

POTTERY ASSEMBLAGES FROM MISKA

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INTRODUCTION

The pottery discussed below originated in the four excavation areas at Miska (A–D), and is presented by strata according to the stratigraphy proposed by the excavator (see Spivak, this volume);¹ following is a description of the material from the refuse pit in Area A. Strata VI and III did not yield any pottery, and only a few fragments of Turkish smoking pipes (see Fig. 5:2, 3) and Marseille roof tiles (see Fig. 6:9) were assigned to Stratum II.

THE POTTERY FROM AREAS A–D

STRATUM V

Basins (Fig. 1:1, 2).— Two basin fragments were retrieved from this stratum. One belongs to a large vessel with an inverted, externally folded rim (Fig. 1:1). The body is decorated with combed, straight and wavy bands. It is a variant of the Arched-Rim Basin and therefore, should be dated to the seventh–early eighth centuries CE (Magness 1993:206). The other basin (Fig. 1:2) has a rounded inverted rim and is combed with straight and wavy bands on the body. This is a common type of basin of the late Byzantine period. Basins with such a thick round rim were common at the Nesher-Ramla Quarry, especially within the winepresses (Vincenz 2015: Figs. 5.5:9; 5.10:7; 5.11:4; 5.19:31–37; 5.20:38, 39; 5.26:4; 5.29:14; 5.31:7), where they were dated to the seventh–early eighth centuries CE.

Storage Jars (Fig. 1:3).— A fragment of a storage jar has an inverted and grooved, peculiarly shaped rim. The bulging neck bears clay accretions, frequently found on bag-shaped jars of the Byzantine period. This fragment should probably be dated to the seventh–early eighth centuries CE.

¹ I wish to thank Polina Spivak for giving me the opportunity to study this material. Drawings are by Marina Shuiskaya and photographs, by Clara Amit, both of the IAA.

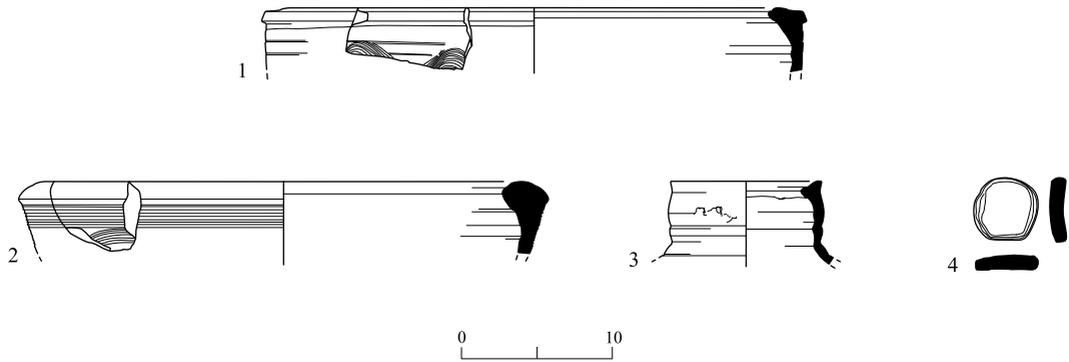


Fig. 1. Pottery from Stratum V.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Basin	219	2057/1	7.5YR 5/4 brown with few small white inclusions	Diam. 34 cm Rim preserved: 8%
2	Basin	241	2117/1	7.5YR 5/4 brown with few small white inclusions	Diam. 32 cm Rim preserved: 8%
3	Storage jar	219	2057/2	2.5YR 6/8 light red with few large white inclusions; surface fired to buff	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 20%
4	Stopper	241	2105	2.5YR 4/6 red	Diam. 3.8 cm

Stopper (Fig. 1:4).— A round stopper was made from a reworked sherd that belonged to a jar or jug.

STRATUM IV

Unglazed Bowls and Goblet (Fig. 2:1–3).— The buff ware bowl shown in Fig. 2:1 has a sharply inverted rounded rim. A similar bowl was found in Ramla, where it was dated to the eighth–ninth centuries CE (Kletter 2005: Fig. 14:5; Shmueli 2016: Fig. 14:3). A flat base of a bowl (Fig. 2:2) features deeply incised circular lines. The exterior of the body of this bowl has burnished bands alternating with red-painted bands. The type shown here can be assigned to Magness' Fine Byzantine Ware (FBW) Bowl Form 1D, dated to the late seventh/early eighth until the ninth/tenth centuries CE (Magness 1993:194, 196). To the same family of Fine Byzantine Ware belongs a goblet fragment (Fig. 2:3), which bears a white-painted decoration instead of burnished bands—also a common feature of this vessel type. This goblet can be assigned to Magness' FBW Bowl Form 1F, dated to the seventh–eighth centuries CE and somewhat later (Magness 1993:194, 197).

Glazed Bowls (Fig. 2:4–8).— Five sherds of glazed bowls were found in Stratum IV. One is rounded with a ledge rim (Fig. 2:4). The interior is glazed with radial polychrome stripes, while the exterior is covered with a thin layer of glaze. This ware was imported from Egypt, where it occurred during the second half of the eighth century CE (Avisar 1996:82). Another bowl (Fig. 2:5) has a rounded body and an everted pinched rim; it is glazed dark

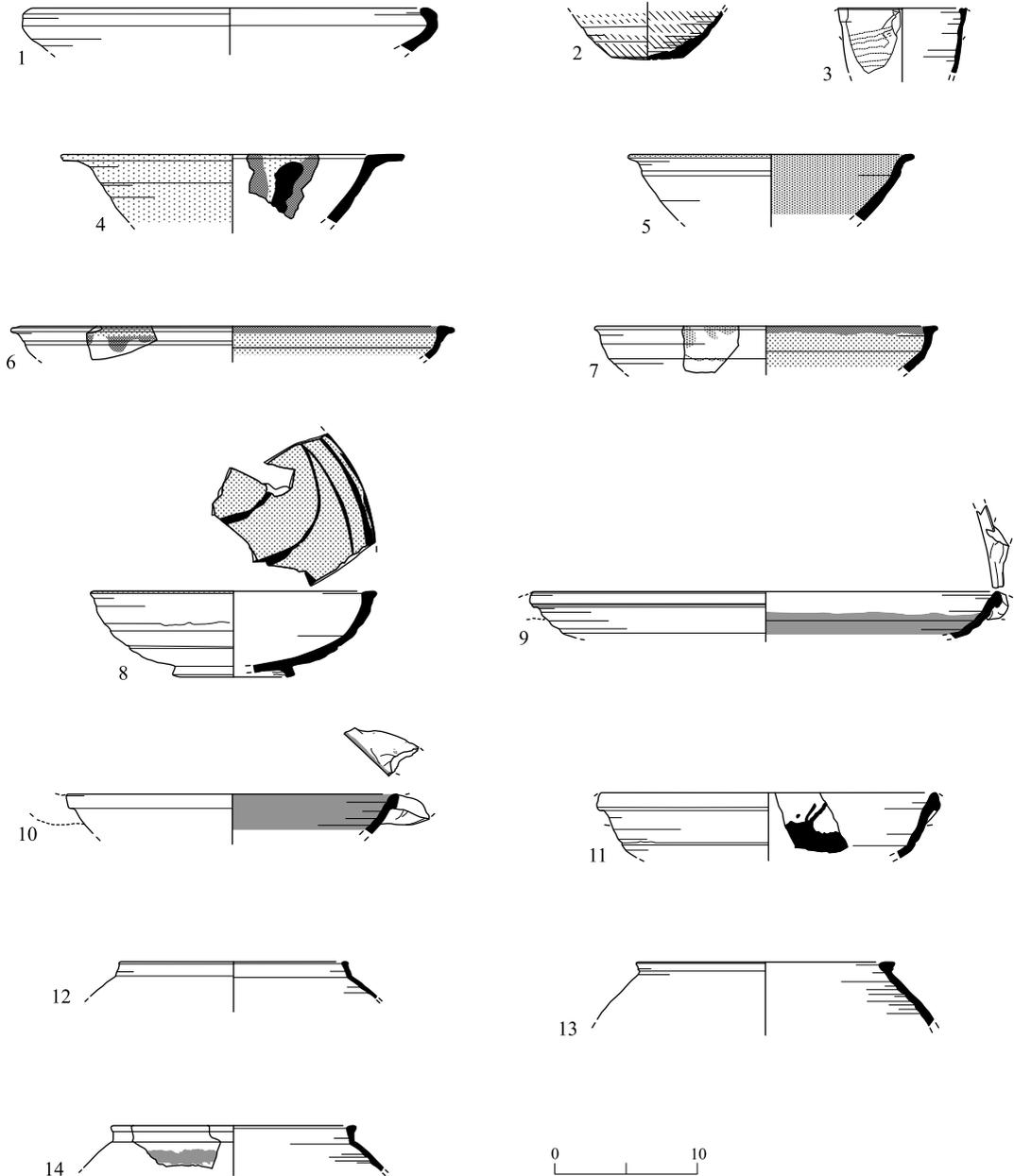


Fig. 2. Pottery from Stratum IV: bowls and cooking vessels.

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Bowl	215	2036/1	2.5Y 8/3 pale yellow, with few small black inclusions	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 8%
2	Bowl	112	1039/1	Dark gray	Diam. 4.5 cm Base preserved: 50%
3	Goblet	240	2101/3	2.5YR 6/8 light red	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 15%
4	Bowl	211	2026/1	7.5YR 7/4 pink, with few large white inclusions	Diam. 14 cm Rim preserved: 7.5%
5	Bowl	240	2101/1	10YR 7/4 very pale brown, with very few black and white inclusions; int. dark brown (manganese?) glaze	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 6%
6	Bowl	240	2101/2	10R 5/8 red, with many small white inclusions; int. glazed yellow with brown lines under transparent glaze	Diam. 18 cm Rim preserved: 5%
7	Bowl	211	2026/2	2.5YR 4/6 red, with few large white inclusions; int. glazed green over beige slip	Diam. 18 cm Rim preserved: 7%
8	Bowl	211	2068	2.5YR 5/6 red, with few large white inclusions; int. glazed straw-yellow with brown lines under transparent glaze	Diam. 20 cm Rim preserved: 17%
9	Frying pan	207	2018	Burned black; int. dark brown glaze, splashes of glaze on ext.	Diam. 32 cm Rim preserved: 6%
10	Frying pan	211	2026/3	2.5YR 4/6 red, with few small white inclusions; int. dark brown glaze	Diam. 28 cm Rim preserved: <5%
11	Frying pan	244	2112/1	2.5YR 5/6 red, int. dark brown glaze	Diam. 26 cm Rim preserved: <5%
12	Cooking pot	207	2064	2.5YR 5/8 red, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 14 cm Rim preserved: 10%
13	Cooking pot	211	2068/4	2.5YR 4/6, red with few very small white inclusions; ext. dark brown glaze	Diam. 18 cm Rim preserved: 10%
14	Cooking pot	215	2036/2	2.5YR 5/6 red, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 16 cm Rim preserved: 12%

brown or possibly manganese. The shape of the bowl and the remains of slip visible on the exterior indicate that it belongs to the group of Fine Glazed bowls, dated to the ninth and tenth centuries CE (Avisar 1996: Fig. XIII.8:3, 4). An additional glazed bowl (Fig. 2:6) has a flat, externally pinched rim. The interior is glazed yellow with brown lines under a transparent glaze. A rounded glazed bowl (Fig. 2:7) has a flat rim. Its glaze is applied only on the interior over a beige slip, while the exterior bears splashes of glaze. The bowl, in Fig. 2:8, with a round rim and ring base, is glazed straw yellow with sgraffito lines under a transparent glaze. The three bowls in Fig. 2:6–8 belong to a group of monochrome glazed vessels of the Early Islamic period (see Avisar 1996:82).

