

# Musical instruments & music in ancient Central Java

Inscriptions

Reliefs Borobudur, Sewu, Prambanan

Old Javanese Ramayana

Hindu and Buddhist ensembles?  
Male and/or female players?

# Musical instruments in inscriptions

## - 58x

- Drum, head of drummers, padahi 34 x
- Drum, madanggi 1 x
- Small cymbals, curing 14x
- Large cymbals, regang 5 x
- Goblet shaped cymbals, tuwung 2x
- Harp, rawanahasta 6 x
- Padahi, madanggi, rawanahasta: Skt

# Oldest references

- 827 A.D. (Pu Hawang) – cymbal, curing
- 840 A.D. (Kancana, Kutu)- cymbal, curing
- 842 A.D. (Trui Tepusan) – drum, madanggi
- 850 A.D. (Tulang Air) – drum, padahi



# Oldest visual sources of music making

- Borobudur: largest variety of instruments, drums, small and large cymbals, flutes, 5 types of stringinstrument, trumpet, other; 45 panels with instruments, dance; hidden foot and first gallery majority
- Prambanan: drums, small and large cymbals, flute, stringinstrument; dance; 16 panels
- Sewu: drums, flute, small and large cymbals; dance; 18 panels

# Performing arts in inscriptions

- Singing, kidung
- Dancing, igel, everybody may join
- Stage play with live actors
- Clowns, banyol
- Masked performance, tapuk
- Puppet performance, ringgit, wayang, privilege

# occasions

Consecration of a freehold  
ritual or festival in temple

procession

Consecration/ceremony in palace

leisure in heaven

beggers

# ensembles

- Cymbals, flute, potdrum, conductor
- Cymbals, flute, potdrum, big drums, conductor
- Cymbals, flute, drum, clapping, zither
- Cymbals, 2 flutes, 3 drums
- Cymbals, harp, lute

