Laden Animal and Riding Figurines from Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn and their Implications of Trade in the Early Bronze Age*

By Fardous Al Ajlouny, Khaled Douglas, Bilal Khrisat and Abdulraouf Mayyas

1. Introduction

In Southern Levant, trade flourished significantly in the Early Bronze Age. The inhabitants of the third Millennium B.C. began to break the isolation that characterized their previous villages and camps of the Stone Ages. They established commercial relations with Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria and even farther regions, like Anatolia, Caucus and Armenia.

Archaeological excavations revealed that trade was an important feature of the whole part of the Early Bronze Age including the four sub-phases (EBI-IV). The people of Southern Levant in Early Bronze Age I developed connections with different destinations; for instance, excavations at Arad in Southern Palestine proved early trade relations with Egypt². The People of Southern Levant exported different kinds of goods to Egypt, like Dead Sea products, copper from Finan, olive oil and pottery vessels. Southern Levant played the role of commercial mediator between Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Anatolia³. However, most of the sites that developed trade relations with Egypt are located in Southern Palestine where ceramic materials showed the existence of three different groups: local Canaanite ware, Egyptian imported ware and locally produced Egyptian ware⁴. Among these sites are Tell er-Rumûlê and el-Õar where a number of Egyptian pottery vessels used for transporting goods from Egypt to Southern and central Palestine were found⁵. In Tell el-Sakan an abundant number of Egyptian ceramic vessels were recovered⁶. This reveals direct contact between Egypt and Southern Levant during the early Pre-Dynastic period. Trade relations developed tremendously in later periods in particular in the rule of the first Dynasty. Excavations in Tell eš-Šêh Ahmed el-‘Arēnî, ‘Én Besôr⁷ and Tell el-Sakan⁸ indicate strong relations between Egypt and Southern Levant.

The existence of a great number of Canaanite ceramic vessels at Abydos, which were later identified as Abydos ware, indicate the prosperous commercial connections between Egypt and Southern Levant in the first half of the EBII. In regard with the Levant imports to Egypt, the people of Southern Levant exported cereals, oils, wine and plant products like dried fruits and vegetables to Egypt. In return, Egypt exported precious materials to Southern Levant⁹.

* The authors would like to express their immense gratitude to the directors of the excavations, Prof. Dr. S. MITTMANN and Prof. Dr. M IBRAHIM for their permission for publishing information from Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn. The authors would also like to thank Prof. H. Al HAYAJNEH for his help in the transcript and Dr. KIMBERLY CONNORS for the English editing.

¹SCHAUB 1987.
⁵BRAUN et al. 2001, Fig. 4.2:4.
⁶MIROSCHEDJI 2000.
⁷BRANDL 1989.
⁹MIROSCHEDJI 2000.
¹⁰BEN-TOR 1992, 119-120.
Concerning the second half of EBII, the commercial contacts between Egypt and Southern Levant were weaker, since the former depended mainly on Northern Levant. Trade routes had changed, which led the inhabitants of Southern Levant to look for alternative routes. They moved northwards in the direction of Syria, Lebanon, Anatolia, Caucus and Armenia. Scholars considered the appearance of Ḥirbet el-Kerak pottery as a product of this new phenomenon of commercial exchange. This new type of pottery has been attributed to Caucasian origins\textsuperscript{11}. Other Materials that attest active relations with other parts of the Near East are the seal impressions. The seal impressions were abundantly recovered in different parts of the Levant\textsuperscript{12}. The expansion of the trade route into the Arabian Golf is evident by the archaeological finds recovered at Umm el-Nār in United Arab Emirates\textsuperscript{13}.

![Fig. 1. Early Bronze Age sites.](image1)

![Fig. 2. Topographic map of Ḥirbet ez–Zeraqān (After DOUGLAS 2007, Abb. 2).](image2)

The material culture uncovered at Ḥirbet ez–Zeraqān in northern Jordan is important evidence of the Early Bronze Age culture in general and specifically in regards to the trade system.

2. Ḥirbet ez-Zeraqān

Ḥirbet ez-Zeraqān is an Early Bronze Age city of a medium size ca. 8 ha, located ca.13 km northeast of the modern city of Irbid in north Jordan (fig. 1). It is located on the eastern slope of a flat hilltop on the western edge of Wādī es-Sellāle(fig. 2).

