

## GLASS PENDANT AND SEAL FROM BEN GAMLI'EL STREET, YAFO (JAFFA)

BRIGITTE OUAHNOUNA

Twelve fragments of glass vessels were found in the excavation on Ben Gamli'el Street, Yafo (see Arbel, this volume).<sup>1</sup> This small assemblage comprises three ring bases, two bowl rims and a lamp handle that were retrieved from accumulations dated to the Byzantine period (L210; not illustrated). Two exceptional objects, which were found in a fill of a large Hellenistic-period pit (L202; Area B, Stratum III; see Arbel, this volume) are the focus of this paper: a double-faced pendant (Fig. 1:1) and a badly preserved object, perhaps a seal (Fig. 1:2).

### GLASS PENDANT AND SEAL(?)

The double-faced pendant (L202, B2103; 1.8 cm high, 0.6 cm thick; Fig. 1:1) seems to represent a female figure with stylized curly hair; one face is better preserved than the other. The pendant was originally roughly oval; its upper part and the loop are missing.

Double-faced pendants, also called "Janus heads," are known to represent both male and female figures. They are usually rather flat with nearly identical *en face* portraits, arranged back-to-back. It has been suggested that the faces of the figures portray gods (e.g., Spaer 2001); however, both male and female depictions lack specific attributes, and therefore, their

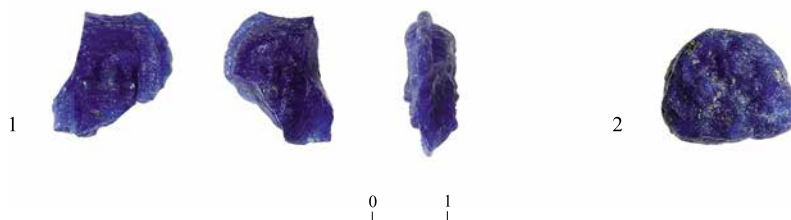


Fig. 1. A pendant (1) and a seal(?) (2) from the Hellenistic-period ash pit.

<sup>1</sup> I thank Yoav Arbel, for inviting me to publish this material, and Yael Gorin-Rosen, for helping me in preparing the manuscript. The material was mended by Adrienne Ganor and photographed by Yael YOLOVITZ.

identification is difficult. The double-faced pendants are almost always made of translucent, dark, deep blue glass, and have a loop attached to their top. They belong to a larger category of rod-formed objects, each exhibiting a rod hole. The glass was initially rod-formed and then, while the glass was still hot, it was pressed into a double mold.

These pendants constitute a homogenous group, found throughout the Mediterranean Basin, during the fourth and third centuries BCE (Spaer 2001:160–161, Nos. 321–324, and see discussion and further references therein). An exceptionally well-preserved double-faced pendant of a female figure, dated to the same period, was found at Maresha (Kloner and Jackson 2000). It is noteworthy that close parallels for this type of glass pendant, dating to the same period, were made of precious metals (Higgins 1980: Pl. 28).

Object No. 2 (L234, B2132; 1.6 cm preserved height, 1 cm thick) is badly preserved and difficult to identify. It could be part of a pendant or perhaps a seal. This object is made of a fabric similar to that of No. 1, and was probably cast in a similar way. However, as No. 2 is thicker than No. 1, it clearly represents a different type of object. It should possibly be reconstructed as a conical seal, in which the stamp on its base was produced in relief. An exceptional example of a cast-and-cut seal was found in a burial cave at Ḥorbat Zikhrin, dated to the sixth–fourth centuries BCE (Jackson-Tal 2007: Fig. 3:1).

## REFERENCES

- Arbel Y. This volume. Building Remains from the Hellenistic, Byzantine and Late Ottoman Periods on Ben Gamli'el Street, Yafo (Jaffa).
- Higgins R. 1980. *Greek and Roman Jewelry*. London.
- Jackson-Tal R.E. 2007. Early Roman and Early Byzantine Glass Vessels from T2 and T4 near Ḥorbat Zikhrin. *'Atiqot* 56:59–63 (Hebrew; English summary, p. 76\*).
- Kloner A. and Jackson R.E. 2000. Maresha, Head Shaped Glass Pendants. *ESI* 20:135\*.
- Spaer M. 2001. *Ancient Glass in the Israel Museum: Beads and Other Small Objects* (Israel Museum Catalogue 447). Jerusalem.