

## HELLENISTIC- AND EARLY ROMAN-PERIOD POTTERY FROM RABBI YEHUDA ME-RAGUZA STREET, YAFO (JAFFA)

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### INTRODUCTION

The pottery retrieved during the 2011–2013 excavations on Rabbi Yehuda Me-Raguza Street in Yafo (Jaffa) (see Arbel and Ranchberger, this volume), as at other excavations in the area, included sherds dated to the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods, which are described here. These finds are testimony to the earliest urban occupation recorded in Yafo's Lower City, which is located to the east and northeast of the ancient mound.

### THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD

The Hellenistic assemblage consists of Fine Table Wares, almost exclusively Eastern Mediterranean imports, household and cooking wares, and locally and regionally produced containers (for imported amphorae from this excavation, see Finkielsztein, this volume).

#### **Fine Table Wares**

##### *Fish Plates* (Fig. 1:1–4)

Three types of fish-plate bowls are represented. The 'classic', early Hellenistic shape has a sharply bent rim and tapering walls (Fig. 1:1), dating from the end of the fourth to the mid-late third centuries BCE. It has been found at other excavations in Yafo (Gendelman, forthcoming [b]) and at numerous sites in the region (e.g., Guz-Zilberstein 1995:291, Fig. 6.3:1–5; Gorzalczany 2003:7\*, Fig. 2:6, 7). Based on its distinctive fabric and glossy slip, the second variant (Fig. 1:2), belongs to the group of slipped pottery of northern Syrian origin, known as Black Slipped Predecessors of Eastern Sigillata A (BSP) (Slane 1997:257–274). This fragment, with a high sloping wall and an arched rim is like BSP Type 1 and dates to c. 150–128/125 BCE (Slane 1997: Pl. 1:1–7). The type is frequently found in late Hellenistic sites in Israel (Dothan and Freedman 1967:21, Fig. 2:1, 2; Oleson et al. 1994: Figs. 50:177; 51:184; 56:198–200). Small, shallow bowls of Levantine origin with a wide rim and shallow central depression (Fig. 1:3, 4) come in a diverse range of fabrics, dating

