

ornamented with pearl bracelets. The remarkable short sampot wrapped over the thighs is embroidered with flowers and encrusted with pearls in a way that shares a real novelty in Cham sculptural art with the preceding high relief of the dancing Śiva (cat. 77). The flap of the sampot falls from the belt in a kind of pleated corolla which evokes a Khmer drape of the 12th century (Boisselier 1963: 266-7; Lobo 1997: 260-1, cat. 69; Zéphir 1997: 264, cat. 71). The belt is of an unusual composition, with two flaps hanging in loops, its redoubled collar drawing into a raised fold. The goose, with alert face, is captured in a bold, simple design that does not distract from the richly ornamented god. The form of the tympanum during this art period in Vijaya is higher and narrower than its larger predecessors in Trà Kiệu and Phú Hưng.

In the early 1980s, several sculptural works were unearthed in the Dương Long temple group when it was restored by Polish experts. Their findings included a 100 cm high tympanum representing the tantric (?) Brahmānical god

with three heads and eight arms. The god stands in a dance position with the left leg raised, his hands touching before the chest in what may be a *vajra-mudrā* (gesture of knowledge). His six other arms hold lotus flowers (*padmā*), jewels (*maṇi*) and daggers (*kṣuri*). His faces, high chignons, garments, and body posture bear some resemblance to the Brahmā and preceding four-armed dancing Śiva of Tháp Mãm. Both ancient sites may be considered to have belonged to the same sacred regional space.

The lotus-born god Brahmā (also called Aja) was celebrated in the mid-12th century stela of the Cham king Jaya Harivarman, who was born in 'Ratna-bhūmi Vijaya/Vijayapura' (Majumdar 1985: III, 188). This king appears to have had a close relationship with the future Khmer king Jayavarman VII. The closer royal connections between the neighbours in the 12th century seems to be reflected in the art of this period in Angkor and the Champa Vijaya region.

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Fig. 1 Tympanum of Brahmānical god found at Dương Long temple group in early 1980s. The relief is 100cm high and has been dated in the late 12th to 13th centuries. Now displayed at Bình Định Provincial Museum in Quy Nhơn city. (Trần Kỳ Phương)