



MUSÉE BARBIER-MUELLER
GENÈVE

**Dong Son Art, Southeast Asia
In the Barbier-Mueller Collections**

Exhibition from September 29, 2021, to February 28, 2022

Press release

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Dong Son Art, Southeast Asia

In the Barbier-Mueller Collections

Now exhibited for the first time at the Musée Barbier-Mueller in its entirety, this is the most important known assemblage of Dong Son art outside the Vietnamese national collections. It consists of prestige and sacred objects, weapons and adornments, all bearing witness to a culture that takes its name from the village of Dong Son in the province of Thanh Hoa, in the north of present-day Vietnam, where many archaeological remains have been unearthed. These objects, as well as those found in many other sites, are evidence of an intense artistic activity responding to the needs of the aristocracy of kingdoms that settled in the valleys of the Red, Ma and Black rivers, which afforded them wealth and a means of communication.

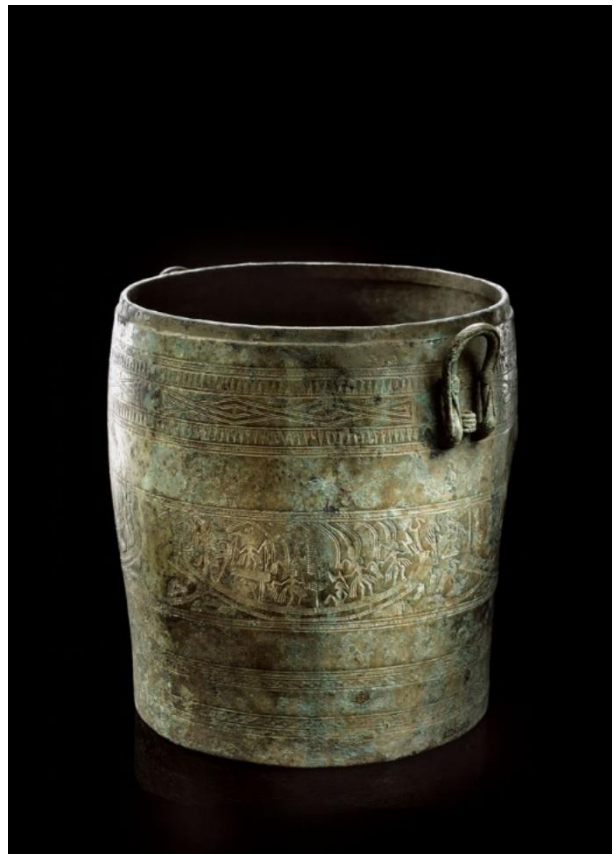
Flourishing between the fourth century BCE and the fourth century CE over a fairly extensive area, the Dong Son culture produced an art and a style that are quite distinct and yet at the same time very often steeped in the traditions of neighboring southern China. Dong Son pieces – or pieces resembling Dong Son work – have been found in mainland and island Southeast Asia, particularly in Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia: the result of commercial and technical exchanges that took place in this geographical region and that suggest the existence of “Dong Son traditions” here.

The catalogue of the exhibition is being published in French. The texts and catalogue entries by Dr Van Viet Nguyen (director of the Centre for Southeast Asian Prehistory, Hanoi) offer a contextual reading and a stylistic description of the objects on display, while the contribution by Pierre Baptiste (senior curator at the Musée Guimet, Paris) provides a study of the ties between the Dong Son culture and China.

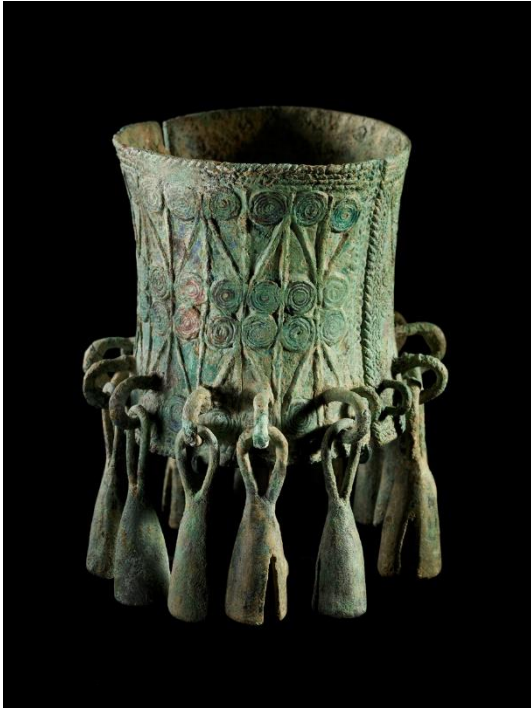
We hope that when visitors to the exhibition and readers of the catalogue see these pieces – their delicate lines and refined decoration the result of a remarkable technical mastery – they experience a delight similar to that felt by the collector Jean Paul Barbier-Mueller, who had a keen and long-held interest in them.



