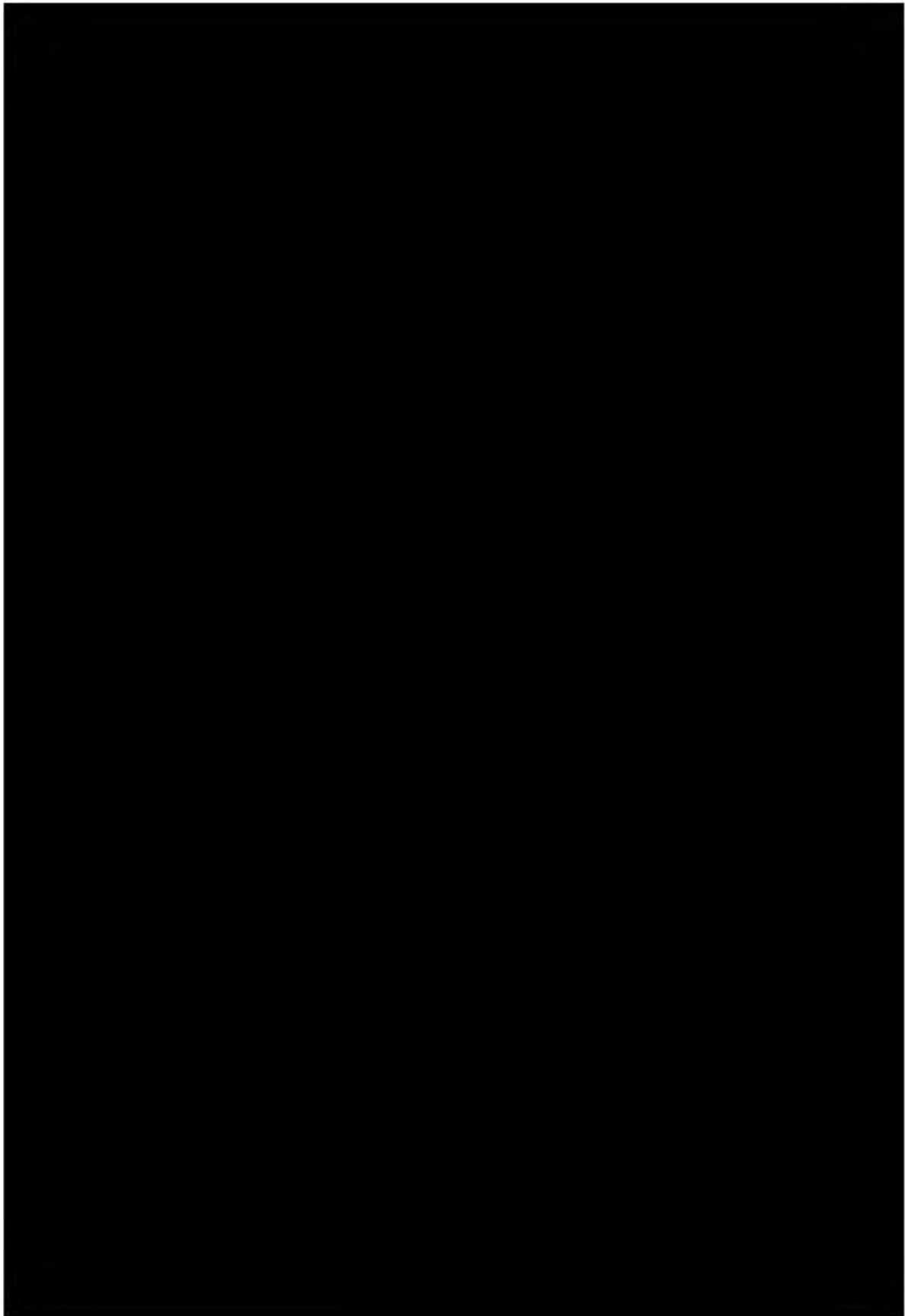


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EDO-PERIOD ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF BUDDHIST IMAGES

The frontispiece shows page five of the second fascicle of *Zōho shoshū butszō zui* 増補諸宗仏像図彙 (printed in Kansei 8 寛政 [1796]), an illustrated catalogue of Buddhist images first published in the Edo period. The *shoshū* of the title indicates that the work is trans-denominational. The catalogue was used by Émile Guimet as a basis for presenting what he called “the Buddhist pantheon.” The fascicle begins with a full-page sketch of Fu Dashi 傅大士 (497–569), who is said to have devised the huge revolving sutra stores used ritually to symbolize the turning of the wheel of Dharma. The work then continues with four images per page, as here. Page two of this fascicle (not shown here) illustrates the four key points in the life of Śākyamuni Buddha, namely: birth, departure for the ascetic life, enlightenment, and nirvana. The subsequent pages portray nine variant images of Amida Nyorai 阿弥陀如来, corresponding to the nine levels of salvation taught in Pure Land Buddhism. These images start with that for the “uppermost of the upper” level of salvation. Page five, presented as the frontispiece, gives a good impression of the variety of images included. Here the top right section depicts Amida Nyorai for the “lowest of the lower” level. At bottom right is Myōkanzatchi no [A]mida. At top left is Mandara no [A]mida and at bottom left is Gokōshiyui no [A]mida. Subsequent pages of the work show a wide range of buddhas, bodhisattvas, and bright kings.