



1. Stand Supported by the Figure of a Frog

Kish East, Ingharra, Early Dynastic Period (2900 - 2330 BC)
Photograph by John Weinstein © The Field Museum

Iraq is a land of rivers, canals, and marshes—all teeming with wildlife. Frogs like the one that forms the base of this stand, which might have supported a goblet, are a common sight, and must have been so in ancient times.



2. Pair of gold openwork bracteates in the form of lion's heads

Persia, Achaemenid, Late 5th to 4th century B.C.E.
Photograph by Bruce M. White © 2002 Trustees of Princeton University

Lion's heads were a popular motif in Persian jewelry.



3. Lapis lazuli and gold pendant in the shape of ram's head

Sumer, 2900 to 2500 B.C.E.
Photograph by Peter Lanyi © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The eyes of this lapis lazuli pendant in the shape of a ram's head are inlaid with gold circles. The bottom of the jaw, horns and nostrils have incised details.



4. Carnelian and gold necklace

Deir el-Balah, 13th century B.C.E.

Photograph by Peter Lanyi © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

This necklace consists of two hundred forty-four carnelian and gold beads and wedjat eye amulets. The center gold spacer is decorated in the repoussé technique; it depicts an image of the Egyptian goddess Hathor, the goddess of love and joy.



5. Gold pendant with pair of birds

Greater Iran, 11th to 12th century C.E.

Photograph © The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Garden of Eden continues to play an important role in Islamic jewelry, with birds being a central theme. Here we see a pair of birds, touching at their beaks and chests as they stand on their tiny feet.



6. Bust of a King

Kish East, Sasanian Period (AD 224 - 637)

Photograph by John Weinstein © The Field Museum

The Kish Expedition excavated seven buildings whose walls were embellished with elaborate stucco decoration. The figure shown here is that of a Sasanian king, identified by his crown as either Shapur II (A.D. 310-379) or Bahram V (A.D. 420-438).



7. Single earring of gold with quartz

Iran, 12th century C.E.

Photograph by Peter Lanyi © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem



8. Gold goat figurine

Iran, 12th to 13th century C.E.

Photograph by Vladimir Naikhin © The Israel Museum, Jerusalem

The body of the goat was formed from two parts that were later joined together. The ears, horns, and tail were produced separately and attached to the body. The major decorative element is twisted wire, which is applied in small circled placed closely together on the body. This particular decorative style is characteristic of gold Seljuk jewelry from Iran.



9. Pair of gold hair ornaments, with a bronze core and originally colored cloth

Iran, 12th to 13th century C.E.

Photograph © The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Although hair ornaments were discovered as early as 2500 B.C.E., here is a pair of Islamic hair ornaments with emphasis on the geometric core.



10. Gold bracelet, with glazed quartz, ruby and garnet

Iran, 12th Century C.E.

Photograph © 1980 The Metropolitan Museum of Art

This bracelet was created from tubular sheet construction with repoussé decorations.



11. Gold necklace elements, with turquoise, gray chalcedony, glass

Iran, late 14th to early 15th century C.E.

Photograph © 1989 The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Islamic jewelry brought in the use of colored stones.



12. Gold ring with nephrite sealstone

Iran, 15th to early 16th century C.E.

Photograph © 1988 The Metropolitan Museum of Art

This signet ring is engraved on both the bezel and the seal.