

BRATZ IN TIME

You may think that Bratz dolls are the newest trend, but archaeologists have uncovered evidence that these fashion-crazy toys might have been around forever.

by Anne D. Bernstein



2000 BC

The oldest Bratz doll ever found dates back to the Sumerians of ancient Mesopotamia. Carved from stone, this doll—known as the Ur-Brat—never became popular, due to her small head and feet, limited wardrobe (only one outfit), and the fact that it was really hard to brush hair made from rock.



1100 BC

In ancient Egypt, Bratz dolls first appeared with their big heads and feet—the pleasing proportions we know today. Since the Egyptians worshipped cats, each Bratz doll also came with a Catz companion. Soon after, the first male Bratz doll was introduced: King Tutz. And, in true Egyptian fashion, whenever an owner got bored with a doll, it was buried in a tomb with 5,000 accessories.

400 BC

To the ancient Greeks, Bratz dolls represented beauty in its purest form. The philosopher Plato must have been extremely impressed by their looks and attitude, because he couldn't think of a thing to say about them. Many Greek monuments and buildings were decorated with elaborate carved images of Bratz dolls, such as this fountain, known as the Spritz. The dolls even inspired an event in the first Olympic Games: the Freestyle Pout. Winning athletes were awarded the Deluxe Chariot Play Set, made out of pure gold.





300 BC This clay tablet recently unearthed in present-day Syria shows that the ancient Phoenicians used a special written language (called Cell-Phoenician) to rave about their Bratz dolls. The translation of the message shown above: "Our dolz have the best accessories."

Due to a lack of shopping opportunities, a great Bratz migration occurred soon after this tablet was created, and the dolls' collectors scattered and spread throughout the world.



AD 500 This bronze Bratz doll survived an era of great strife in Europe: the Battle of the Belly Buttons. It was a time of conflict between the Bratz collectors of the Roman Empire and the invading hordes of barbarian collectors. Particularly troublesome were the Flava Federation and the Diva Starz Dynasty, two rival doll-collecting peoples hostile to Bratz owners.

Thousands of outfits were pillaged in the conflict and it took centuries for doll fashions to return to normal. Eventually, all the doll owners made peace, banded together, and patiently awaited the invention of plastic. □



AD 50 Although a complete Bratz doll has yet to be found in China, these precious artifacts were uncovered by a farmer in 1958 when a mini backpack got stuck in his rake. He also unearthed three Bratz feet, which researchers believe are evidence that children in ancient China had to deal with the modern problem of Bratz feet detaching from their legs.

Collecting Bratz dolls was also a favorite pastime of Chinese royalty. One emperor so loved his Bratz dolls that he composed a 300,000-word poem in their honor: *Bratz Pack R Kewl Like Dew on Leaf*.

My dew's on the lawn.