Frying Pans (Fig. 2:9–11).— The most common type of open cooking vessel during the Early Islamic period is the glazed frying pan. It has a shallow body and an everted rim of varying shapes. This type usually has two horizontal loop handles and two ledge handles attached to the rim. The interior of the vessel is usually glazed either dark brown or bright brown. All three fragments shown here are of the same type, dated to the Early Islamic period; they do not continue into the Crusader period (see Avissar 1996:139, Type 13). Such vessels were found for example in Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 18:9; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.6:12; Shmueli 2016: Fig. 22:1).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 2:12–14).— These cooking pots of the Early Islamic period have a globular body and are neck-less, or have a very short neck with varying rim shapes. The handles are the typical large high strap handles. The ware is thin and hard-fired and the inner base is usually glazed. Splashes of glaze can also be found on the rim and upper shoulder and sometimes on the handle. Three variants are shown from the present assemblage. Figure 2:12 has a very short neck and a thickened rim. It was probably glazed on the inside, but no traces of glaze were detected. The rim of this variant does not display a carination, but otherwise it is similar to the rim of Avissar's Type 2 (Avissar 1996:132–133), dated to the Early Islamic period. Figure 2:13 is a globular cooking pot with a short neck and flat rim, bearing a glazed band on the exterior. It should be dated to the end of the Early Islamic period (see Avissar 1996:132–133, Type 5). The globular cooking pot in Fig. 2:14 has a flat rim with an external ridge; it was probably glazed on the interior, although no glaze remains. This type represents a common form of cooking pot of the Early Islamic period (see Avissar 1996:132, Type 4). Similar cooking pots were found in Ramla (Avissar 2005: Fig. 5:7; Shmueli 2016: Fig. 22:3).

Storage Jars (Fig. 3:1–4).— Two bag-shaped storage-jar fragments were found, covered with dense ribbing (Fig. 3:1, 2). One (Fig. 3:1) has a straight neck with a rounded, externally rolled rim, and clay accretions on the neck and upper shoulder. The other jar (Fig. 3:2) has a slightly bulging neck and a rounded rim with an external roll. As in the example in Fig. 3:1, clay accretions are found on the neck and under the rim. Jars of this type were found in Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva', where they were dated to the late Byzantine period (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:4), and in the winepresses at the Nesher-Ramla Quarry, where they were the most common type of jar (Vincenz 2015: Figs. 5.3:9–11; 5.7:22–24; 5.11:9; 5.12:12; 5.15:12, 13; 5.23:59–65; 5.26:8; 5.28:23–26; 5.30:19, 20). In general, bag-shaped jars of this type date from the fifth to the seventh century CE, with some exceptions found in eighth-century CE contexts.

The storage jar in Fig. 3:3 has a thickened neck, an everted pinched rim and a ribbed body. Loop handles were attached to the upper body. Similar jars come from Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva', where they were dated to the late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:2). The jar in Fig. 3:4 has a lightly bulging neck on its lower part, a slightly everted upper part and a rounded rim. A white painted decoration is applied to the

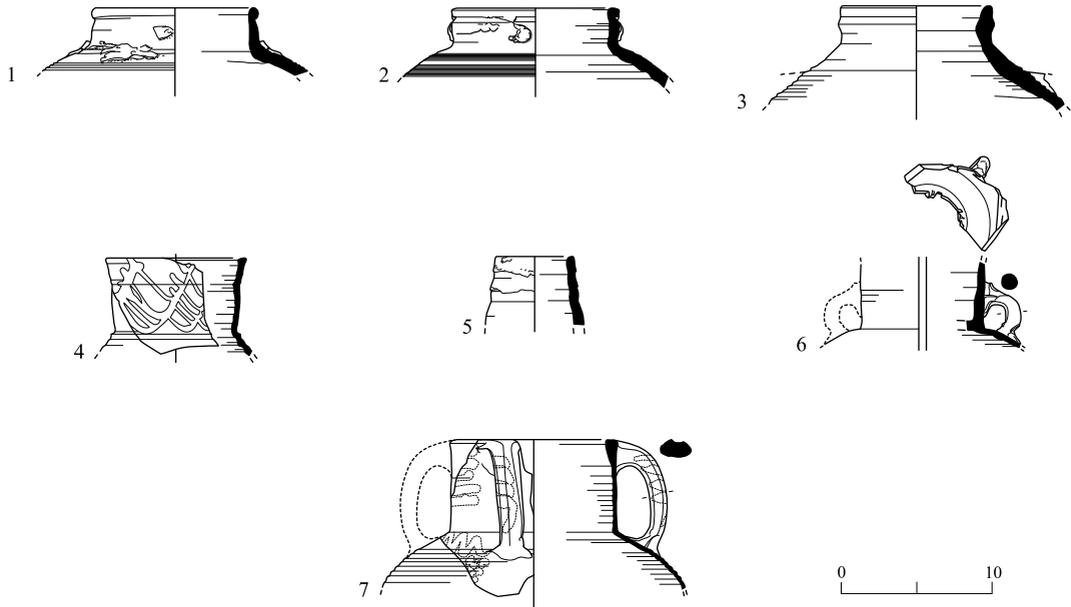


Fig. 3. Pottery from Stratum IV: jars, jugs and a table amphora.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Storage jar	105	1020	5YR 4/6 yellowish red, with many large white inclusions	Diam. 9 cm Rim preserved: 30%
2	Storage jar	112	1039/2	5YR 5/6 yellowish red, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 24%
3	Storage jar	130	1250	5YR 5/6 yellowish red, with few small white and large black inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 45%
4	Storage jar	244	2112/2	Gray, with few small white and black inclusions; surface fired to buff	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 21%
5	Jug	112	1039/3	5YR 7/6 reddish yellow, with many small white and black inclusions	Diam. 5 cm Rim preserved: 35%
6	Jug	215	2036/3	5YR 7/6 reddish yellow, with few small white and large crushed pottery inclusions; surface fired to buff	No diam.
7	Table amphora	112	1208	Dark gray metallic ware, with many small white inclusions; surface fired gray	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 9%

neck. The ware is hard-fired and almost metallic. This type of jar is common in northern Israel and in the Jordan Valley (see Avissar 1996:147–149, see discussion and references therein) and is dated to the late seventh–early eighth centuries CE.

Jugs (Fig. 3:5, 6).— A small fragment of a jug (Fig. 3:5) features an inverted neck with a round rim. The shape of the body is unknown, but it might be similar to that of a jug found at Rehovot, where it was identified as a *saqiya* jug (Avissar 2007: Fig. 2:13).

A water jug fragment (Fig. 3:6) has a filter inside the neck. Small handles are attached from the neck to the shoulder. Water jugs of various shapes are very common during the Early Islamic period. They usually have an elongated body with a rather long, slightly flaring neck ending in a round or slightly pinched rim. Some of these jugs have incised lines under the rim. These jugs may have been produced as imitations of metal vessels. They have a flat base, and some have filters inside the neck. They are found in many sites, for example at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:11, 12; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pls. 9.4:17; 9.12:3, 4; Shmueli 2016: Fig. 17:9), and can be dated to the eighth–tenth centuries CE.

Table Amphora (Fig. 3:7).— This amphora has a straight neck, an inverted, internally thickened rim and a white-painted decoration. Such vessels are common at sites in the north of Israel and in the Jordan Valley. The ware is similar to two types of vessels from Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:163–164, Types 15, 16), dated mainly to the eighth century CE, but apparently continuing into the ninth century CE as well.

STRATUM I

Glazed Bowls (Fig. 4:1, 2).— The large bowl in Fig. 4:1 has an everted ledge rim with a deep groove and bright brown glaze over its interior. A ring base of a bowl sherd (Fig. 4:2) is glazed bright green on its interior. Such monochrome glazed bowls were common during the Mamluk period (Avisar and Stern 2005:12–15) and continued to be produced during the Ottoman period. The shape of the rim and the crude facture of the base suggest that these two fragments should be dated to the Ottoman period (Avisar and Stern 2005:12).

Jars (Fig. 4:3, 4).— The jar in Fig. 4:3 has an inverted, internally beveled rim; it has a parallel among the jars called *giarra* in Israel's corpus of Black Gaza Ware (Israel 2006: Fig. 60), although it is made of a different ware. This jar is probably dated to the Ottoman period. A jar with a straight neck and an externally thickened rim (Fig. 4:4) features clay accretions on the shoulder. Similar jars dated to the Mamluk period were reported from Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Vincenz and Sion 2007: Fig. 11:5). Jars with a similar rim were produced during the Ottoman period. The fragment shown here is similar in shape, but not in ware, to Israel's *giarra* Subtype 10, which is made of Black Gaza Ware (Israel 2006: Fig. 61).