The settlement was first built as a fortified city during the EBII and developed into a major city towards the end of this stage and during the EBIII. Sometimes during the EBIII, the site was abandoned completely and reoccupied partially as an open seasonal settlement during the EBIV. Ḥirbet ez–Zeraqān was fortified by a massive stone wall supported by huge rectangular solid bastions located near main city gates\textsuperscript{14}.

Ḥirbet ez–Zeraqān was first identified by Siegfried Mittmann in the early sixties. Between 1984 and 1994 excavations took place at the site jointly between the Biblisch-Archäologisches Institut der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität.\textsuperscript{15}

\textsuperscript{11}BEN-TOR 1992, 120-121.
\textsuperscript{12}GREENBERG 2001, 192.
\textsuperscript{13}COLLON 1987, 24.
\textsuperscript{14}MITTMANN 1994.
Institut, represented by SIEGFRIED MITTMANN and the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University, represented by MOAWIYAH IBRAHIM. Excavations in the two major areas (upper and lower parts) uncovered ca. 5,700 square meters of the site. The site has been built in accordance with previous careful planning. In the upper city three building complexes separated by a street and courtyard system were uncovered (fig. 3). To the north of the main gate of the upper city are two building complexes consisting of rectangular rooms and open courtyards. The main other two building complexes of the upper city are located to the south of the city gate. A temple complex with a temenos wall, enclosed by the fortification wall, is located to the west. It contains four houses of varying sizes and types and forms a circle around a courtyard. In the western periphery of the courtyard there is a round platform (altar). To the east of the temple is the large palace complex, which contains several architectural units, like the main broad room and small storage rooms. In the lower city, domestic buildings with a well planned street system were uncovered (fig. 4). Six different sizes and types of building units separated by a street net were found with a main street running alongside the city wall. The main gate in the lower city leads to the main street and connects to a building with a wide rectangular room and a large open courtyard. This division of the city into lower and upper parts coincides with the plans of contemporary sites in Southern Levant like Tell el-Mutesellim (Megiddo), Tell el-Fârah North, Tell es-Suîtan (Jericho), et-Tell (Ai), Hirbet Yarmûk (Tel Yarmut) and Tell ‘Arâd (Arad).

3. Indications of Trade in Hirbet ez-Zerqûn:

3.1. Seal Impressions
Many of the archaeological finds in Hirbet ez-Zerqûn indicate that the settlement was a significant commercial center in the Early Bronze Age II-III. Interestingly about 143 ceramic sherds with seal impressions have been discovered in Hirbet ez-Zerqûn. The great number of seal impressions unearthed there reveals the importance of Hirbet ez-Zerqûn as a trade center.

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17 MITTMANN 1994.
18 HERZOG 1997.
during the third millennium B.C. This collection is probably the largest to be found at one single site in the Southern Levant. It constitutes over 50% of the corpus published from the entire region\textsuperscript{19}. The impressions were sometimes used to decorate the shoulder of a certain type of hard-fired vertically combed storage jar. These were high jars circa one metre high and resemble a pithoi without handles. They belong to the so-called Metallic Ware jars that were typical in the Early Bronze Age\textsuperscript{20}. These sherds with impressions belong to nearly 126 pottery vessels and compose 118 different motifs. The scenes depicted on them consist of rich scenery, ranging from geometric designs to dancing figures in front of cultic structures and banquet ceremonies. They all show clear Mesopotamian influence\textsuperscript{21}. This amount of seal impressions at one site is a strong indication of ancient commercial exchange\textsuperscript{22}.

3.2. Geographic Location:
Another indication of international trade relations in the third millennium B.C. is the strategic geographic location of \textit{Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn} in northern Jordan (fig. 1). It is located on the ancient trade route that linked northern Levant with Egypt from one side, and linked the main trade points between Mesopotamia and western parts of the Jordan River and Palestine on the other side\textsuperscript{23}.

3.3. Architectural Remains:
The architectural remains from \textit{Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn} indicate clearly the intensive trade practices of the inhabitants of the settlement. Many small rooms were attached to the main palace in the upper city (fig. 3). Their function was considered as storage rooms related mostly to commercial activities\textsuperscript{24}. The great number of rooms reflects the prosperous economic position the city enjoyed in the Early Bronze Age. The abundance of commodities recovered there indicates the surplus of crops and products that were to be exported from there. Moreover, the existence of the temple complex in the upper city of \textit{Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn} next to the main gate (fig. 3) is a strong indicator of its use as a cultic center for inhabitants from other neighboring destinations such as, Southern Syria and northern Palestine. These groups must have exchanged commercial commodities with the people of \textit{Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn}.
The main gate of the lower city has always been connected during most of the occupational phases with two inner gate chambers. One of these gate chambers in most phases contained a large silo, which was combined always with benches and in some phases with so called "game stone". Outer structures and an open plastered courtyard were concentrated in the lower city gate periphery that might be used for commercial purposes\textsuperscript{25}.

