

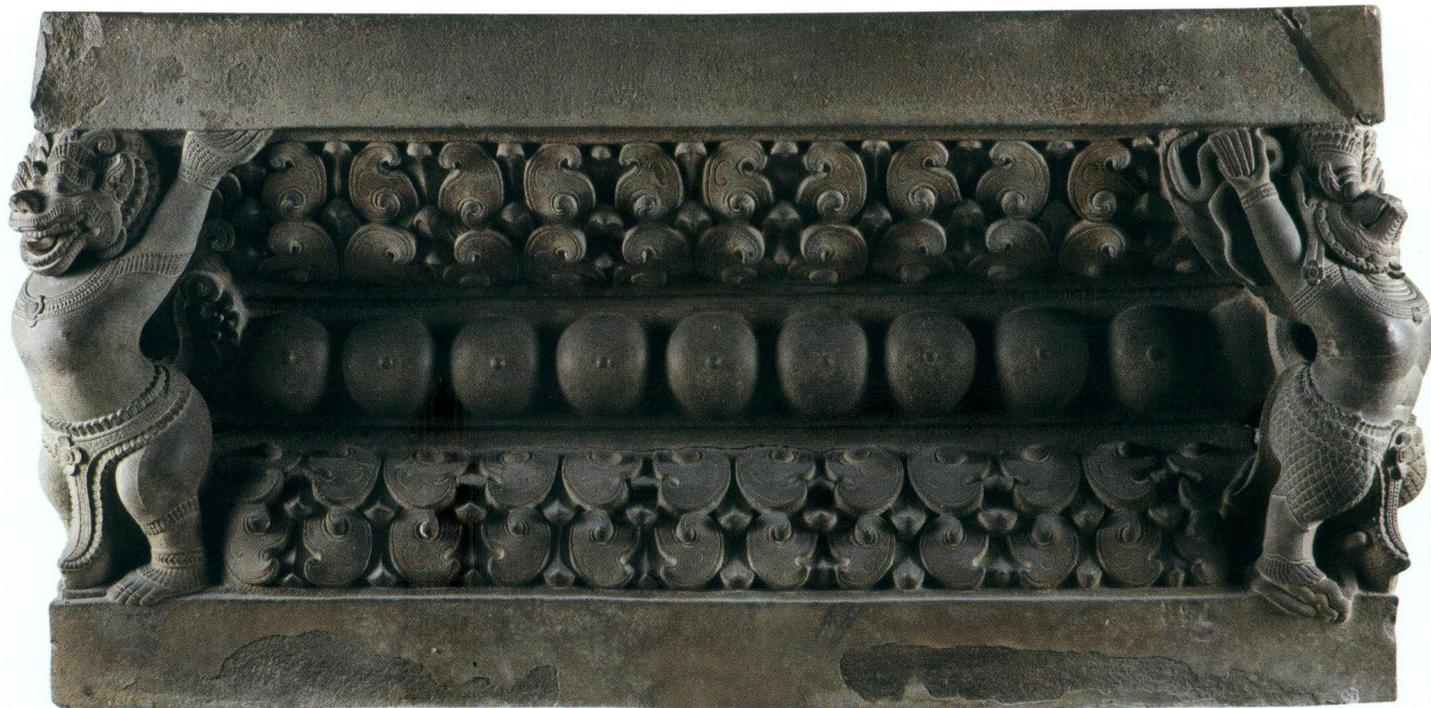
## 75. Pedestal with Uroja, *garuḍa* and lion

Tháp Mãm, Bình Định

12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries

Sandstone: H. 61 cm; W.124 cm; D.124 cm

BTC 228-22.43



This square pedestal was found at the Tháp Mãm ruin during the 1934 excavation of Jean-Yves Claeys. Its striking, deeply-cut design is composed of large lotus leaves in the shape of a comma, particular to this art style, above and below a row of 'breast motifs' symbolising the mother goddess Uroja that run along all four sides of the pedestal. At the corners telamon *garuḍas* and lions alternate. The pedestal probably supported an ablution channel or *somasūtra* for a statue installed at the sanctum of a temple (Brahmanical god/goddess), like the altar of Mỹ Sơn E4 temple (Boisselier 1963: Fig. 149).

Philippe Stern analyzed the decorative patterns of this pedestal to illustrate his 'Tháp Mãm motif' (a lotus leaf form in the shape of a comma) that appeared in Cham art from the 12<sup>th</sup> century (1942: 43-4). Jean Boisselier recorded this popular foliate form through the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries in what he classified as the 'Tháp Mãm style' (1963: 256-97). This type of lotus leaf decoration often appears on the cornice or

base of temples, as at Dương Long temple group in Bình Định province.

A square pedestal decorated with the 'breast motif' also appears in the Mỹ Sơn temples E4 and G1. Golzio noted that the goddess Uroja was highly respected in the epigraphs of king Jaya Harivarman in Mỹ Sơn (Golzio 2004: 166-68). The Mỹ Sơn G temple group is dated to 1157/58 by epigraphs of Jaya Harivarman and are a valuable reference for dating this art style. Jaya Harivarman I, ruling in Vijaya, who came into conflict with Sūryavarman II, and this successor Tribhuvanādityavarman (see Sharrock this volume p. 116) may have had the future Khmer king Jayavarman VII in his entourage.<sup>1</sup> Historians suggest that a Khmer prince who was to become the eminent king Jayavarman VII earned his military spurs in the last campaigns in Champa of Jaya Harivarman (Vickery 2011: 397).

There may be a sign of this friendship in the central tower of the Jayavarman's state Bayon temple, where on the west side of the temple

1 Claude Jacques in a 2016 lecture in SOAS, University of London.

2 C.100, face B, l. 11, st. VIII: BEFEO IV, p. 955, n° XX (EEPC, p. 137).