

## CHRONOLOGY

( December 1963 — June 1964 )

**Dec. 1**—The Society for the Commemoration of the Centennial of Vivekananda sponsored a second panel discussion on the theme, “My Faith and the Present Society,” at the University Club in Tokyo, 200 attended.

**Dec. 5**—The Union of the Followers of Nichiren (Nichiren Shōnin Monka Rengō Kai 日蓮聖人門下連合会) addressed a protest to the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) against its publication entitled, “A Critical Analysis of Sōka Gakkai” (Sōka Gakkai no Hihanteki Kaimei 創価学会の批判的解明) because of its alleged improper interpretation of St. Nichiren.

—The Shinto Shrine Council of the Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō 神社本庁) held its first meeting to study the question of whether Shrine Shinto should be considered a religion and related problems (cf. Oct. 15).

**Dec. 6**—A two-day regional meeting of the Japan Society for Applied Psychology (Nihon Ōyō Shinri Gakkai 日本応用心理学会) at the International Christian University (Kokusai Kirisutokyō Daigaku 国際基督大学) discussed pastoral counselling. About 200 psychologists and religionists were present.

**Dec. 7**—A memorial service was held for the late President John F. Kennedy of the United States of America at the Hibiya Public Hall, Tokyo.

**Dec. 9**—A ceremony at which Japanese Bibles and Buddhist Sutras were exchanged took place under the joint sponsorship of the Japan Bible Society, the Japan Euddhist Federation, and the Chūgai Nippō (newspaper) 中外日報 at the Ginza Tōkyū Hotel, Tokyo. (The Bibles were a gift of the Danish Bible Society.)

**Dec. 14**—Archbishop Demitrophsk Kiplian of the Russian Orthodox Church arrived from Moscow for a two-week visit of the True Unity Orthodox Church of Japan (Nihon Seitō Sei Kyōkai 日本正統教会) (This Church is composed of two local churches that withdrew from the Japan Orthodox Church (Nihon Harisuto Sei Kyōkai 日本ハリスト正教会) The combined membership is 288.)

**Jan. 1**—According to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police, 20,274,900 persons visited 459 shrines and temples on New Year's Day throughout Japan, and a total of 21,441,350 during the first three days of January. The latter figure represents an estimated increase of 3 million over

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**Jan. 13**—Dr. Gishō Nakano 中野義照 was elected president of Kōyasan University.

**Jan. 14**—A volume entitled *Bukkyō Shisōshi Ron Shū* 仏教思想史論集 (“Collected Papers on the History of Buddhist Thought”) commemorating the 60th birthday of Dr. Reimon Yūki 結城令聞, former professor of Tokyo University, was published.

**Jan. 16**—The Buddhist Political League (Bukkyō Seiji Dōmei 仏教政治同盟) held the first meeting of this year at Shiba Gakuen to discuss “Sōka Gakkai and its Problems.” The speakers were generally critical of the society.

**Jan. 18**—It was reported that the Cultural and Educational Department of the Korean Government had prohibited missionary activity by Sōka Gakkai in Korea on the grounds of its being an anti-national and anti-racial group.

**Jan. 25**—Dr. Hideo Kishimoto 岸本英夫 (60 yrs). university librarian, head of the Department of Religious Studies of Tokyo University, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Institute for the Study of Religions, died of cancer.

—The Institute for the Study of Zen Culture (Zen Bunka Kenkyū Sho 禪文化研究所), affiliated with the Rinzai-Zen sects, was inaugurated at the library of

Hanazono University with the Rev. Munon Yamada 山田無文 as president. The purpose of the Institute is to study the essence of Zen culture as well to contribute to modern culture by a comparative study of Zen and modern thought, to prepare a glossary of Zen terms in Japanese and English, to make studies in the history of Zen in Japan, etc.

**Jan. 26**—Komazawa, University received permission from the Ministry of Education to open a branch of the university at Iwamizawa Hokkaido, with Dr. Sokō Okamoto 岡本素光 as president, and a high school at Tomakomai with the present dean, the Rev. Shunkun Fujita 藤出俊訓, as president.

