

## Newsletter – Winter 2015

### President's Message

By *Ashwini Mokashi*

I was happy to move to Dresden with my family last summer, but I was also prepared to be somewhat socially isolated and miss out on any interesting or intellectual company. It was a pleasant surprise to discover that I was being unnecessarily pessimistic. I have met some very interesting people in different walks of life in this town. I have also realized that learning and using various languages, reading literature in those languages, can provide a lot of intellectual stimulation! Normally I am used to speaking, reading, and thinking in English, which is technically my second language. However, sometimes it makes me forget how much I appreciate other languages from Europe and India and how much I enjoy reading literature in the original. My stay in Dresden has provided me that chance.

Two months before I arrived in Germany, I tried to brush up on the German I learned twenty-some years ago and expected to engage mostly in simple conversations. Little did I know that I would be using German every day in all kinds of situations with professionals such as bankers, taxi drivers, police, doctors, building workers, and musicians, not to mention with various friends. I often found myself using German with my friends in Dresden to discuss India's political system, its caste system, and its tradition of arranged marriages. Some of my German and Indian friends here are monolingual, and their mother tongues are quite varied, such as Bavarian German, Hochdeutsch or pure German, and Saxon German. Likewise, a friend who speaks Marathi from the Jalgaon area uses different words than those of us from the Pune area who also speak Marathi, but in its pure form. I also have a friend who speaks Hindi from Banaras, which is more Sanskritized compared to the Hindi from Delhi that I am used to, is mixed with Urdu or Hindi from Pune, and further mixed with Marathi.

While we're on the subject of dialects, I recently attended a reunion of my high school in India, which opened up a world of mostly Marathi speakers who are comfortable with local dialects as well as surrounding languages. I look forward to receiving articles, as well as

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literary and non-literary pieces, in Marathi, Konkani and Malvani (the first two are local languages on the Deccan plateau and the third is a dialect) every day as a way of keeping in touch. This will certainly keep my linguistic neuron circuits sharp, as they get a lot of action!

I had planned to brush up on my classical Greek this year so I could restart the research I had been doing in my favorite field of ancient Greek philosophy. I figured that the university here would offer some courses in classical Greek, but none were to be had, so I had resigned myself to being less of a scholar this year and more of a tourist! But while attending a PTA meeting at my kids' school, I was curious to know the background of various parents, and

discovered to my surprise that one of them was a theology student from Greece who had studied the testaments in early Greek! We soon got together over a cup of coffee and chatted about our love of the ancient Greek language. She realized that the period of Platonic Greek was even more ancient than that of the testaments—so different, in fact, that she plans to read the texts herself. We both started



Ashwini and friends in Dresden.

reading classical Greek,

discussing forty different forms of conjugations of Greek verbs, trying to translate them, and figuring out whether certain sentence constructions are closer to German, French, English or even Sanskrit. The sheer pleasure of discussing classical Greek in a German café while taking a break to place an order of coffee in local slang is an undiluted linguistic delight.

Now I have assigned days for my linguistic pursuits: Monday I study Greek, learn my verbs, read Plato. Tuesday I read modern German classics like 'Das Doppelte Loettchen' by Erich Kaestner. Wednesday I attend a conversation group for speaking in German. Thursday I read older German classics by Goethe (some in German and some in English) to be well prepared to attend a performance of Faust. Friday is reserved for German poetry, including operas and songs, either before or after attending a performance that has German lyrics. That leaves the weekend for English non-fiction and evenings for the New York Times!

