

Acknowledgments

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Glossary

abhaya mudra (Skt): Gesture with hand raised, palm out; with two hands raised, ‘calming the ocean’ (Thai *ham samut*).

abhidhamma (Pali): Pali-language treatises on various philosophical issues.

anjali mudra (Skt): Gesture of respect and salutation.

attachan (Thai): A covered freestanding altar with stepped shelves.

bencharong (Thai): Five-color, enamel-glazed porcelain produced in China for the Thai market.

bhumisparsha mudra (Skt): Earth-touching gesture; refers to the Buddha’s enlightenment at Bodh Gaya.

bodhisatta (Pali): In the Theravada tradition, refers to the Buddha during his lives before final enlightenment.

cakkavattin (Pali): One who turns the wheel of the law; a universal monarch in either a religious or a secular sense.

chedi (Thai *stupa*; Skt *caitya*; Burmese *cetiya*): A reliquary mound with relics of the historical Buddha or a great monk or teacher.

dana (Pali, Skt): Charity.

dhamma (Pali): The Buddhist law.

Erawan (Skt Airavata): Three-headed elephant, mount of Indra, king of the gods; it gained independent status and great popularity in Thailand.

garuda (Skt): Mythical bird, the name derived from that of Vishnu’s vehicle.

Himaphan (Thai; Skt, Himavanta): Forest at the base of Mount Meru, the cosmic mountain, abode of various, fantastic creatures.

hintha (Burmese): Auspicious mythical bird probably derived from the goose (Skt *hamsa*).

hip phra thet (Thai): Chests to hold texts.

hsun ok (Burmese): Food container for offerings to monks.

Jambupati: Heretic king to whom the adorned Buddha displays himself.

jataka (Skt): The 547 stories of the Buddha’s lives.

Kammavaca (Pali; Burmese, *kamawasa*): Text of the rules of the monastic order.

kanok (Thai): Vegetal motif, often flamelike.

khoi (Thai): *Streblus aster*, plant from which paper is made.

khon (Thai): Classical masked drama derived from Indian temple dance with stories based on the *Ramakian* (Skt, *Ramayana*).

kinnara (Skt, fem. *kinnari*): Fantastic creature, half human, half bird.

kyaungtaik (Burmese): Monastery.

lai nam thong (Thai): Gold-washed, enamel-glazed porcelain produced in China for the Thai market.

lai rot nam (Thai): ‘Ornaments washed with water’; the technique of applying black lacquer and gold.

lakhon (Thai): Popular dance drama.

makara (Skt): Crocodile.

mandala (Skt): Political unit describing a periphery with commercial ties to a powerful center.

Moggallana (Pali): One of the Buddha’s two most dedicated disciples, who was converted to Buddhism when he heard the Buddhist creed ‘Whatever proceeds from causes, their causes have been stated, as also [the means of] their cessation.’

Mount Meru: The cosmic mountain, *axis mundi*, in Hindu and Buddhist cosmology.

naga (Skt; Thai *nak*): Mythical serpent.

Nang Sida (Thai; Skt Sita): The wife of Phra Ram; she is kidnaped by the demon king Thotsakan, in the *Ramakian*, the Thai version of the great Indian epic, the *Ramayana*.

nat (Burmese): Indigenous spirit.

nibbana (Pali; Skt *nirvana*): Final extinction.

nielloware: A method of decoration involving engraving a gold or silver object with a design that is then filled with black enamel.

parabaik (Burmese): Manuscript.

pattala (Burmese): Tuned percussion instrument similar to a xylophone.

phan (Thai): Offering container.

phra bot (Thai): Hanging cloth painting.

Phra Lak (Thai; Skt Lakshman): Brother of Phra Ram, hero of the *Ramakian*.

Phra Malai (Thai): Monk who acquired enough merit to visit heaven and hell.

phra phim (Thai): Votive tablets.

Phra Ram (Thai; Skt Rama): Hero of the *Ramakian*, the Thai version of the great Indian epic, and an incarnation of Vishnu.

Rahu (Skt): Embodiment of the ascending node of the moon who devours the sun and moon to cause eclipses.

Ramakian (Thai; Skt Ramayana): Thai version of the Indian epic the *Ramayana* tells of the exile of Phra Ram (Rama), his wife Nang Sida, and his brother Phra Lak. The demon king Thotsakan of Longka (Sri Lanka) kidnaps Nang Sida, but with the assistance of the monkey army led by the monkey General Hanuman, Phra Ram succeeds in retrieving her. Hanuman plays a particularly large role in the Thai version of the story.

sadaik (Burmese): Manuscript chest.

samsara (Skt): Endless cycle of rebirth.

sangha (Skt): Monastic community.

Sariputta (Pali): One of the Buddha’s two most dedicated disciples; see Moggallana.

thammat (Thai; Pali *dhammasana*): Pulpit.

thayo (Burmese): A putty of lacquer sap mixed with clay, sawdust, or ash, which can be molded or sculpted.

theppanom (Thai; Skt *devapranama*): Worshipful figure.

Thet Mahachat (Thai; Pali *desa mahajati*): Recitation of the Vessantara *jataka*.

Thotsakan (Thai; Skt Ravana): The ten-headed demon king of the *Ramakian*.

tho (Thai): A covered bowl of an urn shape.

Thotsachat (Thai; Pali, *dasajati*): Last ten lives, or births, of the Buddha; in Thai, also called *phra chao sip chat* (Ten Lives of Our Lord).

tu phra thom (Thai; Pali *dhamma*): Furniture for holding the scriptures; manuscript cabinet.

ubosot (Thai): Ordination hall used as an assembly hall; in smaller *wat* laymen will assemble here for instruction or to pay homage to the main image of the *wat*.

vitarka mudra (Skt): Teaching gesture.

wat (Thai): Temple compound, monastery.

wihan (Thai; Skt *vihara*): Assembly hall in a monastery.

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