Acknowledgements

The project for systematic cataloguing of the Sri Ksetra Museum collection was first suggested by archaeologist Dr Bob Hudson, while I was discussing research options for my sabbatical in 2014. My art history interests had shifted towards the early Buddhist art of Myanmar, and knowing the museum collection, the idea of being able to bring together my curatorial experience and art historical research to document the collection in collaboration with local staff took hold. Dr Thein Lwin, who was at the time Deputy Director of Archaeology, was key in supporting my proposal and it is with sincere gratitude that I thank him for his enthusiasm and practical help that enabled the project to happen.

The project started in February 2014, and much of the work was completed over two trips in the first half of the year. I returned on many further occasions for short trips which were immediately put to good use as more objects were catalogued, records reviewed and new information shared. Publication was scheduled for 2020, however, two events occurred to delay the project. First was the sudden passing of Professor Janice Stargardt early in 2020. Professor Stargardt was an expert in Pyu archaeology and had helped organise the publication of the inventory through the Asia Beyond Boundaries project. She was keen to write an introductory overview of Sri Ksetra for this catalogue. Her absence is keenly felt by everyone who worked with her at Sri Ksetra over many years. Second was the COVID-19 epidemic. I had hoped to return to Sri Ksetra and make a final check on some records and update some photographs, but this has not been possible. As there is ongoing uncertainty about international travel, even with some inaccuracies it is more beneficial to the broader scholarly community to publish now. I thank my research assistant, Domonkos Szabo, who has helped me check the entries during this final phase.

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Daw Myint Myint Thein – Director (until 2016)
Daw Khin Mar Aung – Director (current)
Daw Mya Mya – Lecturer, FSOA
Daw Nyo Nyo Yin Mauk – Tutor, FSOA
U Thu Rain Tun – Assistant Museum Curator
U Ko Ko Phoe La Min – Research Assistant

My thanks also go to students and staff from the FSOA who assisted at different times.

Most gratifying has been seeing the ongoing progress being made on my subsequent, all too short, visits. The Collection is now extremely well organised and well cared for. The team has an excellent knowledge of the collection material and have gained great confidence in sharing this with visitors.

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