FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Kuroda Institute's Series on East Asian Buddhism with the publication of this, its first volume. In doing so, I would also like to say a few words about the activities and goals of the Institute, within which this series, published in cooperation with the University of Hawaii Press, figures in an important way.

The Kuroda Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Human Values is a non-profit, educational corporation, founded in 1976. One of its primary objectives is to promote scholarship on Buddhism in its historical, philosophical, and cultural ramifications. Institute thus attempts to serve the scholarly community by providing a forum in which scholars can gather at conferences and colloquia. To date, Institute has sponsored five conferences in the area The present volume is the outof Buddhist Studies. growth of the first such conference, held Institute in May, 1980. Volumes resulting from other and future conferences, as well as individual studies, are also planned for publication in the present series.

The series represents the Institute's commitment to make available to the scholarly community some of the increasing body of advanced work currently being done in the area of East Asian Buddhism. Despite its growth in recent years, there has as yet been no vehicle in the English speaking world designed to meet the scholarly needs of this expanding field of research. It is our deep hope that the Institute's

series will fulfill this need. The series is not tied to any sectarian position or methodological approach. is our Indeed, it intention that the works published within it represent a wide spectrum of scholarly methods, ranging from the philological, historical, philosophical, and cultural to the comhope that they be of parative. It. is our sincere interest not only to buddhologists, but also scholars working in broader fields, such as Asian Studies and the Study of Religion. While the series will focus on East Asia, it will by no means confined to publishing works dealing exclusively with East Asian Buddhism. For instance, the Institute is currently organizing a conference on Buddhist Hermea topic of especial interest precisely because it cuts across the geographical boundaries that all too frequently prevent Buddhist scholars from sharing their work with one another. Although the initial volumes in the series will present the fruits the Institute's on-going series of conferences in Buddhist Studies, the series is also intended publish other worthwhile scholarly ventures in the general field of East Asian Buddhism. Indeed, the Institute welcomes the submission of such works for consideration.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Stuart Kiang at the University of Hawaii Press for his understanding and cooperation, as well as to Robert Gimello, Luis Gómez, Peter Gregory, and William LaFleur, who will serve as the general editors for the series.

Armando D. Grant Director