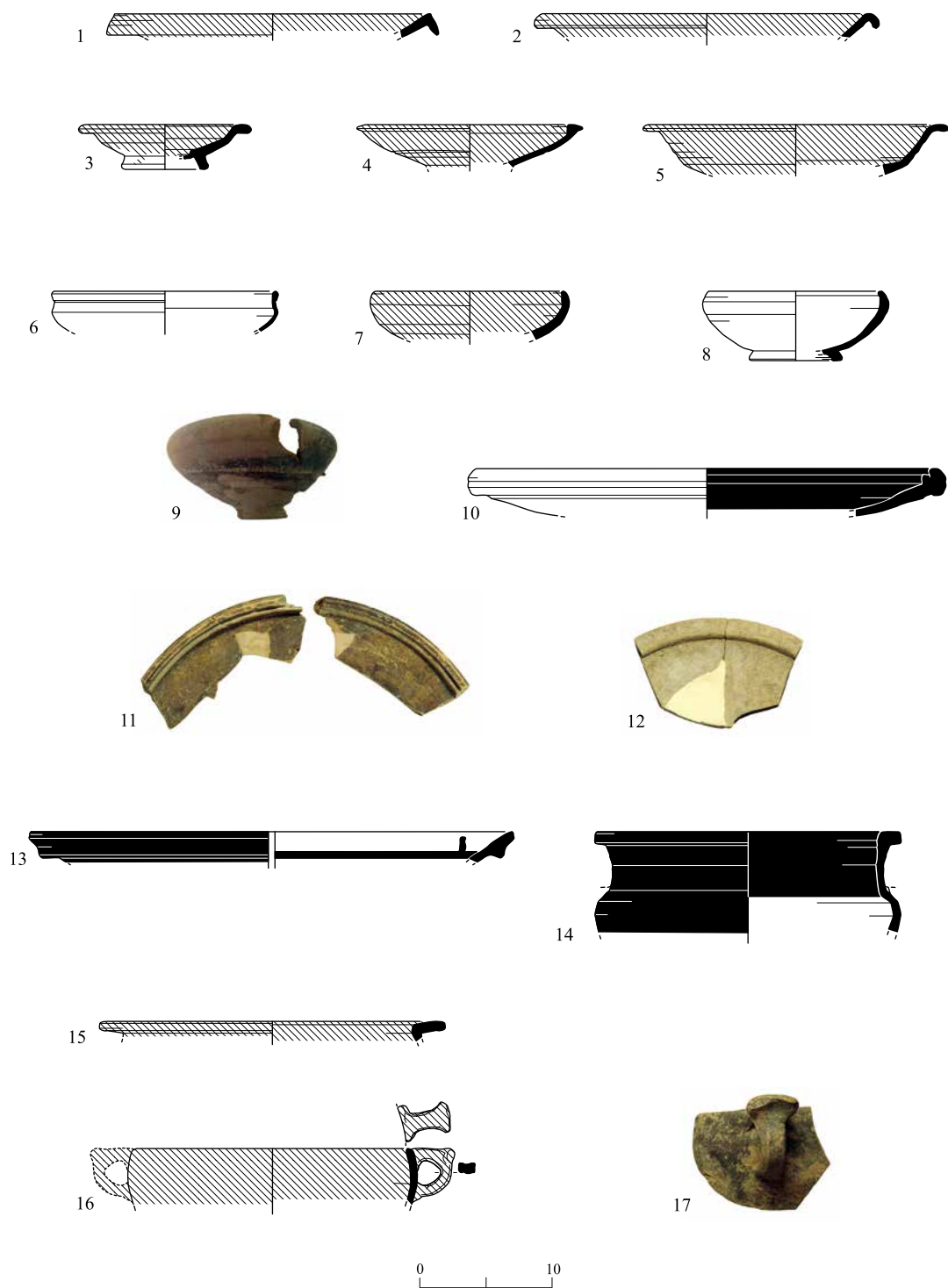


Fig. 1. Hellenistic-period pottery fine table wares.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Fish plate	432	4160	
2	Fish plate, BSP	118	1648	Light pink hard fabric, few white grits, brown to dark gray slip all over
3	Fish plate	619	6149	Light red hard fabric, red to dark brown mottled slip on int. and upper three-quarters of ext.
4	Fish plate	428	4143	Light reddish brown fabric, some white grits, dull reddish slip all over
5	Carinated bowl	438	4140/4	Light red hard fabric, worn red slip on int. and upper three-quarters of ext.
6	Levantine bowl	125	1015	Pinkish rather soft fabric with few white and brown inclusions, worn
7	Echinus bowl	438	4140/3	Pale rather soft fabric with few white inclusions, worn dark brown slip all over
8	Echinus bowl	438	4151	Dark gray slightly micaceous fabric, dark gray slip all over
9	Echinus bowl local	434	4104	Reddish yellow gritty fabric, white grits, quartz, self-slip, brownish wash on int. and upper three-quarters of ext.
10	Ivy bowl	438	4140/5	Pink hard fabric, dark gray slip on int. and on rim, some red grits, remains of black painted decoration on int.; ivy leaves to the left
11	Ivy bowl	438	4100/1, 5–7	Pink hard fabric, some red grits, brownish slip on int. and upper ext., remains of white-painted decoration on int.
12	Mastoid bowl	438	4100/2, 3	Pinkish gray fabric, some white grits, brownish slip on int. and upper ext.
13	Kantharos	313	3030/6	Light gray hard fabric, worn black slip all over
14	Column krater	438	4140/1	Pink hard fabric, some white grits, dark gray mottled slip on ext. and upper int.
15	Bell-shaped krater	438	4140/2	Pink hard fabric, few white grits, slip varies from grayish on int. and ext. to reddish brown on rim
16	Skyphoid cup	626	5173	Light red hard fabric, red to dark brown mottled slip all over
17	Skyphoid cup	438	4100/4	Pink hard fabric, some red grits, grayish brown slip on int. and upper ext.

from the third to the second or early first centuries BCE, have been unearthed at Yafu (Jakoel and Gendelman 2017:61\*, Fig. 9:6; Tsuf 2018:110–112, Fig. 9.3:69–81) and at other sites (see Kenyon 1957:260–263, Fig. 54:7, 9–12; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:292, Fig. 6.3:22–27; Vitto 2005:160, Fig. 9:7).

