

76. Brahmā

Tháp Mâm, Bình Định

12th-13th centuries

Sandstone: H. 99 cm;

W.82 cm; D. 15 cm

BTC 235-19.8



This rare, richly-adorned and well-sculpted representation of the creator god Brahmā found at the Tháp Mâm site has many unusual features and some Khmer touches. Only three of Brahmā's four heads are visible as he sits in *lalitāsana* position on the celestial goose (*hamsa*), his right hand holding a short sword. The powerful squarish face, the lozenge-like third eye and the wide, almost

smiling mouth set between heavy earrings bring a faint reminiscence of the four-faced towers of the Bayon in Angkor. His ascetic hair is adorned with a three tiered diadem with bands of small petals. The sampot and unusually rich and heavy jewelry convey Khmer touches. The double necklaces are layered composed by two layers and the upper piece has three chains of beads that join in the middle. The arms and wrists are