as fierce and proud warriors. Because of their dedication, hard-work and

entrepreneurship, a number of Sikh have occupied coveted positions like President, Prime Minister, Home Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Chief Ministers, Governors, Mayors, Chief of the Army, High Commissioners, Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies not only in India but also in other countries.

Due to their growing popularity, people from around the world want to learn more about their culture, history, politics, and religion. The growing awareness has resulted in an avalanche of literature on Sikh studies. For the bibliographical control of the voluminous literature on Sikhism, some efforts have been made in the past, but most of these works contained materials published up to 1980s and did not have international coverage. The present work is a first attempt of its kind to bring together at one place all books, composite works, journal articles, conference proceedings, theses, dissertations, project reports, and electronic resources produced globally until June 2004.

It is a monumental work of its kind ever ventured by a professional on such a vast scale that is being published by the Springer. This bibliography includes over 11,000 items of literature produced in English, and have been alphabetically listed by authors under twenty-eight chapters and sub-headings. In the first chapter on 'Printed & Electronic Resources', an annotated survey has been presented of all major reference documents published on Sikhism and a select listing of electronic and web based resources has been added. For the convenience of its easy use and retrieving information promptly, author and subject indexes have been appended to this work. This resource will also be accessible online as a searchable database (<http://www.springeronline.com>)

AAMES Member Go Global

AAMES is looking for members to share their experiences working or volunteering in libraries around the world. Your story, and picture if you're willing, will be posted on the AAMES homepage. We hope to highlight one AAMES member per month. If interested please send your story via email to Cindi Tysick at cat2@buffalo.edu along with a photo (if you like). Please keep your story brief under 1000 words.

Get Involved with AAMES!

Serving on a committee is a great way to get valuable professional experience and improve your knowledge of issues and projects important to our section. Fortunately, volunteering to serve on a committee has never been easier for AAMES members. You can now use our online form from the comfort of your home or office-
<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/about-acrl/acrlsections/aames/aamescommittee.htm>

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Be sure to join AAMES when you renew your Membership or initially join. The Editorial Committee Consists of Dr. Rajwant Chilana, Editor, Anjana Bhatt, Cynthia Tysick, Emilie Ngo-Nguidjol, and Jian Tian.

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