

GALERIE GOLCONDA

ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

CERTIFICATE

CYLINDER SEAL REPRESENTING TREES CYPRUS - THE LEVANT (NORTHEAST MEDITERRANEAN -1200-1000 BC)

MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE: Black stone (hematite) cylinder seal with a hole running through it and engraved all around with linear, geometric and vegetal motifs. Vertical lines divide the zones into sections. It is not easy to differentiate the particular motifs.

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 2nd 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".

Very fine condition

DIMENSIONS: 2.9 cm high / 0.9 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 are part of the Metropolitan Museum's collection of New York under the numbers 74.51.4341 and 74.51.4357.

Police Book registration N°: 1745