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 GIONG



VIETNAM:
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STATUE OF THE CHILD HERO
 OF GIONG VILLAGE



This statue was carved in the period of the Le dynasty (mid-17th century).

The Child Hero of Giong village, according to legend, saved the country from a northern invasion at the dawn of our history.

At the temple of Soc in Tu Liem district on the outskirts of Hanoi, one may see a huge wooden statue of the hero, four metres high and two metres across at the base.

The hero is represented wearing the helmet of a warrior. He has a red face and his wide-open eyes, made of glass, shine.

His body, covered with a thin coat, is brawny. He sits in a majestic posture with his hands resting on his knees.

The style of the sculpture, at the same time realistic and romantic, sets in relief the hero's strength, energy and courage while suggesting the simplicity and kindness of a peasant.

In most representations of him, the warrior of Giong is pictured riding a fire-spitting iron horse, his hand using a cluster of bamboo which he has uprooted to fight the northern invaders.

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