

Recent Books on Religion - Sept 2011

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Iconography of 108 Lokesvaras / Min Bahadur Shakya
Lalitpur: Young Men's Buddhist Association, 2011
xli. 149p. ; 21cm.
ISBN-13: 9789937231251
\$ 30.00

The present monograph is the continuation of the small work published in 1979 by Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) on the occasion of Lumbini year. At that time only line drawings of 108 forms of Lokesvaras are given in the booklet called Icons of 108 Lokesvaras. Those line drawings were replicas of the pictures drawn by the late Mr. Siddhimuni Shakya, displayed at Janabaha in Kathmandu.

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Ancient Stone Images of Buddha & Bodhisattva in Nepal / Milan Ratna Shakya
Kathmandu: Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies, 2011
xii. 213p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789937524261
\$ 18.00

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Buddhism in Nepal / Khadga Man Shrestha
Kathmandu: Nepal Buddhist Development & Research Center, 2011
149p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789937230360
\$ 14.00

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=132562>

Simavicarana : A Pali Letter on Monastic Boundaries by King Rama IV of Siam / Petra Kieffer-Pulz

Bangkok : Fragile Palm Leaves Foundation &
Lumbini : Lumbini International Research Institute, 2011
xxxii. 64p. ; 22cm.

ISBN-13: 9789743503993
Materials for the Study of the Tripitaka Volume 7
\$ 15.00 / PB
158 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=134285>

The Garland of the Pitaka (CD Included) / Santi Pakdeekham
Bangkok: Fragile Palm Leaves Foundation &
Lumbini: Lumbini International Research Institute, 2011

lxi. 313p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789743504006
Materials for the Study of the Tripitaka Volume 8
\$ 30.00 / PB
472 gm.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=134286>

Hardships and Downfall of Buddhism in India / Giovanni Verardi
New Delhi: Manohar Publishers & Distributors in association with ISEAS, Singapore,
2011
523p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9788173049286
\$ 34.00 / HB

Buddhism originated as an antinomial system, facing the opposition of both vaidika and theistic Brahmins, who socially identified themselves with the agrarian world. The two models of society generated in early historical India never merged, and Buddhism was gradually and often violently reduced to impotence. It was Gupta rule that first checkmated the antinomial model of the Buddhists. Whereas in the open society traders, landowners and tribals coexisted, from Gupta times onwards pressure on kings and direct Brahmanical rule led to the requisition of land and the imposition of a varna state society. Doctrinal debates, which soon turned into ordeals, were instrumental in the suppression of the Buddhist elite, mainly formed by intellectuals of Brahmanical descent, this being proof of a dramatic rift in the brahmanavarna. The Vajrayana, which was the Buddhist response to this state of affairs, originated and grew under Pala rule and expansionism, and was characterized by a decisive opening towards the outcast and the theorization of violence. This set off a conflict whose scope and significance are still poorly understood. It was eventually the compromise between the orthodox powers and the Muslims that caused the final downfall of Buddhism. The former were obliged to transfer political power to the latter but had a free hand in social repression. The book draws mainly on Brahmanical sources, both literary and iconographic, which are abundant and insufficiently exploited, as well as on archaeological evidence, hardly ever resorted to.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=134623>

Unification and Disintegration : A Theory of Life on Buddhist Philosophy / R. Subasinghe
Colombo: Godage International Publishers (Pvt) Ltd., 2011
x. 224p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789553029812
\$ 18.00 / PB
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=135047>

Buddhism Contemporary Studies – Selected Papers 3rd International Conference Sri Lanka Association of Buddhist Studies / Sanath Nanayakkara & Russell Bowden (Editors)
Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Association of Buddhist Studies, 2010
264p. ; 22cm.
ISBN-13: 9789550549009

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A Guide to the Study of Pali : The Language of Theravada Buddhism / Kakkapalliye Anuruddha Thera
Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong, 2010
viii. 225p. ; 24cm.
ISBN-13: 9789889929671
HKU: CBS Publication Series
\$ 49.50 / HB
704 gm.
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The Theravada Abhidhamma : Its Inquiry into the Nature of Conditioned Reality / Y. Karunadasa
Hong Kong: Centre of Buddhist Studies, The University of Hong Kong, 2010
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The Birth of the Buddha : Proceedings of the Seminar Held in Lumbini, Nepal, October 2004 / Christoph Cueppers, Max Deeg & Hubert Durt (Editors)
Lumbini, Nepal: Lumbini International Research Institute, 2010
462p. ; 24cm.

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Kathmandu: Vajra Publications, 2011
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