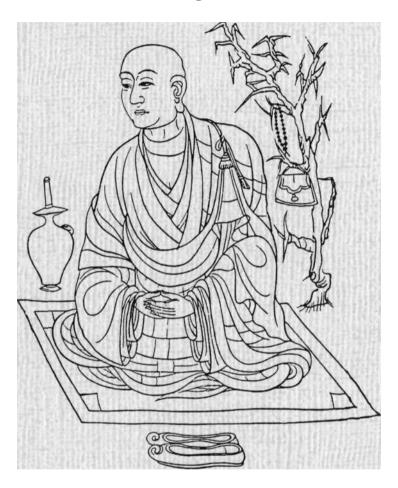
Studies in Central & East Asian Religions



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Volume 2 Autumn 1989



Studies in Central & East Asian Religions

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EDITORIAL

On the publication of this, the second, issue of *Studies in Central & East Asian Religions* we would like to take the opportunity to sketch very briefly some of the thinking which lies behind this undertaking. The Journal may be said to have two defining characteristics: the first is thematic, the second, geographic. The geographic compass of our chosen field is intended to delineate an area which contains a tremendous variety of local belief and practice, at the same time that it has other topics which bind it together. Buddhism is of course a major factor in the latter phenomenon, but by no means the only one. It is our hope that the Journal will be able to attract contributions which together demonstrate the manifold factors which have gone to create, and still create, an important part of the cultural basis for life in that part of the world. The thematic aspect is meant to include any topic which contributes to our understanding of the religious life, whether this be from a historical, philosophic, anthropological, or other standpoint. It is hoped that collecting research with such varying approaches will prove particularly beneficial, and that *Studies in Central & East Asian Religions* will contribute in a fruitful way to our understanding of life and culture in this area.

Using the word "forum" brings us on to the other topic we would like to raise in these few words of greeting. Our *Forum* section is meant to fulfil the following essential needs: for information about what is going on, that is, individual researchers' present work as well as reports from academic and other relevant gatherings; and—following on from this—the need for help concerning materials or other information pertinent to one's study needs. Postgraduate [Graduate] students in particular are invited to exploit this opportunity to the full. Whilst five or ten page reports are welcome here, one should not be afraid to send in a one-sentence request, or.

We shall close by *cri de cœur* thanking you for your support, and expressing the hope that the Journal will-through your responses and contributions—become the vehicle for research and co-operation that we envisaged at its inception.

The Editors