

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, Kuti)- 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 stringinstruments, 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



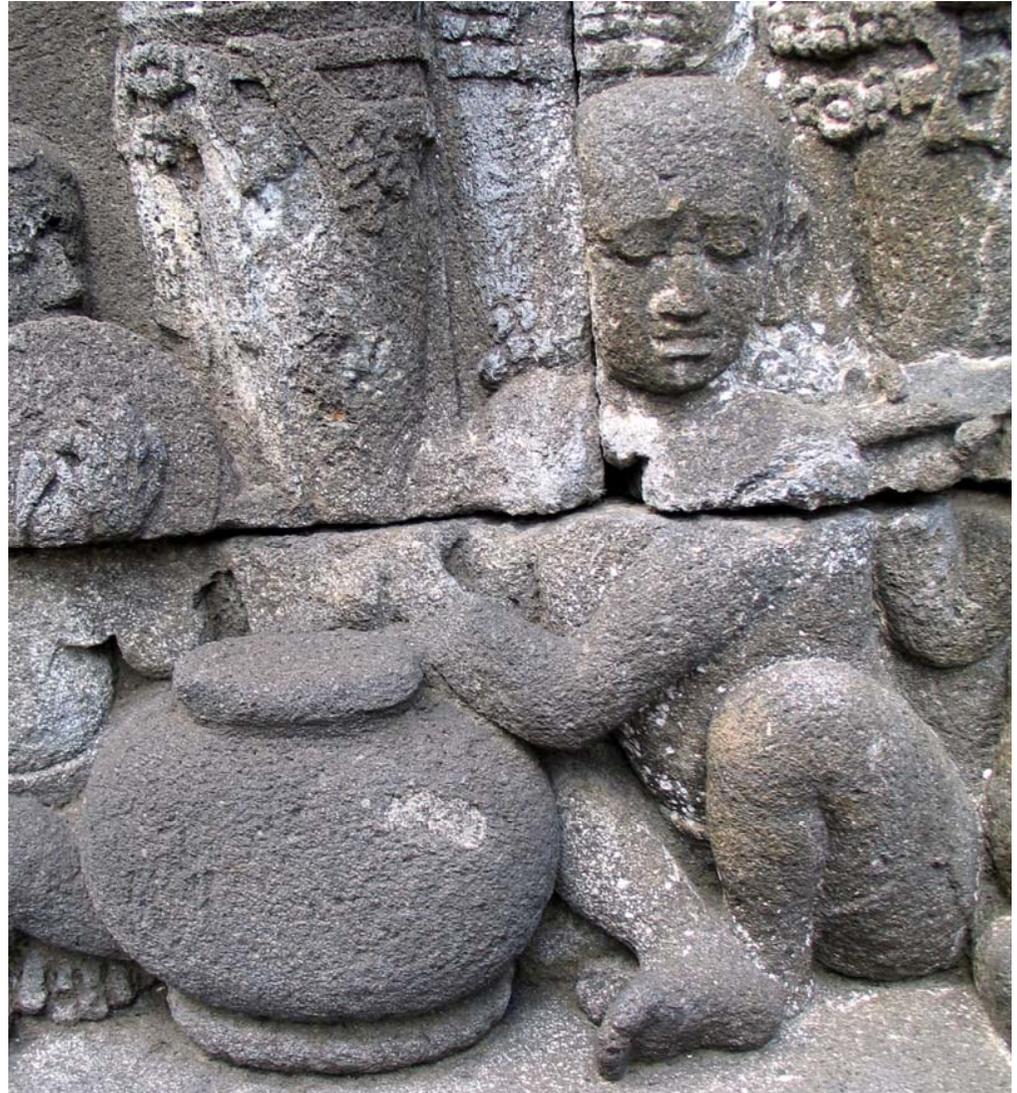
drums



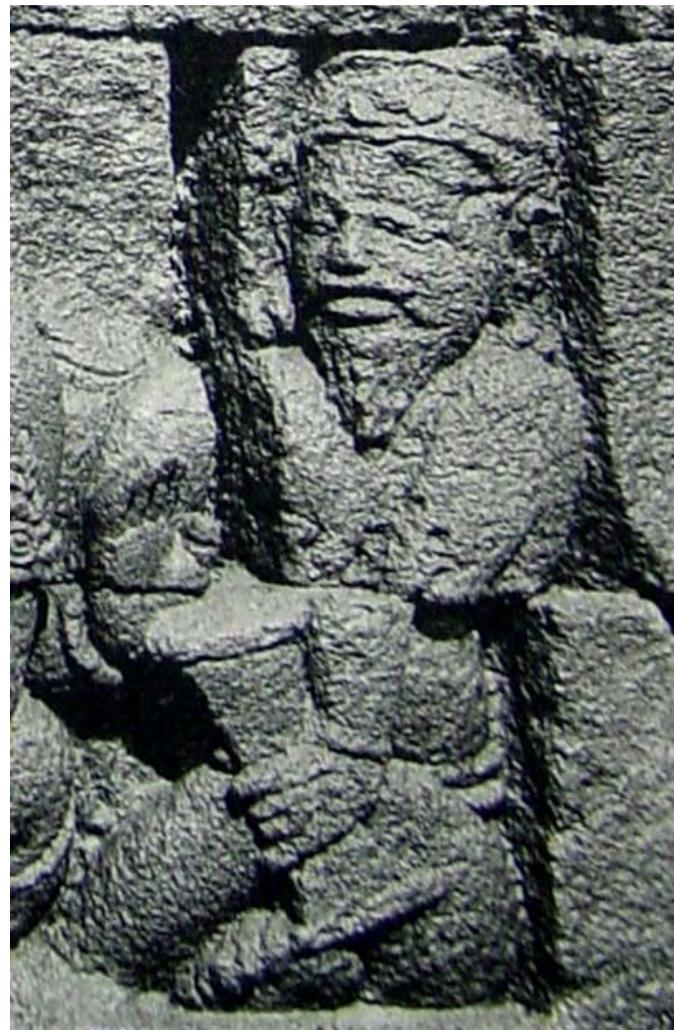
drums



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



