

### 51. PENDANT

Go Xoai, Duc Hoa district, Long An Province, 7th–8th century  
Gold and amethyst, H: 2.6 cm × W: 1.9 cm × D: .2 cm  
Long An Museum, BT87-M1-VII

### 52. SHOULDER RING

Go Xoai, Duc Hoa district, Long An Province, 7th–8th century  
Gold with green stone, 2.2 cm at widest  
Long An Museum, BT87-M1-II.4

### SHOULDER RING

Go Xoai, Duc Hoa district, Long An Province, 7th–8th century  
Gold with ruby, 1.8 cm at widest  
Long An Museum, BT87-M1-II.5

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See Le Xuan Diem, Dao Linh Con, and Vo Si Khai, *Van Hoa Oc Eo*, 454.

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Ramon Villegas, personal communication, 1990.

51. Though the form of this ornament could be likened to a Western pendant, the fact that there is no hook at the top suggests it was sewn or adhered to a surface in some other manner. As has been pointed out above, amethyst is mined in the central highlands of Viet Nam. Gold ornaments of a similar motif, though made exclusively of gold, have been excavated at Tra Cu, Tra Vinh.<sup>49</sup> Its significance in the foundation dedication has no clear symbolic intention. It may be that it was merely a beloved ornament that a devotee wanted to offer upon the founding of this temple. It is not uncommon for jewelry to be found in these religious establishments, both Hindu and Buddhist.

#### LITERATURE

James C. M. Khoo, *Art and Archaeology of Fu Nan: Pre-Khmer Kingdom of the Lower Mekong Valley*, 2001; Le Xuan Diem, Dao Linh Con, and Vo Si Khai, *Van Hoa Oc Eo: nhung kham pha moi*, 1995; 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.

52. The ring with a shouldered band is a characteristic Southeast Asian shape, fabricated throughout the region. Because of its pervasiveness, it is difficult to differentiate between simple shouldered rings produced in the various countries of mainland and insular Southeast Asia. Given that jewelry was produced in the Mekong area, we might surmise that these rings are of local production.

The bezel of the ring with an unidentified green stone is made of sheet gold, indicating it was not cast, but forged and joined to the metal band. It remained common in Southeast Asia, into at least the sixteenth century, to forge rather than to cast rings.<sup>50</sup> The ruby ring also has a bezel made of sheet gold, and it appears that the shoulder is hollow, although it is difficult to be certain.

#### LITERATURE

Le Xuan Diem, Dao Linh Con, and Vo Si Khai, *Van Hoa Oc Eo: nhung kham pha moi*, 1995; 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; James C. M. Khoo, *Art and Archaeology of Fu Nan: Pre-Khmer Kingdom of the Lower Mekong Valley*, 2003.