

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1968 (JULY-DECEMBER)

- July 1— Dr. Reimon Yūki 結城令聞, formerly professor of Buddhism at Tokyo Univ. (1949-1963), was elected President of Kyoto Women's University (*Kyoto Joshi Daigaku* 京都女子大学).
- July 6— The Suzuki Foundation for Academic Work (*Suzuki Gakujutsu Zaidan* 鈴木学術財団) announced the plan to publish a revised edition of *Dai Nihon Bukkyō Zensho* 大日本仏教全書 in 100 volumes. The original edition in 150 volumes, completed in 1921, has been out of print for 30 years.
- July 5— A library of Brazilian books, the Mello Franco Library was inaugurated at Ryūkoku University in Kyoto. The library starts with 200 books contributed by Senator Mello Franco for the sake of cultural exchange between Brazil and Japan.
- July 1— Ōmoto announced to set up Tokyo headquarters for the purpose of putting emphasis on the missionary work in the Kantō area.
- July 9— 147 out of 151 professors of Ryūkoku University in Kyoto, with Dr. Gempō Hoshino 星野元豊 as President, proposed a statement against the bill for the national status of Yasukuni Shrine presented by the Liberal Democratic Party, as leading to violation of the freedom of

- faith and to a crisis of democracy and peace.
- July 11— The first meeting of *Shūkyō Konwa-kai* 宗教懇話会 (Interreligious Conference) was held at Palaceside Hotel in Kyoto. 28 scholars, representing Buddhism, Christianity and Ōmoto attended the meeting and discussed on the view of man of each religion under the leadership of Dr. Masatoshi Doi 土居真俊 of Dōshisha Univ. after a lecture by Dr. Takashi Hirata 平田高士 of Hanazono Univ. on “Zen Buddhist View of Man.”
- July 17— The Nara District Court passed sentence upon the Tōdaiji Temple dismissing the appeal on the part of the temple that it should be exempted from the sight-seeing tax which the Nara Prefectural Government imposed on the temples in Nara Prefecture in 1966. The reason for the dismissal is that most of the visitors of the temple are supposed to be sightseers and not pilgrims.
- July 23— A *Bukkyō Bunka Kenkyusho* 仏教文化研究所 (Institute for the Study of Buddhist Culture), affiliated with the Kyoto Women’s University, was inaugurated with Dr. Reimon Yūki as director. The purpose of the institute is to contribute to the development of the study of Buddhist culture through scholarly research and to the general penetration of religious education.

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- July 26— *Seichō no Ie* 生長の家 sent a full-time missionary to Hawaii where they have 4,000 middle-aged adherents and the urgent need is felt of a missionary for the young generation.
- July 31— The fourth summer seminar of *Nihon Shūkyōshi Kenkyū-kai* 日本宗教史研究会 (the Society for the Study of the History of Japanese Religions) was held for three days at Enryakuji Temple in Kyoto under the theme, "Inter-influence among religions of Japan," with about hundred attendants including 18 Buddhist, Christian, Shinto and non-sectarian scholars who gave lectures.
- August 6— The 23rd memorial service for the atomic bomb of Hiroshima was held under the auspices of *Hiroshima-ken Shūkyō Renmei* 広島宗教連盟 (Religions League of Hiroshima Prefecture) with 70 representatives from Buddhism, Christianity and Shintoism in attendance.
- August 16— Catholic Kyoto diocese allowed the churches to observe All Souls Day on *o-bon*, the native traditional day to commemorate the dead.
- August 15— The United Church of Christ in Japan, with the cosponsorship of the National Christian Council of Japan, held a prayer meeting for peace at the Chidorigafuchi cemetery of the war dead in Tokyo.
- August 16— The Japan Bible Society completed its plan to organize 80 local committees throughout the

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- county for a closer connection and mutual co-operation between society and the local churches.
- August 17— *Gedatsu-kai* with Eizan Kishida 岸田英山 as President set up a medical institute in accordance with the will of the founder to unify religion and medical science.
- August 22— *Seichō no Ie* announced to join hands with the Unity Church of the United States and to cooperate to publish the works of the Rev. Masaharu Taniguchi 谷口雅春, President of *Seichō no Ie* in English.
- August 27— A symposium on "The Development of Asia and Buddhism" was held for two days at Hakone, Kanagawa Pref., under the cosponsorship of the Japan Buddhist Federation and the International Buddhist Exchange Center with 27 participants consisting mostly of Buddhist scholars including Dr. Shōson Miyamoto 宮本正尊, Dr. Yoshio Nishi 西義雄, Dr. Yoshiro Tamura 田村芳朗, Dr. Yoshitaka Tsukamoto 塚本善隆, Dr. Mitsuo Satō 佐藤密雄.
- September 6— The NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions held the 5th training seminar on the theme "Shintoism and Christianity" for four days at Ise. The seminar included lectures by Dr. Yoshitada Takahara 高原美忠, President of Kōgakkan Univ., Dr. Sokyō Ono

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小野祖教 of Kokugakuin Univ., Dr. Naofusa Hirai 平井直房 of Kokugakuin Univ., and a panel discussion on "National Status of Yasukuni Shrine."