3.4. Ceramic Finds:
The rich assemblage of ceramic finds in \textit{Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn} is another important indication of trade relations in the third millennium B.C. The discovery of \textit{Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn} ware, at the site\textsuperscript{26} which was restricted to the northern parts of the country, is a strong signal of external

\textsuperscript{19} MITTMANN 1994, 15.
\textsuperscript{20} GENZ 2002, Tafel 27.
\textsuperscript{21} MITTMANN 1994, 15.
\textsuperscript{22} FLINDER 2000, 302; KAFAFI 2006, 72.
\textsuperscript{23} MITTMANN 1994: 15.
\textsuperscript{24} DOUGLAS, forthcoming.
\textsuperscript{25} GENZ 2002, Tafel 159B.
relations. This kind of pottery is believed to originate from the Caucus regions\textsuperscript{27}. The so-called metallic combed ware has been abundantly uncovered in Hīrbeṭ ez–Zeraqōn\textsuperscript{28} and has been confined to northern parts of Jordan and Palestine. However, this type of pottery might have originated from the upper Galilee Mountains in northern Palestine and northern Beqā’ in Lebanon\textsuperscript{29}.

3.5. The Clay Laden and Riding Figurines from Hīrbeṭ ez–Zeraqōn

All the above mentioned evidence indicates the significance of Hīrbeṭ ez–Zeraqōn as a main trade center in the third millennium B. C. The inhabitants of this Early Bronze Age city exchanged commerce with distant parts of the ancient world. The significant question that arises here is the transportation device. What did the people use to transport their precious goods to those distant places? Southern Levant lacked written documents as compared to neighboring regions like Egypt and Mesopotamia. Other sources like imagery and iconography have to be our main sources of understanding the means of transporting goods. This leads us to the main part of this study, the laden and riding figurines discovered in Hīrbeṭ ez–Zeraqōn.

The excavations at Hīrbeṭ ez–Zeraqōn have yielded forty miniature clay figurative pieces from different areas of the site. This assemblage, as compared to other Early Bronze Age sites, is one of the largest in Southern Levant. It composes 22\% of the total repertoire in the whole area and 67\% of the whole assemblage in Jordan (fig. 5).

These clay figurative pieces were classified into three main groups\textsuperscript{30}:

1. Figurines: It represents the largest group (29 figurines) which is composed of four subcategories: Zoomorphic figurines, most of these figurines represented sheep and goats; human figurines included one fragmentary piece representing a human; model figurines representing two pieces of furniture; composite figurines, these included the laden and riding figurines.

2. Figurative vessels: It includes only one unique piece representing a head of a bird, or perhaps a head of a little bustard.

\textsuperscript{27}Burney 1989, Fig.1.
\textsuperscript{28}Genz 2002, Tafel 26.
\textsuperscript{29}Greenberg/Port 1996, 5f.
\textsuperscript{30}For more detailed see Al-Ajloony et al 2011.
3. Figurative applications: It includes some ceramic pieces that were decorated with different kinds of applications, predominantly snake applications and a unique composite figure representing a sacrifice scene.

This study will focus on the first group, mainly the composite figurines including its two main sub-types, the laden and riding figurines.

In general nine clay figurative pieces were classified either as laden or riding figurines were found in Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn. This assemblage represents the largest repertoire emanating from a single Early Bronze Age settlement in Southern Levant. Most of these figurines were found in their original context. Four of them were classified as laden figurines (fig 8:1-4). Three were found in the lower city (fig. 4): one in building B1.3, room R8 (fig. 8.1), one in building B1.5, room R1 (fig. 8.2) and one in the area of the lower city gate (fig. 8.3), while the fourth one was found in the palace area (fig. 3) in the upper city (fig. 8.4).

