

Abstract of the articles published in
Aitihya-The Heritage
Vol. X, Issue - 2, 2019

English Section

A UNIQUE SILVER COIN OF ŚIVA SIMHA IN THE BORPATHAR HOARD

S. K. Bose

Institute of Northeast India Studies, BF-70, Sector I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata, Pin-700064.

&

Nirupam Khanikar

Borkola, Gargaon, Sivasagar - 785685

***ABSTRACT :** Recently a few hoards were surfaced in upper Assam containing a number of silver coins of medieval period. These finds are very important especially when we know these may help us to fill in historical, political as well as economic information of the contemporary period. In the Borpathar Hoard a coin of Queen Pramatheśwarī and Śiva Simha in Persian script along with a number of Mughal, Ahom and Indo-French Rupee in the name of Ahmad Shah Bahadur were found. The external coins and Ahom coin in Persian script have given us an opportunity to analyse the point – whether the presence of such coins indicate existence of regular trade between the Ahoms and the people of external region. This aspect is discussed in this paper.*

***Keywords :** Ahom Coin, Hoard, Indo-French Rupee, Pramatheśwarī,*

METAPHOR OF 'OIL AND WATER' : DIETARY PRACTICES AND COMMUNAL MOBILIZATION IN COLONIAL EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM

Binayak Dutta

Dept. of History, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong - 793 022, Meghalaya

ABSTRACT : *While this paper seeks to join a large gamut of studies that have already taken place on dietary practices and politics in India, it tries to make a departure from the others by interrogating the nature of politics in northeast India during the 'colonial period'. It also seeks to argue that the politics over dietary practices, its use in politics and the way food came to be perceived in the construction of communal politics is much more complex than the predominant obsession with the slaughter of kine or the consumption of beef. While the 'cow' does have a prominent place in the construction of communal politics in this region as well, other items within the diet also receive attention as 'tools' in communal political mobilization. The usage of the term 'Assam' in this study is rather fluid, considering the period of study and the nature of social and political interaction between Brahmaputra, Barak and Surma vallies on the one hand and its neighboring lands on the other. Therefore, though this study intends to interrogate politics in the region now forming north east India, references about politics in Eastern Bengal have to be made in this paper to provide coherence to the narrative. This is evident from anecdotes of community relationship and mobilization between 1920s and 1947. Drawing on these anecdotes and archival sources, this study of politics is centered around popular community notions about purity and pollution on the one hand and diet and political mobilization on the other. The purpose of this exercise is to extend the study of food beyond ethnographic discourse and appreciate the importance of 'food' as a symbol and tool in political mobilization. This essay is about events, memories and rhetoric which come together to weave a complex picture of politics and conflict in this region between 1920s and 1940s where food practices acquire metaphorical dimensions.*

Keywords : *communalism, diet, Hindu, Muslim, riots, cow, pork, turtle mobilization, referendum.*

BAUL AND JARI POET-SINGERS OF BENGAL AND THEIR RESPONSE TO HEGEMONIC ORTHODOXY AND SOCIAL HIERARCHY

Amit Dey

Department of History, Calcutta University, Kolkata - 700 073

***ABSTRACT** : The present paper is an attempt to study the folk songs Jari and Baul which are of grave significance and attention as far as the history of the early nineteenth and twentieth century Bengal countryside is concerned. The paper would deal with the fact of how both the traditional practices of the Zari and Baul were loaded with economic, social, philosophical, religious as well as political significance and thus played an important role against colonial invasion.*

Keywords : *Baul, Hegemony, Jari, Orthodoxy, Social hierarchy*

PRACTICING DEEP ECOLOGY AND THE PURSUIT FOR DEVELOPMENT : READING MAHATMA GANDHI'S 'HIND SWARAJ' AS A MAJOR DISCOURSE ON INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT WITH DEEP ECOLOGY

