

ḤAME YO'AV: THE POTTERY

ANNA DE VINCENZ

INTRODUCTION

The ceramic material presented here comes from a salvage excavation southeast of the Ḥame Yo'av resort in the Shephela (see Avner 2022).¹ The material comes from three areas: Area A (Figs. 1–4), which yielded a complex winepress with tombs (L131, L133) built into its collecting vats (L123, L124) at the end of the sixth–seventh centuries CE; Area B (Fig. 5), where only small finds were found; and Area C (Fig. 6), where three phases of a badly preserved building were uncovered. The pottery from all three areas dates from the Byzantine period, fitting well into the chronological setting of Southern Israel in late antiquity. Nearby sites with similar ceramic material are Gane Ṭal (Vincenz 2021) and Ḥorbat Bet Loya (Vincenz, forthcoming);² parallels were also found at Ashqelon and Caesarea.

AREA A (Figs. 1–4)

SOUTHERN COLLECTING VAT (L123) (Figs. 1, 2)

Bowls (Fig. 1:1–6).— The bowls can be divided into imported and local vessels, which probably imitated imported shapes. One fragment of a Late Roman C bowl with an inverted round rim (Fig. 1:1; Hayes, LRC Form 1) was found; it dates from the late fourth and the fifth centuries CE (Hayes 1972:325–327). Another LRC bowl has a slightly upward-turned ledge-rim (Fig. 1:2; Hayes, LRC Form 2), a very common type during the fourth and early fifth centuries CE (Hayes 1972:327–329). Two fragments of Late Roman D bowls (Fig. 1: 3, 4) were unearthed. One (Fig. 1:3) has a round rim with a shallow groove, gently rounded walls and a body decorated with light rouletting (Hayes, LRD

¹ I wish to thank Rina Avner for asking me to study the material. The drawings are by Irena Lidski-Reznikov and the photographs by Clara Amit, both of the IAA; my thanks go to them as well. The article was edited by Shoshana Israeli.

² This site was excavated by Oren Gutfeld of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the ceramic material was studied by the author and is being prepared for publication.

Form 2); it dates from the fifth–sixth centuries CE (Hayes 1972:373–376). The other (Fig. 1:4) has an inverted rim, pinched with a short external flange, flaring walls and a flat base. This bowl seems to be a variant of Hayes’ LRD Form 9 (Hayes 1972:379–382), dating from the mid- to late-sixth century CE. The bowl in Fig. 1:5 has a round rim with a slight groove and an inner pinch, flaring walls and a flat base. The form resembles Hayes’ LRD Form 9, but the ware and surface treatment suggest it

