

In the Dong Duong style (9th - early 10th century) there are ten items including icons of Buddha, and Siva, statue of a prayer, all found from the very Dong Duong site. (N 5-14).

Dong Duong (Indrapura in Champa history) is situated in present day Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province. For a century and a half (from middle 9th to end of 10th century), it functioned as the capital of the Champa kingdom.

The founding of the great Mahayana Buddhist complex at Dong Duong in 875 was linked with the strengthened unity of the Cham kingdom and the consolidated national consciousness of the Cham. Therefore, Dong Duong style resulted from a new combination of surprising Cham originality and of influences from Java and Indonesia.

It is possible to see that all statues of Dong Duong style (N5 to N14) bear more or less the typified physical features of the ancient Chams, such as square face, broad nose, thick lips, joining and prominent eyebrows.

Among decorative motifs, the heavy and strange worm-like foliage ornament is very remarkable. Most probably that motif originated from the fern which also flourished in the Champa land. Its spiral bud, a symbol of life, fecundity and development, became a sacred motif among various ancient ethnic cultures in South East Asia.

We can see this ornament on the pedestal from Dong Duong (N6) and specifically, on the halo of Siva (N8). Two French scholars, P. Stern and J. Boisselier, defined the joining and prominent eyebrows and the worm-like pattern as two indexes of Dong Duong style as well as two characteristics of Champa art in general.

The head of Buddha (N7) is also worthy to mention with the lozenge-shaped third eye in his forehead, a feature of Siva. This reveals an association of Brahmanism and Buddhism as a characteristic of Dong Duong Buddhism. This head is similar to that of the first Dong Duong bronze Buddha, the most beautiful statue of Champa art, found in 1902. That well known statue used to be in this collection and now is preserved at the Museum of Vietnamese History in Ho Chi Minh City. The second Dong Duong bronze Buddha found in 1978 is stored at the Cham Museum in Danang.

Two icons of Prajnaparamita (N11, 12) are also remarkable. They express a vivid female body with naked upper part, large breasts, slender waist and long legs. They also show another index of Cham standing statues that their upper part (from head to waist) is always shorter the lower (from waist to foot).

In the Tra Kieu style (10th-11th century) are found mostly at Tra Kieu site, the most ancient capital of the Cham with the name Singhapura or the Lion City (N15 to 43). Together with artifacts from Khuong My and My Son A1, they reflect



N.8



N.7

the second century, when the Champa...

According to... ism and pure... ny, delicacy... more emphatic...

Clearly, the... gentle and ov... separate and... and slightly s... lier style.

One of the... dancing girls... ents two other...