

## 8. Musician with bar-zither (*tuila*)

Trà Kiệu, Quảng Nam  
8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries  
Sandstone: H. 61 cm;  
W. 36 cm; D. 48 cm  
BTC 305-BTĐN 14



1 One such example is the famous Paśupati or Paśupatinātha temple near Kathmandu in Nepal, bears an inscription from the reign of Jiśnugūpta (c. 630 CE) that mentions the gifts to ācāryas in congregation of the Mundasrinkhalika-Paśupatacharya. Ed. And trans. B. Indrajī and G. Bühler, *Inscriptions from Nepal, IA, IX*, 1880: 174.

2 A Sanskrit inscription from Bakong temple reads: 'Brahmin who knows all the Vedas came here to purify the praiseworthy country of Kambu'. See Cœdès, *IC*, -, K.923 dated 881 CE, stanza XV, Briggs 1952-54:177-85. See K. Bhattacharya, *La secte des Paçupata dans l'ancien Cambodge, JA, CCXLII*, pp. 479-490. Paris. 1955 quoted from Minoru Hara PhD, page 11.

This broken high relief clearly displays a male figure holding a musical instrument, which is also seen on the Mỹ Sơn pedestal (BTC 6-22.4 Cat. 9 Fig. 6) and on two effaced dancing Śiva tympana (Figs. 1 and 2) from Khương Mỹ. The instrument looks like a bar zither with a gourd sound box held to the chest. This beautifully adorned male figure in a dance posture emerges from a back slab with architectural mouldings, which suggest it could have been part of a temple basement. The head is missing and the figure has only two arms so is probably human and not a deity. The figure is dressed in a short sampot with a bejeweled

belt. The sampot falls in a large fold between the legs and appears to be loosely tied behind. The jewelry is simple but suggests a court performer. Dancers and musicians form a major element in Cham religious foundations and suggest a large role for ritual music and dance in Cham religious culture.

As the early Cham temples were predominantly Śaiva, such ritual performers may be descendants of one of the earliest Śaiva schools known as the Pāśupatas (who worshipped Śiva under the name Paśupati 'Lord (*pati*) of the beasts (*paśu* = souls) known in India from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century and identified in inscription