Concerning the riding figurines, they were only recovered in Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn, where they represent the earliest riding figurines in the whole region of the Southern Levant. One of these figurines is relatively well preserved. It is composed of a human figure riding on the back of a donkey (fig. 8.5a-b). It was found in the lower city in building B1.3 room 2. There were some fragmentary pieces which were difficult to decide whether they belong to laden or riding figurines. They had some marks which showed that something was placed on their backs, either a rider or receptacles. A fragmentary piece was found in the gate area of the upper city, room 7 (fig. 9.6). Another piece was unearthed in the lower city building B1.6 room 2 (fig. 9.7). The third figure was discovered in the gate’s area in the lower city (fig. 9.8). The last piece represents only a human figure which was found in the area of the temple in the upper city (fig. 9.9). However, it might be considered as a part of a composite figurine because the figure resembles the figure riding on the donkey (fig. 8.5a-b) and the way the torso was made indicates that it was attached to another figure. It can be arider?.

In spite of the fact that most of the pieces were fragmentary and not well preserved, the donkey was the animal to be represented in most of the cases. The use of animals as means of transportation was a great accomplishment in the history of human kind. Therefore, the animals constituted a special topic in the art of the ancient humans. The first animal to be used as a beast of burden was the bull. It was either used to carry weights on his back or to pull the plough for the cultivation of plants. With the domestication of the donkey in the fourth Millennium B.C., it became the most significant animal for transporting goods over long distances (Sherrat 1981, 247). The donkey is able to carry heavy loads ranging from 40 to 60 kgs. The use of the donkey was revolutionary in the world of commerce due to its abilities to carry goods over long distances. However, the exact date of the domestication of the donkey is still in debate since it is very difficult to differentiate between the bones of domesticated and wild donkey species. The earliest evidence for the domestication of the donkey can be dated back to the end of the fourth Millennium B.C. In regards to written evidence, the earliest record of the donkey as a

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31 It is worth to mention that the position of the arms of this figure (fig. 9.9) are turning relatively vertical towards up while the arms of the riding figurine in (fig. 8.5) are stretching horizontally straight forwards. However, the difference of the position of the arms between the two figurines might be considered as an indication of the difference in the functional symbol. So the human figure with arm up might represent a person in a ritual position. The existence of this figure in the temple area might strengthen this idea.

32 Epstein 1983, 85.

beast of burden in Egyptian tradition was in a grave inscription belonging to the 5th Dynasty of the Old Egyptian Kingdom (2480-2320 B.C.). In one of the inscriptions, an epigraphist talked about 760 donkeys. These were among other 5000 domesticated livestock which were raised in a private farm. Another inscription from another grave in the same time mentions the use of more than a thousand donkeys as livestock. The long caravans between Egypt and Nubia used the donkey as means of transportation. In a Sumerian written resource, between 2700 and 2000 B.C., the donkey was stated as the most important means of transportation. The texts from Fārā in Mesopotamia, around the time of 2000 B.C., mentioned the use of the donkey for ploughing and transportation.

The earliest faunal remains of the domesticated donkey in Egypt go back to the fourth millennium B.C. Bones of domesticated donkeys were found in Mā’dīn Lower Egypt. They belong to the first half of the fourth Millennium B.C. In Mesopotamia and Syria the earliest faunal evidence of the domesticated donkey comes from the middle of the fourth Millennium B.C.

In Southern Levant domesticated donkey bones come from Tell Abū Hamīd in the fourth Millennium B.C. and Bīr es-Ṣafāṭī in southern Palestine. The scarcity of domesticated donkey bones in Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age sites in Southern Levant shows that the donkey did not constitute a significant element in the diet of the people. It was mainly used as a burden animal for transportation and agriculture. The faunal remains in Ḥirbet ez-Zeraqōn reflect the great dependence on the donkey as a domesticated animal. The donkey bones constituted 50% of the faunal remains in Ḥirbet ez-Zeraqōn.

Interestingly, the earliest representation of the donkey as laden figurine was uncovered in Southern Levant. The earliest representation of the donkey carrying something on his back is dated to the Chalcolithic time period.

The Early Bronze Age in Southern Levant produced more than 23 published pieces representing laden animal figurines. All the pieces where the animal was identified represented a donkey. Therefore, this leads us to assume that the donkey was the main means of transportation in Southern Levant. This is an interesting phenomenon especially when compared to neighboring lands. It leads us to some assumptions concerning the role that Southern Levant played in the world of trade in Ancient Ages.

