

APPENDIX: THE GLASS FINDS FROM THE NEW GATE IN THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

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The salvage excavation near the new gate in the Old City of Jerusalem revealed a small but interesting group of glass fragments.¹ Most fragments date from the Mamluk period: a colorless bowl with an upward rounded rim (not illustrated), bicolored bowls decorated with marvered trails and mold-blown ribs (Fig. 1:1–3), a simple colorless bottle (Fig. 1:4), a jug handle (Fig. 1:5) and a large storage jar/bottle, which was mended in its lower part (Fig. 1:8). A blue mold-blown wall fragment (Fig. 1:6) and a cake-shaped or square ingot of raw glass of similar color (Fig. 1:7) may be of a slightly later date. In addition, a rim and neck fragment of a modern colorless bottle was found, as well as a tiny rectangular colorless mosaic cube of uncertain date (L120, B1069; $3 \times 6 \times 7$ mm; not illustrated). All the specimens display a very poor state of preservation.

Fragments Nos. 1–3 are bicolored, made of purple translucent glass decorated with trail motifs in opaque contrast glass. They represent two common subtypes of marvered glass bowls that are characteristic of the Mamluk period. Specimen No. 1 has a thick wall and presents a simple, cheap version of this type, with a carelessly tooled trail design. This fragment is distinguished from others by the additional thick green trail applied around the incurving rounded rim. Two bands of another white, thinner trail are applied, spirally wound and fused-in (marvered) lower down, around its globular body. The fragments in Nos. 2 and 3, which are small body pieces, belong to a finer class of marvered bowls. Their decoration combines a design of marvered trails with mold-blown vertical ribs. The fragments in No. 2 likely belong to a single vessel, while Fragment No. 3 represents a different bowl, which has a lighter, yellowish purple tinge. Both versions of these similar marvered bowls were found in large numbers at different sites in Jerusalem, in contexts dated to the thirteenth–early sixteenth centuries CE. Most of those were likely produced in contemporary local glass ateliers (Brosh 2016:361, Fig. 4:2, 4, 5). Parallels include a small globular bowl decorated with a marvered trail and mold-blown ribs, which was found in a Mamluk context on Misgav La-Dakh Street in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem (Katsnelson 2009: Fig. 5:3).

Fragment No. 4 belongs to a colorless bottle with a short funnel-mouth and a tall neck. Simple bottles with similarly shaped upper parts, often of crude craftsmanship and a low-quality fabric like

¹ The glass finds were restored by Adrienne Ganor, drawn by Carmen Hersch and photographed by Clara Amit.



Fig. 1. The glass finds.

◀ Fig. 1.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Color	Weathering	Notes
1	Bowl with marvered decoration	110	1025	Translucent purple; opaque light greenish and white trails	Dark patches; iridescent film; pitting	Small fragment of rim and wall; Rim decorated with thick applied trail; thin trail applied, spirally wound and fused in wall, below the rim and lower down
2	Bowl with marvered decoration	121	1082	Translucent purple; opaque white trail	Dark patches; iridescent film; pitting	Four small wall fragments of; marvered trail design applied and spirally wound; additional pattern of vertical mold-blown ribs; one fragment plain
3	Bowl with marvered decoration	124	1094	Purplish transparent; opaque white trail	White patches; iridescent film; pitting	Small part of body; remains of spirally wound and fused-in trail and wide, vertical rib
4	Bottle	121	1082	Colorless with tinge	Strong dark crust; severe pitting	Part of rim and neck; short rim, flared and rounded; cylindrical neck
5	Jug	117	1067	Colorless	Dark enamel-like patches; crust of golden iridescence	Lower part of strap handle with three protruding ribs and small wall remains
6	Mold-blown vessel	103	1029	Translucent deep bleu	Black patches; iridescence; bubbly	Part of shoulder; mold-blown shallow ribs
7	Ingot	106	1016	Translucent deep bleu	Dark patches; silver iridescence; pitting	Many fragments of a cake-shaped piece; a partly preserved thick rounded edge; small hollow fold on the interior, possibly a tooling mark (best preserved piece: 1.6 × 4.1 × 3.8 cm)
8	Storage bottle/jar	103	1029	Greenish	Black crust; silver iridescence; pitting; bubbly	Numerous parts of a thin vertical wall; five parts of very thick, concave base with a large asymmetrical bulge in the center; remains of a large pontil scar underneath

our fragment, are characteristic of the late Islamic periods. Examples have a wide chronological range, occurring in contexts of the twelfth through the fifteenth centuries CE.

Specimen No. 5 is a trifurcated strap handle belonging to a fine, colorless pitcher (jug) of unclear shape.

Fragment No. 6 is a wall or a shoulder decorated with shallow mold-blown ribs, whose rich blue color stands out. It may belong to a bottle or a flask with a wide globular body. While glass vessels with various mold-blown patterns were quite popular in Jerusalem under the Mamluk dynasties (Brosh 2016:357, Fig. 1), contemporary artifacts of similar blue color are rare. The vessel could have been imported, for example from Venice, or produced in Jerusalem from imported raw material, as suggested by its bubbly fabric. In this regard, the deep blue cake-shaped or square ingot (No. 7) is of particular interest. Since no comparable examples were found, future chemical analyses may shed light on the date and the origin of these blue glass fragments.

Specimen No. 8 is the base and body of a large storage bottle or jar made of greenish glass, which was mended from numerous fragments. It has a tall, cylindrical body and a thick concave base,

which is carelessly tooled with a large asymmetrical bulge in the center; the upper part of the vessel is missing. Large storage vessels of this type are well known from different sites in Israel, occurring in contexts dated to the Fatimid and Mamluk periods. A comparable complete bottle/jar was found in an Ayyubid–Mamluk building between the Street of the Chain (Bab el-Silsileh) and Misgav La-Dakh Street in the Old City of Jerusalem (‘Adawi 2011: Fig. 17).

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