Buddhism in the Early European Imagination: A Historical Perspective

ARTICLES
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Historical and Archaeological Context of Early Buddhism. Economic and Archaeological Context of Early Buddhism. Archaeology of the Buddha. A comprehensive historical review of the Buddhist sangha and its monuments using textual, architectural, and archaeological sources from the earliest times to 1200 CE. Mitra, Debala. Buddhist Monuments. Calcutta: Sahitya Samsad, 1971. E-mail Citation ». A comprehensive overview containing a study of the development of Buddhist monuments within South Asia from the earliest times and a valuable regional-based description of key sites.  

Early Modern European Encounters with Buddhism. East Asian Buddhist Art, Portraiture in. Ellora Caves. Eventually, European scholars gained the skills to translate Buddhist texts, and European readers began to have a better understanding of Buddhist thought and beliefs. At the same time, however, the Buddha became more European. Lopez pointed out that today’s Western vision of the Buddha is the Buddha that was born in 19th-century European imagination. In the Q&A session following the lecture, Lopez was asked about the role of any museum in addressing these misrepresentations of the Buddha. Lopez suggested that museums re-essentialize the Buddha—if they make him foreign again, visitors can see the differences between each representation, and see in sculptures and images the Buddha as imagined by the Chinese, Japanese, Tibetans, etc. Buddhist History and Culture: Selected Reading List: Suggestions for Reading to Facilitate Study in Particular Areas of the History of Buddhism. Bamzai, Prithivi Nath Kaul, A History of Kashmir - Political, Social, Cultural - From the Earliest Times to the Present Day. Metropolitan, Delhi, 1962. Dutt, Nutiniyakha, Buddhism in Kashmir. Eastern Book Linkers, Delhi, 1985. Ganhar, J.N., Buddhism in Kashmir and Ladakh, Munshiram Manoharlal, New Delhi, 1996.