

Project to Translate Classical Chinese Tripitaka Test

In 1965, Mr. Yehan Numata, Founder of Mitutoyo Manufacturing Company, Ltd., one of the world's leading producers of precision measuring instruments, established the Buddhist promoting Foundation (Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai) in Tokyo, Japan. As its first major activity, the Foundation compiled a text entitled *The Teaching of Buddha* and translated it into 24 languages. These texts have been published by the Foundation and placed into hundreds of thousands of hotel rooms and classrooms world-wide.

In 1982, at the request of Mr. Numata, the Foundation initiated a monumental project to translate the entire Classical Chinese *Taishō Tripitaka* Buddhist Canon into English. Forming a scriptural base for all Buddhists, the *Tripitaka* contains the complete system of Śākyamuni Buddha's teachings and has been called a cultural legacy for all humanity.

In order to implement this new translation project, an English *Tripitaka* Editorial Committee was formed in Tokyo. Composed of leading Japanese Buddhist scholars, this committee selected 70 eminent scholar-translators from many parts of the world and made arrangements for the translation of 139 carefully selected texts, which are to be considered the "First Series."

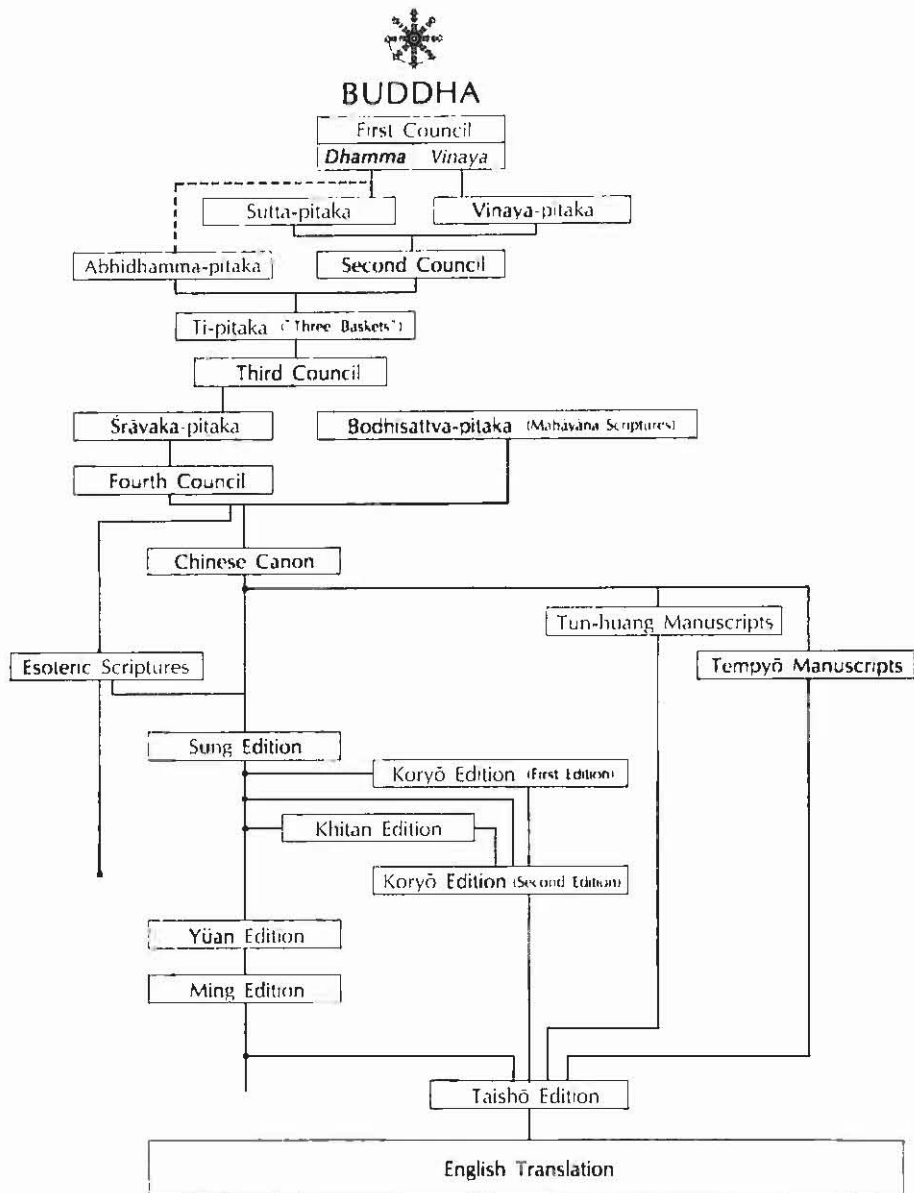
Much progress has been made. By the year 2,000 A.D., it is expected that these "First Series" texts, in 100 volumes, will be published. They represent 11 percent of the complete *Tripitaka* Canon. In order to give a clearer conception of the magnitude of this ambitious and epochal undertaking, one must be aware that it is expected to take an additional 80 years to complete this project, as it consists of thousands of works.

