

AYYUBID AND MAMLUK POTTERY FROM A CRUSADER-PERIOD SUBTERRANEAN RESERVOIR AT MOZA

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INTRODUCTION

Excavations of a Crusader-period underground water reservoir at Moza (see Mizrahi and Greenhut, this volume) yielded a ceramic assemblage dating primarily to the Ayyubid period (1187–1250 CE), as well as some later Mamluk sherds (fourteenth to fifteenth centuries CE). The pottery comes from fills that represent dumping activities into the reservoir after it went out of use, and were previously thought to be unstratified. Upon closer examination of the ceramics, it would appear that the upper fills are Mamluk in date, while the lower ones may be seen as Crusader/Ayyubid. Due to the archaeological context, the vessels are presented typologically.

Parallels for the ceramic types are known from various excavations in the Old City of Jerusalem, such as the Street of the Tannery (Dolinka 2014), the Cardo (Avisar 2012), Damascus Gate (Wightman 1989) and the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985); in the Jerusalem hinterland, for example at Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 2006), Har Hozevim (Kletter and Boas 2002), Belmont Castle (Knowles 2000) and Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947:101–144); and farther afield, such as al-Burj al-Ahmar in the Sharon plain (Pringle 1986) and Horbat 'Uza, located east of 'Akko (Stern and Tatcher 2009). Most of the forms correspond to the typology provided by Avisar and Stern (2005), and a recent refinement of this corpus based on ceramics from Phase 1 of the Western Wall Plaza excavations in Jerusalem (Avisar and Dolinka, forthcoming). The pottery from Moza presented here (Figs. 1–5) includes

bowls, cooking pots, frying pans, amphorae, store jars, jugs, a juglet, a flask and lamps.

Before discussing the pottery from the Moza reservoir, some of the challenges that arose while dealing with the materials from the medieval period are addressed: (1) There is currently no adequate synthesis or publication encompassing the Ayyubid pottery from Jerusalem, for the most part due to the fact that much of the material has been ascribed to either the earlier Crusader period or the later Mamluk era; (2) The primary sourcebook for medieval pottery in Israel (Avisar and Stern 2005) presents only limited evidence from Jerusalem (15 of the 381 drawings, a mere 3.9%), the majority of which originated from contexts from the north of the country; (3) Excavations yielding clear Ayyubid contexts from the Old City of Jerusalem are relatively few, amongst which are the Zion Gate (Broshi and Tsafir 1977), the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985:108–126, 142–147, Figs. 34–40, 42, 44–45) and Damascus Gate (Wightman 1989: 58–59, Pls. 42:9–14; 43:1, 2); (4) There is evidence of ceramic production for Ayyubid Jerusalem at Nebi Samwil (Magen and Dadon 2003) and Khirbat el-Burj (Boas 1996; 2006), both located to the north of the Old City; however, unfortunately, the pottery from both sites has never been published.

Long-term excavations conducted by the IAA at Bet Strauss in the northern end of the Western Wall plaza have been completed recently and provide the most extensive evidence for sealed deposits dating from the Ayyubid period.² The ceramic materials there originated from at least two buildings separated

by alleys; inside these buildings were a series of sealed floors, dating from the founding of the Maghāriḇa Quarter by al-Malik al-Afḍal in 1193 CE until the destruction of the city walls and fortifications by al-Mu‘azzam ‘Isa in 1219 CE. A total of 254 sherds has been drawn and photographed, and the development of a typochronology for Ayyubid Jerusalem is currently being prepared by the author. This new research demonstrates that many of the vessels published from previous excavations as either Crusader or Mamluk are in fact part of the Ayyubid Jerusalem ceramic repertoire.

THE AYYUBID–MAMLUK PERIODS

Glazed Bowls (Fig. 1)

The two principal glazed bowl types that characterize assemblages from the Ayyubid period are bowls with a gritty glaze (Fig. 1:1, 2) and those with a slip-painted decoration (Fig. 1:3–7). Bowl No. 1 represents the first type, with a pale yellow gritty glaze and a flared rim. Petrographic analysis on this type of bowl indicates it was probably produced in Lebanon (Stern and Waksman 2003:173–175). At Paphos, Cyprus, bowls of this type were found in a sealed earthquake context, where they date to 1191–1222 CE (Megaw 1971:123, 142–146). According to Avissar and Stern (2005:8), these bowls are characteristic of the Crusader period, and do not continue into the Mamluk period. In the Jerusalem region, however, such bowls form part of the Ayyubid assemblage, e.g., a bowl found in the Armenian Garden in the Old City of Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 35:23).

