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

By Fardous Al-Ajouny, Khaled Douglas, Bilal Khrisat and Abdulraouf Mayyas

I. Introduction

In the southern Levant, trade flourished significantly in the Early Bronze Age. The people of the 3rd mill. B.C.E. began to break the isolation that characterized their previous villages and camps of the Stone Ages. They were involved in relations with Egypt, Mesopotamia, Syria and even farther regions, like Anatolia, Caucasus 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 (Early Bronze Age I–IV). The southern Levant was connected with various regions during the Early Bronze Age I—IV; for instance, excavations at Tell ‘Arad/Arad in southern Palestine proved early trade relations with Egypt. From the southern Levant different kinds of goods were brought to Egypt, like Dead Sea products, copper from Pēnān, olive oil and pottery vessels. The region played the role of a commercial mediator between Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Anatolia. 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 ware. Among these are Tell er-Ruméli/Ein Šemsi/Beth-Shemesh and el-Gur, where a number of Egyptian pottery vessels used for transporting goods from Egypt to southern and central Palestine were found. In Tell es-Sakan, an abundant number of Egyptian ceramic vessels were recovered. This reveals direct contact between Egypt and the 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 es-Selh Ahmed el-‘Arêd, ‘Ain es-Sellâl/Ein Bassâr and Tell es-Sakan indicate strong relations between Egypt and the southern Levant.

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1 Schaub 1987.
5 Braun et al. 2001, Fig. 4:2–4.
6 De Miroshchidz 2000.
7 Brandl 1989.
9 De Miroshchidz 2000.
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 the southern Levant in the first half of the Early Bronze Age II. As to the Levantine imports to Egypt, the people of the southern Levant exported cereals, oils, wine and plant products like dried fruits and vegetables to Egypt. In return, Egypt exported precious materials to the region.\(^{10}\)

In the second half of the Early Bronze Age II, the commercial contacts between Egypt and the southern Levant grew weaker, since the former depended mainly on the northern Levant. Trade routes had changed, and connections with Syria, Lebanon, Anatolia, Caucasus and Armenia are evident. Scholars considered the appearance of Hirbet el-Kerak pottery as a product of this new phenomenon of commercial exchange. This new type of pottery has been attributed to Caucasian origins.\(^{11}\) Other materials that attest relations with other parts of the Near East are the seal impressions. They were abundantly recovered in different parts of the Levant.\(^{12}\) The expansion of the trade route into the Arabian Gulf is proven by the archaeological finds recovered at Umm en-Nār in the United Arab Emirates.\(^{13}\)

The material culture uncovered at Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn in northern Jordan is an important evidence of the Early Bronze Age culture in general and specifically with regard to the trade system.

2. Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn

Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn is an Early Bronze Age fortified settlement situated ca. 13 km northeast of the modern city of Irbid in northern Jordan. Systematic excavations between 1984 and 1994 directed by the University of Tuebingen/Germany and Yarmouk University/Jordan exposed 5,700 square meters of the site including a part of the city wall, and some different architectural complexes in both the lower and upper parts of the city (fig. 1)\(^{14}\).

3. Indications of Trade in Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn

3.1. Seal Impressions

Many of the archaeological finds in Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn indicate that the settlement was a significant commercial center in the Early Bronze Age II–III. Interestingly, about 162 ceramic sherds and one restorable pithos\(^{15}\) with seal impressions have been discovered in Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn. This great number of seal impressions reveals the importance of the settlement as a regional center during the 3rd mill. B.C.E. 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

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\(^{10}\) BEN-TOR 1992, 119–120; KAFAFI 2011, 140.

\(^{11}\) BEN-TOR 1992, 120–121.

\(^{12}\) GREENBERG 2001, 192.

\(^{13}\) COLLON 1987, 24.


\(^{15}\) GENZ 2002, Taf. 27.
Fig. 1. Topographic map of Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn (after DOUGLAS 2007, Abb. 2).
Fig. 2. Hebron – Excavations, sketch plan of the excavation results in the Upper City (after Ginsz, 2002, Abb. 2).
the entire region\textsuperscript{16}. The impressions were applied to the shoulder of a certain type of hard-fired vertically combed storage jars. These were high jars circa one meter high and resembling a pithos without handles. They belong to the so-called Metallic Ware pithoi that were typical in the Early Bronze Age\textsuperscript{17}. According to older preliminary investigations these sherds with impressions belong to nearly 126 pottery vessels and 118 different seals. The scenes depicted on them range from geometric designs to figurative scenes. Some of them seem to show Mesopotamian influence\textsuperscript{18}. This amount of seal impressions at one site indicates its role as regional center with foreign relations\textsuperscript{19}.

3.2. Geographic Location

Another indication of trade relations in the 3\textsuperscript{rd} mill. B.C.E. is the strategic geographic location of Hirbet ez-Zeraqūn in northern Jordan. 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{20}.

