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PURE LAND NOTES WEBLOG #18

## **TEN'EI GANSHIN KOJI 天英巖真居士**

**REVEREND GANSHIN ROCK**  
**FIRST TENDAI PRIEST IN THE UK**  
**1926-2014**



Reverend Ganshin Rock sat before his small Buddhist shrine that was contained within his home in Romsey, Hampshire UK.

In the early 1990's I began to attend Ganshin-san's weekly meditation meetings. My experience up until then had been in Zen, and my expectation was that this extra curriculum activity would broaden my practice. That did I suppose happen to a degree, but the most unexpected outcome was that I began to develop a growing interest in Pure Land Buddhism. For this, I will be eternally grateful to Ganshin-san.  
DGR

There follows tribute to Ganshin-san found online:

**[HTTPS://TENDAIUK.COM/OUR-HONORARY-TEACHERS-2/](https://tendaiuk.com/our-honorary-teachers-2/)**

Rev. Ganshin Rock graduated from a grammar school in London, specializing in English.

During World War II, he served as a glider pilot since he had studied aeronautical engineering.



After the war, he lived in Japan and worked as a corporate executive for a communication company in Tokyo.

During the period from 1982 to 1986, Rev. Ganshin regularly attended the Buddhist English Academy, where he met Professor Ichishima at his temple in Chiba-ken.

Having returned to the UK in 1986, he started his service to propagate Buddhism at his private residence and enshrined the Yakushi Nyorai he had obtained 40 years before.

In 1988, Rev. Ganshin worked at the Romsey hospital as an Occupational Therapy Assistant with mentally ill patients for three years in order to gain more insight into human suffering and subsequently continued to work as a volunteer at the Southampton General Hospital.

In 1982, he was appointed Consultant to *Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai* with the responsibility of disseminating copies of their book “[The Teaching of Buddha](#)” in hotels, schools, hospitals, and other institutions throughout the country and was sometimes asked to give lectures on Buddhism at local schools and other institutions.

During the troubles in Northern Ireland, he made efforts to promote inter-faith dialog. One of the actions that he took was visiting Northern Ireland to share Buddhist teachings in order to help establish peace between the Catholics and the Protestants.

He then sent a detailed report to the Prime Minister of the UK and urged him to intensify dialog with all the conflicting parties. In this way, Rev. Ganshin committed himself to spreading the Dharma by all possible means.

Rev. Ganshin was also a member of the Endorsement Authority for Buddhist Chaplains in the UK Armed Forces.

Rev. Ganshin passed away on Monday 1st September 2014 and received the *Kaimyo* (posthumous name) of *Ten’ei Ganshin Koji* from Ichishima Sensei, meaning the first ‘Tendai Priest of the UK’.