Naḥal Peḥar: The Hellenistic—Byzantine Ceramic Assemblages

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The excavations at Naḥal Peḥar (see Haddad 2019) yielded rich ceramic assemblages from the Hellenistic–Early Roman (Area A) and Byzantine (Area B) periods.² This material is presented here chronologically and typologically. The color of the ware was determined based on the 1998 edition of Munsell Soil Color Charts. The most common vessel found in Area A—the Hellenistic–Early Roman assemblage (Figs. 1, 2)—was the bag-shaped storage jar, followed by cooking pots. Only a few bowls were found; some of them are of fine wares and bear red slip. Jugs, flask and juglets were similarly rare. The Byzantine period assemblage, recovered from Area B, was rich (Figs. 3–9). It included a variety of imported fine ware bowls (Fig. 3), locally made basins of various shapes (Figs. 4, 5), various cooking vessels (Fig. 6) and two types of jars: the bag-shaped jar (Fig. 7), which was the most common jar type in the Byzantine period, and the 'Gaza jar' (Fig. 8). An imported amphora (Fig. 9:1) and a lantern (Fig. 9:2) complete the assemblage.

THE HELLENISTIC-PERIOD ASSEMBLAGE (Fig. 1)

Bowls (Fig. 1:1, 2).— Bowls with an everted rim and horizontal pinched handles are frequently found in Hellenistic assemblages. They have a hemispherical body and are covered with a thin red slip. They can be dated mainly to the second century BCE, but they have also been found in assemblages dated to the first century BCE (cf. Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294, Fig. 6.7:1–7). Similar bowls have been found at Gezer (Gitin 1990: Pls. 38:9; 40:10)

Mortarium (Fig. 1:3).— A rim of a coarse mortarium can also be dated to the Hellenistic period, and even more precisely—to the second century BCE (Gitin 1990: Pl. 34:13). The ware of the vessel is gray due to exposure to a strong fire, either in the kiln or in some other context, but cannot be mistaken for an Ottoman Black Gaza ware vessel.

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² I wish to thank Elie Haddad for inviting me to study this material.

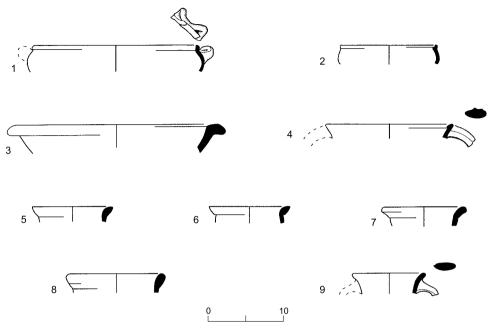


Fig. 1. Pottery from the Hellenistic period.

No.	Туре	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Bowl	534	5042	2.5YR 7/6 light red with few very small round white inclusions. Surface: slip 2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown	Fragment: everted rim with inner groove; horizontal pinched handles	Rim diam: 16 Rim %: <5
2	Bowl	565	5077	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: slip 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: round bowl with everted rim with inner groove	Rim diam: 12 Rim %: 6
3	Mortatium	534	5042	2.5Y 5/1 gray with few small round white inclusions. Surface: dark gray	Fragment: round, arched rim	Rim diam: 24 Rim %: 6
4	Cooking pot	580	5093/3	2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: flaring walls and internally folded rim	Rim diam: 16 Rim %: 5
5	Storage jar	523	5032	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: sharply everted folded rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 13
6	Storage jar	580	5093/2	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: sharply everted folded rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 13
7	Storage jar	589	5108	2.5YR 7/6–6/6 light red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/3 pink	Fragment: sharply everted round rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 13
8	Storage jar	546	5057/5	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 6/2–5/2 light brownish graygrayish brown	Fragment: slightly everted round rim	Rim diam: 12 Rim %: 7
9	Table amphora	546	5057/3	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few very small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: everted round rim; handles drawn from under rim	Rim diam: 9 Rim %: 20

Cooking Pot (Fig. 1:4).— One small fragment belonging to a Hellenistic-period cooking pot with flaring walls was identifies. This type of cooking pot can be dated to the third and second centuries BCE, but it also appears in assemblages dated to the first century BCE (cf. Guz-Zilberstein 1995:299, Fig. 6.19:1–4).

Storage Jars (Fig. 1:5–8).— These bag-shaped jars with a thickened everted rim continued the Persian-period tradition and were probably locally made. They can be dated to the second century BCE (cf. Guz-Zilberstein 1995:311, Fig. 6.35; Gitin 1990: Pl. 36:1–5).

Table Amphora (Fig. 1:9).— The fragment of a vessel with an everted neck and a handle drawn at mid-neck might belong to a table amphora of a type that was in use during the third and second centuries BCE (cf. Guz-Zilberstein 1995:309, Fig. 6.32:1).

THE EARLY ROMAN-PERIOD ASSEMBLAGE (Fig. 2)

Bowl (Fig. 2:1).— This small hemispherical bowl has a rolled rim. It can be dated to the first century BCE. Bowls of this type were found at Jericho (Bar-Nathan 2002:85, Pl. 14:218, and see additional parallels therein).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 2:2–11).— Two types of cooking pots with globular bodies were found. The first (Fig. 2:2–4) has a long neck with ridges. The rim can be either internally hooked (Fig. 2:2, 3) or externally thickened (Fig. 2:4). In Jericho, these cooking pots seem to have appeared already in the first century BCE (Bar-Nathan and Kamil-Gitler 2002:172–173, Pl. 26:487, 488), but finds from Masada date them to the first century CE and probably even to the beginning of the second century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:159, Pl. 20:30–33). Finds at Nesher-Ramla confirm the first century CE date (Vincenz 2010:137–138, Pl. 8.21:4). The second type of cooking pots with a globular body (Fig. 2:5–11) has a flaring neck. The rim is usually triangular and beveled, but it can also bear grooves (Fig. 2:5, 11). This type is widespread and is commonly dated from the end of the first century BCE to the beginning of the second century CE (for an extensive discussion with parallels, see Bar-Nathan 2006:154–158, Pls. 27, 28).

