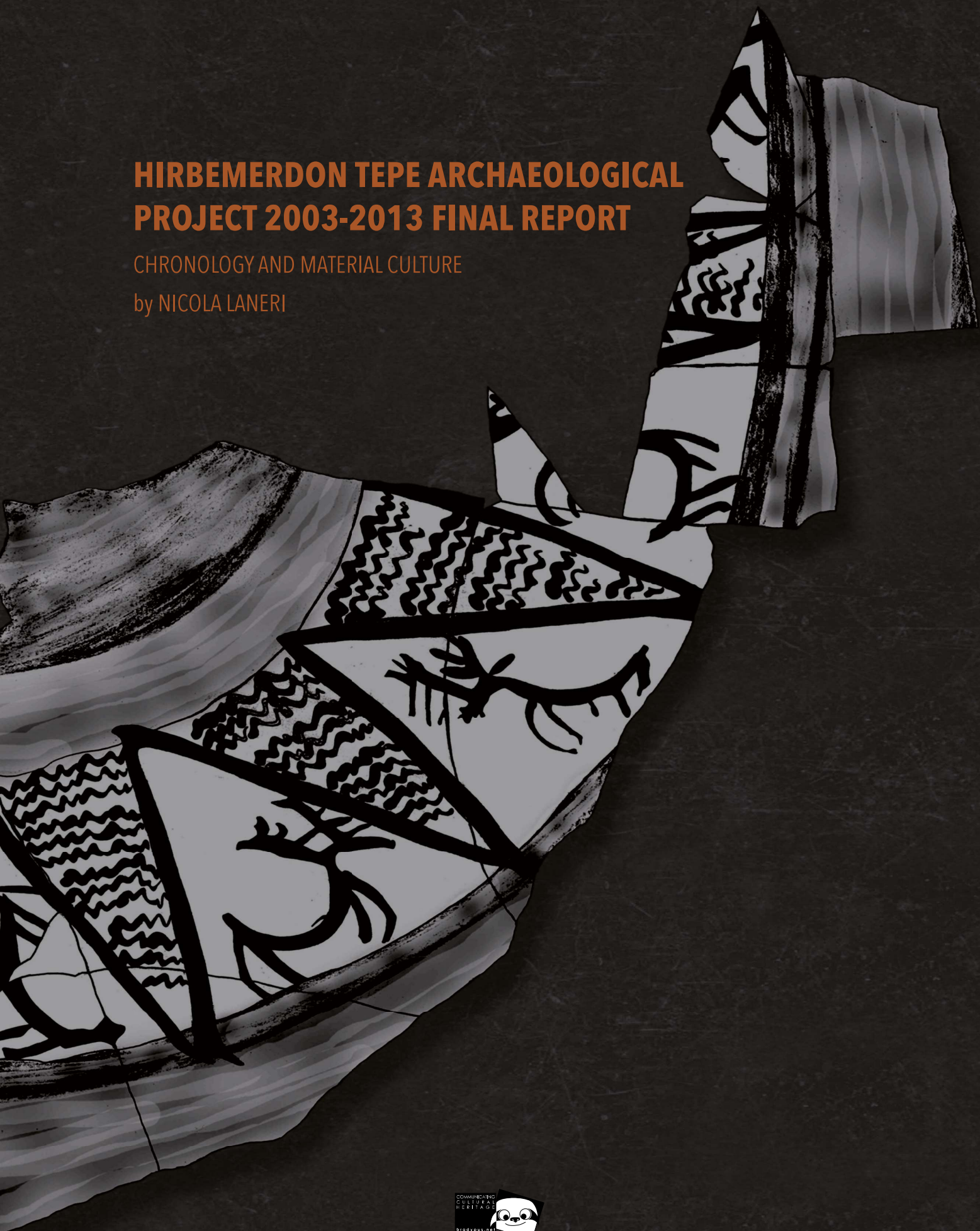


HIRBEMERDON TEPE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT 2003-2013 FINAL REPORT

