

THE JAPANESE RELIGIONS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Society for the
Study of Japanese Religions



February 1991

New Series, No. 10

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 New Orleans on April 11-14 at the Marriott Hotel. The Society's meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12, 6:00-8:00 pm, in Mardi Gras M (4th floor). This year's meeting will focus on "New Perspectives on Kamakura Buddhism" and will feature presentations by James Dobbins (Oberlin College) and Jackie Stone (Princeton University). As in years past, the meeting will be opened to general discussion of the issues raised. Please see the enclosed letter from Paul Watt, the Society's president, with further details on this meeting.

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:

The Emergence of the Ocho Kokka (#25: Friday, 11:00 am)

Joan R. Piggott: "Monks and Rulers: Evolution of an Early Medieval Paradigm of Church-State Relations in Japan"

Tailoring the Emperor's New Clothes: Social Change and the Emperor System from Meiji to Heisei (#50: Friday, 2:00 pm)

Helen Hardacre: "Religion and State Patronage in the Modern Period"

Individual Papers: Themes in Pre-Modern Japan (#55: Friday, 2:00 pm)

Sybil A. Thornton: "The Jishu and the Tokugawa"

Childbirth, Child-Death, and Poetic Transcendence: Creative Coping Through Buddhism in Pre-Modern Japan (#87: Saturday, 4:00 pm)

Edward Kamens: "The Five Obstructions (Gosho, Itsutsu no Sawari) as Waka Topos"

Mimi Yiengpruksawan: "Childbirth and the Commissioning of Artworks at the Court of Taikenmon'in"

William R. LaFleur: "Junctures of Birthing and Dying: The Riverbank of Sai in the Folk-Buddhist Abortion Rituals of Japan"

Barbara Ruch: "Woman to Woman: Kumano bikuni Proselytizers in Medieval and Early Modern Japan"

Nagasaki: Japan's Window to the West (1570-1740), Part I (#114.1: Sunday, 12:00 pm)
Louis G. Perez: "La Casa de Misericordia: Joint Japanese-Jesuit Social Network"
Reinier H. Hesselink: "Incompatible Jailbirds: Jesuit Missionaries and Calvinist Explorers in a Japanese Prison in 1643"

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Maggie Childs has published *Rethinking Sorrow: Revelatory Tales of Late Medieval Japan* (University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies, 1991).

Winston Davis' *Japanese Religion and Society: Paradigms of Structure and Change* is forthcoming from State University of New York Press (1991).

Ruben Habito contributed the article "Self as Buddha in Tendai-Hongaku Writings," for the commemorative volume in honor of Professor S. Mayeda, Tokyo University (1991).

Winston King's *Zen and the Way of the Sword* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press (1992).

Mark R. Mullins has published the following articles: "The Transplantation of Religion in Comparative Sociological Perspective," *Japanese Religions* Vol. 16, No. 2 (1990), and "Japanese Pentecostalism and the World of the Dead: A Study of Cultural Adaptation in Iesu no Mitama Kyōkai," *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* Vol. 17, No. 4 (1990).

Barbara Ruch published "The Other Side of Culture in Medieval Japan" in *The Cambridge History of Japan. Volume 3: Medieval Japan*. Edited by Kozo Yamamura (Cambridge University Press, 1990).

Mimi Yiengpruksawan's "In My Image: The Ichiji Kinrin Statue at Chæsonji" is forthcoming in *Monumenta Nipponica*.

Michiko Yusa has published "Fashion and Aletheia: Philosophical Integrity and the War-Time Thought Control," *Studies in Comparative Philosophy* (Tokyo), 1989, pp. 281-294.

Research in Progress

William Bodiford is currently revising his dissertation on medieval Sōtō Zen for publication.

Jane Marie Law is writing a book on the ritual uses of dolls and puppets in Japan, with special attention to Ebisu-kaki and Sanbasō performance.

Michiko Yusa is writing a monograph on *Nishida's Life and Thought*.

Conferences

There will be a conference entitled “Religious Reflections on the Human Body” at Cornell University on April 19-21. 15 papers will be given. Interested parties please contact Jane Marie Law at AVS@CORNELLA.

The Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies (IMJS), Columbia University, sponsored the Workshop on Women and Buddhism in Pre-Modern Japan: Research Strategies for a Newly-Developing Field in December 1989. The IMJS is active in new research on women in medieval Japanese society. The *IMJS Report* (Vol. 1, No. 1), the newsletter of the IMJS, observes: "The study of women in ancient and medieval Japanese society lags behind the study of women in the ancient Mediterranean world or medieval Europe. Interest is quickening, however, and Japanese women are gradually being brought out of the shadows. Until recently, literary studies have been most advanced; with considerable attention given to the literary activities of Heian court ladies. Art historians have begun to look at the role of women as patrons of art and the ways in which they are represented in art. The role of women in Buddhism is beginning to receive systematic attention, opening the way to a broader study of the spiritual lives of women. These studies are now converging and stimulating interest in the social history of women in ancient and medieval Japan." Those interested in the activities of the IMJS are invited to contact the Institute at 407 Kent Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, or by telephone at (212) 854-5036.

Grants

William Bodiford received an AAS/NAC Travel Grant (1990) for research on religious revaloration at a major shrine festival.

Christopher Ives received a Japan Foundation Fellowship (Fall 1990).

Correspondence

Karen L. Brock has accepted an appointment in the Department of the History of Art at the University of Michigan.

Winston Davis was named "Distinguished Lecturer" by the US-Japan Friendship Commission and gave lectures at Dartmouth, the University of Vermont, and Keene State University on "Fundamentalism in Japan."

Ruben Habito delivered the Numata Lectures on "Self, Society and Cosmos in Japanese Religions" at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley, CA, in November 1990.

Jane Marie Law will be teaching an intensive summer course entitled "Japanese Religions in Context" on the island of Awaji this summer. The course is open to upper level undergraduates and graduate students. Interested applicants should contact J. M. Law at (607) 255-7777 or AVS@CORNELLA. Application deadline is April 6.

New Members

William Bodiford
Nobuyoshi Yamabe

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

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

Please check the appropriate boxes:

☐ Current member

☐ New member

☐ Student

1990-91 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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Conferences

Grants

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Research in Progress

Correspondence

Address Changes

New Members

Whereabouts Unknown

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Publications

The Japanese Religions Bulletin is published three times a year, in November, February, and May. The *Annual Meeting Supplement* is published with the May issue.

Dues

Yearly dues are \$10.00. Students are exempted from this fee.

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