Finding Aid for the Zen Center of Los Angeles records, 1937-2012 LSC.2299

Finding aid prepared by Douglas Johnson, 2017 August.
UCLA Library Special Collections
Online finding aid last updated 2020 February 21.
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URL: https://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Title: Zen Center of Los Angeles records
Creator: Zen Center of Los Angeles
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.2299
Physical Description: 64.2 Linear Feet (83 boxes, 5 cartons, 3 shoe boxes, 58 flat boxes, 2 oversize flat boxes, 1 phonograph box)
Date (inclusive): 1937-2012
Date (bulk): 1969-2006
Abstract: The Zen Center of Los Angeles (ZCLA) was founded in 1967 by Taizan Maezumi. Associated with the Soto Zen sect, it provides Buddhist teaching and training to both lay people and monks. This collection spans 1937-2012 and primarily consists of teaching materials, which are both written materials and audio recordings. The collection also includes book manuscripts, Maezumi Roshi's notebooks and personal files, and ZCLA administrative records.

Language of Material: Material is predominantly in English and Japanese. There are also items in Chinese, Korean, French, German, and Spanish.

Conditions Governing Access
Portions of the collection stored off-site. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Zen Center of Los Angeles records (Collection 2299). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Zen Center of Los Angeles, 2012.

Processing Information

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 8030606

Biographical History
The Zen Center of Los Angeles (ZCLA) was founded in 1967 by Taizan Maezumi Roshi. Associated with the Soto Zen sect, ZCLA provides teaching and training to both lay people and monks. ZCLA provides classes, intensive meditation, Buddhist services, workshops, and opportunities for service. Maezumi Roshi was born in Japan on February 24, 191. His father was a Soto priest and he was ordained as a novice monk in the Soto lineage at age eleven. He moved to the United States to serve as a priest at the Zenshuji in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. Maezumi Roshi also founded the White Plum Asanga and the Yokoji Zen Mountain Center. He died unexpectedly while on a trip to Japan in 1995. As of 2017, the Center is under the direction of Roshi Wendy Egyoku Nakao.

Scope and Content
The collection spans 1937-2012, with the core of the collection consisting of teaching materials, which are in both written form and audio recordings. There are dozens of manuscripts for these presentations, or teishos, and approximately 2000 audio cassettes. There are also many book manuscripts in the form of drafts or galley proofs. These include both original works in English and Japanese and translations from Japanese and Chinese. Some of the translations appear to be unpublished. The collection also includes the personal notebooks of Maezumi Roshi. Mostly in Japanese, they appear to contain the notes he kept while preparing his teishos. There is also more personal material related to Maezumi Roshi, consisting of correspondence and many examples of his calligraphy. Also present are many of the Center's publications, as well as its administrative and financial records.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged into the following series:
Series 5. Publications and printed material, 1955-2012
Series 8. Audiovisual material, 1972-2006

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
CONTAINS UNPROCESSED AUDIOVISUAL AND DIGITAL MATERIALS: Materials will require assessment and may need further processing for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Related Materials
Ruth Strout McCandless Collection on Nyogen Senzaki (Collection 2296). Available at Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Zen Buddhism -- United States.
Maezumi, Hakuyu Taizan -- Archives.
Zen Center of Los Angeles -- Archives


Scope and Content
This series contains writings that appear to be intended for instruction activities within the Zen Center or affiliated locations. They include notes, lesson plans, formal lectures, and transcriptions of talks and class sessions. Most of the presentations were written by Maezumi Roshi. Some are as short as two pages long, while the lessons on the Book of Equanimity runs hundreds of pages.

Organization and Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically by title.

box 1, folder 1 Absolute and Relative 1993
box 1, folder 2 The Acupuncture Needle of Zazen 1989
box 1, folder 3 All Sentient Beings Have the Wisdom and Virtue of the Tathagata Buddha 1992
box 1, folder 4 The Answer Is Simple 1989
box 1, folder 5 Appreciating This Life 1990
box 1, folder 6 Aspects of Zen Practice 1984
box 1, folder 7 Basic Practice 1983
box 1, folder 8 The Basics of Zazen 1987
box 1, folder 9 Be Aware of What a Wonderful Thing We Are Doing 1981
box 1, folder 10 Beginner’s Mind 1985
box 1, folder 11 Bendowa 1990
box 1, folder 12 Birth, Sickness, Old Age 1989
box 1, folder 13 Blue Cliff Record 1971-1972
box 1, folder 14 Bodhi Day 1981
box 1, folder 15 Body and Mind Sitting Straight 1987
box 1, folder 16-17 The Book of Equanimity 1974-1982
box 1, folder 1-3 Closing the Gap Between Self and Self 1987
box 2, folder 4 Comments on Hsin Hsin Ming 1994
box 2, folder 5 Content of Zazen circa 1990
Scope and Content
Maezumi Roshi's notes as well as material compiled after his death.

