

# NOTES AND NEWS

## INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES AND IBS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY SHIN BUDDHIST STUDIES

**PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES:  
SEPTEMBER 1995–NOVEMBER 2000**

### **I. IBS New Academic Program**

A new core academic program was designed during the 1995–96 academic year and implemented during the 1996–97 academic year. This program provides both a quality education for ministerial aspirants and programmatic flexibility for others. Three aspects of the Institute's academic program were revised: the set of courses offered, the degrees offered, and responsibilities for ministerial education and training.

#### **A. Course Offerings**

In keeping with its Mission Statement, the academic program of the Institute takes as its organizing principle the contemporary application and development of Shin Buddhist thought. Based upon this principle a set of priorities for the instructional program have been developed:

1. Shin Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism,
2. Japanese Buddhism and Japanese religions,
3. Mahayana Buddhism,
4. Buddhist tradition generally.

The Institute's curriculum has a coherent organizing principle—contemporary Shin Buddhist studies—and priorities for curricular offerings.

#### **B. Degree Program**

IBS offers two graduate degrees.

1. A Master of Arts (Buddhist Studies) degree. This is an academic degree, and is jointly administered by the Institute and the Gradu-

ate Theological Union. Its minimum requirements are fourteen courses, a foreign language relevant to the study of Buddhism, and a thesis.

2. A Master of Buddhist Studies (MBS) degree. This degree program is administered by IBS for those students who wish to pursue a systematic study of Buddhism, but are not interested in receiving an academic degree.

### **C. Ministerial Training**

Ministerial aspirants have a three-year program of study, in either or both degree programs. Course work includes an introduction to Shin Buddhist thought, the history of Indian, East Asian, and Japanese Buddhism, the three Pure Land Sutras, and the history of the Shin Buddhist tradition. There is a focus on a three-course sequence of Reading Tutorials in Shin Buddhist Texts; a three-course sequence on The Writings of Shinran, and a course called Shin Buddhist Services and Ceremonies, which is to be taken every semester that the student is enrolled in the program. In addition, the BCA Ministerial Candidates' Affairs Committee (MCAC) supervises Ministerial Candidates in fieldwork experience placements.

## **II. On-going Research Programs**

Four areas serve as the focal points of on-going research and study at IBS under the coordination of the Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies. The areas and their facilitators are:

Buddhism and Psychology—Dr. Richard Payne

Buddhism in Contemporary Culture—Dr. Eisho Nasu

Self-Salvation-Society—Rev. David Matsumoto

Shin Buddhist Propagation in the West—Rev. David Matsumoto

IBS research programs include a variety of activities, including study sessions, occasional seminars, conferences, and publications.

## **III. IBS Public Lectures**

### **A. BCA Centennial Lecture Series**

1. Toward a Contemporary Understanding of Pure Land Buddhism: Constructing a Shin Buddhist Theology in a Religiously Plural World.

A symposium held on September 13, 14 & 15, 1996 at IBS and the Pacific School of Religion.

## 2. The Life and Thought of Rennyō Shōnin

Two public lectures by Prof. Jitsuen Kakehashi on September 26, 1997 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and September 28, 1997 at the Gardena Buddhist Temple.

## 3. Jōdo Shinshū in the 21st Century: A Return to the Starting Point of Religion.

Two public lectures by Professor Akira Ōmine on August 14, 1998 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and August 16, 1998 at the Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

## 4. The Essence of Shin Buddhism.

Two public lectures by Prof. Takamaro Shigaraki on September 10 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and September 16 at the Orange County Buddhist Temple.

## B. Other Public Lectures

### 1. Buddhist Practice: How? What? Why?

Workshops by Bhante Madawala Seelawimala and Rev. David Matsumoto at the San Jose Betsuin (Nov. 1, 1998) Sacramento Betsuin (November 4, 1998) and San Mateo Buddhist Temple (November 13, 1998), Salt Lake Buddhist Temple (December 12, 1999).

### 2. Tri State Buddhist Temple Nembutsu seminar, October 2-3, 1999.

Lectures by Dr. Eishō Nasu, "Awakening in Dreams: Shinran's View of the Pure Land Buddhist Practice of Dream Meditation," and Dr. Richard Payne, "The Contemplation Sutra and the Awakening of the Mind of Faith."

### 3. Seminar on Buddhism and Christianity at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, October 1, 1999.

Lectures by Dr. Nasu and Dr. Payne on Christianity in Pre-modern Japan and Buddhism in Modern America, respectively.

