

34

Charles Higham, *Early Cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia*, 181.

35

Ruth Prior and Ian C. Glover, "The Late Prehistoric to Early Historic Earthenware of Central Vietnam," in John Miksic, ed., *Earthenwares in Southeast Asia* (Singapore: Singapore University Press and the Southeast Asian Ceramic Society, 2003), 261–84, 265.

20. JAR

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

Earthenware, H: 17 cm × D: 22.2 cm

National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, LSB 24778

This jar was excavated in 1993–94 by the National Museum of Vietnamese History, Ha Noi, at the site of Giong Ca Vo, located on one of the northern branches of the Mekong River. While few human remains have been found at other sites, twenty-six corpses in sitting positions were extant at Giong Ca Vo. Large numbers of ceramics and jewelry were found at the site in the vertically placed burial jars. The quality and quantity of the ornaments indicate a wealthy and sophisticated community. The ceramics were also quite varied. One pot was adorned with animals' heads similar to the bicephalous ear ornament creature.³⁴

The clay used during the Sa Huynh period tended to have a high iron content and was fired in oxidizing conditions.³⁵ This is a fine example of the carinated shape—created by joining two flared pieces at the “waist” of the vessel—that

was so popular in prehistoric Southeast Asia. The lower body and base and the wide mouth-rim are devoid of decoration, while the body is carefully inscribed with zigzag incised lines with impressed dots and is colored red in the negative spaces. The abstract design appears lively on a form that is heavily weighted at the bottom.