#### *Carinated Bowl* (Fig. 1:5)

The shape of this carinated footed bowl with a flaring wall and out-turned rim imitates the Attic Hellenistic bowls with an out-turned rim. This bowl dates from c. 275 to the second century BCE (Rotroff 1997:159–160). Such vessels were produced throughout

the Mediterranean basin and are widespread in Yafo (Tsuf 2018:110–112, Fig. 9.2:57–60) and at other sites in the region (Oleson et al. 1994:146, Fig. 55:BG 6, 7; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:290–291, Fig. 6.2:14–19, Photograph 6.5; Slane 1997:359–361, Pl. 31:512).

*Levantine Shouldered Bowl* (Fig. 1:6)

This fragmentary shouldered bowl with an out-turned rounded rim and a pair of horizontal strap handles connected to the shoulder, pinched to the rim (not preserved), is similar to Guz-Zilberstein's Type BL 10a and dates to the late fourth–second centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294, Fig. 6.7:1–7). Such bowls are common finds in Yafo (Tsuf 2018:115, Fig. 9.4:100–105) and other sites in the Levant (Kenyon 1957:227, Fig. 39:5; Hayes 1991:23–24, Fig. 12:1–3; Fischer and Tal 1999:236, Fig. 5.11:6–11; Rochman-Halperin 1999:114, Fig. 25:11; Levine 2003:75, Fig. 6.1:3, 4; Kletter 2006:121, Fig. 37:8, 9).

*Echinus Bowls* (Fig. 1:7–9)

These hemispherical bowls appear in a variety of fabrics; they are very common among Hellenistic assemblages from Yafo (Gendelman and Jakoel 2017:301, Fig. 16.1:1, 2; Jakoel and Gendelman 2017:61\*, Fig. 9:1–5, 7–11; Tsuf 2018:100–101, 105–109, Figs. 9.1:16–19; 9.2:29–53). The bowls, produced throughout the Eastern Mediterranean, range in shape from small and shallow to larger deeper variations. This long-lasting shape was produced continuously from the late Persian/early Hellenistic period (second half of fourth–early third centuries BCE) till late in the second/early first centuries BCE. It is frequently found at other sites (see Fischer 1989:183, Fig. 13.3:2, 3; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:290–291, Fig. 6.1:1–29; Fischer and Tal 1999:230, Fig. 5.7:7, 8; Tal 1999:153–154, Fig. 4.35:2–4). The Echinus bowls found on Me-Raguzza Street are diverse in their fabrics. The pale fabric is probably of Levantine origin (Fig. 1:7) while the gray, slightly micaceous fabric (Fig. 1:8) seems to resemble Knidian manufacture (Kenrick 1985:59–61).

Figure 1:9 is made of a fabric similar to those of locally produced household vessels and containers. Locally produced versions of pan-Hellenic shapes like Echinus bowls appeared in the region as early as the late Persian period (Singer-Avitz 1989:133, Fig. 9.13.3–5) and were produced continuously throughout the Hellenistic period (Gorzalczany 1999:28\*, Fig. 4:1–4; 2003:7\*, Fig. 2:1–4). Locally produced Echinus bowls are common finds in Yafo (Tsuf 2018:98–99, Fig. 9.1:12–14).

*Ivy Platter Group* (Fig. 1:10–15)

This group includes vessels of diverse shapes made of a variety of fabrics with a dark gray to reddish slip, decorated in West Slope Technique, which combines white paint, incisions and a stamped pattern, defined as Ivy Platter Group (Rotroff 2002:100–101). The origin of the workshops that produced these vessels is still unknown; the southeastern Aegean (Hayes 1991), Rhodes (Młynarczyk 2002) or “somewhere along the south coast of Asia Minor or the coasts of Lebanon and Syria” (Rotroff 2002:101) have all been suggested.

