

PACIFIC WORLD

Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies

Third Series Number 1
Fall 1999

**SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF
RENNYO SHŌNIN'S DEATH**



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Pacific World is an annual journal in English devoted to the dissemination of historical, textual, critical and interpretive articles on Buddhism generally and Shinshu Buddhism particularly to both academic and lay readerships. The journal is distributed free of charge. Articles for consideration by the *Pacific World* are welcomed and are to be submitted in English and addressed to the Editor, *Pacific World*, PMB 202, 650 Castro Street, Suite 120, Mountain View, CA 94041, USA.

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Foreign words should be underlined and marked with proper diacriticals, except for the following: arhat, bodhisattva, buddha/Buddha, dharma/Dharma, Hinayana, kalpa, karma, Mahayana, nembutsu, nirvana, samsara, sangha, shinjin, sutra, yoga. Romanized Chinese follows Wade-Giles system (except in special cases); romanized Japanese, the modified Hepburn system. Japanese/Chinese names are given surname first, omitting honorifics. Ideographs preferably should be restricted to notes.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

It seems that every institution goes through periods of expansion and contraction. Over the last four years, the Institute of Buddhist Studies has turned its attention inward, and engaged in an extensive re-evaluation of its entire program, including its publications. The *Pacific World* has long been a key element in the Institute's publications, giving the Institute a means of expressing its identity. As we have re-evaluated our identity over the last four years, it has become clear that Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies is the focus of energies that the Institute needs to pursue. The idea of Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies is an attempt to create a concept that is simultaneously inclusive and focused.

It is inclusive, first, because Shin Buddhism does not exist in isolation from any other form of Buddhism or any other religious tradition. Second, the exploration of the many ways in which Shin Buddhism is related to the religious, philosophic and social concerns of the contemporary world necessarily means continual re-exploration of Shin and Buddhist history. At the same time the concept of Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies focuses our efforts, giving a point of reference from which to develop both an editorial and an institutional identity.

After a two-year hiatus, we are now ready to initiate the third series of the *Pacific World*. The editorial committee wishes to thank the Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai for its understanding and continuing support of the Institute, the Institute's own Board of Trustees for their guidance over the past four years, and the membership of the Buddhist Churches of America, without whose support the Institute would not exist.

Richard K. Payne

Institute of Buddhist Studies, Dean
and Pacific World Editorial Committee, Chair