### 4. Intellectual and Pedagogic Reflection on *The Collected Works of Shinran*.

Panel at the AAR conference in Boston, organized by Dr. Payne, with papers by Dr. Nasu, Prof. Hallisey, Prof. Kasulis, Prof. Keenan and responses from Prof. Hirota and Prof. Mark Unno.

### 5. Honen and Shinran: Master and Disciple.

A seminar on October 23, 1999 by Professor Taishin Kawasoe, an IBS visiting scholar from Ryūkoku University at the New York Buddhist Church.

6. Gender Issues in Japanese Buddhism.

A seminar on October 21, 2000 by Prof. Hank Glassman of IBS, at the New York Buddhist Church and NY Buddhist Academy.

7. Love and Great Compassion: Ai to Jihi.

The Professor Nagatomi Memorial Public Lecture by Professor Naoki Nabeshima of Ryukoku University on November 17, 2000 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

#### IV. IBS Lectures

##### A. Ryukoku Lectures/Seminars

1. "Pure Land Thought in Heian Buddhism," by Prof. Myosei Tatsuguchi (Spring 1996).
2. "The Teachings of Rennyo Shonin," by Prof. Tomoyasu Hayashi (Spring 1997).
3. "The Contemplation Sutra and Buddhism of Central Asia," by Prof. Meiji Yamada (Spring 1998).
4. "Shinran's Vision of the Primal Vow: Jodo Shinshu's Approach to Pure Land Faith," by Prof. Yukio Yamada (Spring 1999).
5. "Tendai Buddhism and Pure Land Thought," by Professor Masahiro Asada (Spring 2000).

##### B. Numata Lectures

1. "Engaged Buddhism," a series of lectures by various speakers (Fall 1995).
2. "Toward a Contemporary Understanding of Pure Land Buddhism," by Prof. Dennis Hirota & Rev. David Matsumoto (Fall 1996).
3. "The Life and Thought of Rennyo," by Prof. Jitsuen Kakehashi & Rev. David Matsumoto (Fall 1997).
4. "Shinjin in Shinran's Thought," by Prof. Takamaro Shigaraki & Rev. David Matsumoto (Fall 1999).
5. "Issues in Buddhist Counseling," a series of lectures by various speakers (Fall 2000).

##### C. Special Lectures

1. "The Religious Dimension of Confucianism in Japan," convened by Dr. Richard Payne (April 6, 1996). Proceedings published in a special issue of *Philosophy East and West*.
2. "Shinran Shonin and Jodo Shinshu," by Prof. Chikai Nakanishi (August 16, 1996).

3. "Religion and Language: the Soteriological Significance of Religious Language," by Prof. Akira Omine (August 11, 1998).
4. "Religion in Contemporary Japan," by Prof. Tetsuo Yamaori (September 6, 1998).
5. "A Shin Buddhist View of Terminal Care," by Prof. Naoki Nabeshima (September 12, 1999).
6. "Issues in Shin Buddhist Propagation: Reflections in America," by Professor Taishin Kawasoe (March 17, 2000).

## **V. Visiting Scholars**

1. Prof. Mitsuya Dake of Ryukoku University (June–July, 1997). Work on the IBS translation project.
2. Prof. Naoki Nabeshima of Ryukoku University (September 1998–September 1999). Research on the issues of Buddhist terminal care and bioethics in the US.
3. Prof. Taishin Kawasoe of Ryukoku University (April, 1999–March, 2000). Research on Shin Buddhist propagational methods in the West.

## **IV. Continuing Education for Ministers**

1. "Propagation in Jodo Shinshu," by Prof. Tomoyasu Hayashi at the Stockton Buddhist Temple, Los Angeles Betsuin and San Jose Betsuin in March 1997.
2. Special workshop by Prof. Jitsuen Kakehashi at the Los Angeles Betsuin on September 29, 1997.
3. Special seminars by Prof. Meiji Yamada at Senshin Buddhist Temple, Stockton Buddhist Temple, and Tacoma Buddhist Temple in March 1998.
4. Seminar at the BCA Ministers Association Fuken by Prof. Akira Omine in Los Angeles in August 1998.
5. "A Contemporary View of the Anjin Rondai," by Prof. Jitsuen Kakehashi. A seminar for ministers on August 26, 1999 at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.
6. "The Essence of Shin Buddhism," by Prof. Shigaraki at San Jose Buddhist Church & LA Betsuin.
7. "Shin Buddhist Perspectives on Terminal Care," a seminar for ministers on November 20, 2000.

