



Buddhist Doctrine and Buddhist Material Culture

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Message from the Guest Editors

Just as different flowers bloom from a tree, Buddhist doctrine and material culture have sprung from a single root called Buddhism. Buddhism spread to different corners of Asia, leading to various cultural innovations, interfusions, and reinterpretations. Once Buddhism had its root firmly planted throughout Asia, it became localized and wore the cloth of those individual cultures. Such localized Buddhism, encompassing doctrines and material cultures that are far from separate entities, in turn triggers further doctrinal development. Although Buddhist doctrine and Buddhist culture have mutually influenced each other, they have often been studied in separate fields as if they were mutually exclusive. Consequently, the relationship between Buddhist doctrines and material culture that grew from the same root still awaits cooperative examination by Buddhologists and art historians. This Special Issue explores possible links between the two neighboring fields, crossing disciplinary boundaries to understand Buddhist doctrine and material culture comprehensively.





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