

## THE JEWELRY FROM QURNAT ḤARAMIYA (ROSH HA-‘AYIN)

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Nine objects that may be identified as items of personal adornment were recovered during the excavation at Qurnat Ḥaramiya (see Torgë and Avner 2018).<sup>1</sup> These include parts of three earrings, a complete ring, three complete beads and two fibulae fragments. Most of the objects originated from archaeological contexts associated with Stratum IIB, dated to the Iron Age II.

### THE FINDS

#### *Earrings*

Three objects that may be earrings or parts of earrings were found.

*Type I.2 Wide Plain Solid Lunate Earring(?)*(Fig. 1:1).— This is a crescent-shaped wire made of copper alloy. It thickens at its center and tapers towards both ends, with a corresponding change in the section from circular to semi-circular. Both ends are broken. Similar objects that form a short or elongated hoop tapering towards both ends are usually identified as earrings. They are, however, usually much smaller, and the identification of this object as an earring is therefore tentative. It may also have been a small bracelet, a nose-ring or a hair-ring.

*Hoop of Type II Attachment Earring* (Fig. 1:2).— This is a hoop made of copper-alloy wire with a square section, possibly cast from a mold. The lower portion of the hoop is thickened and flattened on the underside, possibly to connect an attachment which is missing.

*Type II.6a Earring Attachment of Solid Granule Cluster* (Fig. 1:3).— This is a cluster of five solid silver granules arranged as a cluster attachment for an earring hoop which is missing.

Small clusters of metal granules are commonly found as attachments on the underside of earrings as early as the Middle Bronze Age IIB–C; these are often termed ‘mulberry’, ‘cluster’ or ‘grape cluster’ earrings (Maxwell-Hyslop 1971:116). They continue to develop well into the Persian period (cf. Golani 2013:109–111) and even later. These objects may have functioned also as nose-rings, as in the case of a Late Bronze Age example from a tomb at Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 225:9, T. 2121). Although individual granules may have been soldered together using the granulation technique and then attached to the earring-

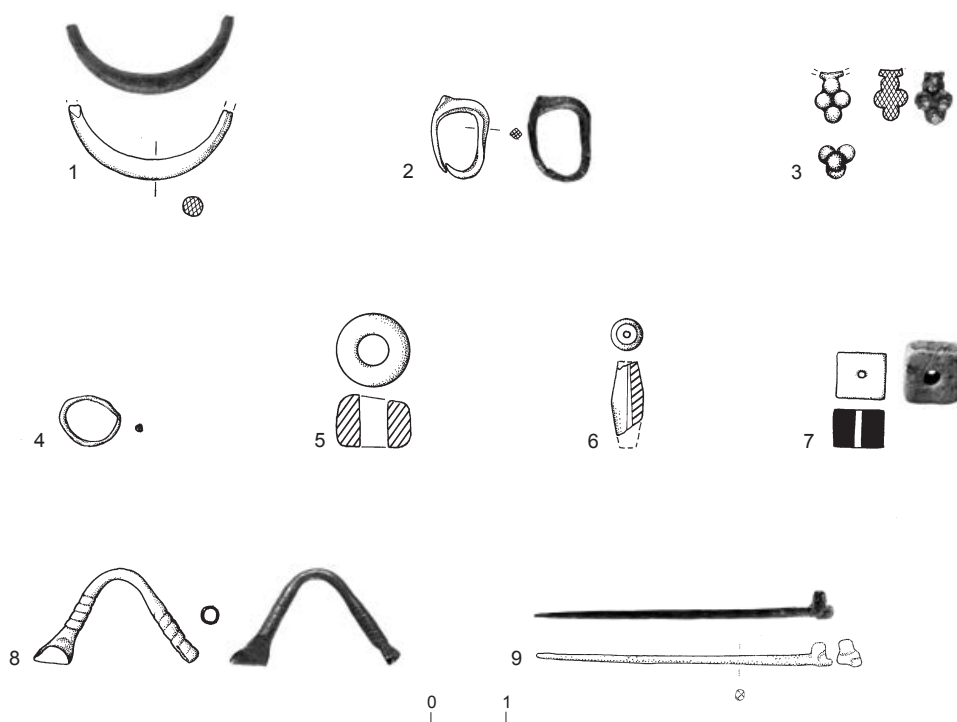


Fig. 1. Jewelry.

| No. | Object             | Area | Locus | Basket | Context                                  | Material      | Type  | Dimensions <sup>2</sup> (L × W × H) |
|-----|--------------------|------|-------|--------|--|---------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 1   | Earring?           | D    | 648   | 5553   | Room,<br>Stratum IIB                     | Copper alloy  | I.2   | 4.3 × 2.1 × 0.5                     |
| 2   | Earring hoop       | D    | 613   | 5092   | Debris upon<br>floor, Stratum<br>IIB     | Copper alloy  | II    | 1.4 × 2.0 × 0.3                     |
| 3   | Earring attachment | D    | 602   | 5074   | Topsoil                                  | Silver        | II.6  | 0.9 × 0.6 × 0.6                     |
| 4   | Ring               | D    | 667   | 5292   | Topsoil                                  | Copper alloy  | IV    | 1.3 × 1.5 × 0.1                     |
| 5   | Bead               | D    | 803   | 2360   | Bedrock floor,<br>Stratum IIB            | Quartz        | II.2  | 0.7 × 0.9 × 0.9                     |
| 6   | Bead               | A    | 6/15  | 10     | Room,<br>Stratum IIB                     | Carnelian     | II.7  | 2.0 × 0.8 × 0.8                     |
| 7   | Bead               | B    | 67    | 159    | Bedrock floor<br>in room,<br>Stratum IIB | Egyptian Blue | II.13 | 0.5 × 0.6 × 0.6                     |
| 8   | Fibula             | D    | 601   | 5021   | Topsoil                                  | Copper alloy  | I.1   | 4.3 × 2.4 × 0.6                     |
| 9   | Fibula pin         | A    | 259   | 625    | Room,<br>Stratum IIB                     | Copper alloy  | ---   | 8.2 × 0.2 × 0.2                     |

hoop (cf. Golani 2013:27–28), a simpler method of casting the entire earring with the attachment as one piece could have achieved the same effect and may be relevant in this case. Stone molds that include the hoop and attachment as one piece are known from Late Bronze Age Alalakh and Ras Shamra (Ugarit;

