



FLOWERS ON THE ROCK

Global and Local Buddhisms in Canada

Edited by

John S. Harding, Victor Sōgen Hori,
and Alexander Soucy

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Analyzing the dramatic growth of Buddhism
in Canada in global and historical contexts.

When Sasaki Sokei-an founded his First Zen Institute of North America in 1930 he suggested that bringing Zen Buddhism to America was like "holding a lotus against a rock and waiting for it to set down roots." Today, Buddhism is part of the cultural and religious mainstream.

Flowers on the Rock examines the dramatic growth of Buddhism in Canada and questions some of the underlying assumptions about how this tradition has changed in the West. Using historical, ethnographic, and biographical approaches, contributors illuminate local expressions of Buddhism found throughout Canada and relate the growth of Buddhism in Canada to global

networks. A global perspective allows the volume to overcome the stereotype that Asia and the West are in opposition to each other and recognizes the continuities between Buddhist movements in Asia and the West that are shaped by the same influences of modernity and globalization.

Flowers on the Rock studies the fascinating and ingenious changes, inflections, and adaptations that Buddhists make when they set down roots in a local culture. It is essential reading for anyone interested in Buddhism, religious life in Canada, and the broader issues of multiculturalism and immigration.

Contributors include Michihiro Ama, D. Mitra Barua, Paul Crowe, Melissa Anne-Marie Curley, Mavis Fenn, Kory Goldberg, Sarah F. Haynes, Jackie Larm, Paul McIvor, James Placzek, and Angela Sumegi.

"Flowers on the Rock discusses innovative expressions of Buddhism in Canada and will appeal to a wide audience. Scholars and students of Buddhist studies will benefit greatly from the authors' position that Buddhism is a living culture, constantly changing."
Mathieu Boisvert, Université du Québec à Montréal

"Building on the project initiated by the editors in Wild Geese: Buddhism in Canada, Flowers on the Rock develops themes presented in that work, expands the breadth of inquiry regionally, and introduces significant new material on the history and development of Buddhism in Canada. Wild Geese was groundbreaking in the field of Canadian Buddhist Studies - Flowers on the Rock is of the same caliber."
James Mullens, University of Saskatchewan

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