

THE CONTRIBUTORS

SONALI DHINGRA (BA and MPhil in History, Delhi University; MA in Ancient Indian History, Jawaharlal Nehru University) earned her doctorate in the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University (2021), specializing in South and Southeast Asian Art. Her dissertation, ‘Cult and Colossus: Buddhist sculpture from Odisha in History and Memory (ca. eighth to twelfth centuries)’ considers the role of scale and materiality in the making and reception of devotional sculpture from Buddhist sites in Odisha. She was one of two recipients of the 2022 South Asia Art & Architecture Dissertation Prize, awarded by the South Asia Art Initiative, UC Berkeley. In 2021, she was awarded the ACLS/Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Buddhist Studies. She was also a curatorial assistant of the exhibition *Dharma and Puṇya: Buddhist Ritual art of Nepal* (2019), and guest curator for an exhibition on South Asia at the Davis Museum, Wellesley College (2018).

MICHEL GAUVAIN is an associate researcher at the Italian School of East Asian Studies (ISEAS Kyoto), and is currently collaborating with the Department for the Ethnological Collections of the Vatican Museums. Previously, he has been ‘cultore della materia’ (instructor) and adjunct lecturer in East Asian Religions and Philosophies at the Department of the Italian Institute of Oriental Studies, Sapienza University of Rome. He holds a PhD in Civilizations, Cultures and Societies of Asia and Africa (Sapienza University of Rome), an MA in Religions (Buddhist Studies) (SOAS, University of London), and an MA in Buddhist Art: History and Conservation (The Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London). His main

research interests include the history, doctrines, rituals and art of East Asian Esoteric Buddhism.

HADI SIDOMULYO is an independent writer and historian, focusing on Javanese history of the pre-colonial period. His years spent as consultant to the Indonesian Department of Culture and Tourism, first in Yogyakarta (1986–1989), and later in Surabaya (1989–1994), stimulated a special interest in the field of historical topography. Between 1998 and 2001 he made a ground survey of the route followed by the 14th century King Rājasanagara of Majapahit through eastern Java, as recorded in Prapañca’s *Deśavarṇana*. The results were later published under the title *Napak Tilas Perjalanan Mpu Prapañca* (2007). Since then he has written a series of articles dealing with various problematic aspects of early Javanese history, as well as conducted an ongoing exploration of the archaeological remains on Mt Penanggungan, a programme supported by the University of Surabaya (Ubayu). His latest publication is a new edition of the Old Javanese *Tantu Paṅgalaran*, prepared in collaboration with S.O. Robson (ISEAS, 2021).

HUDAYA KANDAHJAYA, born in Bogor, Indonesia, is currently employed at the BDK America in Moraga, California, USA. He graduated from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, in 2004 with a PhD in Buddhist Studies. In addition to scholarly and literary study particularly on Indonesian Buddhism, he has engaged in practical aspects of Buddhism. All these gear his interests in Buddhism, education, and theoretical and practical understanding of engaged Buddhism.

ROY E. JORDAAN (1947–2019) was an independent scholar. A graduate of Leiden University, he obtained a PhD in medical anthropology in 1985. Shortly thereafter, his main interest shifted to ancient Javanese history and culture. His publications include a reader of Dutch essays on the Prambanan temple complex, *In Praise of Prambanan* (KITLV, 1996), which was later translated and published as *Memuji Prambanan* (2009), the monograph *The Mahārājas of the isles: The Śailendras and the problem of Śrīvijaya* (with B.E. Colless; Leiden University, 2009), and a number of articles in academic journals focusing on the art history and architecture of premodern Java.

MIMI SAVITRI (PhD SOAS, University of London, 2015) is an Assistant Professor in the Archaeology Department at Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She teaches Old Javanese Epigraphy, Paleography, Landscape Archaeology, and Cultural Resource Management. Her main research interest is landscape archaeology, with a focus on Javanese landscape.

UMAKANTA MISHRA (PhD, JNU, 2006) is an Assistant Professor in Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. The author has been associated with various research projects, namely Boats of South Asia Project, Oxford University, 1996; Digital Temple Atlas of Odisha, Tübingen University, 2002; and Religion and Development Research Program, Birmingham University, 2005–2006. His publications include *Vajrayāna Buddhism: Study in Social Iconography*, New Delhi, 2009. His main research interests are the religious landscape

of early mediaeval South Asia and archaeology of early farming communities of Odisha.

SARAN SUEBSANTIWONGSE was initially trained as an opera singer in Europe and USA, and took Master and PhD degrees in Sanskrit Studies at the University of Cambridge. Upon the completion of his dissertation, he was awarded the Dr Hettie Elgood Scholarship to study in the Postgraduate Diploma in Asian Art History at SOAS. His PhD dissertation focused on the *Sāmrājyalakṣmīpīṭhikā*, a compendium on kingship and tantric rituals from 16th century Vijayanagara. His research focuses on the material culture of South and Southeast Asia in connection with Sanskrit texts and epigraphy as well as on Hindu and Buddhist iconography in the premodern era. He currently works as a freelance art director for River Books and as an artistic advisor for the Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra.

JEFFREY SUNDBERG is an independent researcher. His primary interest lies in Central Javanese history and religious culture, but his investigations into the background of the Śailendra sponsorship of Abhayagirivāsins have led to recent collateral publications on the Esoteric Buddhist monk Vajrabodhi (in collaboration with Rolf Giebel) and the dedication of a number of early Second Lambakaṇṇa kings to an esoteric Buddhism promoted at the Abhayagirivihāra in Rājaraṭṭha. In prior publications, he has addressed the gold-foil mantra unearthed on the Ratu Boko prominence, the dating of the Borobudur *stūpa*, and an evaluation of the historical claims of the Old Sundanese *Carita Parahyañan* in light of the new dynastic data in the Vanua Təñah III inscription.