Bowl No. 2 is of the Monochrome Glazed II ware. It has a yellow interior glaze, dark brown gritty glaze on the top of the rim and on the rim’s interior. The rim is everted, flattened and T-shaped. This bowl type was produced in Jerusalem and is known from Cardo Area X-6 (Avissar 2012: Fig. 10.13:1); parallels were found in Phase IIIb at the Austrian Hospice and in a Mamluk farmstead in Khirbat Beit Mazmil,

where they have been dated to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.³

Bowl Nos. 3–7 are of slip-painted ware dated from the mid-twelfth to mid-thirteenth centuries. They were also produced in Jerusalem, characterized by a reddish brown or brown fabric with tiny calcite inclusions, rounded or carinated vessel walls, and either simple upright, flared or everted rims. All the examples presented here were covered with a transparent yellow glaze on the interior, except for one (Fig. 1:4), which has a green glaze. Bowl No. 3 has a parallel from Cardo Area X-2 (Avissar 2012: Pl. 10.1:7). An exact parallel of the green-glazed bowl (Fig. 1:4) was found in the Frankish farmhouse at Har Ḥozevim (Kletter and Boas 2002: Fig. 23:2). Bowl No. 5 has a parallel in Cardo Area X-4 (Avissar 2012: Pl. 10.5:11), and Bowl No. 6, in the Bet Strauss excavations (see n. 2). The predominance of yellow over green glaze is commonplace for this type; the green glaze is less popular (Avissar and Stern 2005:19).

Decoration for these types of bowls from Moza is usually limited to simple linear or geometric patterns. However, one interesting specimen (Fig. 1:7) has floral and even pseudo-calligraphic motifs, which has an almost exact parallel from Har Ḥozevim (Kletter and Boas 2002: Fig. 24). The lack of slip-painted bowls with incurved rims characteristic of the Mamluk period (Avissar and Stern 2005:19) in the coastal and northern sites of Israel, combined with the fact that the type does not seem to continue into the Mamluk period (Tushingham 1985:143) in Jerusalem, suggest that such bowls should be dated from the second half of the twelfth to the early thirteenth century CE.

Plain Ware and Handmade Bowls (Fig. 2)

Non-glazed wheel-made bowls in plain ware, as well as handmade and handmade geometric-painted (hereafter, HMGP) bowls are also present in the ceramic assemblage from the Moza reservoir. The most predominant type is a shallow carinated bowl with an upright

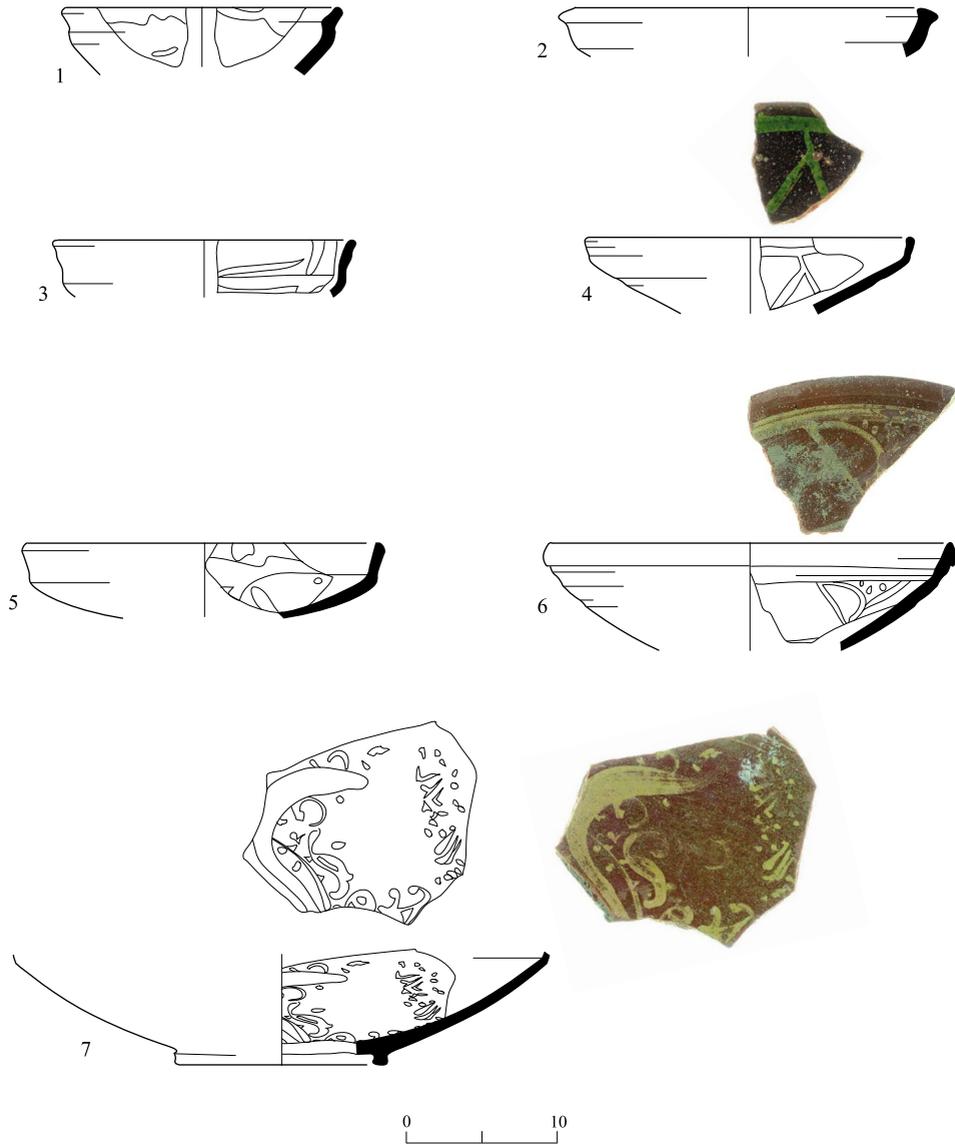


Fig. 1. Glazed bowls.

