

BANGLADESH NATIONAL MUSEUM
Object ID Record Sheet

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|--|----|--------------|----|--------------|------|-----------------|----|---------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| 1 Object ID Number: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 Name of the Museum: Bangladesh National Museum | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 Name of the Department: Department of History and Classical Art | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 Classification: Hindu Sculpture | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 Date of Accession: | | | | | | | | | | 6 Accession Number: | | | | | |
| Day | | Month | | Year | 0000 | | | | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | |
| 7 Name of Object: Sitatapatra | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 Materials of the Object: Bronze | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 Measurements: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Height or Length | | Width | | Depth | | Diameter | | Weight | | | | | | | |
| 44.45 | cm | 25.4 | cm | 0 | cm | 0 | cm | | | | | | | | gm |
| 10 Inscriptions/Markings: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 Distinguishing Features: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 Title: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 Subject: Classical Art | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 How Acquired: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 Received From: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Address: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 Price Paid: | | | | | | | | | | Estimated Price: | | | | | |
| 17 Insurance Value: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 Date or Period: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 Maker: Unknown | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 Brief Description of the Object: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

A beautiful image of a Buddhist goddess in octo-alloy metal, tentatively identified as Sitatapatra or the goddess of the White Parasol, a form of Tara. In the present image the Parasol is conspicuous at the top over the head of the goddess. But parasols are often depicted over the head of Brahmanical deities as a mark of distinction without any iconographical significance, and similar may be the case with the present image. It may be noted at the same time that a Parasol over the head of a Buddhist deity appears to be very rare.

The goddess sits with one leg pendent, resting over a lotus. The expression on the face of the goddess is undeniably very pleasant, and its charm has survived even the rather decayed condition of the image. Some of the hands of the goddess have suffered with age and decay, and it is impossible to state with precision what she held in them. But the Wheel, the Bow, the Arrow, and the Lasso can still be distinguished with certainty. In the four right hands she holds the Wheel, the Bow (lost), the Sword, and the Vara Mudra. The four left hands contain the Thunderbolt, the Arrow, (lost), and the Lasso.

Two circular seals are attached to the back of the image, inscribed, in all probability, with the Buddhist creed—Ye Dharma, etc. But the letters are too decayed to be decipherable. This feature is met with only in Buddhist images. The absence of the Vahana also marks the present image out as that of a Buddhist deity. In view of the conspicuous Parasol over her head, the very sweet expression of the face and the identity of the greater number of weapons, the goddess may, with some plausibility, be identified as Sitatapatra in the present state of our knowledge of Buddhist iconography. She appears to have resemblance to no other known goddess of the Buddhist Pantheon.

Discovered in a village in Tippera (present-day Comilla) and purchased for the Dhaka Museum through Babu Anukula Chandra Raya, B. A.

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|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 21 Place of Origin/Discovery: | Village: Paikpada, P.S.: Tangibadi, District: Dhaka (now Munshiganj) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 Provenance/Acquisition History: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 Present Condition of the Object: | Good | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 Location within the Museum: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 File Reference: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 Conservation/Restoration Record: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 Bibliographical Reference: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 28 Comments: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 Date of Object ID Sheet: | 19-Oct-2011 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 Author of the Record Prepared: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 Photograph(s): | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | |
| | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | |

Registration Officer

Head of the Department

Director General