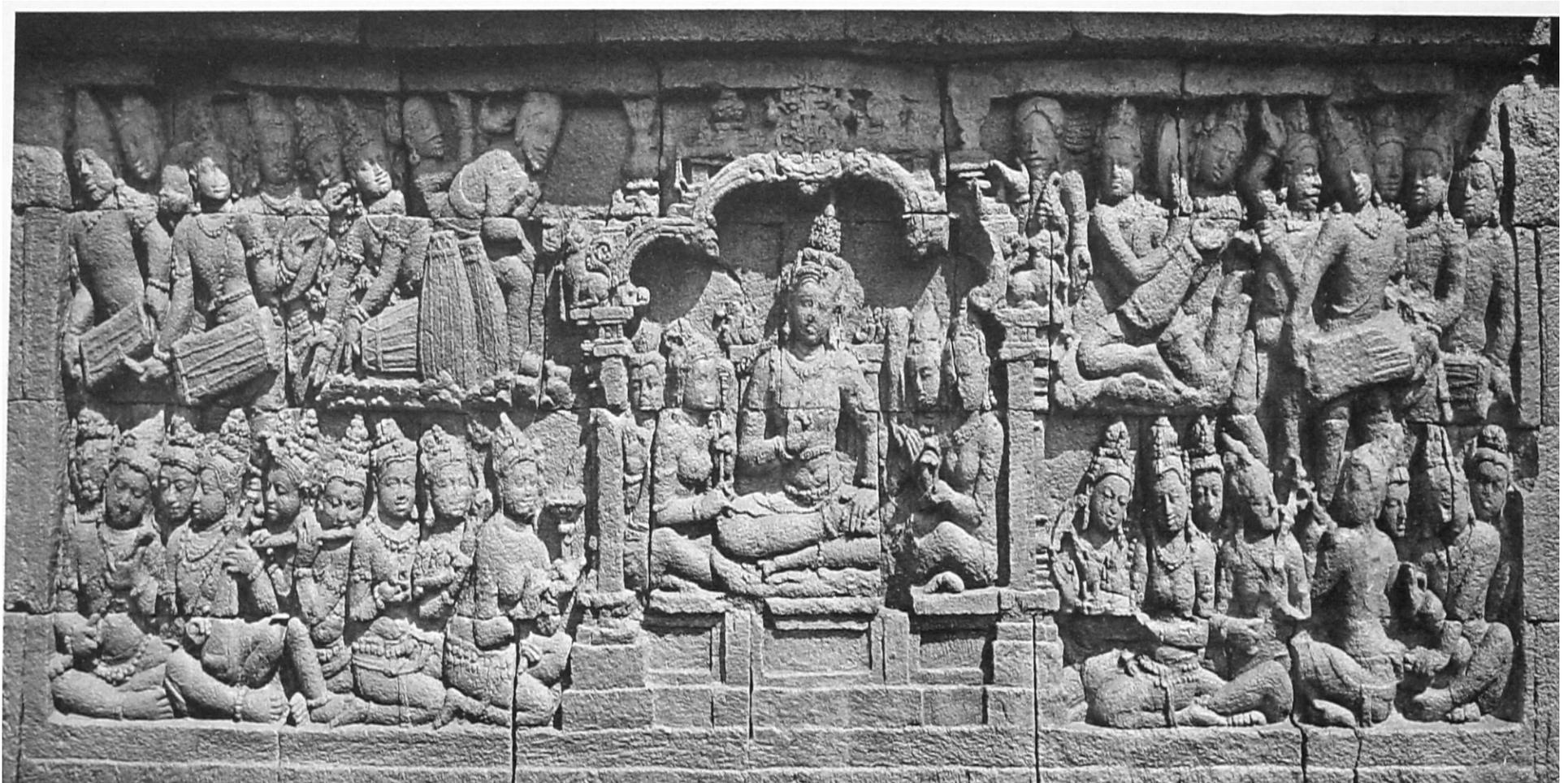
Borobudur - procession



Borobudur - ceremony



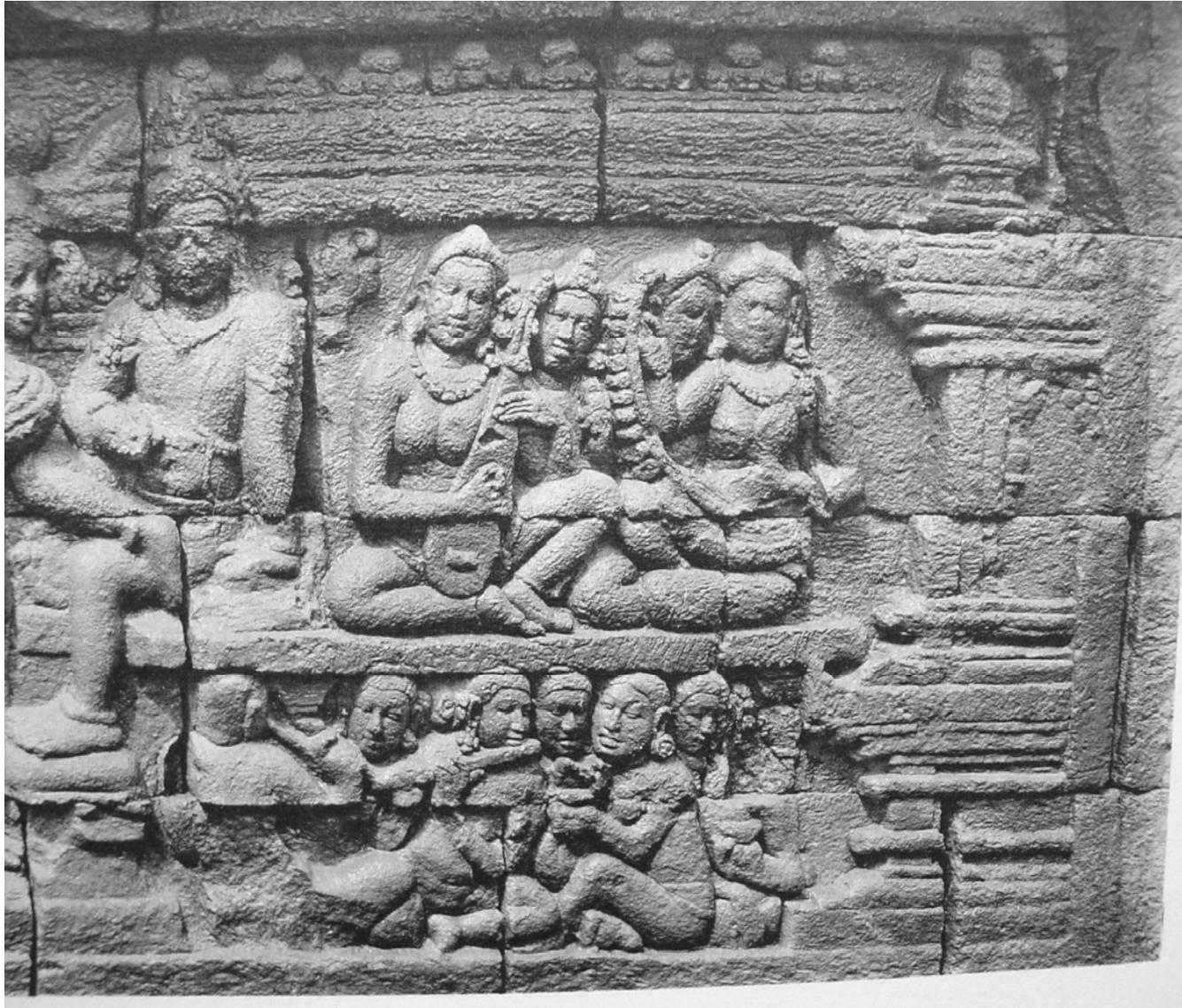
Borobudur - celebration



