

June 11, 2018  
Keio University

## **Special Exhibition: Soyen Shaku and Modern Japan, June 4 - August 6 The Former Pupil of Yukichi Fukuzawa who Transmitted Zen to the World**

A special exhibition for the centennial Buddhist memorial of Soyen Shaku (1860-1919) will be held to reflect on the life of this Buddhist priest who introduced Zen (meditation) to the wider world, hosted by Keio University in conjunction with the Enkaku-ji Temple of the Rinzai Sect at which Shaku served as Chief Abbot.

Soyen Shaku was widely respected in the Meiji (1868-1912) and Taisho (1912-1926) periods, and gained the trust of many influential figures in the worlds of politics and culture, with his mentoring of Natsume Soseki in “Zazen” seated meditation being particularly noteworthy. Around 100 items tracing the course of Soyen Shaku’s life will be on display at this exhibition, with an emphasis on materials from the youth of this peerless Zen monk who turned his gaze from modern Japan onto the wider world. These include materials associated with his time at Keio University which he was attending in spite of the opposition of his Zen master; those from his studies of the Pali language and of Buddhism during the time he spent in British Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka); materials from the historical interfaith dialogue of the first World’s Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893 at which he represented Japan; and from his time serving as a battlefield chaplain during the Russo-Japanese war. A Special Talk and Zazen Meditation Workshops will also be held. We welcome the inclusion of this information in events columns and any other press coverage.

### **1. Exhibition Overview (Mita Campus, Keio University)**

Dates: June 4 (Mon.) - August 6 (Mon.), 2018 \* Admission is free. This exhibition is open to everyone.

Venue 1: 1F Exhibition Space, Mita Media Center (Keio University Library)

Times: Weekdays 9:00 - 18:20 (until 16:50 on Saturdays). Closed: Sundays and public holidays.

Venue 2: Keio University Art Space      Times: Weekdays 10:00-17:00

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays (but open on Saturday June 23 and July 21)

Website: <http://www.art-c.keio.ac.jp/en/news-events/event-archive/shaku2018/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shaku2018>

### **2. Major Exhibition Content**

- Newly-discovered manuscript of Soyen Shaku’s speech at the World’s Parliament of Religions in Chicago where he first introduced Zen to the world
- Newly-discovered English language introductory letter written by Yukichi Fukuzawa on Soyen Shaku for American missionaries
- Garments and notebook in Sinhalese script from time spent studying in British Ceylon
- Document from the time of conferring the name “Daisetsu” on D.T. Suzuki
- Diary and photographic record of distressing scenes witnessed during time engaged as a battlefield chaplain during the Russo-Japanese War
- Photograph taken when American patron Mrs. Russell was first mentored in Zazen meditation by Shaku
- Modern artworks associated with Shaku which have been inherited by affiliated temples with an emphasis on newly-discovered images of Soyen Shaku by Japanese painter Ryuu Shimazaki

### **3. Overview of Related Events (Mita Campus, Keio University)**

#### **■ Special Talk “Soyen Shaku and Globalization”**

Speakers: Nanrei Yokota (Chief Abbot of Enkaku-ji, Head Temple [daihonzan] of the Rinzai Sect) and Norihisa Baba (Associate Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, University of Tokyo)

Date: June 11 (Mon.), 16:30-18:00 (doors 15:30) \* Pre-registration not required

Venue: West School Building Hall

#### **■ Zazen Meditation Workshops & Mini Lectures**

Dates: June 11 (Mon.), June 23 (Sat.), July 12 (Thurs.), July 21 (Sat.), August 6 (Mon.)

◆ Zazen Meditation Workshops (first 20 arrivals each session) ① 10:45-12:15, ② 13:00-14:30

◆ Mini Lecture 12:20-12:50 \* Pre-registration not required

Venue: Ex-Noguchi Room, 3F South Annex

#### **■ Gallery Talks**

Date: June 19 (Tues.), June 27 (Wed.), July 21 (Sat.) 14:45- (around 1 hour)

Venue: 1F Exhibition Space, Mita Media Center (Keio University Library)

#### **■ Limited Exhibition Goshuin (temple stamp) “Enkaku-ji Manjushri Bodhisattva” (only with purchase of exhibition catalogue)/limited to second venue**

\*These events are offered only in Japanese.

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\* Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contact information provided below.

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