instruments



# drum tree- Borobudur





# drums



# Drums-mrdangga





drums



drums





drums



# drums



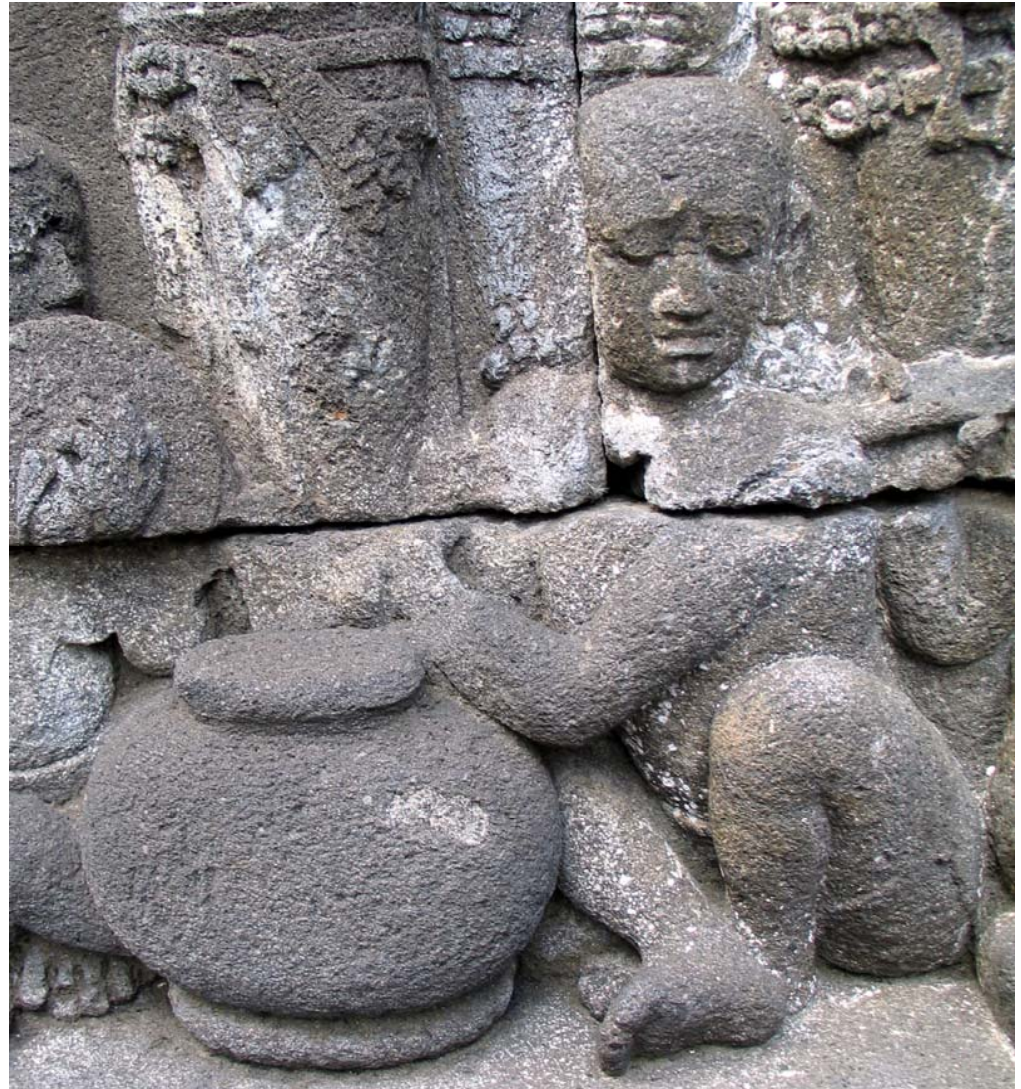
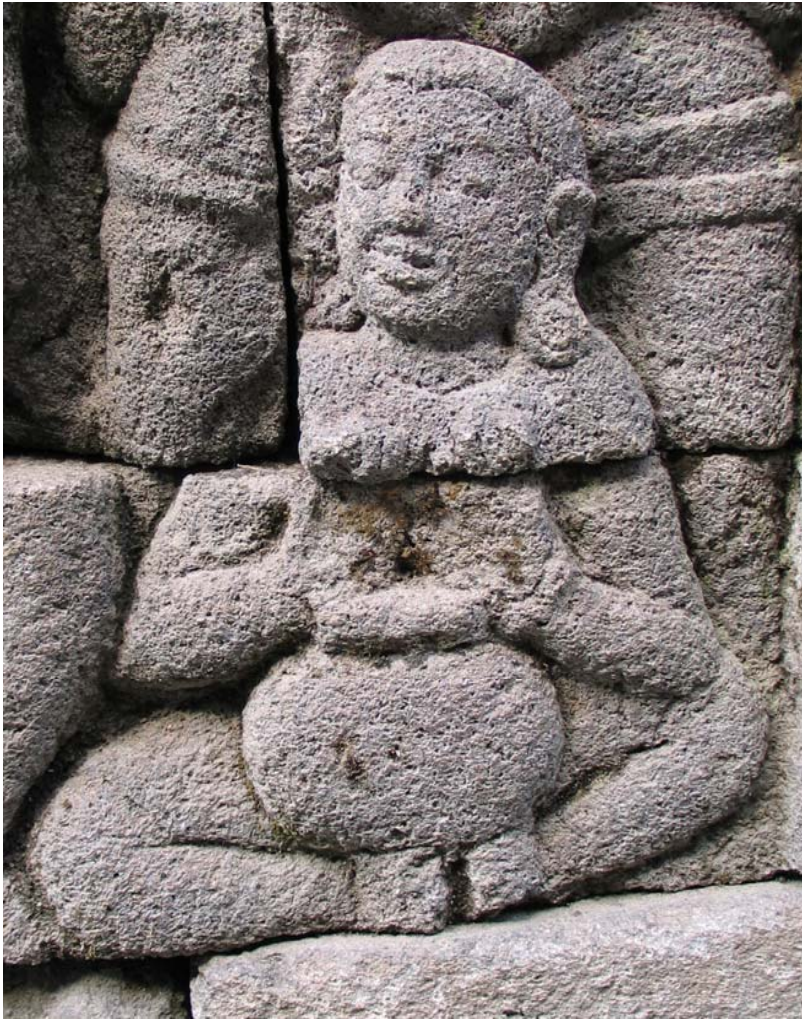


drums





# drums





drums



small cymbals-curing









# small cymbals - curing



large cymbals- tuwung





# large cymbals



# flutes- transverse- bangsi



flutes





flutes



flutist in heaven





flutes - straight





string instruments

lute, bar zither, vina, harp



lute



lute



lute played by woman



# bar zither





vina





# harp – rawanahasta played by women





clapping



rare instruments



trumpet



# shell trumpet -sangkha





# shell trumpet





bells-played with stick





ghanta –to summon the monks

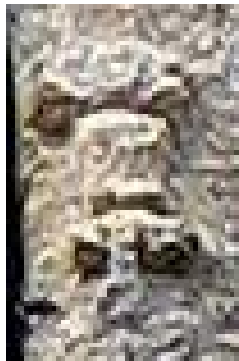


# Bells – self sounding





# Bells from ceiling and trees





Non-Indian instruments?

