

70. Section of offerings altar

Binh Định province

12th century

Sandstone: H: 43 cm; Diameter: 102 cm.

BTC 198-22.56



The section of an altar from Binh Định (cat. 70), was the middle section of a tall round altar in three parts, of which the upper and lower parts are lost. This section is composed by twenty-three 'breasts', each 11 cm in diameter. The rounded cavity on the top shows that it was not for installing a *liṅga* and was more likely there to secure the tenon of the upper section.

In Cham art, this motif marked an aesthetic tradition in decorative programs until the late period of the 12th and 13th centuries. Cecelia Levin regards this motif in a strongly matrilineal society was the female counterpart to the Śivaliṅga, reinforcing a feminizing aspect of Cham Brahmanism. (Levin 2008: 98)



TKP