

Vol. X No. 2

December 1965

Journal of  
**THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN**



*Published by* **THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN**  
**Ramna, Dacca-2 EAST PAKISTAN**

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN, DACCA

**Report of the General Secretary**

The last Annual General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Pakistan was held on Sunday, September 27, 1964 in the grounds of the Society's office building under a marquee. The President of the Society Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, presided. Mr. Abdul Monem Khan, Governor of East Pakistan and patron of our Society, was unable to be present.

The function opened as usual with a recitation from the Holy Quran. Dr. Shahidullah, the outgoing president, emphasized in his address the need for greater research facilities in the country. He further said that the study of classical languages deserved to be encouraged. He also pointed out that much money was wasted at present on overseas scholarships for work on subjects which could be studied conveniently at home.

The incoming president Dr. Enamul Haq said that organisations like the Asiatic Society of Pakistan needed to be fostered with care. He appealed to the public and Government for help in order that the Society might pursue its objects.

The General Secretary announced an amendment to the constitution of the Society under which educational Institutions would be admitted, that is, Rs 20.00, as Institutional members. The amendment which had been approved by the members under section 52 of the constitution enables an Institution to join the Society by paying the same admission fee as ordinary members, but requires it to pay an annual subscription of Rs. 25.00. Institutional members would have the right to be represented at Ordi-

Among other books which have been submitted to the Society for consideration are :

- (1) The Electoral System of Pakistan  
An Analysis of the problems of Minority Representation  
by Dr. Mahfuzul Haq
- (2) Birds of East Pakistan  
by Mr. Kazi Zakir Husain
- (3) A Systematic Ornithological List  
by Mr. Harun-er-Rashid
- (4) Early History of Printing and Publication in Bengal  
by Mr. M. S. Khan
- (5) References to Brahmin Doctrine in the Pali Canon  
by Mr. P. R. Barua
- (6) Everyday Life in the Pali Empire with Special reference  
to Material Remains by Mrs. Shahanara Husain

Mr. H. Rashid has also offered to write a new book on on The Chittagang Hill Tracts.

During the year under review the Asiatic Society of Pakistan broke new ground by sponsoring an expedition to the Chittagong Hill Tracts for a survey of the flora and fauna of the area. The expedition was led by Mr. Kazi Zakir Husain of the Department of Zoology, Dacca University and consisted of five other members including Dr. Salar Khan of the Department of Botany and Dr. Fazlul Haq of the Department of Geology. We received in this matter much useful advice from Dr. Majid Ahmad, Professor & Head of the Department of Botany, Dacca University and Dr. Nafis Ahmad, Professor & Head of the Department of Geography, Dacca University. The expedition also received generous assistance from Mr. Harun-er-Rashid, C. S. P., and the Forest Department of the Government of East Pakistan, besides much practical help from the local district officials.

Mr. Zakir Husain and his party spent two weeks in the Hill Tracts and were able to bring back specimens of two

hundred birds and over two hundred types of plants. Samples were also collected of different varieties of soil and rock, which were all put on show at an exhibition organised after the expedition's return to Dacca. The expedition also succeeded in collecting valuable information about the devastation caused to the reserved forest in the Rinkhyang Valley by the inroads of displaced persons from the Rangamati area. They reported that certain types of wild life such as the elephant and the rhinoceros had already become extinct in the area which the expedition visited.

A detailed scientific report on the expedition is now being prepared and will be published in a special issue of our Journal.

The expedition was a venture in a new direction and aroused a great deal of public interest. The Society hopes that it would be able to sponsor further expeditions of this kind in future.

The monthly meetings of the Society were held as usual and appendix B gives the list of papers read at these meetings.

Appendix E provides a complete list of books purchased by us during 1964-65. These include photostat copies of two important manuscripts : ( a ) Fathiyya Ibriyya ; and ( b ) Naat-e-Muhammadi by Ziauddin Barni.

During the year under review the Society built a warehouse to house its publications. This will accommodate about twenty five thousand books and greatly ease the pressure on our present office. Lack of funds and other difficulties prevented us from proceeding with the construction of a regular building as was proposed in our report last year. We have not however abandoned the idea, and we trust we shall receive a grant from the East Pakistan Government to enable the Society to realise this object.