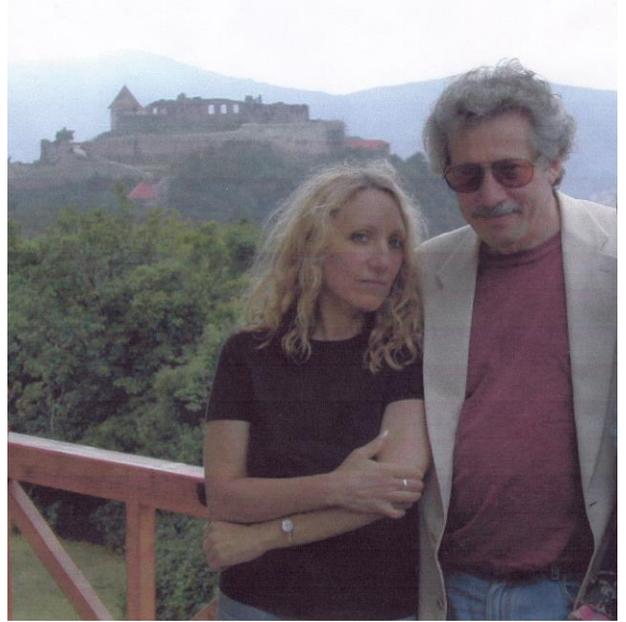
I am fascinated by Baroque music and old languages. And now that the lyrics and music are making more sense, I enjoy my scholarly cerebral existence even more.

Dresden has been good for me after all and the best part has been that I am intellectually and linguistically challenged every day.

## New Member – Matthew Erdelyi

Matthew Erdelyi was born in Budapest, Hungary, lived in Venezuela for several years, and finally settled in the United States, where he obtained his Ph.D. at Yale. As Matthew explains, “I speak no language without an accent.”

Matthew is professor of psychology and formerly the Stern Professor of Humor at Brooklyn College, The City University of New York. He has pursued experimental and theoretical work on subliminal perception, the recovery of inaccessible memories, and psychodynamics. Along with many articles, he has published two books, *Psychoanalysis: Freud's Cognitive Psychology* and *The Recovery of Unconscious Memories: Hypermnnesia and Reminiscence*. He has been a visiting scholar at various universities and was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford.



Matthew and his wife, Diane Zizak.

## Karen Reeds: “Old Herbals, New Reader,” 29th Annual Bishop Lecture, April 9, 2015

Rutgers University Libraries welcome all to attend the [29th annual Louis Faugères Bishop III Lecture, “Old Herbals, New Readers,”](#) which will be delivered by Dr. Karen Reeds, Ph.D., F.L.S. on April 9, 2015.

Dr. Reeds will draw on examples of early herbals in the Libraries’ rare book collections to examine the continuing appeal of these medical books across the centuries. Why is the ancient Greek physician Dioscorides still cited as an authority on the uses of medicinal plants? What do the markings and dried plants in early printed herbals tell us about the ways doctors, patients, pharmacists, gardeners, and botanists have used these books from the Renaissance to our own day? What accounts for the resurgence of interest in herbals and the practice of herbal medicine in recent years?

### Location

Scholarly Communication Center Teleconference Lecture Hall, Fourth Floor  
Alexander Library, Rutgers-College Avenue Campus  
New Brunswick NJ  
Thursday, April 9, 2015, 4 pm

### RSVP

RSVP by email to [hperrone@rulmail.rutgers.edu](mailto:hperrone@rulmail.rutgers.edu) or call 848-932-7505. Please indicate whether a parking pass will be required.

## Maureen Mulvihill Shares Her Essays and Books

**Maureen E. Mulvihill** (Brooklyn, NY / Sarasota, FL) recently published three illustrated essays:

### Veronese

The first is an immersive, illustrated piece on the 17<sup>th</sup>-century legacy of Veronese among Stuart art connoisseurs (Veronese show, Ringling Museum, Sarasota, FL).



Veronese, *Allegory of Painting*, c1560s. Detroit Institute of Arts.

This essay is the lead article in the current issue of [Seventeenth-Century News](#); several specialty sites have linked to it (ILAB; Fine Books & Collections; ASECS).

