

BYZANTINE- AND Umayyad-Period Structures Near the Pools of 'Ein el-Jarab, Ḥammāt Gader

MOSHE HARTAL

INTRODUCTION

During June–August 2001, a salvage excavation was conducted over an area of 400 sq m east of the hot water pools of 'Ein el-Jarab, one of five active springs at Ḥammāt Gader (Fig. 1), after antiquities were revealed while overseeing construction of a changing room.¹ Ḥammāt Gader lies in a small valley on the banks of the Yarmuk River, approximately 143 m below sea level (map ref. 262516/732163).

History of the Site

The area around the site was apparently first settled in the Early Bronze Age, as revealed by remains from that time span on a tell in the west of the valley (Glueck 1933) after which it lay deserted until the Roman period. The springs at Ḥammāt Gader are first mentioned by the first-century BCE historian Strabo (*Geography* 16, 45). In the second century CE, a health and entertainment center was built in the valley, within the polis of Gadara, when a large and magnificent bath complex was built using the hot waters of 'Ein el-Maqlah. The complex attracted many local and foreign patrons and became known throughout the Roman world. A theater, a synagogue and other structures were built in the valley for the visitors' use (Hirschfeld 1997:4–6).

The baths were destroyed by the earthquake of 749 CE and abandoned (Hirschfeld 1997:447–480). Visitors continued to frequent the springs after the earthquake, and

¹ The excavation (Permit No. A-3447) was conducted by the author on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority after IAA Inspector Mashhur Zu'abi noticed ancient remains and halted construction. The excavation was financed by Ḥammāt Gader Ltd. Participants in the excavation included Hagit Tahan-Rosen and Howard Smithline (both area supervisors and drawing of finds and photography respectively), Vadim Essman, Wiaceslaw Pirsky and Tanya Korenfeld (surveying and drafting), Ariel Berman and Gabriela Bijovsky (numismatics), Ghaleb Abu Diab (mosaic conservation), Yael Gorin-Rosen and Natalya Katsnelson (glass) and Leea Porat (pottery restoration). I thank the late Miriam Avissar for reading a draft of this manuscript and for her important remarks. This report was written in 2010.

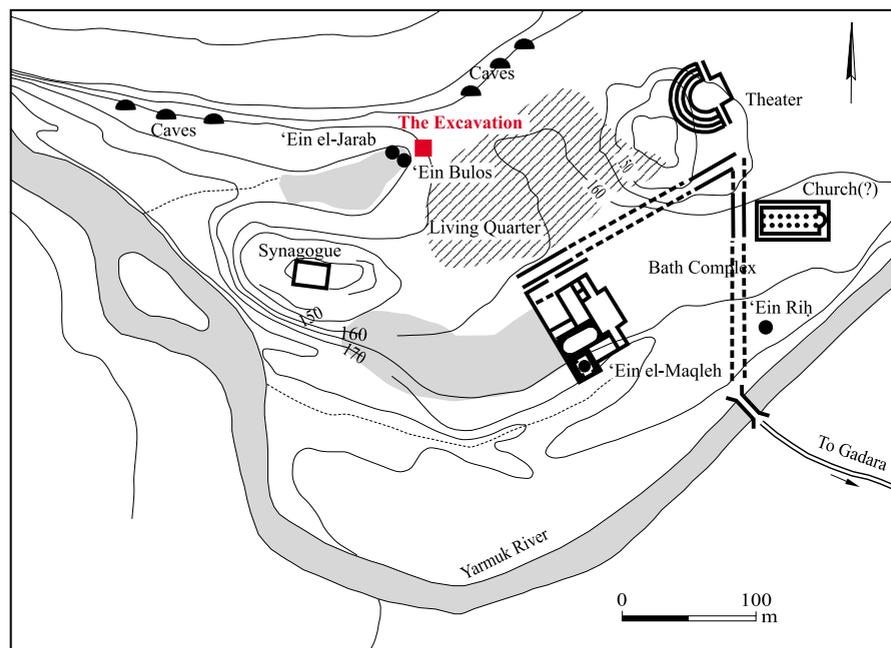


Fig. 1. Location map (after Hirschfeld 1997: Fig. 7).