CHRONOLOGY AND MATERIAL CULTURE

by NICOLA LANERI



BOLOGNA 2016

Hirbemerdon Tepe Archaeological Project 2003-2013 Final Report: Chronology and Material Culture

by Nicola Laneri

With contributions by

Mark Schwartz, Jason Ur, Stefano Valentini,
Marta Aquilano, Lorenzo Biazzo, Rodolfo Brancato,
Lorenzo Crescioli, Margherita Dallai, Guido Guarducci
Martina Massimino and Simone Nannucci



Bologna 2016



Graphic design and layout by

BraDypUS s.a. (Julian Bogdani ed Erika Vecchietti) e Ivano Devoti

Cover by

Vincenzo De Luce

Bologna (BraDypUS) 2016

ISBN: 9788898392322

ISBN-A: 10.978.8898392/322

This book is freely available *online* at

http://books.bradypus.net/hirbemerdon_report

Hirbemerdon Tepe Archaeological Project 2003-2013 Final Report: Chronology and material culture by Nicola Laneri is licensed under the **Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International** license.

It means that you are free to: copy, disseminate, communicate and expose in public this work, at the condition that its content is not altered or changed, that the authorial propriety of the editors and authors is granted, and not for commercial use. The Publisher will always grant open access to the contents, without any limitation to dissemination.

BraDypUS s.a.

via A. Fioravanti, 72, 40129 Bologna

www.bradypus.net; info@bradypus.net

C.F. e P.IVA 02864631201

Table of contents

FOREWORD	7
ABSTRACT	9
ÖZET	9
Chapter 1. Introduction	
by Nicola Laneri, Mark Schwartz and Jason Ur	11
The site	11
The geomagnetic survey	12
The HMTS (Hirbemerdon Tepe Survey)	13
The archaeological excavation	13
The chronological phases	14
Chapter 2. Phase I: Late Chalcolithic period	
by Simone Nannucci	17
Stratigraphy and Architecture	18
Pottery Assemblage	18
Methodological criteria	18
Main classes and diagnostic forms from Phases LC 3 and LC 4	19
Phase I pottery assemblage at Hirbemerdon Tepe	20
Chapter 3. Phases IIA, IIB, and IIIA: The Early Bronze Age	
by Nicola Laneri, Margherita Dallai and Lorenzo Biazzo	27
Phase IIA - Early Bronze Age I	27
Architecture	28
Pottery	28
Phase IIB - Early Bronze Age II	30
Architecture	30
Pottery	31
Phase IIIA - Early Bronze Age III/IV	33

Architecture	33
Pottery	35
Animal figurines	36
Hirbemerdon Tepe and its regional context during the third millennium BCE	38
Chapter 4. Phase IIIB: The Middle Bronze Age	
by Nicola Laneri, Stefano Valentini, Marta Aquilano, Margherita Dallai and Martina Massimino	41
Architecture	41
Pottery	48
The ceremonial objects	64
Animal figurines and wheels of chariot models	68
The metal production	72
Other small finds	79
Chapter 5. Phase IIIC: The Late Bronze Age	
by Lorenzo Crescioli	81
Architecture	82
Pottery	83
Hirbemerdon Tepe ceramic repertoire	83
The Late Bronze Age in the Upper Tigris Valley	88
Small finds	91
Locating Hirbemerdon Tepe in a Late Bronze Age landscape	91
Chapter 6. Phase IVA and IVB: The Early and Middle Iron Age	
by Guido Guarducci	95
Archaeological contexts and architecture	95
Pottery	98
Chapter 7. Phase V: The Late Iron Age	
by Rodolfo Brancato	103
Architecture	103
Pottery	104
Small finds	105
Chapter 8. Phase VI and VII: The Medieval and Ottoman periods	
by Rodolfo Brancato	107
Phase VI: The Medieval period	107
Architecture	107
Pottery	108
Small finds	108