**Feb. 1**—The Ministry of Education gave official recognition to the following newly established Protestant universities and colleges: Lutheran Theological University (Rūteru Shingaku Daigaku ルーテル神学大学), St. Luke's Nursing University (Sei Ruka Kanko Daigaku 聖路加看護大学), Nagoya Gakuin University 名古屋学院大学, Baika Women's University (Baika Joshi Daigaku 梅花女子大学), in Toyonaka, Ōsaka, Seiwa Women's University (Seiwa Joshi Daigaku 聖和女子大学) in Nishinomiya, Kushiro Women's College (Kushiro Joshi Tanki Daigaku 釧路女子短期大学) in Hokkaido, and Seikatsu Gakuen College 生活学園 in Iwate Prefecture.

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**Feb. 6**—The funeral of the late Dr. Kishimoto (cf. Jan. 25) took place at the Central Library of Tokyo University. Among those present were Prince Mikasa, Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer, and other dignitaries.

**Feb. 8**—The centennial of Vivekananda was celebrated at Seisoku Gakuen with Dr. Hajime Nakamura 中村元 as a guest speaker.

—The Japan Religionists Peace Council (Nihon Shūkyō Sha Heiwa Kyōgi Kai 日本宗教者平和協議会) issued a statement against the National Holidays Bill which was presented to the Diet by the Liberal Democratic Party. The bill proposed to add three more to the present nine national holidays: February 11 (National Foundation Day), July 15 (Bon Festival Day), and the first Saturday of October (Athletics Day).

**Feb. 14**—The Catholic Journalists Association held a meeting to elect its officials and plan its future activities. Mr. Kan'ichi Nagashima, professor of Rikkyo University, was elected president.

**Feb. 15**—The Japan-India Cultural Association (Nichi-In Bunka Kyōkai 日印文化協会) held its annual general conference at the University Club in Tokyo.

**Feb. 19**—The Tokyo Higher Court, over-ruling a judgement of the Niigata Lower Court, found the four accused officials of the Yahiko Shrine guilty in

connection with an incident in which 218 people were killed or injured in a stampede on New Year's Day, 1956. Each of the accused was fined ¥50,000.

**Feb. 28**—Approximately 1,500 people attended a three-day session of the Japan Keswick Convention at Kowakien, Hakone.

**Mar. 1**—Seichō-no-Ie celebrated its 35th anniversary.

**Mar. 2**—The National Cultural Conference (Kokumin Bunka Kaigi 国民文化会議), consisting of "progressive" intellectuals, issued a statement opposing the National Holidays Bill (See Feb. 8).

**Mar. 4**—Completion of the Great Sacred Hall of Risshō Kōsei Kai in Tokyo was celebrated with 5,000 in attendance.

**Mar. 5**—A committee for the celebration of the 1,300th anniversary of the death of Hwen-Thsang (Genjō 玄奘), a famous Chinese Priest, took place at the University Club at Kanda, Tokyo.

**Mar. 7**—The Japan Socialist Party issued a statement opposing a petition presented to the government by the Bereaved Families Society (Nihon Izoku Kai 日本遺族会) demanding a special official status for Yasukuni Shrine.

**Mar. 9**—Japan Pastoral Counselling Association (Nihon Bokkai Kaunseringu Kyōkai 日本牧会カウンセリング協会) sponsored a week's seminar of clinical study at Japan Baptist Hospital in Kyoto

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under the leadership of Dr. P. E. Johnson and Dr. W. Douglas of Boston University. This was said to be the first such seminar to be held in Japan.

**Mar. 11**—Five Buddhist representatives left for a three-week visit to Communist China on the invitation of the Chinese Buddhist Association (Chūgoku Bukkyō Kyōkai 中国仏教協会). They were the Rev. and Mrs. Ryūkō Ōkōchi 大河内隆弘 (Jōdo-shū), the Rev. and Mrs. Keibun Nishikawa 西川景文 and Mr. Noriatsu Nakano 中濃教篤.

**Mar. 15**—The 25th anniversary of the death of Lieutenant-General Gunpei Yamamuro 山室軍平 of the Salvation Army was held at the Salvation Army Hall in Nishi Arai, Tokyo.