## V. Other Educational Programs

1. IBS Extension Class: An Introduction to Shin Buddhist Thought, a systematic examination of some of the fundamental features of the Jodo Shinshu teachings. Taught by Rev. Masao Kodani, Rev. Marvin Harada, and Rev. John Iwohara at the Orange County Buddhist Church from February 3 to May 19, 1998.
2. Ministerial Students' Research-Exchange Seminar (June 6 to 18, 1998): A seminar in Japan providing students of Shin Buddhism with an opportunity to study the history and thought of the Shin tradition from a number of professors from Ryukoku University.
3. IBS Summer Seminar 2000 (August 11–13): A seminar directed toward temple leaders, Dharma School teachers, prospective IBS students, and all other persons who wish to learn more about the history, teachings, and contemporary significance of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism generally. Lectures by IBS faculty members on the topics of:
  - Visualization, Meditation, and Ritual,
  - Shin Buddhist Liturgical Tradition,
  - Gender Issues in Japanese Buddhism,
  - Shinran's View of Buddha-nature and its Social Implication.
4. BCA Study Tour 2001 (June 11–23, 2001). A seminar in Japan that will allow students of Shin Buddhism to encounter the teachings, practices and history of Shin Buddhism. To be sponsored by the Ministerial Candidate Affairs Committee of the BCA, with support provided by IBS.

## VI. Translation Projects

1. *Bearer of the Light: the Life and Thought of Rennyo* by Jitsuen Kakehashi.
2. *A Study of Shinjin* by Takamaro Shigaraki.
3. *Jodo Shinshu in the 21st Century: A Return to the Starting Point of Religion* by Akira Omine.
4. *Religion and Language: The Soteriological Significance of Religious Language* by Akira Omine.
5. *The Shin Buddhist View of Birth and Death: the path transcending life and death* (BCA Centennial Keynote Address) by Jitsuen Kakehashi.
6. Articles translated and prepared for the *Pacific World*, including

those by Akira Omine, Jitsuen Kakehashi, Tomoyasu Hayashi, Ryusei Takeda, Risho Ota, Yukio Yamada.

## VII. IBS Website

Located at <http://www.shin-IBS.edu>, this site provides information about the IBS educational program, including courses, public lectures, translations, publications, the IBS library, and other news items. Developed and maintained by Prof. Eisho Nasu.

## VIII. Other Publication Projects

1. *No Abode: The Record of Ippen*, 2nd printing, by Dennis Hirota. University of Hawaii Press. July 1997.
2. *Bearer of the Light: The Life and Thought of Rennyō Shōnin* by Jitsuen Kakehashi. August 1999.
3. *A Study of Shinjin* by Takamaro Shigaraki. Projected publication date: Spring 2001.

## IX. Institutional Development

The IBS Board of Trustees has approved a plan for the development of the IBS educational program and its facilities. Specifically, IBS will actively pursue the attainment of the following goals:

- a. Full membership in the Graduate Theological Union,
- b. Independent accreditation,
- c. New IBS educational facilities within the expanded GTU complex in Berkeley.

The Association of Theological Schools voted in July to grant affiliate status to IBS. This action can be seen as a favorable indication that ATS welcomes IBS's immediate participation in its activities, even during IBS's application for accreditation as a seminary by ATS.





## **BDK ENGLISH TRIPITAKA SERIES: A Progress Report**

As we enter the dawn of the 21st Century, the BDK English Tripitaka Series has reached a milestone with the publication of the twenty-first volume in this First Series, bringing the total number of English Tripitaka volumes to thirty-one.

The following volumes have thus far been published. (For additional information about a specific volume, please see previous issues of the *Pacific World* journal, especially the Fall 1999 issue.)

The Summary of the Great Vehicle [Taisho 1593] (1992)

The Biographical Scripture of King Asoka [Taisho 2043] (1993)

The Lotus Sutra [Taisho 262] (1994)

The Sutra on Upasaka Precepts [Taisho 1488] (1994)

The Essentials of the Eight Traditions [extra-canonical] and The Candle of the Latter Dharma [extra-canonical] (1994)

The Storehouse of Sundry Valuables [Taisho 203] (1994)

A Biography of the Tripitaka Master of the Great Ci'en Monastery of the Great Tang Dynasty [Taisho 2053] (1995)

The Three Pure Land Sutras [Taisho 360, 365 & 366] (1995)

The Essentials of the Vinaya Tradition [Taisho 2348] and The Collected Teachings of the Tendai Lotus School [Taisho 2366] (1995)

Tannisho: Passages Deploring Deviations of Faith [Taisho 2661] and Rennyō Shōnin Ofumi [Taisho 2668] (1996)

The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions [Taisho 2087] (1996)

Senchaku Hongan Nembutsu Shū (A Collection of Passages on the Nembutsu Chosen in the Original Vow) [Taisho 2608] (1997)

