

5. Lotus pedestal

Hà Trung, Quảng Trị

Late 7th century

Sandstone: H. 30; W. 126 cm.

BTC 47-22.6



This is one of two pedestals (BTC 47 22.6 & 22.7) that were donated to the museum in 1918 (Parmentier 1919: 60-1). They are among the most beautifully decorated pedestals of Cham sculpture. They are close in type and size. The square hole in the middle of the pedestal appear to have been cut for the installation of a *līṅga*. The outstanding feature is the design of the large round lotus with double petal layers that alternate and lightly overlap.

A round-shaped *yonī* decorated with large double lotus petals was introduced as a new art form in the late seventh century (Goodall & Griffiths 2013: 421-3, fig. 5). The form of the lotus on the Hà Trung pedestal is comparable

that on the Trà Kiệu *Rāmāyana* pedestal as well as the pedestal of the Prakāśadharman inscription (C.97) that was found in Mỹ Sơn E temple group (Fig. 1). In addition, the large lotus petals were found elaborately carved on the capital and base of the sandstone columns of Mỹ Sơn B14, an open-sanctum temple type that had eight large columns built during the late 7th century (Trần Kỳ Phương 2008: 58-9, fig. 5.4, fig. 5.5).

In later periods, from the 8th century onwards, the lotus petals carved on pedestals are smaller with single and thinner layer (Parmentier 1909: Pl. CLXIX) (Fig. 2). A circular *yonī-līṅga* pedestal appeared first in late seventh century and from the early 8th century onwards most of the *yonī*