

#### 74. COVERED VESSEL

12th–15th century

Silver/electrum, H: 34 cm × D: 21 cm

Museum of Vietnamese History, Ho Chi Minh City, BTLS 1304a & b

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Golzio, ed., *Inscriptions of Campa*, 149–50.

41

*Ibid.*, 59.

Silver and bronze containers were given as offerings to temples, as numerous inscriptions indicate. According to a stone inscription at My Son, in 1036, King Shri Jaya Harivarmadeva III “built a palace for the god Shrishanabhadreshvara and gave various articles of gold and silver.”<sup>40</sup> Much of this material was lost over the centuries, as invading armies took the gold and silver objects as booty, a fact also attested to in the inscriptions. Some vessels are inscribed, usually with the name of the donor and the god to whom the vessel is dedicated.<sup>41</sup>

Rows of lotus petals on shoulder, body, and base form the primary decoration on this silver, covered container. Each petal is outlined in a single, wide line, then a row of beads; on the center of each petal is a shape somewhere between a keyhole and a fleur-de-lis pattern, much like decoration from the Thap Mam period. The bold treatment suggests a late date for the vessel. The lid and the bottom of the base expand the motif with a diamond-shaped pattern, and on the

lid, miniature lotus petals thrust upward. Areas on the surface appear golden and may be the remnants of gilt, though it is odd that the gilt is only in the area around the waisted portion of the vessel. The surface is corroded, but the interior of the vessel is not. While it was clearly intended as a box, the flat lid, with its raised outer ridge around the outside, makes it look as if it were intended to support something, possibly another offering.

#### LITERATURE

*Suu Tap Hien Vat Champa tai Bao tang Lich su Viet Nam Thanh pho Ho Chi Minh* (Champa Collection, Viet Nam Historical Museum, Ho Chi Minh City), 1994.