Phase VII: The Ottoman Period	109
Architecture	109
Pottery	110
Small finds	110
Chapter 9. Andirons, lamps and portable hearths	
by Marta Aquilano	113
Andirons	113
Lamps	115
Portable hearths	116
Chapter 10. Other small finds	
by Margherita Dallai	117
Objects related to textile activities	117
Discs	122
Bone needles	124
Chapter 11. Conclusions	
by Nicola Laneri	127
Bibliographic References	129
General Bibliographic References	133
CATALOGUE	149
Figures	151
Architecture	159
Phases I, IIa, IIb, IIIa	159
Phase IIIb	167
Phase IIIc	195
Phases IVa, IVb	199
Phase V	207
Phases VI, VII	211
Sections	217
Matrixes	221
I. Pottery catalogue	231
Notes to the pottery catalogue	233
Phase I	235
Phase IIa	247
Phase IIb	255

Phase IIIa	265
Phase IIIb	281
Phase IIIc	379
Phase IVa	405
Phase IVb	425
Phase V	435
Phase VI	451
Phase VII	457
II. Objects catalogue	459
Abbreviations used in the description of objects	461
Phase I	463
Phase IIa	465
Phase IIb	471
Phase IIIa	477
Phase IIIb	481
Phase IIIc	553
Phase IVa	555
Phase IVb	557
Phase V	559
Phase VI	565
Phase VII	567
III. Ceramic typologies	571
Phase I	573
Phase IIa	575
Phase IIb	577
Phase IIIa	579
Phase IIIb	581
Phase IIIc	583
Phase IVa	585
Phase IVb	587
Phase V	589
Phase VI	591
Phase VII	593

Chapter 9. Andirons, lamps and portable hearths

Marta Aquilano

During excavations between 2005 and 2011 in the site of Hirbemerdon Tepe, a total of 38 fire-related objects were discovered ranging from the third to the first millennia BCE.

They belong to a wide category of objects that scholars have labeled as movable/portable hearths, hearth stands, andirons, fenders, and/or pot-stands (Diamant and Rutter 1969; Amiran 1952; Smogorzewska 2004; Buccellati 2004).

These objects can be divided typologically into three basic categories:

- Andirons
- Lamps
- Portable hearths

Within these categories, we can further distinguish small subgroups.

Andirons

The andirons were actually used to contain the fire of the hearth and in fact they had to be arranged around it. They are handmade and the mixture of clay is rather crude. Frequently these have the shape of a horseshoe. The different variants are characterized by a different development of the wall (Aquilano, Valentini 2011).

They were almost all found in MBA levels, but only a few *in situ*, so their chronology is problematic.

Fragments 1236, 3278, 5022, 6647, 5936, 5982, 6019 (Pl. CLVI: 132; pl. CLVII: 133, 135-136; pl. CLVIII: 145; pl. CLXXIX: 1; pl. CXXVII: 5) are horseshoe-shaped, with smooth walls and without decoration.¹ The first four were discovered in Area A: 1236 (Pl. CLVI: 132) is very coarse and poorly preserved (the ends are missing). It comes from a MBA filling level. 3278 (Pl. CLVII: 135) is a small fragment of wall, which presents a slip on the surface and traces of burning on its inner part. It was discovered in a filling above a store-room pavement of the complex building (Room 5). In fragment 5022 (Pl. CLVII: 136) the remaining end rises up to create a sort of horn and the inner surface presents traces of burning. Andiron 6647 (Pl. CLVIII: 145) is a fragment of an ending part and was found in the filling below the floor of a room (foundation level). 5936 and 5982 (Pl. CLXXIX: 1; pl. CXXVII: 5) came to light in Area D, in the southern sector of the site. 5982 is extremely damaged but it is very important because it was discovered inside a large pithos that lay on a ritual deposit of clay animal figurines, dated back to the EBA. 5936 is a fragment of a large andiron. As with the other examples, the clay is very coarse and friable. It has a controversial element on the rim that could be a sort of knob, a foot or a decorative element. It was found inside an Iron Age pit. 6019 (Pl. CLVII: 133) is a complete horseshoe-shaped andiron found in Area AC, in a MBA filling layer of the *piazza*.