September 18— The Central Council of the Catholic Church announced the national membership of the church to be 344, 343, which shows an increase by 5,366 over last year.

September 19— Dr. Fujio Tomita 富田富士雄 was elected new President of Kantō Gakuin University.

September 21— The Youth Association of the New Religious Organizations of Japan (*Shin Nippon Shūkyō Seinen-kai Remmei* 新日本宗教青年会連盟) made an appeal against the national status of Yasukuni Shrine.

September 20— The National Christian Council of Japan and the National Council of Churches of the United States held a conference of peace in Asia on the theme "The Japan-US Security Treaty and Japan-US Relationship" for four days at Gotemba, Shizuoka Prefecture, with 19 Japanese and 11 American representatives.

September 25— The Japanese Buddhist Council on Vietnam (*Nippon Bukkyōsha Betonamu Mondai Kyōgikai* 日本仏教者ベトナム問題協議会) represented by the Rev. Tokumei Matsumoto 松本徳明 sent to the five Southeastern Buddhist countries, including North Vietnam and South Vietnam, an appeal for a union of

Buddhists to restore peace in Vietnam.

- September 23— The second meeting of the Inter-religious Conference was held at Nishi Honganji Temple with six Christian, 34 Buddhist and one Ōmoto scholars and leaders in attendance on the theme "Man from the viewpoint of Shin Buddhism."
- September 27— The League of Korean Buddhists in Japan (*Zainichi Chōsenjin Bukkyōto Remmei* 在日朝鮮人仏教徒連盟) celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Tokyo with 50 persons in attendance, including Mr. Masamichi Kōzu 高津正道, vice-president of the Japan-Korea Society, Rev. Shōjun Mibu 壬生照順, chief director of the Japan Council of Religionists for Peace (*Nihon Shūkyō-sha Heiwa Kyōgikai* 日本宗教者平和協議会) and Rev. Shōji Hirayama 平山照次, chairman of the Christian Council for Peace Movement (*Kirisuto-sha Heiwa Undō Kyōgikai* キリスト者平和運動協議会).
- October 2— The Japan Buddhist Federation (*Zen Nihon Bukkyō-kai* 全日本仏教会) held its sixteenth national convention in Okayama City for two days with 1,000 representatives from 58 Buddhist sects of the country and 5,500 Buddhist priests and laymen. They released a statement which put emphasis on a Buddhist ecumenical movement in order to work at the serious problems in the present society

inside and outside the country.

- October 6— The Esoteric Buddhist Society of Japan (*Nihon Mikkyō Gakkai* 日本密教学会) consisting of four Shingon Buddhist societies of Kōyasan Univ., Taishō Univ., and Shūchiin Univ., which had been organized last spring, held an inaugural meeting and the first academic meeting for two days at Kōyasan Univ. with 150 scholars and members in attendance. The Japanese Association for Religious Studies (*Nihon Shūkyō Gakkai* 日本宗教学会) held the 27th academic meeting for three days at Musashino Women's College in Tokyo. More than 140 scholars and students of religion read papers, some of which reflected interest in the religious consciousness of the young generation or scholarly interpretation of the new religions. At the general meeting which was held on the 2nd day Prof. Ichirō Hori 堀一郎 of Tokyo Univ. was elected the new President of the association.
- October 7— The Tokyo Housewives Union (*Tokyo Shufu Dōmei* 東京主婦同盟), with *Sōka Gakkai* as the core body, was inaugurated, aiming at raising housewives' social status, having influential voice in politics as consumers and working for world peace. This will be the first of eight unions which are to be inaugurated over the country by the end of this month.