Storage Jars (Fig. 2:12–19).— All storage jars have a bag-shaped body, but they vary in the shapes of their rims and necks. One variant (Fig. 2:12) is small with a straight neck and an everted rim. This type of jar was found at Masada, where it was dated to the end of the first century BCE and the first century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:59–60, Pl. 9:47–52, and see additional parallels therein). The second fragment (Fig. 2:13) belongs to a jar with a straight neck and an everted, round rim with a light ridge below it. It seems to belong to the same group as the previous jar, and it should thus be similarly dated to the end of the first century BCE and the first century CE. Jars Nos. 14–17 comprise a second variant: all have a straight neck and a beveled (Fig. 2:14) or round (Fig. 2:15–17) rim. They

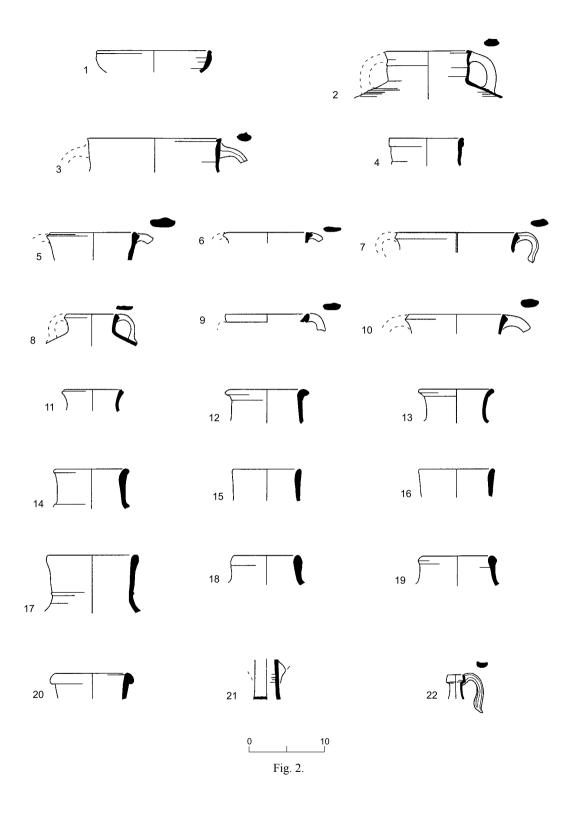


Fig. 2. Pottery from the Early Roman period.

No.	Туре	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Bowl	591	5125/3	10YR 5/3 brown with few small angular black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 4/3 brown and burnished	Fragment: rolled rim and groove below	Rim diam: 8 Rim %: 7.5
2	Cooking pot	503	5003/1	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown.	Fragment: bulging neck with groove and thickened flat rim; handles drawn from rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 26
3	Cooking pot	500	5000/1	5YR 5/4 reddish brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: slightly bulging neck and beveled rim with internal groove	Rim diam: 14 Rim %: <5
4	Cooking pot	547	5058/2	2.5YR 4/6 red. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: straight neck and folded rim	Rim diam: 14 Rim %: <5
5	Cooking pot	527	5037	2.5YR 5/8 red with thin core; few very small round white and few small round black inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/3 reddish brown	Fragment: flaring walls and grooved rim; band handles drawn from the rim	Rim diam: 9 Rim %: 15
6	Cooking pot	523	5035/1	5YR 4/2 dark reddish gray with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/3 reddish brown	Fragment: everted triangular rim; band handle drawn from rim	Rim diam: 12 Rim %: 7
7	Cooking pot	523	5035/2	5YR 5/4 reddish brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 5/2–5/3 brown	Fragment: flaring neck and triangular rim; band handles drawn from rim	Rim diam: 20 Rim %: 7
8	Cooking pot	548	5059/2	2.5YR 5/6 red with few small round black inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: flaring neck and triangular rim; band handles drawn from rim	Rim diam: 7 Rim %: 9
9	Cooking pot	580	5093/2	7.5YR 5/3 brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 6/2 light brownish gray	Fragment: everted folded rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 13
10	Cooking pot	591	5110	2.5YR 5/6 red with medium amount small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/2–5/3 reddish gray to reddish brown	Fragment: flaring walls and triangular rim; band handles drawn from the rim	Rim diam: 16 Rim %: 7.5
11	Cooking pot	573	5086/3	10R 5/6 red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: everted neck and grooved rim	Rim diam: 9 Rim %: 10
12	Storage par	573	5086/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown	Fragment: straight neck and everted profiled rim	Rim diam: 9 Rim %: 13 Neck length: 4.2
13	Storage jar	546	5057/2	2.5YR 6/6 light red. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: straight neck and everted round rim with ridge below	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 17 Neck length: 4
14	Storage jar	588	5104/1	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with medium amount round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 7/4 very pale brown	Fragment: straight neck and beveled round rim	Rim diam: 9 Rim %: 22.5 Neck length: 4
15	Storage jar	585	5100/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: straight neck and round rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 15 Neck length: 3.7
16	Storage jar	585	5100/3	2.5YR 7/6 light red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/4–7/6 pink to reddish yellow	Fragment: straight neck and round rim	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 11 Neck length: 3.2

Fig. 2. (cont.).

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
17	Storage jar	587	5103	5YR 6/4 light reddish brown with few very small round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 6/2–5/2 light brownish gray to grayish brown	Fragment: slightly flaring neck and everted round rim; protruding ridge at bottom of neck	Rim diam: 10 Rim %: 12.5 Neck length: 6.5
18	Storage jar	503	5003/2	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few medium-sized round black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: straight neck and round rim with incised external line	Rim diam: 8 Rim %: 11 Neck length: 3.2
19	Storage jar	577	5119/1	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with many small round and angular white and few large angular gray inclusions. Surface: pale 5YR 5/6 yellowish red	Fragment: slightly inverted neck and externally thickened rim	Rim diam: 9 Rim %: 20 Neck length: 3.7
20	Jug	539	5048/1	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: straight neck and everted triangular rim	Rim diam: 7 Rim %: 11 Neck length: 3
21	Painted jug	538	5047/1	2.5YR 7/6 light red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow. Black painted band	Fragment: narrow neck; twisted handles	-
22	Juglet	582	5092/1	5YR 5/2 reddish gray with few large round white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 5/2 brown	Fragment: cup mouth; wide band handle	Rim diam: 2 Rim %: 100

usually have a protruding ridge at the bottom of the neck. This is the most common type of jar at Masada, and it is dated from the end of the first century BCE to the first century CE (cf. Bar-Nathan 2006:52–57, Pls. 5:21–26; 6:27–30). Two jars with a short neck and a thickened round rim (Fig. 2:18, 19) represent a third variant. They are similar to jars found at Masada that were dated to the end of the first century BCE and the very beginning of the first century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:47, Pl. 3:8–10).

Jugs (Fig. 2:20, 21).— The jug in Fig. 2:20 has a straight neck and an everted, triangular rim. It is similar to a bell-shaped jug found at Masada, which was dated to the first century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:99, Pl. 17:3).