*Ivy Bowls* (Fig. 1:10, 11).— These fragments belong to a flaring shallow bowl with a solid rolled rim with grooves on top. They were decorated with rouletting on their inner bottoms (not preserved) and with white-painted ivy tendrils and leaves on their bodies. Similar vessels dating to the third–second centuries BCE are well-known from South Levantine sites, and are variously called Ivy Platter Type 1 (Hayes 1991:10, 103, Fig. 3:8; Rotroff 2002:100–101, Figs. 2; 4:1); Plates with Heavy Rolled Grooved Rim (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:225–227, Figs. 5.9:11, 12; 5.10:1–10); or Type BL5b (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:293, Fig. 6.3:17–21). Such bowls are common finds from Hellenistic deposits in Yafo (Tsuf 2018:273–274, Figs. 9.51:854, 855; 9.52:856, 857).

*Mastoid Bowl* (Fig. 1:12).— This fragment of a deep, near-conical mastoid bowl has a simple grooved rim and white- and red-painted ivy tendrils and leaves on the mid interior (not preserved). It resembles Rosenthal-Heginbottom's Saucers with Beveled or Grooved Rim (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:224–225, Fig. 5.9:5–9). Such vessels have been found in early second century BCE deposits at Paphos (Hayes 1991:97, 139, Figs. 3:3, 47:96) and at Tel Kisan (Młynarczyk 2002:119, Fig. 1:19).

*Kantharos* (Fig. 1:13).— This deep conical bowl, with a simple rim and a protruding external ridge, is made of pale grayish fabric, black-slipped inside and out. Its shape closely resembles a kantharos/calyx beaker of West Slope Technique from the Tel Dor excavations. It is usually dated to the second century BCE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:223, Fig. 5.9:1).

*Column Krater* (Fig. 1:14).— This example is the upper fragment of a small column krater with a rounded shoulder, wide cylindrical neck decorated with white painted tendrils (not preserved), an out-turned rim and a pair of vertical handles connected to the shoulder and pushed up toward the rim. It is similar to Rosenthal-Heginbottom's Kraters with Vertical Collar (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:229–230, Fig. 5.11:7–10).

*Bell-Shaped Krater* (Fig. 1:15).— This rim fragment is from a deep bell-shaped krater on a low ring foot with an arched wide rim, a dull red to reddish brown slip and ivy tendrils painted white on the upper exterior.<sup>1</sup> It resembles Guz-Zilberstein's KR10 (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:296, Fig. 6.12:1–6) and Rosenthal-Heginbottom's Krater with Ledge Rim (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:228–229, Fig. 5.11:4–6) and dates from the late fourth century till c. 125 BCE. Similar vessels from excavations at Sha'ar Ha-'Amaqim and Beirut were assigned an Eastern Cypriot origin (Młynarczyk 2000:230, Pl. 118:2; Élaigne 2007:121, Fig. 19).

<sup>1</sup> The shape was reconstructed based on a complete example from the Ganor Compound, Yafo (Gendelman, in prep.).

*Skyphoid Cups* (Figs. 1:16, 17).— These fragmentary skyphoid cups with spurred handles seem to have been produced in workshops along the Ionian coast of Asia Minor, on several Aegean Isles or in the Levant (Salles 1993:187, 202, 266, Figs. 196:219–221; 197:219; 214:360, 364; 229:503; Młynarczyk 2000:230, Pl. 118:6). They are similar to Guz-Zilberstein's Form SK1, which dates to the third–second centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294, Fig. 6.6:3–9). Such cups are common in Yafo (Tsuf 2018:114, Fig. 9.4:96–99) and other nearby Hellenistic sites (Fischer 1989:185, Fig. 13.3:24; Fischer and Tal 1999:237, Fig. 5.11:12).

### Household Vessels

*Levantine Mortarium* (Fig. 2:1).— This fragment of a spouted flat-based mortarium has an arched rim with a deep interior groove. Rudimentary handles with thumb decoration are connected to the rim. This Eastern Mediterranean vessel, made in gritty beige fabric, is probably related to Plain White VII of Cyprus (Salles 1993:189) and to Type BL18b at Tel Dor, which is generally dated to the fourth–third centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:295–296, Fig. 6.10:5–10). Similarly shaped vessels are reported from Kition, from layers of the end of the fourth–beginning of the third centuries BCE (Salles 1983:73–74, Fig. 28:245; 1993:189, 267–268, Figs. 200:239; 230:521; 232:521), Giv'at Yasaf (Tell er-Ras) (Rochman-Halperin 1999:107, Fig. 23:11), Tel Kisan and Tel Kinnieh (Briend 1980:108, 114, Pls. 12:7; 17:14).