Black Gaza Ware

Black Gaza Ware (BGW) often occurs in Ottoman-period sites. Gibson, Ibbs and Kloner (1991) ascribed the Gaza Ware from Sataf, in the Judean Hills, to the seventeenth century CE. Other scholars, such as Rosen and Goodfriend (1993), date its initial appearance to the sixteenth century CE. Gaza Ware vessels comprise the entire repertoire of vessel forms, including bowls, basins, jars and jugs, as well as lids and lamps (Israel 2006). Abundant Gaza Ware vessels have been reported from various excavations in Yafo, including at the

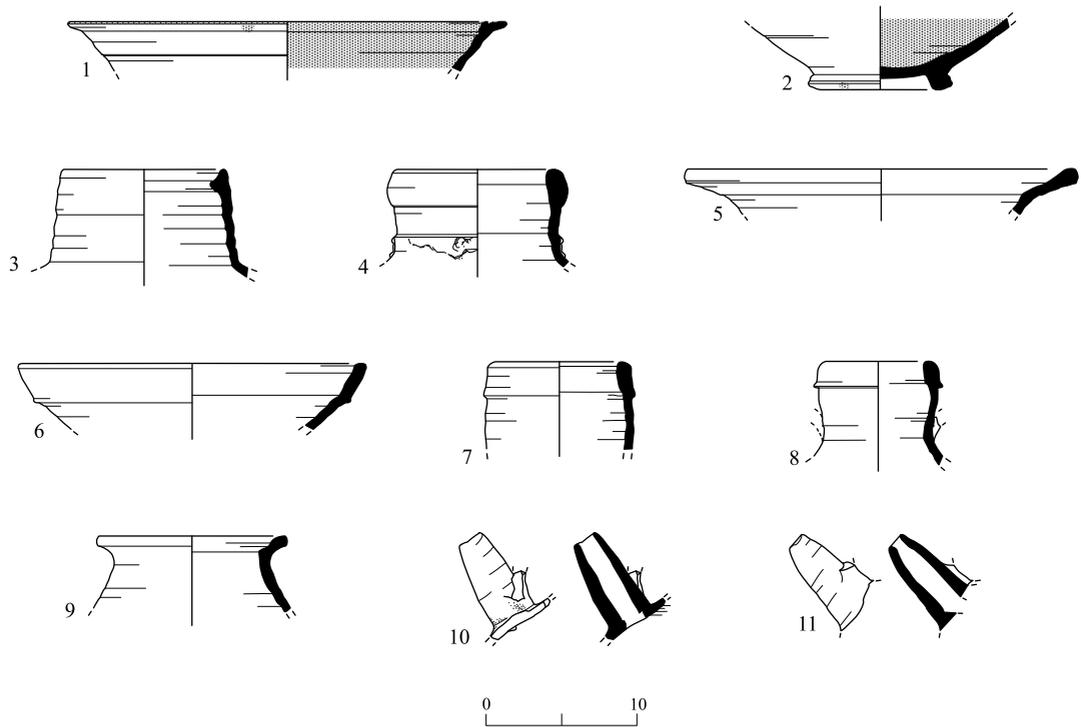


Fig. 4. Pottery from Stratum II.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Bowl	240	2098/1	2.5YR 6/8 light red, with many small white and black inclusions; int. glazed bright brown	Diam. 16 cm Rim preserved: 5%
2	Bowl	232	2075/2	2.5YR 6/8 light red, with very few small white inclusions; int. glazed bright green	Base diam. 7 cm Base preserved: 50%
3	Storage jar	232	2075/3	5YR 4/3 reddish brown	Diam. 14 cm Rim preserved: 7%
4	Storage jar	240	2098/2	7.5YR 6/3 light brown, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 15%
5	BGW bowl	232	2075/1	Dark gray, with many small white inclusions	Diam. 24 cm Rim preserved: 11%
6	BGW bowl	216	2042/1	Dark gray, with many small white inclusions	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 7%
7	Storage jar	206	2013/1	2.5YR 6/6 light red, with few small white inclusions; surface fired to buff	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 22%
8	BGW storage jar	232	2075/4	Light gray, with many small white inclusions	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 32%
9	BGW jar	216	2042/2	Dark gray, with many large white inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 15%
10	Spout	206	2017	2.5YR 6/8 light red, with gray core and few large white inclusions	No diam.
11	BGW spout	216	2042/3	Light gray, with few small white inclusions	No diam.

Qishle (Vincenz, in press) and Jerusalem Boulevard (Vincenz 2017), and also from Kafr ‘Ana (Or Yehuda; Vincenz 2019a) and el-Qubeibe (Kefar Gabirol; Vincenz 2019b).

Bowls (Fig. 4:5, 6).— The bowl shown in Fig. 4:5 has an everted, up-turned ledge rim and is made of Black Gaza Ware. A bowl with a similar ledge rim, but made of an orange-brown ware, was found in the Old City of Jerusalem (Da‘adli 2011: Fig. 10:5). Similar bowls called *kashkul* appear in Israel’s corpus (Israel 2006: Fig. 217). Also made of this ware is a bowl with flaring walls and an externally folded rim (Fig. 4:6). Similar bowls are reported from the Ottoman village at Ḥorbat ‘Eleq (Boas 2000:551, Pl. II:10), as well as from the Qishle in Yafo (Vincenz, in press: Fig. 8.5A.1:5), and correspond to Israel’s *zebdiye* Subtype 6 (Israel 2006: Fig. 210).

Jars (Fig. 4:7–9).— Jars from the Ottoman period have a bulging neck and an externally folded rim (Fig. 4:7, 8). The handles are drawn from the bottom of the neck. Similar jars are reported from the Ottoman village at Ḥorbat ‘Eleq (Boas 2000:548, Pl. I:6–11). Both of the fragments shown here correspond to Israel’s *giarra* Subtype 2/3 (Israel 2006: Figs. 53, 54). This type of jar, which was used for carrying water from the well, was popular from the eighteenth century to the 1950s. The jar in Fig. 4:9 has a long everted rounded rim and features a slight groove, probably used for fitting a lid. This type of jar, called *burniye*, was used to store *leben* cheese. Its shape is that of a cooking pot with a ledge rim (Israel 2006:231). The vessel shown here corresponds to Israel’s *burniye* Subtype 1 (Israel 2006: Fig. 247). *Burniye* jars were used from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century CE.

Spouts (Fig. 4:10, 11).— These two spouts belonged to drinking jugs called *ibriq* or *briq* (Israel 2006: Figs. 132–136). They were positioned on the upper shoulder of the vessel, below one of the handles and opposite the other.

Smoking Pipes

A number of smoking pipes were retrieved from various locations in the excavation. They belong to three types: one with a rounded bowl and a short shank (Fig. 5:1); another, with a long shank and a tulip-shaped bowl (Fig. 5:2, 3); and a third type, with a high bowl and a flat or rounded base (Fig. 5:4).

Figure 5:1 (Stratum I) consists of a round bowl with rouletted bands and a keel outlined by a rouletted band and incised lines. In this example, the shank is short and stepped and is decorated with a rosette, possibly a potter’s mark. Pipes of this type have been found in Yafo, in the Qishle (Vincenz, in press: Type J-18A), and in the Seawall Excavations in Yafo (Rauchberger 2017: Fig. 14.1:3, 4, and see additional references therein). This type of pipe is dated to the second half of the eighteenth century CE.

A shank fragment (Fig. 5:2) of the second type, which was found together with two fragments of glass vessels of the Umayyad period (see Gorin-Rosen, this volume) in what appears to be a mixed context, has a swollen end and is decorated with a wide rouletted



Fig. 5. Ottoman pottery smoking pipes from Strata II–I.

No.	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	208	2119	Dark gray; surface: slipped dark red	Shank opening 1.3 cm Length 6.5 cm
2	110	1032	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown; surface: slipped 5YR 4/3 reddish brown and burnished	Shank opening 1.5 cm Length 4.7 cm
3	212	2073	Dark gray; surface: slipped 2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown and burnished	Shank opening 1.8 cm Length 7 cm
4	110	1064	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; surface: slipped 2.5YR 5/6 red and highly burnished	Diam. 4 cm Rim preserved: 25%

band. Another fragment of a shank retains only part of the bowl (Fig. 5:3; Stratum II). In this example, the shank end is swollen and is decorated with a triple rouletted band and incised lines. This type of pipe usually has a tulip-shaped bowl; only a small part of the bowl is preserved in Fig. 5:3. Such pipes were common during the second half of the nineteenth century and continued to be produced until the beginning of the twentieth century. In Yafo, they are common in the Qishle (Vincenz, in press: Type J-19K) and were also found in the Seawall Excavations (Rauchberger 2017:250–254, Figs. 14.2–14.5). They were also found in Jerusalem (Simpson 2008: 440–441, Fig. 269:43–50), Tel Jezreel (Simpson 2002:164–165, Figs. 1:6–8; 2:9) and Belmont Castle (Simpson 2000:157–163, Figs. 13.5; 13.6; 13.7:138–161).

The third type of pipe (Fig. 5:4), found in the same mixed context as the example in Fig. 5:1, is decorated with rouletted and incised decorations on the bowl, of which only part is preserved. A rouletted band and incised lines outline the keel. A similar pipe was found in the Qishle, Yafo (Vincenz, in press: Type J-19B-1) and is dated to the second half of the nineteenth century.

THE POTTERY FROM THE REFUSE PIT

The refuse pit excavated in Area A was used in two distinct periods: in the Late Roman and early Byzantine periods, and in the late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (see Spivak, this volume). The pit was covered by a disturbed layer containing mixed material (Fig. 6). The description of the ceramic material from the refuse pit is arranged below in stratigraphic order, from the top mixed layer (L111) to its upper (L117, L121, L127, L128) and lower (L131, L133) layers, and lastly, the lamps from these different loci are presented.

LOCUS 111: A MIXED LAYER

Basin (Fig. 6:1).— The large basin in Fig. 6:1 is made of a rather coarse ware and has a round, slightly inverted rim, thickened on the outside. Several combed lines decorate the exterior of the vessel. This type of basin has small loop handles attached to the rim, and is of the same type as the basin mentioned above (Fig. 1:2). Basins with handles were found, for example, at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 13) and within the winepresses at the Neshet-Ramla Quarry (Vincenz 2015: Figs. 5.2:5; 5.14:9; 5.19:31, 32, 34, 35, 37; 5.20:38; 5.27:13; 5.29:12, 14; 5.31:7).

Gaza Jar (Fig. 6:2).— The neck-less jar in Fig. 6:2 has a round rim and clay accretions near the rim. Loop handles are positioned on the upper body. Based on the shape of the rim, the vessel belongs to the group of Gaza jars of the Byzantine period (Mayerson 1994: Type A; Majcherek 1995: Form 4).

Complete examples of these jars show that they have a cigar-shaped body, with ribbing below the shoulders, two small loop handles and a pointed base. A major production center for Gaza jars from the Byzantine period was discovered near Ashqelon, including pottery workshops for their manufacture (Israel 1993:100–103; 1995) and a warehouse for their storage (Fabian and Goren 2001). There is evidence that Gaza jars were mainly used as wine containers (Fabian and Goren 2001).

Storage Jar (Fig. 6:3).— This jar fragment is made of gritty red ware. It belongs to a bag-shaped jar with a ribbed body, a bulging neck and a pinched rim. A similar jar was reported from Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva', where it was dated to the seventh century CE (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:5).

Flasks (Fig. 6:4, 5).— The flask shown in Fig. 6:4 has an everted neck and a round rim. A flask similar to this one was found in Caesarea Maritima (Johnson 2008: No. 529); another example comes from Tel 'Afar (Peilstöcker 2009: Fig. 9:7). The flask shown in Fig. 6:5 has a narrow neck and a triangular rim. A similar flask was reported from Caesarea Maritima (Johnson 2008: No. 530). These flasks should probably be dated to the Byzantine period.

