

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present work summarizes the results of my research, spanning a period of almost fifty years, on the architectural history of Hindu and Buddhist monuments in Southeast Asia.

During this time, I have made repeated visits to Pakistan, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in South Asia and to Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia in Southeast Asia, where I have been able to acquaint myself at first hand with the local circumstances of religion and to see with my own eyes the extant archaeological sites and historical remains connected with Hinduism and Buddhism, and I also travelled as far as Europe and Australia to visit museums there.

At the same time, I also had the good fortune to be directly involved in the restoration of Borobudur in Java, undertaken between 1971 and 1983, as one of the five members of the Consultative Committee appointed by the Indonesian government and UNESCO. Then from 1983 to 1987 I was requested by UNESCO to serve as one of a team of three consultants for the "Cultural-Triangle Project" in Sri Lanka, devoted to the preservation and restoration of its historical remains, and this afforded me with another opportunity to further my investigations.

In the course of these field trips and my direct involvement in the preservation and restoration of historical remains, extending over a period of many years, I was able to learn a great deal, and I must firstly express my profound gratitude to Dr. Jan Fontein who, knowing that I was thinking of bringing together in book form the fruits of my researches, strongly urged me to proceed with the present work. He is a friend whom I hold in the highest esteem and who has lived in Kyōto and studied for a short time at my own alma mater, Kyoto University.

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