The Pratyutpanna Samādhi Sutra [Taisho 418] and the Surangama Samādhi Sutra [Taisho 642] (1998)

The Blue Cliff Record [Taisho 2003] (1999)

Three Chan Classics [Taisho 1985, 2005 & 2010] (1999)

Three Texts on Consciousness Only [Taisho 1585, 1586 & 1590] (1999)

The Scriptural Text: Verses of the Doctrine, with Parables [Taisho 211] (2000)

Buddhist Monastic Traditions of Southern Asia [Taisho 2125] (2000)  
 The Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning [Taisho 676] (2000)  
 Kaimokusho or Liberation from Blindness [Taisho 2689] (2000)  
 The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch [Taisho 2008] (2000)

The next volumes tentatively scheduled for publication are:

**A Comprehensive Commentary on the Heart Sutra (Prajnaparamita-hrdaya-sutra) [Taisho 1710]**

This text by K'uei-chi, a disciple of Hsuang-tsang and a leading figure in the Fa-hsiang (Hosso) school, is the earliest Chinese commentary on the *Heart Sutra*, part of the voluminous Mahaprajnaparamita literature. The *Heart Sutra* is so-called because it is said to contain the essence, or "heart" of the Prajnaparamita ("Perfection of Wisdom") teachings. K'uei-chi gives a line-by-line analysis of the sutra from the viewpoint of Yogacara (Fa-hsiang) doctrine, sometimes contrasted with a Madhaymaka position. The author drew on a variety of textual sources for his commentary, including the *Ch'eng wei-shih lun* (published as *Demonstration of Consciousness Only* in the volume *Three Texts on Consciousness Only*, translated by Francis H. Cook, Numata Center, 1999), the *Avatamsaka Sutra*, the *Yogacarabhumi-sastra*, the *Mahayanasamgraha*, the *Samdhinirmocana Sutra* (published as *The Scripture on the Explication of Underlying Meaning*, translated by John P. Keenan, Numata Center, 2000) and the *Dazhidulun*.

**Two Esoteric Sutras: The Adamantine Pinnacle Sutra [Taisho 865] and The Susiddhikara Sutra [Taisho 893]**

These volume contains two of the most important scriptures in East Asian Esoteric or Tantric Buddhism. The *Adamantine Pinnacle Sutra*, translated into Chinese by Amoghavajra, is part of the *Sarvathagatasamgraha*, a seminal text of the Yoga tantras, one of the four classes of Buddhist tantric literature. It describes the rituals associated with the Great Mandala "Adamantine Realm." The *Susiddhikara Sutra*, translated into Chinese by Subhakarasingha, is one of the Kriya ("Action") Tantras, the first of the four classes of Buddhist tantras. It provides a comprehensive description of the basic practices associated with the Kriya Tantras.

**Lives of Great Monks and Nuns: The Life of Asvaghosa Bodhisattva [Taisho 2046]; The Life of Nagarjuna Bodhisattva [Taisho 2047]; Biography of Dharma Master Vasubandhu [Taisho 2049]; Biographies of Buddhist Nuns [Taisho 2063]; and The Journey of the Eminent Monk Faxian [Taisho 2085]**

The five texts in this volume include brief biographies of three important Indian Mahayana Buddhist masters, Asvaghosa (first-second century C.E.), Nagarjuna (second century C.E.), and Vasubandhu (fourth-fifth century C.E.); a survey of the lives of sixty-five Chinese Buddhist nuns dating from the fourth to sixth centuries; and the Chinese monk Faxian's account of his journey in Central Asia and India, from 399-414 C.E., to collect Buddhist texts on the Vinaya to bring back to China.

These volumes can be purchased through most bookstores, online at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble's BN.net or directly from the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research.

This year we also marked Dr. Kenneth Inada's retirement as chairman of the Publication Committee. We thank him for his years of dedication and diligence to this project and wish him and his wife good health and happiness.

In appointing a new Publication Committee Chairman, the BDK English Tripitaka Project was most fortunate to secure the services and wisdom of Dr. Francis H. Cook, recently retired professor of religion at the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Cook brings to this Committee and Project many years of presenting Buddhist thought and theory, including several years of study in Japan at Kyoto University. He is the translator of *Three Texts on Consciousness Only*, published by the Numata Center in 1999.

The Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research as well as the Publication Committee of the BDK English Tripitaka Project look forward to continuing to publish volumes of the English Tripitaka Series. Through this work we hope to help to fulfill the dream of founder Dr. Rev. Yehan Numata to make the teaching of the Buddha available to the English-speaking world.