(metal) blades on a soundbox –  
salunding?





# Bagpipe?





# mouthorgan -kledi



shawn



scraping stick





# clappers



# tingkling bar



slit drum





when did one play?

# Borobudur - procession





# Borobudur - procession

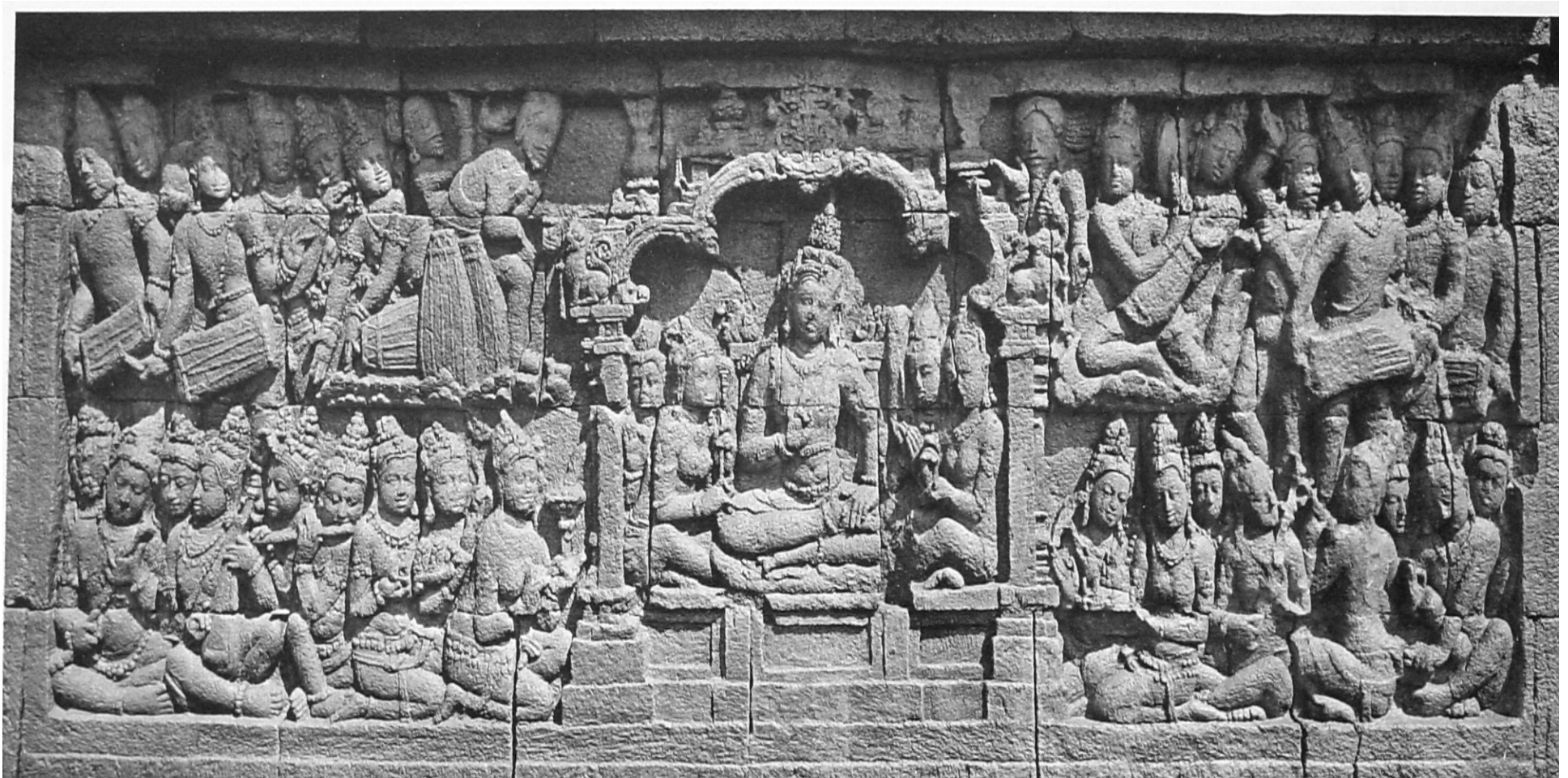




# Borobudur - ceremony



# Borobudur - celebration



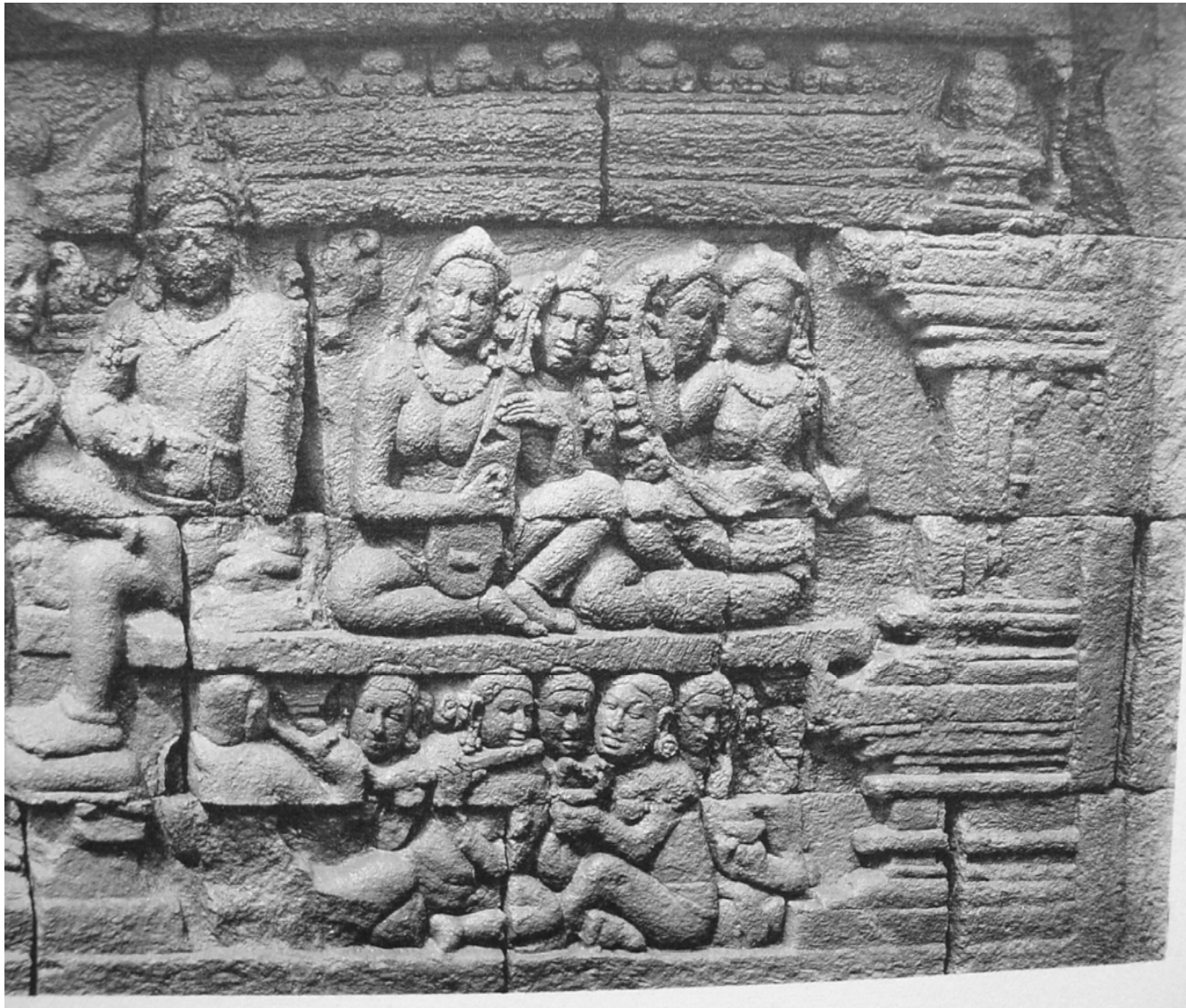


# Borobudur – stupa worship

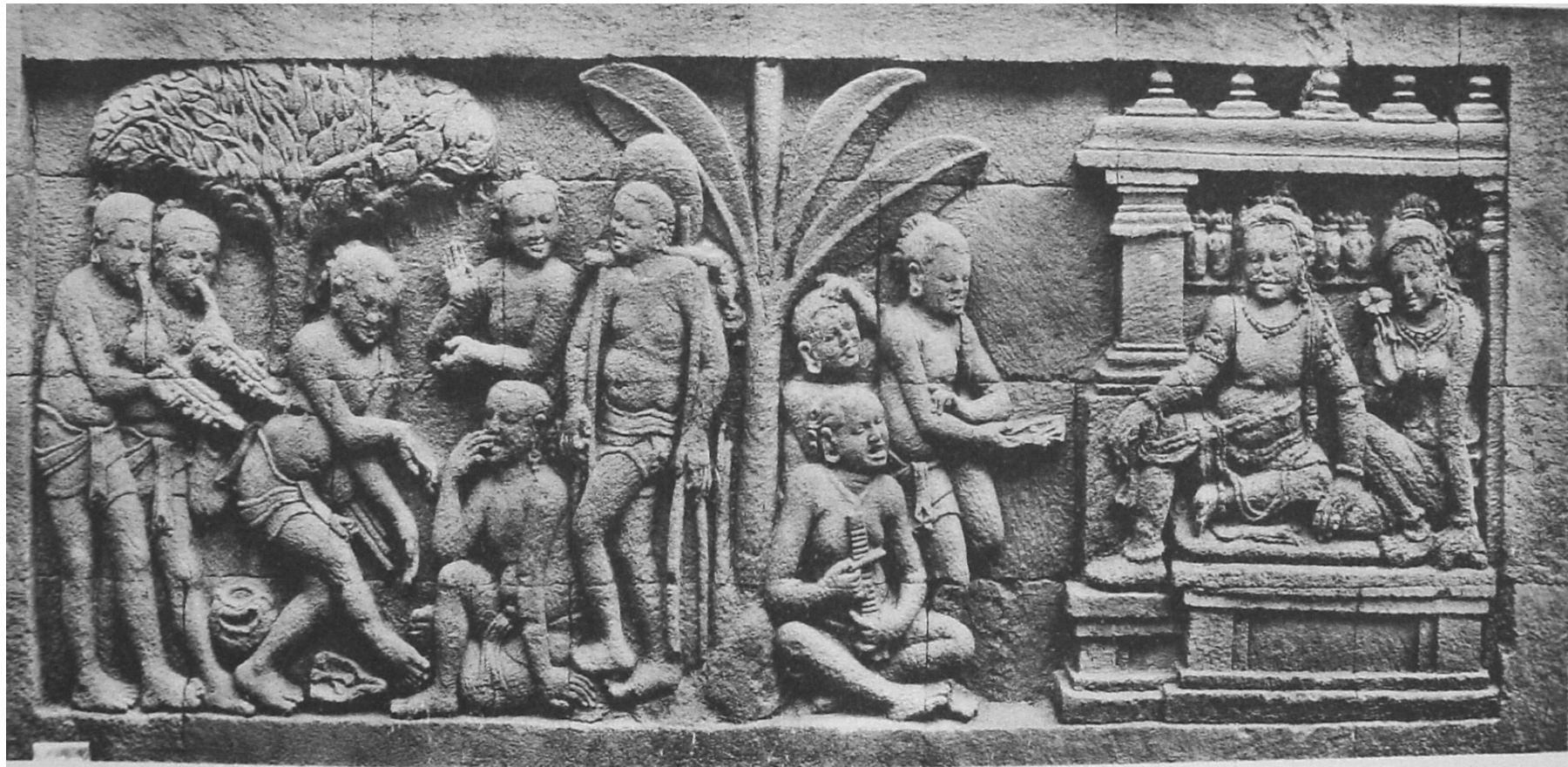




# Borobudur- leisure in palace



# Borobudur - beggars



# conclusions

- Indian musical instruments in a temple context, a palace context, war
- Indigenous musical instruments used by beggars and other locals

