

The return to Dōgen and the resumption of
Shōbōgenzō studies in the Edo period

Timeline of Key Events

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1253.8.28 Dōgen (1200–1253) died

<first commentary on Shōbōgenzō (SBGZ)>

1263 Senne 詮慧 completed Kikigaki 聞書 (Lecture Notes) commentary on the Shōbōgenzō in seventy-five chapters (75-SBGZ) [EST11–14]

1300 Keizan Jōkin 瑩山紹瑾 (1264–1325) presented lectures for Denkōroku 傳光錄 (Record of the Transmission of Illumination)

1303–1308 Kyōgō 經豪 wrote Shōbōgenzō okikigakishō 正法眼藏御聞書抄 (a.k.a. Goshō 御抄) commentary to accompany the Kikigaki commentary by Senne on the Shōbōgenzō in seventy-five chapters [EST11–14]

<first printed version of a work by Dōgen>

1357 Eihei shōshō gakudō yōjinshū 永平初祖學道用心集 (Advice on how to Study the Way) printed by Donki 曇希 at Eiheiji

1358 Eihei Gen zenji goroku 永平元禪師語錄 (abridged version of Dōgen's Recorded Sayings) printed by Donki 曇希 at Eiheiji

<oldest extant manuscript of the SBGZ, but now incomplete>

1419 Taiyō Bonsei 太容梵清 (1378–1439) copied the Shōbōgenzō in eighty-four chapters (84-SBGZ), consisting of the standard Shōbōgenzō in seventy-five chapters plus a supplementary section with nine additional chapters (each with their original chapter numbers intact) from the earlier draft Shōbōgenzō in sixty chapters (75-SBGZ + 9 from 60-SBGZ) – Tokuninji 德雲寺 manuscript in twenty (now only 13) fascicles [EST04]
– significantly, Bonsei's version did not include any extra chapters from the Shōbōgenzō in twelve chapters nor from among the miscellaneous (himitsu 祕蜜) chapters that subsequently would be bound together at Eiheiji
– Bonsei's manuscript includes a detailed index of kyōko 擧古 (kōan topics); similar kyōko indexes of kōan exist in other medieval manuscripts of the SBGZ

<oldest extant manuscript of Denkōroku>

1459 Denkōroku 傳光錄 (Record of the Transmission of Illumination) copied by Shikō Sōden 芝岡宗田 (d. 1500) – Kenkon'in 乾坤院 manuscript in two fascicles



- 1472 Kenzei 建撕 (1415–1474), an abbot of Eihei-ji, compiled Kenzeiki 建撕記 (Kenzei's Chronicle): a detailed biography of Dōgen, early history of Eihei-ji, and record of Shōbōgenzō compositions
- <oldest extant manuscript of 75-SBGZ>
- 1488 Shōbōgenzō in seventy-five chapters (75-SBGZ) copied by Shikō Sōden 芝岡宗田 (d. 1500) – Kenkon'in manuscript in fifteen fascicles [EST01]
- 1491 Daikū Genko 大空玄虎 (1428–1505) of Ryūtakuji 龍澤寺 composed Hekigan Daikū shō 碧巖大空鈔, a detailed commentary on kōans of the Blue Cliff Record
- 1512 Shōbōgenzō in seventy-five chapters (75-SBGZ) copied – Shōbōji 正法寺 manuscript in thirty fascicles [EST01]
- 1547 Denkōroku copied by Tessō Hōken 喆囟芳賢 (d. 1551) – Ryūmonji 龍門寺 manuscript in five fascicles
- 1547 Shōbōgenzō in seventy-five chapters (75-SBGZ) copied by Tessō Hōken 喆囟芳賢 (d. 1551) – Ryūmonji 龍門寺 manuscript in seventy-six fascicles [EST02] <source text for Kawamura edition in DZZ>
- 1571 Mount Hiei, the headquarters of Tendai Buddhism near Kyoto, attacked and burned by armies of Oda Nobunaga 織田信長 (1534–1583)
- 1598 Monkaku 門鶴 (d.1615), an abbot of Eihei-ji, supervised the copying of the Extensive Records of Reverend Dōgen (Dōgen oshō kōroku 道元和尚廣錄), Dōgen's complete recorded sayings – Eihei-ji manuscript in ten fascicles [DZZ03 and DZZ04]
- 1599 Nihon shoki Jindai kan 日本書紀、神代卷 (History of Japan: The Age of the Gods) printed by the heavenly sovereign Go-Yōzei 後陽成 (1571–1617)
- 1603 [Tokugawa Ieyasu 德川家康 \(1542–1616\) established Tokugawa shogunate](#)**
- 1608–1618 Tokugawa Ieyasu began to promulgate detailed regulations for major networks of Buddhist temples across Japan (note: these regulations evolve over time)
- 1613–1624 Shūzon 宗存 (n.d.), Tendai Buddhist monk, attempted to print the entire Buddhist canon in movable type under the imprimatur of Go-Yōzei 後陽成, but work ceased after his death; printed only 84 titles, 276 volumes.



