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THE ZEN STUDIES SOCIETY, INC.

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NEW YORK, N. Y. 10024

877-8969

August 19, 1966

Dear Friend:

We hope that you are in good health in these hot summer days. We are happy to say that we have been well in spite of our being so very busy during our many Sesshins. We are writing to you now with the hope that you will help us.

Just after the San Francisco Sesshin this summer we were walking along the streets of the city. We happened to stop by Gump's antique shop in order to buy a temple bell for the New York Zendo. We were planning to buy a small bell but unexpectedly found a huge GONG among many small ones. There were some Chinese characters around the rim which read: "Made in 1555 A.D. Treasure of Daitokuji Monastery. Indeed we were astonished to read the name of Daitokuji because it is one of the most famous Zen Monasteries in Kyoto. The sound of this GONG shakes our HARA and the color is enchanting.

Of course it is too big to be in the present New York Zendo but we couldn't bear to leave that treasure in the antique shop so we decided to buy it anyway, and it is here with us now. We are convinced that the sound of this GONG will greatly encourage and influence our Zazen. And it must be this Zazen which will eventually establish a permanent Zen Monastery in the United States. This is our vow.

The GONG cost one thousand dollars which is indeed beyond our power to pay, so we hope that you will help us as much as you possibly can.

We thank for your understanding and hope that we can see you soon again.

Gassho,

Hakuun Yasutani
Hakuun Yasutani
Eido Tai Shimano
Eido Tai Shimano