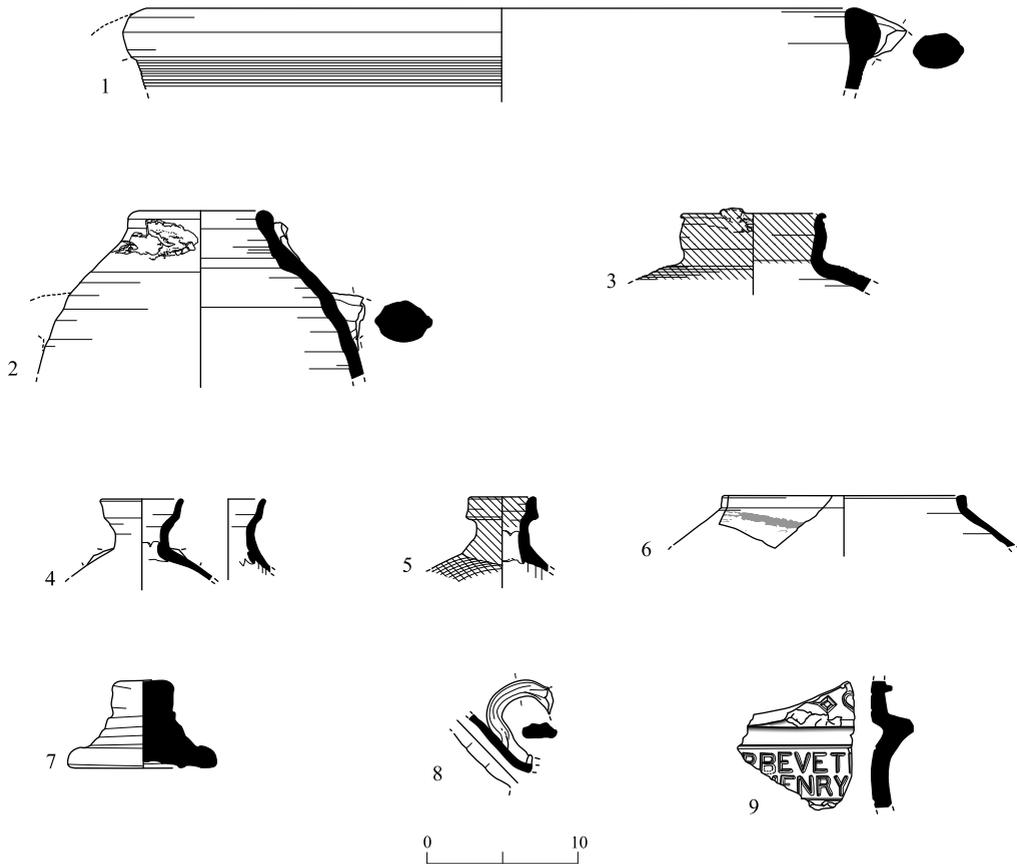


Fig. 6. Pottery from the refuse pit (L111).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Basin	111	1113/1	7.5YR 5/4 brown, with few small black inclusions	Diam. 38 cm Rim preserved: 6%
2	Gaza jar	111	1113/2	5YR 6/8 reddish yellow, with thick gray core and few small black and white and micaceous inclusions	Diam. 9 cm Rim preserved: 40%
3	Storage jar	111	1113/3	10YR 7/3 very pale brown, with few black and white and few large crushed pottery inclusions	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 35%
4	Flask	111	1113/4	5YR 5/6 yellowish red, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 5 cm Rim preserved: 100%, although abraded
5	Flask	111	1113/5	2.5YR 5/8 red, with few small white and micaceous inclusions	Diam. 4.5 cm Rim preserved: 100%
6	Cooking pot	111	1113/6	2.5YR 5/8 red, with few small white inclusions; dark brown glaze on ext.	Diam. 14 cm Rim preserved: 17%
7	Stopper	111	1113/9	2.5YR 5/6 red, with many small and medium-sized white and few small black and micaceous inclusions	No diam.
8	Spout	111	1113/7	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow, with few small white and black inclusions	No diam.
9	Marseille roof tile	111	1113/8	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow, with few small white and black inclusions	No diam.

Glazed Cooking Pot (Fig. 6:6).— The glazed globular cooking pot in Fig. 6:6 has a short straight neck and a rounded rim. Remains of a dark brown glaze can be seen on the surface. This type of cooking pot was discussed above (Fig. 2:13).

Handmade Stopper (Fig. 6:7).— This cone-shaped stopper is made of crude clay and has a knob handle. Similar stoppers were unearthed at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana, where they were dated to the Byzantine period (Vincenz and Sion 2007: Fig. 4:3–15), and in a Byzantine church near Moshav Ha-Bonim (‘Ad 2017: Fig. 15:18).

Spout of Drinking Jug (Fig. 6:8).— This spout belongs to an *ibriq* jug; its handle was partly preserved, clearly showing the position of the spout below it (Fig. 6:8). The same type of spout was discussed above (Fig. 4:10, 11).

Marseille Roof Tile (Fig. 6:9).— A fragment of a roof tile imported from Marseille is shown in Fig. 6:9. The letters BREVET and HENRY can clearly be discerned on the tile. HENRY stands for the name of the Marseille suburb, St. Henry, where many roof-tile factories were located, and BREVET stands for the French word breveté meaning patented.

A few fragments of such roof tiles were retrieved from the site. They were all made in Marseille and some display the factory stamp of Frères Martin or other stamps with hearts or the words POUR TOITURE, meaning “for the roof.” These tiles were exported in large numbers to the Ottoman Empire, including Palestine, and to other destinations, as far as Australia, at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries CE (Vincenz 2018:83).

LOCI 117 AND 121: LATE BYZANTINE PERIOD

Casseroles (Fig. 7:1–3).— The casseroles presented here are made of brittle red or brick-orange ware. They have either a shallow or deep body covered with ribbing of variable density. They all have a beveled rim for holding a lid, although unlike at other sites of these periods, no lids have been retrieved from the excavation. These types of casserole have two horizontal handles, which in some cases are up-turned. The morphological variants found have no implications for the dating of the vessels, as they were long-lived, occurring throughout the Byzantine period. Casseroles are frequently found at sites with a Byzantine-period occupation (e.g., Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 6:7; Peilstöcker 2009: Fig. 6:1–5; Calderon 2010: Fig. 8:84; Yannai 2010: Fig. 18:9–11, 13).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 7:4–6).— The most common type of cooking pot in this region during the Byzantine period has a squat ovoid body and a narrow neck, exhibiting a variety of rim shapes. The body is usually covered with dense ribbing or with bands of ribbing. The common form has large loop handles drawn from the rim of the pot to its upper body and

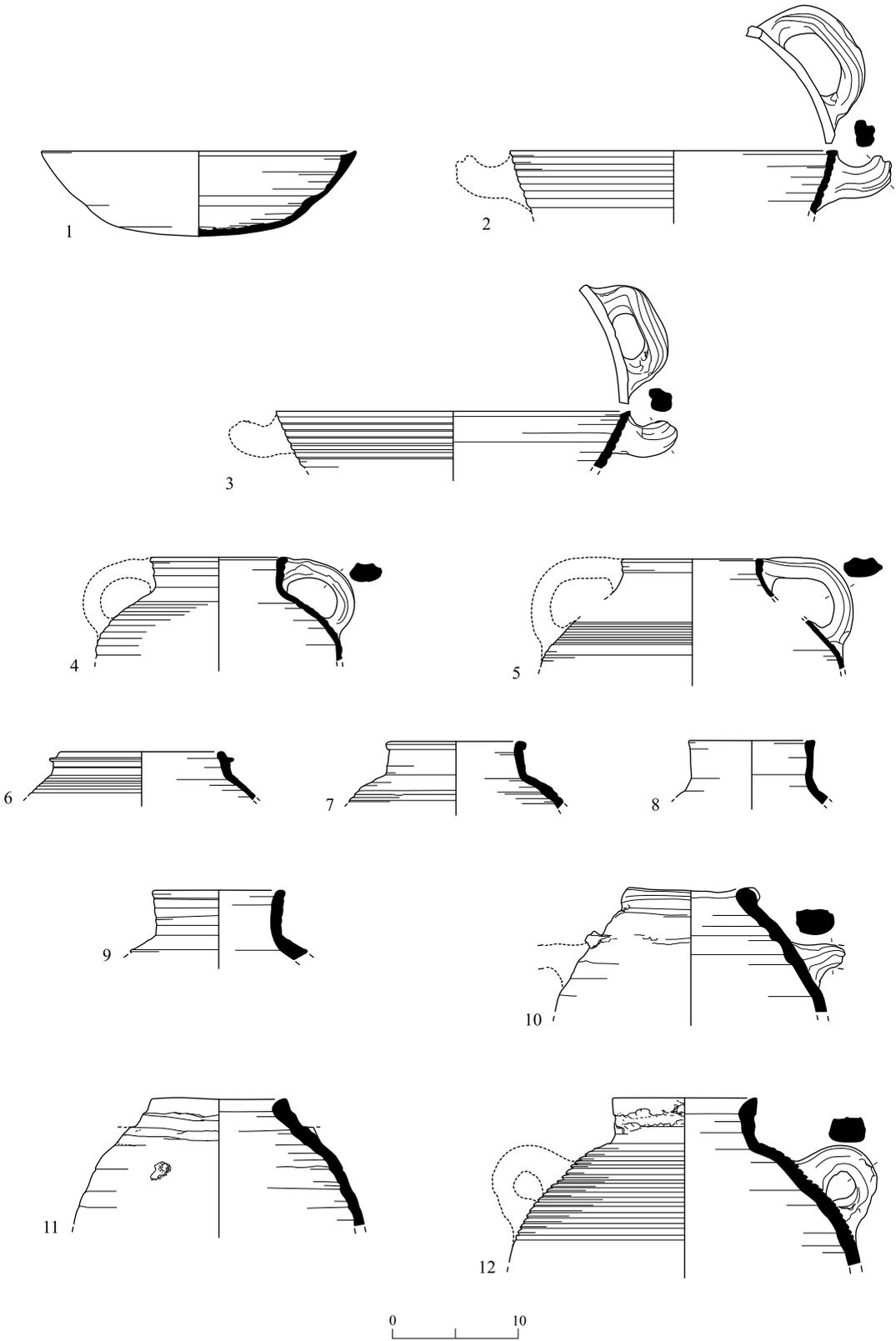


Fig. 7. Pottery from the refuse pit (L117, L121): the late Byzantine period.

