

# Contents

---

## *Preface and Acknowledgments*

ix

## **Introduction**

1

### CHAPTER ONE

#### **Phra Bang:**

*Venerating the Buddha Image in Lao Religious Culture*

11

### CHAPTER TWO

#### **Asala Perahara:**

*Powers of the Buddha's Tooth-Relic in Sri Lanka*

67

### CHAPTER THREE

#### **Upasampada and Pabbajja:**

*Ordination in Thai Buddhist Contexts*

131

### CHAPTER FOUR

#### **Kathina:**

*Making Merit in Modern Myanmar*

189

CHAPTER FIVE

*Pchum Ben:*

*Caring for the Dead Ritually in Cambodia*

239

APPENDIXES

1. *The Dalada Sirita* 309

2. *Randoli Perahara* 315

3. *Wat Phnom* 325

4. *The Feast of the Offering to the Dead* 329

*Notes* 337

*Bibliography* 363

*Index* 375