

Kalimpong,

21st July, 1953.

Dear Mr. Sen,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th instant.

It is most gratifying that the cultural work of the Samskriti is growing and that you are going to stage a play at the Raj Bhavana in Calcutta and Delhi.

The work of the Kalimpong Branch is continuing. The Tibetan classes are doing well, though the number of students has decreased. Two attend more or less regularly, and another student plans to join the class by the end of July. The Chinese class has not restarted. Mr. Shen Fu-min had some personal differences with Mr. Chakravarti in whose house we used to meet, and does not want to continue the work or take part in the Association's activities. Mr. Mukerji and myself have tried hard to persuade him, and have asked Mr. Liang, our Vice-President, to help us to find another teacher. He did try to help us but all available teachers refused. I then contacted Mrs. Sishh, whom you know. She first said, she might do it, but then wrote me that her English was poor and she had too much work to do at home. The only solution left to us, is to engage a Tibetan teacher who knows Chinese well. Of course it is not the same thing, but better than nothing. There are still about six students wishing to study Chinese and they constantly ask me about the classes.

Our President Mr. M. C. Pradhan has been appointed Chief Magistrate of the Sikkim Government and is at present in Gangtok. I have no objections to include Mr. Indra as suggested by you. Perhaps he could be made Joint Secretary with Mr. Mukerji. Please write to him and let me know his reaction. On hearing from you we shall contact Mr. Pradhan in Gangtok and arrange for a meeting of the Committee of the Local Branch. I understand Mr. Mukerji has written to you already..

Please remember me to Sm. Sujata Ray, Professor Bhattacharya and to my old friend Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee (we could not have a better man !).

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Kalimpong,
 22nd Sept. 1953

Dear Mr. Sen,

I have tried hard to find a suitable Tibetan teacher for your Tibetan class about which you wrote in your letter of the 12th ult. Unfortunately it is very difficult to find a teacher with a knowledge of English or Hindi. Most of those who know English or Hindi, have a very scant knowledge of their native tongue, and those who are well-versed in Tibetan usually are ignorant of English or Hindi. A Tibetan friend of mine who has applied for a position in Calcutta, tells me that if he gets the job, he will be willing to help you out. None of them are ready to come to Calcutta on a nominal salary.

I was expecting your answer to my letter of July 21st about our Chinese class. Your advice in this matter will be helpful. We are trying to restart it with a Tibetan teacher who knows Chinese exceedingly well, and Mr. Mukherjee, our Secretary, is trying to settle with him the days and hours. The Tibetan class shows signs of growing. At present there are four students attending it, including one graduate from Calcutta University.

It was most gratifying to read

about the function at the Raj Bhavan.
It is a very good beginning and in the
right direction. After all cultural
links should always be preeminent and
transcend all other links

Are you coming to Kalimpong this
autumn? Mr. Pradhan was here for a day
and we had a long discussion about the
local branch. Unfortunately he is kept
very busy at Gantok.

Please remember me to Sri. Sujata Ray
and Professor Bhattacharya.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

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3

Kalinpong,

6th Oct. 1953

Dear Mr. Sen,

Many thanks for your letter of the 18th ult. enclosing the synopsis of the function held at Raj Bhavan. In your letter you mention that you had sent me a booklet about the Association. I am afraid it went astray. I have seen a copy with Mr. Mukherjee. If available, please send another copy.

Meanwhile you must have received my letter of the 22nd ult. The position is still the same and that letter of mine answers most of your questions. I am very glad to hear that there is a possibility of your coming to Kalinpong and that Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee is also planning a visit. This is good news.

Please remember me to Sm. Sujata Ray and Professor Bhattacharya.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kalimpong. 9

16th November, 1953

Dear Mr. Sen,

Thank you for your letter of the 30th October received here on the 5th November.

Please find enclosed the Tibetan translation of the proceedings of the inaugural meeting of the Bhota-Bharata Sanskriti. My friend the Threnthong Rinpoche was kind enough to go over the translation.

I have not forgotten about a Tibetan teacher for your Tibetan class. It is difficult, almost impossible, to find one with a good knowledge of English. A young Mongol lama who has a good knowledge of the colloquial and literary Tibetan and knows spoken Chinese, was interested in your school. He, of course, would like to know the salary you are prepared to pay him and also particulars about room & board. He can read a little English, and has started Sanskrit with me.

Mr. Pradhan's address is: S.J. Moti Chand Pradhan, Chief Magistrate, Gantok, Sikkim.

I am sure your function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, has been a success. Please give me details.

