Calendar

Images of a bygone era by Toni Hagen

2009



The early morning winter sun is rewarding not only to dry earthen vessels but also to bring charming smiles to the faces of these young girls from a potter's family in the hilly districts of eastern Nepal.



Handloom weaving, a subsistence part-time labour of mountain women, is still very much part of the domestic scene in the mid-hills and mountains of Nepal. Weaving has now been gradually developed to produce souvenir textiles of Nepali handicraft for sale and export.

Nepali livelihoods



This image of an ironsmith at work, clad in a very unusual white attire with peasant customers looking on, would have been rare catch for Toni Hagen.

FEBRUARY 2009

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The castration of a bull, however crude the technology might be, is neatly carried out with skilled hands. Castrated bulls are still the only 'power machines' to till the mountain terraces of Nepal.

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Shallow water hill streams allow the funnelling of fish into bamboo traps known as duwali. The tattered clothes of these fishermen indicate their precarious livelihood. Poverty is still widespread in Nepal but such tattered clothing is no longer visible.

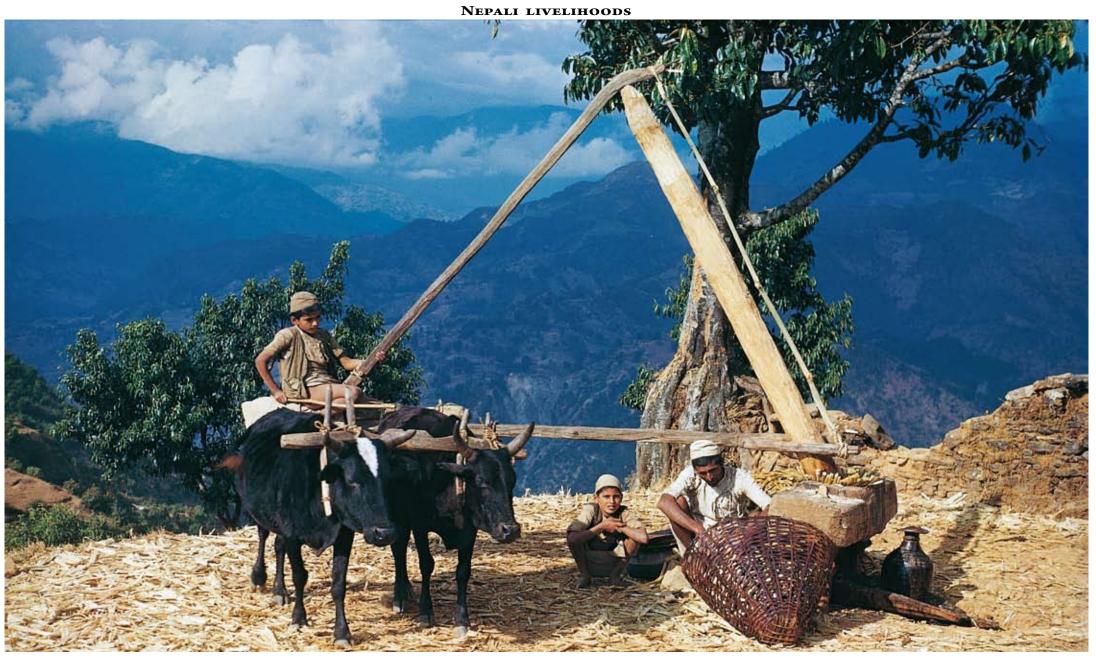
APRIL 2009

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Highland dwellers are excellent herders and yak breeders. A cross between highland yaks/naks and lowland cattle results in chauri cows whose offspring do not survive for more than a few days but milking continues for months. The chauri, thus, is virtually a milk machine.

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The machine to express oil from mustard seeds is run by bull power. Remote areas in Nepal still use this technique.

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Salt traders of the upper Karnali used to bring rock salt from Tibet, using sheep and goats as pack animals. Salt was sold or bartered with rice, and measured by volume, not weight.

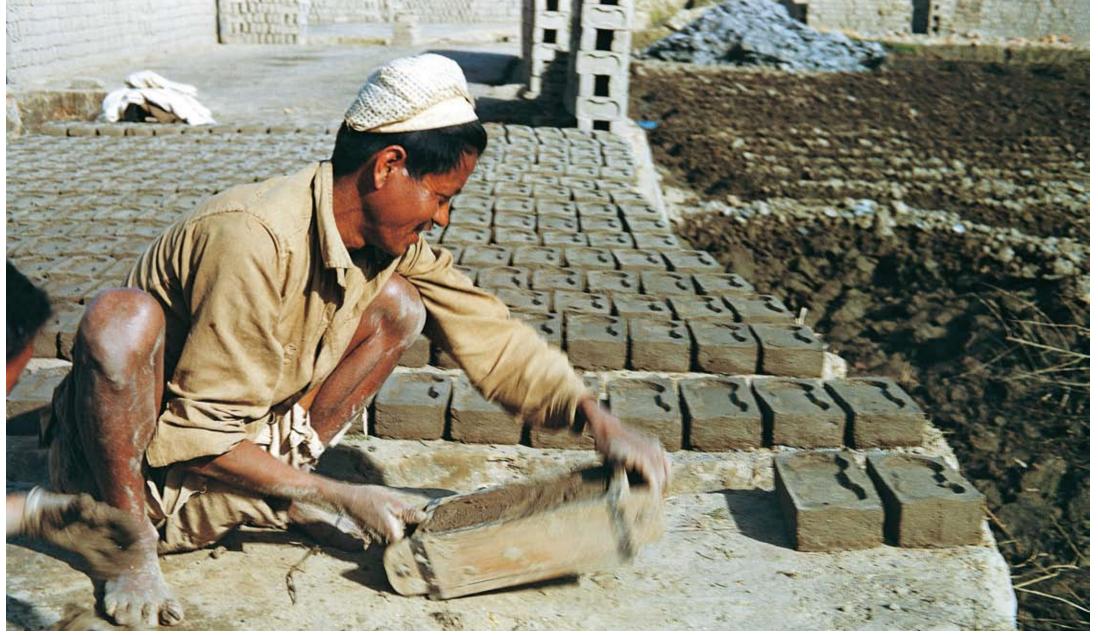
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Nepali livelihoods



