



NOTABLE FPMT HOLY OBJECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Please enjoy this sampling of inspiring FPMT holy object activity now spanning the globe!

For more information about any of these holy object initiatives, please visit the FPMT directory at the back of this magazine for contact details.



From left: Statue of Songtsen Gampo, first of the three Dharma kings of Tibet, created by Bertrand Cayla. Replica of Jowo Rinpoche. Two of the statues at FPMT International Office's Jokhang, Portland, Oregon, USA.

FPMT INTERNATIONAL OFFICE'S HOLY OBJECT PROJECTS

FPMT International Office currently manages five projects dedicated to producing holy objects for the benefit of the wider FPMT community: a project to build a 14-foot (four-meter) high Nagarjuna statue to support the long, healthy life of Lama Zopa Rinpoche; the Padmasambhava Project for Peace (see this issue's Featured Project on page 12); the Stupa Fund (see *Mandala* July-September 2009); a project to support the writing out of the *Prajñāparamita* and *Saṅghata Sutra*, and the Prayer Wheel Fund.

By collecting and managing funds, Lama Zopa Rinpoche's office is able to support a variety of holy object projects – most of them inspired by Rinpoche's vast visions for FPMT's future.

www.fpmt.org/projects

FPMT International Office has commissioned or been offered several notable holy objects that feature in the Portland building, shared with Maitripa College.

CHENREZIG INSTITUTE'S GARDEN OF ENLIGHTENMENT, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

In 1994, during Chenrezig Institute's twentieth anniversary celebrations, Lama Zopa Rinpoche initiated the idea of incorporating a large, 49-foot (15-meter) tall stupa in memory of Venerable Geshe Thinley, a former resident teacher at the Australian center, in a garden filled with smaller stupas containing the consecrated ashes of the dead. From this memorial, the Garden of Enlightenment was born.

Currently, the plan for the Garden of Enlightenment includes the large stupa and seven smaller

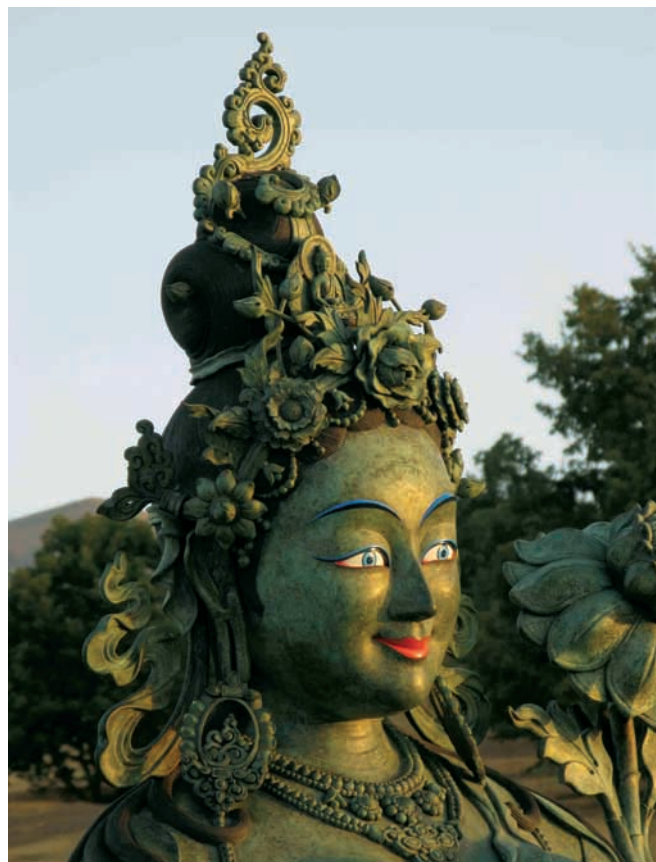
The Precious and Wish-fulfilling HOLY OBJECTS OF FPMT

stupas to be built above a series of ground-level rooms. These shrine rooms contain other holy objects and are encircled by a covered veranda lined with prayer wheels perfect for circumambulation in rainy weather. Surrounding this is a landscaped ornamental garden containing water features and many quiet alcoves of variously sized and styled stupas.

