

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS  
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉ DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

## CERTIFICATE

### **SCEAU CYLINDRE REPRESENTING TREES ANATOLIA, URARTU OR NORTHERN MESOPOTAMIA (1300-1000 BC)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** Bronze cylinder seal with a hole running through its center and engraved all around with a vegetal decoration seemingly composed of trees. The decorative motif is bordered by two lines on the upper and lower parts. Two trees of life are represented back to back with a straight trunk and slanted parallel branches. The trees are connected by a diagonal line.

**ORIGIN:** The seal was an object of great importance in the societies linked to Mesopotamia. It may have had many uses, either as a signature stamped on administrative documents, as a piece of identity for common individuals or as a ritual offering. Worn as a talisman, it was part of a tiara or became a pendant attached to a string thanks to a central hole. Around the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium, the use of the dynastic seal began to spread, to such an extent that using the seal of his predecessor was, for a king, equivalent to absorbing the former's "virtues".

**DIMENSIONS:** 2.2 cm high / 1 cm in diameter

**PROVENANCE:** This seal belonged to a private English collection and was examined in the 1980s by the professor in Assyriology, W. G. Lambert, of Birmingham University (1970-1993). His notes are provided with the seal.

The object was recently reviewed by Doctor Ronald Bonewitz, gemmologist.

**MUSEOGRAPHY:** Cypriot seals from the same period and with similar trees of life are in the Metropolitan Museum's collection under the numbers n° 74.51.4341 and n° 74.51.4357.

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