

## Editorial

(CJBS 3, 2007)

In our inaugural issue, the hope was expressed that the CJBS would serve as a Forum / Convention floor where academics could come together to forge intellectual links. In continuation of this thrust, we are happy to be able to bring you in this issue Buddhism in its historical, interpretive and praxic dimensions, introducing two authors from overseas (Germany, US) as well. This issue also introduces two additional firsts, Book Reviews and Publications Received.

To start us off, in the *Pariyatti* / theory section, is the article by Bhikkhu Anālayo, of the University of Hamburg, Germany, on the '*Oral Dimensions of Pali Discourses...*', exploring mnemonic devices such as pericopes, repetition, sound similarities and waxing syllables, in the oral context within which they came to be devised and utilized.

Prof. Wing-cheuk Chan, of Brock University, writing on '*The Yogācāra Doctrine of the Buddha*', draws our attention to an aspect of modern scholarship that has been relatively neglected – the difference in the understanding of Buddha-nature between the 'Old School of Sthiramati and Paramārtha' and the 'New School of Dharmapāla and Hsuan Tsang.'

Opening the *Paṭipatti* / praxis strand is Prof. Dave Valliere of Ryerson University, grounding us in Canada, with his comparative study, '*Entrepreneurial Action: Enacting Buddhist Economics in the Small*'. Based in interviews of Inherited Buddhists and Acquired Buddhists (see Sugunasiri, 2006 for a characterization), the paper examines how the concept of Right Livelihood gets to be manifested in the entrepreneurial sphere, in particular, in the decision to exploit new business opportunities.

In honouring our commitment to be a bilingual publication, respecting Canada's two official languages, this issue brings you the very first article in French, *La Medecine au service du pouvoir angkorien: Universite monastique...*, by Prof. Rethy K. Chhem, an anthropologist of the University of Western Ontario and also an MD on Radiology. The article takes us beyond Canada, to Campuchea under King Jayavarman VII (12-13<sup>th</sup> c.), exploring the medical education and practices of Angkor in the context of monastic universities, drawing upon epigraphic, archaeological and iconographic evidence.

The *Paṭivedha* 'Insight' section is a work in progress, and we are yet to figure out the full scope of it. As we await hearing from you about any thoughts you may have on the shape it could take, one decision has been made: to be published are only textual material directly related to meditation, the idea being to introduce the reader to the wide and rich

meditational material. To the extent that there will be no critical comment, but only explanatory ones (as, e.g., in the current issue), the papers will not be subject to peer review.

Thus we have in the final *Paṭivedha* section, an article by Prof. K. Warnasuriya of the University of the West in California, on the ‘*Early Buddhist Practice of Meditation*’ in the classical Theravada tradition. Noting the Buddha’s term *bhāvanā* to mean meditation as distinct from the term *yoga* in use at the time, the paper provides an overview of the several dimensions critical to the practice of meditation. Our attention is also drawn to a fifth *jhāna*, an interesting addition in the later *Abhidhamma* and the Commentaries.

In our new Book Reviews section, under the editorship of Prof. Martin Adam (introduced in number 2), we are happy to present four book reviews, by Professors David Higgins of Université du Lausanne, Christina Yanko of the University of Calgary, Tinu Ruparell, also of Calgary and Paul MacRae of the University of Victoria. We invite readers to send their own publications, and recommend others, for review. Our book editor will naturally welcome any offers to reviews books.

Presenting the other new section, Publications Received, we thank the organizations and authors for their kindness in sharing their gems with us.

We are also happy to introduce with this issue Prof. Mathieu Boisvert of Université du Québec à Montréal, joining as Associate Editor (French).

We thank the authors and the book reviewers for their valuable contributions. Our appreciation goes to the several peer reviewers for their willingness to give of their time, and critical input. Thanks are also due to Michael Goldsmith and Kevin Parks of Brock University for their volunteer assistance in copy editing and layout, and to Johnny Osorio of JT Printing for the final design and layout.

We welcome your critical comments, and look forward to receiving your submissions for peer review and publication. Attention is also drawn to the **Call for Papers** for both CJBS 4 and CJBS 5 (see end of issue), noting our expectation to celebrate our fifth year of publication with a thematic issue, “**Buddhism from an Interdisciplinary Perspective.**”

May you be well! *Sukhī hotu.*

Suwanda H J Sugunasiri  
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