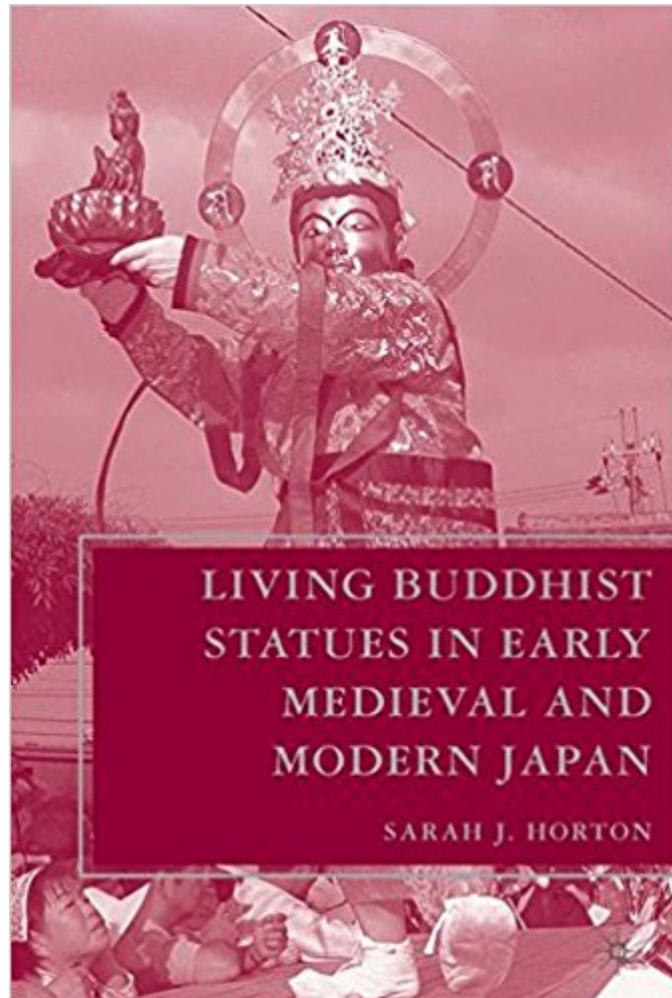




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Living Buddhist Statues In Early Medieval And Modern Japan



Synopsis

A study of the surprising functions of Buddhist statues, which helped disseminate Buddhist beliefs among the populace in Tenth- and Eleventh-century Japan. Using ethnographic data drawn from present-day fieldwork and marshalling ancient textual evidence, Horton reveals the historical origins and development of modern Japanese beliefs and practices.

Book Information

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"This is an excellent cross-disciplinary study that makes a valuable contribution to Japanese Buddhist studies - one that serious scholars in this field should read... Highly recommended." - CHOICE "[T]he book's emphasis on contemporary practices and attitudes, its focus on some of the little-studied texts that underlie these things, and its attention to a wide range of icons are fresh and welcome approaches; the medieval rituals and the miraculous stories Horton presents about Buddhist images are valuable documents." - Fabio Rambelli, Sapporo University

SARAH J. HORTON is Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, Macalester College, USA.

What a fine volume this is, located as it is at the nexus of documentary scholarship and field research. *Living Buddhist Statues in Early Medieval and Modern Japan* functions on many levels, but it excels both as a tutorial to the major Buddhist deities (Sakyamuni, Amida, Kannon, and Jizo) and as an exploration into how their Buddhist statues were -- and continue to be -- inextricably

linked with the lives of Japanese. The book is intelligently written, without a trace of wearying "acadamese". I did find myself wishing there were a few more photos of the temples and statues mentioned in the text, and as a resident of Japan I thought the book might have been more useful to include an appendix listing the major secret Buddhas and how often they are revealed, but these are mere quibbles. Ms. Horton's book makes a worthwhile introduction to Japanese Buddhism for the first-time learner, and it is equally a valuable adjunct of knowledge for those well-versed in the religion.

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