



The ROBERT H. N. HO
FAMILY FOUNDATION

COURTAULD
INSTITUTE
RESEARCH FORUM

Amaravati: the art of an early Buddhist monument in context

18.00 – 20.45, Friday 5 September (with registration from 17.30)

Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN

10.00 – 17.20, Saturday 6 September (with registration from 09.30)

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Seminar Rooms, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG



Amaravati: relief depicting a stupa with a figure of the Buddha standing at the entrance. British Museum.

The Great Stupa at Amaravati was one of the most important Buddhist monuments in India. Founded before 200 BCE, it was enlarged and embellished with innumerable superb sculptures over the following four centuries. More than 120 of these sculptures entered the collection of the British Museum in 1880, forming the most important single group of Indian sculptures outside the subcontinent.

This conference celebrates the reopening of the Asahi Shimbun Gallery, where the sculptures have been displayed since 1992, but which was temporarily closed during construction of the Museum's World Conservation and Exhibitions Centre.

Organised by **The British Museum** and **The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Centre for Buddhist Art and Conservation at The Courtauld**, the conference brings together leading specialists from around the world to address many aspects of Amaravati and its sculptures, from the rediscovery of the stupa at the end of the 18th century to its recreation in the 21st century. Amaravati's art will also be considered in the context of other surviving sculpture from the Andhra region of south-eastern India, which, despite its importance and quality, has been relatively neglected in the study of Indian art.

The conference opens on Friday evening with a keynote lecture by Professor Akira Shimada, author of a major recent study of Amaravati. This lecture is hosted by the Research Forum of The Courtauld and is followed by a reception. The conference continues at the British Museum on Saturday with a full day of presentations.

To book a place: **£20** (£12 students and concessions: over 60). **Complimentary places available for British Museum staff and Courtauld staff/students** with advance booking required.

BOOK ONLINE: <http://courtauld-institute.digitalmuseum.co.uk> Or send a cheque payable to 'Courtauld Institute of Art' to Research Forum Events Co-ordinator, Research Forum, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN, stating the event title 'Amaravati conference'.

For further information, email ResearchForumEvents@courtauld.ac.uk or call 07834 521471

The Asahi Shimbun Gallery of Amaravati Sculpture will be open throughout Museum opening hours Friday 5 through Sunday 7 September.

Organised by Dr Michael Willis (The British Museum)
and Professor David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

The British
Museum

PROGRAMME

Friday 5 September Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre, The Courtauld Institute of Art

- 17:30 – 18:00 Registration
- 18:00 **Welcome: Deborah Swallow (The Courtauld Institute of Art)**
- 18:05 – 19:00 Akira Shimada (State University of New York at New Paltz):
The Discovery of the Amaravati Stupa: Early Excavations and Interpretations
- 19:00 – 20:45 Reception

Saturday 6 September The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Seminar Rooms, British Museum

- 09:30 – 10:00 Registration

SESSION 1 Chair: Jan Stuart (The British Museum)

- 10:00 – 10:30 Peter Skilling (French School of Asian Studies [EFEQ], Bangkok):
Amaravati in the Age of Great Caityas
- 10:30 – 10:55 Monika Zin (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München [Munich] and Freie Universität Berlin):
Buddhist Narratives and Amaravati
- 10:55 – 11:05 Discussion
- 11:05 – 11:35 COFFEE/TEA BREAK (Coffee/tea provided in Sackler Seminar Rooms)

SESSION 2 Chair: David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

- 11:35 – 12:00 Anna Slaczka (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam):
An Amaravati Pillar Fragment from the Collection of the Rijksmuseum
- 12:00 – 12:30 Michael Willis (The British Museum): *A Sculpture from Goli in the British Museum: Protective Goddesses in the Service of Buddhism*
- 12:30 – 12:45 Discussion
- 12:45 – 14:15 BREAK FOR LUNCH (lunch not provided)

SESSION 3 Chair: Michael Willis (The British Museum)

- 14:15 – 14:40 Nick Barnard (Victoria and Albert Museum): *A Third-century Nagarjunakonda Relief and Other Sculpture from Andhra Pradesh in the Victoria and Albert Museum*
- 14:40 – 15:05 Catherine Becker (University of Illinois at Chicago): *Mahinda's Visit to Amaravati?: Narrative Connections between Buddhist Communities in Andhra and Sri Lanka*
- 15:05 – 15:15 Discussion
- 15:15 – 15:45 TEA/COFFEE BREAK (Tea/coffee provided in Sackler Seminar Rooms)

SESSION 4 Chair: Sharon Cather (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

- 15:45 – 16:10 Roddy Murray (An Lanntair Arts Centre, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis): *Colonel Colin Mackenzie, the Gaelic Surveyor: Amaravati Mapped and Charted, 1797-1817*
- 16:10 – 16:35 Nic Lee (The British Museum), Tracey Sweek (The British Museum) and David Park (The Courtauld Institute of Art):
'Elliot Marbles' to Asahi Shimbun Gallery: a Conservation History of the Amaravati Sculptures in the British Museum
- 16:35 – 17:00 D. Harsha Vardhan (Artist, Delhi):
Recreating the Living Sculpture of Amaravati at Buddhavanam, India
- 17:00 – 17:20 Discussion and Concluding Remarks
- 17:20 END