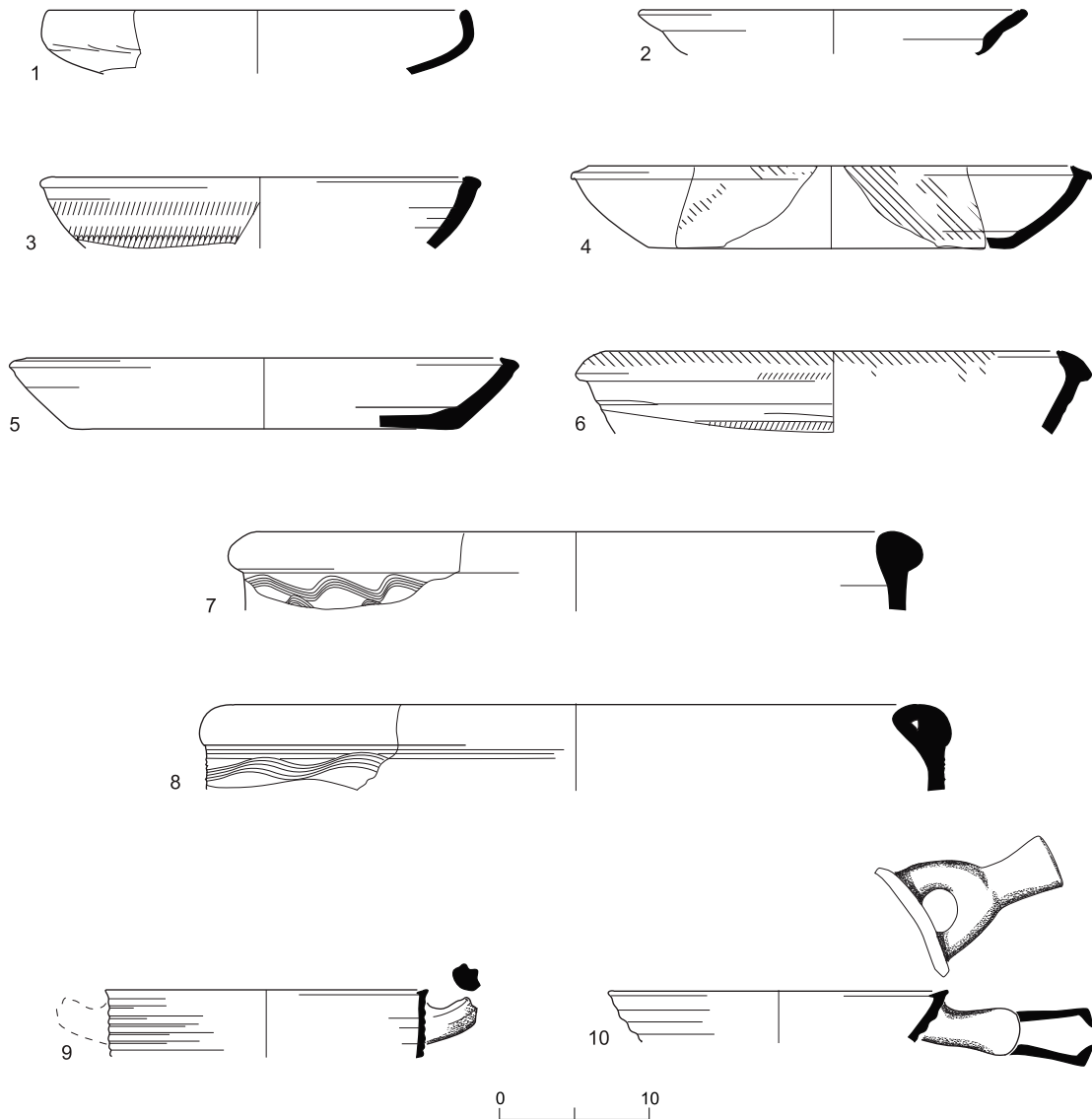


Fig. 1. Pottery from Area A, Collecting Vat 123.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Vessel Type	Bucket	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	LRC Bowl	1068/4	2.5YR 5/6 red with few small round black inclusions. Surface: slip 10R 5/6 red	Diam. 28 Rim: 10%
2	LRC Bowl	1081/9	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small angular and round white inclusions. Surface: slip 10R 5/6 red	Diam. 26 Rim: 17%
3	LRD Bowl	1068/22	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with thick core 10YR 5/2 grayish brown with many minute round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/4-6/4 pink to light reddish brown	Diam. 28 Rim: 23.5%
4	LRD Bowl	1085/2	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small angular and round black inclusions. Surface: 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow and dripping slip 5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Diam. 32 Rim: 7.5%
5	LRD? Bowl	1068/2	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few small angular white and round black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/3 pink and slip 5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Diam. 30 Rim: 12.5%
6	Rouletted Bowl	1085/3	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with thick core 10YR 5/3 brown with many small and large round white inclusions and many small round black inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown and dripping slip 5YR 5/3 reddish brown	Diam. 30 Rim: 15%
7	Basin	1068/17	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown with few large round white and black inclusions. Surface: slip 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Diam. 41 Rim: 8%
8	Basin	1068/8	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small angular white and small round black inclusions. Surface: 10YR 7/2 light gray	Diam. 46 Rim: 10%
9	Casserole	1068/23	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small angular white and black inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red.	Diam. 21 Rim: 12.5%
10	Frying pan	1081/3	2.5YR 5/6 red with few small angular and round inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Diam. 22 Rim: 12%

might be a local imitation or the product of either a different Cypriote workshop or a workshop in Asia Minor.³ It is thus suggested to date this bowl to the sixth century CE.

The rouletted bowl in Fig. 1:6 has a smooth, folded rim and a rounded body. The characteristic rouletting on the body is missing, but there are random lines on the exterior, possibly wheel lines. A dripping reddish brown slip appears on the rim and the body. The round, rouletted bowls replaced the carinated type around the end of the fifth century CE (Magness 1993:187–188) and continued to be produced during the sixth century CE.

