

Calendar

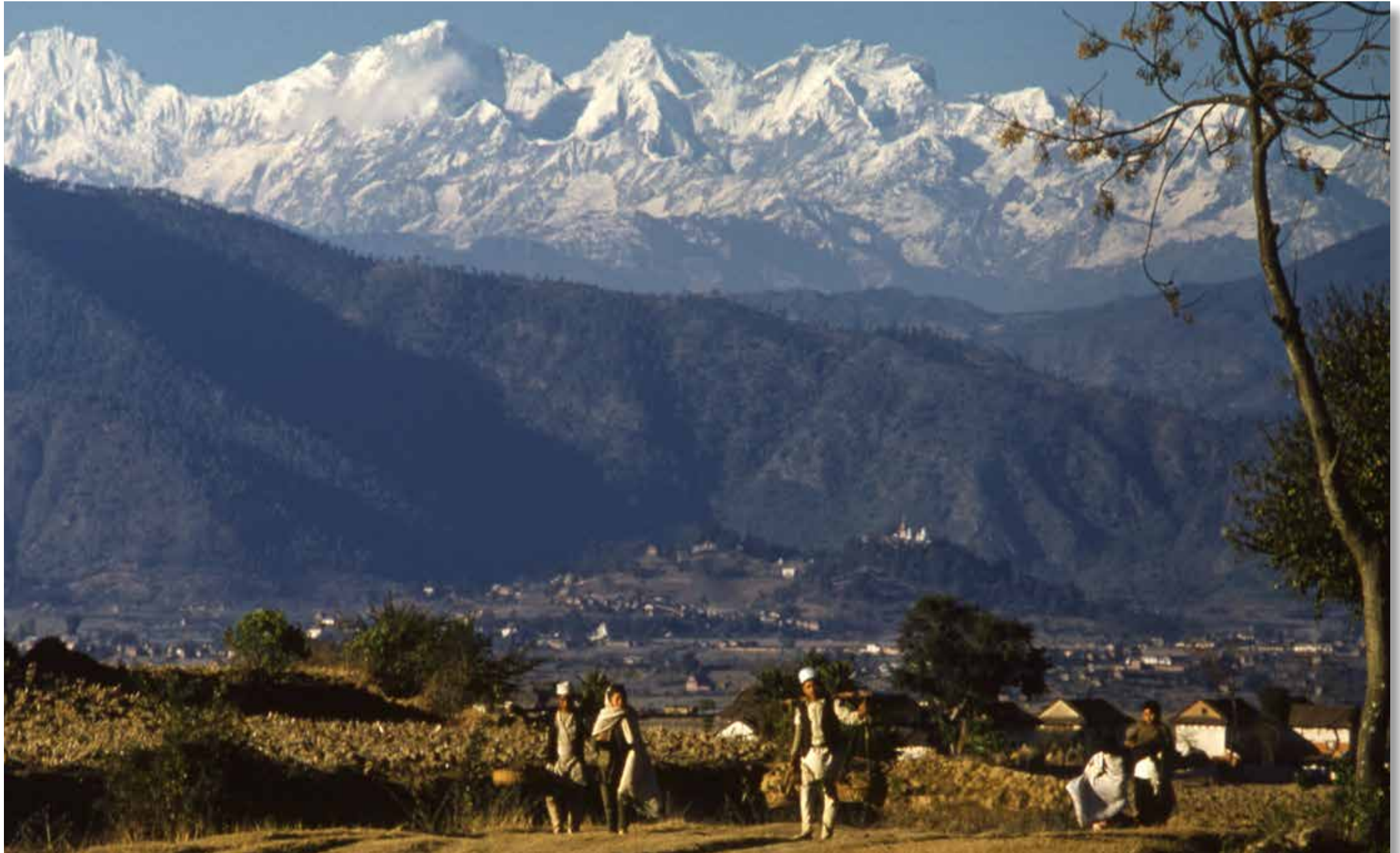
KATHMANDU

Images of a bygone era by Toni Hagen

2015



Swayambhu meaning self created is an ancient shrine of Manjushri who created Kathmandu valley by draining off the lake. It is situated on a hillock forested with indigenous trees. Currently Swayambhu area also is heavily encroached by modern buildings.



Ganesh Himal has a complex of four peaks exceeding 7,000 meters from msl. They remain to be the most conspicuous snow peaks visible from Kathmandu valley. The valley floor at about 1300 meters once known as one of the most fertile valleys in Asia is now a site of unplanned concrete jungle of buildings.

