

HAUT COMMISSARIAT DE FRANCE  
EN INDOCHINE

COMMISSARIAT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE AU TONKIN

CABINET MÉDICAL FRANÇAIS  
POUR LA ZONE MARITIME DE HAIPHONG

UNION FRANÇAISE

LIBERTÉ — ÉGALITÉ — FRATERNITÉ

Haïphong 26 April 52

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No .....

To Director of  
Urusvati himâlayan research Institute  
Naggar-Kulu, Punjab, India.

Dear Sir

I am a french medical doctor, but for about twenty years, I have devoted most of my activities to study and practice of Buddhism, especially tibetan lamaism, and to tibetan studies.

Outside of my medical degrees, I have performed philosophical and oriental studies. I have studied sanskrit and pâli with MM. Renou and Filiozat, tibetan with M. Bacot et Mss. Lalou, buddhism with MM. Przyluski and Demiéville, archeology with MM. Grousset, Sales and Miss Auboyer. I am "Licencié es-lettres" for philosophy and history of religions, "Diplômé de la Section des Sciences historiques et philologiques de l'École pratique des Hautes-Etudes" for buddhist philology, "Diplômé de l'École du Louvre" for arts and archeology of India and Central Asia. My thesis for Ecole des Hautes-Etudes was an important monography of Śāriputra, the big disciple of Buddha; I have especially studied his influence in the prime history of Buddhism and the formation of abhidharma. This monography shall be published this year in "Bulletin de l'École Française d'Extrême orient".

For practical researches, I have performed a first journey of one year, in 1939-40, in India, Ceylon and Cambodia. In Oct. 45, I returned to Cambodia for one another year, in order to practice medicine and to study theravâda buddhism. In Dec. 46, I received an order of mission from the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, for Buddhist and linguistic studies in China and Tibet. This mission lasted 30 months, from Dec. 46 to June 49. I travelled more than one year in Eastern Tibet (Sik'ang and Chinghai) and I lived many months in monasteries of Dégé-gompa, Dzogchen-gompa and Babung-gompa. From Jyekundo, after an attempt to reach Lhasa, I crossed Chinghai province to reach Koukou-nor, and through inner mongolia, to Peiping, where I stayed some months in chinese buddhist monasteries. From Tientsin, I went to Shanghai, and by boat, on Yangtse-river to Nanking, Chungking and Chengtu. After a new journey to Kangting and Dégé, I crossed south-China by Kweyang, Liuchow, Wuchow, Canton and Hong-Kong.

During this trip, I have collected a big collection of tibetan books and manuscripts, thang-ka, bronzes, etc. Also numerous informations about tibetan buddhism and tibetan dialects of Sik'ang that I have especially studied. I have collected tibetan tales in this dialect and many informations on phonetics, grammar and dialectal forms. I am now preparing a monography on Sik'ang dialect, that has never been seriously studied. I hope to do something similar to the very good monography of Mr. Heorges de Roerich about tibetan dialect of Lahul. It is a very valuable work, and I have made a frequent use of it for linguistic comparisons. I have published many papers on my travels, on Buddhism, lamaism and tibetan history, in different orientalist magazines, especially France-Asie. A book



about my journey in Tibet and China is finished and is in hands of editors.

From my return from China, in June 49, to this day, I stayed in Indochina, in civil medical services. Now my contract is finished and I shall leave this country in June. After few months in France, I shall return to India because I have got a new scientific mission from École française d'Extrême-Orient. My purpose is to go on with my studies in Tibetan Buddhism and dialect and for this work, I manage to make a long stay in Indian provinces, close to Tibetan border, as Sikkim; Lahul or Ladakh.

I have been very interested by your publications of Urusvati Himalayan researches Institute, and I am very anxious to know if your head-quarter of Nagar-Kulis always existent and working? If so, it should certainly be a very good place for me to keep on my studies. As you have also in Nagar an institute for medical research, I could help you in this way.

Could you be so kind to tell me if your center is always living, if it contains good oriental library, if there are some American or European scholars, and if it should be possible for me to live and to work there for some months? I should be agreeable for me to meet there some occidental colleague; but I am accustomed enough to Asiatic life to live alone with Indian or Tibetan people.

Are there some Lamaist monasteries in the neighbourhood?

If I like, I can give you all references you can want about myself: from M. Gusset, Bacot, Filliozat, Renou, R. Stein, Demiéville, Swami Siddheswarananda, Mr David-Neel, in France; Mrs Lizelle Reymond in Almora (India); M. Valisinha Mahabodhi Soc., Calcutta; Prof. Malalasekera (World Fellowship of Buddhist Colombo), who all know me very well.

I have to join India in next September, and it should be a very good help for my studies, if you could allow me to live and to work in your institute of Nagar, I am waiting for your good answer, and I send you in advance, my sincere thanks and my best regards.

Yours sincerely

*Comig*

Docteur André MIGOT

Médecin-chef des Services sanitaires et médicaux français, HAIPHONG

P.S. In Murray's guide-book, I see that the way from Delhi to Nagar is very long so there is no air-line; and the delay for delivering correspondence is also very long.

As you can reach Haiphong after my departure, the best is to send your letter to my address in France:

Docteur André MIGOT, C/O Madame Jeanne PARIS

"La Palmeraie" Avenue des Nations-Unies

- HYÈRES - (Var) France.

I send this letter to New-York because I don't know if there is somebody in Nagar.

Please, send to address your answer by air-mail registered, because many ordinary letters are lost.

And excuse my dreadful English: I am so sorry....



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Chailly-en-Bière, le 31 décembre 1959

Cher Monsieur

Mon ami Rolf Stein que j'ai vu il y a quelques jours vient de me donner votre adresse. Je vous avais envoyé, il y a déjà assez longtemps, un tirage à part de mon travail sur les dialectes tibétains du Si-k'ang, mais à une adresse incertaine, de sorte que je ne sais si vous l'avez reçu. Pour plus de sûreté, je vous en adresse un nouvel exemplaire, auquel je joins quelques autres publications qui vous intéresseront peut-être. Le Bouddha n'a pas la prétention d'être un ouvrage d'érudition, mais une simple mise au point pour le grand public cultivé. J'aimerais savoir ce que vous pensez en particulier de la Conclusion et du parallèle (approximatif) bouddhisme-marxisme?

J'espère aller l'été prochain en URSS pour un assez long séjour, pour y faire un film 16 mm. documentaire destiné à "Connaissance du Monde" comme mon précédent sur la Chine populaire que je présente en ce moment en France et en Belgique. Je serais très heureux à cette occasion de faire votre connaissance.

Dans cet espoir, je vous envoie, cher Monsieur, mes sentiments les meilleurs.

*Comme*

Docteur André MIGOT

CHAILLY-EN-BIERE (Seine et Marne) France