We still hope to see you in Kalimpong. We have restarted our Chinese class with some five students attending it. The present teacher is Mr. Jobsang Phuntsho, a Tibetan gentleman with a good knowledge of Chinese.

Please remember me to Professor Bhattacharya and my friend Professor Sumati Kumar Chatterji.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Kalimpong,

12th Dec. 1953

Dear Mr. Sen,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 25th ult. I was away in Delhi for about ten days, and hence was unable to reply to it.

The Mengol lama about whom I wrote you, is, I think, willing to come over at a salary of Rs.200-250/- per month. He would like, however, to know the amount of rent he will have to pay and the number of hours per week he will be expected to work. Please let me know.

I am glad to the Delhi function was a success. I heard about it in Delhi.

Please write about your proposed visit to Kalimpong during the Christmas recess to Shri M.C.Pradhan and Shri Indra. They know better than me the local scene and facilities.

The Chinese and Tibetan classes are continuing, though the number of students in the Tibetan class has decreased.

I met Dr.Suniti Kumar Chatterji while in Calcutta.

Please remember me to Prof.Bhattacharya.

Yours sincerely,

Kalimpong,

2nd February, 1954

Dear Mr. Sen,

Thank you for your letter of the 29th ult.

Mr. Mukherjee was to send you the proceedings of our two meetings. I hope, he did it. He was away from Kalimpong, and I did not see him after his return. He told me by phone that he had written to you.

In your letter you mention some enclosed correspondence. This was not found in the envelope.

The Mongol lama has gone to the International Academy of Indian Culture, Nagpur, to teach Tibetan and Mongol, and learn Sanskrit.

Please thank Dr. Bose for her note and booklet. I shall try to interest people locally but just now it is a dead season and many of the residents are away from Kalimpong.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Kalimpong.

28th February, 1954

Dear Mr. Sen,

Thank you for your letter of the 14th inst., as well as for the postal M.O. for Rs.30/- which amount was duly handed over to Dr. Chatterji, our Treasurer.

To-day our Branch held its monthly meeting and it was resolved to continue the language classes, temporarily paying the teachers Rs.30/- per month, Rs.60/- in all, Rs.30/- to be supplied by the Calcutta Association, and the balance to be provided for by the local branch. I am glad to be able to tell you that Mr. Shen Fu-min has agreed to take over the Chinese class. We have also decided to print on a rotator a Chinese text-book to be written by Mr. Shen.

The Tibetan teacher, Lama Chimed Rigdzin is going to Visva-Bharati, and we have asked Shri Champa Sangta to take charge of the Tibetan class.

The Proceedings of the Meeting will be sent to you by Mrs King, the Secretary.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shri Satiranjana Sen, M.A.,
China-Bharata Samskriti,
Thakurpukur, P.O. Joka,
Calcutta, 27.

Crookety,
Kalimpong.

30th April, 1954.

Dear Mr. Sen,

This is to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your postal M.O. for Rs 30/- for the month of March, 1954, and of your letter of the 6th instant. Please let us have the amount for the month April as soon as possible. The Branch has to pay Rs 60/- to the previous Tibetan teacher for the month of January-February, 1954, and the salaries of the Tibetan and Chinese teachers.

The Chinese class has at present one student, and the Tibetan class three.

In view of the difficult financial situation, please send us some printed receipt forms to enable us to collect some funds locally. Mr. Indra, the present Acting Secretary of the Branch, tells me that he had spoken to you about it.

The Tibetan rendering saṃskṛti. does not suggested by me was a better rendering. means manners & customs.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

13

Kalimpong,

1st August, 1954.

Dear Mr. Sen,

Many thanks for your letter of the 26th ult.

Yes, the Receipt Book has been duly received and handed over to our Treasurer, Dr. Chatterji. Also the donation (Rs. 30/-) for the month of June which was acknowledged by me on its receipt.

The activities of the Association were on a reduced scale during the months of June and July. The Branch Secretary, Sri Basanta Indra, sprained his ankle and so was not available. He is now in Calcutta and is not expected back before the 14th instant. I presume you know his address in Calcutta. In June I was ill for about two weeks and was unable to attend classes. Mr. Pradhan, our President, is in Gangtek and I have not seen him for a long time.

Tibetan class: This class continues under the new teacher Champa Sangta. Attendance: one or two students, one of the students is quite regular in his attendance.

Chinese Class: started with one student but was then discontinued. Now we have received several inquiries about the class but the teacher, Mr. Shen Fu-min, is for the present very busy with his school. I think he will be able to give us some time after a fortnight.

With kind regards to Professor Bhattacharya and Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji, and yourself,

Yours sincerely,

110
Creekety,

24th Sept. 1954.

