

NOTE

The frontispiece to the present number of *The Eastern Buddhist* is reproduced from the oldest portrait of Shinran Shōnin in possession of the Western Hongwanji. The painter's name is Sen-amida-butsum, who was son of Lord Nobuzane Fujiwara noted for his artistic talents. The painter was a younger contemporary of the Shōnin and drew this portrait after Shinran's death. It is known as "Mirror Portrait," meaning it is a true reflection of the original person. The inscription which appears over the portrait is the handwriting of Kakunyo Shōnin, the third abbot of Hongwanji, and the compiler of *The Life of Shinran Shōnin*, an English translation of which is published in this issue of *The Eastern Buddhist*. The passage is taken from the *Shōshinge*, "Psalm of the Orthodox Faith," by Shinran. It reads :

"When you think of the Original Vows of Amida Buddha,
Naturally and instantly, you enter into the confirmation :
Only let the Tathagata's name be invoked all the time,
For this is the way to requite his great love and all-saving vows."