



Illuminating the Life of the Buddha: An Illustrated Chanting Book from Eighteenth-Century Siam

Naomi Appleton, Sarah Shaw, Toshiya Unebe

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Illuminating the Life of the Buddha investigates an outstanding eighteenth-century *samut khoi*, a type of beautifully illustrated, folded book found in Southeast Asia and popular as a repository for the Buddha's teachings. Written in Pali and produced in Siam, the *samut khoi* features finely executed paintings on khoi paper portraying key stories from the Buddha's past lives. These stories, known as the *Jatakas*, were the principal means by which Buddhist teachings were communicated and were thus a favored theme for *samut khoi*. However, this *samut khoi* stands out for its extensive series of paintings from the last life of the Buddha, including his final awakening and teaching, which are distinctive to the region.

Affording readers immense insight into a spectacular eighteenth-century manuscript, and Thai Buddhist manuscripts and temple culture as a whole, this book will be of great interest to art historians and scholars of Buddhism and Southeast Asia.

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