Basins (Fig. 1: 7, 8).— The basins, made of coarse ware, have either an externally thickened round rim (Fig. 1:7) or an inverted thickened rim (Fig. 1:8). They are characterized by straight or wavy combed bands on the body, and at times the two types of combed bands are combined. This type of basin is a common find at sites of the Late Byzantine and Umayyad periods in the Shephelah and in the south of the country. Many examples of this basin type were found in various installations and winepresses at Neshar-Ramla (Vincenz 2010:158–159; 2015: Figs. 5.2:5; 5.10:7; 5.11:3, 4; 5.14:8, 9; 5.19:30–37; 5.20:38, 39; 5.26:4; 5.29:12–14; 5.31:7). Similar basins were also discovered at Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva' (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 3:18).

³ Asia Minor has been suggested as an additional production area for LRD vessels (see Jackson et al. 2012).

Casserole (Fig. 1:9).— During the Byzantine period, the Roman carinated casserole was replaced by a deep or round bowl with a beveled rim and a round or flat base (Magness 1993:211). Its body was covered with dense ribbing, and its horizontal handles were straight or up-lifted. These vessels are common at sites with Byzantine occupation layers. The long-lived shape of the Roman-period casserole continued to be produced with minor morphological changes during the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods.

Frying Pan with a Wishbone Handle (Fig. 1:10).— frying pans with a handle were in use along with casseroles during the sixth and seventh centuries CE. The Frying pans are shallow and have a beveled rim, a ribbed body and a single wishbone handle attached to the body (Magness 1993:213). Similar pans were found in one of the Byzantine winepresses at Neshar-Ramla (Vincenz 2015: Pl. 5.21:45).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 2:1, 2).— Two type of cooking pots, both with a globular body and large loop handles, were unearthed. The first type (Fig. 2:1) has a bulging neck, while the other (Fig. 2:2) has an everted beveled rim and a short neck. Parallels to the first type (Fig. 2:1) are found at Neshar-Ramla (Vincenz 2010: Pl. 8.29:8), as well as in the Byzantine village at ‘En Gedi (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 20:1, 2), dated to the third and fourth centuries CE. The second fragment (Fig. 2:2) seems to belong to a globular cooking pot, dated to the fifth and sixth centuries CE; it was still produced in the Early Islamic period (Magness 1993:219–220, Form 4C).

Cooking Jugs (Fig. 2:3, 4).— These jugs represent two variants, both made of characteristic brick-red cooking-pot ware and having a rather long narrow neck. One (Fig. 2:3) has a bulging neck with a flaring upper part that ends in an inverted flat rim, and a rather large loop handle that extends from the neck to the upper body. No parallels made of cooking-pot ware were found; however, jugs with bulging necks appear in Byzantine-period contexts, such as in the village at ‘En Gedi (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 61:1), dated to the sixth and seventh centuries CE. A similar date is proposed for our fragment. The other jug (Fig. 2:4) has a narrow neck with a protruding ridge at the middle, a spouted rim and a handle that extends from the rim. Similar jugs are known from Caesarea (Johnson 2008:149, No. 489) and from ‘En Gedi (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 67:13), probably dating from the late Roman and Byzantine periods.

Jugs (Fig. 2:5–7).— The jug in Fig. 2:5 has a wide neck (diam. 12 cm) and a slightly everted and thickened rim. The shape of this jug resembles that of jugs of the Early Islamic period (Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.17:11). Our example—made of pink ware fired to a lighter buff hue—is dated to the late Byzantine–Early Islamic periods. The jug in Fig. 2:6 has a narrow neck with a protruding ridge, from where one or two handles extend. Similar two-handled jugs were found in the Byzantine village at ‘En Gedi (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 25: 45–49) and at Ramot Nof, Be’er Sheva’ (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 5:1). A small fragment of a jug (Fig. 2:7), made of buff ware, has a rolled rim and a slightly bulging neck; it is dated to the late Byzantine–Early Islamic periods.

