

OLD BABYLONIAN CYLINDER SEAL WITH AKKADIAN TEXT

DIGITAL ENCOUNTERS WITH ANCIENT ARTEFACTS

Around 3800 years ago, a stone cylindrical seal bearing inscriptions in Akkadian from the Old Babylonian empire travelled more than 1600 kilometres from the manufacturing workshop of an artisan in Babylonia to the eastern coast of Cyprus. This seal was used by local communities for approximately 300 years before it was buried in a tomb at Hala Sultan Tekke, just outside of Larnaca, where it remained hidden until its discovery during an excavation in 2020. The seal was documented and studied using state-of-the-art 3D technologies, allowing us to virtually capture the object and recreate the image it produced. The 3D macroscopic and microscopic documentation revealed some of this ancient seal's secrets. This cylinder was made of hematite; it was magnetised through a firing process, carved and pierced with extremely high precision. Once it arrived in Cyprus, mystical scenes were added to the seal's surface using different techniques than those used to create the original carvings.

