

ANNUAL UPDATE  
*JAPANESE JOURNAL*  
*OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES*



Matthew D. McMullen

*Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture*

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*The following is a summary of activities and circulation of the Japanese Journal of Religious Studies during the 2022 academic year. This update includes table of contents for published issues, an overview of online engagement with articles, and notes on present and future plans for the journal.*

THE PAST year has been a busy one for both the *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* (*JJRS*) and the Nanzan Institute. In addition to new staff, we also launched a new website (<https://nirc.nanzan-u.ac.jp>). The core of the new website is a series of databases for institute publications, including the *JJRS*, as well as authors and research associates. Although editing the content of the website is an ongoing process, we hope readers of the *JJRS* will find it easy to navigate.

The annual trend toward an increase in online engage with *JJRS* articles continued this year with 103,952 successful DOI searches between April 2022 and March 2023 (see the *JJRS* update in *Bulletin* 44 for an explanation of DOIs). The influx in searchers via DOI was perhaps due to the expansion of our contracts with ProQuest and ATLA to include *Contemporary Religions in Japan* (*CRJ*), the latter of which also distributes other Nanzan Institute journals. This means the *CRJ*, like the *JJRS*, is available through most online databases and search engines such as EBSCO. On JSTOR, *JJRS* articles were accessed 100,715 times between April 2022 and March 2023. These numbers do not include downloads directly from the Nanzan Institute. Fourteen copies were sold print-on-demand during the same period.

Despite having had a productive year with the launch of a new website, we were only able to complete one issue of the *JJRS* in 2022 (vol. 49/1). This outstanding volume includes articles on the image of Korea in writings of Edo-period nativists, representations of the Pure Land in anime, the discovery of objects hidden inside the Kannon statue at Kofukuji, and the relationship between Buddhism and the state in the early modern period. A special issue featuring articles stemming from

a series of bilingual conferences hosted by Columbia and Nagoya Universities is still in production, but it hopefully will be available by the time you are reading this announcement. A slate of three excellent articles on topics ranging from notions of motherhood in sixteenth-century Sōtō Zen to Buddhist institutional support of World War II is currently in the works, and a special issue on Tenrikyō and Ōmotokyō is planned for the fall of 2023.

Finally, I would like to thank Tim Graf for his hard work as associate editor. Tim began as associate editor in 2018, and in addition to the *JJRS* he assisted with numerous publications at the institute before leaving for a position at Manchester University in the fall of 2022. Much thanks are also due to Suemura Masayo and Ishihara Yamato for their assistance in editing the 2022 *JJRS* issue.

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