

BIOGRAPHIES  
OF  
KEY TRANSLATORS  
OF  
BUDDHADASA'S  
TEACHINGS

**ENGLISH**



### Nagasena Bhikkhu

Venerable Nagasena, an Indian citizen, spent a number of years in Thailand, primarily in the 1970s. He was often based at Wat Benjamabopit (The Marble Temple) in Bangkok. After students of Ajahn Buddhadasa introduced him to their teacher's work, he visited Suan Mokkh and carried out a number of the early translations into English.

His major translations of Ajahn Buddhadasa's teachings include:

- Towards Buddha-Dhamma (1964)
- The Fruit of Meditation in *Extinction Without Remainder - Bodhi Leaves No. B. 33* (1967)
- Mindfulness of Breathing (Anapanasati) by Ven. Acariya Buddhadasa (1975)
- Anapanasati (Mindfulness of Breathing) Vol. I - The Sixteen Steps To Awakening (1976)



### Roderick S. Bucknell (Formerly Ariyananda Bhikkhu)

Rod Bucknell first became seriously interested in Buddhism in the mid-1960's, when, during a visit to Thailand, he was introduced to the techniques of insight meditation. After spending a year in various Thai meditation centers and monasteries, he took ordination as a bhikkhu (monk) under the guidance of Ajahn Pannananda of Wat Cholapratan Rangsarit. He soon became interested also in the teachings of Ajahn Buddhadasa, and, recognizing their potential value to westerners, began translating some of the Ajahn's more important works into English. During the four years he spent in the Sangha (1967-1971), he translated altogether six works of varying length, usually in close consultation with the Ajahn in order to ensure accuracy in the rendering of key concepts. Despite his return to lay life, he maintains a close interest — both scholarly and practical — in Ajahn Buddhadasa's teachings, and has published several related articles in religious studies journals. He is currently retired after having worked for eighteen years as a lecturer in the Department of Studies in Religion at the University of Queensland, Australia.

Source:

Santikaro (ed). (2007). *Keys to Natural Truth*. Bangkok: Sukhapabjai Publishing House. p.226.

Bucknell's translations of Ajahn Buddhadasa's teachings include:

- Buddha-Dhamma for Students (Bangkok, 1968)
- Two Kinds of Language: Everyday Language & Dhamma Language (Bangkok, 1969)
- Handbook for Mankind (1969)
- Another Kind of Birth (Bangkok, c1970)
- Why Were We Born? (Bangkok, 1971)
- Looking Within, in *Keys to Natural Truth* (1988)



### Donald K. Swearer

Donald Swearer is a professor, researcher and prolific author in religious study and Buddhism. Although he has taught widely in the field of Asian and comparative religions, his research has focused on Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia, especially in Thailand; comparative religious ethics; and Buddhist-Christian dialogue. He served a long academic career at Swarthmore College in the United States and was a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies at Harvard Divinity School.

Professor Swearer wrote about how he knew Ajahn Buddhadasa and his teachings in the book “Me and Mine”, which he edited, as provided in the following excerpt:

*I was first introduced to Buddhadasa Bhikkhu in 1960 when a group of monks at Wat Mahadhatu monastery in Bangkok gave me a small collection of his books. Fascinated by Buddhadasa’s provocative*

*interpretation of Buddhadhamma, I was able seven years later to visit his forest monastery, Wat Suan Mokkhabalarama (The Garden for Empowering Liberation) located near Chaiya, Surat Thani Province, in southern Thailand. For several days I had the privilege of long walks with acharn (teacher), the title by which he is most often addressed, and hours of uninterrupted discussion about matters of Buddhist thought and practice. This experience both reinforced my interest in Buddhadasa's explication of Buddhist doctrine and attracted me to him as an exemplar of the Buddhist monastic life. Since that time I have continued to study his writings and have revisited Wat Suan Mokkhabalarama, most recently in 1986 (Me and Mine, 1989, pp.1-2).*

Professor Swearer has contributed, as a translator and editor, to various translated teachings of Ajahn Buddhadasa in English, as listed below:

- (Editor) *Toward the Truth* (1971)
- (Chief translator and editor) *Dhammic Socialism* (1985)
- (Editor) *Me and Mine* (1989)