- 1617 Tokugawa Ieyasu deified as the divine ruler (shinkun 神君), Tōshō Daigongen 東照大權現, the Great Buddha Avatar who Illuminates the East
- 1633 Agency of Temples and Shrines (jisha bugyō 寺社奉行) began to enforce regulations over Buddhist organizations
- 1637–1648 Tenkai 天海 (Jigen daishi 慈眼大師; d.1643) printed the entire Buddhist canon in movable type (1,454 titles; 5,781 volumes) under the imprimatur of Tokugawa Iemitsu 德川家光 (1604–1651); only 30 copies printed and distributed
- 1640 Christian Inquisition (kirishitan bugyō 切支丹奉行) and Office of Religious Inspection (shūmon aratame yaku 宗門改役) began to enforce universal household registrations at local Buddhist temples
- 1644 Zuimonki 隨聞記 (Transcriptions; by Ejō 懷葦, 1198–1280) copied by Kidō Sōe 暉堂宗慧 (d. 1645) from an earlier manuscript dated 1380 – Chōenji 長圓寺 manuscript in six fascicles [ESTO4]
- <Chinese Buddhism (Ōbakushū) introduced to Japan>
- 1654 Yīnyuán Lōngqí 隱元隆琦 (Ingen Ryūki; 1592–1673) arrived from China; introduced Chinese Buddhist monastic practices, subsequently known as the “Ōbaku School” 黃檗 of Zen
- 1657 Sendanrin 梅檀林 Sōtō Zen academy founded in Edo; 4-part curriculum
1. Zen classics: kōan collections; pure regulations; recorded sayings; etc.
 2. Buddhist scriptures: Vimalakīrti sūtra; Diamond sūtra; etc.
 3. Chinese thought: Confucius; Mencius; Zhuangzi; etc.
 4. Chinese poetry: Selected Tang Verses (Tángshī xuǎn 唐詩選); etc.
- 1662 Yīnyuán Lōngqí 隱元隆琦 (Ingen Ryūki) constructed Manpukuji 萬福寺 monastery (in Uji, south of Kyoto) as headquarters of Ōbaku school
- 1667 Nichiiki Sōtō shoso Dōgen zenji shingi 日域曹洞初祖道元禪師清規 (a.k.a. Eihei dai shingi 永平大清規; Dōgen’s Pure Rules) printed by Kōshō Chidō 光紹智堂 (d. 1670).
- 1671–1681 Tetsugen Dōkō 鐵眼道光 (1630–1682) carved and printed xylographic edition of entire Buddhist canon (1,650 titles; 6,950 volumes): so-called “Ōbaku edition” of the Buddhist canon; more than 2,000 copies distributed
- 1672 Ōbaku shingi 黃檗清規 (Pure Rules of Mount Huángbò) printed
- 1681 Manzan Dōhaku 卍山道白 (1636–1715) printed Keizan oshō shingi 瑩山和尚清規. [Edited and revised version of Tōkoku gyōji jijo 洞谷行事次序 (ca. 1376).] Postscript by Gesshū Sōko 月舟宗胡 (1630–1698).



