

*The Numata Chair in Buddhist Studies  
at the University of Calgary  
presents*

***Beginning at the Beginning:  
Research on the Oldest  
Surviving Buddhist  
Manuscripts***

*a free public lecture by*

**Dr. Collett Cox**

University of Washington

Monday, April 4, 2011 7:30pm

Calgary Buddhist Temple

207 6th Street NE, Calgary

*Since 1994, several collections of early Indian Buddhist manuscripts from the region of ancient Gandhāra (present-day Afghanistan) have come to light. In addition to their significance as the earliest (1st-2nd cents. CE) texts of any type yet to have been discovered in greater South Asia, these texts also fortunately provide unparalleled evidence for reconstructing the early history of Buddhist text styles and textual collections. These Gandhāran texts are currently being studied and published under the auspices of the Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project (University of Washington).*

*Following a brief overview of the manuscript collections, this presentation will examine both their significance for our understanding of the development of early Indian Buddhism and certain text-historical issues that they raise. Attention will also be given to the practical side of working with such manuscripts, from the initial stages of conservation and reconstruction through the process of formulating an edition, translation, and contextual interpretation.*

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Collett Cox received her Ph.D. in Religion from Columbia University and is currently Professor of Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Washington. Her field is early Indian Buddhism, specifically scholastic or Abhidharma texts. She is the Assistant Director of the Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project at the University of Washington, which is engaged in the study and publication of recently discovered early Indian Buddhist manuscripts from Gandhāra.



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