Scope and Content
Handwritten notes in Japanese.
box 4, folder 20  Shobogenzo Bendowa 1986
box 4, folder 21  Shobogenzo Genjo Koan undated
box 4, folder 22  Shobogenzo: Makahannya Haramitsu circa 1991
box 4, folder 23  Shosan 1982-1995
box 5, folder 1  Shudo, Ishii - seminars (translated by Albert Welter) undated
box 5, folder 2  Shudo, Ishii - seminars (translated by David Putney) undated
box 5, folder 3  Sila Paramita undated
box 5, folder 4  Sixteen Stages of Counting the Breath 1980
box 5, folder 5  Sutras 1990
box 5, folder 6  Teisho on Service 1992
box 5, folder 7  Tenzo Kyokun - Appreciating One’s Life (Joyful Mind) 1984
box 5, folder 8  Think of Not Thinking 1989
box 5, folder 9  Three Koans and Seven Sisters 1982
box 5, folder 10  Three “Pillows” of Zen 1983
box 5, folder 11  Trip to Japan and More 1991
box 5, folder 12  The Venerable Jiun undated
box 5, folder 13  What Is Sesshin? undated
box 5, folder 14  Wholeheartedly Sit and Clarify the Great Matter! 1988
box 5, folder 15  Why Do We Recite Sutras? undated
box 5, folder 16  Why Practice? 1988
box 5, folder 17  Why We Do Service 1988
box 5, folder 18  The Woodcutter and the Animal Called Satori 1986
box 5, folder 19  Yakusan’s Koan on Zazen 1988
box 5, folder 20  You Should Really Verify Yourself 1988
box 5, folder 21  The Zazen of Self-Fulfilled Samadhi 1989
box 5, folder 22  Untitled writings 1974-1990
box 6-8  Teaching materials 1973-1993

Series 2. Book manuscripts 1937-1992

Scope and Content
This series contains manuscripts intended for publication at various levels of completion by people associated with the Zen Center, including Maezumi Roshi, Robert Aitken, John Daido Loori, Taigen Daniel Leighton, and Steven S. Krause.

Organization and Arrangement
Manuscripts are listed alphabetically by author. Chinese authors are identified by the Library of Congress transliteration of their names, even if that differs from the transliteration in the work itself.

box 9, folder 1  Aitken, Robert - A Book about Basho’s Haiku and Zen (penultimate typescript draft) 1978

Scope and Content
This was probably published as A Zen Wave; includes a foreword by W.S. Merwin.

box 9, folder 2  Burdick, Owen - Paschal Triptych and an essay: Stravinsky’s Requiem Canticles 1988
box 9, folder 3-6  Dogen - Moon in a Dewdrop (edited by Kazuaki Tanahashi; translated by Reb Anderson, Ed Brown, Arnold Kotler, Dan Leighton, Lew Richmond, David Schneider, Kazuaki Tanashi, Katherine Thanas, Brian Unger, Mel Weitsman, Dan Welch, and Philip Whalen) 1980-1982

Scope and Contents
Part Three, comprising pages 94-193, is missing.

box 10, folder 1  Dogen - The True Eye of the Dharma Treasury in Chinese (typescript by unidentified translator) 1989
box 10, folder 2  Dogen - The True Eye of the Dharma Treasury in Chinese (typescript by unidentified translator) 1990
box 11, folder 1  Keizan - The Transmission of Light (typescript of translation by Thomas Cleary) 1981
Series 2. Book manuscripts 1937-1992

box 11, folder 2-3  Kodera, Takashi James - Dogen's Formative Years in China: Historical Study and Annotated Translation of the Hokyo-Ki 1978
box 11, folder 4  Lao Tzu - Tao Te Ching (typescript translation by Steven S. Krause) 1974
box 11, folder 5  Liangje - The Record of Tung-shan Liang-chieh of Jui-chou (typescript by unidentified translator) undated
box 11, folder 6  Linji - The Recorded Sayings of Ch'an Master Lin-Chi Hui-Chao of Chen Prefecture; compiled by his humble heir Hui-Jan of San-Sheng circa 1975
box 12, folder 1  Loori, John Daido - The Eight Gates of Zen 1992
box 12, folder 2  Loori, John Daido - The Mountain Record of Collected Zen Talks undated
box 12, folder 3  Matthiessen, Peter - Nine Headed Dragon River 1985
box 12, folder 4  Sahn, Seung - The Whole World Is a Single Flower 1991
box 12, folder 5  Senzaki, Nyogen - The Gateless Gate 1937
box 12, folder 6  Yuanwu - Hekigan Roku (typescript of translation by Yamada Koun and Robert Aitken) undated
box 13, folder 1  Zhaozhou - The Collected Teachings of Zen Master Chao-Chou (translated by James Green) undated

Scope and Content
Probably published as The Recorded Sayings of Zen Master Joshu.

box 13, folder 2  Zhengjue - The Book of Equanimity undated
box 13, folder 3  Zhengjue - The Book of Serenity (typescript translation by Thomas Cleary) 1977

Scope and Content
Includes several notes from Cleary.

box 13, folder 4  Zhengjue - Cultivating the Empty Field (galley proof of translation by Taigen Daniel Leighton with Yi Wu) 1991
box 14, folder 1  Zhengjue - Shoyo Roku (typescript translation by Maezumi Roshi and Dana Fraser) undated
box 14, folder 2  Unidentified - Shobogenzo Genjo Koan: an Analytic Study undated
box 14, folder 3  Unidentified translation of Buddhist text undated
box 14, folder 4-5  Manuscripts in Japanese undated