January

2015

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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	30	31



Tamangs are the indigenous hill tribe people around Kathmandu. Men and women carry heavy loads in a conical bamboo basket called Doko. It is said to be the most efficient method for load transportation in mountainous terrain. Traditional attire as seen in the picture are no more to be seen. However, the Ganesh Himal is seen on the background. The porters are taking a break on a spot near Kakani on the way to Trisuli Bazar.

February

2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
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			



Aerial view of Pashupati Nath Complex, a World Heritage Site, is the most sacred shrine for all Hindu devotees of Nepal and India. Sacred bank of the Bagmati river is regarded as the holiest cremation site for Nepalese people. Currently this vista has changed dramatically due to excessive urbanization and river pollution.

March

2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
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	30	31



Kathmandu Durbar Square, also a world heritage site is the seat of several temples and shrines. A big deity called Kal Bhairaba is believed to be a protector for Kathmandu Valley.

April

2015

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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	30	

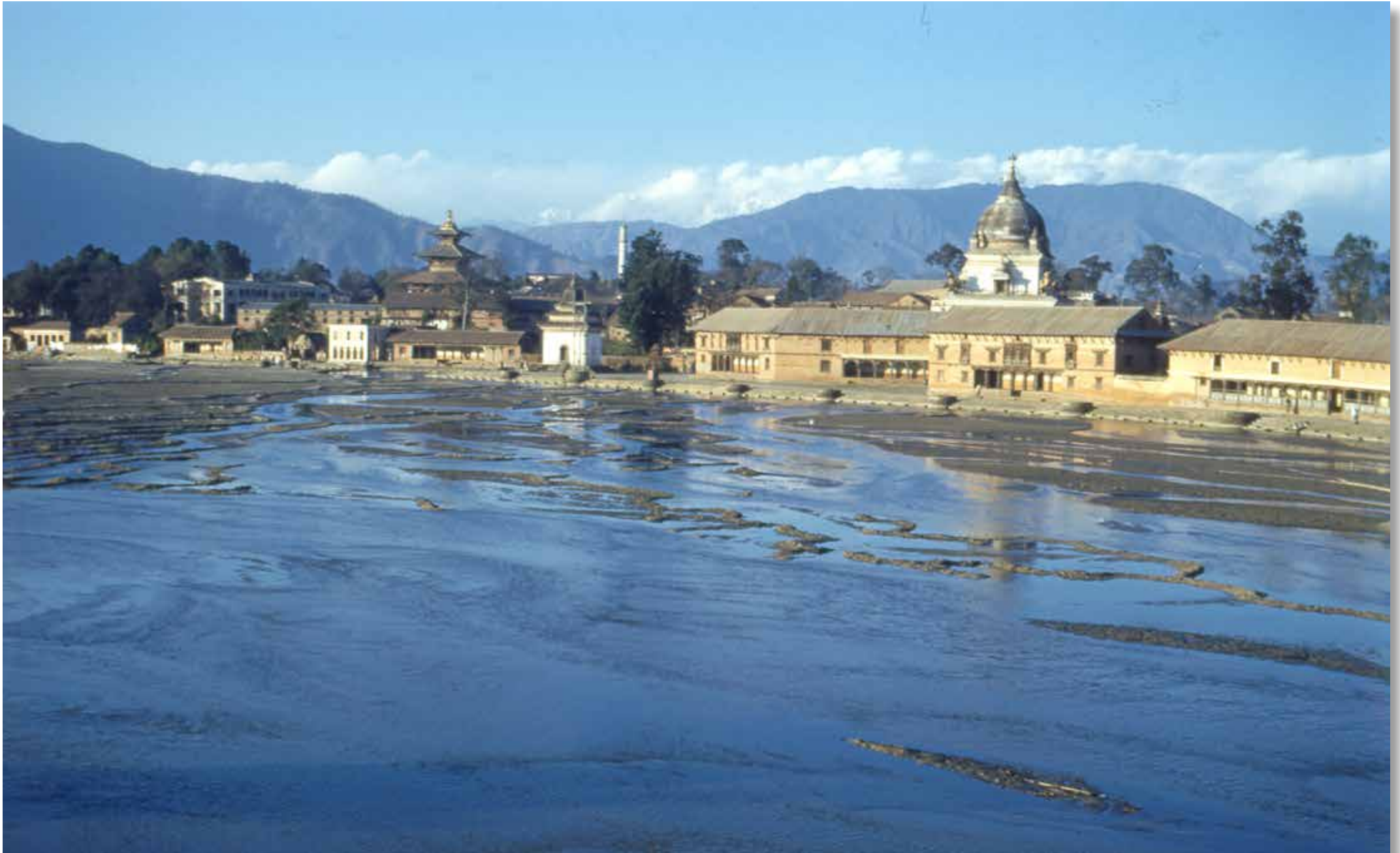


Balaju Bais Dhara (Twenty two Water Spouts) is a significant cultural site for valley dwellers. Thousands of devotees take holy bath in those spouts on the auspicious Bais Dhara Mela that falls on the full- moon day called 'Lhuti punhi'.

May

2015

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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	30	31



The Kalmochan Ghat of Tripureshwore on the sacred bank of river Bagmati. Until 1950's the water of Bagmati was bath able and fish swam in the river. These days Bagmati water is most polluted and even untouchable.

June

2015

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
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	30	



Patan Durbar Square, also a World Heritage site is full of artistic pagoda temples and wood carvings of par excellence.

July **2015**

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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	30	31



Village vendors in the suburbs of Kathmandu valley. People are all clad on traditional dresses. Every boy has a cap 'Topi' and every girl has a shawl 'Kasto'.

August

2015

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
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	30	31



Aerial view of Singha Durbar, the then resident palace built for Rana prime-minister amidst fertile fields of Kathmandu during the year 1903 AD converted into central government secretariat after 1950. Currently it is covered by the concrete jungle of urban Kathmandu leaving no fields for agricultural practices.

September

2015

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
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	30	



Temple terraces known as 'Dabali' are used by fruit and vegetable vendors who themselves were farmers. No plastic containers nor polythene sacs were being used. Everything organic and nothing synthetic. However, gone are the days of purely organic products and local fruits in Kathmandu Valley