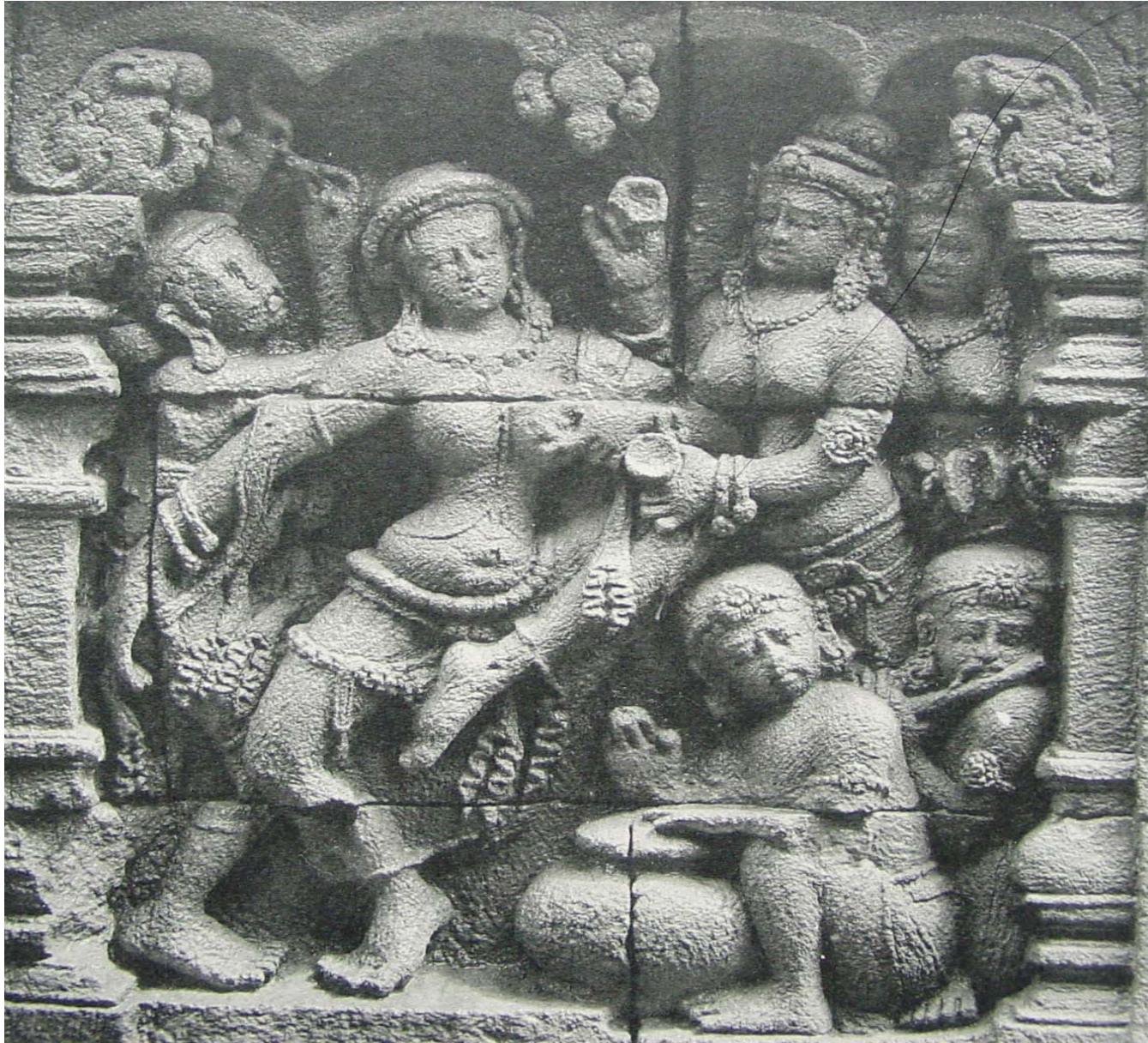


# conclusions

- Most instruments played by men: drums, large cymbals, small cymbals, flutes and string instruments
- clapping/conducting done by men
- Some instruments played by women: harp (by women only), small cymbals, lute

what about dancers?