Although the garden is beautiful, Chenrezig Institute acknowledges that the garden's construction isn't simply to provide students something pretty to enjoy. The main purpose of the garden is to provide those who have passed away, as well as those who have lost loved ones, an opportunity to create the causes for enlightenment. How? Creating holy objects and dedicating them to a person who has died is one way to ensure that this person receives a favorable rebirth and further, creates merit for the loved one who initiates the creation of the holy object.

To date, the volunteers of the Garden of Enlightenment have made approximately 300 stupas of various sizes for inclusion in the garden and for private individuals.

"For those of us who have been there from the outset, it has been a wonderful journey," says Garrey Foulkes, the Garden of Enlightenment Manager. "It's as if Rinpoche, in his very special way, handed us a piece of paper with an arrow and the word 'start' written underneath and instructed, 'OK now you have to find your way to the finish. Along the way you will meet all sorts of people, some will be inspiring, generous and helpful; some disappointing or critical; others heartbroken by the loss of loved ones. But with the blessing of the teachings and the will to never give up, you just might make it.'"



GREEN TARA STATUE AT O SEL LING CENTRO DE RETIROS, GRANADA, SPAIN

The Green Tara statue at O Sel Ling Centro de Retiros in Spain, created by Bertrand Cayla at Nalanda Monastery, is a stunning example of the Tibetan Buddhist vision of divine female energy. Cast by the Fundición Artística Vilá, S.A., the statue sits peacefully in the center of a circular fountain, its grey-green patina set against the turquoise-sky of the Alpujarras.

THE GREAT STUPA OF UNIVERSAL COMPASSION, BENDIGO, AUSTRALIA

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia was initiated by Lama Yeshe when he visited Atisha Centre in 1981. Lama called for a *big* stupa with a gumpa and a library to be built on a hill. After Lama passed away, Lama Zopa Rinpoche chose the Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet as the model for the stupa in Bendigo

The stupa is nearly 164-feet (50-meters) high and 164-foot square at its base. Once complete, it will be the largest stupa outside of Asia. The architecture, engineering and construction of the Great Stupa are based on the requirement for the stupa to last for 1,000 years. Designed as a



The Garden of Enlightenment, Queensland, Australia



Construction of the Great Stupa begins

place of pilgrimage for Buddhists of all traditions, the inside will feature a 500-person capacity temple and a library. On each level there will be shrines, with sacred Buddhist relics kept on the sixth level.

Currently, the Great Stupa is home to many holy objects including a collection of Buddhist relics from various Buddhist traditions in East and Southeast Asia and a 13-foot (four-meter) tall statue of Guru Rinpoche. Moreover, the stupa will eventually house the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.

STUPA MOLD AT RINCHEN ZANGPO CENTER, TORREÓN, MEXICO

Jhampa Shaneman, resident teacher at Rinchen Zangpo Center in Torreón, Mexico, is beginning to construct a six-and-a-half-foot (two meter) tall stupa mold.

Once the mold is complete, Rinchen Zangpo Center intends to make hundreds of stupas in order to distribute them widely. They even plan to approach the city of Torreón and offer two stupas as peace monuments for the six-lane main road that runs through the center of the city. The hope is that thousands of people will be exposed to the powerful symbol every day.

FOUR STUPAS ON LAMA YESHE'S CREMATION SITE, VAJRAPANI INSTITUTE, BOULDER CREEK, CALIFORNIA, USA

Twenty-five years have passed since Lama Yeshe gave his final teaching on impermanence by showing the aspect of passing away. It was on a ridge at Vajrapani Institute, a center for which Lama always expressed special regard and affection, that the cremation of his holy body took place on March 7, 1984. Now, to

coincide with the twenty-fifth year of Lama's passing, construction is underway to build four commemorative stupas at the site of Lama's cremation, thereby transforming this blessed place into an even more powerful spot for spiritual practice.

These commemorative stupas are the second of three projects at Vajrapani dedicated to Lama, the first one being a large enlightenment stupa which was completed in 1986. The third is the future creation of a shrine containing a life-size statue of Lama. The statue, designed and built by Jim Westbrook, has already been completed and is temporarily housed in Vajrapani's main meditation hall.