**Apr. 2**—The inauguration ceremony of Myōhō Gakuin in Higashi Murayama, Tokyo-to, sponsored by Reiyū Kai, was held.

**Apr. 4**—Sōka Gakkai announced a change of its propaganda policy in foreign countries from forced conversion to persuasion.

**Apr. 5**—A memorial service commemorating the 750th anniversary of the death of Eisai 榮西, founder of Rinzai Zen Buddhism, was held for four days at Keninji 建仁寺 in Kyoto.

**Apr. 6**—Eleven temples, including Kiyomizudera 清水寺, Kinkakuji 金閣寺, Ryōanji 竜安寺, issued a joint statement

opposing the Special Tax Bill for the Protection of Cultural Properties, which passed the general assembly of Kyoto City on March 27.

**Apr. 8**—A Buddhist relic arrived from Ceylon. This was brought by seven delegates, including Mr. P. B. G. Kalugalla, Minister of Cultural Affairs of Ceylon, and will be enshrined in the pagoda which is to be completed in August in Yomiui Land in the suburbs of Tokyo.

**Apr. 9**—The general assembly of Okayama Prefecture released a statement to the Prime Minister urging the enactment of the National Holidays Bill.

**Apr. 11**—Seichō-no-Ie published a booklet entitled, "Our Fundamental Attitude to the Constitution Problem" in which they insist upon the invalidity of the present Constitution and the restoration to the Meiji Constitution.

—Meiji Shrine celebrated the 50th anniversary of the death of Empress Shōken 昭憲皇太后, wife of Emperor Meiji. 700 people, including the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minister of Education, attended.

—The Buddhist Political League (Bukkyō Seiji Dōmei 仏教政治同盟) released a statement opposing a strike which the Labor Union Council of Public Enterprises (Kōkyō Kigyōtai Rōdō Kumiai Kyōgikai 公共企業体労働組合協議会)

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planned for April 17.

**Apr. 14**—Sōka Gakkai published a book entitled, "The Idea and Practice of Sōka Gakkai" (*Sōka Gakkai no Rinen to Jissen* 創価学会の理念と実践).

**Apr. 18**—The National Christian Council issued a statement opposing the practice of artificial insemination to induce pregnancy which has been increasing of late.

**Apr. 20**—Dr. Daisetsu Suzuki 鈴木大拙 was awarded a medal commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rabindranath Tagore by the Asian Association of India.

**Apr. 21**—The Society for International Cultural Relations (Kokusai Bunka Shimkō Kai) published an English edition of "Japanese Buddhism" (*Nihon no Bukkyō* 日本の仏教) by Shōkō Watanabe and translated by Dr. Alfred Bloom of the University of Oregon.

—A former chief priest of Kuhonji 九品寺, Kyoto, who sold Buddhist statues of the temple illegally, was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

**Apr. 25**—The Religionist Peace Council of Kyoto (Kyoto Shūkyōsha Heiwa Kyōgikai 京都宗教者平和協議会) passed a resolution against the proposed National Holidays Bill.

—The Rev. Kōdō Nakamura 中村弘道 was elected Chief Abbot of Ōbaku (Zen) Sect.

**Apr. 26**—Fifty-four Japanese Christians departed on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

**Apr. 28**—The 100th anniversary of the birth of Dharma-pala, an Indian Buddhist who dedicated his life to the re-establishment of the Buddhist religion in India was celebrated by the Japan Buddhist Federation.

**May 1**—Dr. Gempō Hoshino 星野元豊 was elected the present of Ryukoku University.

—The Cultural Committee of the Japan Buddhist Federation held an inaugural general assembly of the Japan Buddhist Cultural Conference (Nihon Bukkyō Bunka Kaigi 日本仏教文化会議) with Dr. Daisetsu Suzuki as chairman.

**May 2**—The Association of Shinto Shrines petitioned the governor of Tochigi Prefecture to cancel a plan to cut the old cedar trees of the Tōshōgū 東照宮 (Shrine) in order to extend a national highway.

