

The Buddhaisawan Chapel stands in the front part of the National museum. It was one of the throne hall in reign of King Rama I. This chapel houses the important Buddha image, Phra Buddha Sihing.

Although, the original constructor of Buddhaisawan chapel was initiated during the reign of King Rama I, at present the architecture is in Rama III style. That's because of the reconstruction at that time. The building raised on a high platform at the base platform has lotus decorations. The main structure is surrounded by a veranda which has pillars on every side to support the edges of the roof. There are stairs leading to the entrance of the chapel was located in both of the front veranda. The roof has a high central ridge. All the elements of the roof is decorated with "Chofa", "bairaka" and "hanghong" - which made from wood. The pediment is decorated with figures of Brahma are carved in their celestial palace building. There are also eight Brahma in the gesture of adoration along the bottom of Pediment.

Phra Buddha Sihing is made from bronze then covered with gold sheets. The image is in the attitude of Meditation and in the posture of folded legs that seat on a double row of upright lotus. Moreover, there are two standing Buddha images in front of the Phra - Buddha Sihing on both side. They are in attitude of calming the ocean.

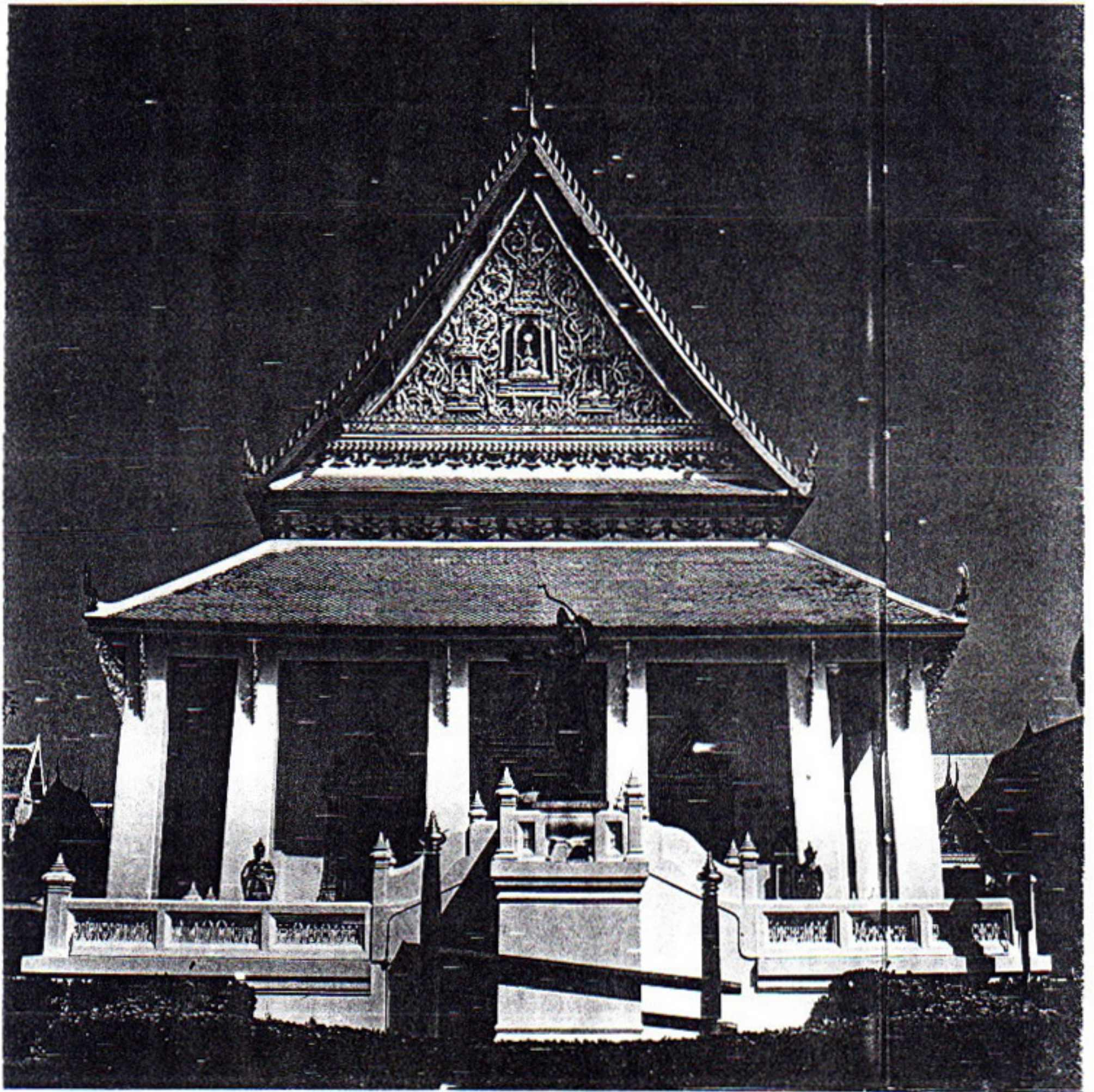
The chapel contain three cabinets decorated with black lacquer and gilt. They depict episodes from Ramakien (Ramayana). These scene stands behind the manuscript cabinets opposite the rear door. Furthermore, there are mural paintings which are believed to be the oldest and the most beautiful during the Rattanakosin period. The murals are divided into two main parts, upper and lower. The Celestial Assembly is in the upper part in registers. The registers are divided by narrow strips in flora and vegetal style to represent the different levels of Heaven. The lowest depicts gods, giants and mythical animals. This part is