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- October 10— *Gedatsu-kai*, with Rev. Eizan Kishida 岸田英山 as President, celebrated the 40th anniversary and the 20th anniversary of the attainment of emancipation by the founder, the late Seiken Okano 岡野聖憲, for two days at the holy place in Saitama. More than 30,000 adherents in the country and 22 from the United States attended the occasion.
- October 11— The Japan Convention of Religionists for Peace (*Shukyō-sha Heiwa Nihon Taikai* 宗教者平和日本大会) was held for two days in Tokyo under the leadership of 11 volunteers of the religious world including the Rev. Ryōkei Ōnishi 大西良慶, president of Japan Council of Religionists for Peace, and the Rev. Isamu Ōmura 大村勇, chairman of the National Christian Council of Japan. They passed a resolution against the bill for the national status of Yasukuni Shrine and three other resolutions, and handed to the leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party a statement asking the party to withdraw the Yasukuni Shrine Bill.
- October 20— The *Sōka Gakkai* held a ground breaking ceremony of the Main Hall of their head temple Taisekiji. It was announced that the sum of 35,536,000,000 yen had been contributed by the adherents for this construction, and the completion of the building will be in 1972.

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The Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan announced the statistics of its membership for 1967 to be 48,934, which shows an increase of 720 over the last year.

The Japanese Association for Indology and Buddhology (*Nihon Bukkyō Gakkai* 日本仏教学会) held its annual meeting for two days in Tokyo under the theme, "Problems of the Formation of Kamakura Buddhism" with 80 scholars and students in attendance.

- October 24— The 15th general assembly of the United Church of Christ of Japan was held for four days. Rev. Masahisa Suzuki 鈴木正久 was re-elected chairman of the assembly, and bills for the reorganization of the body and the union with the UCC of Ryūkyū were passed.
- October 26— Rev. Daikō Furukawa 古川大航, Chief Abbot of Myōshinji Sect of Rinzai Zen Buddhism since 1952, died of old age. He was 98.
- October 28— An inaugural meeting of the Japan Women Cultural League (*Zen Nihon Fujin Bunka Remmei* 全日本婦人文化連盟) was held in Tokyo with the Japan Buddhist Women's League (*Zen Nihon Bukkyō Fujin Remmei* 全日本仏教婦人連盟), the Risshō Kōsei-kai, Japan Women's League (*Zen Nihon Fujin Remmei* 全日本婦人連盟) and the Japan Educational Parents Conference (*Zen Nihon Kyōiku Fubo Kaigi* 全日本教育父母会議) as core bodies. The major purpose

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of the league is to concentrate women's power for the solution of youth problems.

October 29— Nara Prefecture and Tōdaiji Temple released a joint statement and a memorandum that the problem of the tourist tax was settled between them and Tōdaiji accepts the tourist tax policy on the part of the prefectural government provided that it will not continue beyond March 24, 1971. The problem has been on trial for two years and seven months.

November 3— The Announcement of Succession by the new Shimbashira Rev. Zen'ei Nakayama 中山善衛 of Tenrikyō was celebrated for ten days at the headquarters. 300,000 adherents visited the headquarters on this occasion, and 19,500 executives and teachers of *Tenrikyō* and 900 government officials, professors, businessmen were invited.

The *Kokuchū-kai*, with Kōho Tanaka 田中香浦 as Superintendent, celebrated the completion of the Main Hall on which 100,000,000 yen were spent, and their 40th anniversary in Tokyo with 1,000 members and guests in attendance.

November 7— *Shinnyo-en* celebrated the completion of the Temple of the Birthplace (*Hashhō Shōja* 発祥精舎) for seven days at the headquarters in Tokyo. The building was constructed at the cost of 700,000,000 yen commemorating the 30th anniversary of the sect. 70,000

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adherents visited the headquarters during the period and a number of guests including two Buddhist representatives from Thailand.

- November 10— Kyoto City celebrated the 1,100th anniversary of the Gion Festival and the completion of Yamaboko-kan, a building to store the car floats of the festival.
- November 11— The Kasuga Shrine in Nara celebrated its 1,200 anniversary for three days
- November 14— The United Church of Christ in Japan announced its membership as of March 31, 1968, to be 201,306, which shows an increase by 933 over the year before.
- November 12— Dr. Takashi Ōizumi 大泉孝, president of Sophia Univ. since 1953 was allowed to retire from the presidency because of illness, and Dr. Mikao Moriya 守屋美賀雄 was elected the new president. There has been a conflict between the school and the students at Sophia Univ., and three school buildings are blockaded by the students.
- November 18— A Shinto Academic Meeting was held for three days in Ise commemorating the centenary of the Meiji Restoration sponsored by the Association of Religious Study of Shintoism (*Shintō Shūkyō Gakkai* 神道宗教学会), the Association of Shintō Studies (*Shintō Gakkai* 神道学会), the Association of Historical Study of Shintoism (*Shintō Shigakkai* 神道史学会) and the Association

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of Society and Tradition (*Shakai to Denshō no Kai* 社会と伝承の会). The agenda included a panel discussion on the problem of myth in the curriculum of school education, paper readings and a commemoration lecture by Prof. Fujio Kimura 木村富士男 of Aichi Prefectural Univ. on "Direction and Balance in History—In Relation to the Meiji Era."

