

THE JAPANESE RELIGIONS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Society for the
Study of Japanese Religions

May 1989

New Series, No. 5

SSJR ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Approximately twenty-five members and friends attended the round-table discussion of Joseph M. Kitagawa's recent volume, On Understanding Japanese Religions (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987) at the Society's annual meeting held in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies meeting in Washington, D.C. The Society's gratitude goes to Neil McMullin and Edmund Gilday for their insightful critiques of the volume provided on that occasion and, in particular, to Professor Kitagawa for allowing his book to be used as the basis for that discussion and for his own stimulating response. The Society would also like to thank William LaFleur for assisting Professor Kitagawa. The presentations made by all three participants have been enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin as a special supplement.

In the business meeting that followed, Paul Watt announced that the Executive Committee of the Society has decided to continue the format we have used for the last two years. Suggestions of recent publications in the field that might serve as the basis for next year's discussion should be passed on to members of the Committee (Watt, Neil McMullin, and William Deal). It was further announced that the Society has received its first institutional inquiry for subscription/membership.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Conferences

Mary Evelyn Tucker organized a five-part lecture series titled "Religion in Japan: Diversity and Tradition" at the New York Japan Society during April, May, and June. In addition to Dr.

Tucker's presentation on "Confucianism: The Ties that Bind," SSJR member Helen Hardacre addressed the issue of "The New Religions in Japan."

The 19th Annual California State University, Fullerton Philosophy Symposium was titled "Japanese Morality: An East/West Dialogue." The Symposium was held March 1-3, 1989, and included papers by SSJR members Thomas Kasulis, William LaFleur, and Robert J.J. Wargo.

Grants

Winston Davis was the recipient of an NEH grant in 1987-88.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Winston Davis' article, "Buddhism and the Modernization of Japan," appears in the May 1989 issue of History of Religions.

Joseph Kitagawa is the author/editor of the following volumes:

Author: The History of Religions: Understanding Human Experience (Scholars Press, 1987)

Editor: The Religions of Asia (Macmillan, forthcoming 1989)

Co-editor with G. Alles: 2 books by J. Wach: Introduction to the History of Religions and Essays in the History of Religions (both volumes are Macmillan, 1988)

Co-editor with Mark Cummings: Buddhism (Macmillan, forthcoming 1990)

Paul Ingram published The Modern Buddhist-Christian Dialogue (Edwin Mellen Press, 1988).

George Tanabe is co-editor of The Lotus Sutra in Japanese Culture (University of Hawaii Press, forthcoming 1989).

Michiko Yusa recently published Basic Kanji (Tokyo: Taisho Kan, 1989), 423 basic kanji explained with etymologies.

Research in Progress

James Foard is currently at Hiroshima Shodō University studying the disposal of the Hiroshima dead from 1945 to 1955.

George Tanabe has completed a book manuscript titled Myoe the Dreamkeeper.

Manabu Waida is researching shamanistic phenomena in Japan.

Correspondence

Richard Pilgrim reports: "As the new Chairperson of the AAR Japanese Religions Group, I would like to encourage all Society members to attend and participate in the 1989 National Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Anaheim, CA., November 18-21."

John Howes reports: "The AAS panel on "Taisho Christianity as Mainline" drew an audience of about 30 in spite of its spot at 1:30-3:00 on Sunday afternoon. The papers and commentators' notes were excellent and are being prepared for publication."

Address Changes

William Deal has accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, 44106.

Joseph Parker has accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor at Pitzer College.

Mary Evelyn Tucker has accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Religion at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, 17837.

Paul Watt has accepted an appointment as Associate Professor of Asian Studies in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, 46135.

New Members

Jamie Hubbard, Smith College

Nori Ichizawa, University of Montana

SSJR ANNUAL DUES

This is a reminder that the Executive Committee of the Society has decided to end the moratorium on dues. Members are therefore asked to pay the 1988-89 annual dues of \$10. Students are exempted from this fee. 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. Payment of dues makes it possible to continue the publication of the Bulletin and Annual Meeting Supplement.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Publications

The Japanese Religions Bulletin is published three times a year, in October, 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.

Executive Committee

President: Paul B. Watt, Department of Religion, Columbia 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

1988-89 dues: \$10.00. Students are exempted from this fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (office) _____ (home) _____

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:

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Cleveland, OH. 44106