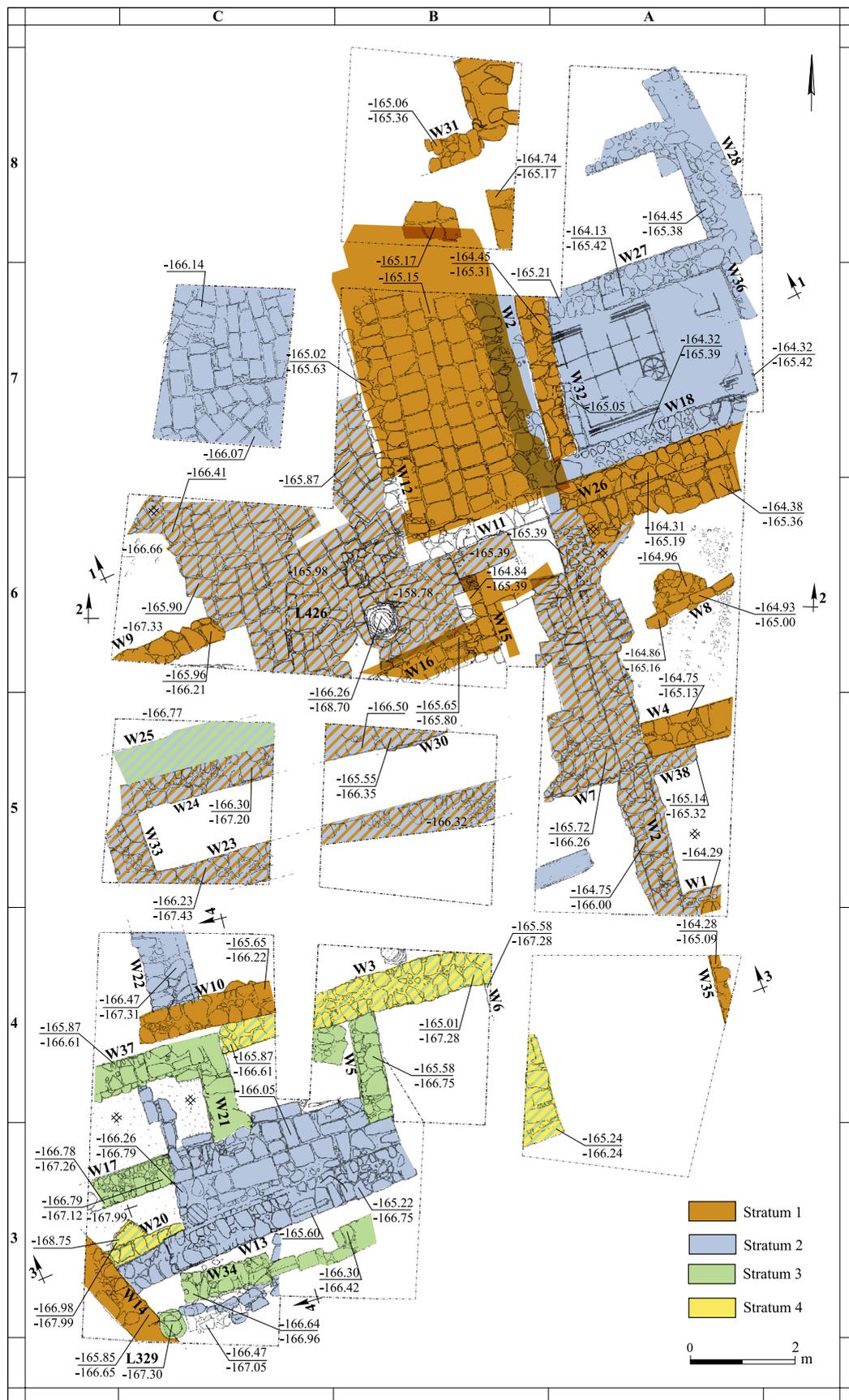
structures were built to serve them, close to 'Ein el-Jarab and 'Ein Bulos. These are the structures excavated in 2001 and the subject of this report.

