

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817274503321
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Titolo	Haunting the Buddha : Indian popular religions and the formation of Buddhism // Robert DeCaroli
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University, c2004
ISBN	0-19-029065-X 1-280-55905-5 9786610559053 0-19-803765-1 1-4237-2053-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 230 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	294.3/0934
Soggetti	Buddhism - India - History Buddhist art - India Buddhist gods in art Art and mythology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [211]-220) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; 1. Coming to Terms; 2. Making Believers; 3. Set in Stone; 4. Ghost Stories; 5. The Politics of Enlightenment; 6. Policing the Monastery; 7. Passage from India; 8. Confronting Their Demons; Notes; Bibliography; Index;
Sommario/riassunto	Robert DeCaroli seeks to place the formation of Buddhism in its appropriate social & political contexts, by analysis of the early monks & nuns, what beliefs they brought with them from their upbringing & how the new faith offered them revolutionary new mechanisms with which to engage minor deities & spirits.