The fragment of a narrow neck in Fig. 2:21 was identified as belonging to a painted jug because of the remains of a black-painted band. The remains of a twisted handle can be discerned. Such jugs have a squat, globular body and are decorated with painted patterns (cf. Bar-Nathan 2006:254–255, Pl. 42:11). They are dated to the end of the first century BCE and the first century CE.

Juglet (Fig. 2:22).— A fragment comprising a rim and a handle belongs to a globular or a pyriform juglet, the so-called 'balsam juglet'. It is dated to the end of the first century BCE and the first century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:191–194, and see additional references therein).

THE BYZANTINE PERIOD (Figs. 3–9)

BOWLS (Fig. 3:1-7)

The Byzantine-period bowls were mostly imported; they came from North Africa, from Cyprus and from Turkey.

African Red Slip Ware Bowls (Fig. 3:1).— Only a few fragments of African Red Slip bowls—the most common group of Fine Wares originating from North Africa—were found at the site. According to Hayes (1972:13), this group of vessels was produced from the end of the first century to the sixth century CE. It is characterized by its fine ware, which is coarser than that of the Sigillata wares of the previous periods, and by its slip, which is not as glossy as in the earlier Sigillata wares. African Red Slip (ARS) wares were widely distributed over most of the Mediterranean region, and they were imitated in local workshops.

All the uncovered fragments belong to ARS Form 67: bowls whose walls are carinated twice and end in a bulbous or hooked rim. In some bowls the upper part of the rim has one or two grooves. Usually the ware is heavy and somewhat coarse, but it bears a well-adhering, shiny slip. The base is decorated with grooves and stamps. These bowls were very common during the fourth and fifth centuries CE, but they seem to have continued into the first part of the sixth century CE (for a detailed discussion on the type, see Hayes 1972:112–116, Fig. 19).

Late Roman 'C' Ware Bowls (Fig. 3:2).— The Late Roman 'C' (LRC) or Phocaean vessel found in the assemblage belongs to Form 3. The LRC (Phocaean) Wares, which were produced in Asia Minor, comprise the second group of fine wares common throughout the Mediterranean region. They date from the fifth to the seventh centuries CE, and maybe even later (for a detailed discussion, see Hayes 1972:323–324). It is related to the ARS ware and is similarly fine and covered with a shiny slip, but its slip is thinner than that of the ARS ware.

The LRC Form 3 bowl was the standard bowl form imported during the Byzantine period. It has a vertical rim with a flange and either a low foot or a false foot. The rim and flange exhibit a variety of shapes, which do not necessarily have a chronological significance. Moreover, these bowls are usually decorated with stamps often combined with incised grooves and rouletting. This bowl form replaced the previous form, and was in use from the fifth century CE until at least the seventh century CE (for an extensive discussion, see Hayes 1972:329–338).

Red Slipped Plate or Bowl (Fig. 3:3).— The low ring-base featured here is not decorated, but belongs most probably to a plate or a bowl of the LRC group.

Cypriot Red Slip Ware (Fig. 3:4–6).— Two types of bowls of Cypriot Red Slip Ware (CRS), also called Late Roman 'D' Ware, were found at the site. This ware comprises the third group of imported

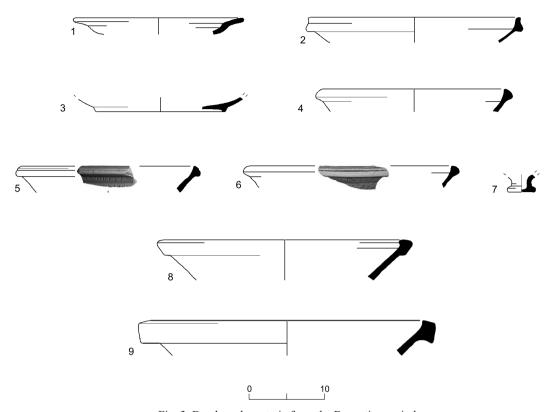


Fig. 3. Bowls and mortaria from the Byzantine period.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	ARS Bowl Form 67	123	1034/2	2.5YR 6/8 light red. Surface: slip 2.5YR 6/6 light red	Fragment: bowl with double carination and ledge rim	Rim diam. 28 Rim %: <5
2	LRC Bowl Form 3	180	1118	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: slip 2.5YR 6/6 light red	Fragment: triangular flanged rim	Rim diam. 30 Rim %: 18
3	CRS Bowl Form 1	226	1210/1	10R 6/6 light red with many minute round and angular white inclusions. Surface: slip 10R 5/6 red	Fragment: low ring base	-
4	CRS Bowl Form 2	206	1169/5	2.5YR 6/6 light red. Surface: slip 10R 5/6 red	Fragment: inverted pinched rim	Rim diam. 28 Rim %: 7.5
5	CRS Bowl Form 2	226	1199/5	2.5YR 6/6 light red. Surface: slip 10R 5/6 red	Fragment: round rim; wide, spaced rouletting	Rim diam. 28 Rim %: 7.5
6	LLRW Plate or Bowl	152	1078/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: slip 10R 5/6 red	Fragment: inverted pinched rim with two grooves; wide, spaced rouletting	Rim diam. 28 Rim %: 9
7	Chalice?	226	1199/11	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 7/6 light red	Fragment: base	Diam. 3.8
8	Mortarium	171	1106/2	5YR 5/4 reddish brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/3 reddish brown	Fragment: hammer-head rim	Rim diam. 36 Rim %: 10
9	Mortarium	154	1086	5YR 4/4 reddish brown with few large round black and small grog inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: externally thickened beveled rim	Rim diam. 34 Rim %: 11

fine ware bowls in the eastern Mediterranean during the Byzantine period. Produced on the island of Cyprus, this ware was common during the fourth–eighth centuries CE. It is fine, well-fired and breaks cleanly, but its characteristic feature is the color of the clay, which ranges from yellow through orange and various shades of brown to dark brown and purple (for a detailed description, see Hayes 1972:371–372).

The bowl fragment in Fig. 3:4 is CRS Form 1. This bowl has a plain, thickened rim which can be beveled or, as in our case, rounded. It has a flat base and is usually undecorated. According to Hayes (1972:372–373, Fig. 80), this bowl can be dated from the late fourth century (or earlier) to about the third quarter of the fifth century CE.