Sketch of the Lama Yeshe Cremation stupas

ENLIGHTENMENT STUPA AT DE-TONG LING, KANGAROO ISLAND, AUSTRALIA

Although focusing on providing a suitable environment for long-term retreat, De-Tong Ling Retreat Centre, located on Kangaroo Island just off the coast of South Australia, has taken to heart Lama Zopa Rinpoche's clear instructions that the center should benefit beings as broadly as possible. For this purpose, the center started construction on a large Enlightenment Stupa in 2003 that will be opened to the throngs of tourists that visit the island each year.

The stupa itself is 29.5 feet (nine meters) high, and rests on a platform 16.5 feet (five meters) above the ground. Underneath the stupa is a room made of massive mud-brick walls. The plan currently is to fill the room with statues and 2-D and 3-D mandalas of

Chenrezig. Images of the Twelve Deeds of the Buddha will be painted on the walls.

The stupa has been built entirely with volunteer labor and donated funds. Every year since 2003, the center organizes two “work retreats,” and in this way, the stupa has slowly but steadily arisen. Hundreds of people have physically worked on the stupa, and hundreds more have made donations. Each one of the 8,000 mud bricks is estimated to have been handled by at least ten different volunteers before they went into the walls.

THE KALACHAKRA STUPA AT KURUKULLA CENTER, MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, USA

Several years ago, Kurukulla Center’s interpreter, Thubten Damchoe, suggested building an enlightenment stupa in the center’s backyard in Medford Massachusetts. After Lama Zopa Rinpoche observed that a Kalachakra stupa would be more appropriate, the students of Kurukulla Center discovered that this particular style of Kalachakra stupa is quite rare outside of Tibet. There is only one other built in the West – the Kalachakra stupa in Garanas, Austria – built after His Holiness the Dalai Lama gave the Kalachakra initiation there in 2002.

The Kalachakra stupa is unique in that it is one of the few stupas built in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition that are not a part of the traditional eight styles of stupas that commemorate different events in the life of the Buddha.

Main construction commenced in May 2009 and major work was completed by October. What remains to be done



Construction of the Kalachakra stupa at Kurukulla Center

is to install the pinnacle, which is being made in Nepal, and decorate and paint the stupa, which will be done in the spring of 2010 by two Tibetan artists from Nepal.

ROOT INSTITUTE’S GIGANTIC PRAYER WHEEL AND KADAMPA LAMA STATUES, BODHGAYA, INDIA

Root Institute, located in Bodhgaya, India, where the Buddha attained enlightenment, has many holy objects, including a dozen life-sized statues, a large collection of memorial stupas and a recently completed, *gigantic* prayer wheel. The prayer wheel contains approximately five tons of mantra and texts on paper, as well as more than one billion mantras printed on microfilm.

The prayer wheel is very well balanced, spinning by itself for a long time after being turned. Because of its significant location, the wheel has been blessed and turned by various holy beings, movie stars and people from all walks of life.

Fulfilling Rinpoche’s advice, the center commissioned three-foot (one-meter) statues of the Kadampa lamas: Drontopa, Geshe Chekawa, Geshe Potawa and Geshe Langri Tangpa. Geshe Thubten Tashi and Ven. Tenpa Choden from Kopan Monastery oversaw the artwork and the statues were beautifully made. Rinpoche has said statues of the Kadampa lamas were rare even in Tibet, and these have now been blessed by several great lamas, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Gyalwa Karmapa and Ling Rinpoche.



Lama Zopa Rinpoche spins the giant prayer wheel at Root Institute, Bodhgaya, India

NALANDA MONASTERY’S ART WORKSHOP, LAVAUR, FRANCE

As a place dedicated to transforming the mind day and night, it seems fitting that a monastery should contain as many holy objects as possible. Nalanda Monastery, located in Lavaur, France, boasts an impressive art workshop which has produced literally thousands of statues, tsa-tsas and other holy objects.



Although the workshop has been used by several skilled artists, most recent to join the team is Pema Sonam Sherpa from Eastern Nepal. He is currently responsible for painting the bare statues produced at the workshop, among other tasks. His next project is to paint the statues of the 16 Arhats, recently finished by Jonathan Partridge.

Nalanda also has a long history of supporting the practice of tsa-tsa casting and offers advice to beginners and seasoned artists, well-equipped workspace, long-term storage for tsa-tsas produced as commitments and high-quality molds.

prisoners and coordinate the production of memorial tsa-tsas for the dead.

LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE'S RESIDENCES, CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON, USA

Lama Zopa Rinpoche's retreat property in Washington and house in California are excellent examples of how holy objects can be creatively and extensively used. In the retreat house in Washington, for example, the walls of some rooms are almost entirely covered with printed images of buddhas. The numbers are staggering – Rinpoche reports:



From left: A monk from Nalanda carefully places 1,000 Buddha statues into the monastery's main altar. The 16 Arhats created by Johnathan Partridge. Statues of Maitreya from Nalanda's workshop drying in the sun.

TSA TSA STUDIO/CENTER FOR TIBETAN SACRED ART, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, USA

Since 1998, the Tsa Tsa Studio/Center for Tibetan Sacred Art has been helping students keep their tsa-tsa casting commitments and introducing the public to the philosophical and spiritual underpinnings of tsa-tsas and other forms of Buddhist devotional art. Now in Richmond, California, the studio provides training on how to cast tsa-tsas in accord with tradition and offers the crucial space and materials needed to create large numbers of images quickly. Moreover, the studio is commissionable for large events where tsa-tsas might be used as gifts. Their dedication is so comprehensive that they even offer rubber tsa-tsas to

“There is a wall of 814 sets of the seven Medicine Buddhas, one of 867 sets of the 35 Buddhas, one of 161 sets of the 21 Taras, one of 71 sets of the 16 Arhats, and one wall showing the life deeds of Lama Tsongkhapa. Part of the ceiling is covered with 85 images of thousand-arm Chenrezig, another part has 602 sets of the Lama Chöpa merit field, and one part is covered with the 41 life deeds of Guru Shakyamuni Buddha, as well as multiple images of Shakyamuni Buddha. There is also a set of Khedrup Je's visions of Lama Tsongkhapa. Over 4,050 light offerings are made every day to all these images, as well as 215 water bowl offerings.”

The residence in California is equally as impressive. Sangha members, who live in and maintain the



From left: Sunlight through colored panels paints a marvelous rainbow on the elaborate stupa at Lama Zopa Rinpoche's house in Aptos, California, USA. Images of Tara line the ceiling and wall of Rinpoche's retreat house in Washington, USA

house, make offerings every day to the thousands of holy objects inside and outside of the building. The offerings consist of about 200 giant saffron water bowls and 100 smaller bowls, 7000 Christmas lights, fruit offerings, tea offerings, tormas offerings and flower offerings in the house and in the garden.

Resident Sangha make three stupas filled with mantras for every person who has died, and seven Medicine Buddha tsa-tsas and 13 Mitukpa tsa-tsas for every student who is sick as well as various other tsa-tsas dedicated to the success of Rinpoche's projects.

The house also is home to Ven. Tsering, who has been writing out the entire *Prajñāparamita in 8000 Verses* on rainbow paper in pure gold. This text, a holy object itself, will be put inside the heart of the Maitreya statue being built by the Maitreya Project. He recently completed the first of twelve volumes – working on it as his full-time job, it took him six years.

JADE BUDDHA FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE, BENDIGO, AUSTRALIA

At the suggestion of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, Ian Green acquired "Polar Pride," a rare boulder of translucent, polar jade discovered in Canada 2000. The Jade Buddha statue, built of this "polar pride" jade, is nearly 9 feet (2.7 meters) tall, sits on a four-and-a-half-foot (1.5-meter) high throne and is estimated to weigh around four tons. The statue was specifically designed to be universally recognizable by members of all Buddhist traditions.

The largest image of Buddha carved from gemstone

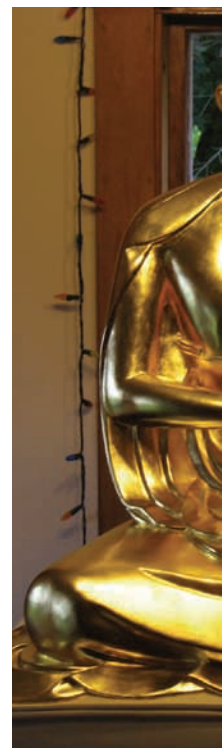
quality jade in the world, this statue has been valued at AUD\$ 5 million. Its size and beauty make it a wonder of the world.

The Jade Buddha, currently on world tour, will eventually be housed in the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion in Bendigo, Australia.