- 1672 Manzan Dōhaku 卍山道白 (1636–1715) printed his edited and revised edition of Dōgen’s extensive record of recorded sayings (re-titled: Eihei Kōroku 永平廣録) in ten volumes; Manzan’s version includes the Shōbōgenzō chapter “Zazenshin” (Lancet of Seated Meditation) under the category of “dharma talk” (hōgo)
- 1682 Gesshū Sōko 月舟宗胡 and Manzan Dōhaku (1636–1715) compile Shōjurin shingi 松樹林清規 (Pure Rules of Daijōji), which clearly incorporate Ōbaku-style procedures into the rules that were attributed to Keizan Jōkin in 1681.
- 1684 “Ango” 安居 (The Retreat), Shōbōgenzō chapter, xylograph edited and printed by Manzan Dōhaku 卍山道白 (1636–1715) [EST04]
- 1686 Manzan Dōhaku 卍山道白 edited, revised, re-ordered, and expanded Bonsei’s 1419 version of the Shōbōgenzō by adding a supplementary section of five extra chapters to create a new comprehensive Shōbōgenzō in eighty-nine chapters (89-SBGZ) – Daijōji 大乘寺 manuscript in twenty fascicles [EST07]
- 1690–1693 Handō Kōzen 版橈晃全 (1625–1693), an abbot at Eiheiiji, revised, re-ordered, and expanded Manzan’s 1686 version of the Shōbōgenzō by adding six (or seven) additional chapters, all arranged more or less in chronological order, to create a new comprehensive Shōbōgenzō in ninety-five (or ninety six) chapters (95-SBGZ or 96-SBGZ). Kōzan’s original manuscript does not survive, but copies by Kazan Tōetsu 可山洞悦 (d.1707) and by Kangan Shuntō 寬巖春登 (1656–1747) do exist.
- Kōzen found several of his additional chapters in a miscellaneous collection of twenty-eight (or more?) chapters that had been collected and bound together in three fascicles at Eiheiiji. The origins of this collection remain unknown. It subsequently would become known as the “Himitsu” 祕蜜 (carefully maintained) collection.
- 1693 Tendai Buddhism reformed by the royal prelate (hōsshinnō 法親王) Kōben 公辨 (1669–1716), who ordered the establishment of the Anrakuin 安樂院 as a center for the study of vinaya (ritsu 律) discipline.
- 1700 “Menju” 面授 (Face-to-Face Conferral), Shōbōgenzō chapter, xylograph edited and printed by Manzan Dōhaku 卍山道白 (1636–1715) [EST04]
- 1702 “Juki” 授記 (Confirmation), “Shisho” 嗣書 (The Inheritance Certificate), “Menju” 面授 (Face-to-Face Conferral), Shōbōgenzō chapters excerpted and printed by Jōzan Ryōkō 定山良光 (d. 1736) in Shōbō tekiden shishi ikkushū 正法嫡傳獅子一吼集 (The Lion Roar of the Proper Heirs of Shōbō Monastery) [EST20]
- <reform of temple dharma lineages and dharma succession>
- 1703 Manzan Dōhaku 卍山道白 successfully petitioned the military government to reform dharma transmission practices (shūtō fukko 宗統復古) at Sōtō temples



- 1714 Mujaku Dōchū 無著道忠 (1653–1744), of Myōshinji 妙心寺 in Kyoto, composed Eihei Shōbōgenzō senpyō 永平正法眼藏僭評, a negative critique of Dōgen’s SBGZ, in which he points out mistakes in Dōgen’s quotations of Chinese texts [EST20]
- 1722 Prohibition issued by the military government that forbid the copying, editing, or printing of any part of Shōbōgenzō and of other sensitive Sōtō historical texts (Shōbōgenzō kaihan kinshi no rei 正法眼藏開板禁止令)
- 1727 Menzan Zuihō 面山瑞方 (1683–1769) printed Segaki sahō 施餓鬼作法 (Procedures for Feeding Hungrey Ghosts), his revised and updated version of the Ambrosia Gate (kanro mon 甘露門) ritual performed at every Sōtō Zen temple.
- 1729 Tenkei Denson 天桂傳尊 (1648–1735) compiled Benchū 辯註 (Reasoned Notes), a detailed commentary on his own private re-compilation and revised version of the Shōbōgenzō in seventy-eight chapters (78-SBGZ; from various manuscripts), consisting of sixty-one “authentic chapters,” plus seventeen “problematic or spurious” chapters – Yōshōan 陽松菴 manuscript in twenty fascicles [EST15]
- 1754 Menzan Zuihō 面山瑞方 (1683–1769) printed his revised (teiho 訂補) edition of Kenzeiki 建擿記 (Kenzei’s Chronicle), rewritten as biography of Dōgen
– Menzan’s revised Kenzeiki served as the standard story of Dōgen’s life until 1975 when Kawamura Kōdō 河村孝道 published early manuscript versions of Kenzeiki, which revealed the nature of Menzan’s revisions.
- 1759 Menzan Zuihō 面山瑞方 (1683–1769) compiled his own comprehensive version of the Shōbōgenzō in ninety-six chapters (96-SBGZ), consisting of the earlier version in sixty chapters, plus an addendum of thirty-six extra chapters – Eifukuji 永福寺 manuscript in ten fascicles [EST10]
- 1769 Menzan Zuihō 面山瑞方 (1683–1769) printed Shōbōgenzō shōtenroku 正法眼藏涉典錄 (21 volumes) [EST 21]; a detailed analysis of the source texts used for quotations in Dōgen’s SBGZ.
- 1770 Zuimonki 隨聞記 (Transcriptions) xylograph edited and printed by Menzan Zuihō 面山瑞方 (1683–1769)
- 1774 Banjin Dōtan 萬仞道坦 (1698–1775) wrote and printed Zenkai hongī 禪戒本義 (The Fundamental Meaning of Zen Precepts)
- 1787 “Gyōji” 行事 (Sustained Practice), parts 1 and 2, xylograph edited and printed by Gentō Sokuchū 玄透即中 (1729–1807) [EST04]
- 1788 Bendōwa 辨道話 (Talk on Pursuing the Way), revised version, xylograph edited and printed by Gentō Sokuchū (1729–1807) [EST04]
- 1803 Gentō Sokuchū 玄透即中 (1729–1807) printed Eiheiji shō shingi 永平小清規 (Pure Rules of Eiheiji monastery)