### Santikaro (Robert Larson)

Santikaro (Robert Larson) lived at Suan Mokkh between 1985 and 1999. Having arrived with a Thai language background from four years of service in the U.S. Peace Corps, he was soon put to work translating as well as helping to look after foreign visitors. When Ajahn Buddhadasa began giving lectures to foreign retreatants, Santikaro Bhikkhu was trained to render these lectures into English. His ability to do so was aided by Ajahn Buddhadasa's advice and support, who also guided him in leading many of the meditation retreats at Suan Mokkh International Dharma Hermitage. For ten years, Santikaro Bhikkhu was acting Abbot of Suan Atammayatarama (or Dawn Kiem), a small training compound for foreigners next to Suan Mokkh International. He returned to the United States in 2000. There, he established Liberation Park, a Dhamma refuge offering guidance in studying and practicing Buddha-Dhamma in line with Ajahn Buddhadasa's teaching ([www.liberationpark.org](http://www.liberationpark.org)). He retired from the monkhood in 2004 and is currently



married. Liberation Park moved to rural Wisconsin in 2006 and is slowly building facilities to serve Dhamma students in the Upper Midwestern USA.

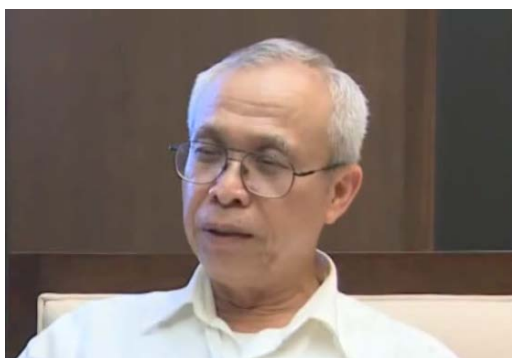
Adapted from:

Buddhadasa Bhikkhu. (1997). *Mindfulness with Breathing: A Manual for Serious Beginners*. USA: Wisdom Publications. p.159.

Santikaro has been a most active translator and editor of Ajahn Buddhadasa's teachings with many on-going English translation projects. He has also served a coordination role among translators of European languages. Some of his major translated works include the following titles:

- Mindfulness with Breathing - A Manual for Serious Beginners (revised 1997)
- Heartwood of the Bodhi Tree (revised & edited 1994)
- *Keys to Natural Truth* (1988)
- Buddhadasa Bhikkhu's Ethical Poems from Ethical Calendars 1998-2003 (2006)
- It All Depends: dependent co-arising you can practice (forthcoming in 2015)
- Forest Wat, Wild Monks in *Dok Mokkh International Dhammasara* - May 1999 Issue (1999)
- Happiness and Hunger in *Evolution/Liberation No. 2* (1987)
- From the Lord Buddha's Mouth in *Evolution/Liberation No. 2* (1987)
- Why Vipassana? in *Evolution/Liberation No. 3* (1988)
- Dhamma is Duty, Duty is Dhamma in *Evolution/Liberation No. 3* (1988)
- The Prison of Life in *Evolution/Liberation No. 4* (1990)

- The Style of Practice at Suan Mokkh Part I in *Evolution/Liberation No. 4* (1990)
- Dawnings: May We Leave You this Legacy in *Evolution/Liberation No. 4* (1990)
- Free Is Now in *Evolution/Liberation No. 4* (1990)
- Right Speech From His Own Lips in *Evolution/Liberation No. 4* (1990)
- Nibbana For Everyone in *Evolution/Liberation No. 5* (1991)
- Anatta & Rebirth in *Evolution/Liberation No. 5* (1991)
- Contemplation of Impermanence - The Fourth Tetrad Dhammanupassana-satipatthana in *Evolution/Liberation No. 5* (1991)
- No Religion (revised 1993)
- Message of Truth from Suan Mokkh - Comments on Education
- Message of Truth from Suan Mokkh - Karma in Buddhism
- Message of Truth from Suan Mokkh - Let's Become A Buddhadasa
- Message of Truth from Suan Mokkh - Nibbana for Everyone
- Message of Truth from Suan Mokkh - Single Solution for All of the World Problems
- Thoughts & Experiences (translated with Poonsiri Phanumphai, 2003)



### Mongkol Dejnakarindra

Professor Emeritus Mongkol Dejnakarindra taught Electrical Engineering at the Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok between 1968 and 2002. He was an outstanding scholar and researcher who had authored and translated a number of academic books and articles. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Thailand. His interest covers different areas including science and technology, electrical mathematics, and Buddhism.