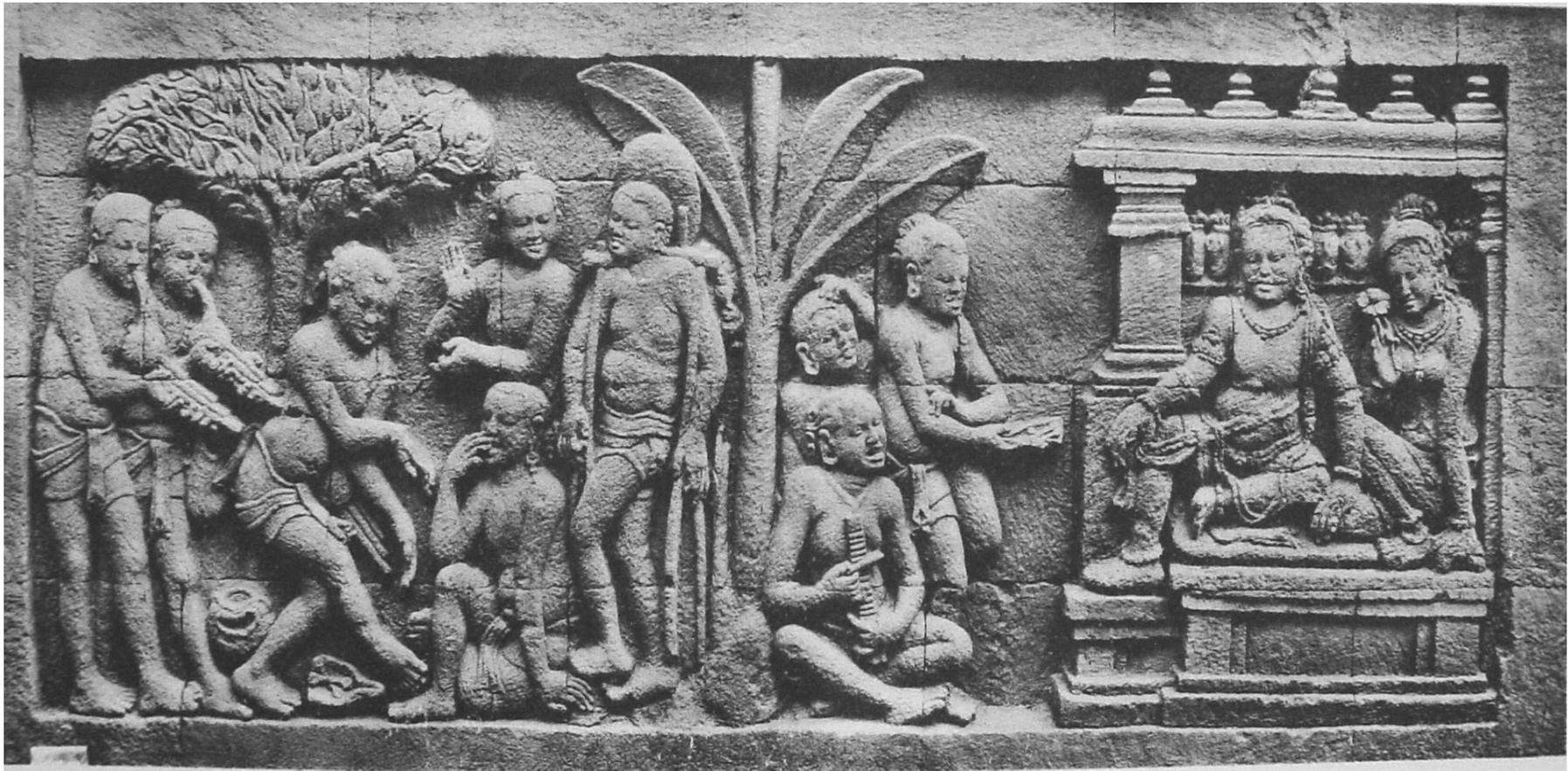
Borobudur – stupa worship



Borobudur- leisure in palace



Borobudur - beggars



conclusions

