

62. MALE FIGURE

Dong Duong, Quang Nam Province, 9th century
Stone, H: 90 cm × W: 41 cm × D: 39 cm
Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture, 3.5

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As noted by Trian Nguyen, "Laksmindralokesvara, Main Deity of the Dong Duong Monastery: A Masterpiece of Cham Art and a New Interpretation," *Artibus Asiae* 55, no. 1 (2005): 7115.

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In the installation at the museum, as part of the display, this sculpture was placed on the top of the large pedestal, though there is no reason to think that was its original location.

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Golzio, ed., *Inscriptions of Campa*, 71.

The site of Dong Duong, the largest known Buddhist monastery in Champa, was excavated in 1902 and again in 1934. The complex was burned and looted at some point in its history, possibly at the end of the tenth century, when the Dai Viet claim to have killed the king and destroyed temples and palaces.²⁶ The remaining buildings were largely destroyed during the Viet Nam–American war. The extensive site, thirteen hundred meters long, was built facing east and included a series of three courtyards containing a number of buildings. It was entered through a series of four *gopura* (gateways). Both the main hall and the building the French called a *vihara* (monastery) contained elaborate pedestals.

The original location is known for a few of the numerous sculptures found at Dong Duong, including two male figures, similar to this one, discovered in two of the nine small buildings placed around the main shrine.²⁷ These buildings may well have been dedicated to the *navagraha* (nine planets), as the 875 inscription specifically mentions the planets protecting the site.²⁸ The Indian

text, the *Agni Pūrana*, prescribes that the *navagraha* should be placed in their own building.

Seated in royal ease, the figure carries an attribute that may be a short dagger. The style of the piece is instructive, for the heavy features, the generalized forms of the body, and the vermiculated decoration of the headdress and the throne are all characteristics of the Dong Duong style of the late ninth–early tenth century.

LITERATURE

Pierre Baptiste and Thierry Zephir, eds., *Trésors d'art du Vietnam: la sculpture du Champa v–xv siècles*, 2005; Emmanuel Guillon, *Hindu-Buddhist Art of Vietnam: Treasures from Champa*, 2001; Jean Boisselier, *La Statuaire du Champa: recherches sur les cultes et l'iconographie*, 1963.