As an example of the statue's worldwide appeal, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, USA, named February 7, 2010 Jade Buddha for Universal Peace Day in recognition of the project's religious and cultural value.

MILAREPA CENTER'S BAKULA ARHAT STATUE AND GURU RINPOCHE STATUE, BARNET, VERMONT, USA

In 2005 Lama Zopa Rinpoche recommended that Milarepa Center build a large statue of Bakula Arhat, considered a protector of monks and nuns, to help aid the center's long term plans for establishing a monastery



Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.



and nunnery. Lisa Health of Maine, who created the statue, is also working on a large statue of Guru Rinpoche for the center.

HOLY OBJECT PROJECTS AT DORJE CHANG INSTITUTE, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Filled with 111 billion mani mantras on microfilm, Dorje Chang's Prayer Wheel for World Peace is one of the largest prayer wheels in the entire world. A portion of the money to fund the large prayer wheel comes from the production of beautifully hand-crafted desktop prayer wheels which contain over 300 thousand mani mantras.

Dorje Chang's largest stupa, a Wheel-Turning Stupa, was built in 1995 and blessed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1996. The stupa floor is currently undergoing a waterproofing upgrade (the floor is directly above the room which contains the large Prayer Wheel for Peace) and the balustrade leading up to and surrounding the stupa is being replaced.

Lharampa Geshe Wangchen, Dorje Chang Institute's resident teacher, felt strongly to invite a Guru Rinpoche statue to the New Zealand center. Lama Zopa

Rinpoche advised it to be four-foot (one-meter) high, manifesting in a particular aspect. A new altar will be built to accommodate this impressive statue which is quite bigger than Geshe Wangchen's original plan!

A beautiful set of 21 Tara statues will soon sit with their large White Tara statue and the center's Buddhas in the Gardens display is set on 2.5 acres of land, bordering a reserve and stream.

THE GENDUN DRUBPA STUPA PROJECT FOR WORLD PEACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HARMONY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

In 2002, Ani Chönyi (Patricia DeVoe) went on pilgrimage with Lama Zopa Rinpoche in Tibet. While in Reting, after finishing Lama Chöpa, she presented Rinpoche with a piece of robe that she had acquired from the Jowo statue in Lhasa. Rinpoche returned the fragment of cloth and instructed her to build a nine-foot (three-meter) stupa to house it.

Five years later, Lama Zopa Rinpoche determined that the best place to build this stupa was at the Gendun Drubpa Study Group near Williams Lake in British Columbia, Canada. Since 2008, the students of Gendun Drubpa Study Group, under Ani Chönyi's direction, have been busily preparing for the construction by gathering all the recommended objects to go inside the stupa: tsatsas, statues, mantra bundles, treasure vases, relics, holy water and earth, religious texts, etc.

The group, despite its isolation, has received tremendous support from Geshe Thubten Soepa, who selected and consecrated a site for the stupa as per Rinpoche's instructions. In March 2010, Geshe Sherab from Kopan Monastery is due to arrive in order to bless the objects that will be housed in the stupa.

When completed, the Gendun Drubpa Stupa for World Peace and Environmental Harmony will be the first FPMT stupa in Canada.



Bakula Arhat statue at Milarepa Center.



Dorje Chang Institute's Wheel-Turning Stupa.

STATUES AND STUPAS AT TUSHITA MEDITATION CENTRE, DHARAMSALA, INDIA

In 1972 Lama Yeshe bought an old colonial house on a hill above McLeod Ganj in Dharamsala, India, once belonging to His Holiness Ling Rinpoche and His Holiness Trijang



Lama Yeshe's stupa at Tushita Meditation Centre

Rinpoche. Now called Tushita Meditation Centre, the site is home to a unique collection of holy objects.

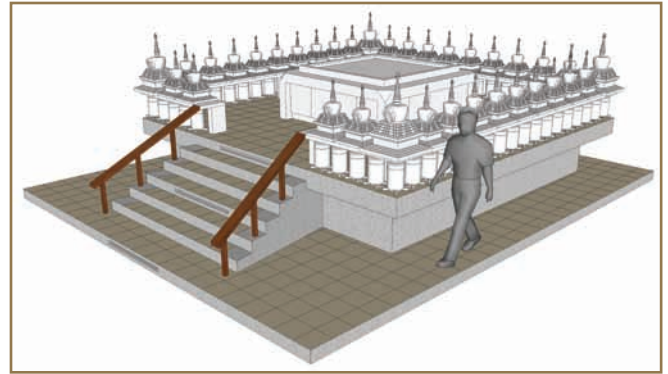
A large Lama Tsongkhapa statue was installed that was so tall, a large hole had to be cut into the old gompa's ceiling. A new gompa has since been built, and along with the statue of Lama Tsongkhapa, there are eight life-size Medicine Buddhas, a statue of Maitreya Buddha and various thangkas.

