

## **Editorial Note: Visions and Visualization: Buddhist Praxis on the Silk Road**

It has long been thought that the changes Buddhism underwent as it moved over what we know as the Silk Road were influential in the development of Pure Land Buddhism. Most importantly, the kinds of visualization practices which are represented in Central Asian art seem to reflect the same kinds of practices that informed early Pure Land Buddhism. The following articles collectively give us a broader picture of the nature of Buddhism in Central Asia.

The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) and the Stanford Buddhist Studies Center jointly hosted an international symposium on Silk Road Buddhism on Friday, 22 March 2002. The participants included Prof. Kogi Kudara (Ryukoku University), Prof. Meiji Yamada (Ryukoku University), Prof. Nobuyoshi Yamabe (then Kyushu Ryukoku Junior College, currently Tokyo University of Agriculture), and Prof. Ronald Davidson (Fairfield University), with Prof. Bruce Williams (IBS, Graduate Theological Union) as discussant.

We are pleased to present here revised versions of the papers presented at the symposium, together with an additional paper by Prof. Kudara which he has kindly allowed us to publish as well. We wish to extend our thanks to the participants, the Stanford Center for Buddhist Studies, and especially to Dr. Wendy Abraham for her assistance with this program. Additional support was received from the IBS's Japan Foundation endowment.

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