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Date (CE)
1	213	1194/4	Light red fabric; thin, white wash on int.; gritty, pale yellow glaze on ext.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
2	214	1212/1	Pinkish gray fabric with calcite inclusions; yellow glaze on int.; dark brown glaze on top of rim top and int.	14th–15th c.
3	214	1183/14	Brown fabric with calcite inclusions; slip-painted design covered with transparent yellow glaze on int.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
4	213	1196	Reddish-brown fabric with calcite inclusions; slip-painted design covered with transparent green glaze on int.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
5	213	1197	Dark reddish-brown fabric with calcite inclusions; slip-painted design covered with transparent yellow glaze on int.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
6	211	1220	Brown fabric with calcite inclusions; slip-painted design covered with transparent yellow glaze on int.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
7	213	1185	Brownish red fabric with calcite inclusions; slip-painted design covered with transparent yellow glaze on int.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.

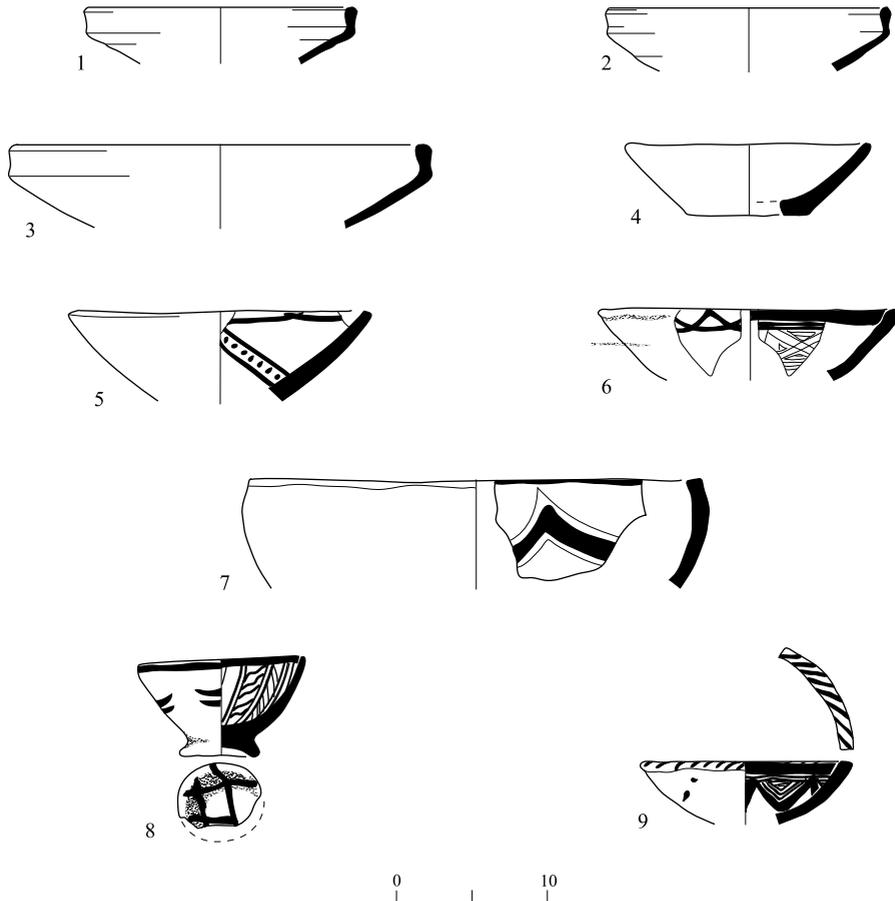


Fig. 2. Plain ware and handmade bowls.

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Date (CE)
1	212	1196/2	Pink fabric with calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
2	213	1198/26	Reddish yellow fabric fired to pinkish buff on int. and ext.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
3	213	1197/4	Yellowish red fabric with calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
4	213	1185/32	Handmade, coarse reddish yellow fabric with large calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
5	214	1200/1	Handmade, pale red fabric and light gray core with calcite inclusions; numerous grits and burned-out organic temper; decorated with light, reddish brown painted design on ext.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
6	214	1201/3	Handmade, pale red fabric with dark gray core and large calcite inclusions; thick buff slip, decorated with reddish brown painted designs on int. and ext.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
7	216	1219/1	Handmade, reddish yellow fabric with calcite inclusions; pinkish buff slip on int. decorated with light, reddish brown painted design on ext. and rim top	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
8	214	1200	Handmade, pale red fabric with gray core and large calcite inclusions; pinkish buff exterior slip decorated with reddish-brown painted designs on int., ext. and bottom of base	First half of the 13th c.
9	210	1219/2	Handmade, coarse buff fabric covered with a white slip and dark brown painted designs on int., ext. and rim top	14th–15th c.

and rounded rim (Fig. 2:1–3) dating from the Crusader period (Avisar and Stern 2005: 82, Fig. 35:1, Type II.1.1.1). In Jerusalem, this form is one of the most common Ayyubid bowl types in assemblages dating from the mid-twelfth to mid-thirteenth centuries, as seen in the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 35.1), Late Islamic Phase 1 from the Western Wall plaza excavations (Avisar and Dolinka, forthcoming), Phase IIIc at the Austrian Hospice (see n. 3), and the pre-Crusader phase at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 23:1–8).

