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THE NUN ESHINNI

Eshinni (1182–1268?) was the wife of Shinran (1173–1263), the founder of the Jōdo Shinshū. Marrying Shinran during his exile in Echigo, she bore him three sons and three daughters. Accompanying him to the Kantō area in 1214 and later to Kyoto around 1233, she returned to Echigo when she was about 72. Letters she wrote to her daughter at this time, relating sundry matters and details of Shinran's life, survive and provide important information about the historical Shinran. Eshinni died at the age of 86.

Little is known about the scroll painting shown here. One of the few depictions of Eshinni, it probably dates to the Muromachi period.

Height 66.3 cm, width 49.9 cm.

Courtesy Ryūkyoku University Library