

Recent Buddhism - October 2018

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The stream of deathless nectar : the short recension of the Amatarasadhara of the elder Upatissa : a commentary on the Chronicle of the future Buddha Metteyya, with a historical introduction / Upatissa; Daniel Malinowski Stuart
Fragile Palm Leaves Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand 2017
I xvii, 274 pages ; 22 cm.
9788880010951
\$ 60.00 / null
480 gm.

Maitreya is the future buddha, the buddha who will follow our present Buddha Sakyamuni. For more than two thousand years Maitreya (Pali Metteyya) has been an inspiration for Buddhist devotees who look forward to his coming and aspire to meet him and receive his blessings and teachings. Their devotions have animated art, ritual, meditation practice and literature across Asia. The Theravamsa of Sri Lanka and South-East Asia transmits a `Chronicle of the Future' (Anagatavamsa) in a bewildering number of recensions. Written in Pali, the `Chronicle' is a paean of the golden future that Maitreya will inaugurate for those who practice sincerely. The present volume contains a study, a critical edition, and an annotated translation of a commentary on the `Chronicle', the Amatarasadhara, or `Stream of Deathless Nectar' composed in Pali by the Sri Lankan elder Upatissa.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=341679>

Tamra Traipitaka : A Handbook of Tipitaka / Santi Pakdeekham
Fragile Palm Leaves Foundation, Thailand 2017
xxxviii, 190p. ; (8) col. folded pls.(size: 25x22cm) ; 22cm.
Includes Index
9788889911064
\$ 60.00 / null
350 gm.

This book is a southern Thai text that describes the Buddhist scriptures as they were traditionally transmitted in palm-leaf manuscripts kept in temple libraries. Different versions are known. This volume has published, transcribed for the first time in Roman characters, the Pali text of a Tamra Traipitaka. This specific version is contained in a manuscript found in Wat Photharam, Chaiya, Suratthani Province: the text is written in Khom script and divided into four sections. The Preface, Introduction, and Index are in English and Thai.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=421948>

Buddhism Illuminated : Manuscript Art from Southeast Asia / San San May and Jana Igunma
The British Library, London 2018
272p.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9780712352062
\$ 65.00 / HB
1700 gm.

Buddhist temples in Southeast Asia are centres for the preservation of local artistic traditions. Chief among these are manuscripts, a vital source for our understanding of Buddhist ideas and practices in the region. They are also a beautiful art form, too little understood in the West. The British Library has one of the richest collections of Southeast Asian manuscripts, principally from Thailand and Burma, anywhere in the world. It includes finely painted copies of Buddhist scriptures, literary works, historical narratives, and works on traditional medicine, law, cosmology and fortune-telling. This stunning new book illustrates over 100 examples of Buddhist art in the Library's collection, relating each manuscript to Theravada tradition and beliefs, and introducing the historical, artistic and religious contexts of their production. It is the first book in English to showcase the beauty and variety of manuscript art and reproduces many works that have never been photographed before.

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