In the 1980's he was a member of a group of Bangkok academics who studied and worked with Ajahn Runjuan Indarakamhaeng. Professor Mongkol has co-translated with Dhamma friends various teachings of Ajahn Buddhadasa into English, including these following titles.

- The Buddha's Doctrine of Anatta (translated with others, 1990)
- A Buddhist Charter (translated with Somsri Thammasarnsophon, 1990)
- Disadhamma - Mankind's Pathway Dhamma (published year unidentified)
- The First Ten Years Of Suan Mokkh (1990)
- Messages of Truth from Suan Mokkh (translated with others, 1990)
- Some Marvellous Aspects of Theravada Buddhism (edited and revised with Samanera Nattakaro, 1991)

## Steve / Stephen R. Schmidt

A former Catholic seminarian, Steve served with the U.S. Peace Corps in the late 1970s and then continued living in Thailand and working with non-government development agencies, such as in Thung Song, Nakhorn Srithammarat. He was a frequent visitor at Suan Mokkh, keen student of Tan Ajahn's approach to Buddha-Dhamma, and also helped with some of the early meditation retreats organized by Ajahn Poh. Steve returned to the USA around 1987.

Steve Schmidt's major contributions to translated teachings of Ven. Ajahn Buddhadasa in English include:

- The A, B, C of Buddhism - The Meditative Development of Mindfulness of Breathing (1982)
- Paticcasamuppada: Practical Dependent Origination (1986)

## James Ratana Nantho Bhikkhu

Dr. James Ratana Nantho Bhikkhu is an Indonesian Buddhist monk. He is fluent in many languages and has been living in Thailand for a long time. He is deeply interested in teachings of Ajahn Buddhadasa and has translated his various books from Thai into English. J. Ratana Nantho Bhikkhu stayed during the rain retreat at Suan Mokkh International Dharma Hermitage in 2000 to translate the book “Life Should Be Harnessed by Two Buffaloes,” which was later published in the same year by the Buddhadasa Foundation. He currently lives in Nakhon Si Thammarat province in the South of Thailand.

J. Ratana Nantho Bhikkhu’s major translations include the following titles:

- Life Should Be Harnessed By Two Buffaloes (2000)
- A Handbook for a Perfect Form of Anapanasati Bhavana Meditation (2003)
- A Consigned Legacy (2007)
- "I" and "Mine" (published year unidentified)
- Nibbana (published year unidentified)
- The Three Wishes of Buddhadasa Bhikkhu's (published year unidentified)



Dhammavidu Bhikkhu

Tan Dhammavidu Bhikkhu, originally from England, ordained as a novice in September 1994 and as a monk in March 1995. He lives at Suan Mokkh, Chaiya in South Thailand. He has helped to teach meditation to foreign retreatants at Suan Mokkh International Dharma Hermitage and Dipabhavan Meditation Center at Samui Island in the last decade. His inimitable teachings are remembered by many who joined one of the monthly retreats at either place. Having been interested in rendering the works of Ajahn Buddhadasa into English for many years, he started translating in 2010. Some of his completed translations have been available online (<http://www.suanmokkh-idh.org/idh-readings.html>). As his study of Ajahn Buddhadasa's teaching deepens, he is beginning to translate from "The Dhamma Proclamation Series," a multivolume collection of Ajahn Buddhadasa's major teachings. Currently, he is working on "Little Dhamma Book," or concise teachings of different topics in this series.

# FRENCH



### Edmond Pezet

Edmond Pezet (1923-2008) was born to a family of poor French farmers. His first exposure to Southeast Asia was during the Vietnam War where he saw many atrocities and determined to return to help the people that were harmed. In 1949 he ordained as a priest and in 1956 was sent to Northeast Thailand where for more than twelve years, he shared the hard life of the villagers. In 1970, Edmond Pezet went to a university in Bangkok to study Sanskrit and Buddhist doctrine. He stayed at that time in the wat (monastery) of an urban monk. Later, he shared the contemplative life of the “Monks of the Forest” who follow the rigorous practice of the Elders. After that, Pezet provided paramedical service in a camp for Cambodian refugees. He returned to France in 1984, where he undertook various translations of Thai and ancient Pali texts. Back in Thailand again during 1988-1989, Pezet wrote various texts in Thai and did several translations. In 1989 he was back in France for good. There he fulfilled pastoral duties until 2004, and then entered a retirement home, where he died in December 2008, aged 85.