An example of a handmade bowl with inclined walls and a simple rounded rim (Fig. 2:4) was found. An exact parallel for this vessel was found in the Damascus Gate excavations (Wightman 1989: Pl. 50:1), where it was placed within the post-Crusader assemblage.

Bowls of the HMGP type are commonplace in the ceramic assemblage from Moza, five of which are illustrated here (Fig. 2:5–9). Three of the bowls are decorated with very simple geometric motifs (Fig. 2:5–7), ranging in date from the mid-twelfth through mid-fourteenth centuries, as attested by the finds from Phase 2 at the Western Wall plaza excavations (Avisar and Dolinka, forthcoming) and the farmstead at Khirbat Beit Mazmil (see n. 3).

Of interest is the small HMGP conical bowl with a depressed ring base painted on its exterior (Fig. 2:8). A bowl of the same form and base decoration was found at Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 2006: Fig. 3:18). The wall decoration of the Moza vessel, however, mimics that found on glazed bowls with fine sgraffito from the thirteenth century (e.g., Avisar and Stern 2005: Fig. 6:3).

One later HMGP bowl dating from the fourteenth to the fifteenth centuries (Fig. 2:9) was uncovered. It is of a type frequently found at the Mamluk farmstead at Khirbat Beit Mazmil (see n. 3). While bowls with a similar decorative scheme are known from the Galilee (Smadar Gabrieli, pers. comm.), the only identically decorated specimen was uncovered in the Western Wall plaza excavations (Miriam

Avisar, pers. comm.). These bowls have their exterior covered with a very thick buff slip, exhibiting a very distinct decoration. There is a thick horizontal band along the exterior rim zone, below which are two to three thin horizontal lines, and underneath them, a series of superimposed pendant triangles. The brown paint is very dark, almost black, in stark contrast to the light-colored buff slip, and thus, the painted, slanted series of lines running along the top of the rim is referred to as the “zebra crossing” pattern (Smadar Gabrieli, pers. comm.).

Cooking Vessels (Fig. 3)

The assemblage of cooking vessels from the Moza reservoir attests to a nearby domestic occupation during the mid-twelfth through thirteenth centuries. Most of the examples presented have parallels from Late Islamic Phases 1 and 2 at the Western Wall plaza excavations (Avisar and Dolinka, forthcoming). The fabric of the Moza cooking wares is typically red. Many of the vessels exhibit a wide variety of inclusions, such as burned-out organic temper (usually straw), feldspar, sand and crushed quartzite. With regard to the typological development of the cooking pots during this period, it should be noted that pots with a short, upright and rounded rim (Fig. 3:1) are earlier in date—i.e., from the twelfth century—than those with the flared and beveled rims (Fig. 3:2, 3), which are mostly limited to the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries (Miriam Avisar, pers. comm.). While parallels for Cooking Pot No. 1 have been found at Khirbat Ka'kul in the Jerusalem hinterland (Boas 2006: Fig. 2:7), examples of No. 2 have been found in the Old City of Jerusalem, e.g., at the Knights Palace Hotel (Weksler-Bdolah and Avisar 2015: Fig. 28:2), Street of the Tannery (Dolinka 2014: Fig. 9:8), Cardo Area X-4 (Avisar 2012: Fig. 10.6:13) and the Damascus Gate (Wightman 1989: Pl. 54:2).

Two HMGP cooking pots from the Moza reservoir (Fig. 3:4, 5) represent the earliest

