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A short Bibliography of Buddhism for the missionary in Japan

I would like to present here a selection—and every selection is to some extent arbitrary—of those works which are, in principle:
1. very good in their field (or sometimes the only existing source);
2. easily readable (not overly specialized);
3. readily available to most missionaries in Japan (still for sale or, at least, available in libraries like Oriens, etc.);
4. written in Western languages.

1. Buddhism in general

The standard work on Indian Buddhism is still Father Etienne Lamotte's Histoire du Bouddhisme Indien. Des origines à l'ère Saka, Louvain, Publications Universitaires, 1958, 862 p. Despite its bulk and scientific quality, it reads like a novel (if one skips some specialized pages, that is).


II. Buddhism in Japan

A. In general


Here might be the place to introduce three periodicals which publish interesting material on Japanese Buddhism:

- *The Eastern Buddhist*, published by the Eastern Buddhist Society, Otani University, Kyoto (editors: Nishitani Keiji et al.)
- *Japanese Religions*, published by the N.C.C. Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, Kyoto (editor: Doi Masatoshi)
- *Contemporary Religions in Japan*, published by the International Institute for the Study of Religions, Sophia University, Tokyo (editor: Wilhelm Schiffer)

B. Different Schools

It is regrettable that on the several schools of Japanese Buddhism nearly no studies have emerged. For these we have to refer to the general works and to Takakusu Junjiro, *The Essentials of Buddhist Philosophy*, Honolulu, University of Hawaii, 1947. Those who want

1. Nichiren


2. Zen


3. Pure Land (Jōdo and Shinshū)


A more scholarly interpretation is offered by Kyodai professor, Takeuchi Yoshinori, in his *Shinran’s Religious Philosophy*, Columbia University, 1962.


III. Comparative Studies of Buddhism and Christianity


Finally, I would like to recommend Winston L. King, *Buddhism and Christianity: Some Bridges of Understanding*, London, George Allen and Unwin, 1962, 240 p. His comparison of Buddhist and Christian notions (God, love, guilt, prayer, etc.) is often illuminating.

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In *Japan Scene* of this number we bring an article by Fr. Cleary about the *Ai no jikō* Movement. This is something very concrete and practical and we hope to present every month a report on a similar movement or action in the Church. Fr. Matsui presents a concrete example of apostolate in a Buddhist milieu of the country-side.

In *Vox Fratrum* we bring you some thoughts of a fellow-missionary in the field. Will anyone send us some material for the following months?

The theme of the next issue will be *Religious Life in Japan.*