Standing Buddha 2003.418

**Artist/Culture:** Unknown Thai/Thai  
**Date/Period:** Late 8th Century  
**Place:** Northeast Region, Thailand  
**Medium:** Bronze  
**Dimensions:** 58.8 × 16.5 × 14.2 cm

This important Buddha image is shown standing, frontal with both hands performing the Vitarka Mudra, a teaching gesture. The Buddha's robe, worn in the covering mode, is depicted in a highly stylized manner to achieve a pleasing symmetry. The Buddha's hair is arranged in tiers of tight curls that diminish toward the usnisa. The figure has a conjoined tang attached to the bottom of the feet indicating that the image was cast upside down. The tang is the remains of the runner through which the molten metal was poured during the casting process.

**Online Resources:**  
- Hirsch Library Online Catalog  
- MET Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History

**Articles:** (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or HPL Systems)  

**Print Resources:**  
- The Evolution of the Buddha Image  
- Art From Thailand  
- The Bronze Age of Southeast Asia  
- Buddhist Art: An Historical and Cultural Journey  
- The Art of southeast Asia: Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Java, Bali
This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as “Buddhism” “Thailand,” and “bronze sculptures” in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

- Buddhist art
- Buddhism in art
- Art, Thai
- Buddhist bronzes

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet’s A Short Guide to Writing about Art, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7323 or Hirsch@mfah.org