Seal collections

Klaus Wagensonner
(University of Oxford)
Major seals collections in central Europe
British Museum

• around 2,000+ cylinder seals
• online search (“cylinder+seal +mesopotamia”) = 2,204 results
• c. 1,800 published in 5 monographs in the series *Western Asiatic Seals*
  • I: 156 seals (Uruk and ED)
  • II: 489 seals (OA and Ur III)
  • III: 656 seals (OB)
  • (IV: Kassite seals)
  • V: 401 seals (NA and NB)
  • VI: 92 seals (Achaemenid)
former “Lambert” collection

- in the British Museum
- bequeathed by W. G. Lambert 2013
- 732 results for cylinder seals
Louvre

- around 5,000 seals
- Musée Guimet (see L. Delaporte, *Catalogue du Musée Guimet, Cylindres Orientaux* [1909]) > 156 seals
Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

- approx. 2,000 seals

- L. Delaporte, *Catalogue des cylindres orientaux et des cachets assyro-babyloniens, perses det syro-cappadociens de la Bibliothèque nationale* (1910) > c. 600 seals

- collection Seyrig (unpublished)
Vorderasiatisches Museum

- more than 2,000 cylinder and stamp seals
- about half of this collection published in Moortgat (1940), *Vorderasiatische Rollsiegel* and Jakob-Rost (1975), *Die Stempelsiegel im Vorderasiatischen Museum*
- digitized by TOPOI
- no information about the remaining part (e.g., share of cylinder or stamp seals)
Ashmolean Museum

  > 1116 seals (including a selection of sealings)

  > 83 seals
Bibel+Orient Museum, Fribourg

- 253 seals from former Peters collection
- + acquisitions (former collections Erlenmeyer, Marcopoli, Tabet etc.)
- in total 455 cylinder seals
Former “Kist” collection

- private collection of Joost Kist
- 442 seals catalogued (b/w photographs of modern impressions)
- no representation of the cylinder itself; no information on the drill hole
- now in the Allard Pierson Museum, Amsterdam
Bible Lands Museum

- Approx. 3,000 seals
- in process of cataloguing
- collection established by Batya and Elie Borowski
Former “Marcopoli” collection

- published by B. Teissier (1984), *Ancient Near Eastern cylinder seals from the Marcopoli collection*
- 719 seals catalogued (b/w photographs of modern impressions)
- now dispersed (some seals, e.g., were bought by the Bibel+Orient Museum)
Pierpont Morgan Library, New York

  < collection of William Hayes Ward
  + collection of Robert F. Kelley (1977)
  + collection Jonathan P. Rosen (1986)

- 80-90 seals available for online view
  (manual rotating; 8 photos)
  > too few to stitch together

- Searchable database (*CORSAIR*)
  1,185 entries
Pierpont Morgan Library, New York

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- 80-90 seals available for online view
  (manual rotating; 8 photos)
  > too few to stitch together

Morgan Seal
575

b/w photo of modern impression
Yale Babylonian Collection, New Haven

- 1,286 seals and sealings
  - YBC
  - NBC
  - MLC
  - NCBS and NCBT