

## THE JAPANESE RELIGIONS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Society for the  
Study of Japanese Religions



---

February 1993  
16

New Series, No.

---

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SSJR

Dear Colleagues:

It is a pleasure to invite you to the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions, which will be held on Saturday, March 27, 1993, in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting. The theme of the academic portion of our gathering will be new research on Japanese Buddhism. I have asked two younger scholars in the field to share their work with us. David Gardner, a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University, will speak on his study of Kukai's Shingon Buddhism, especially as it took shape during the first decade or so after Kukai's return from China. Helen Baroni, who is finishing her degree at Columbia University, will discuss her work on Obaku Zen and Tetsugen. We will meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on March 27th in the San Bernardino Room at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel.

Further, this is an election year for the Society. You will find enclosed with this mailing a slate of nominees for the offices of President and Vice President. Please return your ballot to me at your earliest possible convenience. With all best wishes.

Paul B. Watt  
President

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

#### Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Ryuichi Abe has published two articles: "Bridging Ritual and Text: Kakuban's Writing on Meditative Practice" and "FuhO(o,SUP4(-)) no keifugaku," in *KOAR(o,SUP4(-))gyOAR(o,SUP4(-))daishi Kakuban KenkyOAR(u,SUP4(-))* (Tokyo: ShunjO(u,SUP4(-))sha, 1992), pp. 1063-1084; 1085-1094.

Stephen J. Anderson has published the book, *Welfare Policy and Politics in Japan* (Paragon House, 1993).

William Bodiford has published the book, *SOAR(o,SUP4(-))tOAR(o,SUP4(-)) Zen in Medieval Japan* (University of Hawaii Press, 1993).

William J. Danker has published the article "Henry Mizuno Shigetaro (1868-1933): Samurai Missionary Without Support," *Currents in Theology and Mission* 19 (1992), pp. 319-348.

Ruben L. F. Habito has published two articles: "Lotus Buddhism and its Liberational Thrust—A Re-reading of the Lotus Sutra by Way of Nichiren," *Ching Feng* Vol. 35, No. 2 (June 1992); and "The Self as Buddha in Tendai Hongaku Writings" in a Felicitation Volume in Honor of Emeritus Professor Sengaku Mayeda of Tokyo University (ShunjO(u,SUP4(-))sha, 1991).

Christopher Ives has published a book on Zen and ethics: *Zen Awakening and Society* (Macmillan and University of Hawaii Press, 1992).

Jane Marie Law has recently finished two articles: "Of Plagues and Puppets: On the Meaning of the Name Hyakudayu in Japanese Religion," and "Violence and the Ritual Appeasement of Malevolent Spirits: The Hojo-e of the Usa Hachiman Shrine." She is also editor of *Religious Reflections on the Human Body* (forthcoming from Indiana University Press), with articles by fifteen scholars from various disciplines and areas. This volume contains her essay "Divine Rage and the Puppet's Soothing Body: Body Substitution in Japanese Ritual." *Monumenta Nipponica* recently published her "Ritual Puppetry and Religious Authority: The Case of Dokumbo Denki."

### **Research in Progress**

Masao Abe is preparing the following volumes: *Buddhism and Interfaith Dialogue: A Modern View of Zen* and *A Study of the Philosophy of the Kyoto School*.

Winston Davis is preparing a monograph for the University of Arizona's University Lecture on Religion entitled "The Exhaustion of Heaven: The Failure of Natural Rights in Meiji Japan."

Barry D. Steben is completing a doctoral thesis on the YO(o,SUP4(-))meigaku school and its relation with other schools of Edo thought.

Nobuyoshi Yamabe is engaged in the comparative study of Sanskrit and Chinese meditation texts.

### **Conferences and Workshops**

The SSRC Rocky Mountain/Southwest Japan Seminar was held at the University of Arizona, February 26-27, 1993. The theme was "Place, Space, and Environment: Creating a Japanese

World." Special guest was Nakane Shiro, a Japanese landscape architect. For further details, contact Elizabeth Harrison, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Arizona.

### **Grants and Awards**

Masao Abe was presented with the Ecumenical Award from Xavier University.

## **Correspondence**

Stephen J. Anderson is pursuing research in Japan with the support of Yokohama-shi as a Yokohama Fellow, 1992-1993.

Alfred Bloom is Numata Visiting Professor at Harvard University's Center for the Study of World Religions during Spring 1993.

William Bodiford read the paper "Bodhidharma's Precepts in Japan" at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting, November 1992.

Thomas J. Dean is currently Associate Professor of Religion at Temple University Japan.

Elizabeth Harrison received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in August 1992. Her dissertation is entitled "Encountering Amida: JO(o,SUP4(-))do ShinshO(u,SUP4(-)) Sermons in Eighteenth Century Japan."

Marleen Kassel is teaching in the Department of History at the State University of New York, College at New Paltz.

## **New Members**

Stephen J. Anderson  
Thomas J. Dean  
Marleen Kassel

### **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 44106-7112

**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS**  
**MEMBER INFORMATION AND UPDATE FORM**

Please check the appropriate boxes:

☐ Current member

☐ New member

☐ Student

1992-93 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 (new appointments; 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 44106-7112