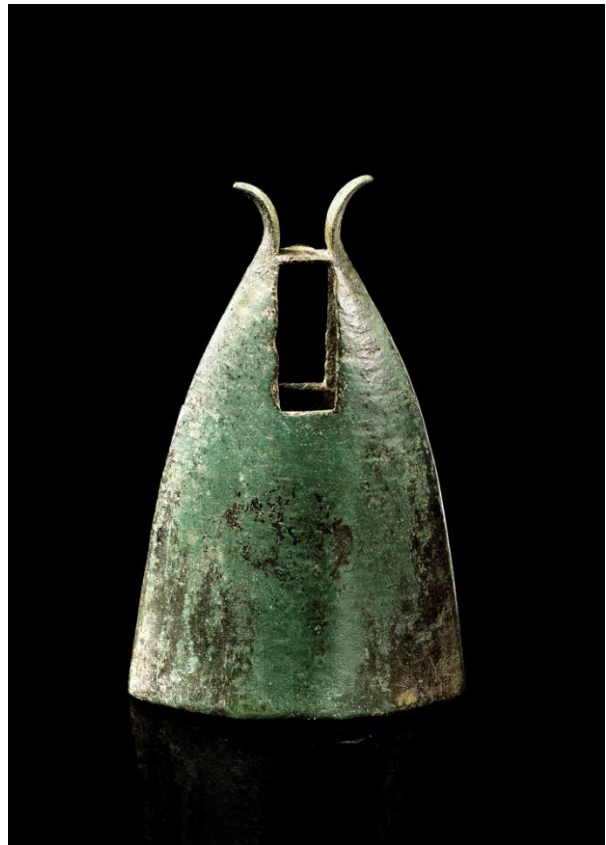
Drum of the Heger I type. Northern Vietnam. Dong Son Culture. Giao Chi period, 1st century BCE – 3rd century CE. Bronze. H. 73 cm; diam. 93 cm. Inv. 2505-84. Musée Barbier-Mueller. Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.



Situla *thap*. Northern Vietnam. Dong Son culture. 4th-3rd century BCE. Bronze.
H. 42 cm, weight 11.5 kg. Inv. 2505-29. Musée Barbier-Mueller.
Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.



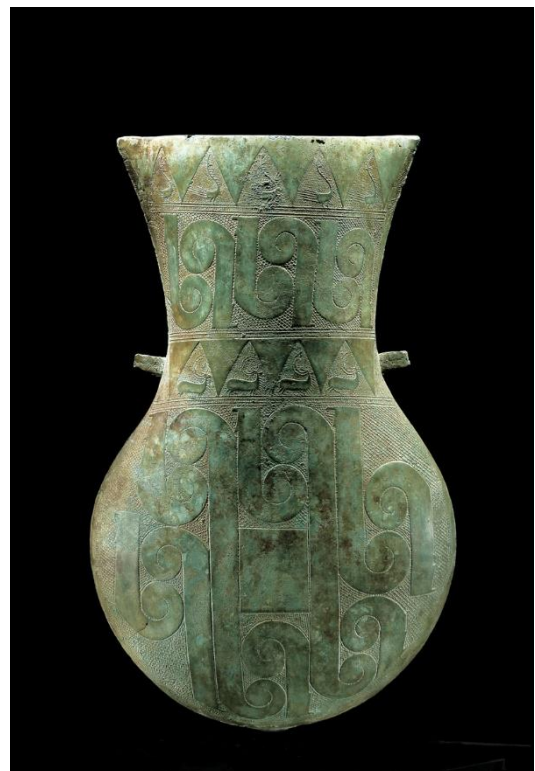
Bangle with sleigh bells. Vietnam. Dong Son culture, Lang Vac variant. 4th century BCE – 2nd century CE. Bronze. H. 7.4 cm. Inv. 2505-45. Musée Barbier-Mueller. Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.



Bell. Vietnam. Dong Son culture. 3rd-1st century BCE. Bronze. H. 23.5 cm. Inv. 2505-42. Musée Barbier-Mueller. Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.



Plate. Northern Vietnam. Dong Son culture. 3rd-2nd century BCE. Bronze.
H. 16.5 cm. Inv. 2505-10. Musée Barbier-Mueller. Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.



Large urn. Indonesia, Borneo? Last centuries BCE – first centuries CE. Bronze H. 74 cm, weight 11.9 kg.
Inv. 2505-17. Musée Barbier-Mueller. Photo Studio Ferrazzini Bouchet.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Dong Son Art, Southeast Asia In the Barbier-Mueller Collections

Musée Barbier-Mueller

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From September 29, 2021, to February 28, 2022

- The Musée Barbier-Mueller is open 365 days a year, from 11am to 5 pm.
- Admission: adults, 8 Swiss francs; students, seniors, the disabled, the unemployed, and groups, 5 Swiss francs; children under twelve and schools admitted FREE.
- Visites guidées sur inscription : 10 octobre, 7 novembre et 5 décembre 2021, 16 janvier et 27 février 2022 à 14h30
- Visites jeunes publics, jeux de pistes, activités pour les enfants : les samedis 9 octobre, 6 novembre et dimanche 28 novembre 2021 à 14h30
- The exhibition catalog *Art de Đông Sơn, Asie du Sud-Est* (in French) is on sale in bookstores, online, and in the museum shop for 37 Swiss francs.
- All books published or co-published by the museum are on sale at the entrance to the exhibition halls.
- The Association of Friends of the Museum provides many benefits. For information, please contact: mfriedling@barbier-mueller.ch, +41 22 312 02 72.

High resolution images of the exhibition can be downloaded following this link:

<https://www.barbier-mueller.ch/en/media/>, password: bm32\$PRES. For other requests, please contact Anne-Joëlle Nardin: ajnardin@barbier-mueller.ch or +41 22 312 02 73.