The most unique holy objects at Tushita include a statue of Lama Yeshe in aspect of Heruka Vajrasattva with consort. This rare statue is housed in the Vajrasattva gompa, and has been present for hundreds of retreatants. Tushita is also home to a striking stupa containing Lama Yeshe's relics, as well as stupas containing the relics of Geshe Rabten, one of Lama Yeshe and Lama Zopa Rinpoche's principal teachers, and Geshe Wongdu, a close friend of Lama Yeshe and great meditator who lived in the mountains around the center.

LOSANG DRAGPA CENTRE'S NAMTHOSE PAVILLION, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

Losang Dragpa Centre of Selangor, Malaysia, hosts a wonderful variety of holy objects.

Most recently, the center welcomed a statue of Namthöse, wealth deity and protector of the North, to on an open pavilion in the middle of the center's tropical



35 Enlightenment Stupas will provide the boundaries of the pavilion

garden. The statue faces the gompa, and will eventually be surrounded by 35 Enlightenment Stupas and 60 prayer wheels. The center has also made space for a Six-arm White Mahakala statue, now housed in a secret room specially created within the confines of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's studio on the first floor.

The center is also planning a Garden of Nalanda's Seventeen Pandits which will contain statues of 17 of the



Lama Zopa Rinpoche encourages the display of large thangka such as this thangka of Medicine Buddha, painted by Peter Iseli.



Land of Medicine Buddha's 100,000 Stupas Project will be designed to accommodate a large Maitreya Buddha statue



greatest scholars to teach at historic Nalanda. The garden will be enhanced with a Buddha Shakyamuni statue meditating under a bodhi tree planted by Lama Zopa Rinpoche.

100,000 STUPAS PROJECT AND MEDICINE BUDDHA THANGKA FESTIVAL, SOQUEL, CALIFORNIA, USA

Land of Medicine Buddha, located in Soquel, California, possesses a robust collection of holy objects, including eight impressive life-sized statues of the Medicine Buddhas, a shrine room filled with memorial stupas, a large statue of Ksitigarbha and three large prayer wheels, among others.

The center is also embarking on the inspiring 100,000 Stupas Project, a 55-foot (17-meter) tall terraced structure comprising four complete sets of the traditional eight styles of stupas commemorating events in the life of the Buddha, as well as thousands of smaller stupas, 108 prayer wheels and crowned by a 35-foot (11-meter) tall stupa. Space for a shrine room is included with plans to house a 25-foot (eight-meter) statue of Maitreya Buddha.

Already successfully underway is the Medicine Buddha thangka festival. Into its seventh year, the annual Medicine Buddha Festival consists of an elaborate procession with hosts of offerings, musical performances, lectures on different aspects of Tibetan culture, food and games. The main event is the unfurling of an enormous Medicine Buddha thangka followed by traditional prayers and ceremonies.

KOPAN MONASTERY, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Kopan Monastery in Kathmandu, Nepal, FPMT's first center, has benefited greatly from its close proximity to some of Asia's finest Buddhist artists and the inspiring presence of Buddhist masters.

Although the monastery is full of holy objects (including FPMT's first holy object, the Tara statue mentioned at the beginning of this article), its more substantial pieces include a 20-foot bronze statue of Lama Tsongkhapa, founder of the Gelug lineage; a statue of Chenrezig standing in a circular pond; a large Maitreya Buddha resting in the Buddha Garden which features depictions of eight major events in the life of Shakyamuni Buddha and eight events from his previous



The Great Thousand Buddha Relic Stupa, built to commemorate the life of Geshe Lama Konchog and house his relics, Kopan Monastery, Kathmandu, Nepal.

lives; a large prayer wheel in the lower courtyard; eight Enlightenment Stupas; and a shrine room containing the relics of Geshe Lama Konchog, an accomplished meditator, yogi and teacher who lived at Kopan.