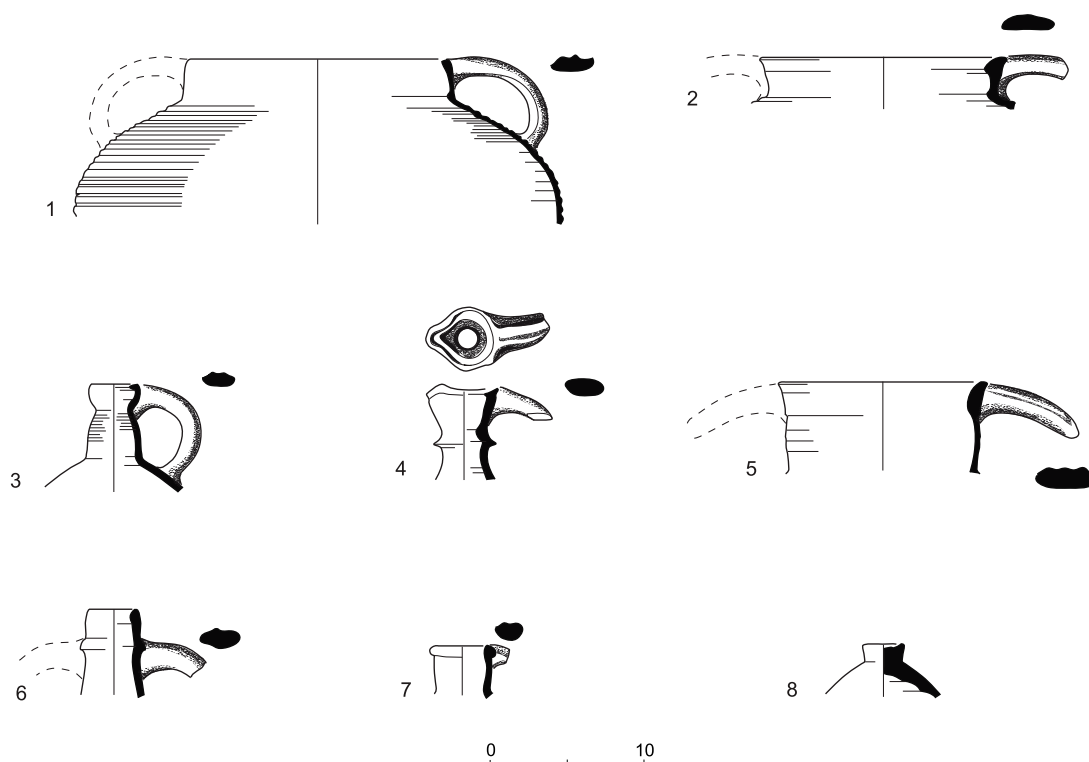


Fig. 2. Pottery from Area A, Collecting Vat 123.

No.	Vessel Type	Bucket	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Cooking Pot	1068/15	10R 5/8 red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Diam. 14 Rim: 7.5%
2	Cooking Pot	1081/4	2.5YR 5/8 red with few small round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Diam. 14 Rim: 22%
3	Cooking Jug	1081/13	2.5YR 5/8 red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Diam. 3 Rim: 100%
4	Cooking Jug	1068/29	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/4 reddish brown	Diam. 4 Rim: 100%
5	Jug	1081/2	7.5 YR 7/4 pink with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 8/2 very pale brown	Diam. 10 Rim: 51%
6	Jug	1082/12	7.5 YR 6/4 light brown with many small round and angular white and round black inclusions. Surface: fired to buff 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Diam. 3 Rim: 100%
7	Jug	1068/28	2.5Y 7/3 pale yellow with few small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 5Y 8/2 pale yellow	Diam. 4 Rim: 100%
8	Lid	1081/5	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with many very small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 7/6–6/6 light red	Diam. 7 Rim: 100%

Lid (Fig. 2:8).— This knobbed fragment belongs to a bowl-shaped lid. The fine ware looks like that of Fine Byzantine Ware vessels (see Magness 1993:247). A similar fragmentary lid was found at Caesarea (Patrich and Abu Shaneb 2008:323, No. 210), where it was dated to the sixth–eighth centuries CE.

NORTHERN COLLECTING VAT (L124) (Fig. 3)

Basins (Fig. 3:1–3).— Two types of basins were found. One (Fig. 3:1) features a ledge rim that turns upward and a deep body. This type of basin made its appearance in the late first century CE and continued until the third century CE (Magness 1993:202). The other type (Fig. 3:2, 3) has been discussed above (see Fig. 1:7, 8). Both vessels are decorated with combed bands: one (Fig. 3:2) has two sets of wavy bands, while the other (Fig. 3:3) has two sets of straight bands and a set of wavy bands between them. Loop handles extend from rim to body.