### Portfolio of 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Frontispieces

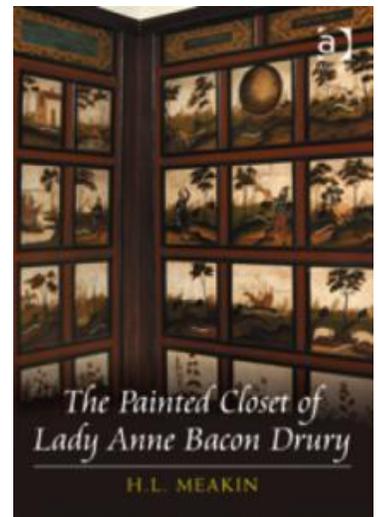
Her portfolio of images on 17<sup>th</sup>-century frontispieces (Cavendish conference, Sundance, UT) is now online, hosted by the [American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (ASECS).

### Painted Closet of Anne Lady Drury

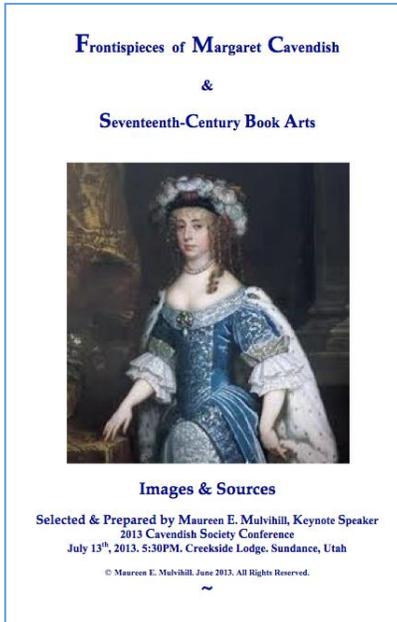
An illustrated essay on the intriguing “painted closet” of Anne Lady Drury, an unusual instance of 17<sup>th</sup>-century art installation and female space, has been published in [Early Modern Studies Journal](#) (2014). All of Maureen’s recent essays may be accessed at [My Sentimental Library BlogSpot](#).

The [Mulvihill Collection](#) of Rare and Special Books has three new additions: (1) Rimmel’s *Le Livre Parfums* (*The Book of Perfumes*), 1<sup>st</sup> ed., gold-tooled covers and spine, gilt-edged, ills.; (2) a pristine copy of the catalogue of the Healy Collection of Yeats’s writings, illustrated by Jack Yeats (Dublin: Cuala Press), a valued gift from Philip R. Bishop (Mosher Books, Ephrata, Pa.); and (3) a first edition copy of the *Memoirs and Letters of Richard and Elizabeth Shackleton* (for images, see [Mulvihill’s Flickr site](#)).

Dr. Mulvihill also served as consulting interface to Anne Williams (Dunedin, New Zealand), whose first edition copy of a somewhat rare political pamphlet on Irish politics (*Mother Ireland*), attributed to Irish patriot-polemicist Dr. Charles Lucas and published by Dublin printer James Esdall, was bought by Bernard Quaritch Ltd, London (buying agent: Donovan Reese).



Jacket, Meakin’s *Lady Drury*, with background detail of emblematic paneling (her painted closet).

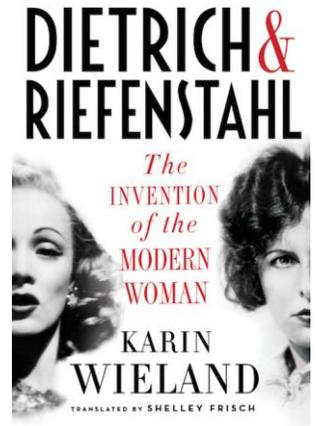


Title page, *Book Arts Portfolio* (18 pp), Cavendish Conference, Sundance, UT.

## Shelley Frisch Translates Biographies of Kafka and Dietrich and Riefenstahl

Shelley continues her work on the final volume of the Kafka biography translation, while her translation of a dual biography of Marlene Dietrich and Leni Riefenstahl, twin cinematic icons of the twentieth century who traveled very different personal and professional paths, is in production and scheduled for publication by W.W. Norton (Liveright imprint) in October 2015. The catalog copy and a rough draft of the jacket design (it will carry a different subtitle) are included here, to whet the appetites of anyone hoping to learn more!

