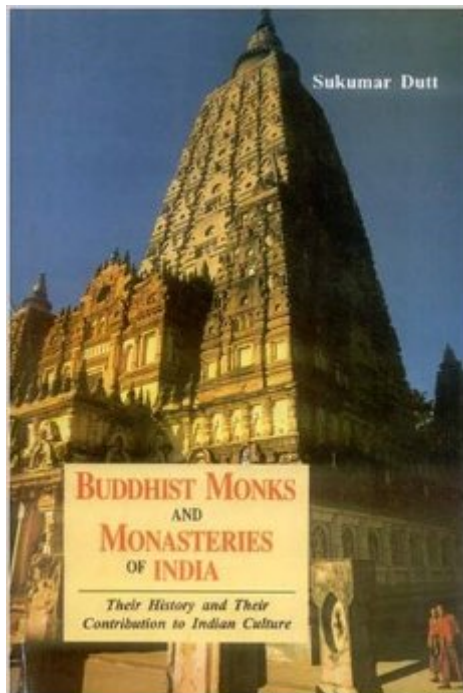


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Buddhist Monks And Monasteries Of India: Their History And Their Contribution To Indian Culture



Synopsis

Though India is no longer a Buddhist country, Buddhism held its place among Indian faiths for nearly seventeen centuries (500 B.C.--A.D. 1200). During this long stretch of time the Buddhist monks were organized in Sanghas in most parts of the country and their activities and achievements have profoundly influenced India's traditional culture. There are monumental remains of Buddhist monastic life scattered all over India: in the south there are about a thousand cave-monasteries, among them Ajanta, world-famous for its exquisite mural paintings; in the north, less spectacular, the ruins of monastic edifices from Taxila in the west to Paharpur in the east. A connected history of the Buddhist monks of ancient India, their activities, their monastic establishments and their contributions to Indian culture, is available for the first time in this work, which is remarkable also for its pervading human interest. In reconstructing the history of the emperors and kings who were patrons of Buddhism, the early missionaries and the illustrious monk-scholars of later times, the author has used sources in four languages--Pali, Sanskrit, Chinese and Tibetan.

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Customer Reviews

The scholarship and writing are superb. I learned a great deal about early Buddhism and how it developed over the centuries. Every time I thought Dr. Dutt couldn't possibly have more to say of interest, there it was, more. The book helped clarify questions I have about Buddhism of today, including: how Hinayana and Mahayana differed then, which sheds light on the differences now;

where the various texts came from, and where they went to; which languages different texts were written in; the context of the development of Buddhism within Brahmanism society and culture which existed at Buddha's time. I would very much like to find some information about the author.

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