*Household Krater* (Fig. 2:2).— This footed column krater with a wide cylindrical neck and a ledged rim is made of a coarse fabric like that of the local amphorae. Related to a group of kraters dating from the late Persian on through the Hellenistic period, the type is known from Beirut (Sapin and Sayegh 1998:73–74, Fig. 29:85), Tel Kisan (Briend 1980:108, Pl. 12:4,10), Tel Dor (KR11a, dated to c. 175–125 BCE; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:297, Fig. 6.14:9–11) and Tel Ya'oz (Segal, Kletter and Ziffer 2006:6\*, Fig. 8:1). These kraters are common in Yafo (Jakoel and Gendelman 2017:61\*, Fig. 9:13).

*Unguentarium* (Fig. 2:3).— This complete fusiform unguentarium on a disc-shaped foot is characterized by its long neck and in-turned rim. The rim and upper neck are covered with red wash. It is like Guz-Zilberstein's Type UG2g, dated at Tel Dor to the second century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:306, Fig. 6.27:5–12, Photograph 6.27).

*Cooking Pot* (Fig. 2:4).— This cooking-pot fragment has a globular body, a smoothed exterior and a wide bowl-shaped mouth with a thickened lip and handles that were drawn from the rim to the upper body. It is similar to Tel Dor Type CP4b, dated to the third–mid-first centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:299, Fig. 6.19:12–14). This shape is often found in Yafo (Tsuf 2018:117, Fig. 9.20:375, 376) and in neighboring Hellenistic sites (Fischer 1989:184, Fig. 13.3:17; Fischer and Tal 1999a:238, Fig. 5.13:10–12).

# Storage Jars and Containers

## Local Storage Jars (Fig. 2:5, 6)

These storage-jar fragments with a wide, rounded shoulder, a short cylindrical neck and a thick folded rim are made of light-colored clay. Their shape is most common among local containers from the Persian and early Hellenistic periods (sixth–third centuries BCE) in Yafo (Gendelman and Jakoel 2017:301, Fig. 16.1:3; Jakoel and Gendelman 2017:61\*, Fig. 9:14; Tsuf 2018:220–221, Fig. 9.34:586–591). Similarly shaped vessels are reported from nearby Apollonia/Arsuf (Tal 1999:102, Fig. 4.13:12, 13) and Tel Mikhel (Singer-Avitz 1989:122, 124, Figs. 9.4:1–9, 11, 12; 9.5:1–6, 8; 9.6; Kapitaikin 2006:30–31, Fig. 6:9–13).