◀ Fig. 7

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Casserole	117	1109/1	2.5YR 5/8 red, with many small white and few small black inclusions	Diam. 26 cm Rim preserved: 55%
2	Casserole	117	1109/2	2.5YR 4/6 red, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 13%
3	Casserole	121	1157/1	2.5YR 4/4 reddish brown, with burned core and few small white inclusions	Diam. 30 cm Rim preserved: 11%
4	Cooking pot	117	1109/4	2.5YR 5/8 red, with many small white inclusions	Diam. 11 cm Rim preserved: 27%
5	Cooking pot	121	1120/1	5YR 4/4 reddish brown, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 9%
6	Cooking pot	121	1159/1	2.5YR 4/6 red, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 27%
7	Storage jar	121	1120/2	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow, with few large white inclusions	Diam. 11 cm Rim preserved: 35%
8	Storage jar	121	1157/2	5YR 5/6 yellowish red, with many small and few large white inclusions (large ones visible on surface)	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 22%
9	Storage jar	121	1120/3	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow, with very few small white inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 20%
10	Storage jar	117	1095/1	10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 11 cm Rim preserved: 36%
11	Gaza jar	121	1120/2	7.5YR 7/4–7/6 pink to reddish yellow, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 7.5 cm Rim preserved: 100%
12	Gaza jar	117	1143/1	5YR 5/6 yellowish red, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 9 cm Rim preserved: 50%

positioned in line with the rim. This type of cooking pot is dated to the fifth and sixth centuries CE and has typically been found in Byzantine-period sites.

The cooking pot in Fig. 7:4 has a ribbed neck, a slightly everted rounded rim, a ribbed body and large loop handles drawn from the rim to the body. This type of cooking pot has often been found in contexts together with Gaza jars and therefore, can be dated to the late Byzantine period, probably the seventh century CE. Another cooking pot (Fig. 7:5) has a squat body, a narrowing neck and a thickened rim. The body is covered with bands of ribbing. Two large loop handles are drawn from the rim. No exact parallel for this example was found, although it belongs to the same group of pots as the one in Fig. 7:4 and should thus be dated to the seventh century CE. The cooking pot in Fig. 7:6 has a short neck and an external flange below the rim. The body is covered with dense ribbing. This type of pot occurs with various rim forms. Similar pots with a slightly different rim shape were found at Ḥorbat Rozez (Yannai 2010: Fig. 19:6) and ones with a double-flanged rim were found at Ramat Ha-Nadiv (Calderon 2000: Pl. XXII:34, 35). The date of this type of cooking pot, as with that of the two previous variants, is late Byzantine.

Storage Jars (Fig. 7:7–10).— The bag-shaped storage jar in Fig. 7:7 has a straight neck and a rounded rim with an external roll. Jars of the same type have been found at Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva', where they were dated to the late Byzantine period (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:4), and in Caesarea Maritima (Adan-Bayewitz 1986: Fig. 1:6). A second type of bag-shaped jar (Fig. 7:8) has a straight neck and a flattened rim. It should probably also be dated to the late Byzantine period. A straight ribbed neck and rounded rim of a storage jar (Fig. 7:9) also appears to have had a bag-shaped body. A similar jar comes from Caesarea Maritima, where it was dated to the late Byzantine period (Johnson 2008: No. 1030). A large fragment of a bag-shaped storage jar has a straight ridged neck, an everted rounded rim and small but heavy loop handles placed on the upper body (Fig. 7:10). The body of this fragment is covered with dense ribbing. Two similar, although not identical, jars have been reported from Ramot Nof, Be'er Sheva', where they were dated to the late Byzantine period (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:6, 7).

Gaza Jars (Fig. 7:11, 12).— Two jar fragments can be assigned to Majcherek's (1995) Form 4 or Mayerson's (1994) Type A. They have a short neck, a rim that is thickened externally and clay accretions on the body (see Fig. 6:2 and discussion above).

Flasks (Fig. 8:1, 2).— The two fragments of flasks have a narrow neck and a triangular rim. A handle (Fig. 8:3) possibly belongs to a similar type of flask. These flasks seem to be of the same type as the flask discussed above (Fig. 6:5).

Saqiya Jug (Fig. 8:4).— A complete scoop vessel, also known as a *saqiya* jug, was found. Such vessels were abundant at Tel 'Afar, where they were dated to the Late Roman–Byzantine periods (Peilstöcker 2009: Fig. 10), and were also found at Ḥorbat Rozeḡ (Yannai 2010: Fig. 22:1–4) and Shiqmona (Calderon 2010: Fig. 9:91).

Juglet (Fig. 8:5).— A small, rather coarsely-made juglet, with an ovoid body and a flat base, is shown in Fig. 8:5. No satisfactory parallel for this vessel was found, but a date in the Byzantine period, perhaps more specifically the late Byzantine period, seems probable.

Stopper (Fig. 8:6).— The stopper is made of a reworked sherd from part of the body of a storage jar or jug; a similar stopper is shown in Fig. 1:4.

Water Pipe (Fig. 8:7).— A fragment of a tubular (water?) pipe (Fig. 8:7) lacking its rim was found. A similar fragment of a ceramic pipe comes from a well in Kefar Sava (Ayalon 1998: Fig. 6:4), where it was dated to the end of the Byzantine and beginning of the Islamic period, indicating a possible date for the pipe from the present excavation.

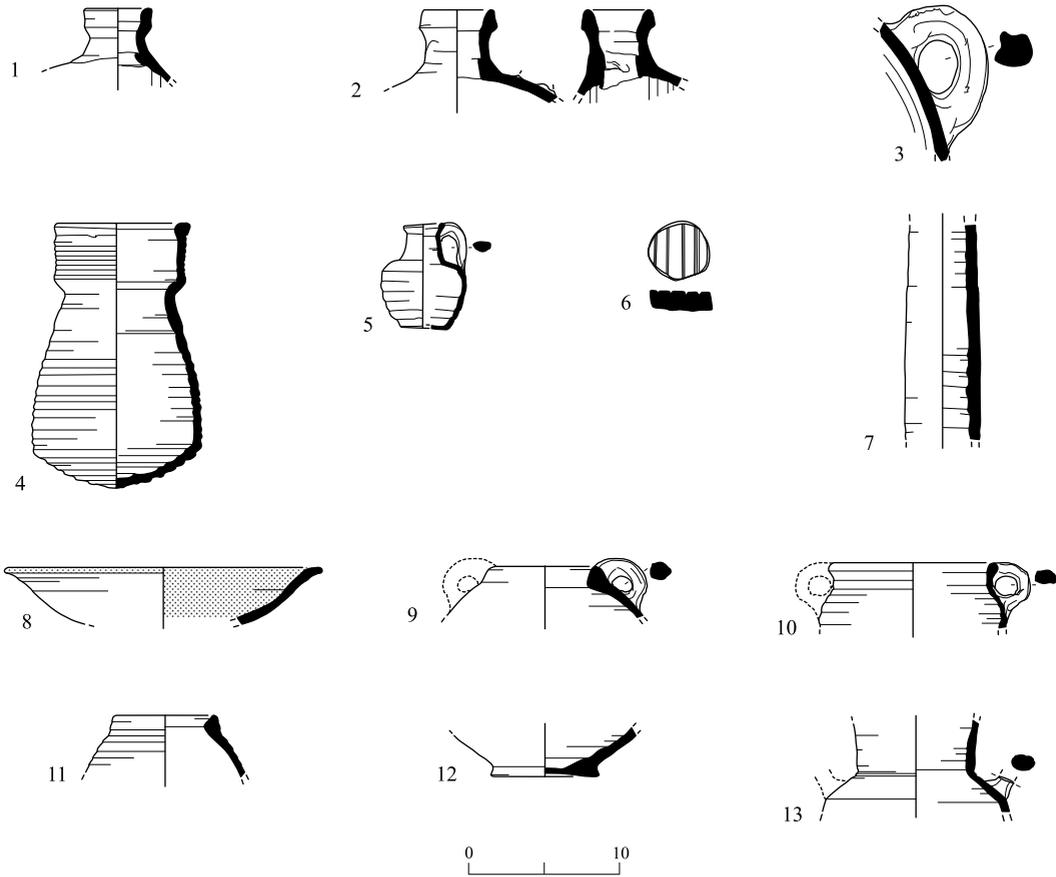


Fig. 8. Pottery from the refuse pit (L117, L121): the late Byzantine (Nos. 1–6) and Early Islamic (Nos. 7–12) periods.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Flask	121	1120/4	2.5YR 4/6 red, with many small white inclusions	Diam. 3.5 cm Rim preserved: 100%
2	Flask	117	1109/5	2.5YR 5/8 red, with burned core and few small white inclusions	Diam. 4.5 cm Rim preserved: 100%
3	Handle	121	1157/3	2.5YR 4/6 red, with many small white inclusions	N/A
4	<i>Saqiya</i> jug	117	1217	2.5YR 5/8–4/6 red, with few large white inclusions	Diam. 9 cm Rim preserved: 70%
5	Juglet	117	1100	2.5Y 7/3 pale yellow	Diam. 2.5 cm Rim preserved: 50%
6	Stopper	117	1109/6	2.5YR 5/8 red, with few large white inclusions	Diam. 3.4 cm
7	Water pipe	121	1157/4	2.5YR 6/6 light red, with few large white and black inclusions	Diam. 2.8 cm No rim preserved
8	Bowl	121	1140/1	10YR 7/3 very pale brown, with very few very small white and black inclusions	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 10%
9	Bowl	121	1140/3	2.5YR 7/6 light red, with very few small white and crushed pottery inclusions	Diam. 9 cm Rim preserved: 15%
10	Juglet	121	1140/2	10YR 7/4 very pale brown, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved 10%

◀ Fig. 8. (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
11	Juglet	121	1140/4	10YR 7/4 very pale brown	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 10%
12	Jug	121	1157/5	10YR 7/4 very pale brown, with few small white inclusions	No diam.
13	Jug	121	1157/6	10YR 7/4 very pale brown, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 6 cm

LOCI 117 AND 121: THE EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD

Glazed Bowl (Fig. 8:8).— The bowl in Fig. 8:8 has a rounded body and an everted pinched rim. It had a glazed surface, which is no longer recognizable. The shape of the bowl and the remains of slip on the exterior suggest that it belongs to the group of Fine Glazed bowls and, in that case, would have been glazed monochrome green or yellow. This type of bowl is dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE (Avisar 1996: Fig. XIII.8:3, 4).

Bowl with Loop Handles (Fig. 8:9).— This bowl has a rounded body and an everted rounded rim. In this type of bowl two handles are attached from the rim to the body. Similar vessels, although without handles, were found at Ramla, where they were dated to the Early Islamic period (Kletter 2005: Fig. 17:4; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.24:11; Shmueli 2016: Fig. 14:4).