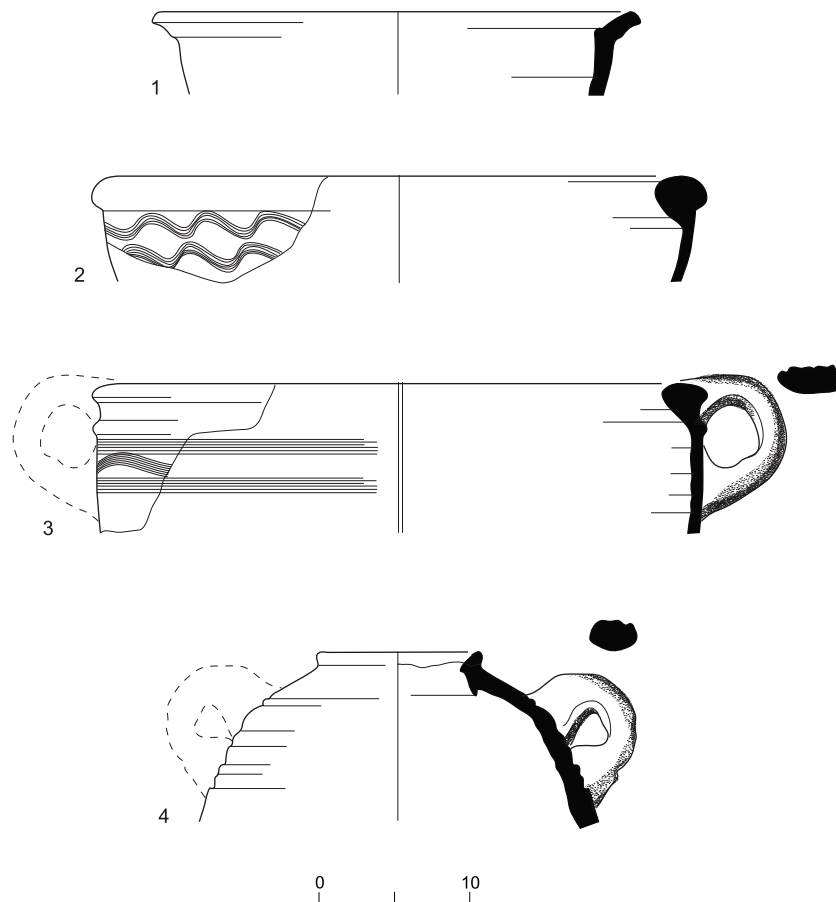


Fig. 3. Pottery from Area A, Collecting Vat 124.

No.	Vessel Type	Bucket	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Basin	1053/1	10 YR 5/4 yellowish brown with thick core 5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/3 pink	Diam. 32.5 Rim: 12.5%
2	Basin	1069/2	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown with few medium sized round white and angular black inclusions. Surface: pale 10YR 7/3 very pale brown	Diam. 36 Rim: 10%
3	Basin	1060/1	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with many small angular white inclusions. Surface: 10YR 7/3 very pale brown	Diam. 38 Rim: 12%
4	Gaza Storage Jar	1069/13	5YR 5/4 reddish brown with few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 6/4-5/4 light brown to brown	Diam. 9 Rim: 40%

Gaza Jar (Fig. 3:4).— Gaza Jars are a well-known and a well-studied group of jars (Mayerson 1994; Majcherek 1995). Our example can be assigned to Majchereks' type 4, dated to the sixth and seventh centuries CE (Majcherek 1995:168–169). Complete examples from various sites show that they have a cigar-shaped body with ribbing below the shoulders, two small loop handles and a pointed or rounded omphalos base (see Johnson 2008: Nos. 1182–1184). Many fragments of Gaza jars were found at Gane ʿTal (Vincenz 2021: Fig. 6).

TOMB 133 (Fig. 4)

Incense Burner (Fig. 4:1).— A crudely made stem and a bowl with soot remains on the interior suggest that this vessel was used as an incense burner. The only known parallel—a small, crudely made three-legged vessel with an upper part shaped as a bowl and bearing soot remains—was found at Horbat Bet Loya (Vincenz, forthcoming: Fig. 15:3). It should probably be dated to the Byzantine period.

