

THE JAPANESE RELIGIONS BULLETIN

The Newsletter of the Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

October, 2004

New Series, No. 35

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT [PDF Version attached]

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you are all well as we move into the peak days of autumn.

Last spring we were pleased to present a panel called "Veneration and Identity: New Research on Ritual in Japan" at the AAS conference in San Diego. Lori Meeks spoke on "The Extra-Monastic Uses of the Vinaya in Kamakura-Period Japan," and Reiko Sono on "Game Birds, Sweet Delicacies, and Shogunal Veneration: Interpreting Gift Exchange in Tokugawa Japan." The 2004 Supplement to the Bulletin, which includes transcripts of these talks, will be available shortly on our website. Many thanks to both speakers for sharing their research with us, and to all the participants for the stimulating discussion that followed.

SSJR ELECTIONS

It is time once again for SSJR elections, which take place every three years. Please note that according to our by-laws I am ineligible to run for reelection, since I am coming to the end of my second term.

Here is the process for elections: Members are to submit nominees for the election to the Executive Secretary and may nominate themselves. The nominations will NOT distinguish between the two elected offices (President and Vice-President). The Executive Secretary will compile a list of all those who receive three or more nominations. The incumbent Vice-President (Richard Jaffe) shall automatically be on the list provided he does not decline the nomination. If this process does not produce at least two names in addition to the Vice-President, the Executive Secretary will compile a list from those receiving two or more nominations. If that doesn't produce two names, all receiving nominations shall be included on the ballot. The list of names shall be sent as a ballot to the full membership no later than February of next year (2005). The person receiving the most votes will become President, and the person with the second most votes, Vice-President, beginning the following academic year. The President-elect and the Vice-President-elect will appoint the Executive Secretary by April of the year of their election.

PLEASE SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO JAY FORD, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, VIA EMAIL (fordj@wfu.edu) OR SNAIL MAIL (address below) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SSJR WEBSITE

Jay Ford (Executive Secretary) continues to update the SSJR website, particularly with recent announcements and job notices. Please keep this in mind should you have any announcements to share with the membership (job openings, conferences, fellowship opportunities, member news, and so forth). Also, if you manage or know of useful internet resources that may be relevant to the field, please notify Jay of those as well.

DUES: 2004-05

Member dues remain the same as last year and are noted below. Please submit your checks payable to the “Society for the Study of Japanese Religions” to Jay Ford.

James L. Ford
Dept. of Religion
Wake Forest University
P.O. Box 7212 Reynolda Station
Winston-Salem, NC 27109-7212

You can print out the membership update form from the website and send it to the address noted if you need to report a change of address or other news. Go to:

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

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|------------------|---------|
| Members: | \$10.00 |
| Student Members: | \$5.00 |

AAR SCHEDULE

For those of you planning to attend the AAR annual meeting in San Antonio (Nov. 20-23), I am attaching a schedule of meetings of possible interest.

If you have any questions or suggestions about any of the above, feel free to send them to me (j-sawada@uiowa.edu) or Jay (fordj@wfu.edu) in an email message. In the meantime, thank you for your continuing interest and support!

Hope to see you again soon—if not at the AAR meeting in San Antonio, then at the AAS meeting next spring in Chicago (March 31-April 3).

Yours,

Janine T.A. Sawada
President, Society for the Study of Japanese Religions

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF JAPANESE RELIGIONS

Executive Committee

President: Janine T.A. Sawada, University of Iowa

Vice-President: Richard Jaffe, Duke University

Executive Secretary: James L. Ford, Wake Forest University

MEMBER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**Paula Arai**

Keynote Speaker, “Healing Buddhist Women,” at Sakyadhita International Buddhist Women's Conference in Seoul, S. Korea, June, 2004.

Presentation: “Women and Dogen: Rituals of Empowerment and Healing” at “The Many Faces of Dogen International Conference” at Zen Mountain Monastery in NY, July, 2004.

Kevin Carr has taken a post as Instructor in the History of Art department, University of Michigan.

James Dobbins published *Letters of the Nun Eshinni: Images of Pure Land Buddhism in Medieval Japan* (ISBN 0-8248-2870-4; University of Hawai'i Press) in September 2004.