**May 5**—Seichō-no-Ie held its 16th National Youth Assembly, which announced its decision to run a candidate in the national election of the House of Councilors next year.

**May 7**—The Buddhist Political League (Bukkyō Seiji Dōmei 仏教政治同盟) issued a statement criticizing Sōka Gakkai for running candidates in the national election.

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—William M. Vories Hitotsuyanagi, who came to Japan in 1905 as a missionary and founded the Ōmi Brotherhood, died at the age of 83 after being bed-ridden for seven years.

✓ **May 11**—Sōka Gakkai announced the names of the 30 candidates for the next election (1965) of the house of Representatives.

**May 17**—A 3-day ceremony commemorating the completion of the Great Sacred Hall of Risshō Kōsei Kai was observed.

**May 19**—The 1,250th anniversary of the Grand Shrine of Fushimi Inari, Kyoto, was celebrated with more than 2,000 believers in attendance.

**May 21**—Musashino (Buddhist) Women's School (Musashino Joshi Gakuin 武蔵野女子学院) celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding with a formal announcement of the establishment of a 4 year College.

**May 24**—The Japan Indology Buddhology Society (Nihon Indogaku Bukkyōgaku Kai 日本印度学仏教学会) held its 15th Conference in Kyoto. 226 scholars attended.

**May 25**—The Association of Shinto Shrines sponsored a national conference with 21 members of the House of Representatives at which an appeal was made for passage of the National Holidays Bill.

**May 30**—The Second Educational

Leaders Council of Asia, sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation, was held in Ōiso, Kanagawa Prefecture on the theme, "The Modernization of Asia and the Responsibility of Colleges." About 129 delegates attended from 16 countries, including New Zealand and Australia.

**May 31**—The National Cultural Council (Kokumin Bunka Kaigi 国民文化会議) discussed the advance of Sōka Gakkai in politics at its (2-day) 7th General Meeting in Tokyo.

**June 2**—The Japan Buddhist Federation held its 12th National Buddhist Conference in Shizuoka for two days with 9,000 participants. One of the topics discussed was "Our Counter-Measures ✓ against Sōka Gakkai."

**June 5**—The church at International Christian University celebrated its 10th anniversary. (It reported a five-fold increase in membership and a four-fold increase in contributions.)

**June 8**—A joint memorial service for the late Prime Minister Nehru of India was held by the Indo-Japanese Society (Nichi-In Kyōkai 日印協会), the Indo-Japanese Cultural Association (Nichi-In Bunka Kyōkai 日印文化協会) and the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会). Prime Minister Ikeda attended and made an address.

—The 10th anniversary of Reizan

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Kannon 靈山觀音 in Kyoto was celebrated with 3,000 in attendance, mainly the bereaved families of the war dead.

**June 10**—A Buddhist delegation of 25 members, with Gyokusen Hosaka 保坂玉泉, president of Komazawa University as leader, left for Denmark to express thanks for the Bibles which the Danish Bible Society had presented to Japanese Buddhists last winter and to present in return 1,500 volumes of Buddhist sutras.

**June 15**—The 1,200th anniversary of the Buddhist priest Ganjin 鑑真, which had been postponed for a year, was celebrated at Tōshōdaiji 唐招提寺, Nara, with about 300 representatives of Buddhist temples and other institutions, including the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education, in attendance.

**June 17**—Dr. Yoshio Inoue 井上義雄, professor of Tokyo Theological University, and ten other representatives left for Prague, Czechoslovakia to attend the Second All Christian Peace Conference.

**June 29**—Six representatives left for Hawaii to attend the East-West Philosophers' Conference. They are Dr. Daisetsu Suzuki 鈴木大拙, Dr. Shōson Miyamoto 宮本正尊, Dr. Hajime Nakamura 中村元, Dr. Tokuryū Yamauchi 山内得立, Dr. Gibun Ueda 上田義文, and Dr. Hiroshi Sakamoto 坂本弘.

**June 30**—President Ikeda of Sōka Gakkai announced that the society plans to establish a university after the completion of the Main Hall of Taiseikiji 大石寺.