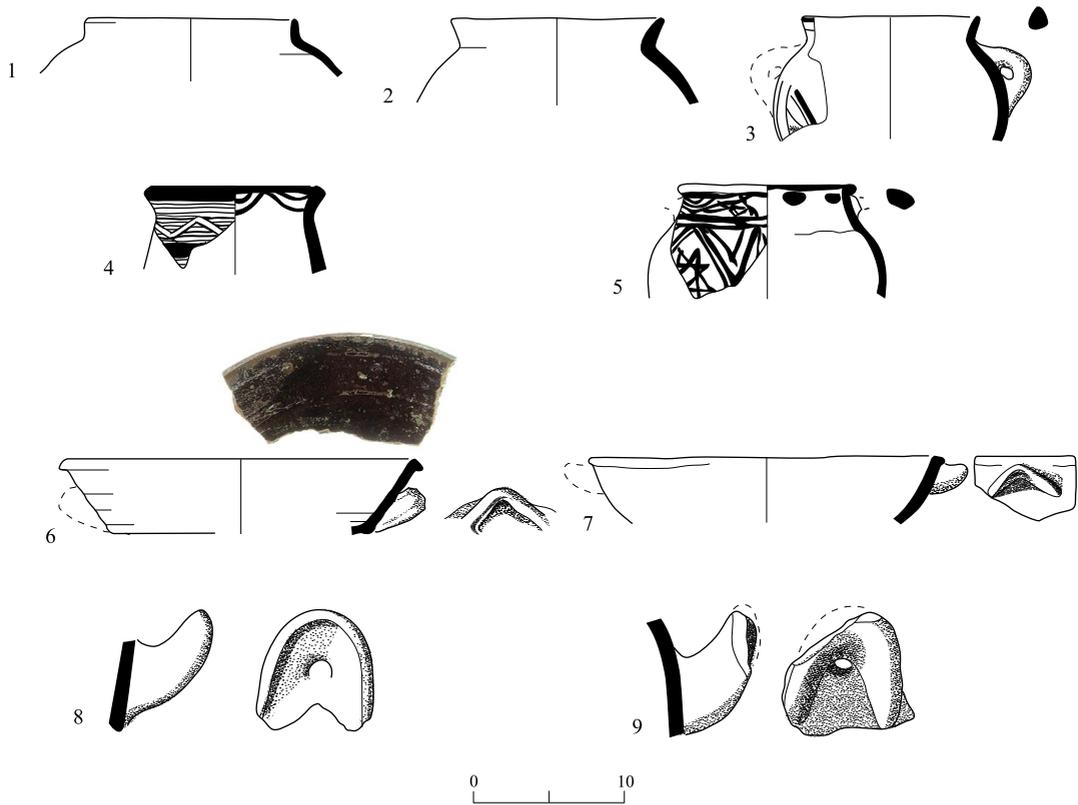


Fig. 3. Cooking vessels.

No.	Form	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Date (CE)
1	Cooking pot	213	1198/16	Red fabric and dark gray core with calcite and crushed quartzite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
2	Cooking pot	213	1197/1	Red fabric and dark gray core with calcite and crushed quartzite inclusions	13th–early 14th c.
3	Cooking pot	213	1185/34	Red fabric with calcite inclusions and burned-out organic temper; light, reddish brown painted geometric designs on ext.	13th–early 14th c.
3	Cooking pot	213	1199	Pale red fabric with pinkish buff int. and ext. slip; reddish brown painted geometric designs on int. and ext.	13th–early 14th c.
5	Cooking pot	213	1174/1	Light red fabric and dark gray core; pinkish buff ext. slip; decorated with reddish brown painted geometric designs	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
6	Frying pan	213	1195	Reddish yellow fabric with dark gray core and brown glaze covering entire int.	Mid-12th to mid-13th c.
7	Cooking bowl	212	1191/1	Red fabric and black core with mica and crushed quartzite inclusions, brown glaze covering entire int.	13th–early 14th c.
8	Handle	220	205	Red fabric and light gray core with numerous grits and mica, crushed quartzite and feldspar inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-14th c.
9	Handle	253	1193	Light red fabric with crushed quartzite and large calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-14th c.

and latest forms from the Ayyubid periods, respectively. Cooking pot No. 4 exhibits a *horror vacui* decoration, whereby every space on the exterior is painted. The interior of the neck just below the rim zone is also painted, albeit with a simple linear pendant pattern. Excavations in the Bet Strauss complex (see n. 2) have demonstrated that this decorative scheme can be attributed to the Ayyubid ceramic repertoire of Jerusalem, as numerous vessels with this decoration were recovered from a series of sealed Ayyubid floors. Cooking pot No. 5, with a pinkish buff slip and simple linear and geometric decorations, is typical of the mid-twelfth to mid-thirteenth centuries. The rim type is unique with no known parallels.

The other cooking vessels from Moza are contemporaneous with the HMGP cooking pots. The form of the first specimen (Fig. 3:6) is a well-known Crusader-type frying pan (Avisar and Stern 2005:96, Fig. 41:1, Type II.2.3.1), with a carinated body, everted rim and flat base. Unlike the Crusader examples, which are glazed only on the bottom interior, the Moza example has glaze throughout its interior. Similar frying pans are known from Har Ḥozevim in the Jerusalem hinterland (Kletter and Boas 2002: Fig. 20:5). The second vessel is a cooking bowl (Fig. 3:7) which is more typical of the thirteenth century form (Avisar and Stern 2005:97, Fig. 41:4, Type II.2.3.3). It has a more rounded body, a flat and externally-thickened rim and a triangular pressed-on vestigial handle. Like the frying pan, this vessel also has a glaze that covers the entire interior. An exact parallel for this vessel was found in an Ayyubid context from the Bet Strauss excavations (see n. 2).

Two horizontal, pulled-up, rounded ‘elephant-ear’ handles (Fig. 3:8, 9), with a central strap hole, were found. This plain, undecorated and ubiquitous form is typical of medieval handmade cooking pots, and is dated to the mid-twelfth to early fourteenth centuries. Parallels for these handles were uncovered at Khirbat Ka‘kul (Boas 2006: Fig.

