

THE JOURNAL
OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BUDDHIST STUDIES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A. K. Narain
University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA

EDITORS

L. M. Joshi
Punjabi University
Patiala, India

Ernst Steinkellner
University of Vienna
Wien, Austria

Alexander W. Macdonald
Université de Paris X
Nanterre, France

Jikidō Takasaki
University of Tokyo
Tokyo, Japan

Bardwell Smith
Carleton College
Northfield, Minnesota, USA

Robert Thurman
Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts, USA

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Roger Jackson

Volume 5

1982

Number 2

CONTENTS

I. ARTICLES

1. "Early Buddhism and the Urban Revolution," by Bal-krishna Govind Gokhale 7
2. "Pilgrimage and the Structure of Sinhalese Buddhism," by John C. Holt 23
3. "A New Approach to the Intra-Mādhyamika Confrontation over the Svātantrika and Prāsaṅgika Methods of Refutation," by Shohei Ichimura 41
4. "'Later Mādhyamika' in China: Some Current Perspectives on the History of Chinese *Prajñāpāramitā* Thought," by Aaron K. Koseki 53
5. "The Doctrine of the Buddha-Nature in the Mahāyāna *Mahāparinirvāṇa Sūtra*," by Ming-Wood Liu 63
6. "The Development of Language in Bhutan," by Lopon Nado 95
7. "Prolegomena to an English Translation of the *Sūtrasamuccaya*," by Bhikku Pāsādikā 101
8. "The Issue of the Buddha as *Vedagū*, with Reference to the Formation of the *Dhamma* and the Dialectic with the Brahmins," by Katherine K. Young 110

II. BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

1. *Focus on Buddhism. A Guide to Audio-Visual Resources for Teaching Religion*, edited by Robert A. McDermott; and *Spiritual Discipline in Hinduism, Buddhism, and the West*, by Harry M. Buck 121

2. <i>Fundamentals of Tibetan Medicine</i> , ed. and tr. by T.J. Tsarong, et al.	124
3. <i>Pratīyasamutpādistisubhāṣitahṛdayam of Acārya Tsong kha pa</i> , tr. by Gyaltzen Namdol and Ngawang Samten	127
4. <i>Répertoire du Canon Bouddhique Sino-Japonais, Edition de Tai-shō. Fascicule Annex du Hōbōgin</i> , compiled by Paul Demiéville, Hubert Durt, and Anna Seidel	128
5. <i>Three Worlds According to King Ruang: Thai Buddhist Cosmology</i> , tr. by Frank E. Reynolds and Mani B. Reynolds	132
6. <i>The Way to Shambhala</i> , by Edwin Bernbaum	133

III. NOTES AND NEWS

1. Computing and Buddhist Studies	136
2. Terms of Sanskrit and Pali Origin Acceptable as English Words	137
3. A Report on an Educational Television/Film Series on Tibetan Buddhism	138
4. Proposal for an Index of Publications in Buddhist Studies	141
5. 6th Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies	143

IV. OBITUARY

Isaline Blew Horner (1896–1981)	145
Contributors	150
Contributors	150

Three Worlds According to King Ruang: Thai Buddhist Cosmology. Translated, with Introduction and Notes, by Frank E. Reynolds and Mani B. Reynolds. Berkeley: Asian Humanities Press. Motilal Banarsidass, 1982, 383 pages. Preface, Introduction, 2 Appendices, Glossary, Index. \$30.00.

In translating the *Three Worlds According to King Ruang* the authors have taken upon themselves a most difficult task. The text, known in Thai as *Trai Phum Phra Ruang*, is long and complex, and much of the language is archaic. Complicating the situation, the extant manuscripts often disagree, and there are passages which are evidently corrupt. Nevertheless, the text is a most important one, that should be available in English translation. We are most fortunate that this publication, the fourth in the *Berkeley Buddhist Studies Series*, brings us a fine translation, accompanied by clear and informative explanatory material.

The *Three Worlds According to King Ruang*, generally attributed to Phya Lithai of the Kingdom of Sukhothai, is a rich and vivid description of the cosmos as it was understood by the royal author. The text was composed as a sermon, and it covered a broad range of topics. For example, the ways in which different kinds of beings come to be born and finally die are spelled out in detail. Heavens and hells are also described in specific detail, as are the acts by which a creature earns a place of residence in one or another of them. All of the many realms which together make up the cosmos are also described, along with the inhabitants of each of those realms. The sermon also includes a concise and specific description of the path to perfection mapped out for humanity by the Buddha. All of this, and much more that is to be found in the *Trai Phum Phra Ruang*, have made the text one of great importance in the development of Thai religious thought, and it has served as an important source of literary and artistic inspiration. It would be difficult to understate the significance of the text, or the usefulness of a translation of it for those interested in Thai or Theravāda Buddhist studies.

In this translation, introductory material serves to place the text in perspective. A brief description of what is known about Phya Lithai is presented first, followed by some introduction to early Thai kingship. The basic trends in the development of traditional Theravāda cosmology are sketched out for the reader, as are the trends of development within the Thai tradition itself, demonstrating a two-fold process of preservation and innovation which is at work in the text. The structure and con-

tent of the *Trai Phum Phra Ruang* are then described in some detail. Finally, the authors present a history of the text. Here they discuss briefly the difficulties involved in translating a work of this type, and the reasons which led them to adopt their translation strategies, with maximum "clarity, readability and general usefulness of the English text" as the goal. This goal has certainly been achieved.

The text itself reads easily and naturally, as does the explanatory material that has been provided. The introduction is always informative and clear, and care is taken to explain each term that might be unfamiliar to the general reader. This is true throughout the translation as well, in which extensive footnotes are used in a variety of ways. They are used, for example, to clarify references, to point out passages in which the *Trai Phum Phra Ruang* differs significantly from the older source material used by the royal author of the sermon, and to clarify and comment on sections in which the manuscripts have conflicting readings. Useful charts and diagrams are also provided, and a glossary of selected terms gives the original wording on which the English version is based. For each glossary entry the source language of the original term, Pāli, Sanskrit or Thai, is also given.

Along with the quality of the translation, and of the accompanying explanatory material, the volume also has beautiful illustrations to recommend it. Ten color illustrations from a reproduction of the manuscript commissioned in the 18th century by King Taksin of Thonburi are included here, as are three color illustrations painted by Thawan Dachanee, a modern Thai artist who works on Buddhist themes.

Robert J. Bickner

The Way to Shambhala, by Edwin Bernbaum. Garden City, New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1980. xv + 316 pages. Map, figures, plates, glossary, bibliography, index. \$6.95 (paper).

Mr. Bernbaum has accomplished a major feat in producing this interesting and richly informative volume; he has brought considerable clarity to the much obscured issue of Shambhala and Buddhist eschatology, combining wide scholarly research with extensive *reportage* from living informants, including a number of distinguished lamas of all the major schools, and he