The bowl rims in Fig. 3:5, 6 are CRS Form 2. This type of bowl has a knobbed rim, usually with grooves. The walls are flaring and decorated with rouletting. The base is flat and sometimes bears stamped decorations surrounded by grooves. Form 2 bowls appear in both small and large sizes; our two bowls are large. Hayes (1972:373–376, Fig. 80) dates this type to the late fifth and early sixth centuries CE.

Chalice? (Fig. 3:7).— This base is made of rather fine ware similar to the ware of Fine Byzantine vessels (cf. Magness 1993:193). It could belong to a bowl with high trumpet base, like the one shown by Magness (1993:197, FBW Bowls Form 1F, No. 1). A seventh century CE date seems appropriate.

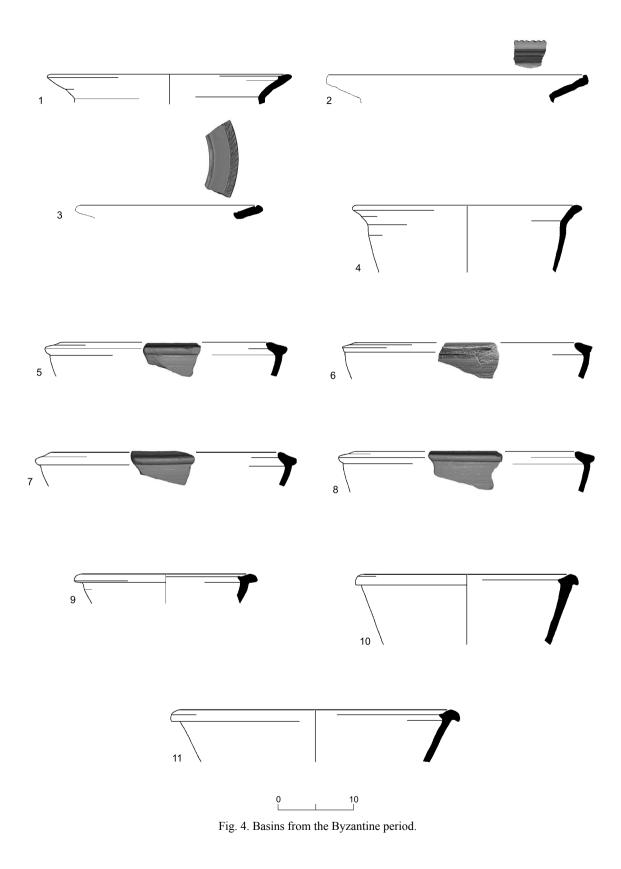
MORTARIA (Figs. 3:8, 9)

Mortaria were produced at Ras el-Basit in Northern Syria and exported widely in the Mediterranean area, Syria, Egypt, Cyprus, the Greek mainland and as far west as Rome, Germany and Britain (Hayes 1967; Vallerin 1994). Although most of these vessels are of the variant with the wide stamped ledge-rim, the variant found at the site has a rectangular rim. Like those with the wide rim, they have a deep body with flaring walls and a flat base. Some also bear decorative patterns, such as incised circles. Many of these mortaria have been found at Caesarea Maritima (Johnson 2008:38–39, Nos. 276–281), and they are usually dated to the third and fourth centuries CE, but their use may have continued even later.

BASINS (Figs. 4, 5)

Numerous basins of various forms were found at the site. They are mostly decorated with incisions and combed lines.

Ledge-Rim Basins (Fig. 4:1–3).— These basins have a deep body and a long ledge rim that is turns upward and ends either in a fold (Fig. 4:1) or with a little hook (Fig. 4:2, 3). Basins with a ledge rim that is folded at the end have been found in the Migdal neighborhood in Ashqelon (Nahshoni 1999: Figs. 4:8, 5:8) and in the Byzantine Monastery at Ma'on (Nahshoni and Seryi 2013: Fig. 11:4,



← Fig. 4.

No.	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	206	1460	2.5YR 6/6 light red with many small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown	Fragment: everted ledge rim with fold at end	Rim diam. 32 Rim %: 11
2	161	1123	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: long ledge rim with carved nicks at edge	Rim diam. 30 Rim %: <5
3	184	1142/1	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Fragment: flat ledge rim with carved edge	Rim diam. 26 Rim %: 14
4	170	1102	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with many small and medium round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown	Fragment: everted ledge rim	Rim diam. 32 Rim %: 22
5	144	1070/2	2.5YR 6/6 light red with many small round and angular white and few small round black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: inverted flat rim with ridge below; straight combed lines on body	Rim diam. 30 Rim %: 7.5
6	184	1132/1	2.5YR 5/6 red with few large angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/3 pale yellow	Fragment: sharply inverted flat rim; straight combed lines	Rim diam. 28 Rim %: 7
7	176	1111/2	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: inverted flat rim with ridge below; straight combed lines on body	Rim diam. 30 Rim %: 8.5
8	228	1211	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few medium angular white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/3 pink	Fragment: inverted flat rim with ridge below; straight combed lines on body	Rim diam. 34 Rim %: 10
9	177	1112/3	7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few medium round and angular white and round black inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/3 very pale brown	Fragment: arched rim and round body	Rim diam. 22 Rim %: 8.5
10	177	1133/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/4–7/4 very pale brown	Fragment: deep basin with short, arched rim; interior pointed flange	Rim diam. 26 Rim %: 13
11	173	1108/2	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/2–8/3 very pale brown	Fragment: arched rim with interior horizontal flange	Rim diam. 21 Rim %: 10

5), and seem to be a typical find at southern sites from the Byzantine period. The basin in Fig. 4:2 is decorated with a crenellated edge, while the basin in Fig. 4:3 has a rouletted rope pattern at the edge of the ledge-rim. Basins with a crenellated ledge rim have been reported from the Byzantine Monastery at Ḥorbat Maʻon (Nahshoni and Seryi 2013: Fig. 11:7), and somewhat similar basins were reported from the excavations at the railway station in Beʾer Shevaʻ (Israel, Seryi and Feder 2013: Fig. 13:9).

Deep Basin with a Ledge Rim (Fig. 4:4).— Deep basins with an everted ledge rim appear both undecorated—like the example here—and decorated with combed lines, like the example from the Byzantine Monastery at Ma'on (Nahshoni and Seryi 2013: Fig. 11:6). These vessels can be dated to the late Byzantine period.

