

## **Les bas-reliefs du *Rāmāyaṇa* de la tour sud de Khương Mỹ**

In 2000, a set of approximately ten bas-reliefs was discovered close to the southernmost of the three towers of the Khương Mỹ temple (Quảng Nam, Central Vietnam). Together they form the longest known sculpted narrative series in Campā dedicated to episodes of the *Rāmāyaṇa*. By critically comparing the images with Vālmīki's text, it is possible to identify both the figures and the scenes found in two books of the epic, book III (*Araṇyakāṇḍa*) and book V (*Sundara-kāṇḍa*). A text, in old Cam, engraved above the representations completes the visual narrative by specifying the protagonists' names. These visual and textual narratives combine to show a royal figure surrounded by his trusted allies. Finally, the epigraphic, iconographic and stylistic data suggest that the temple's construction, previously estimated as dating to the 10th century, might have to be resituated at the beginning of the 11th or the end of the 10th.

*Keywords:* epigraphy; kingship; reliefs; *Rāmāyaṇa*; narrative art.