



# LURISTAN BRONZES

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**BRONZES OF LURISTAN**, the accepted term for a distinct body of metalwork produced in the first half of the first millennium B.C. and characterized by a wide range of idiosyncratic forms and a highly stylized conception of human and animal representation. These bronzes are to be distinguished from material excavated in Luristan but belonging to earlier periods and from material incorrectly attributed to Luristan. Typical categories of canonical Luristan bronze artifacts include cast animal finials, standards with masters of animals, horse cheekpieces, and harness attachments in the form of naturalistic or fantastic creatures, figured and disc pins, whetstone handles, and bracelets. Among the weapons are swords, daggers, axes, maces, quivers, and halberds. Both casting and repoussé techniques were employed. Among the highly stylized human and animal forms the zoomorphic juncture plays an important part, especially on pins, bracelets, and weapons (for more detailed description and discussion of the characteristics of Luristan bronzes, see Vanden Berghe, 1968, pp. 149ff., figs. 6, 8, 9, 11-14; Muscarella, 1988b, pp. 114f.).

[LURISTAN BRONZES i. The field research](#)

[LURISTAN BRONZES ii. Chronology](#)

[LURISTAN BRONZES iii. Modern history of Luristan Bronze](#)