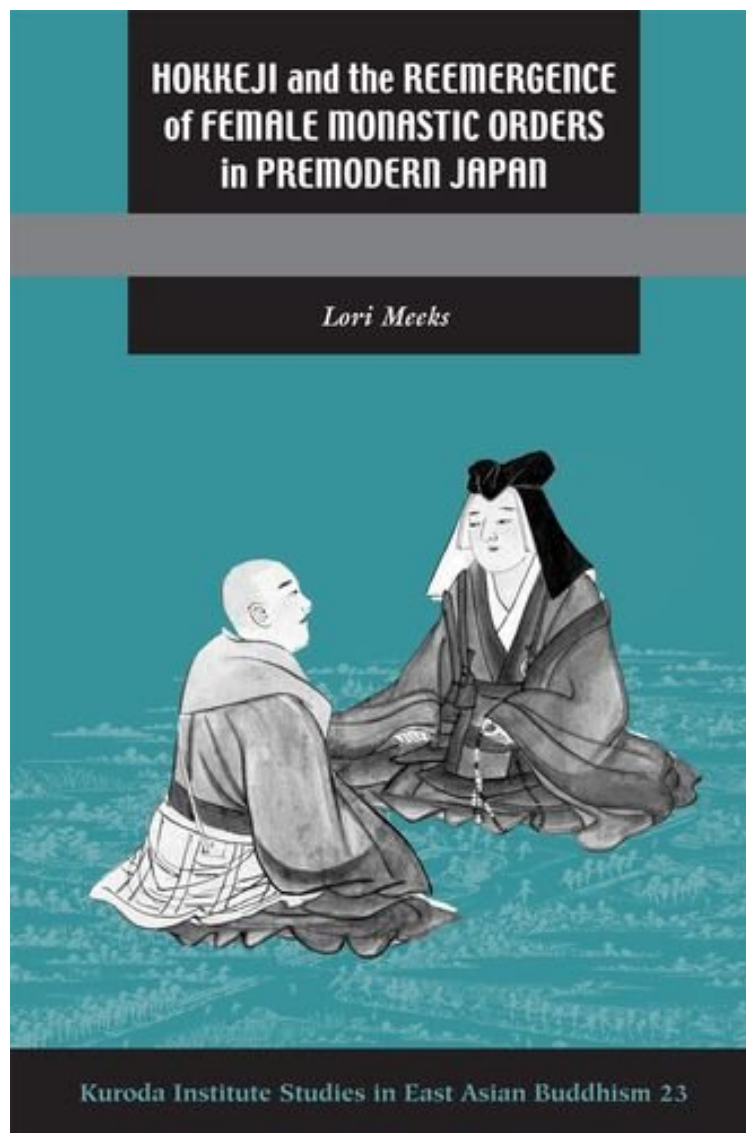


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## Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan (Kuroda Studies in East Asian Buddhism)

*Lori Meeks*

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**Lori Meeks : Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan (Kuroda Studies in East Asian Buddhism)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan (Kuroda Studies in East Asian Buddhism):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "I take the relics, together with great wisdom, as my two eyes." By Crazy Fox  
If you study Buddhism to any serious degree, it doesn't take long until you realize that for much of its history its doctrines have been slanted with a deeply androcentric or even misogynist set of discourses. The unspoken assumption then has usually been that if it was written down, it was believed--that both men and women automatically internalized those attitudes found articulated in Buddhist texts. One brilliant thing among many that Lori Meeks accomplishes in this brilliant study is to riddle such an assumption to pieces. On a more specialized level, if one looks into Kamakura Buddhism with any tenacity one will soon become familiar with Eison's Shingon Ritsu movement and with the story of how Eison kindly condescended to help out a group of well-intentioned but non-legit women practitioners at Hokkeji temple and ordain them properly as nuns. Through judicious and extensive investigative work with primary sources, Meeks flips the perspective on this old story and we start to get some sense of what an alliance with Eison and his movement did to further their own goals and intentions. How did they see the relationship, and what was in it for them? If all this book did was make these two important points, that would be enough in and of itself, but in the process the highly detailed and richly complex world of religious belief and practice at this particular time and place is painstakingly brought to life from a variety of angles in these pages. Hokkeji's shifting fortunes as a pilgrimage destination involving relics and faith in a deified empress, the evolving religious vocations of court ladies and their role in Hokkeji's revival, the nuts-and-bolts financial aspects of the revival and the socioeconomic dynamics of Hokkeji's plural class makeup, the nuns' varied and busy ritual calendar and more are all reconstructed vividly along with a properly cautious and nuanced analysis of the gender dynamics actually operating in religious writings by the nuns of Hokkeji themselves and the Shingon Ritsu monks acquainted with them. "Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan" then is an accurate if dull title for a deeply interesting and illuminating landmark study in Japanese Buddhist history. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Female Powers in the Medieval Period  
By erwarren  
Great book. The author addresses complicated and seemingly obscure topics in an interesting way that makes them very relevant. If you're interested in Japanese Buddhism, or Women's studies, this book is a vital new addition to the field.

Winner of the 2012 John Whitney Hall Prize.

"Well written and well edited, this book is a landmark in scholarship on Japanese Buddhism, women and Buddhism, and the history of monastic institutions." --Fabio Rambelli, Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies  
"This meticulously researched volume documents how women in Japanese Buddhist orders negotiated the constraints of their presumed inferiority, barriers to Buddhist education, and obstacles to full ordination." --Karma Lekshe Tsomo, Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient