

This volume starts with a short excursion into Afghanistan, by introducing the course of the different phases of its history, its ancient civilizations, important trade routes and relations that have significantly affected the development of this region. It presents a unique collection of items borrowed from the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul. It specifically comprises a selection of the wealth of the decoration of Buddhist monuments dating from the period of the 1st to the 9th centuries AD, which was mainly furnished by archaeological research in the Mes Aynak site. Even though the link between Buddhism and the territory of Afghanistan may seem a bit unusual, its influence on the formation of the local culture was immense.