Jay Ford was promoted to Associate Professor of East Asian religions in the Dept. of Religion at Wake Forest University. Forthcoming publications include “*Kōshiki* and the Discourse of Established Buddhism in Medieval Japan” in *Language and Discourse in Medieval Japanese Buddhism*, eds. Richard Payne and Rev. Taigen Leighton. “Competing With Amida: A Study and Translation of Jōkei’s *Miroku kōshiki*.” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Spring 2005.

Richard Jaffe was promoted to Associate Professor of Buddhist Studies in the Dept. of Religion at Duke. He also received National Humanities Center and National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships for his book project, “Seeking Śākyamuni: World Travel and the Reconstruction of Japanese Buddhism, 1868-1945.” The following two articles were published. Jaffe, R. M. “Seeking Śākyamuni: Travel and the Reconstruction of Japanese Buddhism.” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 30, no. 1 (2004): 65-96 and Jaffe, Richard M. “Ungo Kiyō’s *Ōjōyōka* and Rinzai Zen Orthodoxy.” In *Approaching the Land of Bliss: Religious Praxis in the Cult of Amitabha*, edited by Richard K. Payne and Kenneth Tanaka. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003.

Bill LaFleur published “Awesome Nightfall: The Life, Times, and Poetry of Saigyō” in '03 and co-edited, along with Susanne Formanek, “Practicing the Afterlife: Perspectives from Japan,” published in Vienna this year. He spent 6 months in '03 at Nichibunken, working on bioethics in Japan and has a book in process that compares the thinking of Japanese and Americans on a number of controversial issues. Given a grant from the Center for European Integration Studies, he studied bioethics in Germany at the University of Bonn this summer and also organized an international conference, “Going Too Far: Rationalizing Unethical Medical Research in Japan, Germany, and the United States” at Penn late in April. Its program is on a website with that title and the papers are making their way into the form of an edited book. “Not yet, not yet” has gotten to be his response to friendly queries about the timing of his retirement from teaching.

Taigen Dan Leighton

DOGEN'S EXTENSIVE RECORD: A Translation of the Eihei Koroku Translated by Taigen Dan Leighton and Shohaku Okumura Edited and introduced by Taigen Dan Leighton Foreword by Tenshin Reb Andersen with introductory essays by Steven Heine and John Daido Looi. 720 pages, cloth with ribbon, ISBN 0-86171-305-2.

<http://www.wisdompubs.org/products/0861713052.cfm>

“This is a significant time in terms of understanding Dogen in the West, [with] Taigen Dan Leighton and Shohaku Okumura's translation of the Eihei Koroku coming out. People are going to see an entirely different style in this collection of Dogen's later teachings.” - Steven Heine, Florida International University, and co-author of *Buddhism in the Modern World*, in the forum-style article, “Understanding Dogen,” in *Buddhadharma: The Practitioner's Quarterly*.

This work includes ten sections: the first seven are Dogen's 531 usually short jodo to his monks; the 1st from before he left Kyoto in 1243, and the 2nd through 7th from Echizen, almost all of what remains from Dogen's mature teaching in his last decade at Eihei-ji. The other sections feature shosan, longer informal talks to his Eihei-ji monks, and letters to students; his choice of 90 koans with Dogen's own verse comments; and his Chinese poetry from his student years in China to his last years. Apparatus for this edition includes a substantial introduction and annotation, introductory essays by Steven Heine and John Daido Looi, and name glossary and index.

Two new books relating to pilgrimage in Japan will be published in early 2005, one focused more on contemporary issues and pilgrims' experiences, the other more on historical and political themes surrounding a pilgrimage site, but with several overlapping themes relating to landscape and the processes through which pilgrimage sites are constructed. These are **Ian Reader's** study of the Shikoku pilgrimage, *Making Pilgrimages: Meaning and Landscape in Shikoku*, which will come out from the University of Hawaii Press in February 2005, and **Sarah Thal's** study of Konpira Shrine (also in Shikoku) *Rearranging the Landscape of the Gods: The Politics of a Pilgrimage Site in Japan 1573-1912*, from the University of Chicago Press, also in early 2005.

