

Hirsch Library Research Guide



Standing Buddha 2003.418

Artist/Culture: Unknown Thai/Thai

Date/Period: Late 8th Century

Place: Northeast Region, Thailand

Medium: Bronze

Dimensions: 58.8 × 16.5 × 14.2 cm

This important Buddha image is shown standing, frontal with both hands performing the Vitarka Mudra, a teaching gesture. The Buddha's robe, worn in the covering mode, is depicted in a highly stylized manner to achieve a pleasing symmetry. The Buddha's hair is arranged in tiers of tight curls that diminish toward the usnisa. The figure has a conjoined tang attached to the bottom of the feet indicating that the image was cast upside down. The tang is the remains of the runner through which the molten metal was poured during the casting process.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[MET Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

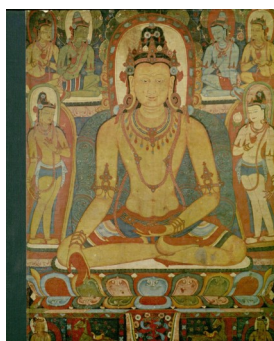
Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or HPL Systems)

[Aung, Maun Htin, Jose Maceda, James R. Brandon, and Philip S. Rawson. "Southeast Asia." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 2018.](#)

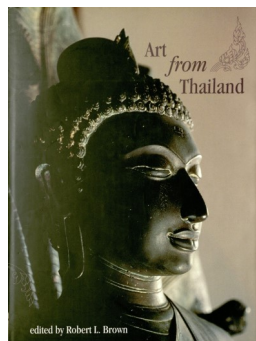
[Aung, Maun Htin, Jose Maceda, James R. Brandon, and Philip S. Rawson. "Southeast Asia." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 2018.](#)

[The Editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. "Dvaravati." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. 2018.](#)

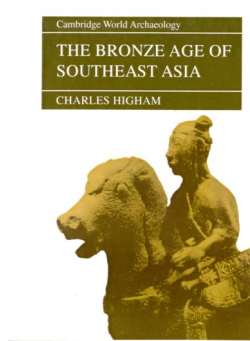
Print Resources:



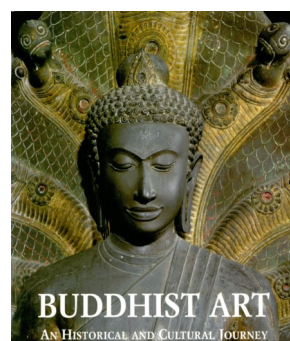
[The Evolution of the Buddha Image](#)



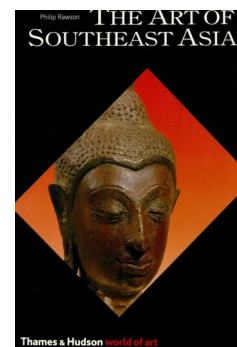
[Art From Thailand](#)



[The Bronze Age of Southeast Asia](#)



[Buddhist Art: An Historical and Cultural Journey](#)



[The Art of southeast Asia: Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Java, Bali](#)

Bibliography

Object Specific Information

[Marzio, Peter C. *Masterpieces From the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Director's Choice*. Houston, TX: Museum of Fine Arts, 2009.](#)

N 576 .H7 A845 2009

Arts of Southeast Asia

[Higham, Charles. *The Bronze Age of Southeast Asia*. Cambridge University Press, 1996.](#)

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[O'Conner, Stanley J. *Studies in Southeast Asian Art*. Edited by Nora A. Taylor. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Southeast Asia Program, 2000.](#)

N 7311 .S78 2000

[Rawson, Philip. *The Art of Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Java, Bali*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2002.](#)

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Arts of Thailand

[Bowie, Theodore, ed. *The Arts of Thailand: A Handbook of the Architecture, Sculpture, and Painting of Thailand \(Siam\), and a Catalogue of the Exhibition in the United States in 1960-61-62*. Bloomington: Indiana University, 1960.](#)

N 7321 .B6 1960

[Brown, Robert L., ed. *Art From Thailand*. Mumbai: Marg Publications, 1999.](#)

N 7321 .A778 1999

[Woodward, Hiram. *The Art and Architecture of Thailand: From Prehistoric times through the Thirteenth Century*. 2nd ed. Vol. 14. Leiden, The Netherlands: Koninklijke Brill Nv, 2003, 2005.](#)

N 7321 .W66 2005

Buddhism

[Society, Asia, Asia House Gallery, and Benjamin Rowland. *The Evolution of the Buddha Image*. New York: Asia House Gallery., 1963.](#)

N 8193 .A5 A84 1963

Buddhist Art

[Beguin, Gilles. *Buddhist Art: An Historical and Cultural Journey*. Translated by Narisa Chakrabongse. Tattien, Bangkok: River Books, 2009.](#)

N 8193 .A4 B43 2009

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "Buddhism" "Thailand," and "bronze sculptures" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Buddhist art

Buddhism in art

Art, Thai

Buddhist bronzes

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7323 or Hirsch@mfa.org