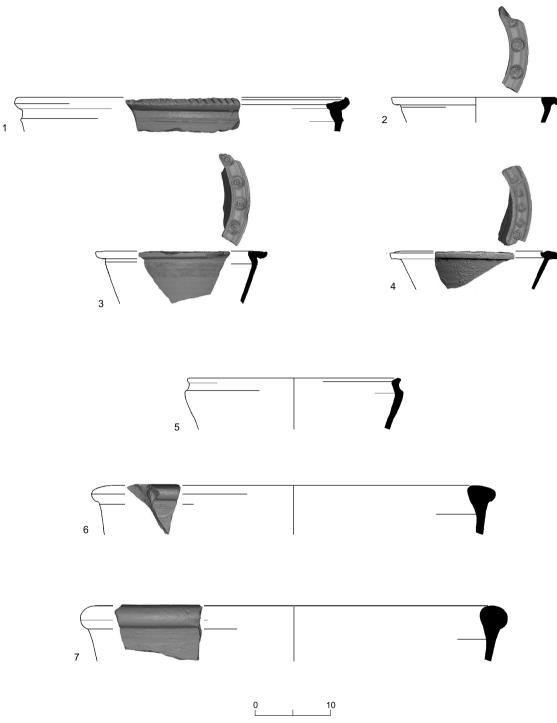


Fig. 5. Basins from the Byzantine period.

← Fig. 5.

No.	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	173	1108/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red with many small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Fragment: flat ledge rim with carved edge	Rim diam. 38 Rim %: 11
2	107	1044/1	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown with few small round black and angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Fragment: flat ledge rim with stamped circles; combed lines on body	Rim diam. 24 Rim %: 14
3	120	1026/1	7.5YR 7/4 pink with few small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Fragment: flat ledge rim with stamped circles; combed lines on body	Rim diam. 24 Rim %: 17
4	213	1182/2	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/3 pale yellow	Fragment: flat ledge rim with stamped circles; combed lines on body	Rim diam. 24 Rim %: 15
5	177	1112/1	7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small angular black inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Fragment: carinated basin with everted round rim	Rim diam. 28 Rim %: 12.5
6	201	1155/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small round black and white inclusions. Surface: slip 10YR 8/3 very pale brown	Fragment: inverted flat rim with ridge below; straight and wavy combed lines on body	Rim diam. 30 Rim %: <5
7	171	1106/3	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 7/3 very pale brown	Fragment: thick round rim; straight combed lines on body	Rim diam. 38 Rim %: 8

Basins with an Inverted Flanged rim (Fig. 4:5–8).— The characteristic feature of these basins is the inverted folded rim, with the fold forming an external flange. These basins are usually decorated with straight combed lines on the body. The shape of this basin is similar to that of imported bowls from Cyprus (cf. Hayes 1972: Figs. 81, 82, 379–382), and thus might be a local variant. A late Byzantine date seems correct.

Arched-Rim Basins (Fig. 4:9–11).— The characteristic feature of these deep basins is their arched rim. These vessels are commonly found at sites with Byzantine occupation layers and are frequently decorated with combed straight and wavy lines, although some—as in the case of the examples here—are undecorated. Although the undecorated type began to appear already in the late third century CE (cf. Magness 1993:204–206, Arched-Rim Basins Form 1), our examples should probably be dated later, to the sixth century CE, given that most of the ceramic material in the excavation is later.

Carinated Basin with an Incised Rim (Fig. 5:1).— This basin is probably a variation of the archedrim basin. A similar example, decorated with combed straight and wavy lines, has been found in the Migdal neighborhood in Ashqelon (Nahshoni 1999: Fig. 4:10). It should be dated to the late Byzantine period.

Basins with a Ledge Rim and Impressed Circles (Figs. 5:2-4).— These deep basins, which are probably another variation of the arched-rim basins, bear straight combed lines on the body and

stamped circles on the their horizontal ledge rim. This seems to be a local type, as several fragments have been found in the excavation. A late Byzantine date is proposed.

Carinated Basin (Fig. 5:5).— This carinated basin is not decorated. Similar carinated bowls have been found at the Nesher-Ramla Quarry (Vincenz 2015: Fig. 5.18:22, 23) and are dated to the sixtheighth centuries CE. A similar dating is proposed for the basin here.

Large Basins with a Heavy Round Rim (Fig. 5:6, 7). These basins are made of coarse ware and have an externally thickened round rim. Their characteristic features are the combed bands on the body, which can be straight, wavy or a combination of both. This type of basin is commonly found at sites in the Shephela and the south of the country, mainly from the late Byzantine and Umayyad periods. The same basins have been found at Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 3:18). Many basins of this type have been found in the winepresses excavated at the Nesher-Ramla quarry (Vincenz 2015: Figs. 5.2:5; 5.11:3; 5.14:9; 5.19:30–37; 5.20:39; 5.26:4; 5.27:13; 5.29:12) as well as in the winepresses at Ḥorbat Be'er Shema' (Erickson-Gini, Dolinka and Shilov 2015: Fig. 27:5, 6).

COOKING VESSELS (Fig. 6)

Many fragments of cooking vessels were found at the site. These include casseroles, cooking pots of various types, lids and cooking jugs.

Casseroles (Fig. 6:1, 2).— Numerous casseroles or cooking bowls were retrieved. Their body is shaped as a bowl and is usually rather deep, the base is rounded or flat and the rim is beveled to hold a lid. They have horizontal handles, which can be up- or down-turned. The face of the body is either smooth (Fig. 6:1) or ribbed (Fig. 6:2). While variations in the shape of the rim, in the position of the handle and in the ribbing do not seem to have any chronological significance, it is possible that later examples are coarser and have thicker walls. The fragments here should be dated to the Byzantine and, more specifically, the late Byzantine period.

Lids (Fig. 6:3–6).— The beveled rims of the casseroles suggest that they had lids, and indeed the assemblage includes a rather large amount of lid fragments. These lids are made of the same brittle 'cooking-pot ware' as the cooking vessels, and their rims are beveled as well so as to close the vessel perfectly. Their body is either smooth or ribbed, and they usually have a raised knob with one or more steam holes. As in the case of the casseroles, no chronological distinction can be made among the lids, and it should suffice to date them like the casseroles to the Byzantine and, more specifically, the late Byzantine period (for a discussion and parallels, see Vincenz 2007:248).

