

SOFTWARE REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ZEN BUDDHISM 花園大学国際禅学研究所. *ZenBase CD1*. DOS/Windows and Apple Macintosh. Kyoto: International Research Institute for Zen Buddhism, Hanazono University. \$10.00 or ¥1,000, ISBN 4-938796-18-X.

TAISHŌ SHINSHŪ DAIZŌKYŌ KANKŌKAI 大正新脩大藏経刊行会. *CD-ROM ban, Taishō shinshū daizōkyō dai-nijūgo-kan, shakukyōron-bu jō* CD-ROM 版大正新脩大藏経 第25卷 积経論部 上. Japanese MS-Windows only. Tokyo: Daizō Shuppan, 1995. ¥25,000, ISBN 4-8043-8501-0.

AMONG THE MANY welcome developments in the computerization of religious studies in Japan, one of the most remarkable is the work of Urs App and the International Research Institute for Zen Buddhism at Hanazono University in Kyoto. This group has created a massive and continuously growing database of Zen and other Buddhist material, along with tools to access and harness the information. The CD-ROM under review is the first offering of computerized material developed and inputted by the IRIZ. It provides a mountain of information—over 70 Chinese Zen texts, including the *Record of Linji*, the *Vajrasamādhi-sūtra*, and the *Platform Sūtra*; bibliographies and textual information, including Yanagita Seizan's *Zenseki kaidai* and a bibliography of English publications on Zen; input tools and research aids, such as conversion dictionaries and the *IRIZ Kana-Kanji Input Dictionary for Zen and Buddhist Terms*; and kanji and font files, including a *gaiji* set of Zen characters to supplement those not found in the regular codes. All of this is made available for the nominal price of \$10.00.

The user should be warned, however, that the CD-ROM is difficult to install with only the accompanying instructions and disk, even for an experienced user. But help is at hand. The IRIZ also publishes *The Electronic*

Bodhidharma, and the June 1995 (Number 4) issue provides in-depth instructions on using the CD-ROM, along with a detailed outline of its contents. Continuous updates and more detailed instructions, along with additional text files, are available at the IRIZ Electronic Bodhidharma website: “<http://www.ijnet.or.jp/iriz/irizhtml/irizhome.htm>”. This website also includes up-to-the-minute information on other developments in the inputting of Buddhist texts. Any further information that could be provided in this review may be outdated by the time it appears (thus illustrating the limits of our print medium), and the best we can do is draw our readers’ attention to this remarkable and inexpensive contribution.

In contrast to the easy availability of the IRIZ disc is the expensive offering of a half-volume of the Taishō canon (the first half of volume 25) for ¥25,000 (\$250.00) by Daizō Shuppan. The disc will work only under Japanese MS-Windows, and is clearly intended for the Japanese market. In its favor, it is easy to install, with only one small glitch that is clearly documented and quickly solved (by deleting and substituting a single file in the /windows/system sub-directory). The interface is friendly and the searches are easy and efficient. Since the disc contains the encyclopedic *Ta chih tu lun*, I myself anticipate using it frequently, but the price makes it prohibitive for any scholar (or even library) without a highly subsidized budget and very specific needs. A second disc, containing much of volume 9 of the Taishō canon (the *Lotus Sūtra* and *Avatamsaka Sūtra* corpus) was released in the spring of 1996, for the same price of ¥25,000. A third disc containing texts from volume 30 (Mādhyamika and Yogācāra treatises) has been announced, with upgrades for this and earlier discs for Windows 95 compatibility. Alas, this series of discs is too little for too much. A few short years ago, computerized Buddhist texts would have been welcomed at almost any price. The IRIZ’s disk and the information available at their website, however, indicate that in a short time the entire Buddhist canon will be available for little or nothing through inexpensive CD-ROMs or by downloading through the internet.

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