Perfume Juglet (Fig. 4:2).— This is a small juglet with a stepped rim, a globular body, a stump base and a loop handle extending from rim to body. It is a characteristic Byzantine perfume juglet, which was usually produced of fine ware, and frequently had incised nicks on the shoulder (Magness 1993:240); our example lacks the nicks. It is dated from the mid-sixth to the early eighth century CE.

Wheel-Made Lamp (Fig. 4:3).— Byzantine-period wheel-made lamps had a circular reservoir, to which a handle and a nozzle were attached later. The ware is brick-red in color and brittle, similar

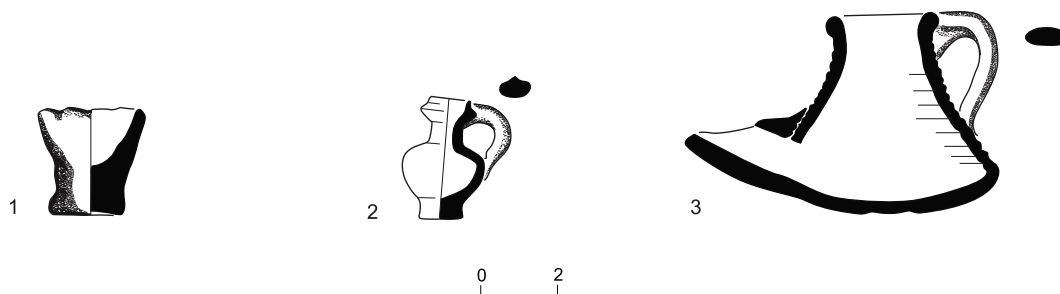


Fig. 4. Pottery from Area A, Tomb 133.

No.	Vessel Type	Bucket	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	Incense Burner	2006	5YR 5/4 reddish brown with few small round black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown to 7.5YR 8/3 pink	Diam. 5 Rim: 100%
2	Juglet	2005	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with medium amount of large round and angular white inclusions. Surface: flaking 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow to 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Diam. 2 Rim: 100%
3	Wheel-made Lamp	2004	2.5YR 6/4 light reddish brown and encrusted	Diam. 3 Rim: 100%

to that of cooking pots. These lamps are frequently found at sites in the southern part of the country dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Vincenz 2007:266–267).

AREA B (Fig. 5)

Bowl (Fig. 5:1).— This fragment belongs to a Late Roman C bowl (Hayes, Form 10A), a type which was common during the late sixth and early seventh centuries CE (Hayes 1972:343–346).

Juglets (Fig. 5:2–4).— The vessels in Fig. 5:2, 3 are Fine Byzantine Ware juglets and have a stepped rim but lack the incised nicks. A juglet of this type was discussed above (see Fig. 4:2). Fine Byzantine Ware juglets were found at Caesarea (Johnson 2008: Nos. 336–338). The juglet in Fig. 5:4 is slightly different in shape, and its rim is thickened. All three juglets are dated to the mid-sixth–early eighth centuries CE.

Perforated Disc (Fig. 5:5).— This item is made of coarse clay and has a central hole. It may have been used as a spindle whorl, like a similar item found at Caesarea (Patrich and Abu Shaneb 2008: No. 94).

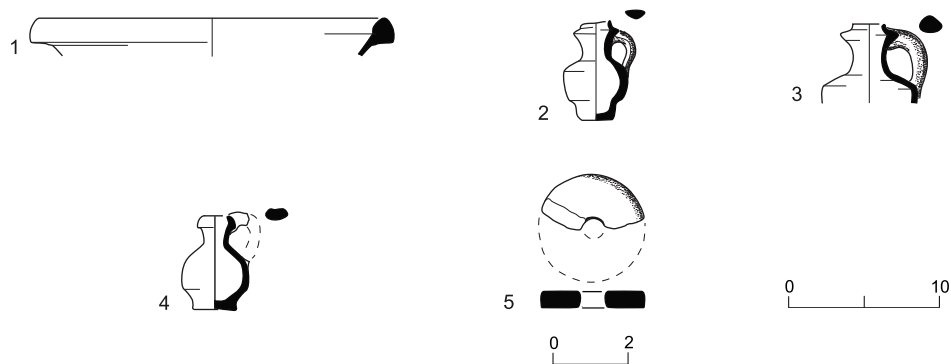


Fig. 5. Pottery from Area B.

