

Joint Research Group
Manuscriptology and Digital Humanities

From Text to Image:
**The Iconographic Transformation of the
Pathomasambodhigāthā in Thai Art and Sculpture**

Pathomasambodhigāthā is recognized as a cornerstone of Theravada Buddhist literature in Southeast Asia, its profound influence on visual culture offers a compelling field for scholarly inquiry. A defining milestone in this literary tradition is the Thai recension by *Krom Phra Paramanuchit Jinoroth*, whose poetic mastery provided a canonical framework that extended far beyond the written word.

This study examines the transformation of Buddhist narrative text into visual representation in Thai art and sculpture, using the *Pathomasambodhigāthā* as a case study. It aims to analyze the relationship between the textual narrative and its artistic representation, focusing on how key episodes, symbols, and meanings in the text were selected, interpreted, and adapted within the context of Thai visual culture. The research employs documentary analysis together with an iconographic approach, comparing the content of the *Pathomasambodhigāthā* with artistic evidence such as mural paintings and sculptures in Thai religious sites. The study finds that the transformation from text to image was not a direct reproduction of the narrative, but a process of interpretation shaped by religious, cultural, and artistic contexts in different periods. This research demonstrates that the *Pathomasambodhigāthā* played an important role in shaping visual imagery of the Buddha's life in Thai art and reflects the close relationship between Buddhist literature and visual expression. By analyzing the transition from sacred manuscript to artistic expression, we explore how specific episodes from the Buddha's life were codified into distinct Buddha postures and vivid temple murals, particularly during the Rattanakosin period.



09:15-10:45 Hrs
(CET Germany)

= 12:45-14:15 (IST India)
= 16:15-17:45 (JST Japan)



Friday 29.05.2026



Meeting's Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85088149247?pwd=pHfkMsOnMzNb2N9FG19wPyW7WaRkRQ.1>

Meeting ID: 850 8814 9247 Passcode: pothi



Speakers:

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