

JAPANESE ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS
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Katararetsuzukeru Ikkyū-zo 語られ続ける一休像

[Ikkyū Being Narrated: Aspects of Zen Culture as Seen from
the History of Postwar Thought]. Pelikan Publishing Inc., 2021



Synopsis by the Author

IN THIS book, I combine evidential research on Ikkyū Sōjun, who lived in the Muro-machi period, with changes in the images of Ikkyū that have continuously emerged since his death, and examine inquiries into Zen culture in postwar Japan. Furthermore, retracing the discourse of intellectuals such as Maeda Togama, Haga Kōshirō, and Ichikawa Hakugen, I understand changes in the presentation of images of Ikkyū in terms of postwar Zen thought and probe the unexplored horizons of deciphering the images of Ikkyū in such discourse. In the introductory chapter, I endeavour to describe one development in Zen culture by tracing changes in the image of Ikkyū.

The postwar intellectuals taken up in chapters 1–4 are fine examples of people who sought to shed light on themselves and their times through Ikkyū and Zen in the fields of philosophy, literature, history, the history of thought, Zen studies, and so on. The addendum brings together notes on my attempts to decipher both Ikkyū's writings in the *Crazy Cloud Anthology* and the *Record of Linji*, an important background factor in his writings. I hope that through this book, combined with these textual analyses, the reader will be able to savor at least to some extent just how multistratified, and how much like a polyhedron discourse, Ikkyū and Zen culture have become.

Statement from the Awards Committee

Iijima's book is a challenging work that examines how Ikkyū Sōjun (1394–1481), a Zen monk from the late medieval period, has been discussed over five centuries in Japan, resulting in the formation of a variety of images, some of which acquired distinctive meanings in the post-World War II history of Zen thought and culture represented by Nishida Kitarō and Suzuki Daisetsu (D. T. Suzuki). The awards committee agrees that the book stands out in three ways. First, while it is known that Ikkyū has been represented differently, from an eccentric vagabond to a witty young bonze, Iijima adopted a unique approach to the history of his images by tracing the discourses of four Zen-related philosophers and historians (Maeda Togama, Haga Kōshirō, Ichikawa Hakugen, and Yanagida Seizan). His approach will be found useful in other historical studies of religious thought in different contexts. Second, the book covers an incredibly vast range of primary and secondary sources. Third, it is not only lucid but also elegantly written. Iijima's sophisticated style makes it accessible to a wider audience beyond the academy.