The different phases of the Early Bronze Age in Southern Levant yielded very interesting pieces depicting donkeys carrying receptacles. Six laden donkey figurines were recorded in the first phase of the Early Bronze Age (EBI). Interestingly most of the pieces come from graves in the area round Tell Aviv: Two miniature pieces of laden donkey figurines come from Yāzūr; one from Giv'ātayim; two from Tell Rās el-Ēn and another figurine from Tell Qasyūn. The depiction of the donkey as laden figurine continued to exist in the Early Bronze Age II-III.

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34BENKE 1994, 312-313.
35BENKE 1994, 312.
36BENKE 1994, 312-313.
37DOLLFUSE et al. 1988, 597.
38STAGER 1985, 182-183.
40DECHERT 1994.
41AL AJLOUNY 2000.
43AMIRAN 1985, 190-193, PLXLVI: 3-4.
44KAPLAN 1993, 520-521, OVADIA 1992, 20-24, Fig. 2.
45EITAN 1996, 52, Fig. 3.1-2.
46AL AJLOUNY 2000.
riding figurines were also manufactured in these phases. More than 17 pieces were shaped in the different places of Southern Levant. Some were clearly representing laden figurines. One piece was definitely a representation of a riding figurine. Others were either laden or riding figurines. However, they were certainly depictions of animals used as a means of transportation. In Arad, a fragmentary figurine representing a laden donkey figurine was recovered in a private house in EBII.47

Three fragmentary pieces belonging to laden donkey figurines were unearthed in Hirbet Yarmūk: In one of these only the torso of the animal with axial perforation is preserved. In two of the pieces only the basket that used to be carried on the back of the animal is preserved48. A laden donkey figurine was found in a grave in Jericho49. It is considered as a laden figurine because the animal has traces on his back which showed traces of something carried. In Tell el-Qādī two pieces were found, a relatively well preserved laden figurine50 and one receptacle that used to be attached to sides of the animal51.

On the whole, the representation of the donkey constitutes 23% of the artistic repertoire in Hirbet ez–Zeraqūn52 (figs. 6-7). This percentage is considered relatively high as compared to contemporary sites of Southern Levant.

4. Conclusion

The exact function of the laden and animal figurines is still enigmatic. Scholars have given different theories concerning the different types of figurines including sacred and secular aspects53. The study focused mainly on the relatively large number of laden and riding figurines uncovered in Hirbet ez–Zeraqūn. To find seven pieces in one site is relatively interesting and can lead to a number of interpretations.

Laden figurines have been abundantly discovered in Southern Levant since Chalcolithic times (Epstein 1985, 53). However, the main animal in the Chalcolithic repertoire was the bovine and in the Early Bronze Age the animal was the donkey. The animal itself is a reflection of advancement in the technology of transportation. The donkey can carry heavy goods over long distances and this is a revolution in the realm of trade. Whether these figurines were made as

48 AL AJLOUNY 2000, Taf.35.15
49 KENYON 1960, 124, Fig. 40:1.
50 BIRAN 1996, 52-53, Fig. 1.51.
51 GREENBERG 1996, 139-142, Table 3.2:5, Fig. 3.38:5.
52 Nine out of forty pieces.
53 For the detailed discussion about the function of the clay figurative pieces see AL AJLOUNY et al 2011.
votive figures or representations of deities, they were reflections of the use of a new transportation means and as a result a progress of lifestyle. The fact that seven pieces were unearthed in Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn is an indication of the role the city played in ancient times. The city was a main trade center in the Early Bronze Age especially because of the great number of other finds that were previously mentioned in this essay.
6. Catalogue

1. Laden figurine (donkey?) (Catalogue Nr.1)

2. Laden figurine (donkey?) (Catalogue Nr.2)

3. Laden figurine (donkey?) (Catalogue Nr.3)

4. Laden figurine (donkey?) (Catalogue Nr.4)

5a. Riding figurine (Catalogue Nr.5).

5b. Riding figurine (Catalogue Nr. 5).

Fig. 8. Clay figurines from Hirbet ez–Zeraqôn.
6. Clay animal figurine: riding or laden figurine (Catalogue Nr.6).