3.3. Architectural Remains

The architectural remains from Hirbet ez-Zeraqūn 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. 2). They are considered as storage rooms mostly related to commercial activities\textsuperscript{21}. 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 Hirbet ez-Zeraqūn next to the main gate (fig. 2) is an indicator of its use as a cultic center for inhabitants from other neighboring destinations. These groups must have exchanged commercial commodities with the people of Hirbet ez-Zeraqūn.

During most of the occupational phases, the main gate of the Lower City has been connected with two inner gate chambers. One of these contained a large silo in most phases, which was always combined with benches and in some phases with so called "game stone". Outer structures and an open plastered courtyard that might have been used for commercial purposes were concentrated in the Lower City gate periphery\textsuperscript{22}.

\textsuperscript{16} MÜTTMANN 1994, 15. The seal sherds of the site are studied by VALENTINA TUMOLO in the frame of a dissertation on Early Bronze Age seals and sealing in the Levant, cf. GALLO/TUMOLO 2012.

\textsuperscript{17} The so-called Metallic Ware pithoi correspond at Hirbet ez-Zeraqūn to type L (GENZ 2002, 27 "Funktionstyp L") and to ware group g (GENZ 2002, 30). For the relation of type L and ware g see GENZ 2002, Tabelle 2.

\textsuperscript{18} MÜTTMANN 1994, 15.

\textsuperscript{19} FLENDER 2000, 302; KAFAFI 2006, 72.

\textsuperscript{20} MÜTTMANN 1994, 15.

\textsuperscript{21} MÜTTMANN 1994, 14.

\textsuperscript{22} DOUGLAS 2011.
3.4. Ceramic Finds

The rich assemblage of ceramic finds in Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn is another important indication of trade relations in the 3rd mill. B.C.E. The discovery of Hirbet el-Kerak ware at the site, which was restricted to the northern parts of the country, indicates external relations. This kind of pottery is believed to originate from the Caucasus regions. The so-called Metallic Combed ware has been abundantly uncovered in Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn 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 Biqâ in Lebanon.

3.5. The Clay Laden and Riding Figurines from Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn

All the above mentioned evidence indicates the significance of Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn as a main trade center in the 3rd mill. B.C.E. 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.

The excavations at Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn have yielded forty miniature clay figurative pieces of three types: Figurines, figurative pieces and figurative applications. Among the figurines were 9 laden and riding animals which constituted an interesting category and will be the focus of our study here.

This assemblage represents the largest repertoire emanating from a single Early Bronze Age settlement in the southern Levant. Most of the figurines were found in their original context. Four of them were classified as laden figurines (fig. catalogue 1–4). Three were found in the Lower City (fig. 3): One in building B1.3, room R8 (fig. catalogue 1), one in building B1.5, room R1 (fig. catalogue 2) and one in the area of the Lower City gate (fig. catalogue 3). Unlike the first three figures, the fourth one was found in the palace area (fig. 2) in the Upper City (fig. catalogue 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. catalogue 5; Taf. 15). It was found in the Lower City in building B1.3, room 2.

There were some fragmentary pieces of which it was difficult to decide whether they belong to laden or to 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. catalogue 6). Another piece was unearthed in the Lower City building B1.6, room 2 (fig. catalogue 7). The third figure was discovered in the gate’s area in the Lower City (fig. catalogue 8). The last piece represents only a human figure which was found in the area of the temple in the Upper City (fig. catalogue 9). However, it

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23 GENZ 2002, Taf. 159B.
24 BURNEY 1989, Fig. 1.
might be considered as a part of a composite figurine because the figure resembles the figure riding on the donkey (fig. catalogue 5) and the way the torso was made indicates that it was attached to another figure. Thus, this figure could be part of a riding figure, too.

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 people. The first animal to be used as a pack animal was the bull. It was either used to carry weights on his back or to pull the plough for the cultivation of farmland. When the donkey was domesticated in the 4th mill. B.C.E., it soon became the most significant animal for transporting goods over long distances. Donkeys are able to carry heavy loads with a weight of up to 40 to 60 kgs. Due to their ability to carry goods over long distances, the use of donkeys was revolutionary in the world of commerce. However, the exact date of the domestication of donkeys 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 donkeys can be dated back to the end of the 4th mill. B.C.E. As to written evidence, the earliest record of the donkey as pack animal in Egyptian tradition can be seen in a grave inscription belonging to the 5th Dynasty of the Old Egyptian Kingdom (2480–2320 B.C.E.). In one of the inscriptions, an epigraphist writes about 760 donkeys. These were among 5,000 other domesticated animals which were raised on a private farm. Another inscription from another grave dating to the same time mentions the use of more than a thousand donkeys as livestock. The long caravans between Egypt and Nubia used donkeys as means of transportation. In a Sumerian text source, dated to the time between 2700 and 2000 B.C.E., the donkey was stated as the most important means of transportation. Texts from Mesopotamia, from around the time of 2000 B.C.E., mentioned the use of donkeys for ploughing and transportation.

