

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

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

## CERTIFICATE

### **CYLINDER SEAL REPRESENTING PREPARATION FOR A BANQUET SOUTHWEST IRAN - PALEO-BABYLONIAN (14th -11th century BC)**

**MATERIAL AND TECHNIQUE:** cylinder seal with a figurative scene representing the preparation of drinks and dishes. An upper and a lower line border the scene. A seated figure in a long tunic holds a cup and drinks. Across from him, a short servant holds a big fan. There is a vase between the two figures. Above the servant, we can see utensils for passing the wine and a recipient to hold it. To the left of the scene, a headless four-legged animal is hanging from a rod. There are also other elements more difficult to identify.

This is an extremely rare scene of the preparation of a meal with the seal's owner.

**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 could be part of a tiara or become 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:** 3.85 cm high / 1.4 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 reexamined by Doctor Ronald Bonewitz, gemologist.

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