¹ For comparisons see, for example, the objects from Karakurt (Diamant, Rutter 1969, fig.10), Karaköy (Sagona and Sagona 2004, fig. 196), Tepecik (Esin 1972, figg. 1, 2, 4), Korucutepe (Van Loon 1973, pl. 6), Pulur (Sakyol) (Koşay 1976, pl.35).

Fragments 6288 (Pl. CXXXIV: 1) and 5403 (Pl. CLVII: 139) are horseshoe-shaped and have knobs on the inner surface used to house containers to be placed on the fire.² 6288 comes from a filling above a pavement in Area AA on the top of the mound. We can well distinguish the knob on the inside. 5403 was found in a surface layer of the Step Trench AC. In this example the knobs to support the pottery vessels are connected by a continuous band of clay. The ends on this object are decorated with vertical and horizontal incised lines and three dots. Unfortunately it is very damaged and only a small part is preserved, but it has precise parallels with the complete examples found at the site of Müslümantepe.³

5415 includes six different fragments that were discovered in the same filling layer of Area A but that probably belong to different objects. They comprise three fragments with smooth walls, two simple fragments with knobs (Pl. CLVII: 140) and a fragment with a decoration made of a row of impressed circles that were also found on a lamp (Pl. CLV: 125, see below).

Andiron 6330 and 6340 (Pl. CLVIII: 142, 144) were recovered during the last field campaign, respectively in Area AC and Area AA. 6340 was found in a filling of Room 55, near the *piazza*. It is interesting because the preserved end shows two little horns on the short side. 6330 was found in an ashy layer above a collapsed kiln. It has a curved rim with two small excrescences that resemble a pair of horns. We have also found this element in a decorated example from the same layer (Pl. CLVIII: 143, see below).

At Hirbemerdon Tepe some examples of perforated andirons are also attested:⁴ 2935 (Pl. CLVII: 134) was found in Area A inside a small room that contains a bench and two small niches in the wall, which probably held vases. Unfortunately the andirons lay in a filling layer and not on the pavement. It is peculiar in that it has a row of holes along the central part of the body. Traces of burning are visible on the inner surface.

6367 (Pl. CXXXIV: 2) was found in a pit of the phase IIIA in Area AC. It has a single hole on the wall. The surface is slipped and lightly burnished.

Four fragments of decorated andirons were recovered during the Hirbemerdon Tepe excavation. Three examples have a geometric decoration (Pl. CLVII: 137-138; pl. CLVIII: 143) and the last one has some anthropomorphic traits (Pl. CLVII: 141).⁵ 5023 (Pl. CLVII: 137) comes from a filling in the *piazza*. It is the end of a horseshoe-shaped andiron, which can be noted from the curved surface typical of such items. The front of the object is decorated with a geometric incised motif: two lines and two dots on the top, a long vertical line and a circle with a central dot along the center. The inner part is marked by a ridge and traces of fire are visible on the lower front and the inner surface. 6331 (Pl. CLVIII: 143) is part of a horseshoe-shaped andiron with a geometric decoration on each end: a row of three dots, a “X” motif, a dot, two horizontal lines and another row of three points. The central curved portion of the body shows two protuberances on the rim. They are similar to those in example 6330 (Pl. CLVIII: 142). It was found in an ashy filling above the collapse of a kiln. 5260 (Pl. CLVII: 138) was found in a filling just above the virgin soil. It presents an unusual decoration in comparison to other objects. It has a thickened rib decorated with diagonal lines on one side. Inside this motif there is a row of small dots. The morphology and the orientation of the object are unusual, too: one can presume that the decorated part has to be external, but we cannot understand whether it has a horizontal or vertical orientation. The part of the body opposite to the decoration is curved. If the object was oriented horizontally, the excrescences could be missing, and it could be part of a horned andiron. On the other hand, traces of burning are visible on the narrow, flat side, and therefore could have