History of Research

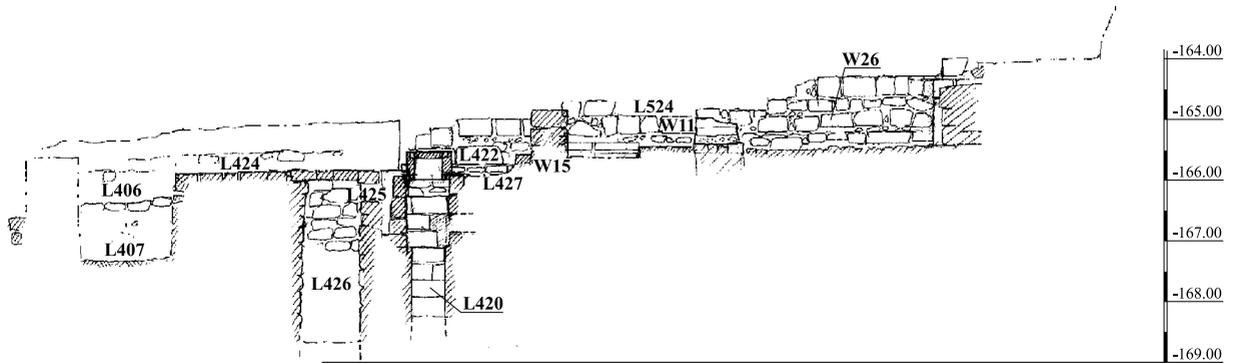
The site was first surveyed by James S. Buckingham (1821:441), and later by Victor Guérin (1880:295–296) and Gottlieb Schumacher (1888:149–158). The synagogue was excavated by Eleazar Sukenik (1935:114–117) and by Gideon Foerster (1984). In 1979–1986, extensive excavations of the baths were conducted by Yizhar Hirschfeld and Giora Solar (Hirschfeld 1997:6–11), revealing that they were built in the Roman period and used, with renovations and changes, in the Byzantine and Umayyad periods.

THE EXCAVATIONS

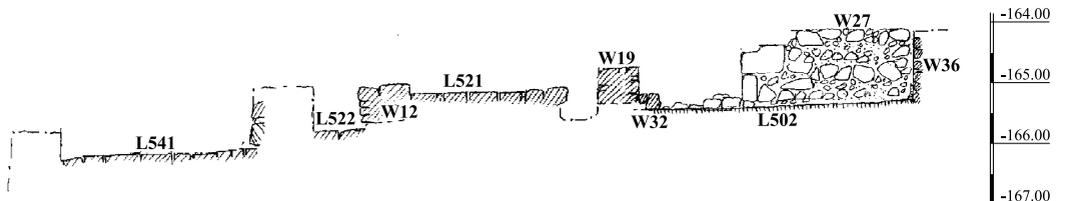
The excavated area extends over a steep slope above a ravine north of the tell and the pool of 'Ein el-Jarab. The bedrock is highest in the northeastern corner of the excavation and descends to the southwestern corner, a drop of some 2.6 m. Four strata, dating from the fourth to the eleventh century CE, were exposed (Plan 1), presented here from earliest to latest: Stratum 4—the end of the Late Roman to the beginning of the Byzantine periods; Stratum 3—the Byzantine period; Stratum 2—the Umayyad period; and Stratum 1—the Abbasid period.



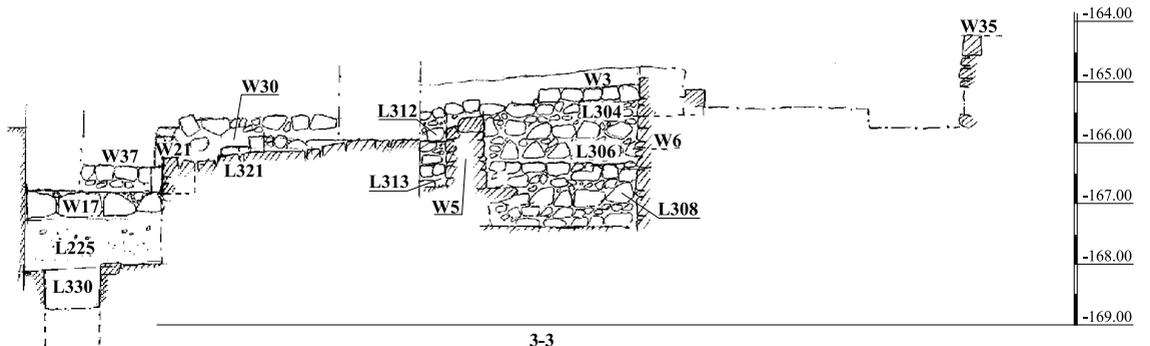
Plan 1. General plan and sections.



