

Bodhisattva in a previous birth paying homage to Dipankara Buddha and receiving from him the prophecy of his own future greatness. The figure, pose and dress of the Buddha closely reproduce hieratic tradition derived from India. Next below we have a condensed representation of the famous 'Four Encounters' of Prince Gautama which determine his start on the road towards Enlightenment and Nirvana. Then follows the scene of the announcement of Gautama's birth in a dream of his mother Maya, the infant Buddha being shown as a baby carried by a celestial attendant on a cloud. Finally below we see the scene of the birth of the Buddha, both in the palace of Kapilavastu.

93, 94. ANCIENT BUDDHIST BANNERS OF SILK GAUZE, SHOWING LEGENDARY SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF THE BUDDHA. RECOVERED FROM THE WALLED-UP CHAPEL, 'CAVES OF THE THOUSAND BUDDHAS.'

SCALE, 93, ONE-THIRD; 94, THREE-EIGHTHS.

every 'Universal Monarch'... explaining their significance, which would take us long time. I may call attention to the scene below, which shows the Bath of the Buddha after his birth. The scene is surrounded by the Thunder Clouds, which probably are being carried by Dragons by the Chinese people. Finally at the bottom we see the traditional scene of the Seven Steps which is the infant Bodhisattva immediately after the birth. The astonishment of the court ladies arranged in a row as they see a lotus springing up beneath each step.

We see the identical scene depicted in the bottom panel of the banner shown in Fig. 95. The upper panels show traditional scenes of the Buddha's nativity in various succession. Above we see his mother Maya asleep in the court