

	Object:	Frog lamp with two embryos
	Museum:	Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de
	Collection:	Ancient Cultures, Oil lamps and lighting devices
	Inventory number:	1935.200.929

## Description

The annual Nile flood not only provided nutrient-rich soil, but also washed the frogs ashore. Therefore, the frog was considered a symbol of life and fertility in ancient Egypt. Thus, the Egyptian goddess of childbirth, Heket (also Heqet or Hekit), was also depicted as a frog-headed woman or as a frog.

The type of frog lamps, which took their name from the frogs depicted on the upper rim, developed in Upper Egypt. Other attributes relating to birth could also be depicted, here the unborn even themselves. Their safe birth was to be ensured by the lighting of the lamp and the representation reminiscent of the symbolism of frogs. As such, the frog was also adopted by the early Christians in Egypt. (AVS)

Former collection Friedrich Wilhelm von Bissing

## Detailed description

Auf der Oberseite ist beiderseits des zentralen Einfüllloches je ein nackter Embryo dargestellt.

## Basic data

Material/Technique:

Clay / from the mould

Measurements:

Length: 7.9 cm

## Events

Created	When	3.-4. century CE
	Who	
	Where	Egypt
Collected	When	
	Who	Friedrich Wilhelm von Bissing (1873-1956)
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Heqet
	Where	

## Keywords

- Birth
- Embryo
- Frosch
- Oil lamp
- Symbol

## Literature

- Mlasowsky, Alexander (1993): Die antiken Tonlampen im Kestner-Museum Hannover. Hannover, 378 Nr. 365