**Crowned Buddha**

The crowned Buddha depicts the Buddha wearing royal adornments. These images have commonly appeared both in India and Buddhist countries. The belief about the crowned Buddha is varied due to local adaptation of Buddhismin various regions. The crowned Buddha may emphasize the aspect of the Buddha as a universal sovereign or monarch according to the belief that Prince Siddhartha would have been a supreme monarch if he did not become the Buddha. Some traditions, however, believe that the crowned Buddha represents Maitreya (a future Buddha) who is at present a bodhisattva in the Supreme Heaven and usually wears royal adornments. Others relate the crowned Buddha to the story of the Buddha transforming into a universal monarch to punish King Jambupati who forgot the dharma and boasted himself a supreme monarch.

During the middle Ayutthaya period, the crowned Buddha images usually showed the Buddha with few jewels called the “Partly Crowned Buddha.” The images became popular during the late Ayutthaya period and the Buddha was depicted to wear more adornments than before called the “Fully Crowned Buddha.”

The popularity of the crowned Buddha images had continued to increase. During the early Rattanakosin period, the Buddha wore royal attire and was adorned with even more numerous jewelries than that of the Late Ayutthaya period.

------------------------------