Here's the catalog copy:



Dietrich & Riefenstahl: Hollywood, Berlin, and a Century in Two Lives

By Karin Wieland

Translated by Shelley Frisch

Magisterial in scope, this dual biography examines two complex lives that began alike but ended on opposite sides of the century's greatest conflict.

Marlene Dietrich and Leni Riefenstahl, born less than one year apart, lived so close to each other that Riefenstahl could actually see into Dietrich's Berlin apartment. Coming of age at the dawn of the Weimar Republic, both sought fame in Germany's burgeoning silent motion picture industry. While Dietrich's depiction of the femme fatale Lola-Lola in *The Blue Angel* catapulted her to Hollywood stardom, Riefenstahl – who missed out on the part – insinuated herself into Hitler's inner circle and found infamy directing Nazi propaganda films, like *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympiad*. Dietrich, who tirelessly toured with the USO, could never truly go home again, while Riefenstahl was forever contaminated by her politics. Moving deftly between two stories never before told together, acclaimed German historian Karin Wieland contextualizes their lives within the vicious crosscurrents of a turbulent generation, chronicling revolutions in politics, fame, and sexuality on a grand stage.

Karin Wieland is an historian of political theory at the Hamburg Foundation for the Advancement of Science and Culture.

Shelley Frisch is the prize-winning translator of biographies of Nietzsche, Einstein, and Kafka. She lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

## Helen Schwartz, *The New Jersey House*

Helen's *The New Jersey House* has been included in New Jersey state list of "101 Great New Jersey Books." The book is no longer in print, but is still available.

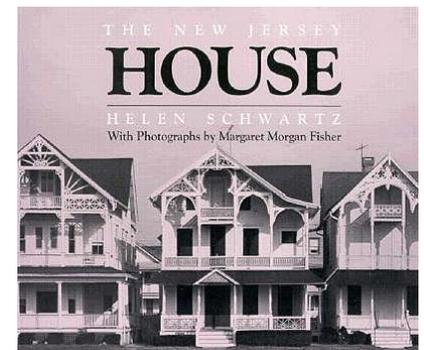
Hardcover : 192 pages

Publisher: Rutgers University Press (March 1, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813509653

ISBN-13: 978-0813509655



## Winnie Hughes Wins Poetry Contest

Winifred Hughes's poem, "Kingfishers Catch Fire," won first place in the [Wild Leaf Press](#) 2014 Poetry Contest. It will appear in the Wild Leaf Poetry Annual 2015.

Contest judge Baron Wormser summarized the winning poem: "'Kingfishers Catch Fire' displays marvelous control of a very emotional predicament. It weaves the responses and thoughts of a main character in such a way as to make the reader participate in a life while summoning up the grace and insight of a famous Gerard Manley Hopkins poem. The honesty of the poem's ending is particularly affecting."

## Terri McNichol Wins Art Award

Terri won a Purchase Award from the Mercer County, NJ, Cultural and Heritage Commission for her watercolor, "The Baptism." The picture will be on display as part of the Mercer County Artists 2015 exhibition at the [MCCC Gallery](#) through February 27.

A Mercer County Community College Fine Arts instructor, Terri specializes in watercolor and will teach a 10-week class at MCCC starting Feb. 26.



## "Back Story" with Joan Goldstein

Watch "[Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Battle over the Gas Pipeline in Princeton](#)," with guests Dr. Rob Goldston, Princeton University, and Jean Grossman, Woodrow Wilson School.

On Princeton TV30, Fios45, on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m., Sundays at 5:30 p.m., and Mondays at 8:30 a.m. Also on Twitter, Google.

Upcoming shows this month:

- "Gun Control and Mental Health" with a guest Forensic Psychologist
- "Does Work Still Have a Place in the American Dream?" with a youth counselor, his teen client, and his horse farm employer.