2:8) and the Damascus Gate (Wightman 1989: Pl. 54:4).

Amphorae, Jars, Jugs, Juglet and Flask (Fig. 4)

The closed vessels from the Moza reservoir bear a striking resemblance to the ceramic assemblages from the Old City of Jerusalem and its surrounding hinterland which date from the late-twelfth to mid-thirteenth centuries (Bagatti 1947:101–144, Figs. 23, 24).

Two amphorae with relatively short necks were discerned in the Moza assemblage. The first (Fig. 4:1) is made of a red fabric fired to pinkish gray. It has a slightly incurved rim and a finger-impressed appliqué decorating the exterior ridge just below the rim. It is comparable to examples from Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 26:1, 2), although the external ridges of those vessels are placed slightly lower on the neck. A good parallel was uncovered in an Ayyubid context from the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 35:7). The second amphora (Fig. 4:2) is made from buff fabric, and has a flat, externally-thickened rim, and a small, narrow, external ridge at the neck/shoulder join. Similar vessels are known from Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 26:9, 12).

Of interest is a rather large HMGP strainer jar with a flared neck and a pointed, rounded rim (Fig. 4:3). A vessel of the same form, but bearing a different decoration, was found at al-Burj al-Aḥmar (Pringle 1986: Fig. 42). The zone on the neck covered by the handle is devoid of any painted decoration, and therefore, this vessel can be dated to the fifteenth century (Smadar Gabrieli, pers. comm.). A few contemporaneous HMGP jar handles with a white slip and a reddish brown painted decoration were found as well (Fig. 4:13, 14).

Three buff-ware storage jars of different kinds are in the ceramic assemblage from Moza. Jar No. 4 has a high neck and a slightly incurved and thickened rim, and has parallels from an Ayyubid context in the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 38:27). Jar No. 5 has

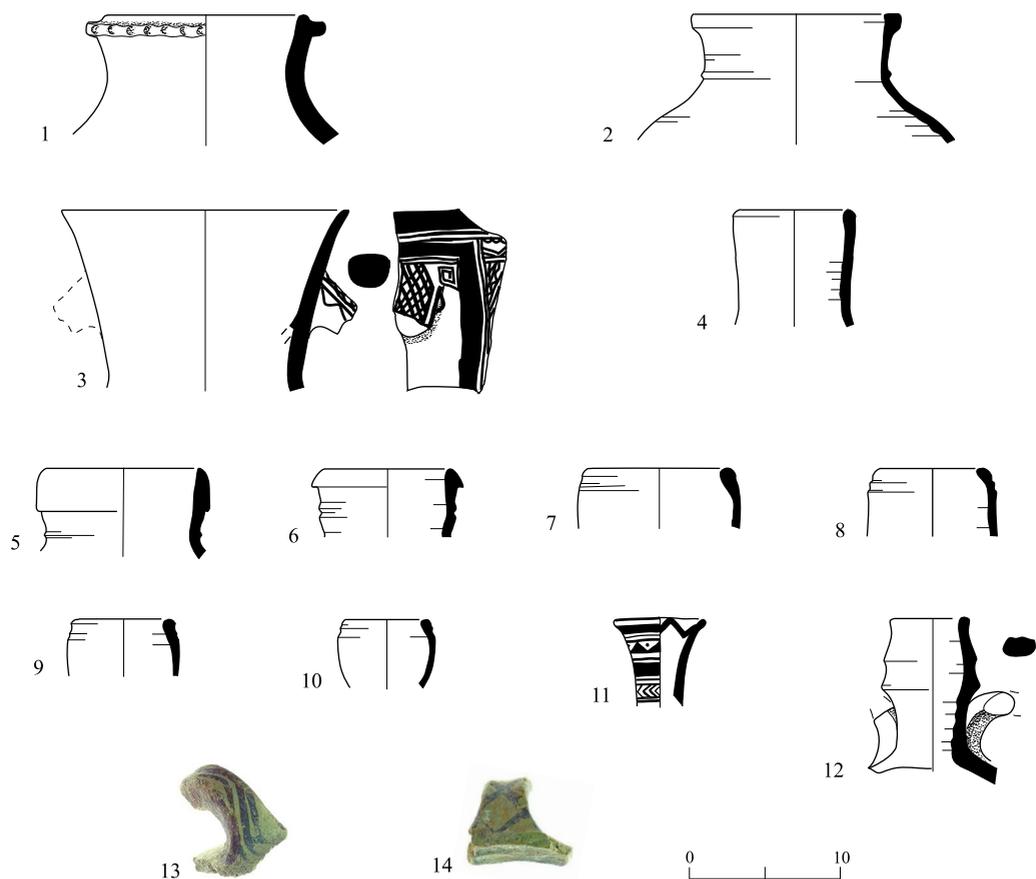


Fig. 4. Amphorae, jars, jugs, juglet and flask.

