

The Japanese Religions Bulletin

The Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions



February 2000

New Series, No. 27

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to invite you to our annual meeting, which will take place this year on Saturday, March 11, in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in San Diego. We are planning a roundtable on the topic "Japanese Religions: What Should We Be Studying (And How)?" The participants are Professors Gary L. Ebersole, Richard Jaffe, James E. Ketelaar, John Nelson, Paul B. Watt, and Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan. After remarks by each of the speakers we will have an open discussion, followed by a brief business meeting. The session will run from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. in the Sunset Room of the Town & Country Hotel Resort and Convention Center.

I have listed below panels of possible interest at the AAS meeting in San Diego. (Session locations will be announced in the Meeting program.) You will also find below news about several of our members, including recent/forthcoming publications. Along these lines, we invite you to send us updates on your own publications, research plans, fellowships/awards, and so forth. You can do this easily at our website with a convenient auto-update feature that sends the information directly by email:

<http://www.wfu.edu/Organizations/ssjr/info.html>

We have the makings of a great discussion this year! I hope you will be able to join us.

Yours,

Janine Sawada, President SSJR

A NOTE ON DUES

If you have not yet sent in your 2000 dues, please do so as soon as possible. SSJR dues are only \$10.00 (\$5.00 for students) and you can print out the membership form from the website above and send it to the address noted (James Ford at Wake Forest University). Since you are receiving a hard copy of this bulletin, that means that we still do not have your email address. This will be the last Bulletin you will receive unless you send us your email address, which you can also do easily at the web address above or with the enclosed "update" form. This does not include those of you who have recently renewed your membership and paid the supplemental \$5.00 fee for hard-copy mailings.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Roger Corless: currently on terminal sabbatical and will retire from Duke University at the end of this academic year.

Noriko Kawahashi: As of Fall 1999, "sennin koshi" (tenured Asst. Professor) at Nagoya Institute of Technology.

Ian Reader is now Professor of Religious Studies at Lancaster University.

Duncan Williams: recently appointed Assistant Professor of Japanese Religion and Society at Trinity College (Fall, 2000). Currently completing his dissertation (Harvard) at Komazawa University in Tokyo on a Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai fellowship.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

James W. Boyd (Colorado State University) recently published (1) "Artful Means: An Aesthetic View of Shinto Purification Rituals," *Journal of Ritual Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 1, Summer 1999, 37-52. Co-authored with Ron G. Williams; and (2) "Shinto Purification Rituals: An Aesthetic Interpretation," an electronic article to be posted on the database, Shinto Study Center, University of California, Berkeley.

Susan Long (John Carroll University) has edited two recently published books:

Caring for the Elderly in Japan and the US: Practices and Policies (Routledge, 2000). This is a cross-disciplinary effort to view aging policies and practices in the widest comparative context. Of interest to SSJR members are chapters based on research, clinical observations, and reflections on topics such as Japanese and American physicians' attitudes toward withholding medical treatment, hospice care in the two countries, volunteerism, family caregiving, programs designed to facilitate continuity of selfhood in elderly patients with dementia, and concepts of personhood in Japan and the US.

Lives in Motion: Composing Circles of Self and Community in Japan (Cornell East Asian Series, 1999). This volume is a collection of ethnographic "snapshots" of Japanese society in recent years. It includes chapters on matsuri, baseball, railway workers, the JET program, a retirement community, attitudes toward death of a Jōdo Shin Buddhist woman, and relationships among the living and the dead in Japan.

Virginia Cohn Parkum will publish "The Angulimala Lineage: Buddhist Prison Ministries," in Christopher S. Queen, ed. *Engaged Buddhism in the West* (Boston: Wisdom, 2000), co-author J. Anthony Stultz. Also forthcoming is "Engaged Buddhism in the American Criminal Justice System: Shin Roots, Shin Blossom" (*The Pure Land*, forthcoming), co-author J. Anthony Stultz.

Ian Reader has a new book forthcoming entitled *Religious Violence in Contemporary Japan: The Case of AUM SHINRIKYO* (Curzon Press, Spring 2000).

Brian Ruppert's *Jewel in the Ashes: Buddha Relics and Power in Early Medieval Japan* will be published by the Harvard University Asia Center (distributed by Harvard UP), April-May 2000.

RESEARCH, CONFERENCES, AND EVENTS

Felecia G. Bock is about to prepare her *Engi-shiki* translation to be put on the Internet under sponsorship of the new Center for Shinto Studies at U.C. Berkeley.

George J. Tanabe delivered the keynote address at the conference "Death, Afterlives, and Other Realms: Issues in Contemporary Japanese Religion and Society," held at SOAS December, 1999 to celebrate the founding of their new Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions. The title of Professor Tanabe's talk was "Voices for the Dead: Priestly Incantations and Grave Discussions."