Maxwell-Hyslop 1971:136, 138), Gezer (Macalister 1912: Pl. 136:21) and apparently also Tell Jemmeh (Petrie 1928: Pls. 20:45; 42:3); the latter is associated with the late Iron Age I settlement, indicating that the form was locally produced. Thus, the earring attachment from Qurnat Ḥaramiya, which was found in an undatable context, may have originated in any of the site's strata.

### *Ring*

*Type IV Closed Annular Ring* (Fig. 1:4).— This is a simple, closed annular ring of copper-alloy wire, with a round section. The small diameter (1.2 cm) of this ring suggests that it may have been used as a hair-ring or as a finger-ring for a juvenile.

### *Beads*

Three beads were recovered.

*Type II.2 Short Oblate Circular Bead* (Fig. 1:5).— This is an asymmetrical oblate circular bead made of milky quartz, with straight sides and a plain perforation.

*Type II.7 Long Truncated Bicone Bead* (Fig. 1:6).— This is an elongated, biconical bead made of carnelian stone, with two truncated ends (Beck 1928: Type I.D.2.f.), one of them broken. The bead has a chamfered perforation.

*Type III.19 Cubical Siliceous Bead* (Fig. 1:7).— This is a nearly cubical bead (Beck 1928: Type IX.B.2.b) made of Egyptian Blue,<sup>3</sup> with a stringing hole through the center. This type is uncommon, and appears from the Iron Age I to the Persian period (Golani 2013:207–208). The present example comes from the accumulation on the bedrock floor in a Stratum IIB room. However, since the rooms were used for over long periods of time, the bead may have originated from a later occupation.

### *Fibulae*

*Type I.1 Fibula with an Arched Bow* (Fig. 1:8).— This is a small fibula with an incised spiral decoration on both arms. One end of the fibula is hollow to accommodate the pin wire, which is missing. This fibula may be likened to Stronach's Near Eastern Type II.1 arched fibulae with a plain bow (Stronach 1959:190). The type is dated to the first quarter of the first millennium BCE and is considered to be a link between the earlier, more rounded bow forms of the Iron Age I and the later, triangular bows, typical of the eighth century BCE and onwards (Stronach 1959:185, 190). Despite its poor stratigraphical context, the fibula bow from Qurnat Ḥaramiya probably originated from the Stratum III settlement, which is dated to the tenth–ninth centuries BCE.

*Fibula Pin* (Fig. 1:9).— Fibulae are often found in archaeological contexts without their pins, since they usually corrode or break off. This pin belonged to a fibula with a round section; it retains a portion of the coiled spring that was inserted into the fibula body.

#### DISCUSSION

This small assemblage of jewelry comprises objects of varied and unexceptional nature. Only the earring attachment made of silver granule clusters is a distinct form, although it also has a broad chronological range. The other objects are all made of copper alloy, an inexpensive metal that was commonly used in jewelry manufacture since its introduction in the fifth millennium BCE.

Beads usually have forms that are not culturally or chronologically instructive. The aesthetically pleasing color, and possibly the underlying symbolism, determined the type of stone that was chosen to make stone beads, while beads made of siliceous materials were often fashioned to imitate stone. Carnelian is usually the most popular stone used to produce beads, and was one of the earliest hard stones to be used in jewelry production in the ancient Near East. The analogy of its reddish color with blood—and hence life, energy and regeneration—made carnelian highly valued in antiquity for the production of beads, amulets and inlays. Carnelian is commonly found in the eastern deserts of Egypt (Ogden 1982:108; Andrews 1990:41). Milky quartz, which is commonly found in Egypt, Syria, Cyprus and Anatolia, was used in jewelry manufacture in Western Asia from as early as the third millennium BCE (Ogden 1982:106). Egyptian Blue is a common material for the manufacture of jewelry, primarily beads and pendants. It was used in Mesopotamia and Egypt as early as the second half of the third millennium, and remained in use at least until the mid first millennium BCE, if not later (Ogden 1982:136).

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The typological classification used here is the one developed by the author (Golani 2013) and used in other studies of jewelry (Golani 2004; 2009; 2012; 2014; Golani and Ben-Shlomo 2005). Although referred to here, Beck's (1928) commonly used typology of beads and pendants is not used in this report because it is based entirely on form. The present typology distinguishes beads initially according to material and only then according to form. I thank Hagit Torgë for inviting me to study the items of jewelry found in the excavation. Smadar Gabrieli edited the article.

<sup>2</sup> The length is the stringing axis, and is always the first measurement for beads.

<sup>3</sup> Egyptian Blue is the commonly used term for blue frit, or a partly fused crystalline powder of silica and copper compound with a granular or chalky texture, which can be molded as paste and then fired (cf. Lucas and Harris 1962:340–343; Ogden 1982:136; Andrews 1990:63).

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