"Heracles" in the Southern Levant during the Persian Period - Continuity and Change

Heracles was undoubtedly the most popular hero of ancient Greek mythology in the pictorial art of the ancient Near East. In southern Levant, he appears for the first time in the early Persian period and enjoyed increasing popularity from the 5th to the 4th centuries. Depicted as an athletic man with a lion skin, a bow and a club, he is frequently represented on seals, sealings and coins. The analysis of glyptics and coinage makes it possible to observe different influences at different times and will lead to a critical reflection on continuity and change in the image of Heracles. This will help understanding the character of this originally Greek hero in the southern Levant and the meaning he had for the local population.

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