Bedika Bhattacharjee

Department of English, Gauhati University, Guwahati - 781 014, Assam

***ABSTRACT :** The concept of development ensured by the application of science and technology cannot be accepted only in terms of money economy and progress given the present degradation of the environment. It is necessary to understand development as inclusive of both the human and the non-human world. Deep ecology, as an environmental philosophy is characterized by the preservation of wildness and wilderness, by an adherence to religion and spirituality. Considering such points the present paper attempts to study Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and thoughts as expressed in Hind Swaraj and several of his lectures and letters as a platform in which a kind of synthesis between the concept of development and the philosophy of deep ecology, a concept which largely owes to Gandhian ethics, can be necessarily felt. The paper attempts to study how the Gandhian perspective of development is not ensured by excessive exploitation of nature or the non-human world. Rather a kind of synthesis or integration between deep ecology and development has been endeavoured. The paper would thus effort to establish the point that the pursuit for development devoid of the philosophy of deep ecology would be detrimental to the civilization, to the planet earth. Such a synthesis ensures an over-all development that is conducive for the human as well as the non-human world.*

***Keywords :** Deep ecology, Development, Ecological balance, Hind swaraj, Holistic, Human development, Spirituality, Spiritual development*

FENCING THE 'COMMONS' : BATTLE FOR THE RIGHT TO WATER REVISITED THROUGH THE LENS OF "WATER COMMONS" AND 'WATER JUSTICE'

Suparna Bhattacharjee

Dept. of Political Science, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong - 793 022, Meghalaya

***ABSTRACT :** The paper looks at the debate over the issue of `Commons' vs Commodity at the back drop of scarcity of water worldwide and the entry of private actors in the field of water supply. Water is used for variety of purposes—irrigation, electricity generation sanitation, industrial usage and sharing of water may assume local, inter-state, intra-state, (trans-boundary sharing) dimension. The scope of this paper however is limited to the area potable water and primarily deal with the conceptual understanding, the issues and challenges related to water `Commons'.*

***Keywords :** Commons, Commodity, Right to water, Scarcity of water, Water Justice*

বাংলা বিভাগ

সাধুভাষার উৎস সন্ধানে

সুকুমার বাগচি

e-mail : bagchi.sukumar387@gmail.com

TRACING THE ORIGIN OF 'SAADHUBHAASHAA'

Sukumar Bagchi

e-mail : bagchi.sukumar387@gmail.com

ABSTRACT : The verb forms used in prose of the so-called Bengali 'saadhubhaashaa' (early literary form of Bengali Language), which was created at the dawn of the nineteenth century by English missionaries with the help of Sanskrit pundits at Serampore and adjoining Kolkata, were different from the verbs used in conversation by the people of the Western part of Bengal. Rather, those verb forms with affix were similar to the ones used by the people of the Eastern part of Bengal. While the people of East Bengal used 'khaitechhi' 'jaitechhi', the people of West Bengal used 'khaachchhi' 'jaachchhi'. But the 'saadhubhaashaa' used the East Bengal's verbs only. On the other hand, although the people of West Bengal used 'lum' 'tum' affix with the main verb, the people of East Bengal have always used 'laam' 'taam', and the latter forms were exclusively used in the prose of 'saadhubhaashaa'. All these led to a question whether the verbs in the prose of 'saadhubhaasha', had any influence on the language of East Bengal at the time of creating the early Bengali prose. The present article attempts to find an answer to the riddle with the help of three oldest Bengali books written in prose during the later part of the seventeenth and the first half of the eighteenth century.

Keywords : Bengali Prose, Oldest Bengali book, Saadhubhaashaa, Sanskrit Pundit, Serampore.

