

Acknowledgments

WE WISH to thank the contributors for their cooperation, and for their patience. Like many such collections of essays, this one has a long and complex textual history.

Kenneth K. Tanaka organized a conference entitled “A Cross-Cultural Study of Pan–Pure Land Buddhist Practices: Roots of Japanese Amida Tradition,” which was held at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley on June 17–18, 1995. Participants included Roger Corless, Hee-soo Jung, Allan Andrews, Eva Neumaier-Dargyay (in absentia), Mark Blum, Todd T. Lewis, Cuong Nguyen, Whalen Lai, and Richard K. Payne. Alfred Bloom and Kenneth K. Tanaka acted as discussants. A follow-up panel was organized by Richard Jaffe for the 2000 Association for Asian Studies Conference in San Diego: “Varieties of Pure Land Practice in China and Japan.” Presenters at this panel were Charles B. Jones, Charles D. Orzech, James H. Sanford, and Richard Jaffe, with a response by Richard K. Payne. Other essays included here were solicited specifically for the collection by Richard K. Payne.

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Approaching the Land of Bliss

