

Sazigyo

Woven Miniatures of Buddhist Art

Ralph Isaacs

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This book aims to introduce textile enthusiasts and art lovers to a little-known but fascinating textile art form. *Sazigyo* are Burmese bands that were used for binding palm-leaf manuscripts, which were donated to Buddhist monasteries. As the donations were to assist the donor to [gain](#) merit in this life and their passage through reincarnation, the tapes name the donors of the manuscripts, and the text is often interspersed with miniature images. They were tablet woven in cotton or silk, up to six [metres](#) long but only about 2 [cm](#) wide. You do not have to be a weaver or textile expert to appreciate the wonderful images on the tapes.

The book explores the history of the *sazigyo*, the text woven into them, the motifs used and their symbolism. The book is beautifully illustrated with hundreds of sections of tapes, which have been scanned in and are shown life size. [Photographs](#) and other images from Burma are [also](#) included to bring the tapes to life. Many of the tapes illustrated were collected by the author and donated to the James Green Centre for World Art in Brighton in the early 1990s. They were then each analysed by Peter Collingwood who detailed the weaving techniques used in each of them. This work was retained by the museum, but never published until this book where the detail of one of the tapes is included. Peter Collingwood insisted that Ralph Isaacs write a book about the *sazigyo*, and this beautiful book is the result.

Liz Day

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