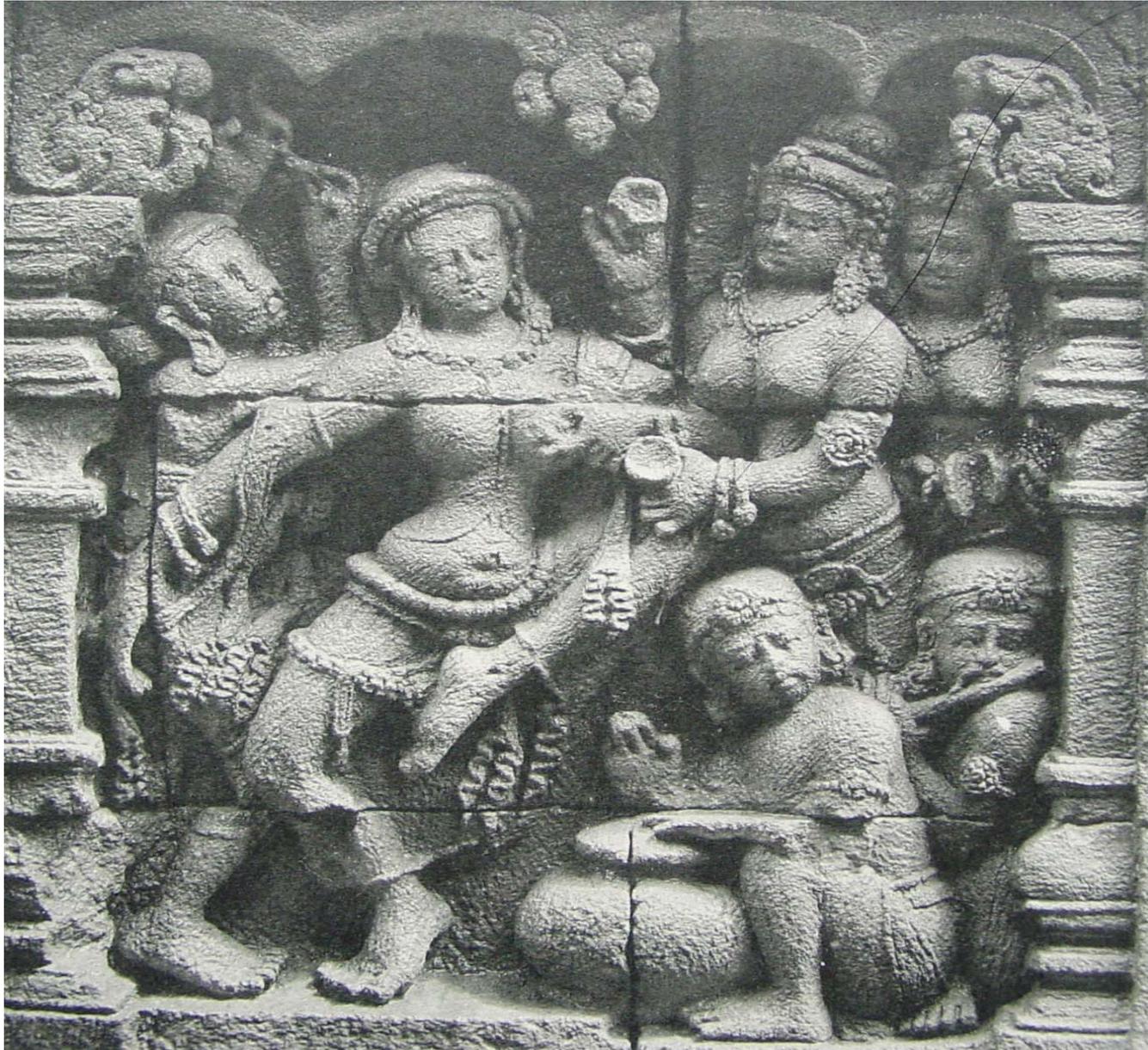
- Indian musical instruments in a temple context, a palace context, war
- Indigenous musical instruments used by beggars and other locals

