

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Library — Archives

Zen Studies Society Board of Trustees Meeting
Saturday, January 31, 1981

Present: Eido Tai Shimano Roshi, Aiho Yasuko Shimano, Jochi George Zournas, Korin Sylvan Busch, Chigetsu Ruth Lilienthal, Wado Viola Gerdy, Jikei Jean Bankier.

Also present: Mushin Frank LoCicero, Koshin Harvey Ussery

Eido Roshi said he had received letters of resignation from the board of trustees from Chigetsu Ruth Lilienthal and Wado Viola Gerdy. Jochi read the letters aloud. In accepting their resignations, Eido Roshi thanked them for their services and asked both of them to continue to give the board their guidance. He asked them to remain through the meeting.

Eido Roshi then proposed that Mushin Frank LoCicero and Koshin Harvey Ussery be elected to the board, and they were so elected and welcomed by the members.

At a later time in the meeting, Jikei Jean Bankier was elected secretary of the Zen Studies Society.

Next on the agenda for discussion was a plan for training Dai Bosatsu monks in Japan for a period of one year commencing in the spring of 1983 at the conclusion of the 1000 days. Roshi expressed concern for the future leadership of both Zendos in the absence of any interested Japanese priests. It was calculated that each monk would require about \$5,000 including round-trip air fare and monastery room and board. A financial committee composed of Aiho, Jochi, Korin and Jikei was designated to meet informally to discuss ways in which the venture might be financed and to report their conclusions to the board.

The trip to China planned in the fall of 1981 was next discussed with special reference to Professor Alan Sponberg of Princeton University, described as a historian familiar with both the history of China and Buddhism in China. Roshi said a foundation is sending him to Kyoto this fall and he had asked Roshi if he could join the ZSS group from Japan to give tour members the benefit of his scholastic insight, in exchange for which his traveling expenses would be provided Tokyo/China/Tokyo. The sum required--about \$3500--would be allotted from the ZSS contributions of \$200 per person (\$6,000 total) included in the tour cost.

Roshi said that Professor Sponberg has offered several pre-trip services including provision of a suggested reading list and talks on Buddhism in China to the sangha as a whole. The professor also expressed to Roshi an interest in writing an "impressionistic" book on the trip with many photographs.

The board agreed that Professor Sponberg's expenses should be paid from the contributions as set forth above, and that Roshi's expenses in full also should be covered by that fund.

The possibility of providing financial assistance to enable one student from each Zendo to make the trip was introduced. This will also be taken up by the financial committee and reported on at the next board meeting.

Roshi said that a representative of the Dalai Lama will give a talk at the New York Zendo on the evening of Friday, February 13; that the Dalai Lama is returning to this country in August at the invitation of the University of Wisconsin; that he has expressed through his representative a desire to visit Dai Bosatsu; and that Eido Roshi has extended an invitation

Roshi further said that the representative is seeking to raise \$40,000 in connection with a videotape that was made of the Dalai Lama's activities when he was in California. The board decided to make a contribution to the fund of \$1,000 shared equally by the ZSS, NYZ, and DBZ.

Aiho reported that the ZSS checking account balance at December 31 was \$4,544.89, its savings account balance was \$2,266.60, and the value of its Nomura Securities stood at approximately \$110,000. Roshi passed around a three-year financial analysis of DBZ prepared by Bill Johnstone, showing annual income and disbursements of \$140,000--which figure agreed with Koshin's for 1980. Koshin reported that the DBZ checking account currently has a balance of \$1,600. and the savings account \$1,000. He said that DBZ did not accept any logging bids last year because they were too low, and that a logging contract has been drawn up with Bowman Owens assuring DBZ at least \$8,000.

Jikei reported that NYZ's checking and savings account were both in excess of \$5,000.

Korin said that the American Embassy in Copenhagen had held up the visa application of Denko (one of the DBZ monks) apparently because of the use of the word "trainee". Jack Clareman telexed a change in wording to "student" but had not yet heard the result.

Jochi praised the job Muin did with the December Zen Arts Sale and read from his report that the remaining inventory is valued at \$3,740. The sale accounted for some \$2,500 in profit to NYZ. Jochi will draft a letter from the board of trustees to Dosan in Japan thanking him for his help this year and in years past.

Jochi also expressed the board's appreciation for the work of the new residents at the New York Zendo and for Mushin's help to them.

Korin reported that the cost of putting out a new sutra book would be \$3600 for 1000 copies and \$5900 for 2000 copies. A book containing the Diamond Sutra in Japanese and English would cost more because of designing it from scratch, and was tabled.

Certain complaints were voiced about the ZSS mailing list being provided to other organizations. The board decided that in future greater selectivity should be exercised.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.