

16. Buddha

Đông Dương, Quảng Nam
9th-10th century
Sandstone: H. 158 cm
(torso and legs);
W. 106 cm; D. 86 cm
BTC 183-13.5

- 1 Guillon, 82, Henri Parmentier, *Inventaire descriptif des monuments Cam de l'Annam, Tome I* (Paris: Leroux, 1918), 502-503; Pierre Baptise et al, *Missions archéologiques françaises au Vietnam : les monuments du Champa : photographies et itinéraires, 1902-1904*. Paris: Indes savants-Etablissement public du Musée des arts asiatiques-Guimet, 2005, 127-9.
- 2 According to a panel at the Cham Museum's Đông Dương gallery, two large Buddha heads were unearthed at Đông Dương, and both were checked for a fit with the Buddha [13.5] at the time of discovery. The first head did not match the torso, and later this head was sent to the Guimet Museum [MG18897]. The second seemed more appropriate, yet not totally satisfactory and it was transferred to Hà Nội before 1936. Today it belongs the collection of the National Museum of Vietnam History [Lsb 21185]. In 2014, the Cham Museum made this replica with the approval of the National Museum of Vietnam History and the creation was then fixed onto the body of the Buddha [13.5]. Albeit still contested, the current display is intended to give viewers an impression of the whole statue that is close to Parmentier's rendering and archival photos. For further discussion on this issue, see Parul Pandya Dhar, 'Buddhism, Art and Ritual Practice: Đông Dương at the intersection of Asian Cultures', in *Asian Encounters: Exploring Connected Histories*, ed. Upinder Singh and Parul Pandya Dhar (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014), 111 – 136; 'Stone and Terracotta Pieces', *SACHA*, no. 9 (Summer 2002): 8; Pierre Baptise et al, *Missions archéologiques*



This monumental Buddha statue was reportedly found in two parts: the legs buried under the rubble of courtyard III of Đông Dương Buddhist monastery, while the torso lay in the central temple of the courtyard I. The head was lost before the statue was accessioned to the museum in 1935.¹ The present head, seen here, is a replica of the Buddha head [Lsb 21185] currently on display at the National Museum of Vietnam History in Hà Nội.² In all probability, this masterpiece

of Champa Buddhist art, in terms of identity and iconography, represents either Śākyamuni Buddha or Maitreya.

Stylistically, the statue, excluding the head, has some characteristics of Chinese Buddhist traditions in terms of garment, sitting posture and hand gesture.³ The Buddha's robes include the outer garment (*uttarāsāṅga*) draping over the left shoulder and running over his knee, revealing the under garment (*antaravāsaka*) at the ankles. The right arm and shoulder is