

McMaster University, April 11 to April 13, 2008
Sponsored by the University of Toronto/McMaster University
Yehan Numata Buddhist Studies Program



Buddhism's Occult Technologies

Saturday, April 12

Session 1: Spells and Amulets

Paul Copp (University of Chicago) "Chinese Dhāraṇī-Amulets in Late Medieval Tombs and the Later History of Early Buddhist Incantation Practice."

William Bodiford (University of California Los Angeles) "Spells and dhāraṇī in Japanese Zen."

Frances Garrett (University of Toronto) "The Technology of Edible Letters (za yig) in Tibet."

Session 2: Secrecy and Efficacy

Juhn Ahn (University of Toronto) "Who Has the Last Word (mohouju) in Chan/Zen?: Secrecy, Transmission, and Reading Practices During the Song Dynasty."

Bryan Cuevas (Florida State University) "A 20th-century Tibetan Grimoire for All Needs and Desires."

Session 3: Ritual and Ritual Technology

Jason Ānanda Josephson (Williams College) "The Empowered World: Debating the efficacy of prayer in Meiji Japan (1868-1912)."

Robert Gimello (University of Notre Dame) "Smoke and Mirrors: Esoteric Equipage in Late Traditional Chinese Buddhism."

Sunday, April 13

Session 4: Spirits and Wizards

Edward Davis (University of Hawaii) "The Buddhist Cult to the Occult: Wutongshen in Tang and Song China."

Patrick Pranke (University of Louisville) "The Quest for Immortality in the face of Buddhist Impermanence: The Burmese Weikza-lam."

Concluding Remarks

Robert Sharf (University of California, Berkeley) and James Robson (University of Michigan)

All sessions in McMaster University Student Centre 311/313
For information, contact James Benn (McMaster University) bennjam@mcmaster.ca
See <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/buddhiststudies/numata>