No.	Form	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Date (CE)
1	Amphora	216	1283/4	Red fabric fired to pinkish gray with calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
2	Amphora	213	1186/3	Buff fabric	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
3	Strainer jar	214	1201	Coarse red fabric with large calcite inclusions and numerous grits; pinkish buff slip with dark, reddish brown painted geometric decoration on ext.	14th–15th c.
4	Store jar	211	1223/3	Pale red fabric fired to buff on ext.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
5	Store jar	214	1200/2	Pinkish buff fabric with calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
6	Store jar	213	1223/2	Buff fabric with calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
7	Jug	215	1194/3	Buff fabric	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
8	Jug	214	1210/4	Buff fabric	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
9	Jug	213	1194/5	Buff fabric	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
10	Jug	213	1192/1	Red fabric with calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
11	Juglet	216	1221/1	Red fabric with calcite inclusions; pinkish buff slip with dark red painted geometric designs on int. and ext.	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
12	Flask	216	1225/3	Dark red fabric with light gray core and numerous calcite inclusions	Mid-12th–mid-13th c.
13	Jar Handle				
14	Jar Handle				

a shorter neck, a collared, everted rim, and an external ridge just above the neck/shoulder join. This type was also found at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 25:8) and Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 2006: Fig. 8:55). Jar No. 6 has an everted rim and dates from the mid-twelfth to mid-thirteenth centuries; it does not appear in Mamluk contexts (Avisar and Stern 2005:100, Fig. 42:3, Type II.3.1.2). The form was present in Ayyubid fills from Bet Strauss (see n. 2) and Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 1996: Fig. 7:43).

Several jugs (Fig. 4:7–10), with incurved, rounded rims and grooved horizontal ridges along the rim and upper neck, were recovered; most have a buff fabric (Fig. 4:7–9). Some of the jugs occur in a red fabric (Fig. 4:10) that resembles cooking ware; however, their fabric is more finely levigated than that of the cooking vessels, and they were fired at a higher temperature. Parallels for the Moza examples are known from the Jerusalem hinterland at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Figs. 26:16; 29:14, 15), Har Hozevim (Kletter and Boas 2002: Fig. 21:1, 2) and Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 2006: Fig. 10:73), and from Ayyubid contexts in the Old City, e.g., at the Armenian Garden (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 40:31, 32). Taking into consideration the find context at Moza and the dates of the comparative examples, these jugs should be dated to the second half of the twelfth century, i.e., the Ayyubid period.

Vessel No. 11 is an HMGP juglet. It has a red fabric, a pinkish buff slip and a dark red painted decoration on its interior and exterior. Its narrow, flared neck ends with a slightly upturned rounded rim. Although the decoration is different from that of the Moza example, the form is known from the Damascus Gate excavations (Wightman 1989: Pl. 60:9). Based on the *horror vacui* decoration on the exterior and the minimalist painted decoration on the interior, as well as the evidence from the excavations in the Bet Strauss complex (see n. 2), it is suggested that this vessel also dates to the Ayyubid period.

One flask was recovered from the Moza reservoir (Fig. 4:12). It has a double-ridged

neck, a slightly out-turned, rounded rim, and handles that emerge from the base of the neck. While Mamluk flasks dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries are known only in small quantities from excavations in Jerusalem and its vicinity—sometimes undecorated (e.g., Tushingham 1985: Fig. 42:8) and sometimes decorated (e.g., Kletter and Boas 2002: Fig. 21:12)—the specimen from Moza is different in a few important aspects. First, the Mamluk flasks that were produced in Damascus, which have a wide distribution in Syria, have a distinctive fabric that is buff, greenish buff or light brown (Avisar and Stern 2005:117). The flask from Moza differs as it is of a dark red (10R 5/8) fabric, which is not found in the Mamluk version. In addition, the necks of the Mamluk flasks consistently have four to five ridges, whereas the Moza flask has only two with a considerable gap between them. Moreover, the Mamluk vessels all originate from thirteenth- and fourteenth-century contexts. Similar examples are known from the Jerusalem hinterland at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 28:11), as well as at Har Hozevim (Kletter and Boas 2002: Fig. 22:3), while in the Old City a close parallel was found in L359 at Bet Strauss (see n. 2). It would seem, therefore, that this vessel was of local production during the Ayyubid period.

Lamps (Fig. 5)

Two mold-made slipper lamps were found in the Moza reservoir. Lamp No. 1 consists of two sherds from the same vessel (Fig. 5:1). It is of interest because it may represent a hitherto unidentified transitional type, bridging the gap between the traditional Ayyubid and Mamluk varieties. The form corresponds to the lamps with a bent handle decorated with simple linear patterns dated from the mid-thirteenth to the end of the fourteenth century and possibly later (Avisar and Stern 2005:128, Fig. 53:2–4, Type III.2.1.2). However, the lamp from Moza has a raised relief calligraphic decoration and accompanying dots, which is more akin to

