

Peter Abbs is well-known for his open-minded but spiritually aware approach to both educational theory and poetry. He judged an *Urthona* poetry competition a few years ago. His latest volume of new poetry, 'Viva La Vida' is reviewed in this issue. 'The Flowering of Flint' contains the best of his work selected from several previous collections. See the publisher's web site for further details: www.saltpublishing.com

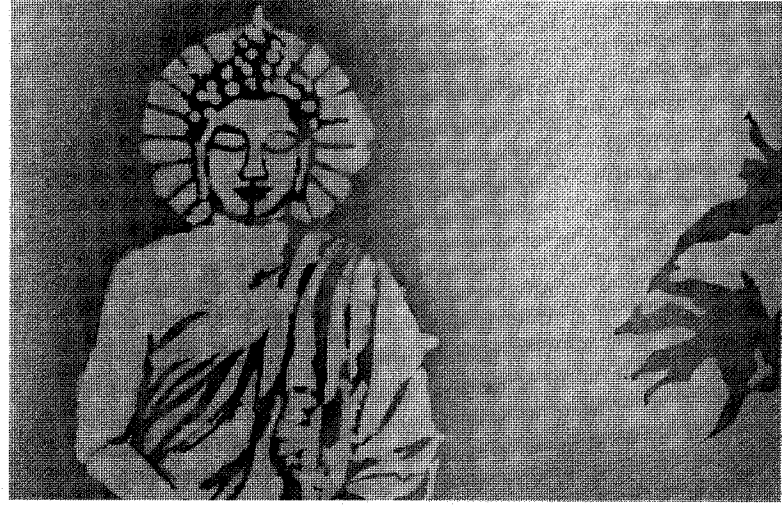
Perhaps because it resonates strongly with my own non-dualist, holistic view of reality, I found Satish's book an inspiration. For anyone who feels overwhelmed by the problems which face humanity at this time, Satish explains how an integrated worldview can provide both a personal healing and a healing for humanity and the earth. The book gives a clear exposition of the three qualities of life and what they mean in their practical application in the world today. He then develops the Sattvic way of life and Sattvic ecology. As a pointer to a way to heal the negative energy that humanity knowingly and unknowingly is wreaking on itself and the earth, this is a beautiful and timely book.

Poems for Peace

Satish was very strongly influenced by **Mahatma Gandhi** and one of the themes in his book is the use of peace and non-violence. The online journal **Inquiring Mind** recently published a fine collection of poetry on the theme of peace and non-violence. The selection (made by poet **Ted Sexauer**) includes poetry written by inmates of the Guantanamo Bay detention centre, also poems by **Ko-Un** the Korean Buddhist poet who was featured in our last issue, and many other contemporary poets including our man in San Francisco **Gary Gach**. www.inquiringmind.com/Articles/PoetrySaves.html/

Clay Sanskrit Library

Books on paper are a relatively recent idea of course. We have just heard from **The Clay Sanskrit Library (CSL)** an ambitious publishing project which aims to translate many of the most ancient Sanskrit palm leaf manuscripts. They hope to produce 100 titles of classical Sanskrit literature by 2012. Their latest project is a translation of Ashvaghosha's famous epic-poem on the life of the Buddha, **Buddhacarita** by **Prof. Patrick Olivelle** from the University of Texas. Also due for release soon is Ashvaghosha's other great Buddhist poem **Saundarananda**, which will appear in the CSL series under the title *Handsome*



Nanda. The translator is **Linda Covill**, an Oxford based Sanskrit scholar. *Urthona* readers will be able to find out more about these new editions in a future issue and we hope to interview the translators. For more on the series see CSL website: <http://www.claysanskritlibrary.org/>

Betsy Sterling Benjamin

Another artist who was recently in contact with us is **Betsy Sterling Benjamin**. Her textile work reflects her exploration of the world and of Buddhism. Her recent exhibition, 'Song of the Buddha Heart' at the Manchester Buddhist Centre proved very successful. Further news is that the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem MA, added a major piece of her work ... actually seven pieces, to their permanent collection. The Kesa for the Millennium was created for the seven continents to promote unity, healing and peace and has been a great door opening to her Buddhist practice. This collection of contemporary kesa has been exhibited in England, Germany, Costa Rica, Japan, Indonesia and the USA; however, it will now have a permanent museum home where it will be available to the general public and preserved. Two friends have worked to get documentary video clips that the PEM created for an exhibition on her website: www.betsysterlingbenjamin.com

That's about it from Arts News but we are very happy to hear from you with comments on the magazine or things you would like mentioned in Arts News. Email us at Urthonamag@onetel.com

Sue Bonnett dropped into Buddhism about four years ago while researching issues around identity.