

Prolegomenon

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FROM MAY 13 TO 17, 2004, A SYMPOSIUM to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Chair of Buddhist Studies in the Department of Religious Studies was held at the University of Calgary. Through the kind assistance of Dr. Akira Yuyama, the first Visiting Numata Scholar to the University of Calgary, an original donation of \$300,000 Canadian was received in 1987 from Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK Tokyo, Japan). To this was added a donation of \$35,000 Canadian from the Honpa Buddhist Churches of Alberta. Both donations were matched two to one by the Government of Alberta to establish the Numata Chair of Buddhist Studies Endowment of \$1,000,000 Canadian at the University of Calgary.

During the intervening years, the Numata Endowment sponsored international scholars who resided at the University of Calgary for one term (a four-month period) or for longer periods of up to one year to teach, to conduct research, and to give public lectures. The public lectures have been published (except for a few at the beginning, from the early stages of the Endowment, when there were insufficient funds for publication) and can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Religious Studies.

The symposium brought together scholars who were recipients of the Numata fellowships at the University of Calgary. Other scholars

from the University of Lethbridge, where Numata Visiting Scholars lectured in its classes or gave public lectures, also participated in the symposium. Invitations for the symposium were sent to BDK Canada, BDK US, BDK Japan, and to scholars who were Numata Chair Coordinators in North America. As part of the symposium, the group took a trip to the Canadian Rockies.

It is with great pleasure that the papers presented at the symposium are made available to the scholarly world and to the adherents of Buddhism. These papers are published as a tribute in memory of Mr. Yehan Numata and the members of the Honpa Buddhist Churches of Alberta who have kindly contributed towards the establishment of the Numata Chair in Buddhist Studies Endowment. Mr. Numata's vision to propagate the *buddhadharma* throughout the entire world by means of both popular and academic projects has enabled the Department of Religious Studies, Faculty of Humanities at the University of Calgary to continue the Buddhist Studies Program. We look forward to a brighter future for Buddhist studies because of that vision.

I would like to thank Dr. Sarah Haynes, Assistant Professor at Western Illinois University, for her untiring assistance in organizing the papers found in this volume. Thanks must be extended to Dr. Richard Payne, who kindly offered the *Pacific World* as the venue through which these papers could appear in print, and to Natalie Quli, Assistant Editor of the *Pacific World* who provided a majority of the editorial work required to bring this volume to completion. It goes without saying that this volume could not have been possible without the contribution by the scholars who took the time and effort to attend and present papers at the Symposium. Thank you all.

May these papers bring happiness and joy to all.