

The following objects described in cat. nos. 28–37 are from Oc Eo. For a discussion of that site, see Manguin, pp. 100–118.

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Helen Jessup and Thierry Zephir, eds., *Sculpture of Angkor and Ancient Cambodia: Millennium of Glory* (Washington, D.C.: National Gallery of Art; Paris: Réunion des musées nationaux; Thames and Hudson, 1997), 275–76, 344–45.

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Louis Malleret, *L'Archéologie du Delta du Mekong*, Publications de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient (Paris: L'École française d'Extrême-Orient, 1962), 2:212, where he compares it to images of Balakrisna from India.



FIG. 1
Detail of My Son E1 altar.

28. KNEELING FIGURE MAKING OFFERING

Oc Eo site, My Lam village, An Giang Province, c. 6th century
Bronze, H: 10.8 cm × W: 8.9 cm × D: 16.9 cm
Museum of Vietnamese History, Ho Chi Minh City, BTL5 4421

A devotee acquires merit by making offerings to Hindu gods, and in Buddhism, to the Buddha. Depictions of donors and devotees are found throughout the long history of both religions in Southeast Asia. In Khmer art of a later period, free-standing bronze figures kneel with their offerings upraised, and from the fifteenth century, kneeling devotional figures are a relatively common type.¹⁶ This animated figure, a bronze unique in this period, kneels with one leg thrust back, and presents a circular plate with his extended arm.

Similarly positioned figures are found elsewhere in early Southeast Asian sculpture;¹⁷ a figure on the front of the important altar from My Son E1 provides the most obvious comparison (fig. 1). That elaborately adorned dancer sets his legs like this donor, though he raises both arms and thrusts back his head. He shares other features in common with this small bronze, such as the broad facial features and the short though more complex *sampot* pulled up between the legs. Heavy facial features are one of the characteristics of Cham sculpture (see pp. 199–241), and are unusual, though not unknown, in the sculpture from Fu Nan. In fact, it is the comparison with the Cham example that indicates a date later than has been previously assigned.

LITERATURE

Louis Malleret, *L'Archéologie du Delta du Mekong*, vol. 2, 1960.