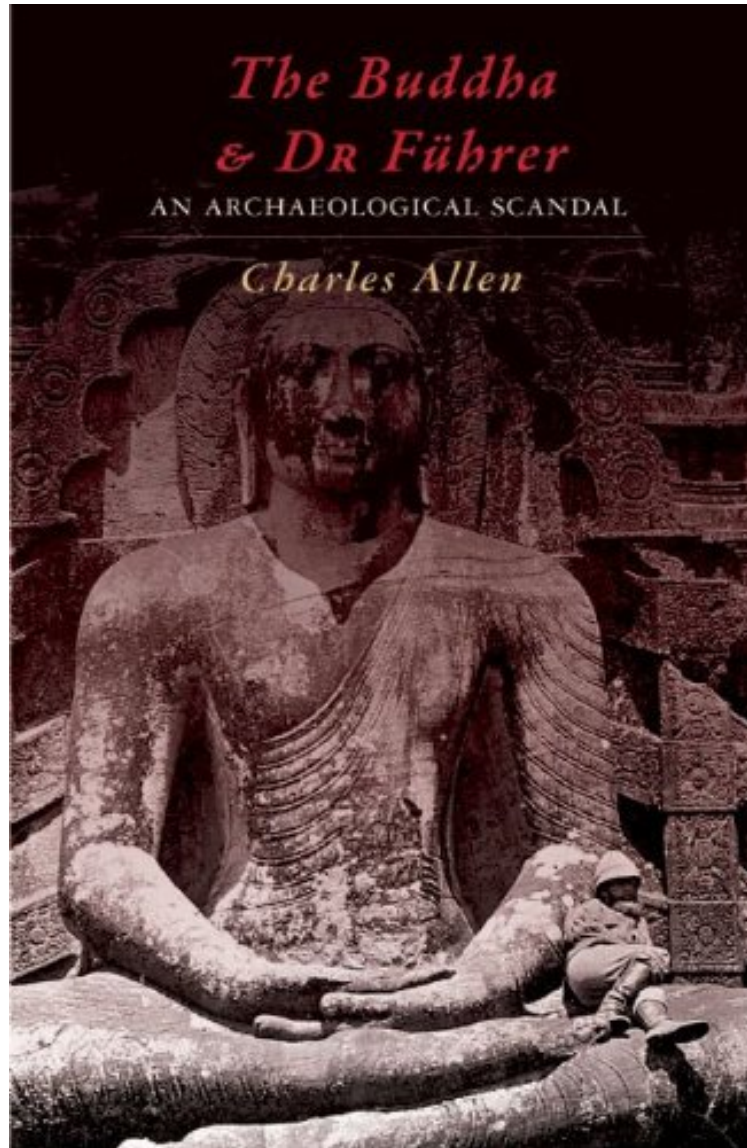


The Buddha and Dr Fuhrer: An Archaeological Scandal

Charles Allen

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Charles Allen : The Buddha and Dr Fuhrer: An Archaeological Scandal before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Buddha and Dr Fuhrer: An Archaeological Scandal:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Highly Detailed and Accurate Review of Facts. By Prasad M. Samarajiva A controversy is skillfully dissected by Charles Allen in this treatise. By taking the reader to current politics in the areas Buddha used to wander, Mr. Allen perfectly sets the stage in his Preface to explain politics of that area some 2,600 years ago. Then he takes us to the Prologue to explain politics of Buddha's time. I highly recommend

reading the preface so that a reader unfamiliar with Buddhist history can correlate today to Buddha's time. Then he takes the reader to a highly detailed and factually accurate account of the controversy. I am amazed by the effort Mr. Allen took in providing an account of the controversy in this manner from the days of British India to the era of Internet. However, I am slightly, very slightly, disappointed that the book does not include clear pictures of the vase inscription captured through a modern day high-resolution camera. Nevertheless, this book kept me riveted all the way through. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Partly scholarly but not so readable. By Mahendra Angriki I ordered this book based on the other book I had read by the same author (*The search for the Buddha*). However, I was disappointed in this book. It's full of grammatical errors, misspellings and certain sentences with missing is/are etc. So, it's hard to maintain the flow of reading. Also, at many places, the author keeps on going back and forth with many details that may or may not be relevant. I also got the impression that somehow the Peppe family was financing this book. Some place it's stated that the conference took place in 1996 but some other places state in 2006. So, overall, I would give this book a rating of 2 stars. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is a scholarly book. It's focus is more ... By Angus Cunningham This is a scholarly book. It's focus is more on the nature of relationships among the early pioneers of modernizing archaeology in a country where huge potential for archaeological discovery needed organization than about Dr. Fuhrer or Gautama Siddhartha (Sakyamnuni buddha). As a son of the British Raj, I found lots of personal details that enthralled me. However, anyone may read this book as a fascinating and empathic study of human nature and our attempts to relearn the values that, still today, we must live by -- values already known and written about before the time of Jesus.

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 Pepp, 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 Fhrer, working nearby at the same time had not only made bogus claims and faked his results but had also been associated with the dig. Fhrer was quickly unmasked by a British magistrate who himself had a stake in the excavation.

About the Author Charles Allen is the author of *Plain Tales of the Raj* and *Soldier Sahibs: The Men Who Made the North-west Frontier*.