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



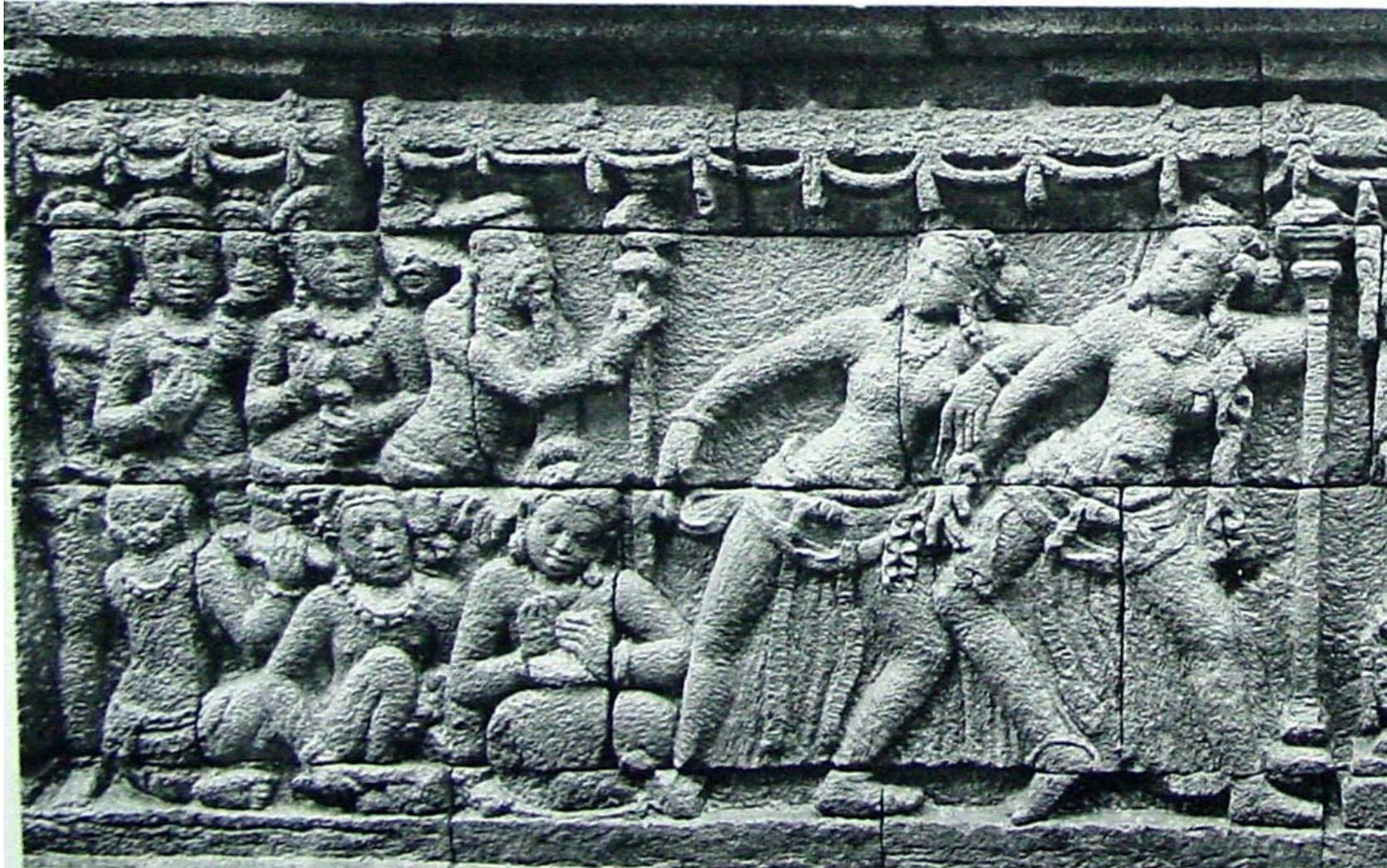
Borobudur – female dancer



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 – 13th-15th 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

