

APPENDIX: JERUSALEM, THE OLD CITY—POTTERY PRODUCTION IN THE AYYUBID AND MAMLUK PERIODS

BENJAMIN J. DOLINKA

The production of the Jerusalem pottery during the Ayyubid period seems to have been limited to hinterland sites to the north of the Old City. This changed in the Mamluk period, when the majority of production took place within the confines of the Old City. The heart of the Jerusalem pottery industry during the latter period was most probably concentrated in the area which now encompasses the southern part of the Muslim Quarter and the northern part of the Jewish Quarter. Two excavations along the Street of the Chain (Bab el-Silsileh), to the west of el-Wad Street in the Muslim Quarter, provided evidence for local ceramic production in this part of the city during the Mamluk period. The first (Abu Raya 1997) revealed a late Mamluk (early-sixteenth century CE) kiln, as well as finds, including a coin of Qānsūh al-Ghūri (1502 CE) and numerous clay tripod stands and kiln rods; the second revealed a large amount of kiln rods, several tripod stands and a kiln waster of a glazed bowl (M. Haber, pers. comm.; Permit No. A-7869).

Nevertheless, evidence for local ceramic production is also attested in the Armenian and Jewish Quarters. A kiln uncovered in the Armenian Garden, along with two clay tripod stands, was dated to the Mamluk I period (mid-thirteenth to the end of the fourteenth century CE; Tushingham 1985:118–120, Fig. 6K); a *terminus post quem* for its construction was provided by a coin of Sha‘aban II (1363–1377 CE). The southern sector of the Jewish Quarter, excavated by N. Avigad, produced evidence for Mamluk-period pottery production in Area T, near the Nea Church. This included a kiln, which manufactured wheel-made saucer lamps with a pinched nozzle (Avigad 1983:255, Fig. 300); a pottery workshop from Area T-1 (Gutfeld 2012:4), which has never been fully published; and a clay mold used for making molded jugs (Avisar 2012:312, Pl. 10.15:8), which was recovered from Area T-7 near the Nea Church. Long-term fieldwork conducted by H. Barbé near the Mughrabi Gate in the Western Wall Plaza revealed the remains of a Mamluk-period kiln. Several ceramic tripod stands, both glazed and unglazed, were found scattered around the kiln and in its vicinity (Barbé, Vitto and Greenwald 2014:40–41, Figs. 11, 12).

The ceramic finds from the excavation at 60 ‘Aqabat es-Saraya St. in the Muslim Quarter provide compelling additional evidence of Mamluk-period ceramic production within the old city of Jerusalem.¹ Of primary significance are two kiln wasters of glazed bowls (Fig. 1:1, 2), each with a

¹ My thanks to the excavator, Shua Kisilevitz, for offering me to study the items described here.