Pezet's translations of Ajahn Buddhadasa, from Thai into French, are:

- Un Bouddhiste dit le Christianisme aux Bouddhistes (Christianity and Buddhism) (Paris, 1987)
- Vacuite - Sunnata - Le coeur du Bouddhisme (Heartwood of the Bodhi Tree) (Bangkok, 2006)

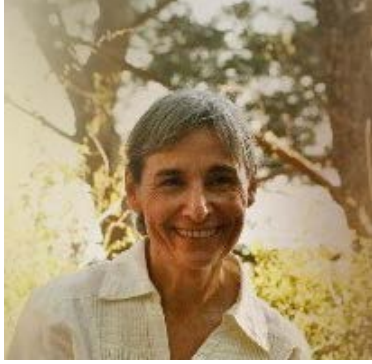


Louis Gabaude

Dr. Louis Gabaude, born in France in 1942, began his Asian life by volunteering for civil service in Paksane, Laos, from 1964 to 1966, then switched to Asian and Buddhist studies at the l'École pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE) in Paris, before coming back to Laos and Thailand since 1970. He visited Suan Mokkh for the first time in 1976 and completed his PhD on Buddhadasa's system of interpretation in 1979. He has conducted research within the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO) or French School of Asian Studies since 1980 and headed the School's Centre in Chiang Mai from 1998 to 2005, creating there a library for research. His main focus has been the history of Buddhist ideas in Thailand. He has published articles, books and given courses in various universities in Europe and Thailand. Retired from the EFEO since 2007, he still lives in Chiang Mai.

Gabaude has contributed several articles and a major and widely-praised reference work on Ajahn Buddhadasa that also contains an exhaustive

bibliography and several short texts translated from Thai into French. This major contribution is titled 'Une hermeneutique bouddhique contemporaine de Thaïlande: Buddhadasa Bhikkhu' (A Contemporary Buddhist Hermeneutics) (Paris, 1987).



## Jeanne Schut

Jeanne Schut has been practicing in the Buddhist Thai Forest Tradition for almost 30 years and has spent several months meditating in a forest monastery in Thailand. In the past ten years, she has also translated books on Buddhism from English into French and has been the interpreter for visiting Buddhist monks teaching in France. She has also represented Theravada Buddhism on French TV programs. Jeanne also enjoys teaching Buddhist meditation retreats following the monastic pattern she is well used to. Jeanne exposes Theravada Buddhism as taught in the Thai Forest Tradition, in particular by Ajahn Chah and Ajahn Buddhadasa.

Jeanne Schut has translated various teachings of Ajahn Buddhadasa from English into French and her translations have been available online on 'Forest Dhamma' website ([www.dhammadelaforet.org](http://www.dhammadelaforet.org)). Her major translations include:

- Le Coeur du message du Bouddha (Heartwood of the Bodhi Tree)
- Manuel pour l'Humanité (Handbook for Mankind)
- Patikkasamuppada au quotidien (Patikkasamuppada: Practical Dependent Origination)

**GERMAN**



### Viriya (Manfred Wiseberger)

Viriya (formerly Viriyanando Bhikkhu) lives in Munich, Bavaria, works with Buddhist groups in southern Germany and neighboring countries, and coordinates translation projects into German, especially the works of Ajahn Buddhadasa. He was introduced to Buddhist meditation at one of the very first retreats organized by Ajahn Poh on Koh Samui and later ordained with Luang Por Paññananda of Wat Cholpratan. After settling into the monkhood, he began helping to run retreats on Koh Samui and later the monthly retreats at Suan Mokkh. He helped run retreats & look after foreign visitors for many years. He returned to laylife in 1988, returned to Munich, and has been active in Buddhist activities there ever since.

