

13. Prajñāpāramitā

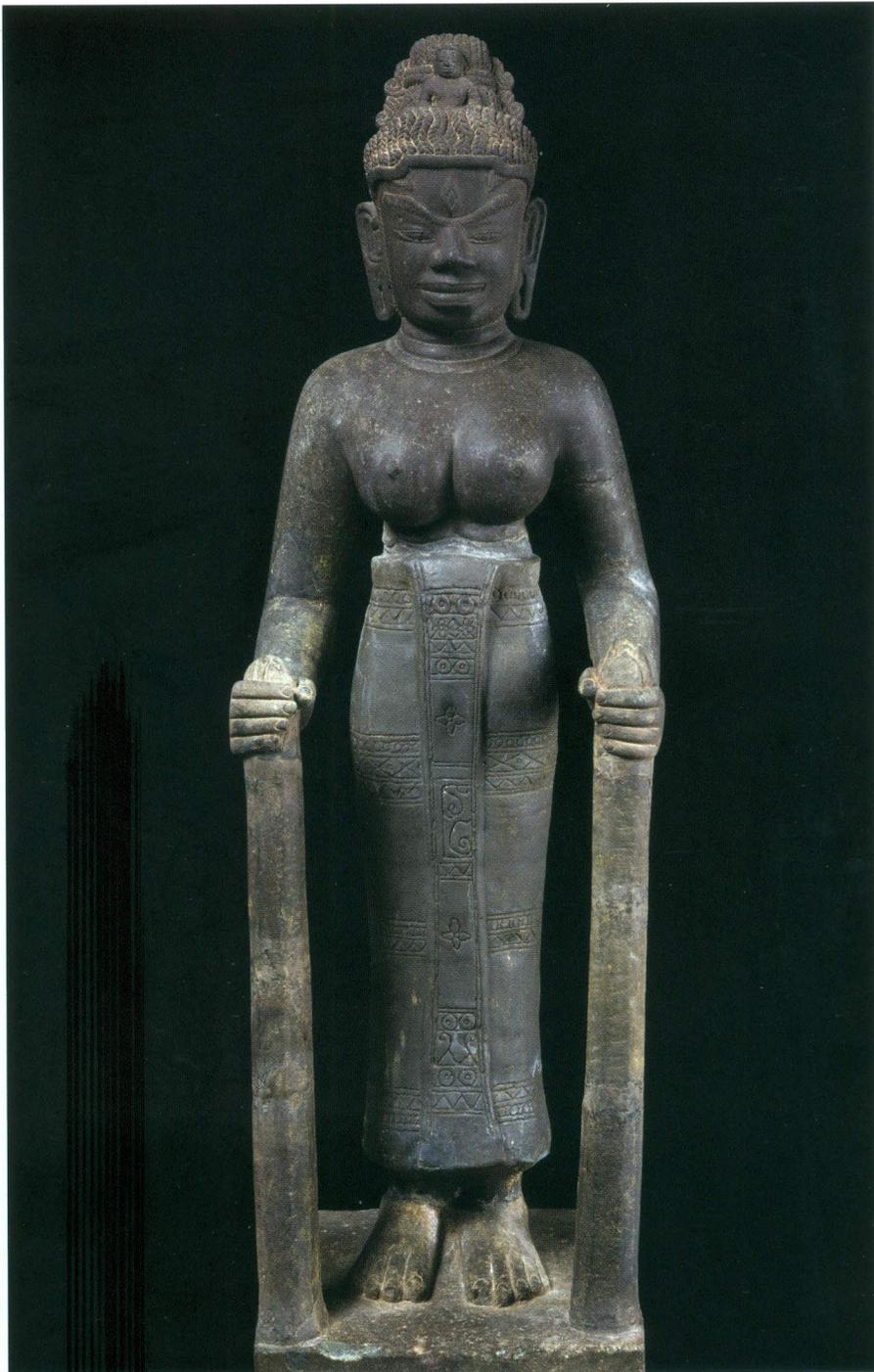
Đại Hữu, Quảng Bình

9th-10th centuries

Sandstone: H. 97 cm; W. 35 cm;

D. 14 cm.

BTC 188-14.3



This female Buddhist deity was found behind the remnants of the southern *kalan* at Đại Hữu in 1918. The sanctuary consisted of three *kalan* in which further Buddhist sculptures (in bronze and stone) were found in a later excavation in 1925. The sanctuary is unique: it featured two almost complete female deities, one discovered in the northern tower (now in Hà Nội Museum of History) and one behind the southern tower (now in the Đà Nẵng Museum), as well as fragments of a third in front of the towers – all almost identical.

The sculptures bear features of Đồng Dương style, such as an oversized head, a squarish face, heavy connected eyebrows, a broad flat nose and heavy lips. A third eye in the form of a lozenge is present. The hair is braided and arranged in a *jatāmukuta* with an image of the Jina Amitābha in meditation *mudrā*. The figures feature opulent breasts, underscored with beauty lines, and they wear sarongs with a central fold. The dress of the deity in Đà Nẵng is embellished by ornamental patterns whereas the dress of the one in Hà Nội is plain. Their hands, holding lotus buds,