

### 33. JEWELRY AND COIN MOLD

Oc Eo site, My Lam village, An Giang Province, 5th–6th century

Schist, H: 6.5 cm × L. 13.3 cm

Museum of Vietnamese History, Ho Chi Minh City, BTLS 1896 and BTLS 1897

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Louis Malleret, *L'Archéologie du Delta du Mekong*, vol. 1 (1959); 2: (1960); 3: (1962); 4: (1963), (Paris: Publications de l'École française d'Extrême-Orient 43, 1959–63), vol. 3, pl. 104, 314; vol. 2, pl. 99.

Two-piece molds, such as this one, were pierced in one or more corners in order to insert an iron piece, which would assure that they fit together properly. A number of different types of jewelry were included on this single mold, and other molds that were found in the area also included a variety of types. A two-sided round pendant, visible in the upper corner, has an inscribed elephant inside a circle (a coin?) on one half of the mold and a *makara* on the other half. The straight line that intersects the pour line from the edge of the mold would probably have held a piece of wood that would have formed a hole in the metal hook of the pendant.

Three earrings are arrayed along one edge, so that each would have been poured individually. The earring is of a type found at the site, circular with a hole on one side and striations in the surface.<sup>21</sup> A straight strand of “beads,” alternating circular and biconical shapes, stretch diagonally across the center of the piece. How this beaded metal piece

would have been used is unclear, for it would not have been flexible, suggesting it might have functioned as a border along the edge of a larger object. On the side opposite the earrings, a single, simple ring would have been poured.

#### LITERATURE

For coins or pendants with a similar elephant, see Bui Phat Diem, Dao Linh Con, and Vuong Thu Hong, *Khao Co Hoc Long An: Nhung The Ky Dau Cong Nguyen (Archaeology in Long An Province: Centuries in Early Christian Era)*, 2001.