

NEWS & NOTES

A twenty-three year project to translate the writings of Shinran has just been completed, resulting in the publication of *The Collected Works of Shinran*, translated, with introductions, glossaries, and reading aids, by Dennis Hirota (Head Translator), Hisao Inagaki, Michio Tokunaga, and Ryushin Uryuzu (Kyoto: Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha, 1997). The publication consists of two volumes: Volume I, *The Writings* (704 pp.) and Volume II, *Introductions, Glossaries, and Reading Aids* (362 pp.).

Volume I includes all Shinran's doctrinal writings, including a complete translation of his major work, *The Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way*, commonly known as *Kyōgyōshinshō*; his hymns on the sutras and later writings and masters of the Pure Land tradition; and his commentaries on scriptural passages. While many of these translations have been published as the volumes of the Shin Buddhism Translation Series beginning in 1978, a number of translations in the *Collected Works* appear for the first time, including a collection of hymns in Japanese on the life of Shōtoku Taishi, late writings in both Chinese (*Gutokushō*, *Nyūshutsu nimonge*) and Japanese (*Sangyō ōjō monrui* and others), and approximately half of Shinran's extant letters. An effort has been made to revise the previously published versions for consistency in terminology and style.

Volume II presents detailed introductions, glossaries of Shin Buddhist terms, and other aids intended to make the entire range of works as accessible as possible in English. All of these materials were written with the Western reader in mind, and some, including the explanatory list of passages for *Teaching, Practice, and Realization*, have no counterpart in Japanese editions. The materials of Volume II, together with the previously published introductory text *Shinran: An Introduction to His Thought* by Yoshifumi Ueda and Dennis Hirota (Kyoto: Hongwanji International Center, 1989), reflect an attempt to move beyond the problematics of traditional Shin scholarship toward a precise and coherent contemporary reading of Shinran's writings.

These publications are available from the Buddhist Bookstore, 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, tel (415) 776-7877, fax (415) 771-6293.

The fourth annual meeting of the International Association for Asian Philosophy and Religion (IAAPR) was held at Hsi Lai University in Los Angeles August 15-17, 1997. Over forty scholars from nine different countries (Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan,

Thailand, and the United States) took active part in the conference, either presenting papers, serving as respondents, and/or chairing sessions. In addition there were a number of academic and media observers. The theme of the conference was "Self and Other: Identity and Difference in Asia and the West." Papers were presented on the self and other in East and Southeast Asia and in India; in Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism; in Korean and Japanese religions; and in comparisons of Asian traditions with Western philosophy and religious thought. The plenary address was given by Fred Dallmayr on "Beyond Orientalism: Reflections on Cross-Cultural Encounter."

The IAAPR provides a forum for Asian philosophers and scholars of religion to enter into conversation with one another and their counterparts in the West in beginning the task of rethinking Asian traditions in the post-modern, postcolonial situation marked by the end of the Cold War and the problematic of global capitalism. It operates from the conviction that in this new world situation, Asian thinkers can and will play an increasingly important role in shaping the direction of global thought in the twenty-first century.

The fifth annual meeting of the IAAPR in 1998 will be held in 1998 in Malaysia. The theme of the conference will be: "Asian Values as World Values: Asian Values, Classical and Contemporary, in an Era of Globalization." Persons interested in the IAAPR should contact Thomas Dean, Department of Religion, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA; tel: 1-610-617-0836; fax: 1-610-617-0837; e-mail:

tjdean@astro.ocis.temple.edu.