ভোজপুরি ছন্দ

রামবহাল তেওয়ারী

ভূতপূর্ব, বাংলা বিভাগ, ভাষা ভবন, বিশ্বভারতী (বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়), শান্তিনিকেতন, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ

BHOJPURI METRE

Rambahal Tewari

Formerly, Dept. of Bengali, Bhasa Bhavan, Viswa Bharati (University), Santi Niketan, West Bengal

***ABSTRACT :** In this paper an attempt has been made to highlight the individual identity and significance of Bhojpuri Metres or Prosody. The paper would also like to deal with the point that Bhojpuri metre contains some aspects that can be compared with the already established Bengali and Hindi metre. However, even though the Bhojpuri metre has semblance with Bengali and Hindi Metre, it has its own separate and individual identity, which the paper would like to establish.*

***Key words :** Bhojpuri metre*

স্বরচিত ধ্বংসের অভিমুখে : প্রসঙ্গ স্বৈরতান্ত্রিক নির্বিচার এবং প্রকৃতির প্রতিশোধ

সুলগ্না খান

E-mail : sulagna.access.1@gmail.com

EN ROUTE TO THE VERGE OF SELF-ANNIHILATION : A CONTEXTUAL READING OF NATURE'S RETALIATION IN AN INCONSIDERATE UNIVERSE OF DESPOTISM

Sulagna Khan

E-mail : sulagna.access.1@gmail.com

***ABSTRACT :** As a vital sustaining force of racial existence, the fundamental contribution of nature's regenerative power has strengthened the harmony between the symbiotic relationships of environment and humanity. This evokes the ethical question of judgement that, continuous and conspicuous consumption of natural resources need to be grasped carefully and emotionally for purely human benefit. This paper is based upon the admirable author Amitav Ghosh's fascinating non-fiction 'The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable.' In this book, which is made up of three critically interconnected essays, Ghosh argues about the imaginative and cultural negligence and failure to measure; both creatively and politically, the scale of dreadfulness of global climate change. This intense, sincere and profoundly insightful narrative, tries to reconfigure the inexplicable and unnatural eeriness of future environmental threat, irresistibly compels to rethink about the self-absorbed role of universal politics, and above all, raises its voice for the awakening of our collective consciousness, towards unthinkable historical development of atmospheric downfall of this present era, which is suggestively not the individualistic adventurous journey but the intricate and inescapable verities of modern time.*

Keywords : Atmospheric downfall, Climate change, Environment

অসমীয়া বিভাগ

পদ্ম বৰকটকীৰ আমাৰ প্ৰতিনিধি (১৯৬০-৬৫) : মতাদৰ্শ, কাব্যদৰ্শ আৰু কাব্যিক অৱদান

প্ৰাঞ্জল শৰ্মা বশিষ্ঠ

অসমীয়া বিভাগ, গুৱাহাটী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গুৱাহাটী - ৭৮১ ০১৪, অসম

PADMA BARKATAKI'S AMAR PRATINIDHI (1960-65) : IDEOLOGIES, POETIC IDEALS AND POETIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Pranjal Sharma Bashishtha

Dept. of Assamese, Gauhati University, Guwahati - 781 014, Assam

ABSTRACT : *Modern Assamese poetry started as progressive and consolidated after Eliot's fashion in its first phase (1938-56), suffered decadence for over-formulation in the second (1956-71), and revived as progressive in the third (1971-80). The third phase has exerted notable influence in the subsequent ones, but it itself was heralded by notable developments of the second. Rise of a few young poets like Nilmoni Phookan and Bhaben Barua who looked for poetic ideals in mainland Europe and in the traditional cultures in India and outside and that of a few others like Hemen Das and Nahendra Padun who compromised with art to voice for the common masses were two significant developments in this phase. The later development towards the progressive ideal was heavily influential for many contemporary and future poets, and this was brought about chiefly by Amar Pratinidhi, a monthly edited by Padma Barkataki (1926-2008) during 1960-65 and by Bhupen Hazarika (1926-2011) during 1965-80. However, the immense contribution of the magazine towards the strengthening of the progressive ideal in the 1960s and 1970s has remained neglected mainly because it amalgamated popular art with its serious ambition of changing the society for the benefit of the poor and oppressed people. Barkataki was basically a novelist who gave sensual descriptions but with a revolutionary purpose, and Hazarika was a singer who gave news of films. These popular art forms were not welcome for those who believed in canonical and middle class literature at that time.*

