



## **THAI**

### **Bell**

bronze

22 1/2 x 12 x 10 in.

Dongson Culture (1000 BC-200 AD)

AS997

### **PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection

Heather James Fine Art, Palm Desert

This well preserved bell is one of the largest known bronzes from the Southeast Asian Bronze Age, generally named after the Dongson site in North Vietnam. The swirling band design is finely and crisply cast. Dongson bronze drums were also reported in South China, Thailand, Laos, West Malaysia, and Indonesia and as Far East as Western Iranian Java.

The Dong Son culture is a Bronze age culture including all of southeast Asia and into the Indo-Malaya Archipelago from about 1000 to 1 BC. Centered on the Red River Valley of Vietnam, the Dong Son were sophisticated agriculturalists, raising rice and buffalo. Dong Son probably arose from local Neolithic cultures, such as Phung Nguyen and Dong Dau phases. Dong Son is identified with the Van Lang ruling dynasty, the first ruling dynasty of Vietnam. By the second century BC, impacts from the Han Dynasty in China were being felt and according to historic records, the Dong Son were absorbed into the Han Dynasty territory.

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