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978-0-521-58280-3 - Relics, Ritual, and Representation in Buddhism: Rematerializing the Sri Lankan Theravada Tradition

Kevin Trainor

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This book is the first serious study of relic veneration among south Asian Buddhists. Drawing on textual sources and archeological evidence from India and Sri Lanka, including material not previously examined in the West, it looks specifically at the practice of relic veneration in the Sri Lankan Theravāda Buddhist tradition.

The author portrays relic veneration as a technology of remembrance and representation which makes present the Buddha of the past for living Buddhists. By analyzing the abstract ideas, emotional orientations, and ritual behavior centered on the Buddha's material remains, he contributes to the "rematerializing" of Buddhism which is currently underway among western scholars. Professor Trainor's study reflects the scholarly shift toward an appreciation of historical diversity and local difference in Buddhist thought and practice, while at the same time drawing upon the broader interpretive orientation of the discipline of religious studies. In doing so this work demonstrates admirably the benefits that arise from a continued conversation between the study of a particular religion and the study of religion more generically defined.

This book is the best introduction to Buddhist relics currently available. It is well written and accessible and will be read by scholars and serious students of Buddhism and religious studies for years to come.

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Rematerializing the Sri Lankan Theravāda tradition

KEVIN TRAINOR

The University of Vermont



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*For my parents
and
for Anne*

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- AN* *The Aṅguttara-nikāya*. Edited by Richard Morris, rev. by A. K. Warder. 8 vols. 1885–1910. Revised reprint, London: Pali Text Society, 1961–1976.
- As* *Atthasālinī*. Edited by E. Müller. London: Pali Text Society, 1897.
- As Trsl.* Buddhaghosa. *The Expositor (Atthasālinī)*. Translated by Pe Maung Tin. 2 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1920–1921.
- Bv New ed.* *Buddhavaṃsa and Cariyāpīṭaka*. Edited by N. A. Jayawickrama. London: Pali Text Society, 1974.
- Bv Trsl.* *Buddhavaṃsa: Chronicle of Buddhas and Cariyāpīṭaka: Basket of Conduct*. Translated by I. B. Horner. Part 3 of *The Minor Anthologies of the Pali Canon*. London: Pali Text Society, 1975.
- Bv-a* *Madhuratthavilāsini*. Edited by I. B. Horner. London: Pali Text Society, 1946.
- Bv-a Trsl.* *The Clarifier of the Sweet Meaning*. Translated by I. B. Horner. London: Pali Text Society, 1948.
- Dhātuw* *Dhātuvāṃsa*. Edited by Kamburupīṭiya Nandaratana. Colombo: Cultural Publications Co. Ltd., 1984.
- Dhp-a* *Dhammapada Commentary*. Edited by H. C. Norman. 5 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1912–1915.
- Dhp-a Trsl.* *Buddhist Legends*. Translated by Eugene Watson Burlingame. 3 vols. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1921.
- Dīp and Dīp Trsl.* *The Dīpavaṃsa: An Ancient Buddhist Historical Record*. Edited and translated by Hermann Oldenberg. London, 1879. Reprint, New Delhi: Asian Educational Services, 1982.

