

Contribution à l'histoire de la peinture murale bouddhique de Birmanie : origine de la tradition narrative Nyaungyan (milieu du xiv^e-seconde moitié du xvi^e siècle)

The emergence of the Nyaungyan tradition in the early 17th century is a key moment in the history of Burma's mural painting, one of whose foundations is the continuous narration in captioned registers. Although the first known example goes back to the 12th-century paintings of the Lokahteikpan, it had not gained widespread acceptance. Based on a new classification of Nyaungyan styles, this article attempts to resolve the hiatus. It appears that the Nyaungyan narrative tradition does not go back to the earliest Buddhist murals of the 11th–13th centuries, but to those of the 14th–16th centuries. The iconography, which was to prevail in the Nyaungyan and Konbaung styles from the 17th to the middle of the 19th century, was fixed from the second half of the 16th century in the proto-Nyaungyan style. The modern narrative format was born with the Nyaungyan tradition and this article attempts to trace it back to its formation.

Keywords: Burma; history of painting; mural painting; styles; Nyaungyan period.