November 21— Tenrikyō set up a society for the translation of the teachings of the religion for the purpose of world mission. The society consists of Korean, Chinese, Anglo-American, German, French, Russian, Spanish, Indonesian and Portuguese divisions and numbers 168 members.

November 23— Ryūkoku Univ. Doctrinal Council (*Ryūkoku Kyōgaku Kaigi* 竜谷教学会議) held the fourth academic meeting in Hiroshima, for the first time outside Kyoto. Papers were read by 12 scholars of Buddhism on Shin Buddhism, lectures were given by Prof. Enjun Miyazaki 宮崎円遵 of Ryūkoku Univ. on "Scientific attitude of Shinran," and also by Prof. Daien Fugen 普賢大円 of Ryūkoku Univ. on "Two major currents in the doctrinal study of Shin Buddhism," and the meeting was closed with a symposium on "Pure Land and the Present World." There was an audience of 800.

November 28— The National Christian Council of Japan held a meeting for the study of mission to the indust-

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rial cities for three days in Ōiso, Kanagawa Pref., with 30 representatives of the member churches in attendance. There were reports from the churches on mission to the industrial cities, a lecture by Prof. Hiroshi Ushikubo 牛窪浩 of St. Paul's Univ. on "The logic of megalopolis and the problems of urbanization and secularization," and also a panel discussion.

December 7— The Kyoto Buddhist Conference (*Kyō-o Bukkyōto Kaigi* 京都仏教徒会議) with Rev. Ryōkei Ōnishi 大西良慶 as president celebrated the 15th anniversary. Dr. Koh Hirasawa 平沢興, ex-president of Kyoto Univ. gave a lecture on "How to live in the present world," and the same theme was taken over at a symposium which followed.

December 9— The Japan Buddhist Student Body Union (*Zen Nihon Bukkyō Gakusei Jichi Rengō* 全日本仏教学生自治連合) held a national convention for the first time for three days at Ōtani Univ. in Kyoto. under the slogan, "Out of a tea party to action." On the second day of the convention 50 students demonstrated on the streets against the Bill for National Status of Yasukuni Shrine.

December 15— The Christian League of School Education (*Kirisutokyō Gakkō Kyōiku Dōmei* キリスト教学校教育同盟), consisting of 77 Christian

schools, sent out a statement to the organizations concerned against the Bill for National Status of Yasukuni Shrine that the bill might violate the freedom of faith as guaranteed in the Constitution and also affect the educational system.

- December 18— The Society for Celebration of the National Foundation Day (*Kigensetsu Hōshuku-kai* 紀元節奉祝会) with Tokutarō Kimura 木村篤太郎 as president, made a demand to the government to sponsor a celebration on the coming National Foundation Day, Feb. 11, 1969, and take the leadership at the celebrations at government offices, and schools. The society was dissolved at this moment and an Executive Committee for the Celebration of the National Foundation Day (*Kenkoku Kinen-no-hi Hōshuku Jikkō Inkai* 建国記念の日奉祝実行委員会) was newly organized with the younger generation of the member groups as their leaders.
- December 21— 52 students who have been barricading the school buildings of Sophia Univ. were arrested by the police who came in on the campus at the request of the school.
- December 22— Sophia Univ. decided to close the school for six months in order to settle the trouble between the school and the students.
- December 26— The Japan Religions League (*Nihon Shūkyō Remmei* 日本宗教連盟), with Rev. Eiji Haya-

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shi 林榮治 as Chairman of the Board of Directors, made an appeal to make the 1st of January a Day of Peace. This appeal for peace was done in response to that of Paul VI which he made on December 9, 1967, and it is hoped that all men of religion make efforts for a peaceful world.

December 28— *Risshō Kōsei-Kai* became a member of the Japan Buddhist Council for World Federation (*Sekai Rempō Nihon Bukkyōto Kyōgikai* 世界連邦日本仏教徒協議会) with Rev. Sōgen Asahina as president.