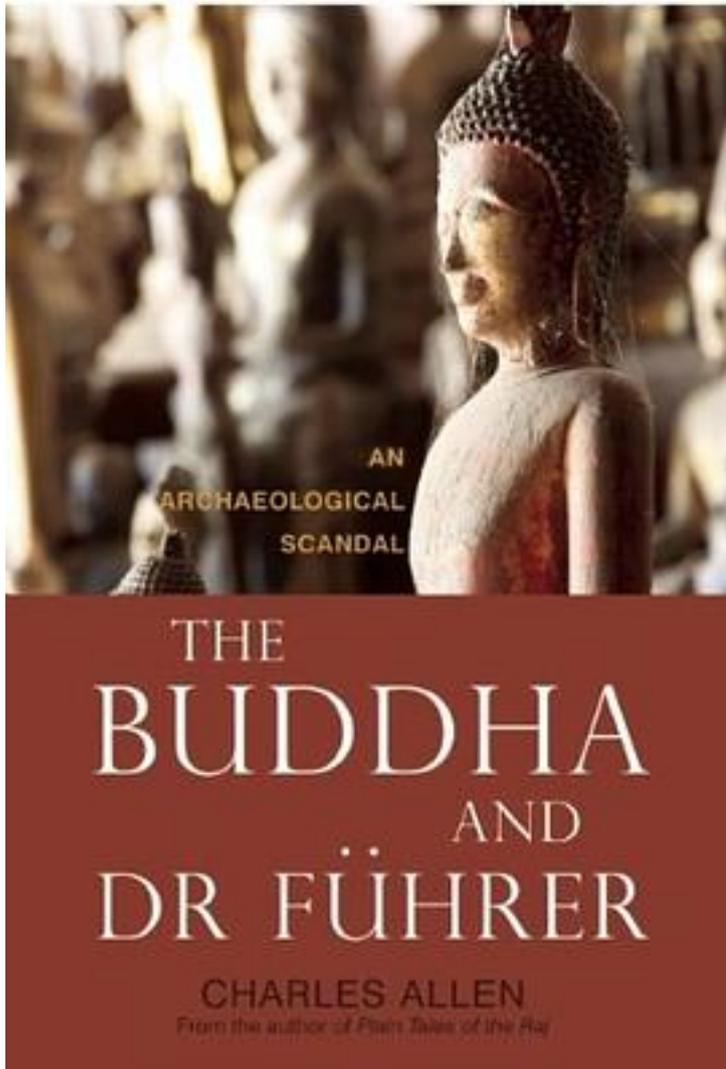


The Buddha and Dr Fuhrer

'This is a fascinating tale'—*The Spectator*



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This true account of the scandal that enveloped the discovery in 1898 of an inscribed casket said to contain the ashes of the Buddha, is set against the background of the high noon of the British Raj. In January 1898 a British landowner, William Claxton Peppe, excavated a large Buddhist brick stupa on his estate close to India's border with Nepal. At a depth of 24 feet he uncovered a huge stone coffer. What made this discovery so important was an inscription found on the top of one of the reliquary caskets - declaring it to contain ashes of the Buddha. This news aroused world-wide interest since no other so well authenticated relics of the Buddha had ever been found. But almost immediately it became known that a German archaeologist, Dr Anton Fuhrer, working nearby at the same time had not only made bogus claims and faked his results but had also been associated with the dig. Fuhrer was quickly unmasked by a British magistrate who himself had a stake in the excavation.

作者介绍:

目录:

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标签

早期学术史

印度

佛教考古

评论

虽然以Fuhrer和他的学术不端为名头，但整本书铺开的是印度佛教“考古”（并非真正意义上的考古）的早期学术史。Kapilavastu、Lumbini、Nigali Sagar、Gotihwa等natal landscape of Buddha的寻找和发现（又或者说，佛教在印度的“再发现”），其实与19世纪下半叶的一系列politics交织在一起，英属印度与尼泊尔之间的政治张力，印度考古的antiquarianism与“科学”考古的交叠、过渡，学者之间的斗争，等等。Fuhrer的例子真正体现了一个道理：说了一个谎言就要用更多的谎言来掩盖。他之所以弄虚作假，并非为利，

而更多的是为了名、为了一口气，但能干、勤奋如他，为何要赌上半生的事业，我始终不太理解。

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书评

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