Honzan Edition (Xylograph) of SBGZ

1815 Chōkoku eihei shōbōgenzō 彫刻永平正法眼藏 (Abridged Honzan Edition). Xylograph. 21 fascicles, consisting of 20 main fascicles (which contained 90 printed chapters plus 5 chapters of blank sheets of paper) with 1 supplemental fascicle (consisting of a preface, textual history, chronology, and table of contents), in 4 cases. Order of chapters incorrect. Printed by Eihei Temple. Total 90 chapters.

- Abridged chapters (replaced by blank sheets of paper; hakushi 白紙):
 - “Busso” (Buddhas and Ancestors)
 - “Den’e” (Transmitting the Robe)
 - “Jishō zanmai” (The Samādhi of Self Verification)
 - “Jukai” (Receiving the Precepts)
 - “Shisho” (The Inheritance Certificate)

1827 Eihei Gen oshō juko 永平元和尚頌古 (Dōgen’s Verse Comments on Eight-Five Kōan), 1 volume xylograph printed by Kakudō Soshū 廓堂祖宗 (d. 1834).

1857 Keizan oshō denkōroku 瑩山和尚傳光錄. 2 vol. xylograph. Edited by Busshū Sen’ei 佛洲仙英 (1794–1864). Reprinted 1859, 1868.

1868 Meiji regime assumed power. Tokugawa government abolished.

1885 [Shushōgi] Tōjō zaike shushōgi 洞上在家修證義. Edited by Ōuchi Seiran 大内青巒 (1845–1918). 1 vol., typeset edition. Tokyo: Kōmeisha 鴻盟社. Retitled: Sōtō kyōkai shushōgi 曹洞教會修證義 (1890). Retitled: Shushōgi (1926).

1885 Keizan oshō denkōroku 瑩山和尚傳光錄. Edited by Ōuchi Seiran 大内青巒 (1845–1918). 1 vol., typeset edition. Tokyo: Kōmeisha 鴻盟社.

1885 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏 (Honzan Edition; 95-SBGZ). 1 vol. typeset edition. Reprint of 1815 xylograph plus 5 missing chapters (added by editor). Edited by Ōuchi Seiran 大内青巒 (1845–1918). Order of chapters incorrect. Tokyo: Kōmeisha 鴻盟社. Total 95 chapters.

1905 Genzō-e 眼藏會 (Seminar on Studying the Shōbōgenzō) held for first time at Eihei monastery; thereafter became annual event to promote better understanding of Dōgen’s teachings.

1906 Eihei shōbōgenzō 永平正法眼藏 (Honzan Edition). Unabridged xylograph. 21 fascicles, consisting of 20 main fascicles which contain 95 printed chapters with 1 supplemental fascicle (consisting of a preface, textual history, chronology, and table of contents), in 4 cases. Order of chapters incorrect. Printed by Eihei Temple with funds provided by Myōgonji 妙嚴寺 Temple in Toyokawa. Total 95 chapters.

1926 Honzanban shukusatsu Shōbōgenzō zen 本山版縮刷 正法眼藏 全. 1 volume revised version of 1885 typeset edition edited by Ōuchi Seiran. Order of chapters incorrect. Tokyo: Kōmeisha. Total 95 chapters.