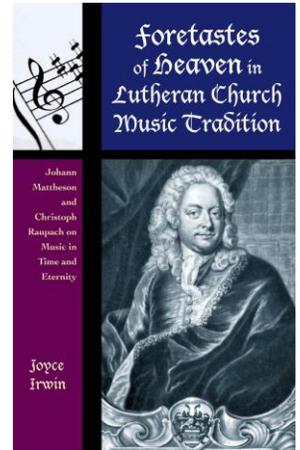
More to come: The Battle over Housing for the Disabled.



**Tune in to Joan Goldstein's "Back Story" on Princeton TV30.**

## Joyce Irwin Translates German Works

Joyce Irwin has just published translations with introduction and notes of two 18th-century German works on music and theology in a volume entitled *Foretastes of Heaven in Lutheran Church Music Tradition: Johann Mattheson and Christoph Raupach on Music in Time and Eternity* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015).



## 2015 NCIS Conference, June 19 – 21

The [2015 NCIS Conference](#) will be held June 19 – 21 in New Haven Connecticut.

The theme, “Traditions and Transitions: Independent Scholars and the Digital Landscape,” will be addressed by keynote speaker, Lawrence K. Grossman, former president of PBS and NBC News. Scholars and the general public are invited for what promises to be a candid and engaging discussion on “The Tale of a Sometime ‘Independent Scholar,’ With and Without Footnotes in the Digital Age.”

## PRF Presentation Grants

*By Karen Reeds*

Giving a talk at a meeting? Save your receipts and apply for a PRF Presentation Grant when you get home. The grants help our members cover some of the costs of registration, travel, and accommodation. It’s the easiest grant application you’ll ever make. The first five grants awarded in a given year are named in honor of our late colleague, Frankie Hutner (1918 - 2014), a founding member of PRF whose grant overhead continues to fund these grants. The grants are awarded on a rolling basis, with no annual deadline

To be eligible for a PRF Presentation Grant, the applicant must be a PRF member in good standing for at least one year, must be an independent scholar, must incur presentation-related expenses in excess of \$300 that are not fully reimbursed by any other grant or institution, and must not have received more than one Presentation Grant within the previous five years.

## Research Opportunities at the Smithsonian Libraries

Situated at the center of the world's largest museum complex, the Smithsonian Libraries is a vital part of the research, exhibition, and educational enterprise of the Institution. Each Smithsonian scholar engages in an individual voyage of discovery using the artifacts and specimens of the Smithsonian Institution in conjunction with the Libraries' written and illustrated record of the past. The Libraries is uniquely positioned to help scholars understand the continuing vitality of this relationship, via exceptional research resources ranging from 13<sup>th</sup>-century manuscripts to electronic journals.

[The Baird Society Resident Scholar Program](#) awards stipends of \$3,500 per month for up to six months to support scholarly research in the Special Collections of the Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC, and New York, NY, in an extensive range of subject areas. Doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars are welcome to apply.



From Smithsonian Library collection of world's fairs pictures.

## PRF Officers

President: Ashwini Mokashi

Vice-President: Terri McNichol

Members-at-Large: Joan Goldstein and Joyce Irwin

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Grants: Karen Reeds

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Library Access: Eva Bodanszky

Newsletter: Don Benjamin

Work-in-Progress: Lara Freidenfelds

Membership: Ludmilla Popova-Wightman

Publicity: Winnie Hughes

Program: (open)

## Research on a Japanese Vase

By Joel Greenberg



### Background

The Japanese late 19th-century carved elephant ivory vase pictured above was purchased in 1975, at which time it entered the Rabson collection. Its prior history is unknown. In August 2013 it was de-accessioned from the Rabson collection, at which time it entered the Greenberg collection.

### Research

The late 19th-century Meiji period (1868-1912) carved and appropriately stained elephant ivory vase consists of a 3¼ inch high neck of 1¼ inch diameter atop a bulbous base having a height of 2¼ inches with an average diameter of 2¼ inches. The bulbous base can be unscrewed from the threaded neck. There is a signature (presumably that of Shiun Saku Kore) on the base in a rectangular mother of pearl reserve. There are depictions of numerous people or deities and animals on the vase. The objective of this reported research was to identify the subjects of these beautifully carved depictions, which appear as raised surfaces as a result of the carving away of unwanted ivory.

