

Epics Along the Silk Roads

Appendix

This international research program, headed by Dr. Nicole Revel, Director of Research CNRS (Paris), as part of the larger project "*Integral Study of the Silk Roads: Road of Dialogues*," was created in 1990 for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and analyzing the oral and semi-literary epic traditions, in order to safeguard this intangible Heritage of Mankind.

Workshops sponsored by UNESCO

2-8 June 1993: *The Oral Epic Project*, directed by Professor Lauri Honko¹ at the University of Turku and the Academy of Finland, organized the first workshop around the theme "*Mental Text, Oral Performance and Written Codification*," in Turku, Finland.

2-3 July 1993: Professor Walther Heissig,² with the Academy of Sciences in Bonn, organized a second workshop on the theme "*Ethnography and Oral Traditions*."

18-19 January 1996: Dr. S. Pitiphat and the Thai Khadi Research Institute of Thammasat University convened an international conference in Bangkok, with researchers from Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, and the Western world, on the theme: "*The Literary, Historical and Cultural Aspects of Thao Hung Thao Cheuang*."

3-7 February 1997: Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan, Professor B. N. Saraswati, and Dr. Nicole Revel invited researchers from India, Nepal, Assam, Sri Lanka, Europe, and America to participate in an international workshop at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi, on the theme "*Katha Vachana Aur Katha Vachak: Exploring India's Chanted Narratives*."

Other conferences organized around the world by various academic institutions

22-23 April 1994: *Epics and the Contemporary World*, a conference held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was organized by James Bailey, Margaret Beissinger, A. N. Doane, Denis Feeney, Jany Tylus, and Susanne Wofford.

6-12 January 1995: The Eleventh Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR), was held at Mysore by E. Annamalai and Jawaharlal Handoo, on the theme "*Folk Narrative in the Changing World.*"

19-23 November 1995: Professors Rüdiger Schott and Walther Heissig convened researchers from all of Europe and America to address the theme "*The Importance of the Oral Traditions Today: Preservation, Publication, Indexing.*"

10-15 June 1996: A workshop on "*Epics in Borneo and Oral Traditions,*" organized by Clifford Sather and Jayl Langub, was held on the occasion of the fourth meeting of the Borneo Research Council in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

27-29 June 1996: A conference of Folklore Fellows in Oral Epics, organized by Lauri Honko around the theme of "*Textualisation of Oral Epics,*" was held in Turku.

7-9 September 1997: a workshop bringing together researchers from Europe, America, Central Asia, and the Near East was organized by Professor Karl Reichl in Bonn, on the theme of "*Epics: Performance and Music.*"

Ongoing training in research

Since 1989, the Folklore Fellows Summer School, instigated by Lauri Honko, has brought together approximately thirty researchers at a biennial international summer school offering training in "*The Study of Folklore and Traditional Culture*" at the University of Turku and Helsinki.

Since 1991, a weekly or monthly seminar on oral, semi-literary, and literary epics, led by Nicole Revel and Catherine Servan-Schreiber, has been held at the Centre de Recherche sur l'Oralité (CRO) at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) in Paris. The seminar has brought together researchers of various nationalities, universities, and teaching and research institutions in France (CNRS, EHESS, EPHE sections 4 and 5, EFEO, INALCO). To this day, 102 seminars have taken place.

Since 1993, four annual research grants have been awarded by the French Government for the collection and preservation – in three-dimensional archives (audio, visual, and computerized texts and translations) – of oral epics among the national cultural communities of the Philippine archipelago. This bilateral Franco-Philippine program, with the support of the UNESCO National Philippine Commission in Social Sciences, was organized by Nicole Revel in collaboration with the Ateneo de Manila University.

Beginning in 1994, under the leadership of Professor Walther Heissig, the *International Sound Archives for Oral Traditions* were created at the Academy of Sciences of Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf, under the auspices of UNESCO. The Audiovisual Department of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BnF) and CNRS Audiovisuel, Meudon, are contributing to this effort.

Notes

1. See L. Honko, ed., *Epics along the Silk Roads* (Columbus, 1996).
2. See "Si Liyang," *Varianten und Motiv-Transformationen eines mongolischen Spielmannsliedes* (Wiesbaden, 1996).