Brian Ruppert has written the article, "Buddhism in Japan," which will appear in the second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Religion*, currently in-press. He also wants to note that the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Illinois features an M.A. and Ph.D. program, in which he and Alexander Mayer (Chinese Buddhism) teach. Graduate students can specialize in Japanese Religion, Japanese Buddhism, or Chinese Buddhism.

Janine Tasca Sawada published *Practical Pursuits: Religion, Politics, and Personal Cultivation in Nineteenth-Century Japan* in May 2004 with the University of Hawai'i Press. Her essay, "The Confucian Linguistic Community in Late Tokugawa Japan," has also appeared this year in *Confucian Spirituality*, ed. Tu Wei-ming and Mary Evelyn Tucker (Crossroad Press). She is currently in Italy pursuing research on confraternity culture in emerging modern societies.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Institute for Asian Studies (IAS)** at Florida International University is pleased to announce that it will hold a **symposium** on Saturday, February 26th. Please note that this event is considered to be one of the regular SJS events, but will be funded by IAS, working in collaboration with other organizations including the Consulate General office in Miami. The schedule is tentative, but since a number of SJS members had inquired, we wanted to send out information as you look ahead to your Spring 2005 schedules.

All SJS members and friends are invited to attend what promises to be an exciting weekend to enjoy Japanese culture at the beach! Funding is primarily limited to speakers, but we expect to make at least one night hotel plus per diem, or about \$200, available to other SJS members who wish to attend. Please let us know if you are interested. We have reserved rooms at the Blue Moon hotel, less than a block from the museum, and a block in the other direction to the beach. Check out the hotel's website: www.bluemoonhotel.com. The Blue Moon has given us a phenomenal high season rate of \$152/night, but can only hold this rate for a limited number of rooms. Please contact me or Dr. Heine (heines@fiu.edu) directly if you are interested as I will

be coordinating with the hotel.

The Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies at Columbia University would like to inform members of the formation of its sister institution, the Medieval Japanese Studies Institute and Center for Study of Women, Buddhism and Cultural History located in the priory of Daikankiji convent on Teramachi dori in Kyoto. Brochures concerning its membership and activities can be obtained by contacting Katsura Michiyo (Administrative Director) in either English or Japanese at: phone/fax +81-75-212-1206; email: michiyokatsura@yahoo.co.jp or chusei_nihon@yahoo.co.jp

The **European Association of Japanese Studies** will hold a conference at the University of Vienna, from August 31 to September 3, 2005, and papers are being sought for the section called religion and the history of ideas. Mark Blum and Galen Amstutz are convening this time and have proposed a theme on the broad topic of "Pure Lands in Japanese Religions" but papers and panels on all topics in Japanese religion and the history of ideas are welcome. The announcements and calls for papers online on the EAJIS site at

<http://www.univie.ac.at/eajs/sections/8religion.htm> and <http://www.univie.ac.at/eajs/>.

LANGUAGE: Presentations may be given in English or Japanese.

PANEL PROPOSALS: We invite proposals for panels, which should consist of three presenters or two presenters and a discussant. Panel proposals should be of approximately 90 minutes duration

INDIVIDUAL PAPER PROPOSALS: We equally invite proposals for individual papers. These should be about twenty minutes in length, with ten minutes allowed for discussion. Individual paper proposals will be grouped in panels by the convenors.

CONTACT DEADLINE: Paper or panel proposals and their abstracts must reach the convenors by December 31, 2004 by email, fax or mail.

ABSTRACTS: For panels, please send the title of the panel and a 250-word presentation explaining the panel's overall focus; together with that overall outline, a 300-word abstract for each participant's paper is also required. For individual papers, please send an abstract of no more than 300 words.

CALL FOR PAPERS: ASIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE JAPAN (ASCJ) 2005

June 18-19, 2005

The ninth annual Asian Studies Conference Japan will be held on June 18-19, 2005, at the Ichigaya Campus of Sophia University, Tokyo. Proposals are invited for panels, individual papers and roundtables in all areas and fields of Asian Studies. Details of preferred areas and other submission guidelines are available on the ASCJ website: www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~kokusai/ascj/ The deadline for proposals is November 25, 2004. Employment Notices (as of 10/5/04)

JOB NOTICES

See MSWord document attached.

AAR ANNUAL MEETING—Sessions of Interest

See MSWord document attached.