the lowest level of the heaven. The low part of the murals depict scenes from the life story of the Lord Buddha, from Phathom Somphothikhata by the Thais. The story starts with the marriage of Prince Siddhodana. This first episode is painted on the bay of the wall between the main door and the door to north at the back of the hall. The last episode depicted in the bay is the cremation of the Lord Buddha and the distribution of the relics among the eight kings. There are 32 mural bays in the chapel.

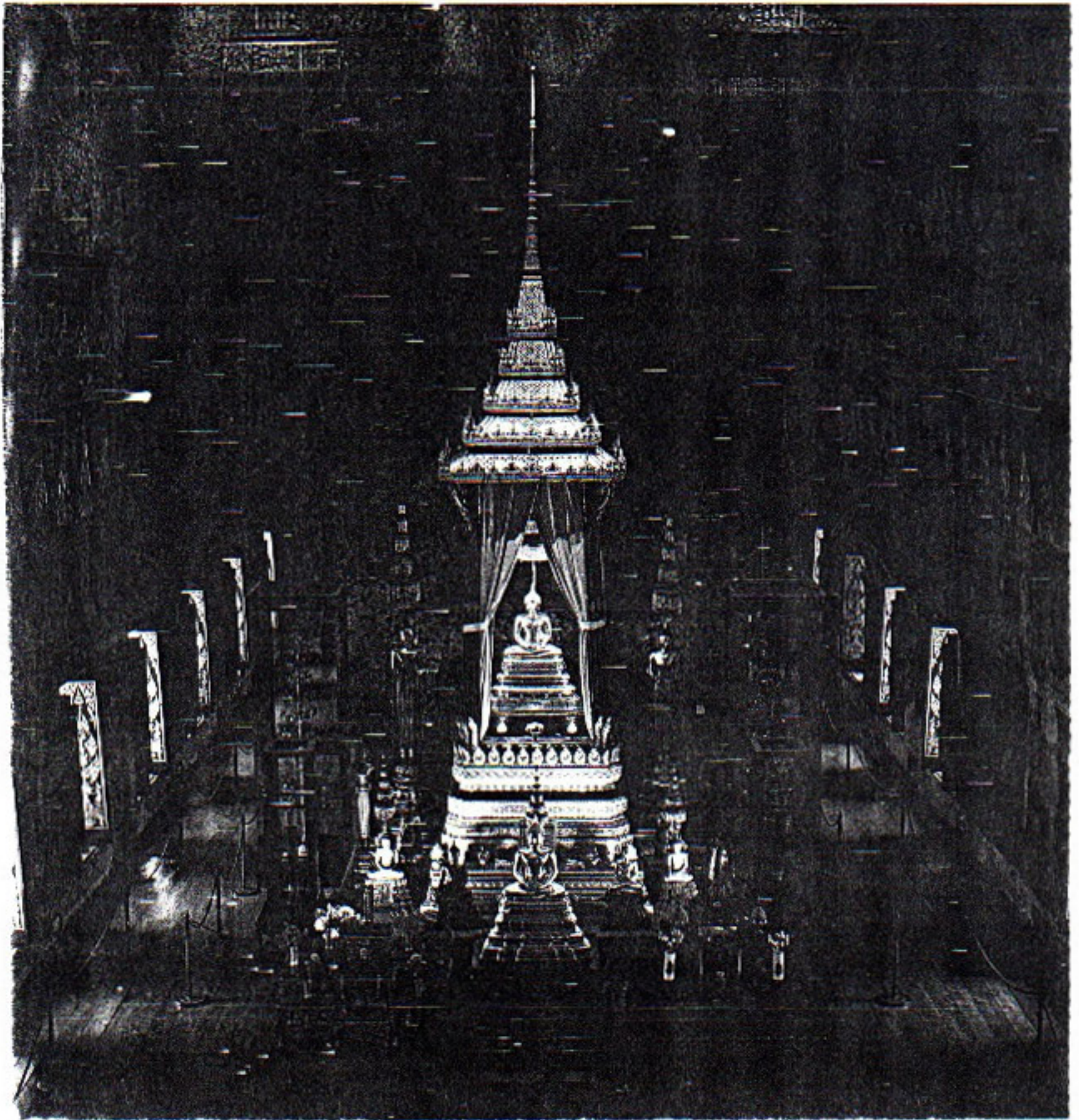
The paintings in this chapel are classics of Thai mural art. Because of the technique which are the highest quality of the murals at the time of king Rama I. Colour is the most important role in Thai traditional mural paintings, and the linear depiction of human figures, architecture and landscape is a decisive factor in making them outstanding when combine with the colour.