Making wooden vessels from heartwood is an age-old tradition. The axle is driven by hand straps but has now been largely replaced by electric motors.

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Mud bricks are sun baked before going into the kilns. The Kathmandu Valley was famous for its bricks and tiles and is now equally infamous for the pollution caused by brick kilns.

SEPTEMBER 2009

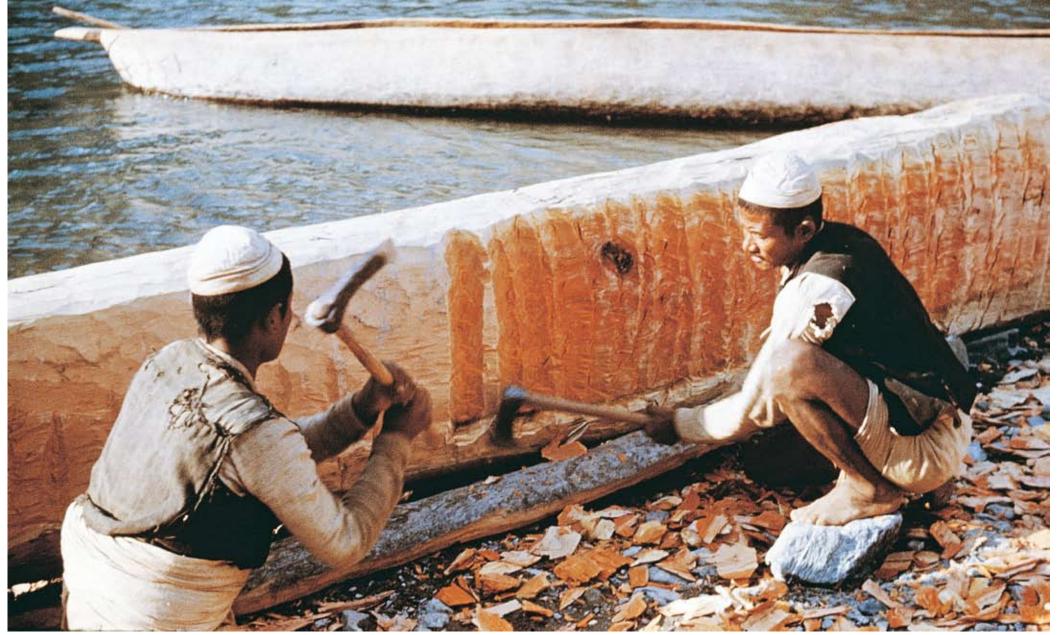
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Highland-dwellers from Nepal's yak country produce excellent chhurpi (dried cheese) from the debuttered milk of chauri cows. The resinous smoke from the fire using fir and juniper wood has turned the cave-like setting almost black.

Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	we	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	we	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	we	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	we	Th	Fr	Sa
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Nepali livelihoods



Canoe-making using the simple axe. It takes almost the entire trunk of a mature tree to prepare a dugout. The Bote/Majhi of the mid-hills and the Inner Terai still make a living ferrying people on such canoes.

Su Mo lu We In Fr Sa Su I 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 3



Riverside plateaus called tar are very productive for growing black grain lentils, masko dal. Lentil-thrashing in the warm winter sun is part of peasant women's household chores.

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FEBRUARY



MARCH



Toni Hagen (1917-2003)

Swiss geologist Toni Hagen first came to Nepal in 1950 as part of a technical assistance team sent by the Swiss government to help with the tentative steps at introducing western-style development. That was an era when foreigners had to seek government permission to travel outside the Kathmandu Valley. As the geologist in the Swiss team, Hagen was allowed to go around the countryside, an experience that whetted his desire to see more of this 'unknown' land. Thus began a relationship with a country that grew into a close friendship over the course of half a century. Toni Hagen was later taken over by the United Nations to conduct the first geological survey of Nepal, making him the original 'UN expert' in the country. He spent nearly a decade doing that during which he travelled more than 14,000 km on foot. His explorations

took him all over Nepal and he saw the country like no one else had





MAY



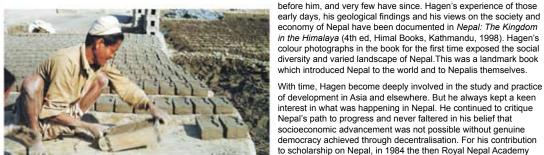
JUNE



JULY

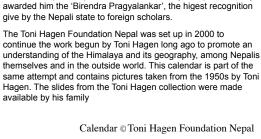


AUGUST





SEPTEMBER





OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal PO Box 166, Lalitpur, Nepal Phone: +977-1-5542544 Fax: +977-1-5541196 e-mail: thf-n@himalassociation.org