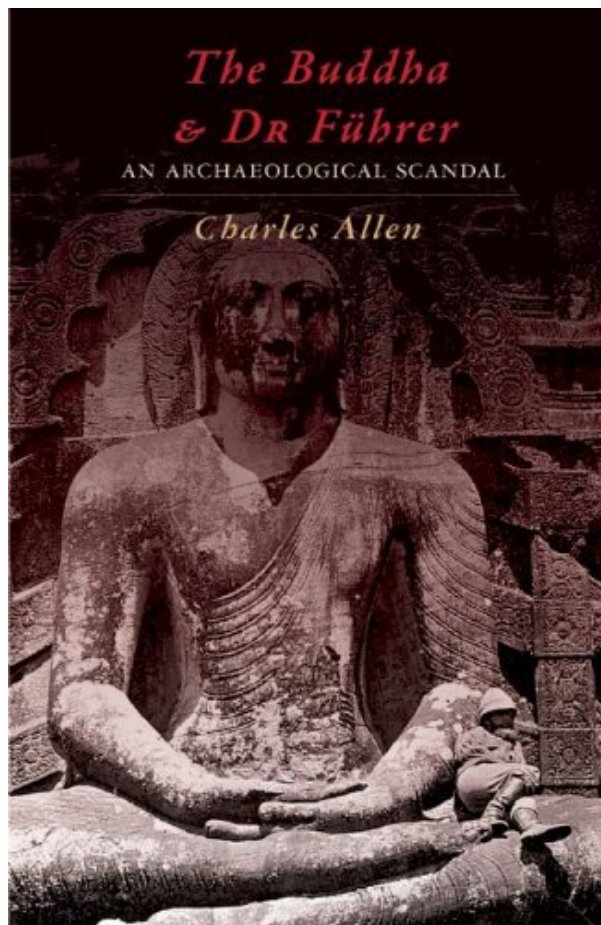
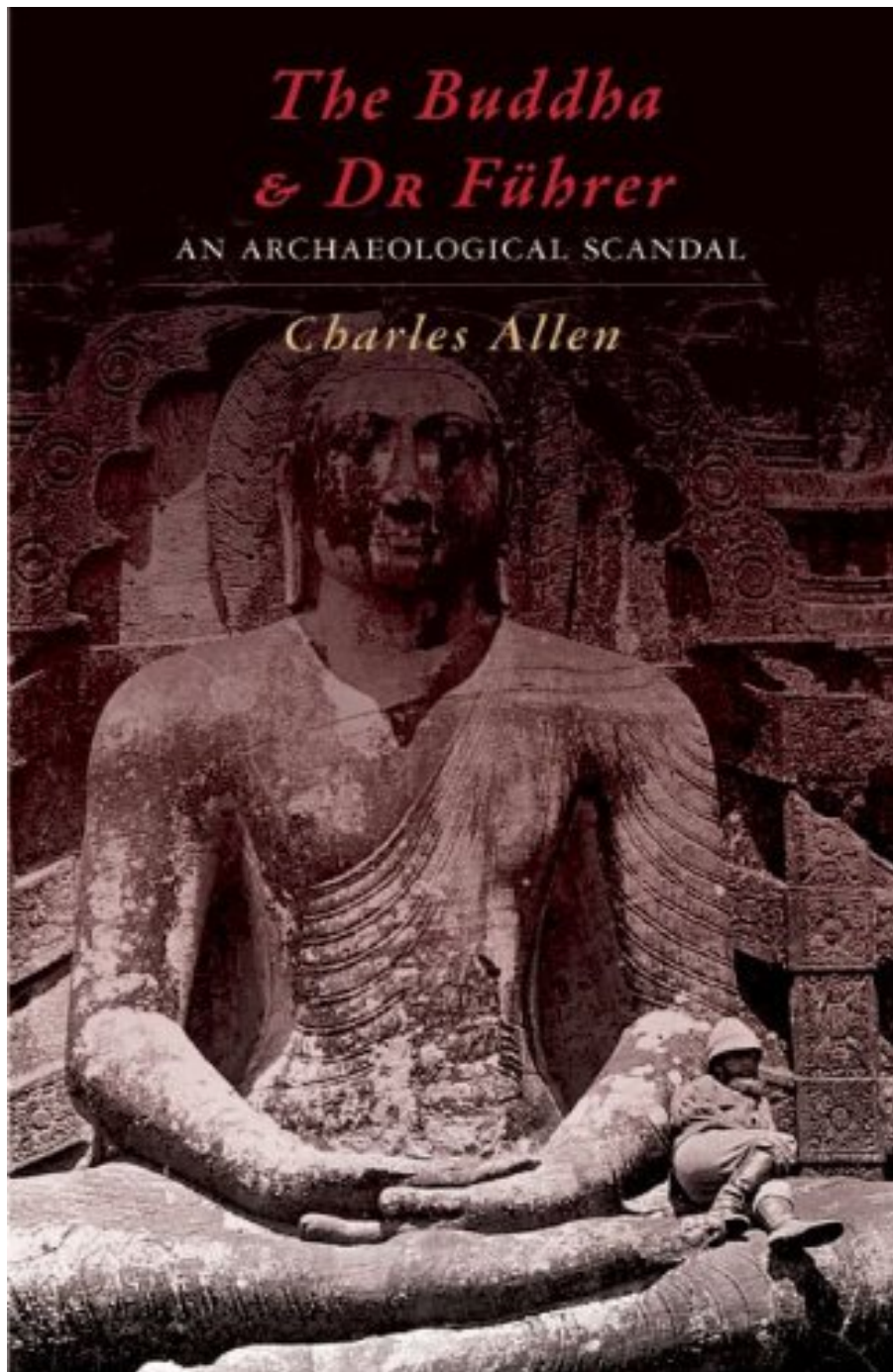


**THE BUDDHA AND DR FUHRER: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCANDAL BY
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About the Author

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

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

- Sales Rank: #3153773 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Haus Publishing
- Published on: 2009-05-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l, 1.45 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

Features

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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*.

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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.

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.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

interesting look at a controversial archaeological dig

By adorian

This book is about an archeological dig in the late 1800s at a site where the remains of the Buddha might have been buried. Did the German in charge really find what he said he found? Was he in the wrong place? Did someone else find something more important? Was there deception and fakery involved? Whom can we really trust if we're told of bone fragments? It's interesting that we still might never get to know the truth about who found what because of politics, which make digging more and more difficult in Northern India near Nepal.

The author had me hooked on p. 35, when he explained that in those ancient times, the locals would not have used words like "miles" or "meters" for their distances. They used "khos"--the furthest distance a cow's mooing will be heard. Someone who gives us detail like this knows how to engage his reader. This book has lots of good pictures and no footnotes. That helps a non-historian like me. The generous use of pictures lets us to see what the archeologists were seeing as they explored.

The book is well-edited. The only mistake I found was "secene" for "scene" on p. 265.

Some readers might object to so much ancient history thrown in to give us the background, but since we're talking about events from 2500 years ago, a lot of historical background is necessary. True historians might demand some footnotes.

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