

***Belief, Scholarship and Cultural Heritage:***

***Paul Olaf Bodding***

***and***

***The Making of a Scandinavian-Santal Legacy***

***November 3 – 5, 2015***

**Venue: The ‘Professor’s residence’, University of Oslo.** (Address for this venue is Karl Johans gate 47. However, the building can also be accessed from Kristian IV’s gate, through the garden gate across the road from the parking lot behind the Historical museum. Please see the map on our web-site:

<http://www.khm.uio.no/forskning/aktuelt/arrangementer/konferanser/2015/bodding.html>).

**Program**

**DAY 1: Tuesday November 3**

**Registration and coffee/tea: 8.30 – 9.00**

**Inauguration: 9.00 – 9.45**

**Session 1: *The Santal Mission of the Northern Churches in a broader historical and contemporary context*** (9.45 – 14.30)

This session will explore the Pastoral Enlightenment Legacy and the emerging Santal Church and Mission, headed by Bodding from 1910 to 1923, in a broader historical and contemporary perspective. More than a century before the pioneers formed the Indian Home Mission to the Santals; pietistic missionaries established their presence in the territories of the indigenous Sami or “Lapps” in the Arctic. What do we know about this encounter? Are there hitherto overlooked connections between this early “inner” mission to reindeer herders in the High-North and later “external” missions to “tribals” in Central India and elsewhere in the tropics? What are the current frontiers of cultural indigenous heritage politics in Norway and what is the historical backdrop? Moving to contemporary India and Bangladesh; which issues are at the forefront of Adivasis’ national and local struggles and how are they framed by the legacies and current development efforts of missions, churches and NGOs?

- Dikka Storm, Associate Professor/Curator Tromsø Museum, University of Tromsø:  
*The Complex Religious Situation in the Mission District of Senja and Vesterålen in the Early Eighteenth Century*
- Leif Pareli, Curator Sami Culture, The Norsk Folkemuseum:  
*Sami cultural heritage in Norway: collecting and repatriating*

- Sanjeeb Drong, General Secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum  
*Contemporary perspectives on the legacy of different missions in terms of the struggle for human rights, livelihoods, education and self-rule*

**Lunch: 11.30 – 12.30**

- Oddvar Holmedal and Jacob Smørdal, Normisjon:  
*The present work of Normisjon among the Santals in relation to Ecology, Livelihood, Traditional culture and Human Rights*
- Trygve Bruås Nesse, UiO/Normisjon:  
*Rural democracy and primitive accumulation of capital in West Bengal and Jharkhand*
- Lawrence Besra; National Coordinator - Knowledge Management and Research, World Vision Bangladesh:  
*The role of language and traditional social institutions for unity and nation-building: A critical retrospective of Bodding's work in British India.*

(Coffee/tea 14.15 – 14.35)

**Session 2: Revisiting Bodding as theologian, bible translator, hymnologist and administrator** (14.35 – 16.00)

This session invites theological, historical and anthropological perspectives on Bodding as a controversial institutional reformer and the reasons for the mission's so to say erasure of institutional memory about Bodding. The session will also address the theologian, and debate his influential missiological writings, bible translations and *Kukli Puthi* (the Question and Answer Book) with hymns.

- Harald Tambs-Lyche, Professor Emeritus University of Picardie-Jules Verne, Amiens, France:  
*On Bodding's Madness of power: a critical phase in the history of the Santal Mission*
- Timothy Hembrom, Rtd Rev. from Bishop's College, Kolkata, India:  
*An Indigenous theologian's perspective on the Bodding Era* (recorded presentation)

**Reception at Oslo Townhall: 16.30 (invitation by card).** *Please note: Use of Town Hall wardrobe in basement is mandatory, doors of the Town Hall will open 16.10, everyone must have left their overcoats before 16.30.*

**Day 2: Wednesday November 4**

**Session 3: *Revisiting Bodding's scholarship: the ethnographer, linguist and collector*** (8.30 – 12.00)

This session will debate Bodding's vast and diverse scholarship, including his production as a very prominent linguist, ethnographer and collector of ethnographic artifacts, prehistoric tools and manuscripts. Papers will compare Bodding with other contemporary Scandinavian collectors, the nature of Bodding's intellectual and personal relations to Santal collaborators and contemporary Western scholars and his approach to "folklore".

