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Profiles of Mahayana Buddhists

Austin, Rev Jack (1917-93)

Pioneer of Shin Buddhism in UK, born Caerleon, Gwent (South Wales, UK).

With Richard Robinson, founded Dharma Study Group for studying Mahayana sutras.

1946-52: A member of 1st ad hoc council of The Buddhist Society.

1952: with Richard Robinson, ordained by Ven Sumangalo in London.

1953: Launched Western Buddhist to promote Mahayana Buddhism.

1954: Initiated into Arya Maitreya Mandala (founded by Lama Govinda in Das Budhhistische Haus, West Berlin.

1966: Initiated into Soto Zen by Chisan Koho Zenji in London. With others founded the Hannyakai to practise zazen under proper tuition for the first time in the UK, inviting Sochu Suzuki Roshi from Japan (later the London Zen Society). Served as Buddhist representative on various committees.

1975: Development Officer of World Congress of Faiths, organizing conferences and interfaith activities; served on several related committees, including Buddhist Religious Adviser, especially in education.

Contributed to numerous Buddhist and related publications, including new edition of Dhammapada for the Buddhist Society.

1976: Co-founder of Shin Buddhist Association in London [now known as the Shin Buddhist Fellowship UK] (Patron: Chief Abbot Kosho Ohtani).

1977: Ordained a Hongwan-ji priest in Kyoto.

Jack Austin also visited Shin temples in Hawaii, San Francisco and New York.