

# **GLASS CASKET FOR INCORRUPTIBLE SITTING BUDDHIST MONK: A LOCAL RELIGIOUS ART IN THAILAND**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Buddhism is widely practiced religious in Southeast. The religious related art is interesting. A specific Buddhist art is the art for management of holy incorruptible body of Buddhist monk. The specific religious fashion that the local people manage the dead body of holy monk is very interesting. Glass casket for incorruptible sitting Buddhist monks is a specific religious art to be discussed in the present study. The specific cases in Thailand, a country in Indochina, are hereby presented and discussed.

**KEYWORDS:** Casket, Monk, Incorruptible.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Buddhism is widely practiced religious in Southeast. The religious related art is interesting. A specific Buddhist art is the art for management of holy incorruptible body of Buddhist monk. The specific religious fashion that the local people manage the dead body of holy monk is very interesting. In the previous report, Mungmunpantipantip and Wiwanitkit reported and discussed on holy ossuary for incorruptible Buddhist monk seen in Thailand Cambodia [1].

Here, the authors focused on another similar kind of religious art, glass casket for for incorruptible Buddhist. In fact, the glass casket for incorruptible sitting Buddhist monk is a specific religious art built for collecting corpse of incorruptible Buddhist monks who died in lotus position. Here, the specific cases in Thailand, a country in Indochina, are hereby presented and discussed.

## **CASES**

### **CASES OF HINAYANA BUDDHIST MONKS**

There are some specific cases of holy Hinayana Buddhist monks who died in lotus position. The specific holy glass casket is built in this case. Most of the glass caskets are built from wood and have little decoration. The good examples are seen at Wat Thaongdeepracharam, Narathiwat province, Wat Kiriwonkaram, KohSamui Island, Suratthani province and Wat Khunaram, KohSamui Island, Suratthani province.

## CASES OF MAHAYANA BUDDHIST MONKS

There are some specific cases of holy Mahayana Buddhist monks who died in lotus position. The specific holy glass casket is built according to the Chinese Mahayana tradition. The good examples are seen at Wat Upairatchabumrung, Wat Phomankunaram, Bangkok, Wat Jeanprachasamosorn, Chachoengsao province,



A. Wat Thaongdeepracharam, Narathiwat province. In this case, the glass casket was built according to local Southern Thai art for ossuary construction



B. Wat Khunaram, Suratthani province. In this case, the glass casket was built according to local Southern Thai art. This specific site is a world famous attraction for Buddhist mmmy



**C.Rongjay Soontiantew, Kanchanaburi province. In this case, the glass casket was built according to traditional Chinese Buddhist art**

**Figure 1. Some important holy glass casket for holy incorruptible Buddhist monks in Thailand**

Wat Phoyen, Kanchanaburi province, RongjaySoontiantew, Kanchanaburi province and Wat Thepputaram, Chonburi province.

## **DISCUSSION**

Incorruptible dead body is the specific ritual phenomenon in Buddhism and Christian. For Buddhism, there are many holy incorruptible Buddhist monks. In the area with deep rooted Buddhist culture such as Indochina, the incorruptible Buddhist monk is usually worshipped by the local people. The religious art that the local people manage the holy incorruptible Buddhist monk is very interesting.

Generally, glass coffin is used [2]. However, the other kinds of artifacts might be selected. The examples are golden color coffin and ossuary. Here, the authors discuss on another specific artifact, glass casket. This is specifically use for management of the dead body of Buddhist monk who die in lotus position. In Thailand, many holy glass caskets are built according to traditional Chinese Buddhist art style for management of incorruptible Mahayana Buddhist monk. It is no doubt that the art for decoration of incorruptible Mahayana Buddhist monk is a direct copy of traditional Chinese Buddhist art style. Nevertheless, there are some cases of glass casket for collecting incorruptible body of Hinayana Buddhist monks. The art for decoration of holy glass casket in this case is usually according to the local art style. The local artisan usually built the glass casket based on the local art knowledge. Similar to ossuary, the glass casket is usually kept in specific building in Buddhist pagoda and becomes the local pilgrimage site.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** None

## REFERENCES

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