- 1927 Kohō Chisan 孤峰智燦 (1879–1967), abbot of Yōkōji 永光寺, discovered complete manuscript copy of Shōbōgenzō in twelve chapters (12-SBGZ) [<source text for Kawamura edition in DZZ>](#)
- 1931 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏 (Honzan Edition). Typeset edition of 1906 unabridged xylograph. Edited with additional collation notes by Kishizawa Ian 岸澤惟安 (1865–1955). Order of chapters corrected. In Taishō edition of the Buddhist Canon. T no. 2582. Vol. 82, pp. 7–309. Total 95 chapters.
- 1934 Ōya Tokujō 大屋徳城, editor of Kanazawa ibun 金沢遺文, revealed existence of Kanazawa Bunko 金澤文庫 manuscript of Shōbōgenzō in Chinese script (i.e., so-called mana 眞字 / 眞名 version; Mana-SBGZ).
- 1939–1943 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏 (Honzan Edition). 3 volumes. Revised and edited by Etō Sokuō 衛藤即應 (1888–1958) with additional collation notes by Ōkubo Dōshū 大久保道舟 (1896–1994) and glossary. Includes supplemental section with 1 supplemental and 4 variant chapters. Order of chapters corrected. Iwanami Bunko (paperback). Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten. Total 100 chapters.
- 1959 Etō Sokuō 衛藤即應 (1888–1958) posthumously published transcription of Shōbōji manuscript of Bendōwa 辨道話 draft version.

[Ōkubo Edition of SBGZ](#)

- 1969 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏. Arranged in 75 chapters and in 12 chapters, with 9 supplemental chapters and 4 variant chapters. Edited by Ōkubo Dōshū 大久保道舟 (1896–1994). In volume 1 of Dōgen zenji zensho 道元禪師全書. Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō. Total 100 chapters.
- 1971 Kohon kōtei shōbōgenzō zen 古本校定 正法眼藏 全. Stand-alone reprint of 1969 Ōkubo edition. Tokyo: Chikuma Shobō. Total 100 chapters.

[Mizuno Edition of SBGZ \(in NST\)](#)

- 1970–1972 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏. Arranged in 75 chapters and in 12 chapters, with 1 supplemental chapter. Edited by Mizuno Yaoko 水野彌穂子 (1921–2010). Volumes 12–13 in Nihon Shisō Taikei (NST: Compendium of Classical Japanese Thought). Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten. Total 88 chapters.
- 1990 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏. Reprint of 1970–1972 Mizuno edition, but with 6 supplemental chapters. Edited by Mizuno Yaoko (1921–2010). 4 vols. Iwanami Bunko (paperback). Tokyo: Iwanami Shoten. Total 93 chapters.



Kawamura Edition of SBGZ (in DZZ)

1991–1993 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏. Version in 75 chapters and version in 12 chapters, with 9 supplementary chapters and 7 variant chapters. Edited by Kawamura Kōdō 河村孝道. In volumes 1–2 of Dōgen zenji zensho 道元禪師全書 (DZZ: Complete Works of Zen Master Dōgen). Tokyo: Shunjūsha. Total 103 chapters. <based on manuscripts of actual 75-SBGZ and 12-SBGZ>

Revised Honzan Editions

2019 Honzanban teiho shōbōgenzō 本山版訂補 正法眼藏. Revised Honzan edition with chapters arranged as 75 chapters and as 12 chapters, with 9 supplementary chapters and 8 variant chapters. Edited by Kawamura Kōdō and Tsunoda Tairyū 角田泰隆. Fukui: Daihonzan Eiheiji. Distributed by Daihōrinkaku. Total 104 chapters.

2020 Shōbōgenzō 正法眼藏. Corrected reprint of original 95 chapter version. Order of chapters corrected. Includes Shōbōgenzō in Chinese script (Mana-SBGZ) as a supplementary appendix. 3 volumes. Tokyo: Sōtōshū Shūmuchō.

EST Eihei shōbōgenzō shūsho taisei 永平正法眼藏蒐書大成. Photographic facsimiles and transcriptions of all major manuscripts and documents related to the Shōbōgenzō and its study. Edited by Dai Honzan Eiheijinai Eihei Shōbōgenzō Shūsho Taisei Kankōkai 大本山永平寺内永平正法眼藏蒐書大成刊行会. 25 vols. Tokyo: Taishūkan Shoten, 1974–1982.

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