

Gold Objects

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INTRODUCTION

Three gold objects were discovered among the finds from Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9–13, 15, 18, and 19 in the rescue excavations at Zeugma in 2000.¹ As objects in gold, these finds join those discovered in other excavations to inform on the wealth and status of inhabitants at Zeugma. Other finds include fragments of gold leaf, presumably from crowns, discovered in rock-cut tombs in Trench 6 in 2000, and dated by the excavators to the late first century B.C.²

CATALOGUE



Figure 1. GD1. Gold finger ring with intaglio.

GD1 (SF 2283) context 2276

Finger ring with intaglio

L. 25 mm; internal D. 17 mm. Intaglio L. 10 mm;

W. 8 mm

FIG. 1

The ring is plain though heavy. The intaglio is layered from top down red/maroon; white/very pale blue; red/maroon; dark red/maroon. It is engraved with a capricorn and crescent moon.

The heavy gold ring is plain and therefore difficult to closely date. Rings of comparable form have been dated to the second and third centuries A.D. See, for example, the rings exhibited in Zürich in 1995 (Galerie Nefer 1995, nos. 93–4 and 103). Another ring of similar form in gold leaf from Palmyra is dated to the second century A.D., although the intaglio showing the head of Isis (?) is dated to the first century B.C. (Charles-Gaffiot et al. 2001, 186, 317–8, no. 12). Capricorn was the badge of Augustus and was used as a badge by a number of legions, including *legio IIII Scythica*, which was stationed at Zeugma.



Figure 2. GD2. Lion's head loop earring.

GD2 (SF 922) context 18048

Lion's head loop earring

L. 27 mm

FIG. 2

The tapering curved stem is formed from twisted thin gold wires. The lion's head, which forms the decoration of the earring, is hollow and has been slightly flattened.

The earring is an early Hellenistic type and probably dates to the third century B.C. Comparable examples are known with antelope heads, for example, from Kütahya, in the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara, and another from Egypt (Tait 1986, 93, illus. 206). The latter have hollow curved stems. Earrings with lion's heads include examples from the necropolis at Samothrace (Dusenberry 1998, 993–5, especially S123–3), a pair among the jewelry from a Hellenistic woman's grave from Campania (Kunsthistorisch Museum, Vienna: AS Inv. No. 7 B 217, 247, 269, 270, 315, 316, 323, 325, 353), and unprovenanced examples exhibited in the Galerie Nefer, Zürich, in 1995 (Galerie Nefer 1995, no. 47). All are early Hellenistic in date.



Figure 3. GD3. Gold bead cap or spacer.

GD3 (SF 3381) context 18070

Possible bead cap or spacer

D. 8 mm; depth 2.5 mm

FIG. 3

A possible small gold spacer bead with a slight groove around its outer edge, flat on one face and hollow on the other side.

NOTES

1. A bone pin with a gold-plated head is catalogued with objects of worked bone. See Charles, this volume, B1.
2. Abadie-Reynal 2001, 301, figs. 2.63–4.

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