



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Bones of the Buddha

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The Zen Garden at Kinkaku-ji

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Friday, May 1, 2014 7:30 – 9:00 PM

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Secrets of the Dead: Bones of the Buddha: Did nineteenth century British landowner W.C. Peppé really discover gold, jewels and the charred bones of the Buddha on his estate in Uttar Pradesh? The British landowner, who fancied himself an archeologist, did an exploration of a mysterious mound which he found on his estate. His amateurish approach and involvement of a crooked German archeologist discredited the entire excavation of the Piprahwa stupa. Buried in the mound were 1600 small jewels and pieces of gold, and a reliquary containing ashes and fragments of human bone purportedly interred by the Indian Emperor Ashoka. More recently, the Piprahwa stupa was re-investigated by a professional team, and further digging revealed an additional layer of objects most likely dating back to the time of the Buddha. This film is being licensed through Nova/PBS. 60 Minutes.

The Zen Gardens at Kinkaku-ji, a UNESCO World Heritage Site: The site of Kinkaku-ji was originally a villa, and was purchased by Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu. When Yoshimitsu died, the building was converted into a Zen temple by his son, according to his wishes, the “Temple of the Golden Pavilion.” The Temple and gardens constitute the Kinkaku-ji complex, a superb Muromachi period Zen garden. This film is being screened courtesy of *The Institute for Zen Studies*, <http://www.zenbunka.or.jp>. 20 Minutes.

Admission is free.

