

Editorial for Shin Buddhist 12
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It is indeed pitiful to begin with the sad news of Reverend Daijo Fons Martens who passed away on September 21, 2018.

Back in August 2016, he organized the 18th European Shin Buddhist Conference in Antwerp, Belgium as a Chairperson. Prior to the conference, there had been terrorism in Brussels in March 2016, and he had not been feeling good. However, he managed to officiate and conduct the conference successfully.

Due to cancer, he was not able to attend the following 19th European Shin Buddhist Conference held in Southampton, United Kingdom. Following the conference, I visited Reverend Martens at the hospital in Hasselt, Belgium with Reverend Frank Kobs of Anjin-Do, Reverend Hironobu Shouju of EKO HAUS, and my wife. Twenty-five days later he passed away.

When we visited Reverend Martens at the hospital, he tried to behave cheerfully in the waiting room where we met. He then said, "I have never been out of my sickroom. This is for the first time." I imagined that he must have been staying in bed most of the time. Yet he was trying to show us that he was fine. As we were leaving, we did not say "Goodbye" to each other, but exchanged greetings of "See you again." Then about twenty days later, I was informed of the news of his passing, being filled with the impermanence of things. Here in this issue are put the condolences offered by many friends of his.

Some time later, our Dharma friend and poet Cumberlege passed away on December 31, 2018. He was a regular participant of the European Shin Buddhist Conference presenting us many poems of Amida Buddha and the Pure Land. In this issue, some of his poems are cited. We would like to express our appreciation for his sharing the joy of nembutsu he felt with us.

Last but not least, we would like to express our deep respect to the late Reverend Shitoku Adriaan Peel, who passed away on September 20, 2009. This issue includes a special tribute to Reverend Peel along with the papers presented at the 18th European Shin Buddhist Conference held at Jikōji and the Syntra conference room in Antwerp, Belgium from August 23 through 26, 2016.

It is in the hope of establishing a place for discussion and exchange, a place for "turning the wheel" of Buddha-Dharma, of Mahāyāna Buddhism that Shin Buddhist has come into being. The editors welcome articles, translations, essays and poems on subjects relating to spirituality and the inner life of Mahāyāna Buddhism.