## Neck

On the neck of the vase is a carving depicting the arrival of the Chinese goddess of life and immortality, Xi Wangmu (Seiobo)<sup>1</sup>, the Queen Mother of the West in her chariot amongst clouds. She maintains the peaches of immortality that, when consumed, ensure immortality (often expressed as 3000 years, i.e., a very long time). In the background are a large tree (presumably a peach tree) and the Kunlun Mountains in the west where the Queen Mother of the West resides, at the margin of Heaven and Earth. Also shown is a crane carrying a messenger (possibly the immortal Su-Shi:



Chinese poet, artist, statesman and hydraulic engineer, 1036-1101). The messenger carries a staff in his left hand and a scroll in his right hand. The crane is companion, messenger or mount of immortals and is frequently depicted (by Netsukeshi)<sup>2</sup> as a companion of the god of longevity Jurojin<sup>3</sup> and his jolly co-god of good fortune, Fukurokuju.<sup>4</sup> The crane also accompanies numerous sennin<sup>5</sup> (i.e., Seiobo, Roshi,<sup>6</sup> and the poet Rinnasei<sup>7</sup>).



<sup>1</sup> The first historical information about Xi Wangmu can be traced back to oracle bone inscriptions of the 15<sup>th</sup> century BCE (Cahill, 1993). Even though these inscriptions predate organized Taoism, she is most often associated with Taoism. Xi Wangmu is known as Seiobo in Japan.

<sup>2</sup> Netsuke carver.

<sup>3</sup> One of the seven gods of good fortune (Shichi Fukujin). Jurojin originated from a Chinese Taoist immortal.

<sup>4</sup> The Japanese name for the Chinese god Xuanwu.

<sup>5</sup> Rankan, sennin and lohan are enlightened beings, originally disciples of the historical Buddha, and possessors of supernatural powers. They have attained enlightenment and upon death pass to Nirvana.

<sup>6</sup> Chinese master teacher.

<sup>7</sup> Early 11<sup>th</sup> century (Song Dynasty) Chinese poet.

## Base

The carvings on the bottom of the vase are more complex, consisting of six figures, a tiger, a dragon, trees and mountains. The Chinese immortal standing with a tiger is most likely Bukan Zenshi.<sup>1</sup> This could also represent either Binzuru Rankan (Taming Tiger Rankan)<sup>2</sup> or the Taoist immortal Koreijin<sup>3</sup>, who is frequently shown with a white tiger. The immortal standing next to the tiger may also be Lu Dougbin, usually depicted as a scholar who had to pass a test of facing a tiger. The tiger demonstrates the power of the sage's wisdom because he was able to tame such a strong animal (see Walters Museum). Xi Wangmu is also often depicted with a dragon or a tiger. The tiger is associated with Kunlun since the tiger is symbolic of the west, and tigers also symbolize longevity because the ancient Chinese believed tigers turned white after 500 years and could live 1000 years.



Standing behind the immortal with the tiger is a small boy, possibly the immortal Lan Caihe (Lan Ts'ai-ho) who, usually depicted as a young boy or girl carrying a bamboo flower basket, is the least well known of the Eight Immortal figures in Taoism. Lan Caihe's symbols are flowers and flutes. Standing near the tiger is possibly Iron-Crutch Li (Li Tiegua),<sup>4</sup> a