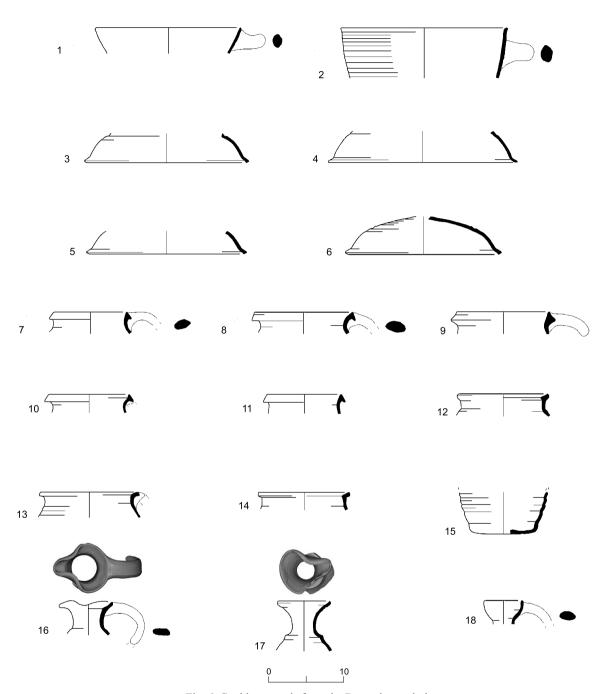


Fig. 6. Cooking vessels from the Byzantine period.

← Fig. 6.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Casserole	152	1078/4	5YR 4/6 yellowish red with few very small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: ribbed body; horizontal handle (rim broken)	Rim diam. 18
2	Casserole	226	1210/3	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: encrusted	Fragment: beveled rim and ribbed body; horizontal handle	Rim diam. 20 Rim %: 8
3	Cooking pot lid	214	1179/5	2.5YR 5/8 red. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: flat, slightly hooked rim; ridges on upper part	Rim diam. 20 Rim %: 12
4	Cooking pot lid	175	1110/2	2.5YR 4/8 red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red and burnt	Fragment: beveled rim	Rim diam. 14 Rim %: 6
5	Cooking pot lid	229	1212/1	2.5YR 4/6 red with few very small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: beveled rim	Rim diam. 20 Rim %: 8
6	Cooking pot lid	229	1212/2	2.5YR 5/8 red. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Fragment: everted beveled rim with hook; ribbed body	Rim diam. 18 Rim %: 11
7	Cooking pot	206	1160/3	2.5YR 4/6 red with few very small round white inclusions. Surface: burnt	Fragment: everted flanged rim; loop handle	Rim diam. 9 Rim %: 22
8	Cooking pot	206	1161/3	2.5YR 4/8 red with few very small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: everted triangular flanged rim; loop handle drawn from rim	Rim diam. 12 Rim %: 11
9	Cooking pot	206	1176/6	2.5YR 5/6 red with few small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 4/1 dark gray	Fragment: everted triangular flanged rim; loop handle drawn from rim	Rim diam. 12 Rim %: 13
10	Cooking pot	206	1170/2	Burnt with few small round white inclusions. Surface: black burnt	Fragment: everted triangular flanged rim	Rim diam. 12 Rim %: 24
11	Cooking pot	206	1161/10	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 4/1 dark gray	Fragment: everted triangular flanged rim	Rim diam. 8 Rim %: 12.5
12	Cooking pot	177	1112/2	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: straight neck and beveled thickened rim	Rim diam. 12 Rim %: 13
13	Cooking pot	206	1169/6	2.5YR 5/8 red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 6/8 light red	Fragment: everted beveled rim; loop handle drawn from rim	Rim diam. 14 Rim %: 12
14	Cooking pot	226	1199/12	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small angular black inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: straight neck and flat thickened rim	Rim diam. 12 Rim %: 13
15	Cooking pot	144	1070/1	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown and burnt	Fragment: flat base with incised lines and ribbed body	-
16	CP jug	214	1179/6	2.5YR 3/1 dark reddish gray with many small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: encrusted	Fragment: trefoil mouth	-
17	CP jug	219	1198/1	2.5YR 4/8 red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red and encrusted	Fragment: trefoil mouth; narrow neck with step at transition to body	-
18	CP jug	206	1166	2.5YR 5/6 red. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: cup-mouth rim	-

Closed Cooking Pots (Fig. 6:7–15).— Two types of cooking pots were found at the site: the first with a short everted neck ending in a triangular flanged rim (Fig. 6:7–11), and the second with a short neck and an everted beveled rim (Fig. 6:12–14). Both types have large loop-handles drawn from the rim and can be dated to the fifth–eighth centuries CE (for a discussion, see Magness 1993:219–220, Cooking Pot Forms 4B, 4C). Both types of cooking pots have been reported from Be'er Sheva' (Israel, Seryi and Feder 2013: Fig. 14:14–18). The flat base in Fig. 6:15 can probably be associated with this type of cooking pot.

Cooking Jugs (Fig. 6:16–18).— Three fragments of cooking jugs, made of the same brittle ware as the cooking pots and casseroles, are presented here. Frequently they have a narrow neck ending in an everted trefoil rim (Fig. 6:16, 17), while another form is smaller in shape and has a bulging neck (Fig. 6:18). A cooking jug with a trefoil rim from the sixth–seventh centuries CE was found at 'En Gedi (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 67:13).

STORAGE JARS (Figs. 7, 8)

Numerous storage-jar fragments were retrieved from the excavation, but only one nearly complete jar was found (Fig. 8:1). Many of the fragments belong to bag-shaped jars, which vary in the shape of their neck and rim (Fig. 7). The other group of storage jars found at the site, which includes the almost complete specimen, is of 'Gaza jars' (Fig. 8).

Bag-Shaped Storage Jars with Long Neck (Fig. 7:1, 2).— Both fragments have a long neck, but the first is straight, while the second is bulging. The transition from the neck to the body is sharp, and the body is usually ribbed. They seem to be similar to Jar Form 2 at Reḥovot-in-the-Negev (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1988:85, Pl. II:93–95). They differ in their ware from the other types of jars found at site and are possibly of a different provenance.

Riley Caesarea Type 1B Bag-Shaped Storage Jars (Fig. 7:3–7).— The diagnostic characteristic of these jars is their short neck, which is either thickened with a rolled rim (Fig. 7:3, 7), thickened with a round rim (Fig. 7:4), straight with a rolled rim (Fig. 7:5) or thickened with a pinched round rim (Fig. 7:6). All these jars are made of orangey sandy ware and have clay accretions on the rim and the neck, and sometimes also on the body. The body is covered with dense ribbing, and coarse loop-handles are placed on the upper body (Fig. 7:3, 7). This type has been found in Caesarea and is dated to the fifth–seventh centuries CE (Johnson 2008:87–88, Nos. 1024–1032).