No.	Vessel Type	Locus	Bucket	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	LRC Bowl	206	2021/4	2.5YR 6/6 light red with few small angular, round white and round black inclusions. Surface: slip 2.5YR 6/6 light red	Diam. 20 Rim: 10%
2	Juglet	205	2026	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few very small round white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/3 light reddish brown	Diam. 2 Rim: 100%
3	Juglet	204	2018/4	7.5YR 6/4 light brown with few very small angular white inclusions. Surface: 7.5YR 7/4 pink	Diam. 2 Rim: 100%
4	Juglet	200	2015	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with few small round inclusions. Surface: encrusted	Diam. 2 Rim: 100%
5	Disc	202	2029	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few large gravel inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 yellowish red	Diam. 7 Rim: 40%

AREA C (Fig. 6)

Bowls (Fig. 6:1, 2).— One fragment of a Late Roman C bowl has a triangular rim (Fig. 6:1; Hayes, LRC Form 3C) and is dated to the fifth century CE (see Hayes 1972:329–338). An almost complete Fine Byzantine Ware bowl (Fig. 6:2) is made of fine, hard ware. It has a slightly pinched rim and a ring base, and it is burnished on the exterior surface. According to Magness, undecorated Fine Byzantine Ware bowls date from the mid-sixth to the late seventh or early eighth century CE (Magness 1993:193–195).

Krater (Fig. 6:3).— This krater has a short neck and a rim decorated with a piccrust band. The vessel seems to be related to Magness' holemouth jars (Magness 1993:231–232). The piccrust decoration

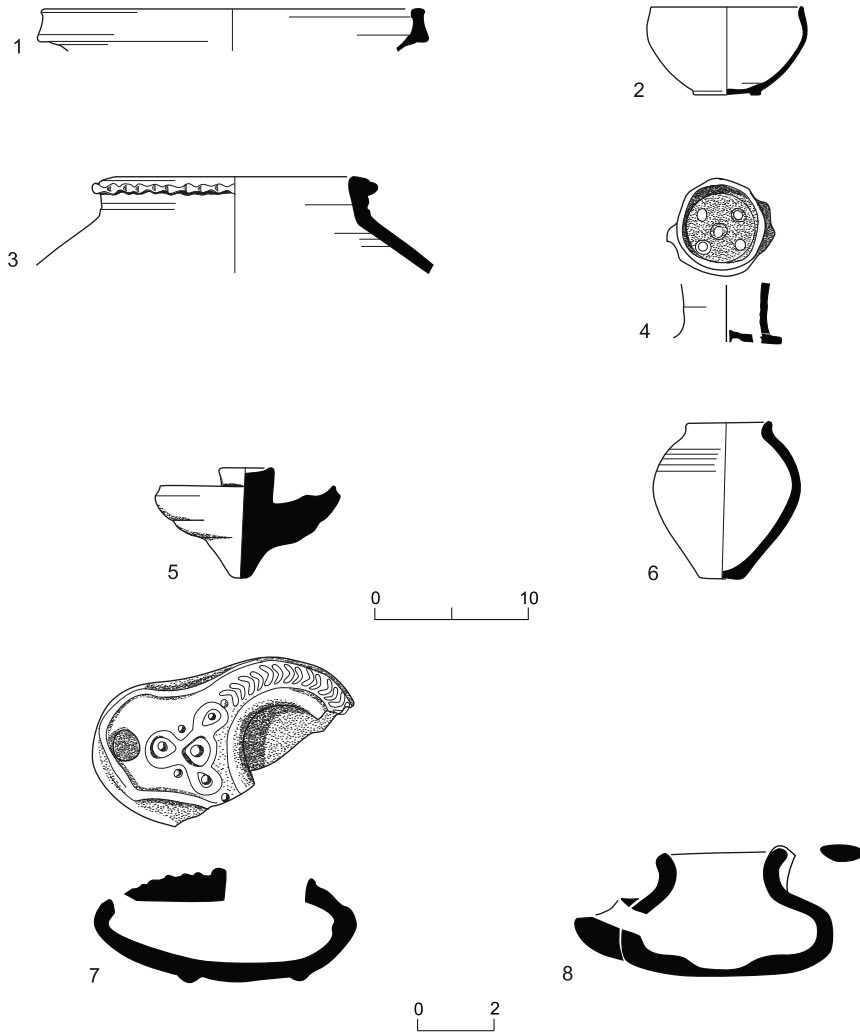


Fig. 6. Pottery from Area C.

