

FROG CONVERSATIONS... MESSAGES THROUGH THE AGES...



WHY FROGS ?

FROG
CONVERSATIONS?

WHAT KIND OF
MESSAGES ?



WE WILL REVEAL ALL THE ANSWERS TOGETHER...
DO NOT MISS !!!

BRITISH MUSEUM, ROOM 3
3rd OF SEPTEMBER, 17:30 PM

FROG CONVERSATIONS ... *MESSAGES* THROUGH THE AGES...

Frogs?



Among the widespread zoomorphic figurines of the ancient world, small shaped frogs and toads are very bright examples of the fabulous conception of the reality of their had and the economical and political relations in the ancient Near East. Frog shaped figurines as weights, amulets, means of diplomatic relationship, attributes of ornaments, carry valuable information about the ancient civilizations. These artifacts are generally made from different types of stones and metals.

"Frog conversations" aims to concentrate your attention on two very interesting examples of frog figurines, which were made in Mesopotamia, at different times (Akkadian, 2400 BC-2200 BC and Kassite Dynasty of Babylon, 1500s BC) and found in different ways (purchase in 1935 and excavation in 1979). Both are kept in different countries (one at the British Museum, UK and the other at Metsamor site-Museum, Armenia). But they are very similar to each other and have the same dimensions. Both have holes drilled through them and both are made of the same materials ... Maybe bringing them together and looking at their mute conversation will help us to uncover new facts and ideas. Don't you think? See Nigel's comments in attached Word document...

Frog Conversations

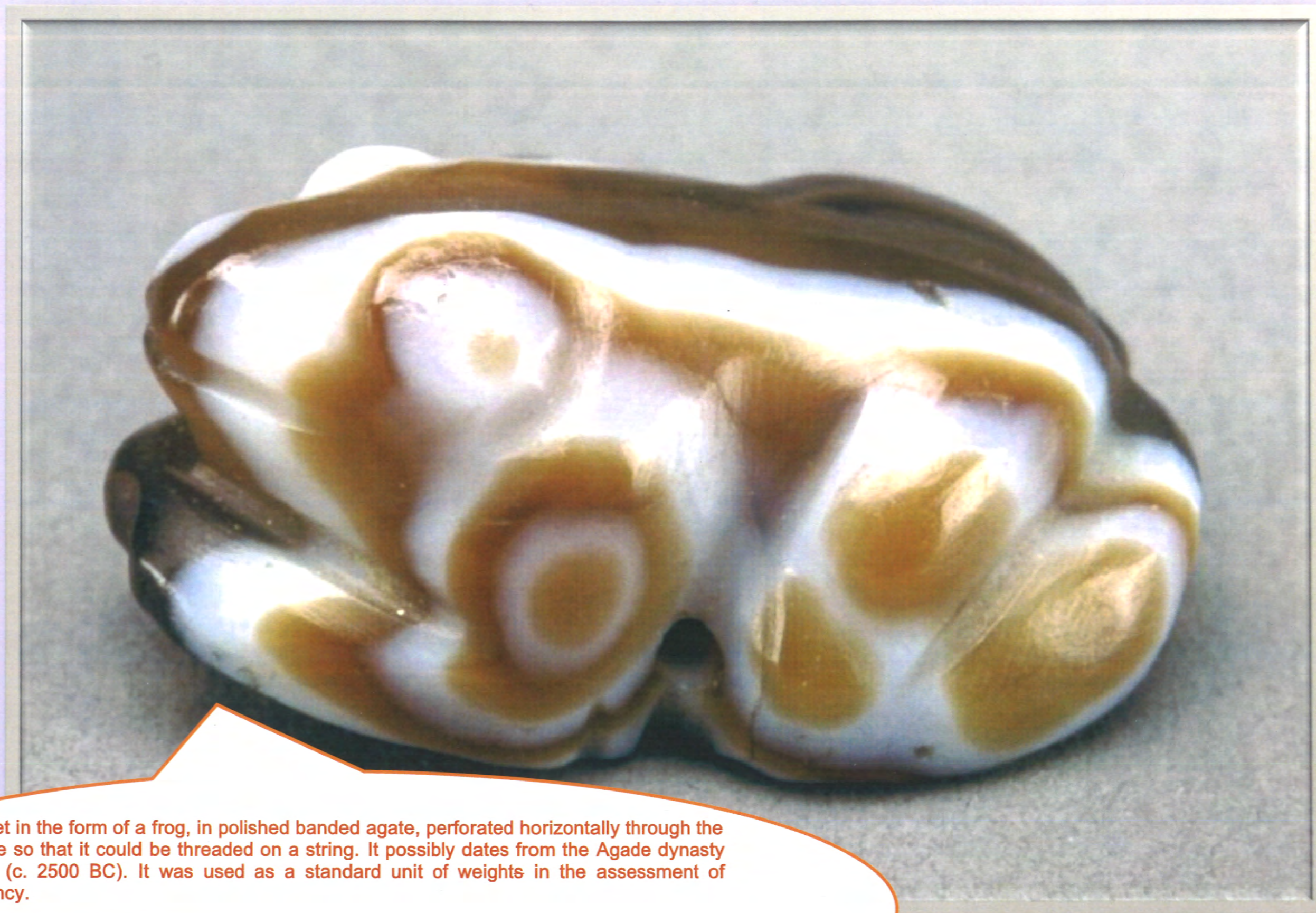


Messages Through The Ages ?



The following messages we could provide from the conversation of these beautiful frogs... Maybe you'll add others?

1. The cult of frogs in the ancient world was associated with the belief that these animals are the symbols of fertility, rebirth and prosperity. For example in Ancient Egypt the frog was the symbol of Heqet, goddess of childbirth and fertility. Such beliefs can also be found in Armenian folk art. But sometimes frogs were also connected to the world of the deceased and sicknesses. May this ambiguity be connected to its amphibian living conditions ...?
2. The frog found in Armenia has Middle Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions on the back, legs and the paunch. These can be read as "*Ulamhuriash, the son of Burnaburiash*", "*1 siqlu*", and hint at the very important economical-political role played by such objects that along with duck-shaped objects were used as weights to measure and assess money and precious metals ... So 1 "siql" or "shekel" (8, 4 grams) was the official economic standard adopted by kings ... But why was such an object found in an Armenian Bronze Age noble woman's tomb ...? As precious symbols of kings, sometimes these objects were used as diplomatic gifts to neighbouring countries establishing and confirming relationships of mutual benefit ... For example, the inscribed frog figurine from Armenia could suggest that the Kassite Babylonian kings (XVIc. BC) had objectives to involve the Armenian Metsamor-Etuni state in an alliance against the New Hittite Kingdom ... What you think could such a small object have been used for such a huge mission?
3. Technically, very neatly drilled holes in both figurines are evidence that they were used also as an element in necklaces. That would explain why one of them was found in the tomb of a noble woman from the 9th-11thc. BC ... It's beautiful, isn't it?



Amulet in the form of a frog, in polished banded agate, perforated horizontally through the middle so that it could be threaded on a string. It possibly dates from the Agade dynasty of Ur (c. 2500 BC). It was used as a standard unit of weights in the assessment of currency.

British Museum, ME 123555

Acquired in 1935 from a dealer of Armenian origin, Élias Géjou.

Dimensions: length 2.7 cm; width 2 cm; height 1.2cm; weight 8.7gr.