Rehovot-in-the-Negev Form 1A Bag-Shaped Storage Jars (Fig. 7:8–14).— These jars have either a straight or a slightly inverted and rather short neck (Fig. 7:14), which is usually round or pinched. The body is ribbed, either lightly (Fig. 7:8, 9, 12) or densely (Fig. 7:10, 11, 13). No handles were preserved on our examples, but they were probably coarse loop-handles that were placed on the

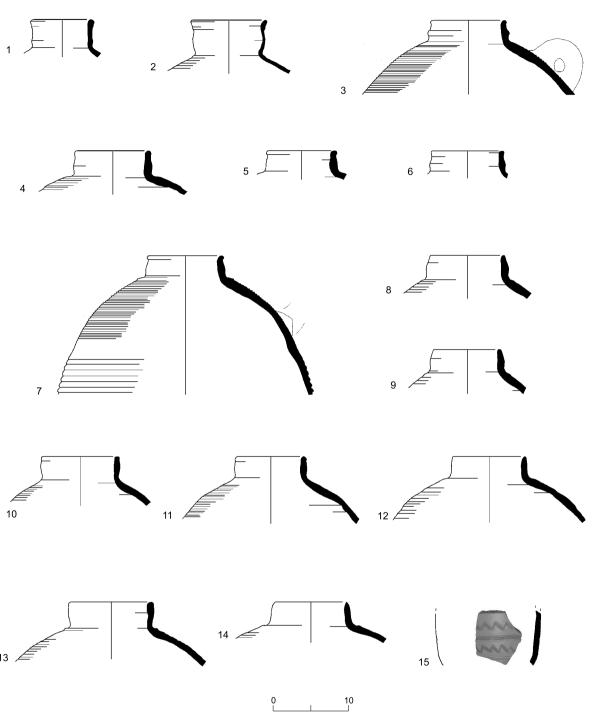


Fig. 7. Bag-shaped storage jars from the Byzantine period.

← Fig. 7.

No.	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	161	1103	2.5YR 5/6 red with many small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	Fragment: straight neck with ridge and round rim	Rim diam. 8 Rim %: 15
2	162	1091	2.5Y 7/3 pale yellow with few small round black inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Fragment: bulging neck and everted folded rim; body with light ribbing	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 22.5
3	158	1083/1	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: thickened neck and rolled rim; clay accretions on neck and ribbed body	Rim diam. 9 Rim %: 27
4	158	1083/2	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with many small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: thickened neck and round rim; clay accretions on neck and ribbed body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 100
5	206	1160/2	7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with many very small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 7/4 very pale brown	Fragment: straight neck and rolled rim	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 32.5
6	143	1069/1	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: thickened neck and pinched, round rim; clay accretions on rim and neck	Rim diam. 8 Rim %: 30
7	158	1083/3	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: thickened neck and rolled rim; clay accretions on neck and ribbed body	Rim diam. 9 Rim %: 40
8	149	1075/1	7.5YR 7/4 pink with few small angular white inclusions Surface: 10YR 8/3–7/3 very pale brown	Fragment: bulging neck and pinched rim; body slightly ribbed with clay accretions	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 15
9	206	1161/1	10YR 7/3 very pale brown with few small angular black and white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/3–7/3 very pale brown	Fragment: bulging neck and pinched rim; body slightly ribbed	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 15
10	206	1160/5	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Fragment: thickened neck and flat rim; body ribbed with clay accretions	Rim diam. 9 Rim %: 22.5
11	166	1098/2	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with many large and small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/3 very pale brown	Fragment: slightly bulging neck and round rim; body with narrow ribbing and clay accretions	Rim diam. 8 Rim %: 42.5
12	173	1108/4	10YR 8/3 very pale brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/3 very pale brown	Fragment: straight neck and pinched rim; body slightly ribbed	Rim diam. 11 Rim %: 19
13	197	1146/4, 5	5Y 7/2 light gray with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5Y 7/2 light gray	Fragment: short thickened neck and pinched rim; ridge at bottom of neck and ribbed body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 17.5
14	173	1108/3	10YR 8/3–7/3 very pale brown. Surface: 10YR 8/3 very pale brown	Fragment: straight neck and pinched rim	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 22.5
15	123	1034/1	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: straight and wavy lines on int.	-

upper body. All of these jars have clay accretions on the rim, the neck and the body. This type was classified as Jar Form 1A at Rehovot-in-the-Negev (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1988:84, Nos. 26–54). They have also been found at Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva' (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:1–3) and in the neighborhood of Migdal, Ashqelon (Nahshoni 1999: Fig. 5:19).

Jar with Incised Straight and Wavy Lines (Fig. 7:15).— Jars with combed or incised straight and wavy lines, like the fragment presented here, were a common feature during the later Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (Magness 1993:227–231).

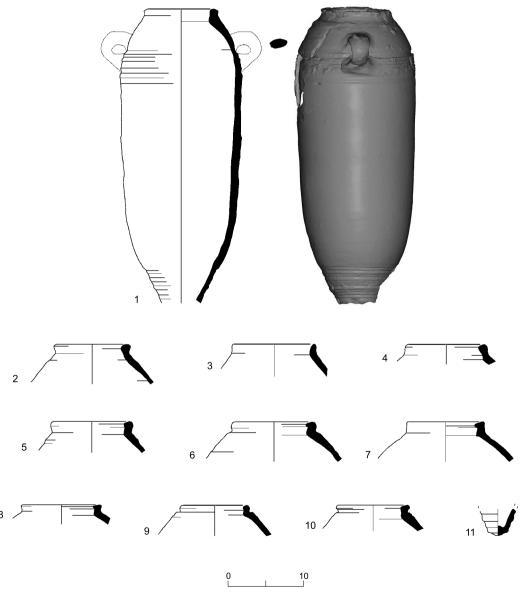


Fig. 8. 'Gaza Ware' storage jars from the Byzantine period.

← Fig. 8.