October

2015

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Kathmandu Valley was known to be one of the most fertile valleys in the Himalaya. Mountain peaks remained distinctly visible almost through-out year. Heavy urbanization and air pollution do not allow to have that luxury these days. The picture is taken from Sanga Bhanjyang that lies east of Kathmandu Valley on the way to Banepa. Ganesh Himal is in the Background.

November

2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
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	30	



Boudha Nath Stupa, a world heritage site, was a rural area. Now, it is completely sunk among crowded modern buildings. Slopping tile roofings of surrounding buildings are not to be seen even as a remnant sample.

December

2015

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
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	30	31



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



Toni Hagen (1917-2003)

Calendar © Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal



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Printed & Distributed by
Himalayan Map House (Pvt. Ltd.)

Captions for this calendar were given by botanist and conservationist, Dr Tirtha Bahadur Shrestha, a member of the Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal.

Annapurna II (7937 m), unlike other Himalayan peaks, looks like a 'taut black tent' in the horizon while Toni Hagen is comfortable taking notes of his journey.

Swiss geologist Toni Hagen first came to Nepal in 1950 as part of a technical assistance team sent by the Swiss government. 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 making him the original 'UN expert' in the country. He spent nearly a decade travelling more than 14,000 km on foot. His explorations took him all over Nepal and he saw the country like no one else had before him, and very few have since. Hagen's experience of those early days, his geological findings and his views on the society and economy of Nepal have been documented in *Nepal: The Kingdom in the Himalaya* (4th ed, Himal Books, Kathmandu, 1998). Hagen's colour photographs in the book for the first time exposed the social diversity and varied landscape of Nepal. This was a landmark book which introduced Nepal to the world and to Nepalis themselves.

With time, Hagen became deeply involved in the study and practice of development in Asia and elsewhere. But he always kept a keen interest in what was happening in Nepal. He continued to critique Nepal's path to progress and never faltered in his belief that socioeconomic advancement was not possible without genuine democracy achieved through decentralisation. For his contribution to scholarship on Nepal, in 1984, the Royal Nepal Academy awarded him the Birendra Pragyalankar, the highest recognition give by the Nepali state to foreign scholars.

The Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal was set up in 2000 to continue the work begun by Toni Hagen long ago to promote an understanding of the Himalaya and its geography, among Nepalis themselves and in the outside world. This calendar is part of the same attempt and contains pictures taken from the 1950s by Toni Hagen. The slides from the Toni Hagen collection were made available by his family.