Juglets (Fig. 8:10, 11).— The juglet in Fig. 8:10, made of light buff ware, has an inverted thickened rim and loop handles. Although no satisfactory parallel was found, a date in the Early Islamic period, possibly in the ninth century CE, is suggested. Another fragment, also made of light buff ware, belongs to a juglet with a thickened, internally beveled rim and a ribbed body (Fig. 8:11). This example is similar in form and date to the juglet in Fig. 8:10.

Water Jugs (Fig. 8:12, 13).— A fragment of a water jug (Fig. 8:12) features part of a straight neck, the body and a handle located at the upper part of the body. It is made of light buff ware. This type of water jug was common during the Early Islamic period between the eighth and the tenth centuries CE (see Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:1, 2; Cytryn-Silverman 2010:104–108, Pls. 9.4:9; 9.11:6; 9.17:11). A flat base (Fig. 8:13) made of buff ware also belongs to a water jug. Unlike the other jug type, this one probably had a more rounded body. Similar bases and vessels come from Ramla (Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pls. 9.14:6; 9.24:4), also dated from the eighth to the tenth century CE.

LOCI 127 AND 128: THE EARLY BYZANTINE PERIOD

Casseroles (Fig. 9:1–3).— The three casseroles presented here are made of brittle red or brick-orange ware, and are similar to the ones discussed above (see Fig. 7:1–3, and discussion above).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 9:4–6).— The three cooking pots have a squat globular body with an inverted, externally thickened rim and two large loop handles drawn from the rim to the upper body. The body is covered with dense ribbing. Similar examples come from the Byzantine village at ‘En Gedi, where they were dated to the second–fourth centuries CE (Vincenz 2007: Pl. 20:1, 2).

Juglets (Fig. 9:7, 8).— Two juglets are presented here: one (Fig. 9:7) has an ovoid ribbed body with an everted rounded rim and loop handles; the other (Fig. 9:8) also has an ovoid ribbed body and loop handles, but its rim is everted and thickened. No parallels were found for these juglets, but considering that they were found together with cooking pots dated to the second–fourth centuries CE (see Fig. 9:4–6 above), a similar date is suggested for them.

Amphora Handle (Fig. 9:9).— This amphora handle is straight and thick. Determining the type of amphora to which this handle belonged is problematic given the absence of a rim and base; however, it may belong to an amphora of the Benghazi Mid-Roman Type 13, dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Johnson 2008:104, see discussion and references therein).

Storage Jar (Fig. 9:10).— This storage jar has a thickened neck and an everted pinched rim. The body is covered with ribbing, with random combing appearing below the rim. Similar jars come from Ramot Nof, Be’er Sheva’, where they were dated to the late Byzantine period (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 4:2).

Gaza Jars (Fig. 9:11, 12).— One fragment has a short neck, forming a flange on the exterior, and can be assigned to Majcherek’s (1995) Form 4 or Mayerson’s (1994) Type A. Also assigned to the same type is another fragment (Fig. 9:12) with a short neck, thickened on both sides. Both jars belong to the group of Gaza jars discussed above (Fig. 7:10, 11).

Brick (Fig. 8:13).— A square brick made of coarse material is of an unknown date.

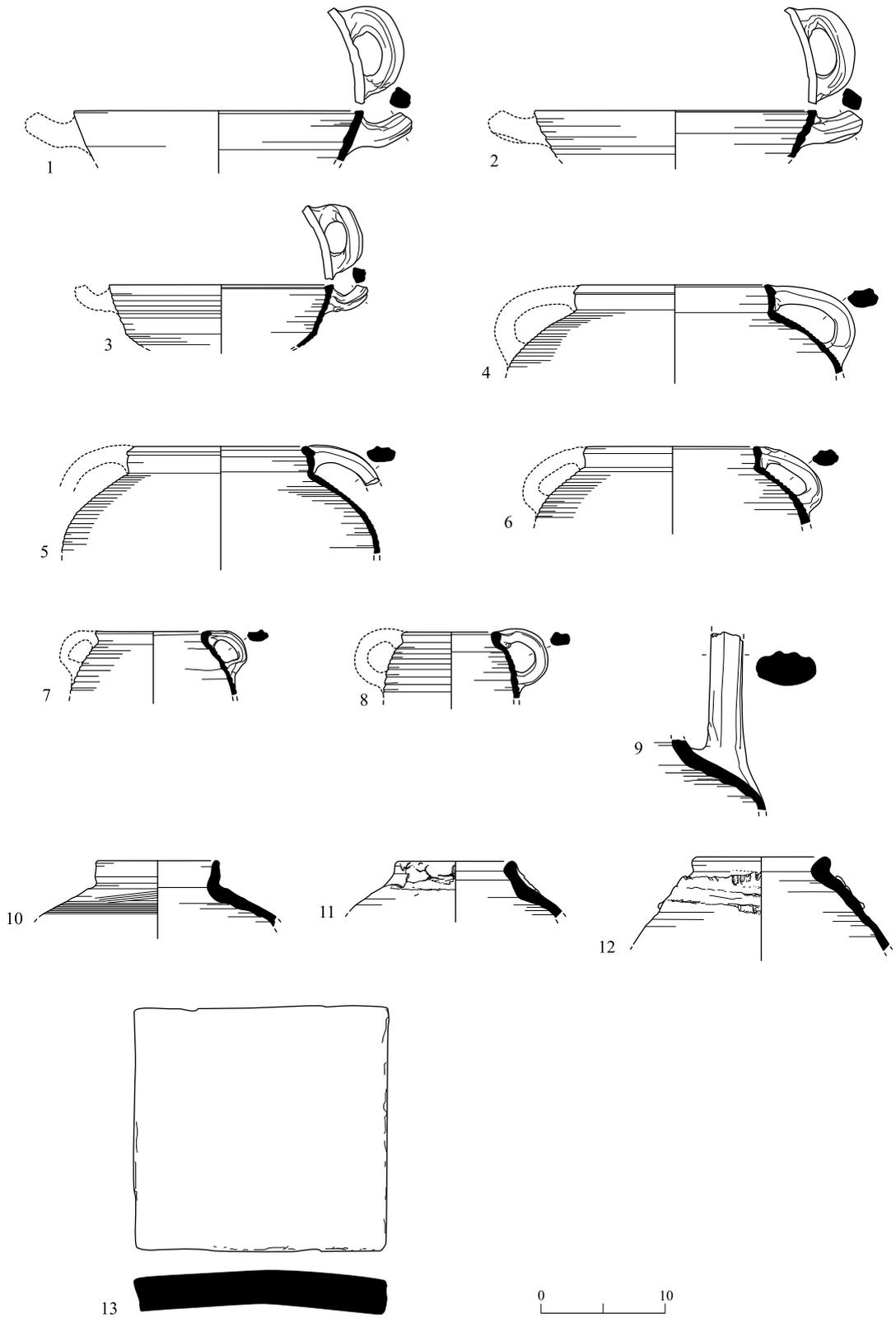


Fig. 9. Pottery from the refuse pit (L127, L128): the early Byzantine period.

◀ Fig. 9

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Casserole	127	1176/1	2.5YR 5/6 red, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 28 cm Rim preserved: 8%
2	Casserole	127	1197/1	2.5YR 5/6–5/8 red, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 10%
3	Casserole	128	1178/1	5YR 4/2 dark reddish gray (burned), with few small white inclusions	Diam. 15 cm Rim preserved: 12%
4	Cooking pot	127	1176/2	2.5YR 5/8 red, with many small white inclusions; ext. fired black	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 22.5%
5	Cooking pot	127	1176/3	2.5YR 5/8 red, with many small white inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 10%
6	Cooking pot	127	1176/4	2.5YR 4/8 red, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 10%
7	Juglet	127	1176/5	7.5YR 5/2 brown, with many small white and few small black inclusions	Diam. 9 cm Rim preserved: 17%
8	Juglet	127	1176/6	2.5YR 5/6 red, with many very small white inclusions; surface fired to buff	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 12%
9	Handle of amphora	127	1197/2	2.5YR 6/8 light red, with few small white and micaceous inclusions	No diam.
10	Storage jar	128	1178/2	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow, with few very small white and black inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 17%
11	Gaza jar	128	1178/3	Burned, with few small white inclusions	Diam. 8 cm Rim preserved: 22%
12	Gaza jar	128	1178/4	7.5YR 5/6 dark brown, with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 42%
13	Square brick	128	1178/5	5YR 4/6 yellowish red, with many small white inclusions	Dimensions: 19.5 × 19.5 cm

LOCI 131 AND 133: THE EARLY BYZANTINE PERIOD

Casseroles (Fig. 10:1–3).— The three casseroles shown are of the common type discussed above (see Figs. 7:1–3; 9:1–3).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 10:4–8).— The two cooking pots in Fig. 10:4, 5 have a squat globular body, an everted neck with an externally thickened rim and loop handles that are drawn from rim to shoulder. The body is covered with dense ribbing. A date in the fourth century CE is suggested for these examples. Cooking pots with similar rim and neck shapes were reported from Caesarea Maritima (Johnson 2008: No. 836), where they were dated to the third and fourth centuries CE. The same type of cooking pot also comes from Ramot Nof, Be'er Seva' (Ustinova and Nachshoni 1994: Fig. 6:9–14). Two additional fragments of cooking pots (Fig. 10:6, 7) have a squat globular body, a straight neck and an internally