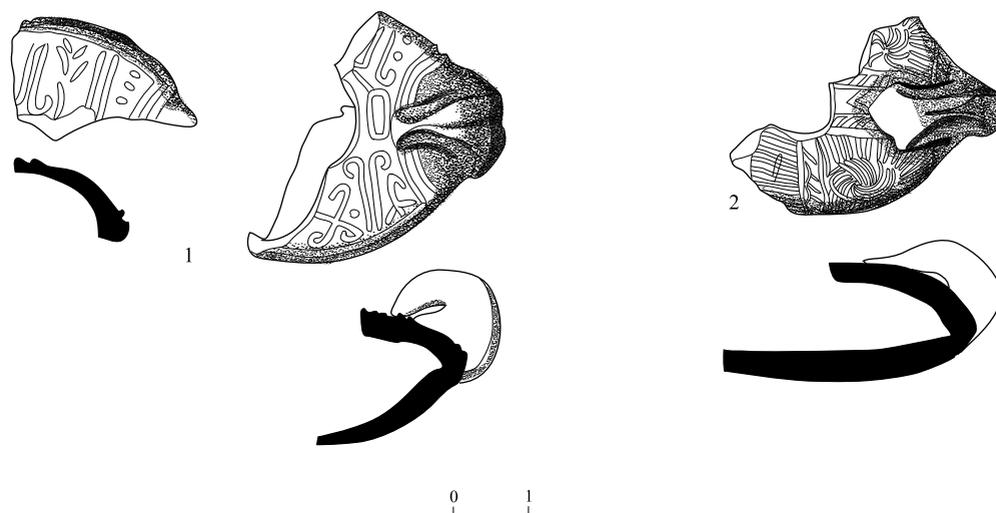


Fig. 5. Mold-made lamps.

No.	Locus	Reg. No.	Description	Date (CE)
1	213	1186/1 and 1187	Pinkish brown fabric; decorated with linear designs, dots and calligraphic script	Early 13th c.
2	214	1211	Buff fabric with numerous grits; decorated with linear patterns	Mid-13th–late 14th c.

the Ayyubid type with a high tongue handle (Avisar and Stern 2005:127–128, Fig. 53:1, Type III.2.1.1). In addition, the Moza lamp lacks the stylized linear and geometric designs in thick relief, which are more typical of its Mamluk counterparts. Based upon the thin relief, the decorative motifs, and the lack of the herringbone pattern found on Lamp No. 1, and despite the bent handle, it is clearly earlier than the Mamluk type, and a date in the early-thirteenth century CE is suggested. Similar lamps were found in the Old City of Jerusalem at the Armenian Garden in an Ayyubid context (Tushingham 1985:147, Type 2b, Fig. 38:14), Area X-5 in the Cardo (Avisar 2012: Fig. 10.11:1), and from several Ayyubid loci at Bet Strauss (see n. 2). They are also known from sites surrounding Jerusalem, including Khirbat Ka'kul (Boas 2006: Figs. 123, 124), Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 34:3a, 7) and Nebi Samwil, where a mold for these lamps was found in association with an Ayyubid kiln (Magen and Dadon 1999:76).

Lamp No. 2 is a standard Mamluk type in buff fabric, which conforms to Avisar and Stern's Moldmade Slipper Lamps with a Bent Handle (2005:128, Fig. 53:2–4, Type III.2.1.2). It is decorated with linear patterns accompanied by rosette spirals on either side of the handle. An exact parallel was uncovered at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1947: Photo 60:5).

THE OTTOMAN PERIOD–BRITISH MANDATE

Eight sherds from an intrusive burial belonged to Black Gaza Ware *ibriq* necks, buff and pink ware bowls with undulating rims, and English Blue Willow porcelain (not illustrated). These were dated to the Late Ottoman period or to the early days of the British Mandate.

CONCLUSIONS

The ceramic assemblage from the Moza reservoir has strong affinities with contemporaneous Crusader and Frankish sites from the

rural hinterland of Jerusalem, such as Emmaus el-Qubeibeh, Har Hozevim, Belmont Castle and Khirbat el-Burj (Boas 1996). The majority of the pottery retrieved from this excavation dates from the mid-twelfth to the mid-thirteenth centuries, as is attested by the manifold bowls, closed vessels and lamps, and the predominant slip-painted and plain buff wares, which are a hallmark of that time. Subsequent deposition into the reservoir continued into the Mamluk period, as demonstrated by the monochrome glazed and HMGP bowls and jars found within the ceramic assemblage, which date to the

fourteenth and fifteenth centuries CE. Ceramic finds from a previous season at the site also demonstrate a later deposition (Greenhut and Szanton 2015); the majority of the pottery was contemporaneous with the latest examples presented here (Smadar Gabrieli, pers. comm.). Other vessels of a later date were associated with an intrusive burial. Altogether, the ceramic finds from Moza offer a glimpse at the well-known wares and vessel forms characterizing the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods in Jerusalem and its rural hinterland.

NOTES

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² The ceramics from the Bet Strauss complex (Permit Nos. A-6876, A-7040, A-7293) were processed by the author, drawn by Irena Lidsky-Reznikov and photographed by Clara Amit.

³ The ceramics from Phase IIIb at the Austrian Hospice (Permit No. A-6100; drawn by Irena Lidsky-Reznikov) and Khirbat Beit Mazmil (Permit No. A-6507) were processed by the author.

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