

## 15. BICEPHALOUS EAR ORNAMENT

Giong Ca Vo site, Long Hoa village, Can Gio district, Ho Chi Minh City, 3rd–1st century B.C.

Nephrite, H: 3.7 cm × W: 4 cm

Museum of Vietnamese History, Ho Chi Minh City, BTLS 13619

17

See one example, Glover, 1990. For a discussion of this type of ornament, see Peter Francis, Jr., *Asia's Maritime Bead Trade: 300 B.C. to the Present* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002), 130–31.

18

Andreas Reinecke, Nguyen Chieu, and Lam Thi My Dung, *Neue Entdeckungen zur Sa-Huynh-Kultur; Nhung phat hien moi ve van hoa Sa Huynh* AVA-Forschungen Band 7. (Cologne: Kommission für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Archäologie, 2002), 221.

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Andreas Reinecke, "Ohringe mit Tierkopffenden in Südostasien," *Beiträge Zur Allgemeinen und Vergleichenden Archäologie* 16 (1996): 45.

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Burial number H4 M50; Reinecke, personal communication, November 2004, at Giong Ca Vo outside of Ho Chi Minh City.

21

Andreas Reinecke, "Bi-cephalous Animal-Shaped Ear Pendants in Vietnam," *Bead Study Trust Newsletter* (1996): 28.6.

Bicephalous ear ornaments have been discovered in sites in Taiwan, the Philippines, Viet Nam, and Thailand and are considered a characteristic object of the Sa Huynh culture of central and southern Viet Nam.<sup>17</sup> Recent excavations of late Sa Huynh sites in Quang Nam Province, where no bicephalous ear ornaments were discovered, suggest they typified early (rather than later) Sa Huynh sites.<sup>18</sup> These earrings have been found in two distinct regions in Viet Nam, Quang Nam Province and in the southeast of Ho Chi Minh City, suggesting their production arose from a common tradition that developed in two separate areas.<sup>19</sup> This fine piece was excavated in the spring of 1994.<sup>20</sup> We know that these ornaments, sometimes produced in glass, were hung on the ears, as one has been found still attached to a skull.

Two-horned beasts with downward-thrusting open mouths share a body and the flipperlike appendage that hangs from the middle of the body. Reinecke has identified the animal as the recently dis-

covered bovine (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*).<sup>21</sup> The piece is all sharp forms—the protruding lips that flare away from the pointed tongue, the elegant curved horns that meet at the ridged nose, and the joined appendage that marks the ornament's center. Even the hook, wide at the top, narrows as a thin counterpoint to its upper, chunky portion. The eyes feather away from the center of the forehead like the veins of a fragile leaf.