No.	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	229	1212	5YR 6/6 yellowish red with few medium angular white and black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown	Fragmentary	Rim diam. 9 Rim %: 98
2	226	1199/2	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few very small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow and encrusted	Fragment: neckless jar with round rim; clay accretions on rim and body	Rim diam. 12 Rim %: 17.5
3	152	1078/3	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/4-5/6 reddish brown to yellowish red	Fragment: neckless jar with everted flat rim; clay accretions on body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 15
4	152	1078/2	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow	Fragment: neckless jar with flat rim; clay accretions on rim and body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 20
5	123	1034/1	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few medium round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown	Fragment: very short neck and rolled rim; clay accretions on rim and body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 20
6	171	1106/1	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small angular black and white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown	Fragment: neckless jar with flat rim with internal flange; clay accretions on rim and body	Rim diam. 11 Rim %: 28
7	197	1146/3	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small round black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4–6/4 pink to light brown	Fragment: jar with very short neck and flat rim with internal flange; clay accretions on neck and body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 20
8	177	1119	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with very few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6–5/6 reddish yellow to yellowish red	Fragment: very short neck and flat rim with short internal flange; clay accretions on body	Rim diam. 8 Rim %: 17.5
9	213	1182/1	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few medium round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/6 yellowish red	Fragment: neckless jar with rolled rim; clay accretions on rim and body	Rim diam. 9 Rim %: 15
10	166	1098/1	5YR 6/6–5/6 reddish yellow to yellowish red with small angular black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/4–6/6 light reddish brown to reddish yellow	Fragment: very short neck and everted flat rim; clay accretions on body	Rim diam. 10 Rim %: 33
11	206	1141/4	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 6/4 light brown	Fragment: base	-

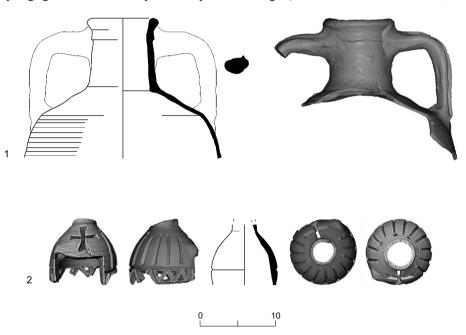
'Gaza Jars' (Fig. 8).— The almost complete example found at the site (Fig. 8:1), like 'Gaza jars' from other sites (Mayerson 1994; Majcherek 1995), shows that these jars have a cigar-shaped body, ribbing below the shoulders and two small loop-handles; their base is either a pointed or a rounded omphalos base. Most of our examples can be assigned to Majchereks' Type 3, while only two fragments belong to Type 4 (Fig. 8:3, 11). Both types are dated to the sixth and seventh centuries CE (Majcherek 1995:168–170).

Many 'Gaza jars' have been found in a Byzantine-period warehouse near Ashqelon (Fabian and Goren 2001). Residue analysis has indicated that, as suggested, they indeed contained wine, and were probably used for carrying the famous Gaza wine which was produced in the Gaza–Ashqelon area during the Byzantine period (Fabian and Goren 2001:213). Moreover, pottery workshops for

these jars have been discovered in association with large winepresses in the Ashqelon area (Israel and Erickson-Gini 2013). A pottery workshop for 'Gaza jars' was excavated at Ḥorbat Barqa (Khirbet Baraka; Gadot and Tepper 2003), and many of these jars were found in the nearby Church of Bishop Johannes (Rapuano 2016:115–117). Many 'Gaza jars' were also retrieved near the winepresses at Ḥorbat Be'er Shema' (Erickson-Gini, Dolinka and Shilov 2015:234–235) and may have been produced locally in association.

AMPHORA (Fig. 9:1)

This large amphora fragment is of the Late Roman Amphorae 1 type. It has a flaring rim with a protruding ridge where each handle is attached. This type is commonly found at sites with late Byzantine occupation layers. Complete small amphorae of this type were found at 'En Gedi, both near the Synagogue³ and in the Byzantine-period Village (Vincenz 2007: Pls. 23:34; 69:6, 7). They



9. An amphora and a lantern from the Byzantine period.

No.	Туре	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Amphora LR1	229	1242	10YR 8/4 very pale brown with many small round black and few small round white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 7/4 very pale brown	Fragment: bulging neck and everted round rim; large handles drawn from under the rim; ribbed body	Rim diam. 8 Rim %: 65
2	Lantern	203	1157	2.5YR 5/6 red with few small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown.	Fragmentary: carved lines and cross	-

³ These excavations were directed by Gideon Hadas, and the ceramic material was studied by the present author and awaits publication.

were also found in Caesarea, where they were dated to the fourth–seventh centuries CE (Johnson 2008:105). Two amphorae, one of the large sub-type and the other of the small sub-type, were found in Be'er Sheva' (Israel, Seryi and Feder 2013: Fig. 15:14, 15), and the large sub-type was also found at Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva' (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:15, 16).

LANTERN (Fig. 9:2)

Lanterns are usually rounded in shape with an opening through which a candle can be positioned, as is the large lantern fragment presented here; they often have a loop handle. Like the lantern here, they are frequently decorated with the *Kerbschnitt* technique and other incised patterns; the lantern here bears an additional incised cross. Lanterns are a rather common find at southern Byzantine sites, such as Migdal, Ashqelon, where a complete house-shaped lantern was found (Kogan-Zehavi 1999: Fig. 25:40, 41), the 'Third Mile Estate' near Ashqelon (Israel and Erickson-Gini 2013: Fig. 39:3) and 'En Gedi (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 28).

CONCLUSIONS

The ceramic material found in Area A covers several periods. A few Iron Age sherds attest to activity during that period. Some activity took place at the site in the Hellenistic period as well, mainly during the second century BCE. The material from this period seems to be local and is domestic in nature: it includes bowls, cooking pots and jars. The main period of occupation in Area A was evidently the Early Roman period, which is represented much more extensively in the assemblage. Nevertheless, like the Hellenistic-period assemblage, it comprises a repertoire of domestic vessels—mainly cooking pots and storage jars—which are probably local, as they have good parallels at sites in Judea.

The Byzantine-period assemblage from Area B is quite homogenous. Most of the vessel types are southern and probably even locally made. This is especially true for the storage jars. The large amount of storage jars suggests that some type of industry which required the use of jars, maybe oil or wine production, took place at the site. A large amount of 'Gaza jars' suggests that the site was connected to the Gaza wine trade. Imported vessels comprised fine ware bowls, which came from North Africa, Asia Minor and Cyprus, whereas local bowls were not common. Other vessels which were very common at the site are the large basins, which again may have been used in the production of wine and/or oil. Whereas basins decorated with incised circles seem to be local, the mortaria were imported, probably from Syria, as was the LR1 amphora. The large amount of cooking vessels may indicate that this was not an exclusively industrial site, but rather included dwellings which were connected to the industrial areas. As for lighting devices, it is puzzling that the most common devices—i.e., lamps—were not found, although one, almost complete lantern was found. This Byzantine-period assemblage can be dated on the whole to the sixth–seventh centuries CE, although there are a few types that appeared before this date and some that continued into the Early Islamic period.

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