



Corneille Jest (1930-2019)

**“I am so sorry to hear about Corneille's passing. We have lost one of greatest scholars of Nepalese Studies and well-wishers of Nepal.”**

*Prof. Nirmal Man Tuladha  
Chair - Social Science Baha, Kathmandu, Nepal*

**“Dr. Corneille Jest is dead, long live Dr. Corneille Jest!  
I owe my affiliation to CNRS, UPR 299 to Dr. Corneille Jest, the founder of this great institution of Himalayan studies. He was a great motivator, and a very friendly scholar dedicated to the Himalayan studies. It was he who cultivated my interest in water studies as early as 1995. I have been working on a book on water Himalaya since 1995. For some or the other reason I could not complete this book which I wanted to dedicate to Dr. Corneille Jest in person. For me as a practicing Hindu, Dr. Corneille Jest is now a PITRI (deceased ancestor), and I earnestly seek his blessings to enable me to complete the book under reference sooner than later. Dr. Corneille Jest lives in all of us who are committed to the Himalayan studies. I join his family and friends in mourning his death and pray God to rest his soul in eternal peace in the heavenly abode.  
*raam naam satya hai* (The name of Almighty is the ultimate truth).”**

*Maheshwar P. Joshi, Collaborator, CNRS, UPR 299, France;  
Hon. Fellow Doon Lib. & Research Centre;  
Former Member of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, Govt. of India*

**“Même si cette nouvelle n’est hélas pas totalement une surprise,  
c’est une bien triste nouvelle.**

**Corneille fut à l’origine de l’équipe pluridisciplinaire (RCP 253) qui me permit non seulement de découvrir le Népal mais d’apprendre beaucoup sur ce pays au-delà de ma discipline, grâce aux échanges entre les différentes disciplines que nous avons lors de nos réunions annuelles.**

**Je n’oublierai jamais qu’en 1974 (en fin de mon premier séjour au Népal), j’ai retrouvé Corneille à Jomosom accompagné de Jean-François Dobremez (ils revenaient du Dolpo). Nous sommes ensuite rentrés ensemble sur Pokhara, et j’ai tellement appris à leur contact, sur les populations et la flore, que je ne peux oublier ces quelques jours exceptionnels. Corneille m’a beaucoup soutenue et encouragée lors de mes débuts, et c’est pourquoi j’éprouve une grande gratitude à son égard. ”**

*Monique FORT, Pr. Emérite, Université Paris Diderot*

**“Thanks so much for the email [...]. Dr Corneille Jest, him is great men, he did many think nepal and frence, he is the best men how to forgets what to do this is our poor life and our life also same way. one day we need to go same way this is the crazy life.”**

*Harka Majhi*

*Fils de Sarkiman, Corneille’s assistant, travelling companion and aide-de-camp from 1970-80 onwards. He passed away in 2009)*

**“I am saddened by the news of the passing of Corneille Jest. I never met him but have a story.....in 1969 while in Dolpo I met a Bon Lama with whom I wanted to talk about Bon teachings. He was utterly disinterested and only wanted to show me his beautiful French-made jacket inside which was Corneille’s name tag. He was so very pleased and proud to have this memento of his encounter with the *maitre* and I have a lovely photo of him, his jacket and myself outside his meditation hut. I will gladly send it to anyone interested.  
Vale Corneille.”**

*David Templeman, auteur*

**Corneille JEST dans les souvenirs de Bernadette VASSEUX.  
Entretiens réalisé par Binod Khakurel Baudelaire 27 janvier 2019:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM2ynLMLJZ8>**

*Stéphane Gros, chercheur au CEH*

**“Merci Stéphane and Thank you David : I am sure his wife would love to see the photo [...].**

**Merci Pascale de cette nécrologie empreinte de méthodologies de recherches et liens parmi les chercheurs et l’interdisciplinarité. Grand plaisir de lire.**

**For those it may interest: I visited Tarap and Kagar Lhakhang in June 2018 where Corneille’s photo of Kagar Rinpoche still remains on the altar, every day, appreciated by the grandson-lama, his wife and their family and descendants. The Aura of the work and life, the work-cum-residence of Corneille in Tarap in 1960-1961 is far from forgotten. Butter lamps (marme) were lit to honour his passing in January 2019.”**

*Amy Heller, tibétologue et historienne d’art*

**“Corneille Jest had a decisive influence on my research and career. He advised me early on when I worked in Ladakh and never ceased to give me information and assistance later on. He was very generous and straightforward, qualities I really admired. He inspired me with his gift of connecting people as well as his deep love for the Himalayan populations. Hats off to a great pioneer and kind mentor.**

***Om mani padme hum hri”***

*Pommaret Françoise, ethnologue et tibétologue*

**“I first met Corneille Jest in 2010 when I gave a seminar paper at the Centre d’études Himalayennes as a postdoctoral student. I was immediately struck by his keen enthusiasm for my research on pastoralists of eastern Tibet (Kham) and his subsequent energy in collating a special issue, with Joseph Bonnemaire, on Himalayan pastoralists, of which I was part. As a researcher just starting in my career, it was an inspiration to be involved in this energy and to witness how—despite being retired—he continued to care not only about Himalayan research but also about fostering a new generation of scholars. It is without doubt his generosity that will stay with me as I continue to pursue my thinking and learning of the Himalayan region. It is also with some regret that I did not keep in better touch after I left Paris and returned to Australia. All things remain connected, however, as I could now be involved in future research in Himalayan Nepal; while I may not meet up with him to discuss this project and ask his advice, his legacy lives on in his works and in the Centre d’études Himalayennes. For this, I am most thankful. ”**

*Gillian G. Tan, anthropologist*

*School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University, Geelong, Australia*