Artist use Zig-Zag line, Sintoow, to divide two or more episodes in one bay. The most important scene has red background, the secondary scene is painted background in green.

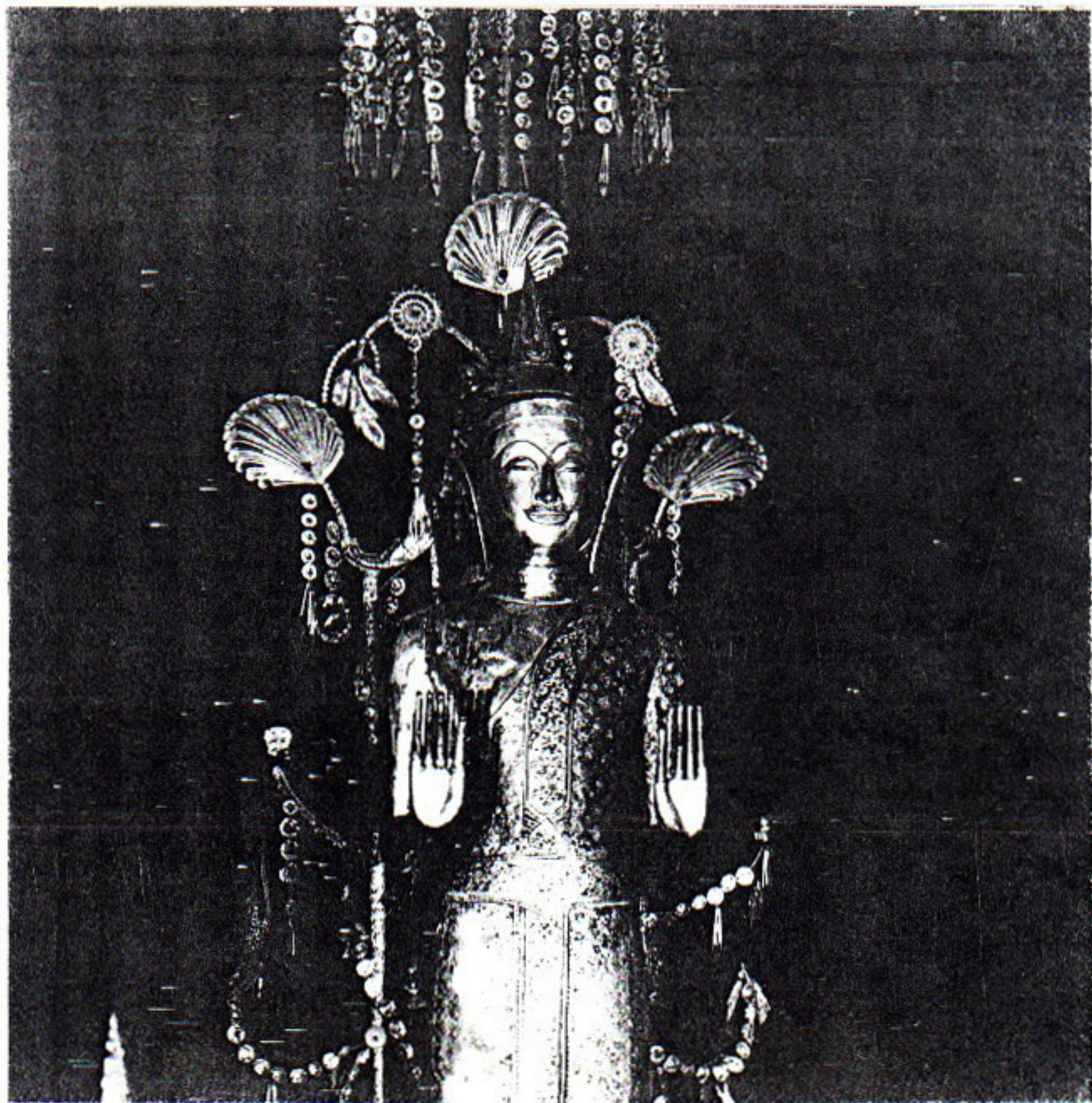
Example of the mural painting from bay 7th. The scene depicts the assault of Mara and his army who come to delay the Lord Buddha's enlightenment. These enemies of the Buddha are subdued by his accumulated merits and finally are scattered in the flood produced by The Earth Goddess Dharani. The Buddha is seated on a throne decorated with jewels, placed under a Bodhi tree.



Buddhaisawan chapel



Phra Buddha Sihing Image.



standing Buddha Image.