The earliest faunal remains of domesticated donkeys in Egypt go back to the 4th mill. B.C.E. Bones of domesticated donkeys were found in Mâdî in Lower Egypt. They belong to the first half of the 4th mill. B.C.E. In Mesopotamia and Syria, the earliest faunal remains of domesticated donkeys are dated to the middle of the 4th mill. B.C.E.

In the southern Levant, domesticated donkeys’ bones come from Tell Abî Hâmîd and are dating to the 4th mill. B.C.E. Another site where donkey bones were found is Bir es-Safadî in southern Palestine. The scarcity of domesticated donkeys’ bones in Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age sites in the southern Levant shows that the donkey did not constitute a

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27 It is worth to mention that the position of the arms of this figure (fig. catalogue 9) are turning relatively vertical towards up while the arms of the riding figurine in (fig. catalogue 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.

28 EPSTEIN 1983, 85.


30 BENECKE 1994, 312–313.

31 BENECKE 1994, 312–313.

32 DOLLFUS et al. 1988, 597.

significant element in the diet of the people. It was mainly used as a burden animal for transportation and agriculture.\textsuperscript{35} The faunal remains in Hirbet ez-Zeraqūn reflect the use of the donkey as a domesticated animal: Donkey bones constituted according to their quantity 1.4% and according to their weight 5.1% of the faunal remains of the site.\textsuperscript{36}

With regard to the arts, the earliest representation of the donkey as laden figure was uncovered in the southern Levant.\textsuperscript{37} The earliest representation of the donkey carrying something on his back is dated to the Chalcolithic era.\textsuperscript{38}

Altogether, more than 23 published pieces representing laden animal figurines and dating to the Early Bronze Age were found in the southern Levant. In each of the cases where the animal could be identified, it represented a donkey. Therefore, this leads us to assume that the donkey was the main means of transportation in the southern Levant. This is an interesting phenomenon especially when compared to neighboring lands. It leads us to some assumptions concerning the role that the southern Levant played in the world of trade in ancient times.

The different phases of the Early Bronze Age in the 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. Interestingly, most of the pieces come from graves in the area around Tel Aviv: Two miniature pieces of laden donkey figurines come from Yāsūr,\textsuperscript{39} one from Giv‘atayim,\textsuperscript{40} two from Tell Rās el-‘Ēn/ ‘Aphek,\textsuperscript{41} and another figurine from Tell Qasāyān.\textsuperscript{42} The depiction of the donkey in laden figurines continued to exist in the Early Bronze Age II–III. The riding figurines were also manufactured in these phases. More than 17 pieces were produced in the different sites in the southern Levant. Some are clearly representing laden figurines. One piece is definitely the representation of a riding figurine. In other cases it can not be decided whether they are laden or riding figurines. However, they are certainly depictions of animals used as a means of transportation. In Tell ‘Arad/Arad, a fragmentary figurine representing a laden donkey figurine was recovered in a private house dating to the Early Bronze Age II.\textsuperscript{43}

Three fragmentary pieces belonging to laden donkey figurines were unearthed in Hirbet Yarmūk: In one of the cases, only the torso of the animal with axial perforation is preserved, while in the two other cases only the basket that was carried on the back of the animal is preserved.\textsuperscript{44} A laden donkey figurine was found in a grave in Jericho.\textsuperscript{45} As there are traces showing remains of an object being carried on the animal’s back, it is considered to be a laden figurine. In Tell el-Qādi/Dan two pieces were found, a relatively well preserved laden figurine and a receptacle that used to be attached to sides of an animal.\textsuperscript{46}

\textsuperscript{35} GRIGSON 1998, 258.
\textsuperscript{36} DECHERT in prep.
\textsuperscript{37} AL-‘AILOUNY 2000.
\textsuperscript{38} ZAALBAAS 1996, Nr. 108-4:1.
\textsuperscript{39} AMIRAN 1985, 190–192, Pl. XLVI:3–4.
\textsuperscript{40} KAPLAN 1993; OVAIA 1992, 20–24, Fig. 2.
\textsuperscript{41} ETTAN 1969, 52 Fig. 3:1–2.
\textsuperscript{42} AL-‘AILOUNY 2000, 170.
\textsuperscript{43} AMIRAN et al. 1978, 36, Pl. 1117:6.
\textsuperscript{44} AL-‘AILOUNY 2000, Taf. 35.15.
\textsuperscript{45} KENYON 1960, 124, Fig. 40.1.
\textsuperscript{46} BIRAN 1996, 52–53, Fig. 1.51.
\textsuperscript{47} GREENBERG 1996, 139–142, Table 3.2:5, Fig. 3.38:5.
In the whole, the representation of donkeys constitutes 23% of the artistic repertoire in Hirbet ez-Zeraqon. This percentage is considered relatively high as compared to contemporary sites in the 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 aspects. This study focused mainly on the relatively large number of laden and riding figurines uncovered in Hirbet ez-Zeraqon. The fact of finding seven pieces in only one site is quite interesting and can lead to a number of interpretations.

