

	Object:	Tube-shaped idol with Janus-head
	Museum:	Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de
	Collection:	Ancient Cultures, Luristan. Antike Bronzen aus dem Iran
	Inventory number:	1971.031

Description

The Janus-headed idol consists of a conical foot followed by a strongly curved heel that leads into the eponymous tube. The tube runs completely straight for 8.5 cm with a diameter of 1.5 cm. The uniform section is terminated by a circumferential bead. Above it begins the anthropomorphic part of the idol. The tube swings out slightly over a few millimetres and leads into the protruding beard and chin on both sides. Above this, a fine transverse rib indicates the mouth, which sits directly below a strongly protruding, curved nose. In both representations of the face, the root of the nose merges into curved ridges on both sides, which reproduce the eyebrows. Below them are the eyes, which are hemispherical. In the area of the forehead, a rib running around the tube closes off the two facial fields. The end of the tube is formed by an element in the shape of a pot, which can possibly be interpreted as a kind of headdress.

The area between the faces is marked by widely protruding triangular projections, which could be addressed as oversized ears.

Janus-headed idols are known from the Early Iron Age Pusht-i Kuh, such as from tomb 19 at Bard-i Bal (Van den Berghe, Louis. *Recherches archéologiques dans le Luristan*, Sixième Campagne: 1970. Fouilles à Bard-i Bal et à Pa-yi Kal, Prospections dans le district d'Aivan (rapport préliminaire). In *Iranica Antiqua* X [1973]: 48 pl. XXIII). (Text: S. Arnhold)

Basic data

Material/Technique:	Bronze/Casting
Measurements:	Diameter: 1.5 cm; Length: 8.5 cm

Keywords

- Casting (Metal)
- Decoration
- Idol
- Januskopf