

These will have their repercussions in years to come – athletics, football, the cinema. In the light of these changes what of archery in Bhutan? Will it survive? Will it be as popular as it has been all these years?

I have a feeling that archery will be relegated to a form of entertainment for distinguished guests in Bhutan. Like polo in India, it will become the sport of the few in Thimpu and Paro.

In remote villages archery will remain as popular as before. The terrain will always exclude football. Lack of communications will preclude the cinema.



Fig. 4.

The seal of Bhutan showing two Thunder Dragons supporting the two *dorji* or Mystic Thunderbolts of *Indra*. On the top of the seal is the lotus recalling the memory of *Uge Rinpoche*, also known as *Padma Sambhava* "born of the lotus", the Indian sage who brought Buddhism to Bhutan.

Archery has always enjoyed royal patronage in Bhutan. His Majesty Jigmie Dorje Wangchuk, king of Bhutan to-day, is a keen archer. Members of the noble families in his kingdom take an active interest in the sport drawing a long bow alongside their retainers, who in turn are proud to wear the *patang* or ceremonial sword of their lord and brace a bow on his behalf in a contest.

It is in this interest of king, noble and commoner that I find a reason why archery will survive in Bhutan. There is another reason that makes me think it will carry on for many years to come. Archery is the National Sport of Bhutan.