

3. *Pūrṇaghāṭa*

Đa Nghi, Quảng Trị

5th-6th centuries

Sandstone: H. 50 cm;

W. 50 cm; D. 17 cm

BTC 1652-BTĐN 826/Đ55



This decorative architectural element has an urn of plenty symbolising the fertility, abundance and prosperity of the world of the gods it is a part of. Such items of décor derive from Indian models in the art of Amarāvati in the 1st-3rd centuries, particularly in the band of flowers that ornaments the body. The modelling of the foliage is identical to that of the *yakṣa* from Trà Kiệu and the flowers of the urn's middle band are close to that embellishing the buckle of his belt. The urn appears then to have been sculpted

in the same period, around the 6th century. In his *Catalogue du musée Čam de Tourane*,¹ Henri Parmentier notes: 'This square is pierced with a hole and seems to have been used as the base for one of the columns of the dais of the divinity of Đa Nghi; it no doubt came from an earlier monument fallen into ruin; this would make it much older than the Đa Nghi temple, which appears to be from the 7th or 8th century. It is thus the oldest example we have of čam art ...'

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1 Parmentier 1919 (1), p. 79-80.