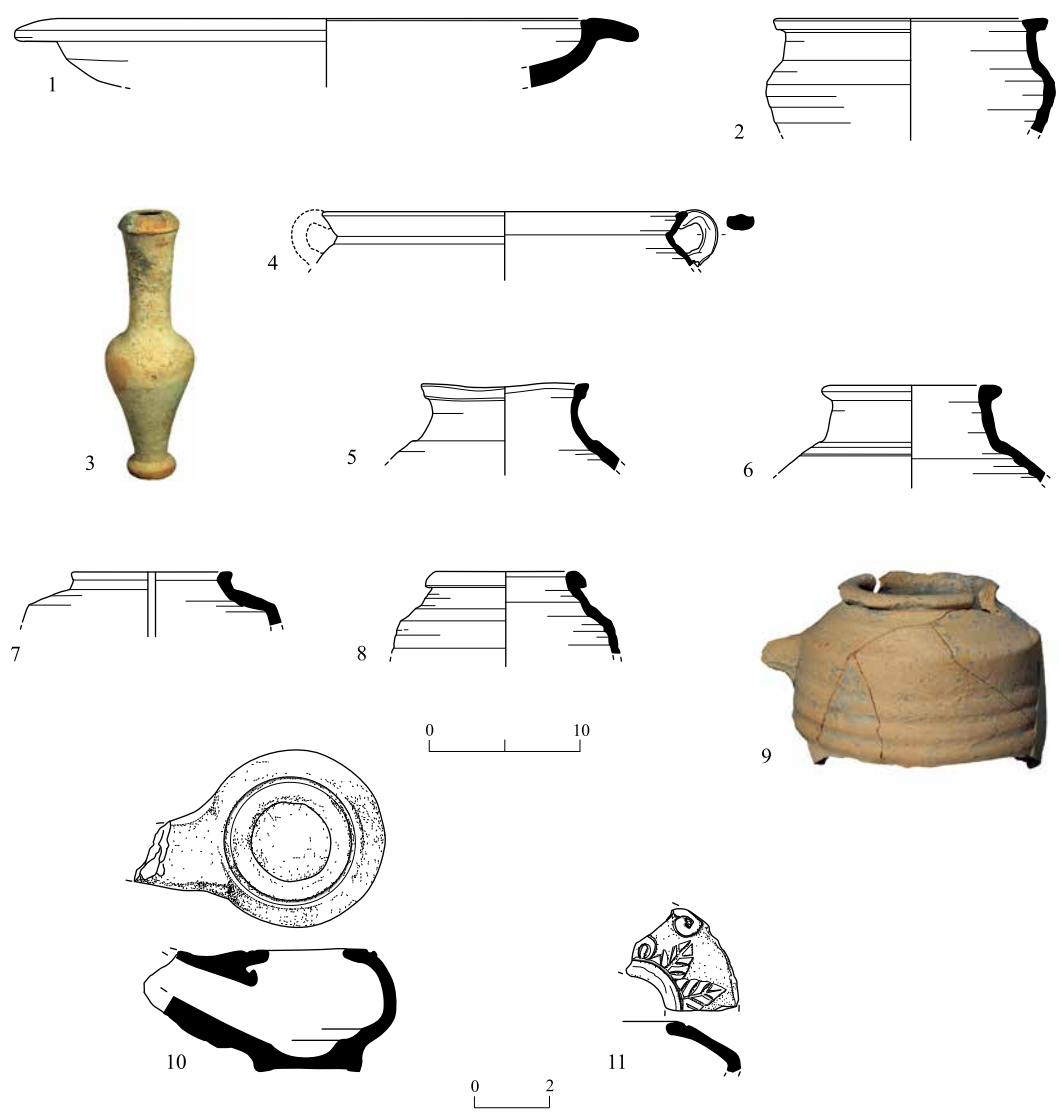


Fig. 2. Hellenistic-period pottery: various vessels.

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Levantine mortarium	313	3030/1	Light reddish yellow coarse fabric, many grayish and brown inclusions, self-slip
2	Household krater	376	3261	Reddish yellow coarse fabric, many white and brown inclusions, self-slip
3	Unguentarium	99	900	Reddish yellow fabric, some brown grits, dull reddish wash on rim
4	Cooking pot	376	3261	Red coarse gritty fabric
5	Storage jar	438	4151/1	Pale coarse fabric, few brown inclusions
6	Storage jar	438	4151/2	Light reddish yellow coarse fabric, white and brown inclusions
7	Shouldered amphora	438	4158	Pinkish hard fabric with few red grits, self-slip
8	Shouldered amphora	129	1055/4	Reddish brown fabric with red grits, self-slip
9	Shouldered amphora	438	4173	Pinkish fabric with red grits, self-slip
10	Oil lamp	524	5165	Light coarse fabric, self-slip
11	Oil lamp	102	1016	Reddish yellow fabric, light gray wash on ext.

### *South Phoenician (Tyrian) Shouldered Amphorae* (Fig. 2:7–9)

These fragments of amphorae with a conical narrow shoulder and a simple ‘rope’ rim were made of pink fabric characteristic of southern Phoenician products and are similar to Bettles’ Type C1 (Bettles 2003:108, 119, Figs. 4.2:C1; 4.14). The type was documented in burials at ‘Atlit (Johns 1933: Fig. 3a, b) and at Tell er-Ras, where they are dated to the late fourth century BCE (Onn 1999:61, Figs. 6:3; 14:6).