2 Objects of this type were discovered in a large number of sites, as for example Tell ‘Ay (see Diamant and Rutter 1969, fig. 14) or Kültepe (Özgüç 1999b: 44).

3 Ay 2010. Another example of this type is from the site of Ararat (Diamant and Rutter 1969, fig. 10).

4 Parallels can be made, for examples, with the andirons from Gelinciktepe (Palmieri 1967, fig. 24) and Kenan Tepe (Foster 2009, fig. 4.52).

5 The most impressive and well preserved examples are certainly those from Pülür (Sakyal) (Koşay 1976, pls. 32.4, 32.5, 32.6, 36), but this kind of object is very common in a large number of sites from the Caucasus to Palestine, as for example Amiranis Gora, Garni, Shengavit (Smogorzewska 2004, fig.2), Yanik Tepe (Burney 1961, pl. LXXIV), Çinis Höyük (Takaoğlu 2000, fig. 2), Tabara el Akrad, Beth Yerah, and Beth Shan (Smogorzewska 2004, fig. 8).

been the part in contact with the fire, in which case the orientation could be vertical. In this case the curving surface could be the remnants of a large hole used for transporting the object. The small fragment 5635 (Pl. CLVII: 141) was found in an Ottoman pit, but it can be dated almost certainly to the MBA. It is decorated with a very simple, geometric motif with two dots and two horizontal lines that could be used to form a very stylized human face. All these types of objects can be compared with the large number of horseshoe-shaped andirons typical of the ETC culture and found in many sites throughout Southern Caucasus, Eastern Anatolia, Syria and Palestine⁶.

Lamps

We have supposed that the objects of type B could be used as lamps because of their small size (height: 10 - 11 cm, width: 10 - 11 cm, depth: 7 - 8 cm), the presence of the cupel/crucible, the signs of burning, and the domestic context of the findings (Aquilano and Valentini 2011). These types of artifacts seem to be unique to the Upper Tigris Valley and are not found outside this specific area, except for Tell Mozan (see below, type B2).

The most interesting example from Hirbemerdon (Pl. CLV: 124) was found in Room 3 of Building A, next to some stone mortars and a grinding stone. It is semicircular in shape and embellished with an incised fishbone decoration along the vertical elements framing the front-facing side. It is comprised of two levels with a shallow spouted upper receptacle, and a lower enclosed interior space, accessible only from the front opening. The edge of the upper receptacle is embellished with three inlaid pebbles evenly spaced around the perimeter (one on each corner and one on the center back edge). Traces of burning are visible on the inside walls of the interior space, including the underside of the upper receptacle; as a result, it can be suggested that this object was definitely associated with firing activities (Laneri *et al.* 2006b: 165).

Objects of this type have been discovered at Üçtepe (Özfiat 2005: Pls. XCIV:7, XCV:13)⁷ and Başur Höyük.⁸

1222 (Pl. CLVI: 127) is characterized by two superimposed elements and it is open on the front side on which a small part of a grooved decoration is preserved. It was found in a filling layer.

1229 (Pl. CLVI: 128) consists only in a fragment of the horseshoe base of the lower chamber. It was found on the street of Area A.

As for lamp 354 (Pl. CLV: 125), only the base and part of the chamber are preserved. It is interesting because it has a “snake-shaped” decoration that is also found on a lamp from Giricano (Bartl 2012: 179, fig. 2: 183).

5998 and 6068 (Pl. CLVI: 130-131) are very small fragments of an inner chamber with an incised zig-zag decoration. They come from ashy filling layers of the *piazza*.