# Borobudur – female dancer





# Borobudur – female dancer





# Borobudur-female dancer





# Borobudur – female dancer

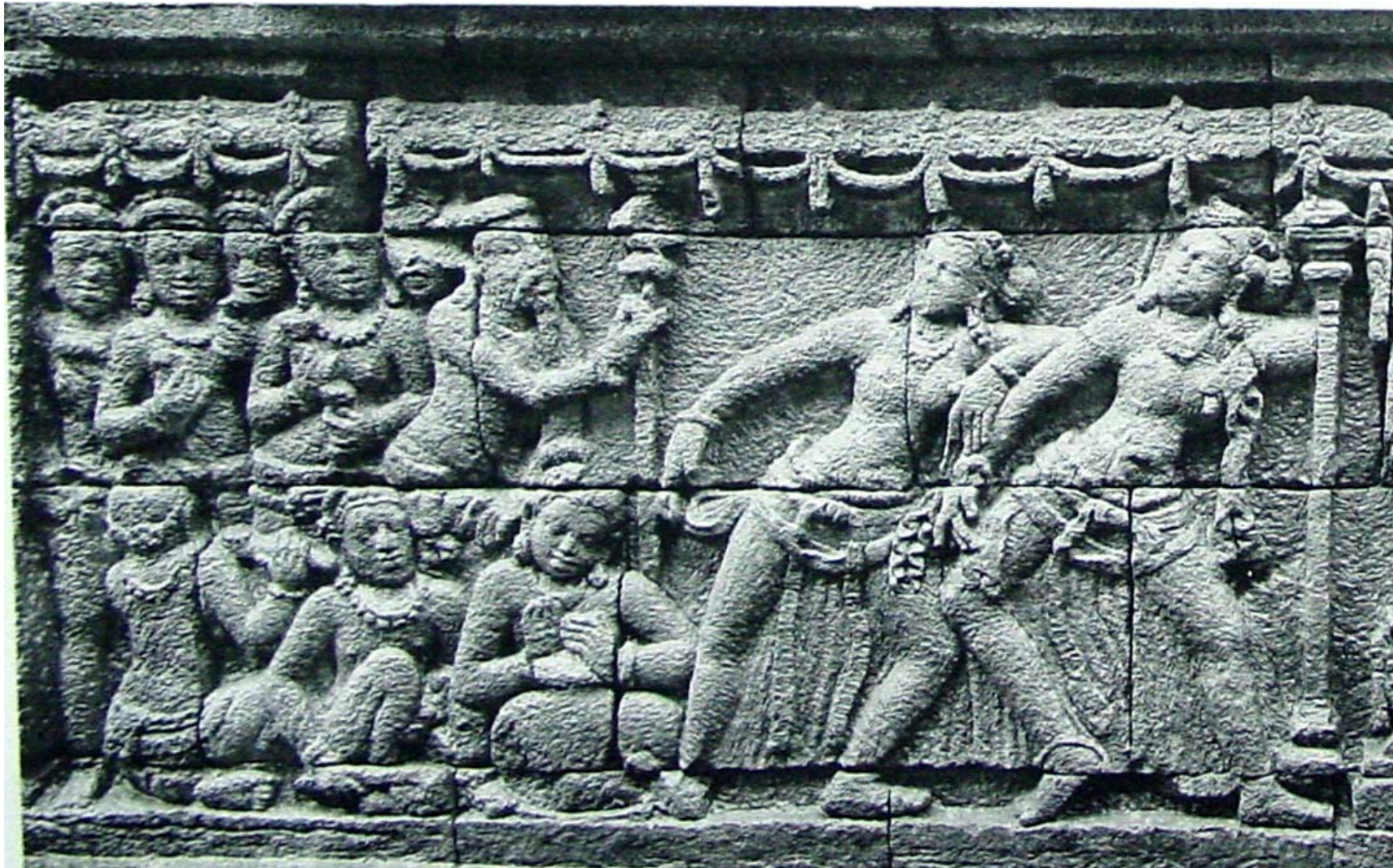




# Borobudur- female dancer



# Borobudur – female dancers





# Borobudur – female dancers

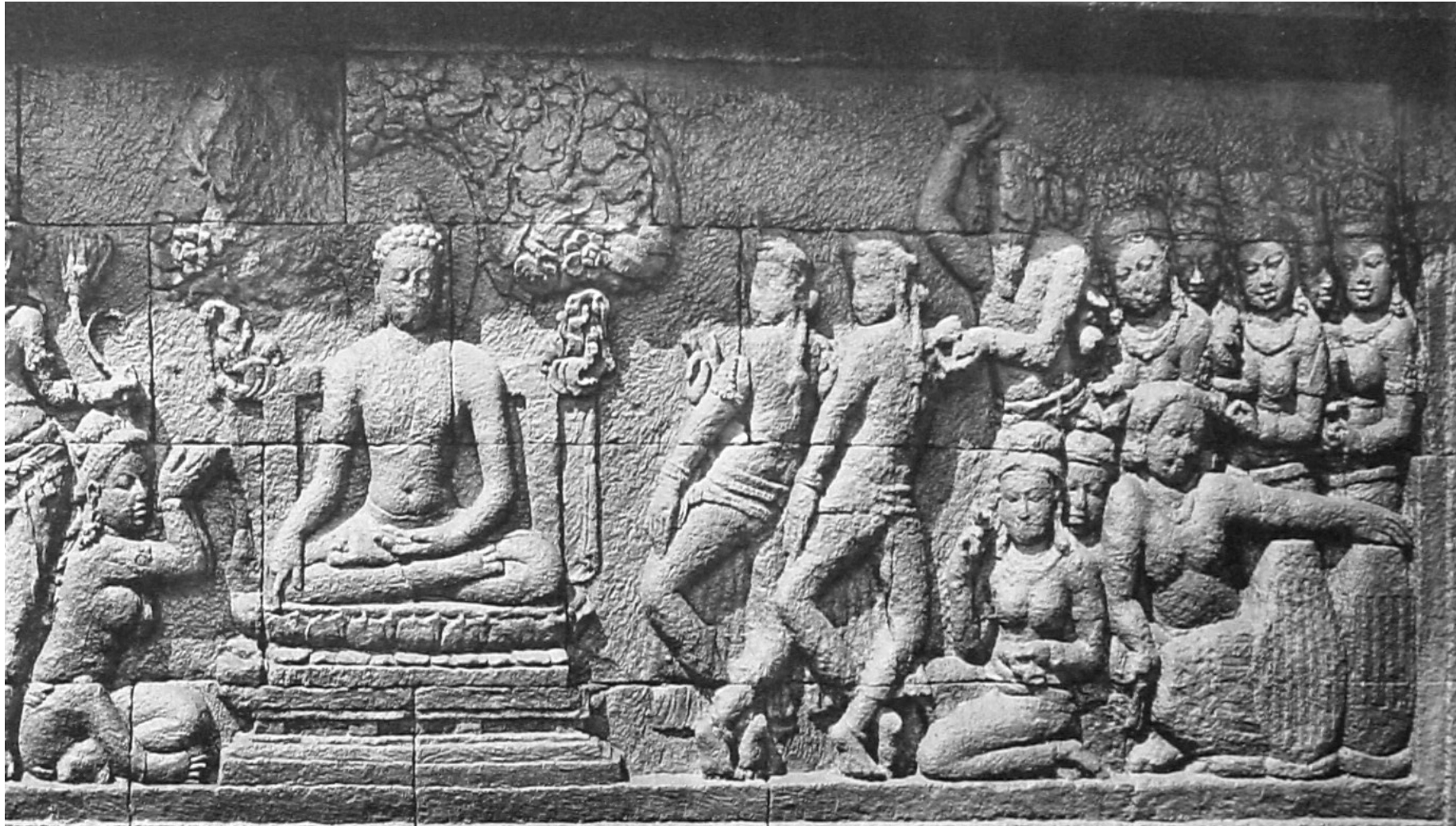




# Borobudur- female dancer



# Borobudur – female dancers





# Borobudur – female dancer?





# Borobudur – female dancer





# Borobudur – male dancers - drinkers



# Borobudur- male dancers – drinking party





# Prambanan- female dancer at consecration in palace



# Prambanan – male dancers











# Sewu – male dancers, musicians









# conclusions

- Female dancers mostly entertainment
- Male dancers either in temple context or in drinking scene

# East Java- Panataran gongs- warning in war





## East Java – 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> cy

### evidences from texts

- gamel- the playing on a percussion instrument
- tabeh – beating, striking a musical instrument
- gongs- large and small ones
- garantang – bamboo instruments, xylophone?
- kangsi – metal blades on sound box
- salukat – metal blades, accompanies wayang
- kendang – new word for drum

after 1600

Sultans develop new instruments  
and combinations

5- and 7 tones ensembles



more hanging gongs





small kettles on rack  
played in pairs -bonang barung





# Bonang panerus





# Larger kettles - kenong





# Metal blades over tubes gender



slenthem





sarons, peking