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- DN* *The Dīgha Nikāya*. Edited by T. W. Rhys Davids and J. Estlin Carpenter. 3 vols. 1889–1910. Reprint, London: Oxford University Press, 1947.
- DN Trsl.* *Dialogues of the Buddha*. Translated by T. W. and C. A. F. Rhys Davids. 5th ed. 3 vols. London: Luzac & Co., 1966.
- EZ* *Epigraphia Zeylanica*.
- It* *Iti-vuttaka*. Edited by E. Windisch. London: Pali Text Society, 1890.
- It Trsl.* *Udāna: Verses of Uplift and Itivuttaka: As It Was Said*. Translated by F. L. Woodward. Volume 2 of *The Minor Anthologies of the Pali Canon*. London: Pali Text Society, 1935.
- Ja* *The Jātaka, together with its Commentary*. Edited by V. Fausböll. 7 vols. 1877–1897. Reprint, London: Pali Text Society, 1963.
- Ja Trsl.* *The Jātaka or Stories of the Buddha's Former Births*. Edited by E. B. Cowell. 7 vols. 1895–1913. Reprint in 3 vols., London: Pali Text Society, 1957.
- Khṃ and Khṃ-a* *Khuddakapāṭha, together with its Commentary, Paramatthajotikā I*. Edited by Helmer Smith. London: Pali Text Society, 1915.
- Kv* *Kathāvatthu*. Edited by A. C. Taylor. Reprint of 1894 ed. London: Pali Text Society, 1979.
- Kv Trsl.* *Points of Controversy or Subjects of Discourse*. Translated by Shwe Zan Aung and Mrs. Rhys Davids. London: Pali Text Society, 1960.
- Mhv* Mahānāma. *The Mahāvamsa*. Edited by Wilhelm Geiger. London: Pali Text Society, 1908.
- Mhv-ṭ* *Cūlavamsa*. Edited by Wilhelm Geiger. 2 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1925–1927.
- Mhv-ṭ* *Vamsatthappakāsinī*. Edited by G. P. Malalasekera. 2 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1935–1936.
- Mil* *Milindapañha*. Edited by V. Trenckner. 1880. Reprint, London: Pali Text Society, 1962.
- Mil Trsl.* *Milinda's Questions*. Translated by I. B. Horner. 2 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1963–1964.
- MN* *Majjhima-Nikāya*. Edited by V. Trenckner, R. Chalmers and C. A. F. Rhys Davids. 4 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1888–1925.

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- Mp* Buddhaghosa. *Manorathapūraṇī*. Edited by Max Walleaser and Hermann Kopp. 5 vols. 1924–1957. Reprint, London: Luzac & Co., 1967.
- MPNS* *Mahāparinibbāna-sutta*.
- PED* *The Pali Text Society's Pali–English Dictionary*. Edited by T. W. Rhys Davids and William Stede. 1921–1925. Reprint, London: Pali Text Society, 1972.
- SN* *Samyutta-nikāya*. Edited by M. Leon Feer. 6 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1884–1904.
- Sv* Buddhaghosa. *Sumāṅgala-vilāsini*. Edited by T. W. Rhys Davids, J. Estlin Carpenter and W. Stede. 3 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1886–1932.
- Thī* *Therīgāthā*. Edited by R. Pischel. 2nd ed. London: Pali Text Society, 1966.
- Thī Trsl.* *The Elders' Verses*. Translated by K. R. Norman. 2 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1969–1971.
- Thī-a* Dharmapāla. *Paramatthadīpanī (Therīgāthā Commentary)*. Edited by E. Müller. London: Pali Text Society, 1893.
- Thūp and Thūp Trsl.* *Vācissaratthera. The Chronicle of the Thūpa and The Thūpavaṃsa*. Edited and translated by N. A. Jayawickrama. London: Pali Text Society, 1971.
- UHC* University of Ceylon. *History of Ceylon*. Edited by H. C. Ray. 3 vols. Colombo: Ceylon University Press, 1959– (in progress).
- Vibh-a* Buddhaghosa. *Sammoha-vinodanī*. Edited by A. P. Buddhadatta Thero. London: Pali Text Society, 1923.
- Vin* *Vinaya Piṭakam*. Edited by Hermann Oldenberg. 5 vols. London, 1879–1883. Reprint, London: Pali Text Society, 1964.
- Vin Trsl.* *The Book of the Discipline*. Translated by I. B. Horner. 6 vols. London: Pali Text Society, 1938–1966.
- Vism* Buddhaghosa. *Visuddhimagga*. Edited by Henry Clarke Warren. Revised by Dharmananda Kosambi. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1950.
- Vism Trsl.* Buddhaghosa. *The Path of Purification (Visuddhimagga)*. Translated by Bhikkhu Ñāṇamoli. 2 vols. Berkeley: Shambhala, 1976.