

pounds include a rectangular structure with a barrel-shaped roof that is believed to be a storehouse or library.

The last inscription found at the site of My Son dates to 1263, which indicates Cham dominance over that site until at least the middle of the thirteenth century, though the center of power had shifted farther south by the end of the eleventh century.⁴² The end of the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth century saw a period of war with the Cambodians, who conquered the region briefly, were driven out, and then returned again to rule for thirty-two years; Vickery suggests this was from approximately 1188 to 1220. It was at this time that Quy Nhon, in the province of Binh Dinh, became prominent.⁴³ The twelfth and thirteenth centuries must have been a difficult period for the Cham, who not only fought with the Vietnamese and fought with and were conquered by the Khmer, but whose trade would have been affected by the Chinese, who at this time began using their own ships in the region.

As Anthony Reid has pointed out:

China was the greatest centre of population and manufacture in the world throughout the period of Champa's prominence (roughly A.D. 300–1500). For Southeast Asian maritime states the exchange of their forest and sea products for Chinese metals and manufactures was always the readiest source of the material resources on which to establish a kingdom. Tribute relations with the Chinese court were the safest and most profitable means for rulers to engage in that trade. Indeed it gave rulers endorsed by the imperial court an enormous advantage over their rivals. Champa enjoyed the most fortunate location in Southeast Asia for this commerce with China. All shipping between China and the rest of the world (except the Philippine archipelago and Japan) hugged the Champa coast at least for the five hundred kilometres between Cape Varella and Culau Cham [Cu Lao Cham Island] (just south of modern Da Nang) and usually, for those travelling from the Melaka Straits (and hence usually India) or Siam, for an equal distance southward almost to the Mekong Delta.⁴⁴

Chinese chronicles elucidate aspects of Champa's role in trade with the Philippines. Up until the twelfth century, Cham ships carried Chinese goods from China to the Philippines. The Chinese history *Song Shi* lists Butuan and other Philippine place-names as being under Champa dominance, and when the people of Butuan attempted a tribute mission to China in March, 1001, the Chinese turned them away for that reason. When the people of Butuan asked for equal status in 1007, the emperor told them, "Butuan is beneath Champa."⁴⁵ Ceramics excavated in Mindanao are from the same Shiwan kiln (Guangdong Province) as goods found in excavations at Tra Kieu in Quang Nam Province.⁴⁶ Cham middlemen were undoubtedly responsible for their transportation from ports in Champa to the Philippines. With developments in Chinese shipping and the new knowledge of the Philippines as a source of gold, the Chinese began to deal there directly, cutting out Cham middlemen, and the direct route between Fujian and Luzon became common in the thirteenth century.⁴⁷

The loss of this trade would have been a blow not only to the Cham merchants and seamen, but to the ruling class as well. Chinese references during the Song period said of Champa ports: "Ship cargoes were inspected by a king's agent upon a ship's arrival in port. After registering all commodities carried by a ship and noting how many goods were unloaded, the king's agents collected one-fifth of each kind of commodity in the name of their monarch before authorizing the sale of the rest."⁴⁸