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### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In 1984 the Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research published the first English translation of the *Buddha-Dharma*, which was adapted from the *Shinyaku Bukkyo seiten* (The Newly Translated [Concise] Buddhist Canon), first published in 1925 in Japan.

A revised second edition of this volume, numbering over 900 pages, will be published next year. Included in this new edition will be Introductory Notes for each book, a listing of scriptural sources, a glossary, and a detailed index.

The "*Buddha-Dharma*" has often been described as a "Buddhist Bible." Noted scholars such as Alfred Bloom, Taitetsu Unno and Robert Thurman, and Pulitzer Prize-winner Gary Snyder have all endorsed this unique and useful reference guide to the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha.

## **Dr. Masatoshi Nagatomi**

September 1, 1926–June 2, 2000

### **In Memoriam**

The Institute of Buddhist Studies lost a great supporter, teacher and champion with the passing away of Dr. Masatoshi Nagatomi on June 3, 2000. Although he will be deeply missed by all who knew him, the impact produced by this great scholar-priest will far outlive the lifespan of any one human being.

Dr. Nagatomi has left the world with a legacy of outstanding academic achievement and profound religious faith. During his long scholarly career in the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies and the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University he demonstrated notable expertise across a wide range of languages, traditions, and specializations in the fields of Buddhist and religious studies. In addition, he directed his considerable energy and concern to his many students and colleagues. The wise guidance and instruction he gave to them surely influenced their intellectual development and lives in countless ways.

Concrete examples of Dr. Nagatomi's particular commitment to the Shin Buddhist tradition could be found in his service on the Board of Advisors of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, as well as his tenure as the President of the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies. He challenged Shin Buddhists not only to exercise rigorous discipline and academic honesty to the study of their tradition, but also, in his words, to "articulate the essentials of Shinran's religious insight in and through diverse foreign religio-cultural spheres today."

We at IBS remember with immense gratitude his participation in a symposium hosted by our school in 1996, where he revealed once again his far-sighted and hopeful vision regarding the "contextual translation" of the Shin Buddhist message in today's religiously plural world. At the same time, we were able to witness the deep sense in which Shinran's religious insight held value and meaning within his own religious life.

Now, following his untimely passing, his wife, Mary, and the Institute of Buddhist Studies have established a memorial fund in order to honor Dr. Nagatomi's memory and continue in his work. By providing financial support for educational programs at IBS, the Nagatomi Memorial Endowment Fund will become a vehicle for the fulfillment of his dream of making Shin Buddhism a full participant in today's "global community of faith."

*We hold his memory as an inspiration to our future work,  
The Board, students, faculty and staff of the  
Institute of Buddhist Studies*

## **The Pacific World—Its History**

Throughout my life, I have sincerely believed that Buddhism is a religion of peace and compassion, a teaching which will bring spiritual tranquillity to the individual, and contribute to the promotion of harmony and peace in society. My efforts to spread the Buddha's teachings began in 1925, while I was a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley. This beginning took the form of publishing the Pacific World, on a bi-monthly basis in 1925 and 1926, and then on a monthly basis in 1927 and 1928. Articles in the early issues concerned not only Buddhism, but also other cultural subjects such as art, poetry, and education, and then by 1928, the articles became primarily Buddhistic. Included in the mailing list of the early issues were such addressees as the Cabinet members of the U.S. Government, Chambers of Commerce, political leaders, libraries, publishing houses, labor unions, and foreign cultural institutions.

After four years, we had to cease publication, primarily due to lack of funds. It was then that I vowed to become independently wealthy so that socially beneficial projects could be undertaken without financial dependence on others. After founding the privately held company, Mitutoyo Corporation, I was able to continue my lifelong commitment to disseminate the teachings of Buddha through various means.

As one of the vehicles, the Pacific World was again reactivated, this time in 1982, as the annual journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies. For the opportunity to be able to contribute to the propagation of Buddhism and the betterment of humankind, I am eternally grateful. I also wish to thank the staff of the Institute of Buddhist Studies for helping me to advance my dream to spread the spirit of compassion among the peoples of the world through the publication of the Pacific World.

Yehan Numata  
Founder, Mitutoyo Corporation

## **In Remembrance**

In May of 1994, my father, Yehan Numata, aged 97 years, returned to the Pure Land after earnestly serving Buddhism throughout his lifetime. I pay homage to the fact that the Pacific World is again being printed and published, for in my father's youth, it was the passion to which he was wholeheartedly devoted.

I, too, share my father's dream of world peace and happiness for all peoples. It is my heartfelt desire that the Pacific World helps to promote spiritual culture throughout all humanity, and that the publication of the Pacific World be continued.

Toshihide Numata  
Chairman, Mitutoyo Corporation