1230 and 6033 (Pl. CLII: 111; pl. CLVI: 129) are fragments of cupels. 1230 (no. 129) was found on the street of Area A, while 6033 (no. 111) was found in the *piazza*.

Type B2 is attested in some specimens found in private houses of the Khabur period at Tell Mozan/Urkesh in Jazirah (Buccellati 2004: 73). These lamps have three feet that hold the cup (Buccellati 2004, fig. 6). A cup of this type (Pl. CLV: 126) with a spout was also found at Hirbemerdon Tepe on the floor of Room 25 of the building complex. It shows the fractures for the attachment of the four feet. The interior surface shows traces of burning (Aquilano and Valentini 2011).

⁶ See Smogorzewska 2004 for types and characteristics of andirons in the Early Transcaucasian Culture.

⁷ Although the author describes this object as “building model” (Özfiat 2006: 53), its similarity with the lamps from Hirbemerdon Tepe and from the other sites of the upper Tigris valley is clear.

⁸ Personal communication Haluk Sağlamtimur. A variant of this type with a clay vertical element dividing the entrance of the lower chamber in two parts was found at Salat Tepe (Ökse and Görmüş 2006: 182-185, fig. 6).

Portable hearths

Portable hearths are the most controversial category. In general we consider portable hearths as objects probably used as supports for cooking pots that had to be put on the fire (Aquilano and Valentini 2011).

At Hirbemerdon Tepe five fragments of this type were attested and have been divided in two subgroups.

508 and 948 (Pl. CLIII: 114-115) are rectangular in shape, vertical in orientation, and taper down to a narrower bottom. 508 is intact and was found on top of the stone-paved floor of Court 12 of the building complex. Even though the top and the bottom surfaces are poorly preserved, they exhibit clear traces of burning associated with firing activities. Damaged areas, probably indicating the position of the four original supporting legs, are visible at the four corners of the narrower bottom surface. The recessed cavity of the upper surface probably functioned as the area used for the hearth's firing activities (Laneri *et al.* 2006b, 165). Each of its four faces is decorated with a different incised and relieved schematic anthropomorphic motif: on the first face two concentric circles are on the top, a horizontal line and a zig-zag with two points on the ends; on the second there is a vertical line splitting at the end and flanked by two oblique elements, with two concentric circles at the bottom; on the third there is a fishbone pattern and two circles at the bottom; and on the last face there are two circles, a vertical line in the center and a zig-zag at the bottom. 948 was discovered in a filling of the street. Only the lower part is preserved, while the top is damaged and partially destroyed. The decoration on the first face is characterized by a tree or fishbone shape, while two vertical grooves evenly spaced on both sections of the bottom part are separated by the central motif. On the second face we can see three vertical grooves evenly spaced and one horizontal line separating the upper section from the lower one. The third face shows two vertical grooves and one horizontal groove separating the bottom from the top; the lower section is separated from the decorated portion by a deep groove. The decoration on the fourth face looks like a human face: it includes some zig-zag incised grooves and two deep holes located on top of the zig-zag and evenly spaced next to the edge of the face. The lower section is separated from the decorated portion by a deep groove.

At the moment there are no precise comparisons for this type of object, although the examples from Hirbemerdon can be considered - at least from a functional viewpoint - similar to the repertoire of hearth stands from the Transcaucasian and upper Euphrates region (Aquilano and Valentini 2011). These have different shapes (a spool, cylinder, prism) and are often perforated to allow the insertion of a handle for transport (Smogorzewska 2004, fig. 9).

Fitting parallels of these last mentioned artefacts are instead represented by fragments 5542, 5914 and 6140 (Pl. CLIV: 116-118) at Hirbemerdon Tepe; they are cylindrical in shape and sometimes narrower in the central part of the body (5542 and 6140) or with a hole in the middle (5914).