

THE JAPANESE RELIGIONS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Society for the
Study of Japanese Religions



February 1990

New Series, No. 7

SSJR ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Chicago on April 5-8 at the Palmer House. The Society's meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 6:00-8:00 pm, in Parlor B. This year's meeting will focus on "New Research on Tokugawa Religion" and will feature discussion of the dissertation research of Elizabeth Harrison on 18th century Jōdo Shinshō sermons and Janine Sawada on the development and spread of the Shingaku movement after the death of Ishida Baigan. As in years past, the meeting will be opened to general discussion of these issues. Please see the enclosed letter from Paul Watt, the Society's president, with further details on this meeting.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

1990 is an election year for the Society. Under the by-laws of the SSJR, the Executive Secretary calls for nominations for officers to serve a three year term. The nominations will not distinguish between the two elected offices of President and Vice-President (the Executive Secretary is appointed by the President and Vice-President). Members of the Society may nominate themselves. The ballot will consist of all nominees who receive at least three nominations. The incumbent President and Vice-President will automatically be placed on the ballot provided they have not served in an elected office more than three consecutive years and they do not otherwise decline nomination. The balloting shall be done by mail. The person with the most votes will become President and the person with the second most votes will become Vice-President. The term of office will be from Fall 1990 through Spring 1993.

Please send all nominations to the Society's Executive Secretary, William Deal, Department of Religion, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106, by **April 1**. Ballots will be mailed to all members shortly thereafter.

SSJR ANNUAL DUES

Only 25% of the Society's members have paid their 1989-90 annual dues (students are exempted from dues payment). It is important that this percentage be raised if the Society is to continue its activities. According to the SSJR by-laws, only members who have paid dues can appear on the election ballot and vote. Payment of dues also makes it possible to continue the publication of the *Bulletin* and the *Annual Meeting Supplement*. 1989-90 annual dues are \$10. Checks made payable to the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions should be sent to William E. Deal, Department of Religion, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST AT THE AAS ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to the Society's meeting, there will be several panels and other events of special interest to SSJR members. Among these are the following panels and papers concerned with topics in Japanese religion:

Reevaluating "Kamakura" Buddhism (#10: Fri. 9:30am)

James H. Sanford: "Warped Woof: Does Zen Have Tantra-Nature"

James Harlan Foard: "Making Sense of Magical Salvation: Ippen at Kumano"

Ruben L. F. Habito: "The Tendai Hongaku School as Background to the New Kamakura Buddhism"

Robert Duquenne: "Dainichi, Amida and Shaka"

The Dōjōji Legend in Japanese Literature and Folklore (#32: Sat. 9:00am)

Arthur H. Thornhill, III: "The Dōjōji Tale: Codependent Salvation in Konjaku Monogatari"

Susan B. Klein: "When the Moon Strikes the Bell: Desire and Enlightenment in the Noh Play Dōjōji"

Reclusion in Medieval Japanese Culture (#66: Sat. 4:00pm)

William E. Deal: "The Recluse in the Capital: The Politics of Renunciation in Heian Buddhism"

Karen L. Brock: "'At a Place Called Shigi There is a Holy Man...': The Miraculous Powers of Myōren Hijiri"

Margaret H. Childs: "The Social Recluse in Late Medieval Revelatory Tales"

Joseph D. Parker: "The Hermit at Court: Reclusion in Early Fifteenth Century Japanese Buddhism"

Individual Papers: Performing Arts in East Asia: Theatre and Poetry (#103: Sun. 1:00pm)

David Barnhill: "Bashō and Buddhism: A Reassessment of the Religiosity of Matsuo Bashō"

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Willis Stoesz is editor of *Kurozumi Shintō: An American Dialogue* (Chambersburg, PA: Anima Books, 1989), which includes his articles "The Universal Attitude of Kurozumi Munetada" and "Kurozumi-kyō in Western View." In addition, the following SSJR members have contributed articles to this volume:

- H. Byron Earhart, "The Modern Vitality of Shintø"
- Gary L. Ebersole, "The *Døka* in Historic Perspective: The Religio-Aesthetic Tradition in Japan"
- Helen Hardacre, "Kurozumi Munetada, Founder of Kurozumi-kyø"
- Alan L. Miller, "Internalization of Kami: Buddhist Affinities in Kurozumi-kyø"
- Eugene Swanger, "*Omamori* in Kurozumi-kyø"

Masao Abe will publish *An Inquiry into the Good* (Joint Translation of Nishida Kitarø's *Zen no Kenkyø* with Chris Ives (Yale University Press, forthcoming) and *A Study of Døgen: His Philosophy and Religion*, ed. Steven Heine (SUNY Press, forthcoming).

Roger J. Corless is author of *The Vision of Buddhism* (New York: Paragon House, 1989).

Michiko Yusa has completed an article on Japanese women and Shintø to be part of *Religion and Women*, ed. Arvind Sharma (SUNY Press, forthcoming).

Bardwell Smith is co-editor and contributor, with Holly Baker Reynolds, of *The City as a Sacred Center: Essays on Six Asian Contexts* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1987). His article "Buddhism and Abortion in Contemporary Japan: Mizuko Kuyø and the Confrontation with Death" appeared in the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (1988). An article, "The Social Contexts of Healing: Research on Abortion and Grieving in Japan," is forthcoming.

Research in progress

Willis Stoesz is editing the translation of a biography of Kurozumi Munetada. Sybil Anne Thornton is finishing a book on Japanese period piece film as religious ritual for pacifying angry spirits of the dead, and is beginning work on an introduction and translation of five epics from the late medieval period.

Correspondence

Irit Averbuch completed a doctoral dissertation titled "Yamabushi Kagura: A Study of a Traditional Ritual Dance in Contemporary Japan" (Harvard University, 1990). Her current address is 45 Weizman Street, Tel Aviv, Israel 64 230.

William J. Danker studied in Japan during 1989.

David N. Olson writes: "I currently work as a technical translator (Japanese chemical patents into English). However, I retain my academic interest in Japanese religion. I have a Mac IIx and publish a newsletter (for alumni of Nagoya International School) from my home. I would be happy to volunteer services of this nature (desktop publishing, mailing list management, mailings, etc.) since I do not have the time to make scholarly contributions to the Society."

Grants

Bardwell Smith received a Fulbright Research Grant for study at the Institute of Humanistic Studies, Kyoto University (July 1986 - November 1987; July -December 1988).

Manabu Waida has received grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (1989-90) for continued fieldwork on shamanism in Okinawa.

New Members

Noriko Ouchi
Willis Stoesz
Sybil Anne Thornton

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Executive Committee

President: Paul B. Watt, Department of Philosophy and Religion, DePauw University

Vice President: Neil McMullin, Religious Studies, University of Toronto

Executive Secretary: William E. Deal, Department of Religion, Case Western Reserve University

Correspondence should be addressed to William E. Deal, Department of Religion, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Member information and update form

☐ Current member

☐ New member

1989-90 dues: \$10.00. Students are exempted from this fee.

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone: (office)

(home)

Fax #

E-Mail (BitNet, etc.):

Field(s) of specialization:

Member news (research in progress; grants won; recent publications, etc.):

News of the field (conferences; special institutes; etc.)

Please return this form to:

William E. Deal
Department of Religion
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland, OH 44106

