

THE JAPANESE RELIGIONS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce the results of our election of the new officers of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions. Richard Jaffe has been elected President and Hank Glassman, Vice President. Both have confirmed their willingness to serve; their three-year term will officially begin next academic year. Congratulations to Richard and Hank!

I also am happy to announce that the Society's annual meeting will be held in Chicago (Hyatt Regency) again this year, in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies convention (March 31-April 3).

This year the Society will meet during the day rather than in the evening. Our forum will take place on **Saturday, April 2, 2005 from 1:00-2:30pm**, in Water Tower (Bronze Level, West Tower). The session is titled "Cosmic Disc: Mediating the Kumano Jikkai Mandala on DVD." It will consist of an introduction and a brief screening (10 minutes) of a recently completed DVD on the Kumano Jikkai Mandala, followed by a discussion. The session will be led by participants in the project: David Plath, Ronald Toby, Brian Ruppert, and Valerie Barske. It should be a captivating program. The last few minutes of our allotted time will be dedicated to a brief business meeting.

The complete SSJR Annual Meeting Supplement for 2004 is now available on-line at the SSJR website (<http://www.wfu.edu/Organizations/ssjr/>). It contains the written version of comments presented at last year's panel, *Power, Veneration, and Identity: New Research on Ritual in Japan*, by Lori Meeks ("Precept Ordination as Ritual Commodity: Eison and the Popularization of Lay Precepts in Kamakura Japan") and Reiko Sono ("Game Birds, Sweet Delicacies, and Shogunal Veneration: Interpreting Gift Exchange in Tokugawa Japan.")

Since this bulletin will be the last I address to you as President, let me take the opportunity to thank you for your continuing interest and support in the Society. I also wish to thank the two Vice-Presidents who served during my two terms, initially Karen Smyers, and for the last four years, Richard Jaffe, who were of great help in organizing and running the sessions. I am especially indebted to Jay Ford, who worked harder than any of us, not only in developing and maintaining our website, but also in taking care of financial matters, communicating with members, helping organize our annual meetings, posting the annual Supplement, and even in ghost-writing portions of the bulletins (though not this paragraph!).

I look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Janine Sawada
President

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

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Vice-President: Richard Jaffe, Duke University

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