Scope and Content
This series consists of various notebooks and three-ring binders maintained by Taizan Maezumi Roshi. Each folder typically includes handwritten notes in Japanese and/or English as well as a several annotated texts in Japanese and English.

box 27  Biographical material 1978-1998
box 27-29  Calligraphy 1977-1983
box 29-33  Correspondence 1969-1995
box 151  Correspondence undated

Conditions Governing Access
Box 151 of the correspondence is restricted until November 26, 2034 at the request of the donor.

box 34, folder 1  Journal undated
box 34, folder 2  Poetry 1989-1993

Scope and Content
Contains two volumes of handwritten poetry by "Kyoshin," inspired by and dedicated to Maezumi Roshi.
Series 5. Publications and printed material 1955-2012
Scope and Content
This series consists of periodicals published by the Center, ranging from the informal newsletters to the professionally published literary magazine ZCLA Journal. The printed material consists of short pamphlets and brochures, and in a few cases, photocopies of Japanese books.

box 34-35
Newsletters 1976-1985
Scope and Content
Includes the monthly newsletters circulated to members.

box 36
Sangha Letter 1985-2000
box 36-39
The Ten Directions 1980-1994
box 40
Water Wheel 2002-2012
box 41
ZCLA Journal 1971-1975
box 42, folder 1-3
Booklets, pamphlets, and other printed materials 1955-2004
Scope and Content
Includes: "Essentials and Symbols of the Buddhist Faith"; "Samma Samadhi: Being an Exposition of the Method of Samatha-Vipassana as Discovered & Attained by All Buddhas"; Institute of Asian Cultures material [in French and Japanese]; "Zen Flashes" by Roshi Egyoku Nakao.

box 42-45
Booklets, pamphlets, and other printed materials in Japanese and Chinese undated

Scope and Content
This series contains material about the day-to-day operations of the Center, information about various programs and affiliated organizations, and member information.

box 46-49
Board of Directors meeting minutes 1981-1996
box 50-51
Calendars, date books, and address books 1974-1994
Language of Material: Materials are primarily in Japanese, with some in English.

box 52
Greyston Family Inn 1987
box 52
Guest books 1978-1995
box 53-54
High Holy Days material 2001-2005
Scope and Content
Contains material related to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services held at ZCLA.

box 55
Kuroda Institute 1979-1992
box 56
Maezumi Roshi’s death 1995
Scope and Content
Contains material relating to Maezumi’s death; includes his last will and testament, condolence letters, information about memorial services, memorial issue of the journal Mountain Record, Fall 1995.

box 57
Member records 1988-1994
box 58
Monks’ registration papers 1973-1990
Language of Material: Materials are primarily in Japanese with a small amount in English.

box 59-60
Procedural manuals 1983-1997
Scope and Content
Contains documents detailing how various classes and events at the center should be conducted.

- **Publicity material 1976-1993**
- **Staff files 1977-1985**

**Conditions Governing Access**
RESTRICTED MATERIAL. Social security numbers need to be redacted.

**Series 7. Financial records 1974-1994**

**Scope and Content**
This series includes budget information, financial reports, bank statements, receipts, and donation records.

**Series 8. Audiovisual material 1972-2006**

**Scope and Content**
Most of this material consists of recordings of *teishos*, seminars, lectures, and other events at the ZCLA.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**
CONTAINS UNPROCESSED AUDIOVISUAL AND DIGITAL MATERIALS: Materials will require assessment and may need further processing for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

**Box 85-140**
**Audio cassettes 1972-2002**

**Scope and Content**
The audio cassettes are mostly recordings of teishos, seminars, or lectures. They are typically labelled with a title, speaker, and date. There are approximately 2000 of them. Boxes 85-121 mostly contain talks by Maezumi Roshi, and boxes 122-140 mostly contain talks by others.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**
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box 141  **CD-Rs 2003-2004**
Scope and Content
Ten discs of various talks.
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
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box 141  **Open reel audiotape 1970-1971**
Scope and Content
Four tapes, content unknown.
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
CONTAINS UNPROCESSED AUDIO MATERIALS: Materials will require assessment and may need further processing for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

box 141-144  **VHS, U-matic, and open reel videotape 1978-1999**
Scope and Content
Thirty-four VHS cassettes, one Beta cassette (with a label in Korean), one U-matic tape, and one videotape reel. Most of the tapes appear to be of teishos or special services. A few are television programs or short films with some connection to Zen practice. Two of the tapes appear to be of Maezumi Roshi's funeral.
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
CONTAINS UNPROCESSED AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS: Materials will require assessment and may need further processing for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

box 145  **ZCLA Talk Archive 2005-2006**
Scope and Content
Ninety-nine CD-Rs in two three-ring binders with talks by various individuals.
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
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Language of Material: Material is in English, Japanese, German, and Spanish.
Scope and Content
Most of these are about Zen or other aspects of Buddhism, but there are also reference books and books about art.