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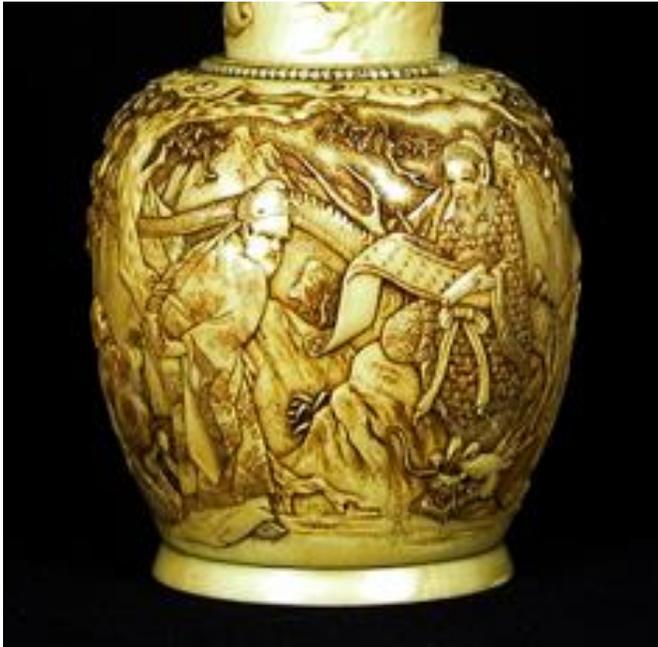
<sup>1</sup> Bukan Zenshi is also often depicted with his tiger along with Kanzan and Jittoku. Bukan Zenshi (Pu Hsien in Chinese) was a 7th-century priest and is usually shown with a tiger as his attendant. According to a Chinese legend, Kanzan and Jittoku lived during the Tang Dynasty in a kitchen of a Chinese Zen Buddhist monastery and talked nonsensical language, which some took as a sign of their being enlightened. They were close friends of Bukan Zenshi and are therefore frequently shown together.

<sup>2</sup> Binzuru (Sanskrit: Pindola), called the Taming Tiger Rankan, was a Brahmin general who renounced his station to enter a monastery. The monastery was located in the remote mountains, where every day Binzuru heard a tiger howling. Thinking the hungry tiger might be coaxed to eat vegetables and give up his habit of killing, Binzuru collected food from the monks and put it in a bucket that he left outside. Eventually the tiger came every night for the food, and thus he was tamed, showing that even innate instinct may be subdued with compassion.

<sup>3</sup> Koreijin was a wise man known for his use of common sense. The Taoist Koreijin (Japanese) is the Chinese immortal Gu Liingren (see Walters Museum and LACMA).

<sup>4</sup> Li Tiegua is sometimes said to be the most ancient and popular of the Eight Immortals of the Taoist pantheon. He is sometimes described as irascible and ill-tempered, but also benevolent to the poor, sick, and the needy, whose suffering he alleviates with special medicine from his gourd. He is often portrayed as an ugly old man with dirty face, scraggy beard, and messy hair held by a golden band. He walks with the aid of an iron crutch (t'ieh kuai) and often has a gourd slung over his shoulder or held in his hand. He often is depicted as a clown figure who descends to earth in the form of a beggar who uses his power to fight for the oppressed and needy.

benevolent elderly immortal who provides special medicine from a gourd to help the sick and suffering. Li is shown with a double gourd affixed to a long pole carried on the immortal's left shoulder. Standing in front of the dragon may be the immortal Handaka Sonja. Handaka Sonja is a disciple of Buddha who has the ability to concentrate his energy and virtue, while holding a raised holy bowl and sending an invocation into the Universe that causes the Dragon King to appear in a boiling storm. This is represented in the carving as a dragon accompanying a Rakan or immortal. The dragon's powers include those of transformation, invisibility, and control over the elements. Handaka Sonja was one of the sixteen special disciples of the Buddha, called *rakan*. He is always depicted with his dragon, which he keeps in a bowl or gourd bottle.



There are two remaining figures that have not as yet been identified. One is in a seated position and the other in a leaning forward position. Both appear to be listening to Handaka Sonja, who is reading from a hand scroll that he is holding. Neither of the two unidentified figures appears to have an associated identifiable attribute.

The overall theme of the carving seems to be a wonderful depiction of a group of immortals together with the Queen Mother of the West, the provider of the peaches of immortality.