The Practice CHINESE BUDDHISM 1900 - 1950

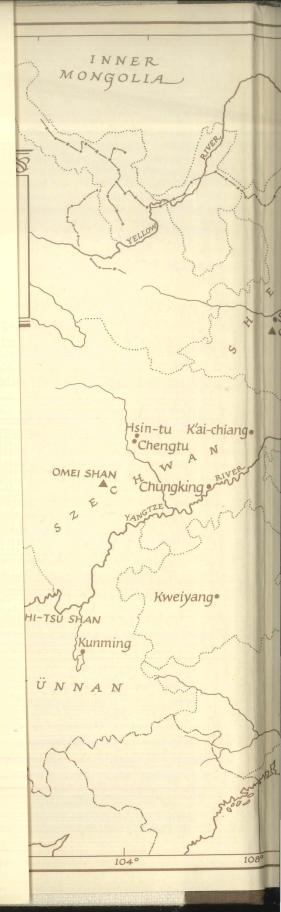
HOLMES WELCH

To make this study of the actual practice of Buddhism in China over the last century, Mr. Welch spent four years in the Far East, interviewing refugee monks who had held responsible posts in monasteries in many parts of mainland China. By careful correlation of these interviews with documentary sources, he has arrived at an extraordinarily comprehensive picture of Buddhist monastic and lay life — a picture that contradicts the generally accepted Western view of Buddhism as a dying religion.

In a detailed discussion of monastic institutions, Mr. Welch reconstructs the ritual and daily routine of monasteries, and outlines, for the first time, their hierarchical system - ranks, offices, appointments, promotions, and retirement. He explains the nature of hereditary and branch temples, and describes the practice of collective meditation in China - the original from which Japanese Zen is derived. His account of the monastic economy includes case histories of landlord-tenant relations during the Republican period. Recounting the lives of individual monks, he shows what motivated them to enter a monastery and traces their varying careers; and he discusses the life of the lay Buddhist. The unique sources upon which Mr. Welch drew, and the many illustrations which accompany his account, make this an intriguing and informative book.

Mr. Welch is the author of *Taoism*, *The Parting of the Way* and of many articles on Chinese religion and the international Buddhist movement. He is presently a Research Associate at the East Asian Research Center and at the Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University.

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THE PRACTICE OF CHINESE BUDDHISM

The East Asian Research Center at Harvard University administers research projects designed to further scholarly understanding of China, Korea, Japan, and adjacent areas.

HOLMES WELCH

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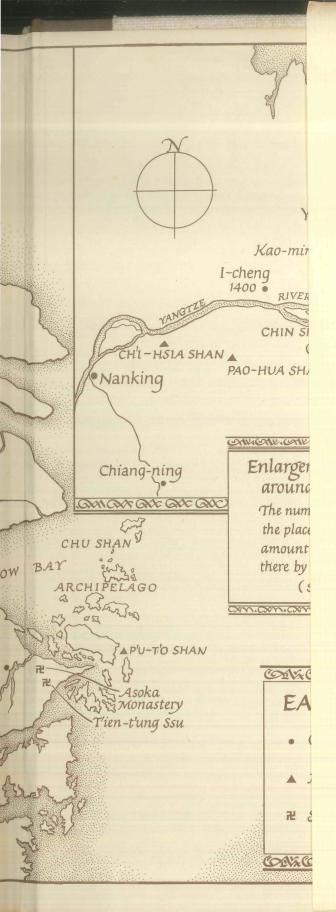
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