

## Akkadian / Mesopotamian



"description": "This Akkadian amulet, dating from 2400 to 2200 BCE, is masterfully crafted from polished banded agate in the form of a frog. The amulet is horizontally perforated through the middle, allowing it to be threaded on a string, indicating its use as a wearable charm or talisman, possibly symbolizing fertility or transformation, themes associated with frogs in ancient cultures. The artifact reflects the skilled stonework of the Mesopotamian region and offers insight into the symbolic repertoire of the Akkadian Empire. It was discovered in Southern Iraq, shedding light on the material culture and artistic traditions of one of the earliest known civilizations in the Middle East."

## Mauryan / India



"description": "This Mauryan silver punchmark coin, approximately dated to 250 BC, exemplifies early Indian numismatic artistry with its elaborate design of five punches and three countermarks on the obverse, complemented by an additional countermark on the reverse. Reflecting the meticulous craft of the Mauryan Empire, the coin's distinctive markings likely served both decorative and functional purposes, embodying the evolving economic practices of ancient India during this era. Though the precise find spot remains unrecorded, such coins were pivotal in facilitating trade across the expansive Mauryan territory."

## Viking / British Isles



"description": "This Viking artifact is a fragment of a silver band arm-ring dating from the early 9th to 10th century, with its deposition occurring approximately around 905 CE. The arm-ring, sub-rectangular in shape, tapers towards its ends, one of which has been cut off, while the other is broken. This fragment is ornamented with distinct stamped decorations arranged in a V-shape, accompanied by 18 visible nicks, indicative of its craftsmanship and possibly its use in transactions or as personal adornment. Crafted using the stamped technique, this piece of Viking jewelry was uncovered near Preston, Lancashire, as part of the famed Cuerdale Hoard—one of the largest Viking hoards found in Britain, providing immense insight into the Viking presence and influence in the British Isles during that era."

## Hakuho Period / Japan

"description": "This exquisitely crafted figure from the Hakuho Period of Japan portrays the bodhisattva Maitreya seated regally on a throne, intricately engraved with a landscape scene. Created in the stylistic period between 651-700 CE, with possible early 20th-century craftsmanship, the artifact is composed of bronze with a radiant gilded finish, demonstrating both the skill and artistic conventions of the time. This representation of Maitreya, a figure of great religious and cultural significance in Buddhism, is characterized by its serene and composed demeanor, reflecting the spiritual ideals associated with this bodhisattva. While the findspot remains unspecified, the object's artistic qualities highlight its role as both a devotional item and a testament to Japanese artistry during this notable cultural epoch."