Viriyanando's major German translations:

- Anapanasati - Die sanfte Heilung der spirituellen Krankheit (Mindfulness with Breathing, A Manual for Serious Beginners)
- Anapanasati - Geistesgegenwart beim Atmen (Mindfulness with Breathing, Unveiling the Secrets of Life)
- Handbuch fuer die Menschheit (Handbook for Mankind) (translated with others)
- Das Kernholz des Bodhibaumes (Heartwood of the Bodhi Tree)
- Die meditative Entwicklung der Geistesgegenwart beim Atmen (A,B,C of Buddhism)
- Das Lebensgefaengnis - Das Gefaengnis des Lebens (Prison of Life)
- Anatta und Wiedergeburt (Anatta and Rebirth)
- Hilf! Kalamasutta, Hilf! (Help! Kalamasutta, Help!)
- Kamma in Buddhismus (Kamma in Buddhism)
- Die Art von metta, die Ihr noch nicht kennt (The Type of Metta Which You Do Not yet Know)
- Nibbana fuer jedermann (Nibbana for Everyone)
- Glueck und Hunger (Happiness and Hunger)
- Diener des Buddha (Let's Become a Buddhadasa)

# PORTUGUESE





### Ricardo Sasaki

Initially exposed to Japanese Buddhism, Ricardo practiced for a few years in various schools. When Ricardo decided to deepen his study of Buddha-Dhamma, he chose to do so at Suan Mokkh. He spent more than a year living there (visiting regularly after that) and worked closely with Santikaro and Viriyanando Bhikkhus in deepening his study, coordinating monthly retreats, and organizing daily programs for foreign visitors. After returning to Brazil, Ricardo founded meditation and study groups in Belo Horizonte (Brazil's fourth largest city) and taught retreats and workshops in other parts of Brazil and Europe. He has translated, edited, and published many titles in Portuguese, including works by Ajahn Buddhadasa. He is a regular participant at conferences in India, Burma, Thailand, and elsewhere. He actively networks among Buddhist groups and teachers throughout South America. He also runs the website: <http://buddhadasa.nalanda.org.br>, on which many translations and news on Ajahn Buddhadasa are constantly publicized.

Ricardo's Portuguese translations:

- 48 Respostas sobre o Buddhismo (Buddha-Dhamma for Students)
- A Causa do Sofrimento na Perspectiva Buddhista (Handbook for Mankind, Prison of Life, and Happiness and Hunger)

As Editor and Revisor:

- Felicidade no Dhamma (Dhammic Happiness) – translated by Patricia Couto Bernardes
- Socorro! Kalama Sutta, Socorro! (Help! Kalama Sutta, Help!) - translated by Fernando Domicildes Carvalho
- Nibbana Para Todos (Nibbana For Everyone) - translated by Fernando Domicildes Carvalho
- Pontos Essenciais dos Ensinamentos Buddhistas – translated by Amandina Morbeck
- Sejamos Todos Buddhadasas (Let’s All be Buddhadasas) - translated by Newton Sodre
- Originaçao Dependente (Dependent Origination) - translated by Elias Zica
- As 24 dimensoes do dhamma (24 Dimensions of Dhamma) - translated by Nalanda group of translators
- O Caminho do Meio (The Middle Way) – translated by Gabriela Carneiro
- Nao Ha Religiao (No Religion) - translated by Daniel Silva, Carlos Faria e Davi Deutscher
- Anatta & Renascimento (Anatta & Rebirth) - translated by Jorge Luiz Furtado

**RUSSIAN**

## Denis Naumenko

Denis Naumenko was born in 1971 and is a citizen of Russian Federation. He graduated from University of Telecommunication in 1995 with Master of Telecommunications degree. In the last ten years he has been living and working outside of his country: in UAE, Malaysia, and Thailand. He has travelled to China, Tibet, Nepal, India, and Indonesia.

Denis had practiced different meditation techniques since 1999, and has practiced Buddhist meditation since 2006.

Denis first arrived in Suan Mokkh in 2006 and since then has attended ten-day retreats for six times at Suan Mokkh International Dharma Hermitage and has attended five seven-day retreats in Dipabhavan Meditation Center. Also, he attended four Goenka retreats in India, Nepal and Malaysia, and several other retreats of different Buddhist masters in Thailand and Malaysia.

In February 2012 Denis started to help as a retreat coordinator at Wat Suan Mokkh and Dipabhavan.

Denis has translated three books of Ajahn Buddhadasa into Russian, as provided in the list below. The first two books have been published, while he is finishing translation of the third book.

Denis' Russian translations:

- **Анапанасати: Развитие осознанности с дыханием**

(Anapanasati—Mindfulness with Breathing)

- **Основы Буддизма** (A, B, C of Buddhism)
- **Руководство к жизни** (Handbook For Mankind)