◄ Fig. 6

No.	Vessel Type	Locus	Bucket	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	LRC Bowl	301	3010/2	2.5YR 6/8 light red with few very small angular white inclusions. Surface: slip 10R 5/8 red	Diam. 24 Rim: 9%
2	FBW Bowl	306	3089	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with lighter core and few small round and angular white inclusions. Surface: burnished bands 5YR 7/6–6/6 reddish yellow	Diam. 10 Rim: 24%
3	Krater	307	3025/1	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 7/4 pink	Diam. 15 Rim: 33%
4	Filter	324	3071/3	2.5YR 4/6 red with many small and few medium-sized round white inclusions. Surface: 2.5YR 5/6 red	n/a
5	Lid	327	3090/2	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with few small round white and black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown	n/a
6	Juglet	330	3095	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with many small and large round black inclusions and few small angular white inclusions. Surface: 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow	Diam. 7 Rim: 100%
7	Beit Natṭif Lamp	333	3116	10YR 7/4 very pale brown with few small round black inclusions. Surface: slip 2.5YR 5/6 red	n/a
8	Wheel-made Lamp	307	3033	5YR 5/6 yellowish red with many round and angular white and round black inclusions. Surface: 5YR 5/6 yellowish red	Diam. 3 Rim: 100%

implies a fifth–sixth century CE date or later. A similar vessel is known from the monastery at Khirbat ed-Deir in the Judean Desert (Calderon 1999: Pl. 1:16).

Cooking-Jug Filter (Fig. 6:4).— The filter belongs to a jug made of cooking ware. Cooking jugs with filters in the neck were reported from Caesarea (Johnson 2008: Nos. 419–422), where they were dated to the fifth–seventh centuries CE.

Lid/Stopper (Fig. 6:5).— The lid/stopper is made of coarse ware and is shaped like a cone with a convex upper part and a central knob. This type of lid/stopper could be used for hermetically sealing storage jars with plaster or wax. A large amount of clay lids/stoppers was found at Caesarea (Patrich and Abu Shaneb 2008: Nos. 138–216), and one of them is almost identical to our example (Patrich and Abu Shaneb 2008: No. 159). This lid/stopper should be dated to the fifth–seventh centuries CE.

Juglet (Fig. 6:6).— This handle-less juglet has a short, everted round rim, an ovoid body and a slightly concave base; several lines decorate the body. This type of juglet was very common during the Early Islamic period, when it tended to be smaller and feature a more rounded body (Kletter 2005: Fig. 17:4–6). A date in the late Byzantine–Early Islamic period is proposed.

Beit Natṭif Lamp (Fig. 6:7).— This fragmentary lamp is of the Beit Natṭif type. It is decorated with a herringbone pattern on the rim and a guilloche pattern on the nozzle. It can be dated from the mid-third century CE onwards, but has been found in Byzantine-period contexts, as at Neshar-Ramla (Vincenz 2010:158).

Wheel-Made Lamp (Fig. 6:8).— Wheel-made lamps (see Fig. 4:3) were produced during the Byzantine period. This type has a wide, plain body with a flaring, wide rim and a handle, either folded or an open loop, attached to the rim. These lamps are dated to the fifth and sixth centuries CE (Vincenz 2007:267).

CONCLUSIONS

The ceramic material from the excavation at Ḥame Yo'av is homogenous and indicates that the site was inhabited during the entire Byzantine period. The winepress in Area A was used until the end of the sixth or early seventh century CE, when the collecting vats were transformed into tombs. The building in Area C was in use from the fifth to the seventh century CE, suggesting that the fragment of the Beit Nat̄tif lamp (Fig. 6:7) was probably residual. The material retrieved from the accumulations in the winepress's vats and from Area B, while mixed with a few residual finds (e.g., the basin in Fig. 3:1), attests to the latest occupation on the site, during the late Byzantine or the Early Islamic period.

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