Laden figurines have been discovered abundantly in the southern Levant since Chalcolithic times. However, the main animal in the Chalcolithic artistic repertoire was the bovine, while in the Early Bronze Age the donkey took the precedence over the bull. The donkey itself is a reflection of advancement in the technology of transportation: It is able to carry heavy goods over long distances, which was a revolution in the realm of trade. Whether these figurines were made as votive figures or representations of deities, they were reflections of the use of a new means of transportation and – as a result – of a progress of lifestyle.

The fact that seven pieces were unearthed in Hirbet ez-Zeraqon 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.

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48 Nine out of forty pieces.
49 For the detailed discussion about the function of the clay figurative pieces see Al-Ajouney/Douglas/Khrisat 2011.
50 Epstein 1985, 53.
Catalogue No. 1

Context       Lower City in house no. B1.3: Room 8
Date          Early Bronze Age II
Type          Laden figurine (donkey)
Measurements  Length: 4.3 cm; height: 2.3 cm
Material      Clay; fine ware mixed with some particles.
               Colour: “SYR 6/4 light reddish brown”
Manufacture   Hand-made, baked
Description   Only the receptacles and the torso of the animal are preserved. The torso of the
               animal is quite rounded. The tail’s stub rises upwards. The animal carries two
               hollow receptacles, spherical in shape, on both sides of the torso. A hole in the torso
               of the animal connects the two receptacles.

Fig. catalogue no. 1
Catalogue No. 2

Context: Lower City, B1.5: R1 (domestic buildings)
Date: Early Bronze Age II
Type: Composite figurine: Laden animal figurine (probably a donkey)
Measurements: Length: 6.3 cm; height: 4.1 cm
Material: Clay mixed with fine black and white particles.
Colour: “2.5YR 6/4 light reddish brown”
Manufacture: Hand-made, baked
Description: 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.

Catalogue No. 3

Context: Lower City, IV A 18, gate area
Date: Early Bronze Age III
Type: Composite figurine: Laden animal figurine (donkey)
Measurements: Length: 3.8 cm; height: 3.4 cm
Material: Clay mixed with black and a gray particles.
Colour: “5YR 5/4 brown”
Manufacture: Hand-made, baked
Description: The torso of the animal is shaped coarsely. There are traces of the receptacles visible on both sides of the torso.
Catalogue No. 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Upper City, Palace area IG6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age III</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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>“7.5YR 5/6 strong brown”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The torso of the animal is quite rounded. On the sides of the torso there are traces of axial perforation for the receptacles. It is shaped in exactly 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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catalogue No. 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Lower City in house no. B1.3: Room 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>“5YR 6/6 reddish yellow”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The figurine is relatively well preserved and 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. Its head extends diagonally upwards and ends in a cone-formed muzzle and standing ears. The legs of the animal are rather short.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catalogue No. 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Main Gate area in the Upper City to the north of the inter tower in IM8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>“2.5YR 6/6 light red”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, 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 visible on the back of the animal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Catalogue No. 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Lower City, domestic houses in B1.6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Riding or laden animal figurine (probably a donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 3.4 cm; ø 1.7–1.9 cm (neck)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with a lot of fine black and a few white particles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>“5YR 4/4 reddish brown”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The short neck of the animal is intact on the left side and broken on the right side. The frontal part of the head is badly preserved. The long ears rise upwards. The animal clearly has the characteristics of a donkey and therefore it was considered as a laden animal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Catalogue No. 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Lower City, the half-rounded tower in the main gate area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Riding or laden animal figurine (probably a donkey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 5.8 cm; height: 3.8 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with a few black and many white particles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>“10YR 3/1 grayish brown”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The material of the figurine is remarkably different from the rest of the figurines in <em>Hirbet ez-Zeraqôn</em>. It is almost as hard as stone. The animal is small and has traces indicating a place for the burden.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Catalogue No. 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Upper City, IM5 to the west of the southern temple</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Early Bronze Age III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Composite figurine: Rider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurements</td>
<td>Length: 3.1 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material</td>
<td>Clay mixed with many black and a few white particles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colour</td>
<td>“10YR 5/1 gray”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacture</td>
<td>Hand-made, baked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>This figurine consists of a human figure which was intended to be a rider. The arms of this figure are turning vertically upward. The torso is cylindrical in shape.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Fig. catalogue no. 8

Fig. catalogue no. 9
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