



## Ingen 350th Death Anniversary:

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Welcome to the Center for Buddhist Studies Community Wellness Digest!

In this monthly email, we share wisdom from Buddhist teachings you can use in your daily life, wellness tips, and information about university and community events. After a successful launch in Spring 2021, we are expanding the newsletter with a team of expert contributors and new sections. Each month will feature a theme--this month we explore **Zen Master Ingen Ryūki's 350th Death Anniversary and the Ōbaku School of Zen Buddhism.**

The opinions expressed in the books, articles, and websites referenced in this newsletter are those of the original authors and publishers, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Center for Buddhist Studies, the editors, the editorial board, or the organization to which the authors are affiliated. If you have questions concerning these opinions, please contact the original authors and their publishers.

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Sincerely,  
Jiang Wu  
Director, Center for Buddhist Studies



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On May 3, 2022, in collaboration with Wanfu Temple in Fuqing, China, the Center for Buddhist Studies officially launched a year-long series of events commemorating the 350th death anniversary of **Zen Master Yinyuan Longqi (Ingen Ryūki in Japanese)**. Organizers also unveiled a website and an online art exhibition dedicated to Ingen Ryūki and the Art of Ōbaku.

Explore the website: <https://ingen.arizona.edu>.

In this edition of the Community Wellness Newsletter, we explore the history of this influential Buddhist figure and the lineage he founded.

The launch event video is now available on YouTube:

[Watch Now](#)

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## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The year 2022 marks the 350th death anniversary of Zen Master Yinyuan Longqi (隱元隆琦 1592-1673, Ingen Ryūki in Japanese). Special ceremonies and events will be held in both Japan and China to honor this great Zen master. These events will present and explore the extraordinary life of Zen Master Yinyuan and the great achievements of the Huangbo 黃檗 Chan tradition (known as the Ōbaku school of Zen Buddhism in Japan) that Yinyuan pioneered in China and Japan. The Ōbaku school is one of the three major schools of Japanese Zen Buddhism, along with Sōtō and Rinzai. It was established in 1661 by Yinyuan Longqi with the assistance of other monks who traveled with him from China to Japan. The sect is based in Manpuku-ji in Uji, Japan, where the main temple is located.

**Click on the video below to watch Center Director Professor Jiang Wu's talk, "Chinese Zen Master Yinyuan/Ingen in Global East Asia."**

**Talk Abstract:** In 1654 Zen Master Yinyuan traveled from China to Japan. Seven years later his monastery, Manpukuji, was built and he had founded a new tradition, called Obaku. In this talk, Jiang Wu tells the story of the tremendous obstacles faced by Yinyuan, drawing parallels between his experiences and the broader political and cultural context in which he lived. Yinyuan claimed to have inherited the "Authentic Transmission of the Linji

Sect.” After arriving in Japan, he was able to persuade the Shogun to build a new Ming-style monastery for the establishment of his Obaku school. His arrival in Japan coincided with a series of historical developments, including the Ming-Qing transition, the consolidation of early Tokugawa power, the growth of Nagasaki trade, and rising Japanese interests in Chinese learning and artistic pursuits. While Yinyuan’s travel is known in scholarly circles, the significance of his journey within East Asian history has not been fully explored. This talk provides a unique opportunity to reexamine the crisis in the continent and responses from other parts of East Asia.

Watch Center Director Professor Jiang Wu’s talk, “Chinese Zen Master Yinyuan/Ingen in Global East Asia”



## BIOGRAPHY OF INGEN

*The following biographical information is adapted from the [translation of a talk](#) given by Professor Sueki Fumihiko of Nichibunken:*

Ingen was born in 1592 in the South of China, in Fujian Province. He was ordained as a monk at the age of 29 and served as the abbot of the Wanfusi Monastery. He arrived in Japan in 1654 at the invitation of Chinese expatriates living in Nagasaki. At the time, Japan was in the period of “Sakoku” or national seclusion during which trade was only conducted with the Dutch and the Chinese in Nagasaki. The Tojinyashiki

or “Chinese Quarter” in Nagasaki had a large number of Chinese living there, for whom three temples in the Chinese tradition were established. Due to his good reputation, many monks and scholars flocked to train under him and receive his instruction.

Ingen later moved to Settsu, today’s Osaka, where he was invited to become the abbot of Fumonji temple. He later had the distinct honor of meeting with the Tokugawa Shogun, Ietsuna. He later made his way to Uji where through the patronage of the shogun, he established the Manpukuji temple on Mt. Obaku, the same temple and mountain names of the temple he administered in China, Wanfusi on Mt. Huangbo.

Ingen brought the newest forms of Ming Buddhism to Japan. From the middle of the medieval period through the early modern period, Japanese Buddhism had become highly sectarian; monks focused their practice on the tenets and methods of their own sect but studied other sects as well. With the Zen school, however, for the most part monks studied only Zen, and in the Pure Land school, adherents only practiced the nenbutsu or chanting of the Buddha’s name. This focus on doctrine and practice of a single school became the norm. It was in this milieu that Ingen brought his Ming Buddhist model, which was inclusive and more accommodating of other practices. He taught a version of Buddhism that included Zen meditation as well as the Pure Land practice of chanting the name of Amida Buddha.

