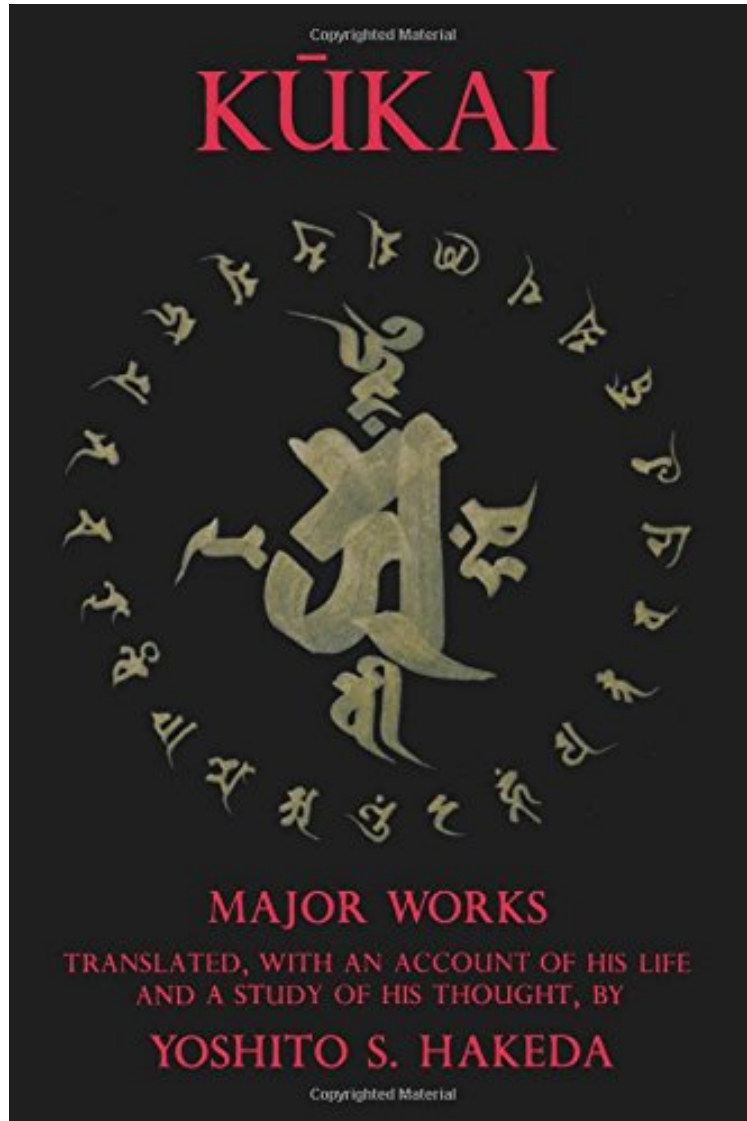


## Kukai: Major Works

*Kkai*

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#1020809 in Books Yoshito S Hakeda 1972-10-15 1972-07-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .91 #File Name: 0231059337303 pagesKukai and His Major Works | File size: 57.Mb

**Kkai : Kukai: Major Works** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kukai: Major Works:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant biography on KukaiBy Gretchen HintzI'm currently researching famous Japanese figures for a novel I'm writing. I purchased a few books focused on Kukai and Shingon Buddhism and this was definitely the most informative in getting a real understanding of Kukai, Shingon Buddhism, and the impact Kukai made upon Japan. The book is very thorough and feels incredibly authentic. Kukai made such a

huge impact on Japan and it's sad that most of the western world does not even know he existed. This book was easy to pick up and read. Even one who barely understands Buddhism in general could benefit from this book, though it does go in-depth for the more experienced reader/researcher. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... teh history of the Shikoku Pilgrimage this is a wonderful book. By Dara If you are interested in teh history of the Shikoku Pilgrimage this is a wonderful book. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A comprehensive, accessible look at Kukai and Shingon By Doug M Kukai, more commonly known in Japan as "Kobo Daishi" or just "Odaishisama" is one of the pre-eminent figures in Japanese Buddhist history. His life and his work are still the stuff of legend in contemporary Japanese culture, as well as the Buddhist world there. What makes Kukai such an extraordinary figure was his talent for grasping difficult Buddhist teachings, but eloquently teaching them to a wide variety of people through his writings and through the esoteric rituals in Shingon Buddhism. Books on Kukai in English are few and often scholarly, and difficult to read, but Professor Hakeda's book is a look both at the life and accomplishments of Kukai, an overview of his teachings, but also translated samples of his writings. The history and teaching sections alone are interesting, and worth a read, but it's also a great opportunity to read Shingon Buddhist writings that are otherwise very difficult hard to find outside of Japan. Kukai was a master of esoteric Buddhism, so at times his writings can seem very obtuse (hence the need for training under a reputable Shingon priest in good-standing), but other times his writings are brilliantly Buddhist and really speak to important matters. For those looking for a broad overview of Kukai and his teachings, this is a great place to start.

Kukai, more commonly known by the honorific Kobo Daishi, was one of the great characters in the development of Japanese culture. He was active in literature, engineering, calligraphy, and architecture and is represented in this work in terms of his major effort--the introduction of esoteric Buddhism from China, which resulted in the formation of the Shingon sect still active in Japan. Eight of his works are presented here.

Kukai was a polymath who has achieved the status of demigod in popular legend: in part because of his virtuosity as a writer of Chinese, his books are too difficult to read by any but a very few scholars in Japan today. Hakeda's achievement in arriving at these lively and intelligible translations is of the highest order. (Choice) This book serves two functions remarkably well: being an easy to follow, lucidly written introductory work for the non-initiated, and providing for the expert for the first time in English eight of Kukai's major works. (World Literature Today) About the Author Hakeda was Associate Professor of Japanese in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Associate Professor of Religion at Columbia University. Ryuichi Abe is the Reischauer Institute Professor of Japanese Religions in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Harvard University.