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Two Luristan Pins

Luristan, Ancient Iran

1st Millennium B.C.

Bronze

H: 24.5cm

Luristan bronzes are small cast objects from the early Iron Age. They have been found in tombs in large numbers in Luristan Province and Kermanshah in west central Iran. They often include tools, weapons, ornaments, horse fittings, and vessels, and date to around 1000-650 B.C. Luristan bronzes first came to light in the late 1920s, during excavations of the region. Surveys suggest that most settlements in Luristan were abandoned at the end of the bronze age, probably because of a minor climate change that may have resulted in disrupted agriculture, and although habitation continued it was probably on a more limited scale. It still remains unclear whether habitations in Luristan Province and Kermanshah were permanent or semi-permanent on a seasonal basis, or if sedentary and nomadic lifestyles coexisted in Luristan as they do today. These two bronze pins are possibly clothing pins. Similar examples have been discovered in numerous sites in various regions of Iran and even other neighbouring areas, made by different methods and styles and with very diverse designs. These two present examples have thin plain shanks, one surmounted by a monkey with bent knees and hands on

the head, the other an oversized grotesque human face. The surface of the bronze is covered with a natural green patination which occurs when environmental factors interact with the alloys within the cast bronze.

Literature:

'Collection D. David-Weill: Bronzes des Steppes et de l'Iran', Drouot, Paris, 28th-29th June 1972, Lot 223 & 224.

'Collection David-Weill, Les antiquités du Luristan par Pierre Amiet', Paris, 1976, No. 173 (monkey) & 174 (face).

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