

## 62. Elephant

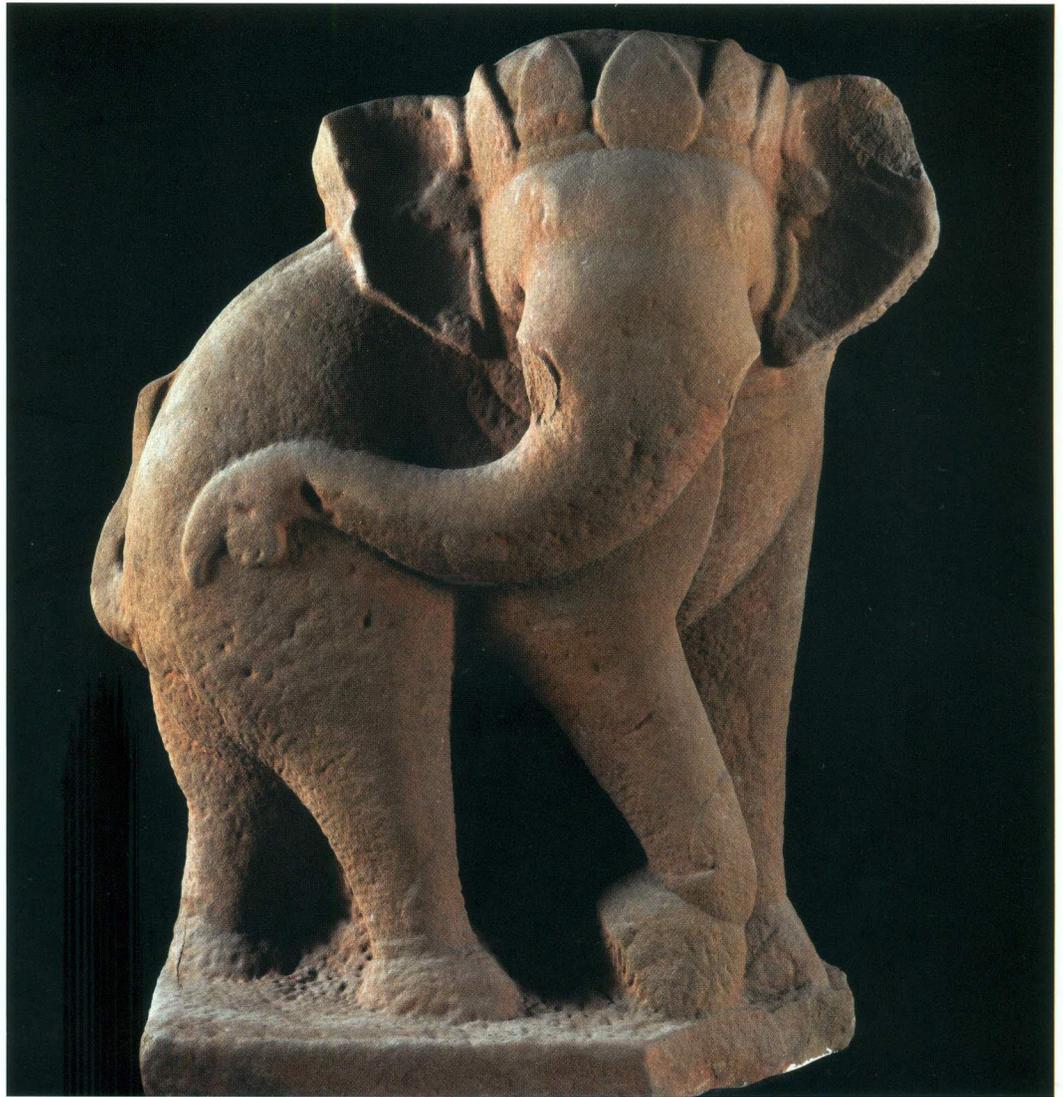
Phú Hưng, Quảng Nam

11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries

Sandstone: H. 99 cm;

W. 82 cm; D. 34 cm

BTC 157-BTĐN: 939/Đ81



This elephant belongs to the collection of statues of animals found at Phú Hưng site with the sizes of between 50 cm to 100 cm high. They were used for decoration of temple foundations and their depiction is simpler

and more natural than the stylised mythical allure of the lions and *garuḍas* with which they are often interspersed.

The Cham sculptors skillfully capture the strength, speed and vivacity of the powerful animals caught in moments of interaction with the viewer, confined as they are to rectangular spaces. The elephant in passing by swings his trunk to the right where it almost reaches the swirling tail. The right front leg is slightly raised, arresting the animal and sending a surge of power through its body. The tension of the pose is held by the simple folds that appear in the hide below the crowned head. The high, plain diadem, brings the mighty natural image into the ritual sphere.

This type of elephant image is also seen in the collection from Trà Kiệu (BTC 131-37.2; BTC 132-37.1) and in smaller size on the decorative frieze of a pedestal found at Hà Trung (BTC 46-22.3)

