



Preah Bot

Buddhist Painted Scrolls in Cambodia

Vittorio Roveda

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Territory	World excluding Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.
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- These delightful, beautiful and sought-after paintings depict scenes from Buddha's life or the Jataka tales
- With lavish illustrations throughout, the authors study both the religious meaning of the paintings as well as their artistic merit
- Often tourist souvenirs, the best and older examples are highly sought-after by collectors

Preah Bot are portable paintings on canvas which represent either single episodes from the life of the Buddha or from the Jataka tales, in particular the last ten stories, the birth tales of the Buddha. In the past they were presented by lay people to the monasteries during religious festivals as a means of merit-making. They may then have served as a substitute for murals in wooden temple buildings where murals were not possible. Following the acclaim for *Buddhist Painting in Cambodia*, Vittorio Roveda and Sotham Yem have sought to document both their aesthetics and their meaning before the use of Preah Bot in a strictly religious sense has disappeared. Instead today they are being produced purely as souvenirs for tourists or for collectors. The book is also intended as an encouragement to the Cambodian People to preserve and study their important Buddhist heritage.

Vittorio Roveda is Research Associate at the School of Oriental and African Studies and is one of the world's pre-eminent scholars on the Khmer civilisation. He is the author of many books and academic papers, including 'Khmer Mythology, Images of the Gods' and 'Sacred Angkor'. In 2002 his interest in the Buddhist mural paintings in monasteries grew and this culminated in the award-winning book 'Buddhist Painting of Cambodia'.