Images of devotion and power in South & Southeast Bengal

Claudine Bautze-Picron

Abstract: The paper mainly deals with Buddhist testimonies in the regions of Vikrampur and Mainamati (Bangladesh) from the 11th and 12th c. It first depicts the region as a strategic zone of international traffic between continental India and various countries of the Bay of Bengal, considers the political background to the development of this phase of Buddhist history and the position and function of lay practitioners, and studies the location of the monasteries. The second and main part of the paper deals with the various iconographic types encountered in south and southeast Bengal. A reasoned bibliography concludes the article.

Keywords: Buddha, Bengal, Buddhism

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Andrea Acri. Esoteric Buddhism in medieval maritime Asia, Networks of Masters, Texts, Icons, ISEAS Press, pp.163-191, 2016, 978-981-4695-08-4

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Contributeur: Claudine Bautze-Picron <claudine@bautze.com>
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PARTAGER
The bhakti movement began in South India with the Tamil poet-saints the Nayanmars, who addressed their devotions to Shiva. The poems of the sixty-three saints, plus those of Manikavacakar, were later collected and included in the Shaiva Siddhanta canon, particularly in the twelve-volume devotional text known as the Tirumurai. c. 500-1300 CE Temple Building in South India. Contemporary with the rise and spread of the bhakti movement in South India, temples became important as religious centers, conceived of as the dwelling places of the gods on earth. A wave of temple construction took place o ISKCON's Sri Sri Radha Krishna Kanhaiya Temple of Devotion and Understanding is not only a temple for worship, but also an avenue where teaching & understanding of the Vedas (knowledge) and Bhakti-seva (devotional service) plays central role in its existence. Thus, this temple is pertinently named as the Temple of Devotion & Understanding (TODU). It is strategically situated in the peaceful & beautiful urban town Seberang Jaya, Penang amongst other religious establishments. It is the first three-story octagonal-shaped temple in Malaysia designed after two famous temples in India – Cox's Bazar, south of Chittagong, has a natural sea beach that stretches uninterrupted over 120 km, which makes it arguably the longest such beach in the world. History. The partition of India resulted in Bengal being divided between the two new countries. The Sufis taught a version of Islam that meshed with the pre-existing Buddhist and Hindu devotional traditions, stressing piety and devotion, and a form of worship having much in common with bhakti (Hindu devotion and love-mysticism). Sufi shrines soon became holy places, and flowers are still offered there, much as Buddhist shrines are dedicated with flowers. Although Bangladesh is not a major sporting power in any sense, Bangladeshi athletes and sportsmen have brought the country many laurels.