

## Les « Brahmā-Śiva » de la région de Tanjore : un syncrétisme singulier aux origines inexplicées

The unparalleled iconography of a small group of ten sculptures from the Tanjore region, dated from the very beginning of the of the so-called Cōḷa period, raises many questions as to the identity of the divinity represented: it evokes Śiva as much as Brahmā and does not seem to be mentioned in any literary source. The alliance of the two deities was already well established in the Tamil region at the time of the appearance of these sculptures, but it is here reinvented in a striking way: the study of the local context suggests some explanations relating to the formation of this particular syncretism.

*Keywords:* Brahmā; Śiva; Cōḷa; Tamil Nadu; Tanjore; syncretism; Ching Tsai Loo (C. T. Loo).