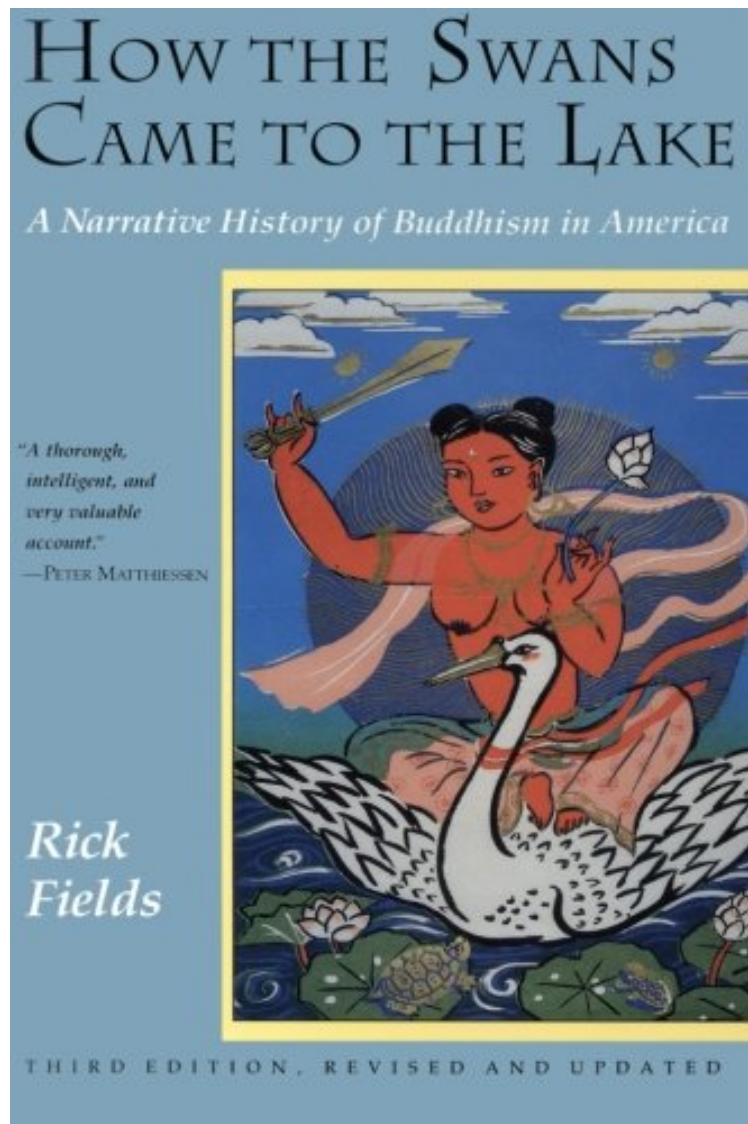


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How the Swans Came to the Lake: A Narrative History of Buddhism in America

Rick Fields

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Rick Fields : How the Swans Came to the Lake: A Narrative History of Buddhism in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How the Swans Came to the Lake: A Narrative History of Buddhism in America:

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history of Buddhism in the West as well as tracing Buddhism from its beginnings. Well worth the read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. nearly all new to me By Roger Petrich perhaps more detail than I was looking for - but one can always skim ahead to another chapter! Covers Buddhism from Buddha himself to the many ways that Buddhists arrived in the USA [or North American Continent] - and coming down quite close to the present [date of publication]. From the 1960s onward the "Asian Spirit" has become part of our American life, permeating contemporary culture -- with expressions as "It's so Zen!!" I plan on keeping this as a reference book; I'm sure that a re-read will provide new insights. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of the best books on the history of American Buddhism By Michael Dale Harrison This is an outstanding read. Very well written, researched and interesting throughout. I have waited for years for this to come out for Kindle and I am happy to own it electronically now as well as my treasured analog copy.

This new updated edition of *How the Swans Came to the Lake* includes much new information about recent events in Buddhist groups in America and discusses such issues as spiritual authority, the role of women, and social action.

.com "If there is a lake, the swans would go there." So said the 16th Karmapa when asked why he visited America in 1976. Of course, the Karmapa wasn't the first swan to go to the lake. In a book of immense scope, Rick Fields surveys the history of Buddhism in America from the quasi-legendary Fu-sang in the sixth century to Asian immigrant communities to the latest trends in American Buddhism. Writing as a storyteller as much as a historian, Fields takes us back to the earliest European contacts with Buddhism, most notably, Sir William Jones, who was just about to go to America on the recommendation of Ben Franklin, when at the last minute, fortunately, he chose India. His work would influence the American Transcendentalists and eventually the great Theosophist and first American convert to Buddhism, Henry Steel Olcott. A sympathetic writer, Fields is also meticulously inclusive. Besides the obvious transmitters, like D.T. Suzuki and Philip Kapleau, Fields traces the forgotten influences of Paul Carus, Ernest Fenollosa, and Dharmapala. One memorable story is of the ex-Navy submarine mechanic Heng Ju, who walked, three steps then a kowtow, over and over, all the way from San Francisco to Seattle for a berry pie. Fields has countless other stories that make *How the Swans Came to the Lake* a priceless contribution not only to Buddhism in America but to Buddhism itself. --Brian Bruya About the Author Rick Fields is the author of several books, including *Chop Wood, Carry Water* and *The Code of the Warrior*. He was formerly the editor of *The Vajradhatu Sun*, an international journal of Buddhism, and is currently the editor-at-large of *Tricycle: A Buddhist* .