

NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION, NAMES, AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Tibetan is a difficult language to transliterate. Several transliteration systems exist, but each has problems in rendering the language pronounceable for non-Tibetan speakers. In this book, I use a combination of the Wylie system of transliteration and my own pronounceable rendering of Tibetan words for English speakers. For example, for the Tibetan word for stupa, a commonly used Sanskrit word for Buddhist monuments, I give both the Wylie (*mchod rten*) and a pronounceable spelling of it (“chorten”).

When transliterating Tibetan names, I use either the version preferred by the individual themselves or the most common transliteration for that name. In each instance, I give only the pronounceable transliteration rather than the Wylie; for example, I use “Tashi” rather than *bkra shis*.

I use both pseudonyms and real names. Following anthropological convention, I use pseudonyms or subject positions (for example, a “veteran” or an “official”) in connection with ethnographic information and political opinions and, following history protocols, I use real names when presenting historical material. In those instances in which ethnographic and historic contexts converge, my use of pseudonyms or real names is based on political context.

Finally, Tibetans have two personal names, often do not have a family name, and sometimes are referred to by a combination of personal names and titles (kin, geographic, honorific). Some examples are Kesang Tsering, a personal name; Lithang Athar, a geo-

graphic qualifier preceding a personal name, that is, Athar from Lithang; Andrug Gompo Tashi, a family name prefacing a personal name, that is, Gompo Tashi of the Andrugtsang family; and Gen Lobsang Jampa, an honorific title prefacing a personal name, that is, “respected” Lobsang Jampa (*gen* is a shortened form of “teacher,” which is properly spelled as *dge rgan*). For those familiar with Tibetan names, this system is easy to interpret and use. To help readers follow those whose names appear more than once in this book, I have included a Who’s Who in the appendix.

All photographs were taken by the author, unless otherwise identified.