Artifact from Ancient Sumer

Archaeologist’s notes: On this clay tablet, scribes from the Temple of Bau recorded the amount of barley (a type of grain) that each of the workers and their families will receive.
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Archaeologist’s notes: These statues of a married couple were found in the rubble of a religious shrine. The original statues had eyes made of shells and semiprecious stones. They were probably left at the shrine as a gift to the gods.

The sizes of these statues usually determined hierarchy (level of importance in society). Likewise, a beard on a figure signified a man in a powerful position.
Archaeologist’s notes: This lyre—a stringed musical instrument—was decorated with gold and semiprecious stones. It was found in the tomb of a Sumerian queen. Royal musicians may have played this instrument to entertain the queen and her court.
Archaeologist’s notes: This clay seal shows King Ur-Nammu (seated) appointing Hashhamer as one of his governors. The inscription on the seal says, “Ur-Nammu, the mighty hero, king of Ur; Hashhamer, the governor of Ishkun-Sin, his servant.”
Archaeologist’s notes: This gold cup was created by Sumerian artisans, probably to be used at banquets. These banquets were generally for the members of the upper classes of Sumerian society.
Archaeologist’s notes: This impression was made from a stone seal. It shows two gods. One god has a hand in the shape of a scorpion. The other is using a plow.
Archaeologist’s notes: This small copper statue shows a Sumerian chariot being pulled by four donkeys. This kind of chariot was probably used by Sumerian soldiers.
Archaeologist’s notes: This bronze statue shows King Ur-Nammu carrying a basket of bricks on his head. This probably represents the fact that one of the king’s main responsibilities was to build and maintain the temples, even though he didn’t actually do the work himself. The inscription around the body of the statue records the restoration of a temple.