### **Oil Lamps** (Fig. 2:10, 11)

An almost complete (the tip of the nozzle is missing) wheel-made oil lamp with a button-shaped base, globular reservoir and elongated nozzle (Fig. 2:10) is a local imitation of an Attic prototype. It dates to the late Persian and Hellenistic periods (fourth–second centuries BCE) and is frequently found in Yafo (Gendelman and Jakoel 2017:301, 307–309, Figs. 16.1:5; 16.4:5; Tsuf 2018:314–315, Figs. 9.68:1109–1114; 9.69:1115–1117) and elsewhere (Briend 1980:110, Pl. 14:1–3; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:235, Figs. 5.13:9, 10; 5.14:1–8; Tal 1999:161, Fig. 4.41:15, 16).

The fragment of a mold-made lamp with a rounded filling hole encircled with palmettos has a flat shoulder with a volute lug on one side (Fig. 2:11). It is similar to Rosenthal-Heginbottom’s Type 12B, dated to c. 200–50 BCE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:238, Fig. 5.17:4; Photograph 5.44).



### THE EARLY ROMAN PERIOD

Only a handful of fragmentary Early Roman-period pottery vessels was found in the Yehuda Me-Raguza Street excavations.

#### *Bowl* (Fig. 3:1)

This bowl fragment with a rounded body and out-turned rim is made of a hard fabric. It may be related to a vessel form from Yafo (Tsuf 2018:154–155, Fig. 9.11:270, 271) and that found in the excavation at Naḥalat Yehuda (Kaplan 1964:13, Fig. 3:11, Pl. 3:7). Other parallels to this vessel are from the IAA excavations at Caesarea, where such locally produced vessels are common finds in late first century BCE–early first century CE contexts (Gendelman, forthcoming [a]).

#### *Casserole* (Fig. 3:2)

This fragment of a casserole with a shallow body, a short carinated shoulder with a sharp-turned rib and beveled rim has a pair of handles connecting the rim to the vessel at mid-body. Like Bar-Nathan's Types M-CS2A and M-CS2D, it dates to the first century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:166–167, Pl. 30:58, 61) and is especially common at sites in Judea (Bar-Nathan 1981:61, Fig. 5:21, 22; Loffreda 1996:83, 125–127, Figs. 35:10; 56:130). It has been found in other excavations at Yafo (Tsuf 2018:191, Fig. 9.25:452–454).

#### *Bag-Shaped Storage Jars* (Fig. 3:3, 4)

These fragments of locally produced bag-shaped jars with a short neck and flanged pointed-lip rim represent a common shape attributed to the first century CE (Calderon 2000:91, Pl. I:1–10; Silberstein 2000: Pl. I:17, 21; Bar-Nathan 2002:154, Pl. 24:415–417, Ill. 100).

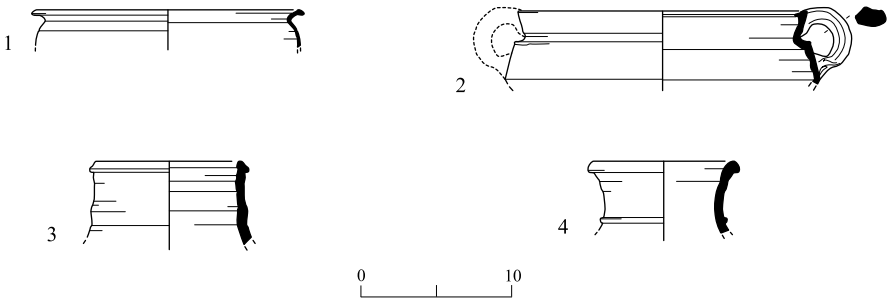


Fig. 3. Early Roman-period pottery vessels.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	220	2026	Light red hard fabric, few white grits, self-slip
2	Cooking pot	218	2016	Red coarse sandy fabric
3	Storage jar	218	2016	Reddish brown coarse fabric, few white inclusions
4	Storage jar	218	2016	Reddish brown coarse fabric, few white inclusions

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