Arguably, the most impressive holy object at Kopan is the Great Thousand Buddha Relic Stupa, built to commemorate the life of Geshe Lama Konchog.

Visible from the outside are 1,000 Shakyamuni Buddha statues placed on the stupa's steps. Although basically a Wheel-Turning Stupa, it features elements taken from the Guhyasamaja mandala, for example, the four doorways of the main stupa.

The inside of the stupa contains not only the relics of Geshe Lama Konchog (he produced over 30 incredible relics which are said to be multiplying), but also the relics of other masters within the tradition; a 3-D model of the Guhyasamaja mandala, copies of the complete texts studied in monasteries; hundreds of thousands of reproduced images of deities and blessed pills, among other substances. In total, nearly 300 unique and rare items are listed as being included within the stupa.

HOLY OBJECTS



Top row from left:
Lama Yeshe's stupa at Vajrapani Institute, Boulder Creek, **California, USA**. The Enlightenment Stupa at O Sel Ling Centro de Retiros, **Granada, Spain**. On the way to **Lawudo, Nepal**, one sees the stupa built after the death of Lama Zopa Rinpoche's mother.

Middle row from left:
Victory Stupa at Chandrakirti Buddhist Meditation Centre, **Nelson, New Zealand**. Descent (from Tushita Heaven) Stupa in **Kópavogur, Iceland**. This stupa was built by Thorhalla Bjornsdottir and her friends, on the advice of Lama Zopa Rinpoche. The land for the stupa was given by the town of Kópavogur.

Bottom row from left:
The Enlightenment Stupa at Mahamudra Centre, **Coromandel, New Zealand**. Kadampa stupa at Institute Vajra Yogini, **Lavaur, France**. Milarepa Center's Auspicious Stupa of Many Doors, Barret, **Vermont, USA**.





HOLY LAND

Once, when Ribur Rinpoche visited **Land of Calm Abiding (Shiné Land)**, an FPMT hermitage located in Big Sur on California’s central coast, he remarked that, “This land will one day be one of the most sacred places in the world.” Those in his entourage were so puzzled by the statement that they even double-checked it with the translator.

Set in a lotus bowl of a valley, deep in the Los Padres National Forest near California’s central coast, this land makes a priceless contribution to the preservation of the Mahayana teachings by providing a residence for monks and nuns engaging in long retreat under Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s guidance.

Places like Land of Calm Abiding provide a setting for sincere practitioners to develop themselves into suitable vessels to pass on the true undefiled Dharma to all beings. Since holy objects hold blessings arising from holy beings, and holy beings are those who have actualized the path, it could be argued that without places like Land of Calm Abiding, there would be no holy objects at all.

If you would like more information about Land of Calm Abiding, or if you are a seasoned practitioner interested in renting a cabin for long-term retreat, please visit www.landofcalmabiding.org

Thirty of FPMT’s 160 centers, projects and services boast retreat land. Please visit www.fpmt.org/centers for information on centers with retreat land near you.



The road to Land of Calm Abiding

GENEROUS ARTISTS

PETER ISELI

Peter Iseli, master thangka painter, has made huge contributions to Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s vast visions. Rinpoche envisions FPMT centers all over the world organizing regular thangka festivals (such as the one at Land of Medicine Buddha in Soquel, California). Peter Iseli not only painted the giant Medicine Buddha thangka used at Land of Medicine Buddha’s festival, but has also painted the 21 Taras thangka for Institut Vajra Yogini; the Chenrezig thangka for Chenrezig Institute; the 35 Buddha thangka for Kopan Monastery; and the Hayagriva thangka for Tushita Meditation Centre. The thangkas themselves are massive, matched only by Iseli’s generosity – he offered to paint these for free!

DENISE AND PETER GRIFFIN

Long-time students of Rinpoche, Denise and Peter Griffin have made huge contributions to the production of holy objects in FPMT. Some of their most notable FPMT pieces include the Lama Yeshe statue and the prototype of Maitreya Buddha for the Maitreya Project. Of course, this is a small fraction of the various statues, tsa-tsas and bas-relief carvings they’ve been able to produce for FPMT.

Countless artists have aided FPMT centers and projects in their holy object creation initiatives. Please rejoice in their incredible generosity!