

4. Male deity

An Mỹ, Quảng Nam
 5th-6th centuries
 Sandstone: H. 47 cm;
 W. 50 cm; D. 21 cm
 BTC 1652-BTĐN 826/Đ55

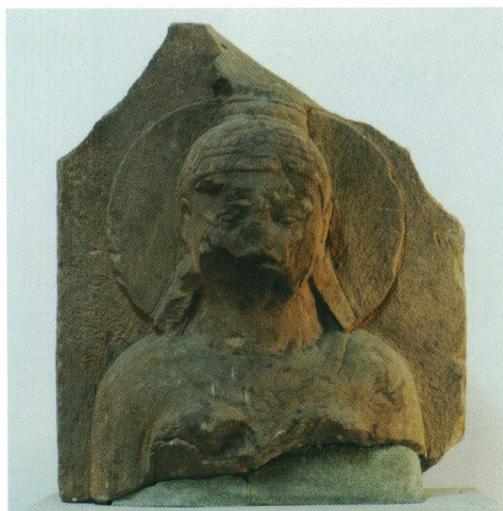


When an irrigation canal was being dug near the railway station in An Mỹ village in 1982, the workers unearthed the remains of a monument buried

centuries ago under the commune's shrine to Thân Nông ('Divine Farmer'), which had been destroyed in the American war in Vietnam. This was about 1.5 km northwest of the Chiền Đàn temple group. Most notable among the finds were three high reliefs of Brahmanical deities carved from square, architectural blocks (including the first Catalogue entry in this volume). These reliefs announce the earliest Cham sculptural traits of wide open eyes, strong brow, broad nose, wide smiling mouth with moustache, large earplugs, long hair arrayed in curls and strong rounded shoulders. The goddess (cat. 1) has high, rounded breasts, as does a different goddess from An Mỹ, with damaged face, who shares other features with the others. (Fig. 1)

In addition this site yielded statues of gods of direction (*dikpālas*) datable to the late 6th-7th centuries or even earlier (?), as well as a *yoni-linga* 270 cm high that is currently displayed at Chiền Đàn site museum.¹

Fig. 1 Relief of a female divinity (*Padmāsri/Padmāvati?*) found at An Mỹ. (Trần Kỳ Phương)



1 Trần Kỳ Phương 1983: 33-7;
 Hồ Xuân Tịnh 2008: 59-62.