

Chinese Classics that Mother Zen

Roger T. Ames and David Hall, *Dao De Jing: A Philosophical Translation* (New York & Toronto: Ballantine Publishing Group, 2003).

Daoism for our time, amply annotated.

Roger T. Ames and Henry Rosemont, Jr., *The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation* (New York & Toronto: Ballantine Publishing Group, 1999).

Confucianism, correct by the most recent scholarship, fully annotated.

Burton Watson, *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996).

One of several good translations of this essential work.

Survey of Buddhism

Peter Harvey, *An Introduction to Buddhism: Teachings, history and practices* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1990).

An exemplary, scholarly survey of Classical, Tibetan and Mahayana Buddhism.

Mahayana Reference

William Edward Soothill and Lewis Hodous, *A Dictionary of Chinese Buddhist Terms: with Sanskrit and English Equivalents and a Sanskrit-Pali Index* (Oxford: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003).

The basic dictionary composed two generations ago and still very reliable. <http://www.hm.tyg.jp/~acmuller/soothill/soothill-hodous.html>

Mahayana Commentary

Garma C.C. Chang, *The Buddhist Teaching of Totality: The Philosophy of Hwa Yen Buddhism* (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1991).

A scholarly summary of a hugely important Mahayana treasury.

Francis H. Cook, *Hua-yen Buddhism: The Jewel Net of Indra* (University Park, PA & London: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1977).

A rich commentary on the above treasury that is equally useful.

Har Dayal, *The Bodhisattva Doctrine in Buddhist Sanskrit Literature* (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 1987).

A useful source book for the systems and categories of Mahayana thought.

Zen Reference

Isshū Miura and Ruth Fuller Sasaki, *Zen Dust: The History of the Koan and Koan Study in Rinzai (Lin-Chi) Zen* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1967).

The long promised second edition has not yet appeared. Nonetheless, this is a very important reference.

Zen Commentary

Chang Chung-Yuan, *Original Teachings of Ch'an Buddhism* (Oxford: RoutledgeCurzon, 1996).

A scholarly commentary on selections from the *Transmission of the Lamp*.

Dale S. Wright, *Philosophical Meditations on Zen Buddhism* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Using a critique of John Blofeld's writings on Huangbo, Wright sets forth what Zen is about with remarkable prescience.

Kōan Collections Used in DS Study

Robert Aitken, *The Gateless Barrier: The Wu-Men Kuan (Mumonkan)* (Berkeley, CA: North Point Press, 1991).

The most useful *Mumonkan* translation and commentary, by default.

Thomas Cleary, *Book of Serenity* (Boston: Shambhala Publications, 1998).

The best *Shōyōroku* available in English so far.

Thomas Cleary, *Secrets of the Blue Cliff Record: Zen Comments by Hakuin and Tenkei* (Boston & London: Shambhala, 2000).

Remarkably insightful comments on a vitally important collection.

Hepburn Romanization.

Thomas Cleary and J.C. Cleary, *The Blue Cliff Record* (Boston: Shambhala Publications, 1995).

The one book for a hermitage on a desert island.

Francis Cook, *The Record of Transmitting the Light: Zen Master Keizan's Denkoroku* (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2003).

The most accurate *Denkōroku* in English.

Other Kōan-Related Works

Nelson Foster and Jack Shoemaker, *The Roaring Stream: A New Zen Reader* (Hopeswell, NJ: The Ecco Press, 1996).

The standard collection with comments from the inside.

Victor Sogen Hori, *Zen Sand: The Book of Capping Phrases for Koan Practice* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2003).

A complete, scholarly translation of the *Zenrinkushu*.

Thomas Yuho Kirchner, *Entangling Vines: Zen Koans of the Shumon Kattoshu* (Kyoto: Tenryu-ji Institute for Philosophy and Religions, 2004).

The first translation of an important collection—and a good one.

Sayings and Doings of Zen Masters

Urs App, *Master Yunmen: From the Record of the Chan Master “Gate of the Clouds”* (New York & Tokyo & London: Kodansha International, 1994).

A scholarly translation of the *Unmon Roku*.

Arthur Braverman, *Mud and Water: The Teachings of Zen Master Bassui* (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2002).

Excellent translation of teachings by a most insightful Japanese master.

J.C. Cleary, *Swampland Flowers: The Letters and Lectures of Zen Master Ta Hui* (Boston & London: Shambhala Publications, 2006).

A valuable selection of the teachings of one of our important masters.

James Green, *The Recorded Sayings of Zen Master Joshu* (Boston & London: Shambhala, 2001).

A useful translation, with Hepburn Romanization.

Ruth Fuller Sasaki and Yoshitaka Iriya and Dana R. Fraser, *A Man of Zen: The Recorded Sayings of the Layman P'ang* (New York & Tokyo: Weatherhill, 1992).

A revised and scholarly translation of the record of the Layman Pang and his remarkable family of wife, adult son and daughter.

Philip Yampolsky, *The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978).

This durable, scholarly critique is now in process of revision in light of recent scholarship.

Dōgen Study

Hee-Jin Kim, *Dogen Kigen: Mystical Realist* (Somerville, MA: Wisdom Publications, 2004).

The most insightful of the many surveys of, and commentaries on Dōgen's writings.

Norman Waddell and Masao Abe, *The Heart of Dogen's Shobogenzo* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2002).

A collection of eminent translations that first appeared in *The Eastern Buddhist*.

Linji Study

Burton Watson, *The Zen Teachings of Master Lin-Chi* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999).

The *Rinzai Roku*, well translated.

Hakuin Study

Norman Waddell, *Essential Teachings of Zen Master Hakuin: A Translation of the Sokko-roku Kaien-fusetsu* (Boston: Shambhala, 1994).

Just as essential as the title says, masterfully translated.

Prepared for the Diamond Sangha Teachers' Circle by Robert Aitken, with Wendi Adamek, Nelson Foster, Michael Kieran and Carolyn Glass.