

History of the Art of India, Part I: Origins to Mughals

Week 3. Sātavāhana and Kushan Art and Architecture

Important points covered:

- Use of narrative reliefs on architectural elements by the Sātavāhanas
- Evolution of Buddha images from symbolic to human
- Increasing control of iconographic program by monastic authorities
- History of the Kushan entry into Afghanistan and India
- Trade, Buddhist patronage, religious eclecticism, and support for artworks by Kushan emperor Kanishka (partly as indicated by coins)
- Hellenistic influences on the art of Gandhara, and some characteristics of Gandhara Buddhas and Bodhisattvas
- Some comparisons between the art of Gandhara and that of Mathura
- The more “Indian” quality of the art of Mathura, and some characteristics of Mathura Buddhas and Bodhisattvas

A. Sātavāhana: Sanchi

B. Sātavāhana: Amarāvati

B1. Introduction: Amarāvati stupa

MAP: Sātavāhana empire

IMAGE: Artist drawing of Amarāvati stupa

TERM: drum (architectural)

B2. Relief sculptures

B2a. Narrative reliefs on stupa railing pillars

IMAGE: Buddha Abandoning His Austerities and Enlightenment, carved relief on railing pillar of Great Stupa, Amarāvati, ca. 9 ft., 2C CE

IMAGE: Detail of top scene: Buddha Abandoning His Austerities

IMAGE: Detail of middle scene: Buddha receives rice pudding from village girls

IMAGE: Detail of bottom scene: People/deities worshipping Buddha after his enlightenment

IMAGE: Buddha Subduing a Mad Elephant, carved relief on Great Stupa, Amarāvati, 35” dia., 3C CE, Government Museum, Chennai

B2b. Reliefs on stupa dome

IMAGE: Reprise: Artist drawing of Amarāvati stupa

TERM: drum (architectural)

TERM: dharma

TERM: sangha

IMAGE: Limestone relief from Amarāvati stupa showing stupa dome, 2C CE, 49 x 34 x 4 3/8 in, British Museum, London

B3. Patronage

C. Kushan: History, Trade, Buddhism

C1. Kushan History

MAP: West Asia showing Kushan migration into Bactria and Gandhara

MAP: Kushan empire with rivers, regions, and cities

C2. Kushan Trade

C2a. International art objects

IMAGE: Roman glass from Begram hoard, Roman gladiator, 2C CE, ca.6” high, Musee Guimet, Paris

C2b. Coins

IMAGE: Coin of Trajan, 98-117 CE

IMAGE: Coin of Kadphises, ca.30-80 CE, obverse: head of Kadphises in laureate Julio-Claudian style

IMAGE: Kushan coin, 1C, reverse: figure of Buddha

TERM: ushnisha

TERM: abhaya mudra

IMAGE: Kushan coin, 1C, observe: figure of Kanishka

C3. Buddhism in Kushan Empire

TERM: bodhisattva

D. Kushan: Gandhara

D1. Introduction

MAP: Reprise (from earlier slide): Kushan empire with rivers, regions, and cities

IMAGE: Statue of Athena or Roma, late 2C, schist, ca. 33” high, Lahore Museum

D2. Buddha Statues

TERM: Ushnisha

TERM: Urna

IMAGE: Statue of Buddha, 1C CE, stone, Gandhara, ca. 3 ft high, Tokyo National Museum

IMAGE: Emperor Tiberius wearing toga, marble, 1C, 7’ 10”, Louvre, Paris

IMAGE: Roman senator with busts of ancestors, 1C CE, marble, 5’ 5”, Capitoline Museums, Rome

D3. Bodhisattva statues

TERM: Bodhisattva

IMAGE: statue of Bodhisattva, 1-2C CE, schist, Musée Guimet, Paris

D4. Relief panel of the Life of the Buddha

First Panel: Miracle of the birth

IMAGE: Relief panel with scenes from the life of Buddha. First scene. Birth of the Buddha, Gandhara, 2C CE, schist, ca.26” x 114”, Freer Gallery of Art, Washington

IMAGE: Reprise (from previous class): figure of yakshi on Sanchi gateway bracket.

TERM: yakshi

Second panel: Miracle of the enlightenment

IMAGE: Relief panel with scenes from the life of Buddha. Second scene. Enlightenment of the Buddha, Gandhara, 2C CE, schist, ca.26x114 in, Freer Gallery of Art, Washington

TERM: bodhi tree

IMAGE: Reprise (from previous class): Detail of Temptation & Enlightenment from Sanchi gateway

TERM: bhumi sparsha mudra

Third panel: Miracle of the first sermon in the Deer Park

IMAGE: Relief panel with scenes from the life of Buddha. Third scene. First Sermon of the Buddha, Gandhara, 2C CE, schist, ca.26x114 in, Freer Gallery of Art, Washington

Fourth panel: Miracle of the mahāparinirvāna, the great passing away (Fig. 62)...

IMAGE: Relief panel with scenes from the life of Buddha. Fourth scene. Parinirvana of the Buddha, Gandhara, 2C CE, schist, ca.26x114 in, Freer Gallery of Art, Washington

TERM: mahāparinirvāna

D5. Gandharan reliquaries

IMAGE: Gold reliquary, Bimaran (Afghanistan, Gandhara, Kushan), gold inset with rubies, ca. 3” high, British Museum, London

TERM: chaitya window

IMAGE: Detail of arcade figures in reliquary, from previous slide

IMAGE: Roman Marble Arcade Sarcophagus depicting Dionysus, the Maenads, a Satyr and Pan; c. 190-200 AD; found in Rome

IMAGE: Detail of image from previous slide: windows in reliquary

IMAGE: Reprise (from previous class): Karli cave façade, detail of window over entrance door

Topic E. Kushan: Mathura

E1. Comparison: Gandhara & Mathura

MAP: Reprise (from earlier slide): Kushan empire with rivers, regions, and cities

E2. Imperial galleries at Mat

First statue at Mat: Vima Kadphises

IMAGE: Statue of enthroned King Vima Kadphises, late 1C/early 2C, red sandstone, 6'10" high, Mathura Museum

Second statue at Mat: Kanishka

IMAGE: Statue of Kanishka, 2C, red sandstone, ca. 64" high, Mathura Museum

IMAGE: Reprise (from earlier slide): coin portrait of Kanishka

E3. Railing pillar statues

IMAGE: Relief statues of yakshis on railing pillars of Mathura stupa at Kankali Tila, red sandstone, 2-3C, ca. 50" high, Indian Museum, Kolkata

TERM: yakshis

TERM: Siva Nātarāja

E4. Bodhisattvas and Buddhas

IMAGE: Bodhisattva Shakyamuni, Mathura style statue presented by Bala at shrine at Sarnath, 2C CE, red sandstone, 8'2", Archeological Museum, Sarnath

TERM: bodhisattva

TERM: Shakyamuni

IMAGE: Reprise (from previous class): statue of yaksha

IMAGE: Reprise (from earlier slide): Gandhara bodhisattva

IMAGE: Buddha on a lion throne, Mathura, 1C CE, red sandstone, 27" high, Mathura Museum

TERM: bodhi tree

TERM: abhaya mudra

TERM: dharma

End of Week 3