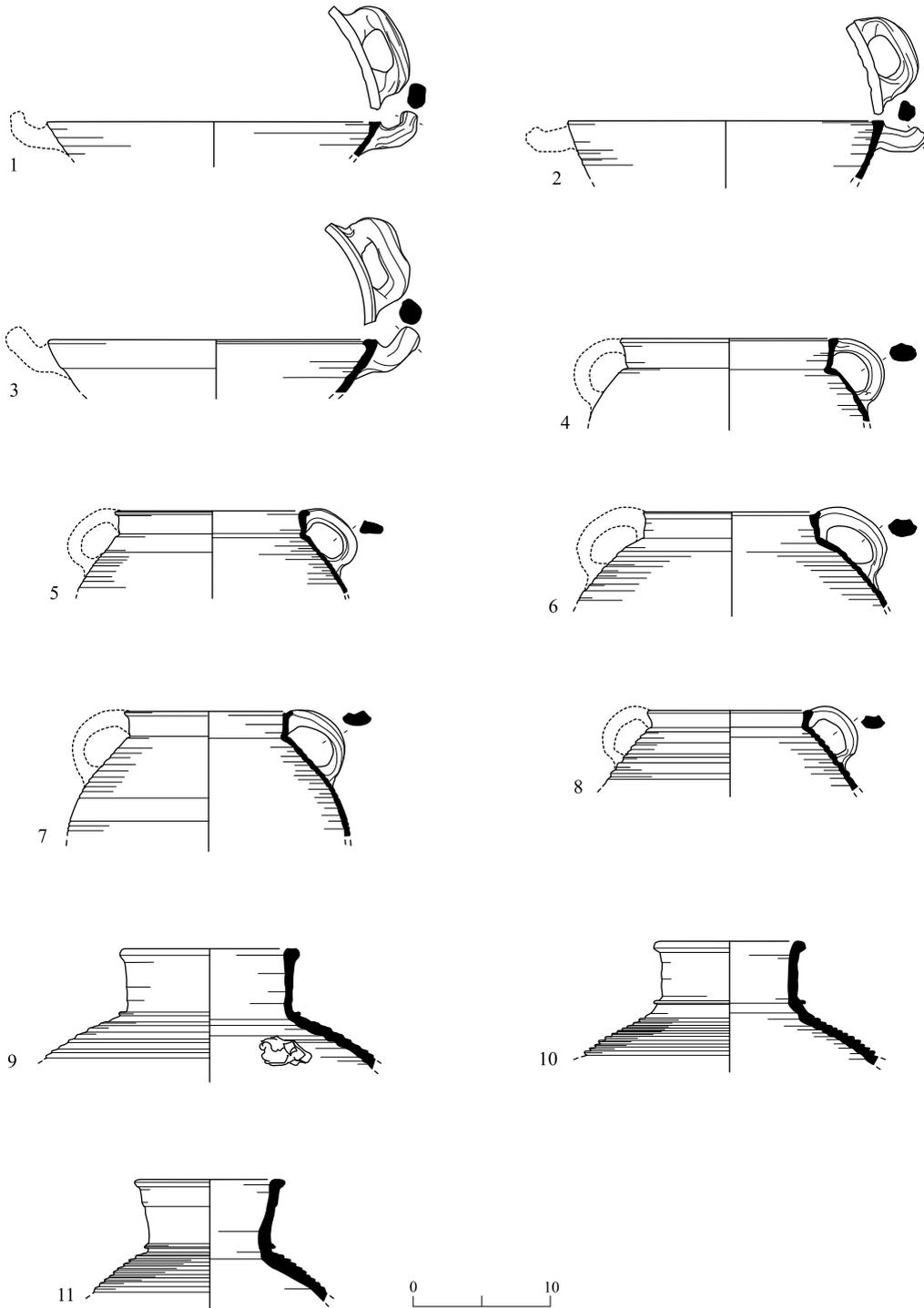


Fig. 10. Pottery from the refuse pit (L131, L133): the early Byzantine period.

◀ Fig. 10

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	Casserole	131	1218/1	2.5YR 5/8 red with few small white and black inclusions	Diam. 24 cm Rim preserved: 10%
2	Casserole	131	1236/1	2.5YR 5/6 red with few large white inclusions; ext. burned	Diam. 22 cm Rim preserved: 9%
3	Casserole	131	1236/2	2.5YR 5/6 red with gray core and few small white inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 17%
4	Cooking pot	131	1218/2	2.5YR 5/6 red with gray core and few small white inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 17%
5	Cooking pot	131	1204/1	2.5YR 4/6 red with few small white inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 10%
6	Cooking pot	131	1204/2	2.5YR 5/8 red with few small white and few large black inclusions	Diam. 12 cm Rim preserved: 21%
7	Cooking pot	131	1204/3	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with many small white inclusions; ext. fired to buff	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 60%
8	Cooking pot	131	1215/1	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with many small white inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 10%
9	Storage jar	131	1204/4	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow with many small white and micaceous inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 55%
10	Storage jar	133	1220/1	2.5YR 4/8 red with many small black and white inclusions	Diam. 26 cm Rim preserved: 12%
11	Storage jar	133	1220/2	Burned with few small white inclusions	Diam. 10 cm Rim preserved: 20%

beveled rim. The loop handles are drawn from the rim to the shoulder but extend above the rim. The body is covered with dense ribbing. A date in the fourth century CE is suggested for these cooking pots, although no exact parallel was found. The last example of a cooking pot (Fig. 10:8) has a squat globular body and a short, everted neck with a rounded rim. The handle extends above the rim, and the body is covered with ribbing. In this example, and in those described above, the neck is sharply set-off from the body. A fragment of a cooking pot with a similar rim and neck shape was reported from Caesarea Maritima (Johnson 2008:73, No. 837), where it was retrieved from a sealed context dated to the second half of the fourth century CE.

Storage Jars (Fig. 10:9–11).— These three storage jars are of the same type, having a ribbed body, a slightly everted neck and an externally rolled rim. The body is separated from the neck by a pronounced ridge. These jars are dated to the second–fourth centuries CE (Magness 1993:222–223, Form 3; Johnson 2008:87, Nos. 1013–1023). This dating fits well with that of the cooking pots, which were found together with them (see Fig. 10:4–8).

OIL LAMPS FROM THE REFUSE PIT

A large number of complete oil lamps were retrieved from various loci within the refuse pit (Figs. 11–13). They belong mostly to three major types: ovoid lamps with a large filling hole and Samaritan Lamp Types 1 and 2. A few other lamps belonging to other types are also described below. An Islamic lamp (Fig. 13:3), which was retrieved from a disturbed context of a modern agricultural pit (L135), is also presented here.

Ovoid Lamps with a Large Filling Hole (Fig. 11:1–7).— These lamps have an ovoid shallow body and a large filling hole. Usually, the body is red-slipped, the rim is decorated with a herringbone pattern or other geometric patterns, and the base is outlined with several incised lines. These lamps are very common in sites throughout the region and are understood to be the typological continuation of the Roman disc lamp. They can be dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:99; Hadad 2002:24, Type 15).

Fig. 11 ▶

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Dimensions
1	131	1205/1	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; slip: 2.5YR 5/6 red; large filling hole; dots on rim; base outlined with lines	Length 8.2 cm Width 6.5 cm
2	131	1205/2	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; slip: 2.5YR 5/6 red; large filling hole; rim with radial pattern; base outlined with lines	Length 8 cm Width 6.5 cm
3	131	1205/3	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; slip: 2.5YR 5/6 red; large filling hole; rim with herringbone pattern; base outlined with lines	Length 8 cm Width 6.5 cm
4	131	1205/5	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; slip: 2.5YR 5/6 red; large filling hole; rim with herringbone pattern	Length 6.8 cm
5	131	1205/4	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; herringbone pattern on rim	Length 5.5 cm
6	131	1205/6	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; herringbone pattern on rim	Length 6.5 cm
7	131	1239	Ovoid; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; slip: 2.5YR 5/6 red; decoration worn	Length 8 cm Width 4.2 cm
8	127	1193/1	Round; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; four-pointed star handle; branches on rim and pomegranates above nozzle	Length 9 cm Width 7.5 cm
9	127	1193/2	Round; 10YR 7/4 very pale brown; four-pointed star handle; rim decorated with geometric pattern of squares, ellipses and dotted circles; base decorated with darts and dotted circles	Length 8.5 cm Width 6.5 cm
10	127	1193/3	Round (nozzle broken); 10YR 7/4 very pale brown four-pointed star handle; rim decorated with dotted circles and other geometric patterns; base decorated with darts and dotted circles	Length 7 cm Width 6.5 cm
11	117	1160/1	Round; 10YR 6/4 light yellowish brown; wing-shaped handle; rim decorated with arched ladder pattern and branches	Length 3.5 cm Width 6 cm
12	117	1160/2	Round; 5YR 6/4 light reddish brown; uplifted wing-shaped handle; rim decorated with branches	Length 7 cm Width 6.5 cm

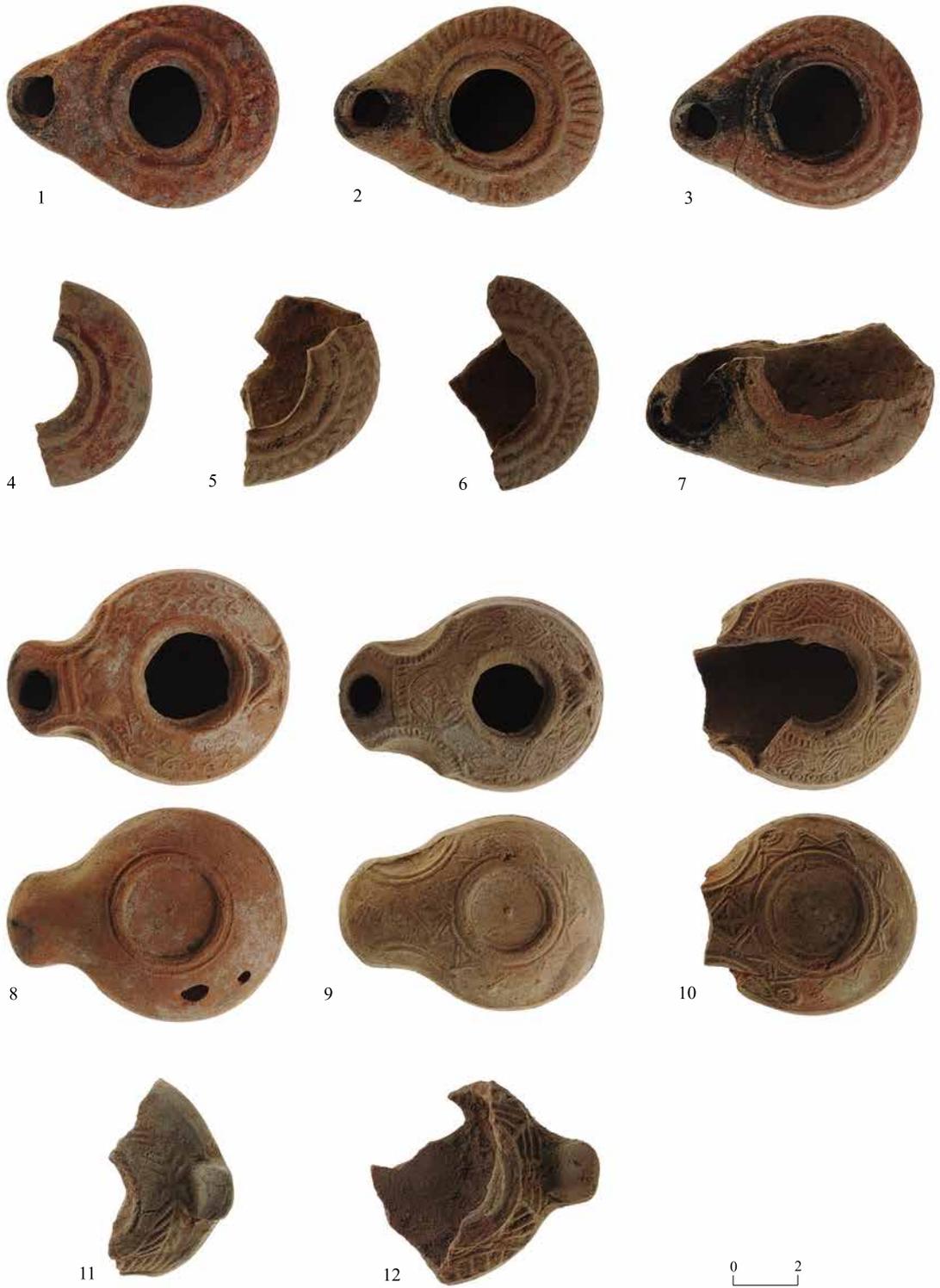


Fig. 11. Oil lamps from the refuse pit.