Dear Mr. Sen,

On receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, I have at once asked our Branch Secretary, Mr. Indra, to prepare the required statement. This he promised to do, and I shall forward it to you on receipt.

The past summer months were a very quiet period in the life of the Branch. Our President, Mr. M. C. Pradhan, is in Gangtok and I have not seen him. The Secretary was away in Calcutta where you had seen him. Our language classes continue as before. The Tibetan class meets regularly twice a week with two students. Unfortunately we had to discontinue our Chinese class due to certain events in the local Chinese school. Mr. Shen Fu-min left the school and his present plans are very indefinite. We could restart the class with three students but then the question of raising funds has not been solved. Your last remittance was received

11
Creeky,
Kalimpeng.

1st November, 1954

Shri Satiranjana Sen, M.A.,
China-Bharata Samskriti,
P.O. Joka, Calcutta, 27.

Dear Mr. Sen,

Many thanks for your letters of the 19th and 27th ult, the last letter enclosing the sum of Rs 120/- in 12 postal orders representing the Samskriti's grant to the Kalimpeng Branch for the months of July to October, 1954.

Our President, Shri M.C. Pradhan, was here and we have discussed the present position of the Branch. Unfortunately the secretary, Mr. Indra, is away in Calcutta and we could not arrange a meeting of the Committee.

It is very difficult to get a set of the Tibetan Tripitaka. Transport charges and the cost of paper are prohibitive. The Maha-Bodhi Society in Calcutta have a Kangyur (Lhasa edition) and you could use, I presume, their copy. As to the other books, I suggest you should first get the necessary grammars and dictionaries. You will find a list in Professor Bhattacharya's *Bhāṭa-prakāśa*. Since the publication of the book *Grammars of the Tibetan Language in French* by Bacot and Lalou were published in Paris, but then they will be of little use in Calcutta. My own *Handbook of Tibetan* is being published by the Baptist Mission Press in Calcutta.

I think it is quite impossible to find a suitable Chinese teacher in Kalimpeng. Mr. Shen Fu-min has left the local Chinese school and, I am told, is going to Calcutta. Perhaps you could contact him there through

400

the Consulate.

Please remember me to Dr.S.K.Chatterji, Prof.
Bhattacharya, Sm.Sujata Ray and Dr.Maitreyee Bose.

With best wishes,

yours very sincerely,

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Crookety,
Kalimpong.

28th July, 1955.

Dear Mr. Sen,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th instant. Please find enclosed the Statement of Account of the Kalimpong Branch. As stated in the Statement the sum of Rs. 210/- is due to the Tibetan teacher for the months of December, 1954 - June, 1955. The sum of Rs 63/- now with the Treasurer will be used towards payment of the teacher's salary, but the balance of Rs. 147/- will have to be paid by the parent Association in Calcutta. At present it is impossible to collect the amount locally. In view of the financial situation of the Branch, we have decided to suspend the Languages classes for the present. We would be grateful if you would kindly remit the necessary sum by postal Money Order, as we are anxious to pay off the teacher. The Branch's Secretary, Shri B.K. Goswami, resigned on the 29th of June, and we shall have to find a new secretary.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(G. Roerich)

13
Creekety,
Kalimpong.

27th Aug. 1955.

The Secretary,
China-Bharata Samskriti,
P.O. JOKA,
Calcutta, 27.

Dear Mr. Sen,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 9th August enclosing a cheque for Rs. 147/-.

We cashed the cheque at Messrs Ratiram Banshilall, Kalimpong who forwarded it to Calcutta. To-day they received a letter from the Bank returning the cheque. I am enclosing the cheque. Please issue another cheque to the name of Messrs Ratiram Banshilall, Kalimpong, or send the amount by Postal Money Order to my name. Please treat the matter as very urgent. We have paid the Tibetan teacher up-to July 1st, 1955. The classes are suspended for the time being. We are trying to find another Secretary for the Branch.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(G. Reerich)

147
Kalinpong,

21st Sept. 1955

Dear Mr. Sen,

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th instant enclosing the Postal Money Certificates value Rs. 147/-. The amount was duly paid to the Tibetan teacher.

I do not see why we should not continue our Language Classes. The difficulty is to get a sufficient number of regular students. For the present our main difficulty is the resignation of our Secretary, Mr. Goswami. Without a Secretary it is very difficult to run the classes and the other activities of the branch. I hope Mr. M. C. Pradhan will be in Kalinpong during the Puja vacation and we shall have the opportunity to review the work of the branch and possibilities for the future.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Shri Satiranjana Sen, M.A.,
Secretary,
China-Bharata Sanskriti,
Calcutta.