

From ancient to modern

Cylinder of Nebuchadnezzar II

Item: Clay Cylinder (KM6560)

The museum office store houses an ancient, larger clay roll, the cuneiform writing of which tells of the construction projects of Nebuchadnezzar II, king of Babylon. Watch Ville Mäkipello's video "Ancient Treasures in the Caches of Finnish Museums" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W51gKINj3oo>) and learn more about an object called the Cylinder of Nebuchadnezzar.

1. How did the object end up at the Finnish National Board of Antiquities?
2. Researcher Rick Bonnie drew attention to the object when he visited the National Board of Antiquities' warehouse in 2018. From what did Bonnie conclude that the cylinder was not a fake but a genuine antique?
3. The video explains how to make the original object, as well as how to make a 3D copy. Compare these workflows. What tools and work steps has the manufacture of an ancient clay cylinder required compared to making 3D modeling and 3D printing?

Kekkonen's collection

Items: Clay nail (VK5738: 2), Spell bowl (VK5738: 3), Cylinder seal (VK5738: 4), Gold coin (VK5738: 5), Silver coin (VK5738: 6), Copper coin (VK5738: 7)

President Kekkonen handed over six Mesopotamian antiquities to the National Museum in the late 1970s. These items are a clay nail, an Aramaic spell bowl, a cylinder seal, and three Islamic coins. The clay nail and the cylinder seal are from the Sumerian culture of ancient Mesopotamia and were made in the 21st century BC. The spell bowl was made in the 600-700s, during the time when the Sassanid dynasty ruled large areas of the Middle East before the Islamic conquest. Islamic coins were minted between the 7th and 12th centuries, a time when the Islamic faith and rule were established and expanded in the Middle East.

1. Read the article "Finland refuses to return antiquities to Iraq" (<https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-6664040>) and answers questions:
 - a. How did the objects end up in Finland?
 - b. The Iraqi ambassador demanded the return of the items to Iraq. Why did the National Museum refuse to return?
 - c. Should the items be returned to Iraq or do they belong to Finland? Justify your point of view.
2. The Medelhavet Museum in Stockholm (<https://www.medelhavsmuseet.se/>) also has a donation of objects from the Iraqi state corresponding to Kekkonen's collection. Consider why Iraq has wanted to donate such items to Finland and Sweden.

3. What do you think the President of Finland could donate during a state visit to the leader of another country? Which objects or things do you think describe Finnish culture, history and cultural heritage?