NEW MEMBERS

Lorinda Kiyama. Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University (medieval Japanese literature) and currently a Fulbright Fellow at Nagoya University.

Christine Murasaki Millett. Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University in the Dept. of East Asian Languages and Civilizations (PreModern Japanese Literature, religion and history)

Virginia Cohn Parkum

Susan Zitterbart. University of Pittsburgh (Japanese Art History and Early Japanese Buddhism)

AAS, San Diego (March 9-12)—Sessions of Interest

Thursday, March 9: 7:00-9:00

7. Embodying Perfection: Self-Cultivation in Pre-Modern China (Sponsored by SSCR) (Lowell Skar, University of Pennsylvania)

Friday, March 10: 8:30-10:30

23. The Practice of Filial Piety in Contemporary China (Charlotte Ikels, Case Western Reserve University)

25. Muslims in 20th-Century China: Making and Resisting Hui History (Jonathan N. Lipman, Mt. Holyoke College)

26. New Perspectives on the Self in Early China (Edward Slingerland, University of Southern California)

34. Individual Papers: Religious Practice & Symbol in Pre-Colonial India (Stewart Gordon, Independent Scholar of South Asia)

39. Varieties of Pure Land Practice in China and Japan (Richard M. Jaffe, North Carolina State University, Raleigh)

Friday, 10:45-12:45

49. Gifts and Debts: Ritual Economy in Premodern and Early Modern Japanese Society (Brian D. Ruppert, University of Illinois)

Friday, 3:15-5:15

91. Defining Refinement: The Aesthetic of Fuyu in Japanese Intellectual and Popular Culture (Sponsored by Sino-Japanese Studies and Early Modern Japanese Studies) (Patricia J. Graham, University of Kansas)

Saturday, March 11: 8:30-10:30

101. Buddhist Arts in Diaspora (Ann W. Norton, Province College)

107. Individual Papers: Changing Places: Studies on Religion and Gender in Pre-20th Century China (Julia K. Murray, University of Wisconsin, Madison)

Saturday 10:45-12:45

132. Creativity from Destruction: Japanese Pure Land Eschatology in its Social and Aesthetic Dimensions (Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan, Yale University)

135. Reinventing Tradition: Contemporary Trends in Religious Practice in India (Timothy Lubin, Washington & Lee University)

136. The Buddhist Canon in East Asia: Papers in Honor of Lewis Lancaster (Carl Bielefeldt, Stanford University)

Saturday 2:45-4:45

144. Daoist Gods and Immortals in Chinese Painting (Shih-shan Susan Huang, Yale University)

146. Ritual and Meaning in Taiwan (Marc Moskowitz, University of California, San Diego)

154. Religious Encounters, Identity, and Locality in Indonesia and Malaysia (Sponsored by Indonesian Studies Committee) (Suzanne A. Brenner, University of California, San Diego)

156. Roundtable: Remembering Michael Aris (1946-1999): Contributions to Tibetan and Himalayan Studies (Sponsored by Buddhist Studies Committee) (Matthew Kapstein, University of Chicago)

Saturday 5:00-7:00

161. Representations of Filial Piety: Shifting Contexts and Meaning (Maram Epstein, University of Oregon)
165. The Production and Maintenance of Religious Space in Pre-Modern China (Michael J. Walsh, Academia Sinica)
167. For Whom the "Divine Winds" Blew: Myths of the Mongol Invasions of Japan (Thomas Conlan, Bowdoin College)
175. The Reception of Images in Asian Religions (Koichi Shinohara, McMaster University)

Saturday, 7:15 to 9:00

SSJR Annual Meeting. Sunset Room of the Town & Country Hotel Resort and Convention Center.

Sunday, March 12: 8:30-10:30

180. Embodying Perfection: Self-Cultivation Traditions in Modern China (Qing to the 20th Century)(Sponsored by Society for Study of Chinese Religions) (Xun Liu, University of Southern California)
190. Changing Sources of Patronage for Muslim Musicians in South Asia: Hindu Temples, Muslim Rulers and Shrines, Secular State and "Bollywood" (Sponsored by Asian Muslim Studies Association) (Theodore P. Wright Jr., State University of New York, Albany)

Sunday 10:45-12:45

209. Matsuri of Metaphor: Shinto Symbolism in Contemporary Ritual Practice (E. Leslie Williams, Clemson University)
212. Interpreting Ayutthaya: Rethinking Representation of Religion and State (Pattaratorn Chirapavati, Asian Art Museum)
216. Cultural, National, and Islamic Identities in Asia (Ronald Lukens-Bull, University of North Florida)

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Executive Committee

President: Janine Sawada, School of Religion, University of Iowa

Vice-President: Karen Smyers, Department of Religion, Wesleyan University

Executive Secretary: James L. Ford, Department of Religion, Wake Forest University

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<http://www.wfu.edu/Organizations/ssjr/>