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Transactions, a journal of the Institute of Indian Geographers, is published twice a year in January and July. The editor invites original articles that will contribute to advances and debates in all the sub-disciplines of Geography.

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1. Mosher, S.W. (1983): *Broken Earth: The Rural Chinese*. New York: Free Press
2. Smith, K.G. (1959): Standards for Grading Texture of Erosional Topography. *Amer.Jour. Sci.* Vol. 248, pp. 655-668.

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Editorial

How time flies!

The first issue of Transactions appeared twenty-five years ago. Since the past quarter century Indian geography has witnessed important changes: there have been paradigm shifts and the variety of issues examined by Indian geographers have covered scales ranging from those affecting their neighborhoods to ones altering the global environment.

As the Silver Anniversary issue goes to press, the Institute's Life Membership, now well over 600, is drawn from university and college departments from all over the country. It is heartening to note that articles appearing in the journal display such a variety of topics-aimed at expanding the boundaries of the subject into hitherto unexplored territories. If the current trend is any indication, then it can easily be in-

ferred that geographers in India are striving hard to redefine their core concerns to help probe issues rooted in our spatial context and reflecting our social reality. Today's young geographers would do well to venture into these little explored areas, and avail of this new opportunity to make their mark.

To sum up, let me share a remark from a young lecturer I met at the recently concluded XXVth. Geographers' Meet at Varanasi. I casually enquired if he could express his views about Transactions? He tells me he likes to browse through the journal because *I expect to find the unexpected and I am rarely disappointed*. I hope the founder editor is listening, because this remark will surely enthuse young geographers to pick up the gauntlet and undertake innovative research as silver turns to gold!

Jaymala Diddee

Notes and News

Last year, besides the Annual IIG Meet which was held at Shillong from 27th to 29th March 2003, a multi-disciplinary thematic seminar on **Managing the Urban Fringe of Indian Cities** was organized at the University of Pune from 27th to 29th November 2002, with Prof. K.R. Dikshit as Convener. The focus was on unplanned, out of control growth in Fringe areas—a major issue confronting all fast growing metros and million cities. Why does one find such poor organization of space in the Fringe? Around 35 delegates from various disciplines, from all over India and overseas presented their views. Two European geographers: Prof. Gerhard Bahrenberg from University of Bremen, Germany and Prof. Steinberg, from Institute of Urbanism, Paris, spoke on Recent Developments of the Urban Fringe in Modern Society, using the evolutionary perspective. The proceedings of the seminar will be published shortly.

The XXIVth annual Geographers' Meet held at NEHU, Shillong between 27th & 29th March 2003, was perhaps one of the largest gatherings seen in recent times. About 250 participants attended the Meet, 158 abstracts were received and 100 papers presented in two parallel sessions. There were 45 delegates from neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and

Bhutan who participated and presented papers.

Dr. Nag delivered the presidential address. He raised the important issue whether one can indeed monitor the environment? The focal theme of the Meet, in keeping with the UN's International Year of Mountains was on: **Mountain Environment & Natural Hazards Management**. A poster session and an exhibition of maps by NATMO and a post conference excursion to Cherrapunji were other highlights of the Meet.

Despite such a large gathering the organizers had made excellent arrangements for stay, food and took care of every creature comfort of the participants - making it a truly memorable meet. The XXIVth IIG Meet was really an affair to remember. On behalf of all members of the Institute, I would like to express our grateful thanks to Prof. Tripathi, the acting Vice Chancellor, for inaugurating the Meet, to Prof. Subba of Anthropology for his wholehearted support. To the organizers of the XXIVth IIG Meet, particularly to Prof. Mipun, the Head, department of geography, to Prof. Surendra Singh and Prof. Debendra Nayak, we are truly grateful.

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All correspondence regarding the institute's membership, bill, purchase of publications should be addressed to the Treasurer. All other correspondence should be addressed to the secretary.

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