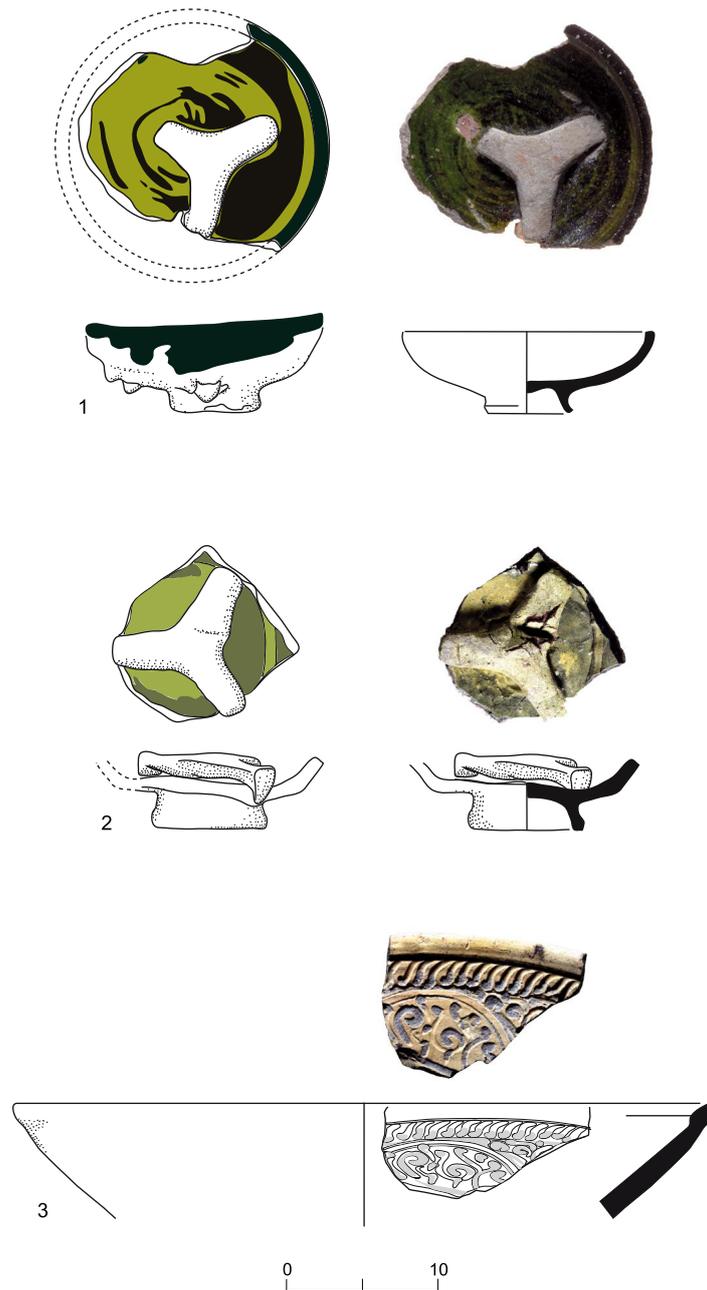


Fig. 1. Ceramic evidence of pottery production.

No.	Form	Locus	Basket	Description	Date (CE)
1	Bowl	105	1028-4	Monochrome dark green glaze	Mid-13th to Mid-14th c.
2	Bowl	105	1028-7	Sgraffito; yellowish green glaze	13th c.
3	Mold	113	1047		Mid-13th to Mid-14th c.

tripod stand melted into its interior, where it was set in order to separate the bowls from other vessels in the kiln. A petrographic analysis of the two bowls indicated that they were both made from *terra rosa* of the Jerusalem region (A. Cohen-Weinberger, pers. comm.).

The bowl in Fig. 1:1 is of a well-known type—one of the most commonplace early-Mamluk vessel forms in the Jerusalem ceramic repertoire. Such bowls have a T-shaped rim and either a rounded or a slightly carinated body, and they bear a thin white slip and a shiny and well-adhering interior glaze that often drips over onto the exterior rim zone. Typologically, these vessels conform to Avissar and Stern's Type I.1.4.3 bowls, which they labeled "Bowls with Out-Folded or Everted Rim" (Avissar and Stern 2005:14, Fig. 5:7–10). As Avissar (2012:310) noted in her discussion of the examples from the Cardo excavations, this form seems "to be unique to Jerusalem, where it appeared in several, so far unpublished, excavations." These bowls have a very distinct rim: it has an upturned stance with a profile that is slightly thickened and T-shaped, with either a flat or a rounded lip. Several examples of these bowls were recovered from Cistern E in the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 41:1–21, *passim*), from Cardo Area X-4 (Avissar 2012: Fig. 10.5:6, 7) and from Phase IIIb at the Austrian Hospice (Dolinka n.d.), as well as from Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 2006: Fig. 12:82, 83) and from the stratified Mamluk fill in the Crusader subterranean reservoir at Moza in the Jerusalem hinterland (Dolinka 2018: Fig. 1:2). The most diverse assemblage of this type was uncovered in Stratum III at Bet Strauss in the northern end of the Western Wall Plaza.² While the glaze on these bowls is usually monochrome and dark green, both bichrome and polychrome versions are attested as well; these often consist of a yellow or yellowish brown interior, with a green exterior accompanied by a band of dark brown glaze covering the rim top and the interior lip, as in the examples from the Austrian Hospice and Moza. Taken together, this glazed bowl type seems to be a strictly local production from Jerusalem.

Fig. 1:2 is of a Mamluk sgraffito glazed bowl. This bowl conforms to Avissar and Stern's Type I.1.5.1; they suggest that it appeared only during the thirteenth century CE, a period of time which included both the Ayyubid and the early Mamluk periods in Jerusalem (Avissar and Stern 2005:16, Fig. 6:1–4). Examples of this type are known from the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 44:8) and from the aforementioned excavation at Bet Strauss, where they are limited to Stratum III.