Samaritan Lamp Type 1 (Fig. 11:8–12).— This type of lamp has been found in large quantities in Caesarea Maritima (for a discussion of the type and its dating, see Sussman 2008:240–243). These examples show the same characteristics as those from Caesarea Maritima: a round body with a bow-shaped nozzle and a star-shaped handle. The base has a central dot. The rim of such lamps can be decorated with one of a large variety of patterns, mainly a ladder pattern, but also branches and circles are common. These lamps are dated from the third/fourth to the fifth century CE.

Samaritan Lamp Type 2 (Fig. 12).— The majority of the lamps from the excavation belong to this group. They have the same characteristics as the lamps of this type found at Caesarea Maritima (for a discussion of this type and its dating, see Sussman 2008:243–244): an elongated piriform body with wide shoulders, a wing-shaped handle and a rim decorated with an arched ladder pattern. The base has a central dot. In contrast to the lamps from Caesarea Maritima, which are usually red-slipped, the ones from Miska are not. As is the case with the Type 1 lamps described above, these lamps are dated from the third/fourth to the fifth century CE.

Fig. 12 ▶

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Dimensions
1	121	1199	Piriform; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns and dotted circles; dot in center of base; four-pointed star handle	Length 9 cm Width 6.5 cm
2	111	1114/2	Piriform; 7.5YR 6/4 light brown; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns and dotted circles; dot in center of base; four-pointed star handle	Length 9 cm Width 6 cm
3	136	1241/1	Piriform; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; rim decorated with radial lines; wing-shaped handle; dot in center of base	Length 10.5 cm Width 6 cm
4	111	1078/1	Piriform; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; rim decorated with radial lines; wing-shaped handle; dot in center of base	Length 11.5 cm Width 7 cm
5	111	1078/2	Piriform; 10YR 6/3 pale brown; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns; dot in center of base	Length 8.5 cm Width 6 cm
6	111	1114/1	Piriform; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; rim decorated with radial lines; wing-shaped handle; dot in center of base	Length 11.5 cm Width 7 cm
7	111	1114/3	5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; wing-shaped handle; rim decorated with dotted circles	Length 3.5 cm Width 4.2 cm
8	111	1114/4	Piriform; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns and dotted circles	Length 6.5 cm Width 3 cm
9	111	1114/5	Piriform; 5YR 6/6 yellowish red; base with dotted center	Length 9 cm Width 6 cm
10	117	1160/3	Piriform; 5YR 5/6 yellowish red; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns; dot in center of base	Length 9 cm Width 6.5 cm
11	111	1079	Piriform; 10YR 6/6 brownish yellow; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns next to nozzle and with dotted circles; wing-shaped handle; dot in center of base	Length 10 cm Width 6.5 cm
12	117	1072	Piriform; 7.5YR 7/4 pink; rim decorated with arched ladder patterns; wing-shaped handle; dot in center of base	Length 11 cm Width 7 cm

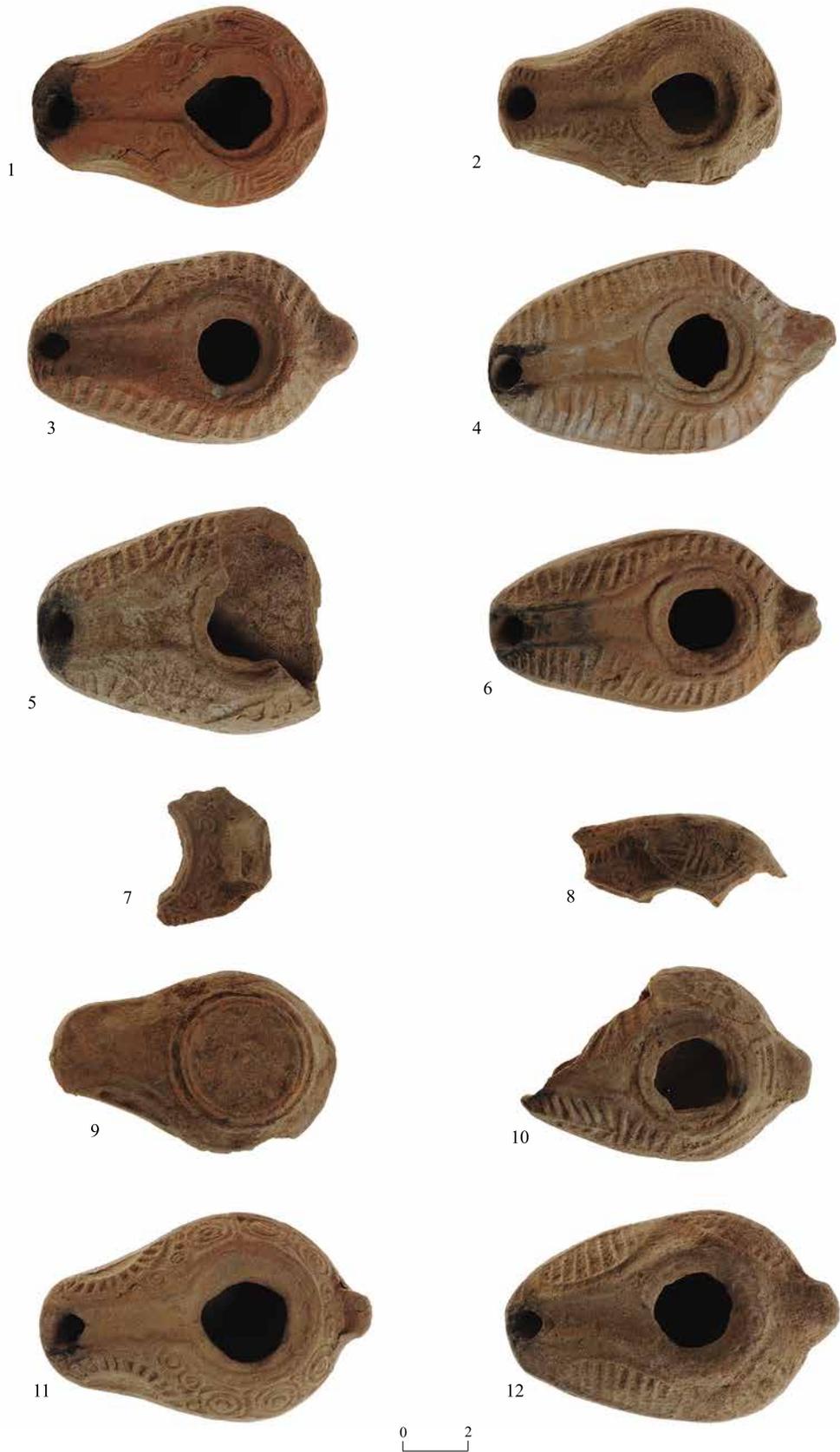


Fig. 12. Oil lamps from the refuse pit.

Roman Lamps (Fig. 13:1, 2).— These lamps are characterized by a sunken discus and a wide rim, both of which are decorated in some examples and undecorated in others. A round lamp with a flat undecorated rim and a small flat handle is shown in Fig. 13:1. The base is outlined with incised lines. Another lamp, in which the discus is broken, lacks a handle, bears a red slip and is characterized by a round flat body and a nozzle which is small and short (Fig. 13:2). This type of lamp was locally made in the region of Syria-Palestine, where it was widespread in antiquity. Both lamps shown here are made of a rather thin, well-fired ware and should be dated to the first or second century CE (for a discussion of this type of lamp, see Hadad 2002:19–20).

Islamic Lamp (Fig. 13:3).— This lamp fragment belongs to the group of Channel Nozzle Lamps. They are mold-made and composed of two parts; the joint between the upper and lower parts is visible on the coarsely made examples. Their shape is oval and pointed toward the nozzle and their section is biconical. They tend to have quite large filling holes surrounded by two concentric ridges, the gap between the ridges forming the channel leading to the wick hole. These lamps usually have a tongue handle, which was attached to the body of the lamp after the two parts of the lamp were put together; in some examples this handle is high, starting from the junction of the two parts of the lamp, and arching over the



Fig. 13. Oil lamps from the refuse pit.

No.	Locus	Basket	Ware Description	Dimensions
1	133	1221	Round; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; flat undecorated rim; small flat handle; base outlined with lines	Length 7.7 cm Width 6 cm
2	136	1241/2	Round; 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow; slip 2.5YR 5/6 red; sunken broken discus	Length 8 cm Width 6.5 cm
3	135	1233	Channel Nozzle lamp; 2.5Y 8/2 pale yellow; pattern of grape clusters and floral circles	Length 8 cm

ridge of the filling hole without connecting to the body on that side. The lamps are typically decorated on the rim and usually inside the channel as well. The decorations may be of vegetal, animal or geometric designs, and in some cases, inscriptions occur on the rim. The channel may be decorated with stylized palm trees, herringbone patterns or other forms of vegetal decorations, stylized to a lesser or greater degree. The base of these lamps has the pointed oval shape of the body, and is either plain or decorated with flowers, arabesques and in some cases, inscriptions, mostly in Arabic. Similar lamps have been found at Ramla (Kletter 2005:82–86, Fig. 21:3–11, and references therein), where they are dated to the Abbasid period.

CONCLUSIONS

The ceramic material retrieved from the four excavation areas at Miska is quite homogenous, in spite of the fact that these areas were separated by wide gaps. The Byzantine material fits well with what is known of other assemblages of this period in the region, as can be seen by the parallels cited.

The Early Islamic material is mostly of a local nature, consisting of types that are well-known in sites of this period in the region, such as Ramla, with the addition of some material imported from Egypt.

The late Ottoman period is represented mainly by Black Gaza Ware, which was produced in sites such as Ashqelon and Gaza. The presence of Marseille roof tiles from this period is not an indication of luxury, as these items were widespread in the region at that time.

The rare presence of imported vessel types in all of the periods represented at the site indicates the site's rural nature.

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