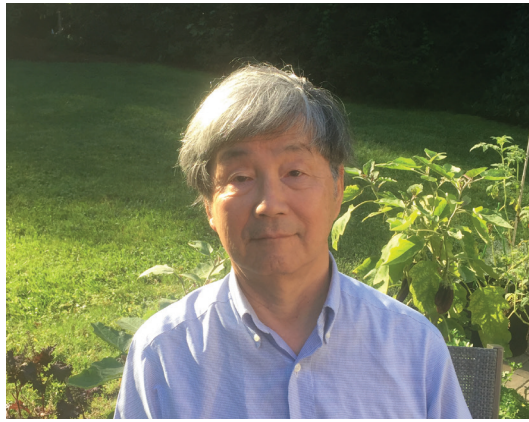


About the Author



Koichi SHINOHARA (篠原亨一; 1941–) is a scholar in the field of East Asian Buddhist Studies. He taught at McMaster University and Yale University for years before retiring from the latter in 2014. His work covers a broad range of topics including Chinese Buddhist hagiography, monasticism, and Buddhist narrative literature. He is especially known for his study on the works of Daoxuan 道宣 (596–667), an important Chinese Buddhist historian and *vinaya* master, and Daoshi 道世 (?–683), a collaborator with Daoxuan. In addition, Koichi Shinohara has co-edited, with Phyllis Granoff, several influential collections of articles. His monograph *Spell, Images, and Mandalas: Tracing the Evolution of Esoteric Buddhist Rituals* is a *chef d'oeuvre* that engages deeply with Chinese Buddhist sources and succeeds in clarifying the history of early esoteric rituals. The book enjoys a monumental importance and garnered the Prix Stanislas Julien in 2015, widely hailed to be the ‘Nobel Prize’ of Chinese Studies.

The present volume collected and fully edited ten articles by Koichi Shinohara that represent his most salient contributions to the studies of East Asian Buddhism. The articles approach the topic of Buddhist practices by examining the stories that are told about them in the Chinese Buddhist canons—stories that bear on different themes and come from diverse genres, such as hagiography, sacred geography, vinaya, myths, miracle stories and esoteric rituals. Koichi especially draws from the works of two prominent Tang Buddhists—Daoxuan 道宣 (596–667) and Daoshi 道世 (?–683), in which Koichi is indisputably one of the leading experts. Adept at discerning inter-textual relationships and making apparent subtle implications, Koichi unpacks for us the sources, tension, intentions, and strategies that went into the writing of each text that he examines, imparting us numerous insights that would coalesce into a coherent vision about Chinese Buddhist practices that is successfully contextualized within the intellectual and religious traditions at the time and in relation to specific historical events.