

**Dr. GENCHI KATO'S MONUMENTAL  
WORK OF MORE THAN TEN  
YEARS OF PAINSTAKING  
RESEARCH: A BIBLIO-  
GRAPHY OF SHINTO**

BY

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The title page of this work, in addition to the original Japanese title (Shinto Shoseki Mokuroku, "A Catalogue of Shinto Books"), bears the English caption, "A Bibliography of Shinto," and announces the nature of the contents as: "A collection of Shinto literature from the oldest times till Keio 4 (1868), arranged in chronological order, with a Goju-On index of the books and an alphabetical list of the authors, compilers, etc."

The reviewer is again impressed with the indefatigable erudition and industry of Dr. Genchi Kato and the group of scholars associated with him in the Research Institute of the Meiji Japan Society. It was as recently as the autumn of 1935 that Dr. Kato issued his monumental work of more than thirteen hundred pages, entitled, "A Study of the History of Religious Development in Shinto" (Shinto no Shukyo Hattatsushiteki Kenkyu), a book that is the fruition of a life-time of research into the genesis of the national faith of Japan, set in the perspective of its relationship to the general history of religions. Now in less than two years and a half a second magnum opus that represents more than ten years of pains-taking toil and extensive examination of literature and libraries scattered about the land, is offered to the world.

#### FOUR COLLABORATORS

Three members of the staff of the Research Institute of the Meiji Japan Society, Messrs. Hoshino, Mizoguchi, and Matsushita, share with Dr. Kato, the director, the honor and labor of the production of this new volume. These have been assisted by four other outstanding Shinto scholars, Dr. Shozo Kono, director of the Kokugakuin Daigaku of Tokyo, Ariyoshi Saeki, Mr. Masao Toba, Professor of the Jingu Kogakkan of Ise, and Mr. Yoneo Okada, lecturer in the same school. The work is thus the embodiment of the contributions of a distinguished group of specialists.

Prior to the publication of this volume the student in the field of Japanese history and philology has had to work without the aid of a comprehensive catalogue of the vast literature bearing on the evolution and interpretation of Shinto. This need is now met in a masterly way for the period covered by the compilation. Numerous special features give the volume unusual importance and value. These features are indicated below.

The Bibliography, as a whole, is composed of the following parts:

(1) An alphabetical catalogue of Shinto literature classified according to the historical periods in which the writings were produced. Pages 1-463. Four main areas are distinguished: "The Early Ancient Period," extending down to 800 A.D., or, in general, the Nara Era; "The Middle Ancient Period," (801-1200 A.D.), covering the Heian Cho Era; "The Recent Ancient Period," (1201-1600 A.D.), covering the Kamakura Era and the Toyotomi Jidai; and "The Recent Period" (1601-1868 A.D.), in general, the Tokugawa Era. The extensive literature of the last named period, which presents about four times the volume of all the other

periods together, is listed under the headings of eleven different systems of Shinto that developed during this time, such, for example, as Shinto-Buddhist syncretism (Bukka Shinto), Renaissance Shinto (Fukko Shinto), Shinto-Confucian syncretism (Juka Shinto), etc.

#### TITLES IN ROMAJI

The facility wherewith references cited in the bibliography may be consulted is greatly enhanced by the fact that all titles, as well as all names of authors and compilers, are printed in Romaji alongside the original Japanese. Descriptions of contents are given as guides to students in need of introduction to the specific nature of the literature cited. In the cases of publications covering wide scope these descriptions of contents are set forth in considerable detail.

For the convenience of the student, works that are regarded by the editors as secondary are distinguished by a special mark from those listed as being of primary importance. Reprints issued subsequent to 1868 are included.

(2) An alphabetical classification of authors and compilers. Pages 465-543. This section is also conveniently subindexed according to the Japanese syllabary of fifty sounds. A noteworthy feature of this part of the book is found in the publication under each author's name of a complete list of works, so that the student may determine at a glance the full literary contribution of any writer or editor.

(3) A classification of Shinto literature according to the Japanese syllabary of fifty sounds (gojuon). Pages 547-637. This section is without Romaji Transliteration. For all works cited, however, cross references are given to the page indices of the alphabetical bibliography where authors and contents are designated.

(4) A list of special collections, or sets, of books mentioned in the bibliography. Pages 639-644.

(5) A list of archives consulted in the compilation of the bibliography, eighty-five in all.

Dr. Kato and his colleagues are to be congratulated on this brilliant consummation of their extraordinary labors. The reviewer is left with the conviction that here is not a mere compilation of the names of books and their authors but rather a carefully systematized and correlated description of literature wherein students of Shinto will find an indispensable guide to the orderly study of the source material dealing with the historical development of the national faith of Japan. (This book was compiled and edited by Dr. Genchi Kato, with an introduction by Count Hayashi, President of the Meiji Japan Society. Published by the Meiji Japan Society, Tokyo, 1938. 646 pages, eighteen pages of introductory material and two pages of postscript. Price ¥13.50).

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