- Marin Carrin, Rtd. Director of Research CNRS, Centre of Anthropology, Toulouse, France:  
*The Making of an encyclopedic dictionary: how Bodding re-enchanted Santal words*
- Santosh K. Soren, Affiliate Univ. of Copenhagen:  
*Paul Olav Bodding and his helpers*
- Ruby Hembrom, Founder and Publishing Director, Adivaani and Creative Writer:  
*The Santals and the Bodding Paradox*

(Coffee/tea 10.15 – 10.45)

- Toshiki Osada, Professor Emeritus, Research Institute of Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan:  
*Bodding as Linguist*
- Peter Birkelund Andersen, Associate Professor University of Copenhagen:  
*Two generations of Scandinavian collectors in Assam compared: Halfdan Singer and Paul Olav Bodding*

**Lunch: 12.00 – 13.15**

**Session 4 (held at the National Library of Norway): *Scholars, writers, access and collaboration*** (13.30 – 16.30)

This is the first of two sessions addressing new opportunities for collaboration opening up for scholars, writers, educators, publishers and current custodians of the Santals' oral heritage, partly as result of the ongoing digitalization of the vast manuscript collection and of the other sub-collections. These new opportunities will be sought debated in the context of important current developments affecting public memory of this particular enlightenment tradition; including divisive language and educational policies, new trends in research and publishing in South Asia

- Johanne Ostad, Dept. Research and Outreach, National Library of Norway:  
*Digitizing the Santal material in the National Library of Norway*
- Shilpi Hembrom, Asst. Professor Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Management, Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, India:  
*Bodding's Legacy and Indo-Norwegian Collaboration: Prospect for Research and Investigation*
- Joy Raj Eric Tudu, Activist and Consultant, Santal Parganas:  
*Aboak Aidari "Our Heritage": Towards cooperation beyond barriers*
- **Open Forum** at the National Library: Informal discussion on possibilities for a revitalized scholarship, creative writing, storytelling, publishing and Indo-Bangladeshi-Scandinavian collaboration

### **Open House at the Professor Residence: 17.00 – 18.45**

#### **DAY 3: Thursday November 5**

#### **Excursion to the Ethnographic Santal collection (transport offered) 8.45 – 11.30 (for official guests only)**

**Lunch: 11.30 – 12.45**

#### **Session 5: *Towards a post-colonial and digital era of collection management* (12.45 – 15.15)**

The session addresses the histories of the Santal Bodding Collections in the context of the rise of 19<sup>th</sup> century ethno-nationalism, indigenous movements, international conventions and postcolonial critiques of “the colonial museum”. How is the politics of national and tribal museums and technological innovations – all challenging and enabling the collections and custodians to redefine their role in society? In which new ways can ethnographic artifacts, manuscripts and photo archives be owned and co-managed? How can the collections be activated to meet the expectations of different constituencies of original custodians in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and elsewhere? Can educators’ and community involvement through digital communication inform museological practices in new, mutually constructive ways?

- Tone Bleie, Professor, Public Policy and Cultural Understanding University of Tromsø:  
*The Santal Bodding Collection: unearthing its history over a century and looking towards the future*
- Mohan Gautam, Rtd. Professor, University of Leiden:  
*The politics of tribal museums in India*

- Boro Baski, Trustee Member, Ghosaldanga Bishnubati Adivasi Trust, West Bengal,:  
*The Museum of Santal Culture at Bishnubati: Its role in the education and preservation of Santal culture and heritage*
- Jørgen Nørgaard Pedersen, Volunteer Coordinator for Danmission Photo Archive  
(formerly General Secretary, Danish Santal Mission):  
*Preserving photographs and documents digitally*

(Coffee/tea 15.15 – 15.45)

**Session 6: Panel session: Towards a foundation for collaborative management and knowledge sharing (15.45 – 16.45)**

**Concluding session and farewell with light refreshments (16.45 – 17.30)**