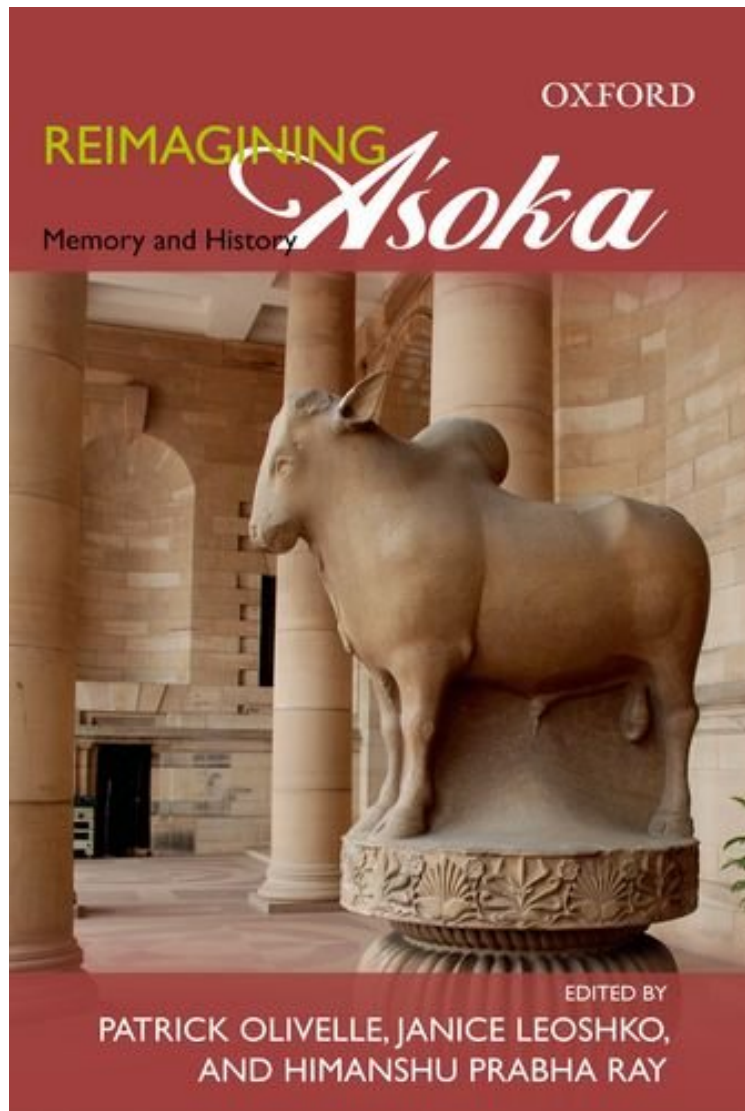


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Reimagining Asoka: Memory and History

Patrick Olivelle, Janice Leoshko, Himanshu Prabha Ray
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Patrick Olivelle, Janice Leoshko, Himanshu Prabha Ray : Reimagining Asoka: Memory and History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reimagining Asoka: Memory and History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great thought-provoking scholarly volume -- but watch out for the Indian print! By Rufus Fuscus This scholarly volume is both very thoughtful and thought-provoking, with contributions by some of the foremost scholars on Ashoka and the Maurya Empire. But you may want to make sure you get the US/UK print of this book. A number of sellers who are offering this title for a fourth of its regular price are actually

selling the Indian print of this book. The Indian version is printed in rather cheap recycled paper, it's poorly bound, and it contains substandard reproductions of the illustrations -- a far cry from the UK US printed volume. Caveat emptor!

This volume explores on the material, social, and ideological aspects of Asoka's reign in light of advances made in archaeology, epigraphy, and numismatics. Thematically divided into three parts, the first to pillars and rocks, which bear his inscriptions. The second part examines the interconnectedness of the edicts, their monumentality, and the different concept of kingship they conveyed. The third part analyses the making of the cultural memory of Asoka and raises pertinent questions crucial for understanding the relationship between the past and the present. The essays outline the importance of Asoka not only for the Indian nation-state but also for the entire Buddhist world of South and South-east Asia. Moving away from conventional periodization of Indian history, it raises important questions on the beginning of history and archaeology in the modern period. The book examines the extent to which nineteenth century initiatives have affected the study of Asoka and his reign. This book will be important for scholars and students of ancient Indian history, particularly those concerned with Asoka and the Mauryas. It will also interest archaeologists and scholars of Buddhist studies.

This is one of the best compilations of papers to be published for a considerable time as it is so comprehensive and it is very handy covering as it does the whole field of scholarship. * Hugh Cragg, *The Middle Way* *About the Author Patrick Olivelle is Professor, Department of Asian Studies, University of Texas, Austin. Previously, he was Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. Janice Leoshko is Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History and Associate Director of the Centre for Asian Studies, University of Texas, Austin. Himanshu Prabha Ray is Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.