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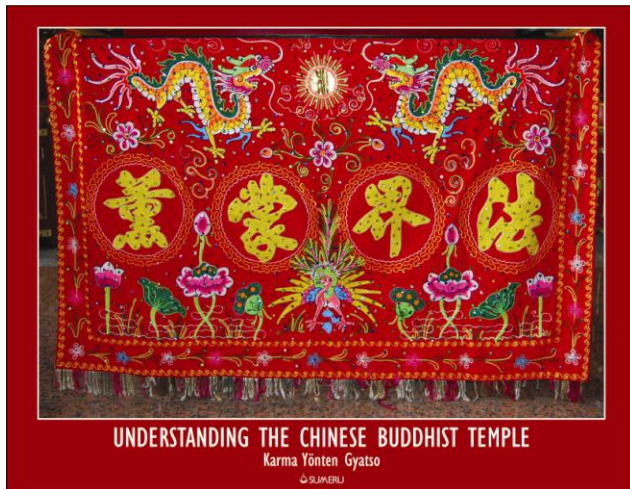
PRESS RELEASE

Richmond Hill, June 21, 2010

Sumeru announces publication of:

UNDERSTANDING THE CHINESE BUDDHIST TEMPLE

By Karma Yönten Gyatso



ISBN 978-1-896559-03-2

PDF e-book, 58 pages, 11" x 8½", 23 MB

Free download at www.sumeru.ca

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This book is a collection of annotated photos taken in 2009 and 2010 at Ching Kwok Chinese Buddhist Temple, located in Toronto, Ontario.

The book is arranged as a walk-around, featuring pictures of the main shrine hall, the main altar, all of the statues, close-up details of many statues, the various chapels, offering tables, paintings, ritual objects, decorative panels, and calligraphic scrolls. Each item is accompanied by an explanation of its iconographic meaning, context, fabrication and provenance. Chinese, Sanskrit and Canadian equivalents are given wherever possible.

We are grateful to Ven. Wu De, abbot of the temple, who granted the author several interviews in order to provide commentary on the author's photographs. We are also grateful to Ven. Ivan Trinh and Ms. Chris Ng, who provided translation, and to Professor Henry Shiu, of the University of Toronto Department of Humanities, who graciously provided translations for the more complex calligraphic scrolls.

The significant contribution of “Understanding the Chinese Buddhist Temple” is to reveal the key concepts embedded within the numerous objects common to Chinese Buddhist shrines, as well as the layout of the temple, in an engaging manner that combines photographic representations with explanations. The book is suitable for anyone interested in Chinese Buddhism and culture.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Negru (Karma Yönten Gyatso) began Buddhist practice in 1968. He was the coordinator of the Toronto Buddhist Federation and later a founder of, and Toronto coordinator for, the Buddhist Council of Canada for four years (1984-87). He has been involved with many ecumenical Canadian Buddhist initiatives since then. He is founder of The Sumeru Press Inc., and the author of two Buddhist books: “A Rosary of Precious Offerings to Enrich the Mind” and “Understanding the Chinese Buddhist Temple” in addition to his other writing. Many of his photographs of Buddhist art and architecture in Indian and Asia are held by in the permanent archival collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Mr. Negru is well-known as long-time designer and publishing professional, author of several award-winning technology books and more than 100 articles on the art and science of publishing, contributing editor and editor for many publishing magazines, instructor in the Ryerson University publishing program for six years, and currently teaching communications technology and technological design for the York Region DSB in Ontario.

ABOUT SUMERU

The Sumeru Press Inc. is a Canadian publisher of Buddhist books and art. Sumeru also maintains a blog on Canadian Buddhism and offers publishing consulting services to Buddhist organizations and initiatives.

Recent Sumeru projects include a redesign of the Buddhism in Canada website (www.buddhismcanada.com) last year. Earlier this year, Sumeru completed a year-long research and development project for the University of Toronto and the Buddhist Education Foundation for Canada, the goal of which was to lay the groundwork for an online scholarly journal dealing with Buddhism and Psychology.

For more information about Sumeru and Canadian Buddhism, please visit www.sumeru-books.com or www.sumeru.ca