Another important Obaku contribution is the creation of the “Obaku Canon” or “Obaku-ban,” which Ingen’s disciple Tetsugen Doko was instrumental in producing. Also, the Kegon Monk, Hotan Soshun, who was an important figure in the early modern movement of Critical Buddhism, was a disciple of Tetsugen Doko, also placing him in an Obaku lineage.

Ingen also introduced sencha, or “steeped tea” to Japan, which replaced the formerly dominant “matcha” form of powdered tea. The tea seller Baisao who helped to popularize tea was also originally an Obaku monk.

In addition to his contributions to Zen Buddhism, Ingen influenced myriad aspects of Japanese culture, such as art, medicine, architecture, music, history, literature, printing, tea culture, and Buddhist cuisine.

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## WORLDWIDE EVENTS

On February 25, 2022, the Japanese Imperial Household Agency bestowed upon Yinyuan Longqi (隱元隆琦 1592-1673, Ingen Ryūki in Japanese), the founder of the Obaku sect of Zen Buddhism, a new title “Venerable Master Gento” (Gento Daishi 嚴統大師) with the Emperor’s Imperial Seal stamped on the certificate. This is the seventh time that Zen Master Ingen, the Chinese monk who founded the Obaku sect of Zen Buddhism in Japan, has received a

title from the Imperial Family.

For a report in Japanese, please visit the [website](#).

April 3, 2022 is the Western calendar day when Master Yinyuan passed away 350 years ago. A solemn ceremony was held on that day at Manpukuji, Uji, Japan according to the Japanese Obaku tradition. The ceremony was officiated by the Obaku sect director-in-general and Manpukuji abbot Kondo Hiromichi and was attended by representatives from the Obaku temples in Japan.

Sponsored by the Buddhist Association of China and the National Art Museum of China, and co-organized by Hangzhou Yongfu Temple and Fuqing Wanfu Temple, the calligraphy and painting exhibition "The Obaku Arts that Nourishes China and Japan: The World of Chan Arts of Yinyuan and His Peers and Disciples" was held at the National Art Museum of China in Beijing from March 20 to April 13, 2022.

For more information, visit the [NAMOC website](#).

Watch the Manpukuji event on YouTube:



In North America, the Center for Buddhist Studies, College of Humanities at the University of Arizona is organizing a series of commemorative events which will run for one year beginning May 3, 2022.

Activities will include an online exhibition of works of art related to the Ōbaku tradition, academic lectures, musical performances, and tea-related events.

## UA Lecture Series

May 3, 2022

Jiang Wu: Chinese Zen Master Yinyuan/Ingen in Global East Asia

August 2022, Date TBD

Elizabeth Sharf: How to Read Ingen's Portraits

September 2022, Date TBD

Harald Conrad: A Collector's Reflection on the Appreciation, Understanding and Authentication of Ōbaku Zen Calligraphy

October 2022, Date TBD

Patricia Graham: Ōbaku and Sencha

November 2022, Date TBD

James Baskind: Prognosticating the Past: Yinyuan Longqi, Chen Tuan, and Emperor Reigen, through the lens of the Obaku Text, Tōzuihen

For more information and updates, visit the UA Ingen [website](#).

These events are organized in collaboration with Wanfu Monastery in Fuqing, China. We also appreciate additional support from Lingyin and Pu Yin Buddhist Studies Lecture Series. The tea ceremony in the May 3 opening ceremony was sponsored by Matcha.com.



*Eighteen Arhats*, 19th century, courtesy of Minneapolis Institute of Art, Mary Griggs Burke Collection, Gift of the Mary and Jackson Burke Foundation, 2015.79.190

## UA Online Art Exhibition

Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the [online exhibition](#), which is organized into five rooms:

1. Ingen and Ōbaku Zen Lineage Ancestors
2. Ingen's Disciples
3. Artists and Poets
4. Arhat Imagery
5. Traces of Huangbo/Ōbaku Temples

Please [follow us](#) and select the group Obaku Ingen Events to receive more updates.

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### RECOMMENDED READING

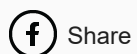
[Leaving for the Rising Sun: Chinese Zen Master Yinyuan and the Authenticity Crisis in Early Modern East Asia](#), Jiang Wu, PhD

["The Nianfo in Obaku Zen: A Look at the Teachings of the Three Founding Masters,"](#) James Baskind, PhD

[Obaku and Sencha](#), Patricia Graham, PhD

[Obaku Zen Portrait Painting and Its Sino-Japanese Heritage](#), Elizabeth Sharf, PhD

[Obaku Zen: The Emergence of the Third Sect of Zen in Tokugawa Japan](#), Helen J. Baroni, PhD



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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.*

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