7. Clay animal figurine: riding or laden figurine (Catalogue Nr.7)

8. Clay animal figurine riding or laden figurine (Catalogue Nr.8)


Fig. 9. Clay figurines from Ḥirbet ez-Zeraqon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalogue Nr</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Lower city in house no. B1.3: Room: 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Laden figurine (donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 4.3 cm; Height: 2.3 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay; Fine ware mixed with some particles. Colour: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Handmade, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Preserved from this figurine are the receptacles and the torso of the animal. The torso of the animal is relatively rounded. The tail's stub rises upwards. The animal carries two hollow, spherical in shape receptacles on both sides of the torso. A hole through the torso of the animal connects the two receptacles.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Catalogue Nr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Lower City, B1.5: R1 (domestic buildings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>EBII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Laden animal figurine (probably a donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 6.3 cm; Height: 4.1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with fine black and white particles; Color: &quot;2.5YR 6/4-light reddish brown&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The compact torso of the animal has an axial perforation for the receptacles. The traces of the baskets are to be seen on the sides of the torso.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Catalogue Nr</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Lower City, IV A 18 the gate area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>EBIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Laden animal figurine (donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 3.8 cm; Height: 3.4 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with black and a gray particles; Color: &quot;5YR 5/4- brown&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The torso of the animal is coarsely shaped. On both sides of the torso there are traces of the receptacles.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Catalogue Nr</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Upper City, Palace area IG6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>EBIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Laden animal figurine (donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 3.5 cm; Height: 4.2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with a lot of fine black and a few white particles; Color: &quot;7.5YR 5/6-strong brown&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The torso of the animal is relatively rounded. On the sides of the torso there are traces of axial perforation for the receptacles. It is exactly shaped in the same way as the rider in the riding figurine (no.1). It is formed in an unrealistic way and possesses some strange characteristics like the bird-faced head and the small arms that spread sideward in a way resembling the movement of wings. The whole body of the human figure is flattened in profile.</td>
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<th>Catalogue Nr</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Lower city in house no. B1.3: Room: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Riding figurine (a human riding a donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 7 cm; Height: 6.5 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay; mixed with fine and coarse particles of different sizes. Color: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Handmade, baked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The figurine which is relatively well preserved consists mainly of a human riding a donkey. The human figure springs up from the back of the animal without representation of human legs or feet. It is formed in an unrealistic way and possesses some strange characteristics like the bird-faced head and the small arms that spread sideward in a way resembling the movement of wings. The whole body of the human figure is flattened in profile. The body of the donkey is elongated and cylindrical in shape. The head of it extends diagonally upwards and ends in a cone-formed muzzle and standing ears. The legs of the animal are to some extent short.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalogue Nr</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Main Gate area in the upper city to the north of the inter tower in IM8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Riding animal (donkey?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 3.3 cm; Height: 2.9 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with fine gray and white particles; Color: &quot;2.5YR 6/6-light red&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Handmade, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The torso of the animal is rounded. The preserved stubs of the neck show that it used to rise upward. The legs spread sideways. The tail is broken. Traces of the rider are to be seen on the back of the animal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Catalogue Nr | 7 |
| Context | Lower City, domestic houses in B1.6: Room |
| Date | EBIII |
| Type | Composite figurine: Riding or laden animal figurine (probably a donkey) |
| Measurements | Length: 3.4 cm; Ø: 1.7-1.9 cm (neck) |
| Material | Clay mixed with a lot of fine black and a few white particles; Color: "5YR 4/4-reddish brown" |
| Manufacture | Hand-made, baked |
| Description | The short neck of the animal is on the left side intact and on the right side it is broken. The frontal part of the head is badly preserved. The long ears rise upwards. The animal clearly has the characteristics of the donkey and therefore it was considered as laden animal. |

| Catalogue Nr | 8 |
| Context | Lower City, The half-rounded tower in the main gate area |
| Date | EBIII |
| Type | Composite figurine: Riding or laden animal figurine (probably a donkey) |
| Measurements | Length: 5.8 cm; Height: 3.8 cm |
| Material | Clay mixed with a few black and many white particles; Color: "10YR 3/1-grayish brown" |
| Manufacture | Hand-made, baked |
| Description | The ware from which the figurine was made is remarkably different from the rest of the figurines in Ḥirbet ez-Zeraqon. The ware is so hard that it resembles the stone. The animal is small and has traces on its indicating a place for the burden. |

| Catalogue Nr | 9 |
| Context | Upper City, IM5 to the west of the Southern temple |
| Date | EBIII |
| Type | Composite figurine: Rider |
| Measurements | Length: 3.1 cm; |
| Material | Clay mixed with many black and a few white particles; Color: "10YR 5/1-gray" |
| Manufacture | Hand-made, baked |
| Description | This figurine consists of the human figure which was intended to be a rider. The arms of this figure are turning relatively vertical upwards. The torso is cylindrical in shape. |
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