In 1984, to bring this project to fruition, the Numata Center for Translation and Research was established at Berkeley, California. The role of the Numata Center is to monitor the translators' work, to review and edit the translated manuscripts, to make payments to these translators, and to ready the texts for publication. It is anticipated that the initial volume of the "First Series" will be ready for distribution before 1987.

The Numata Center, through the generosity of Mr. Numata, has also established Chairs in Buddhist Studies at three major universities in America and, just recently, at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley. Additionally, the *Pacific World Journal* is published under the sponsorship of the Numata Center as one of the many ancillary projects of the Buddhist Promoting Foundation.

By utilizing the vehicles of the Buddhist Promoting Foundation in Japan and the Numata Center for Translation and Research in California, Mr. Yehan Numata has been able to bring into focus his singular objective to make available the message of the historical Buddha to all the world's people in the sincere hope that the teachings will lead eventually to universal harmony and World Peace.

A Genealogical Chart of the Original Texts of the English Translation of the Buddhist Canon



(based on Dr A Hirakawa, "Daizōkyō no keifu")

CONTRIBUTORS

Ames, Diane	Graduate student, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Bellah, Robert	Professor of Sociology and Comparative Studies, University of California, Berkeley
Bolick, Jerry	Graduate student, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Hisatsune, Clarence	Professor Emeritus, Pennsylvania State University
Hisatsune, Kimi	Associate editor, the <i>Pacific World</i>
Inaba, Darryl	Director, Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinic, San Francisco
Inagaki, Hisao	Professor, Ryukoku University, Kyoto, Japan
Keenan, John	Assistant Professor, Middlebury College, Vermont
McKinley, Arnold	Graduate student, Graduate Theological Union and Soft-ware Engineer
Payne, Richard	Faculty, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Seelawimala, Madawala	Faculty, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Silver, Joan	Graduate student, Graduate Theological Union
Tanaka, Kenneth	Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean, Institute of Buddhist Studies
Taniguchi, Shoyo	Graduate, Graduate Theological Union/Institute of Buddhist Studies, M.A., 1987

The Institute of Buddhist Studies Seminary and Graduate School

- History:** Its predecessor, the Buddhist Studies Center, was started in 1949 in Berkeley, and in 1966 the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) was founded as a graduate school for Jodo Shinshu ministry and for Buddhist studies. The IBS was founded by the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), which is affiliated with the Hampa-Hongwanji branch of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, a school of Pure Land Buddhism
- Affiliation:** In 1985, the IBS became an affiliate of the Graduate Theological Union. The GTU is the coordinating organization for one of the most inclusive concentrations of religious educational resources in the world. This marks the first time another major world religion has joined in a consortium with religious schools from the Judeo-Christian traditions. In addition to the IBS, the GTU includes six Protestant and three Roman Catholic seminaries, a Center for Jewish Studies and eleven other specialized centers and Institutes.
- Degrees:** Master in Jodo-Shinshu Studies (M.J.S.), a professional degree for Jodo Shinshu ministry granted by IBS. GRE exam required.
- Master of Arts specializing in Buddhist Studies, an accredited degree granted jointly by GTU and IBS. GRE exam required.
- Deadline:** Admissions applications are due February 1 for fall semester and September 30 for spring semester.
- Resources:** Credits for the degrees can also be earned at the University of California, Berkeley. Univ. of Calif students, in turn, can take courses at IBS and GTU for credit.
- Core Faculty:**
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| Alfred Bloom: | Dean and Professor
S.T.M. Andover Newton Theological School;
Ph.D., Harvard University. |
| Kenneth Tanaka: | Assist. Dean and Assist. Professor
B.A., Stanford University; M.A., Inst. of Buddhist
Studies; M.A., Tokyo University; Ph.D., University
of California Berkeley. |
| Ronald Nakasone: | Assist. Dean for Student Affairs and Assist. Professor
B.A., M.A., University of Hawaii; M.A.,
Ryukoku University; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin,
Madison. |