The present paper has fixed its scope of study basically to Padma Barkataki's Amar Pratinidhi (1960-65) and investigates the ideology, poetic ideal and poetic contributions of the magazine towards formation of the third phase of modern Assamese poetry. The basic method has been analytical, though the comparative method has also been applied as and when necessary.

Keywords : এলিয়টীয় কবিতা, কলাসৰ্বস্ব কবিতা, গণমুখিতা, চেতনা, প্ৰগতিশীল শ্ৰেণী-বৈষম্য, শ্ৰেণী-সংগ্ৰাম

ভাৰতীয় সংস্কৃতিৰ প্ৰেক্ষাপটত অসমৰ লোকজীৱনত গৰু আৰু গোপালন

উপেন ৰাভা হাকাচাম

অসমীয়া বিভাগ, গুৱাহাটী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গুৱাহাটী - ৭৮১ ০১৪, অসম

IMPACT OF COW AND IT'S REARING ON FOLK-LIFE OF ASSAM IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF INDIAN CULTURE

Upen Rabha Hakasam

Dept. of Assamese, Gauhati University, Guwahati - 781 014, Assam

ABSTRACT : *In the agrarian societies, particularly in the Caste-Hindu and Plains Tribal societies, who are habituated with wet cultivation, the cattle play an important role for ploughing land, thrashing paddy as well as pulling paddy-stalk by cart etc. In addition to these, in the early stage of Nomadic and Animal husbandry societies the cows take an immense role for producing milk and milk products. In some primitive societies especially among the Hills Tribes, even in the Hindu society of early Vedic period beef considered a favorite meet. However, in the various stages of Sanskritization, beef has been considered a forbidden item for the Hindus, particularly for some orthodox people in India and Nepal. But it is still a common practice among the Christians and Muslims of India and abroad.*

On the above mentioned circumstances the cattle culture i.e. the folk beliefs and practices, folk customs, folk performances and folk literature relating to cows, calves, bulls, oxen as well as cowshed, cow dung, milk, milkman- maid, cowherd, ploughmen and peasants is very prominent among Assamese Caste Hindus(Dravida-Aryan) and Ethnic people (Austro- Mongolian) of Assam in particular and India in general.

Henceforth it reflects the whole idea of dos and don'ts, mana and gonna, reverence and worship as depicted in Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam .

In this paper an attempt has been made to focus this aspect elaborately.

Keywords : *Agrarian, Beef, Ethnic people of Assam, Milk product,-Primitive society*

ৰবীন্দ্ৰনাথ ঠাকুৰৰ শিশু সাহিত্য আৰু তেওঁৰ সমসাময়িক অসমীয়া শিশু সাহিত্য

পল্লৱী ডেকা বুজৰবৰুৱা
অসমীয়া বিভাগ, ডিব্ৰুগড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ডিব্ৰুগড়

RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND HIS CONTEMPORARY ASSAMESE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Pallavi Deka Buzarboruah

Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh

***ABSTRACT :** Children's Literature in terms of styles and themes is gradually developed as a different literary genre in the literary world. The presence of children in Tagore's literary works is very attractive and that spirit of children elements spread over to the every Indian Literature. On the other hand diverse and multi-dimensional representation of children has profoundly enriched Assamese children's literature. Children's Literature of Rabindranath Tagore itself is an inspiring force for the contemporary Assamese writers, who wrote Children's Literature. This is an attempt to analyse the Tagore's Children's Literature and his Contemporary Assamese Children's Literature in the light of some selected Assamese writers with select literary genre poetry.*

***Keywords :** Assamese Children's Literature, Rabindranath.*