In addition to these glazed bowls, a ceramic mold for the upper part of a jug, decorated with geometric and vegetal motifs in a thin and delicate raised relief (Fig. 1:3) was discovered. The vessel for which this mold was utilized corresponds to Avissar and Stern's Type II.4.5.1 Jugs, classified under "Jugs and Jars with Moldmade Decoration" (Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 49:1). It also correlates with the so-called "Cruches de Mossoul" found at Hama in northwestern Syria (Poulsen 1957:244–248, Figs. 857–859, 868, 869), which were broadly dated from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries CE. That being said, it most closely corresponds to a mold-made jug decorated on the upper

² The typology is being developed by the present writer. My thanks to the excavators, Ortal Khalaf and Peter Gendelman, for inviting me to study the material (Permit No. A-7273).

shoulder only, which was found in a sealed Ayyubid context at the Armenian Garden and dated to the late-twelfth century CE (Tushingham 1985:145, Fig. 35:38). Furthermore, a very similar mold was recovered from Area T-7 near the Nea Church in the Jewish Quarter (Avissar 2012:312, 344–345, Pl. 10.15:8) along with a mold-decorated jug (Avissar 2012: Pl. 10.7:6). These finds, combined with recent petrographic analysis of the mold, which indicate that it was made from Moza marl/clay (A. Cohen-Weinberger, pers. comm.), clearly indicate that it was locally produced.

The three interesting ceramic finds discussed here offer new evidence for the manufacture of pottery during the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods in the Old City of Jerusalem, and thus provide valuable insights into the socio-economic history of the city during the medieval era.

REFERENCES

- Abu Raya R. 1997. Jerusalem, Bet Eliyahu. *HA-ESI* 19:102–103.
- Avigad N. 1983. *Discovering Jerusalem*. Nashville.
- Avissar M. 2012. Pottery from the Early Islamic to the Ottoman Period from the Cardo and the Nea Church. In O. Gutfeld. *Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of 28 Jerusalem Conducted by Nahman Avigad 1969–1982 V: The Cardo (Area X) and the Nea Church (Areas D and T); Final Report*. Jerusalem. Pp. 301–345.
- Avissar M. and Stern E.J. 2005. *Pottery of the Crusader, Ayyubid, and Mamluk Periods in Israel* (IAA Reports 26). Jerusalem.
- Barbé H., Vitto F. and Greenwald R. 2014. When, Why and by Whom the Mughrabi Gate Was Opened? Excavations at the Mughrabi Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem (2007, 2012–2014). In G.D. Stiebel, O. Peleg-Barkat and D. Ben-Ami eds. *New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and Its Region: Collected Papers* 8. Jerusalem. Pp. 32*–44*.
- Boas A.J. 2006. The Medieval Ceramics from Khirbat Ka‘kul. *Atiqot* 54:75–104.
- Dolinka B.J. 2018. Ayyubid and Mamluk Pottery from a Crusader-Period Subterranean Reservoir at Moza. *Atiqot* 91:193–204.
- Dolinka B.J. (n.d.). The Middle and Late Islamic Pottery from the Excavations at the Austrian Hospice, 2011–2012. https://www.academia.edu/10347780/THE_MIDDLE_AND_LATE_ISLAMIC_POTTERY_FROM_THE_EXCAVATIONS_AT_THE_AUSTRIAN_HOSPICE_2011-2012 (accessed Aug. 6, 2019).
- Gutfeld, O. 2012. *Jewish Quarter Excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem Conducted by Nahman Avigad, 1969–1982 V: The Cardo (Area X) and the Nea Church (Areas D and T); Final Report*. Jerusalem.
- Poulsen V. 1957. Les poteries. In P.J. Riis and V. Poulsen. *Hama; Fouilles et recherches 1931–1938 IV/2: Les verreries et poteries médiévales* (Nationalmuseets Skrifter, Større Beretninger III). Copenhagen. Pp. 117–283.
- Tushingham A.D. 1985. *Excavations in Jerusalem 1961–1967 I*. Toronto.