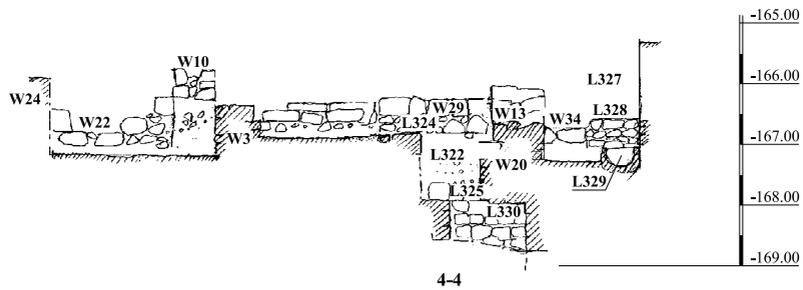
1-1



2-2



3-3



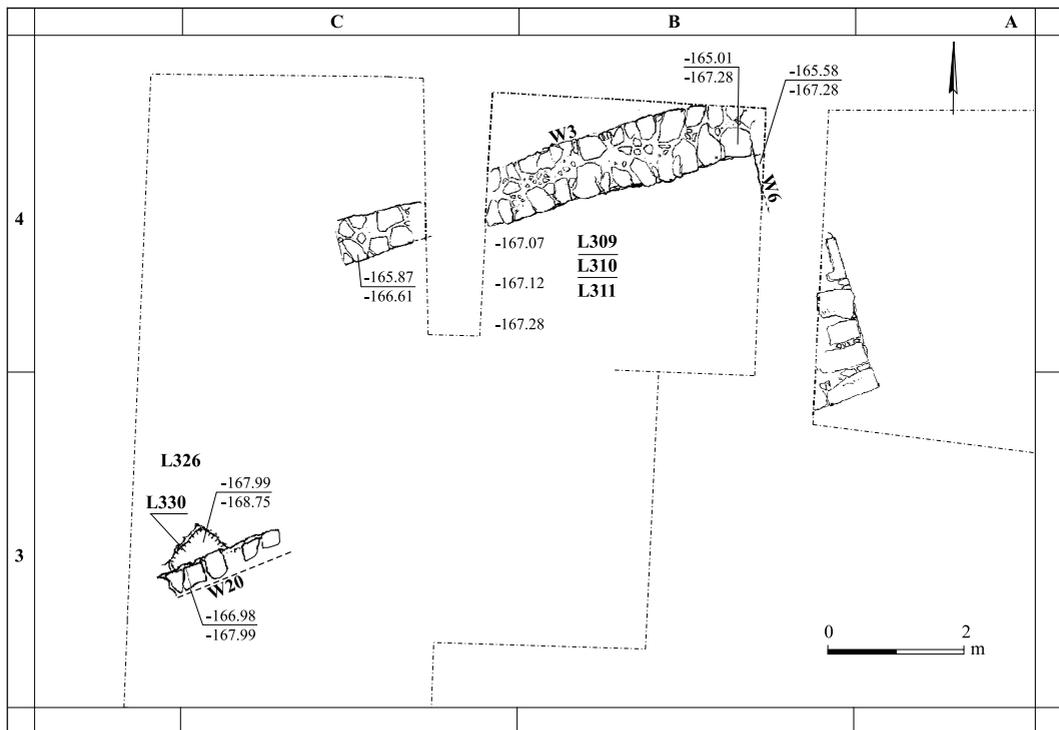
4-4

Plan 1. (cont.)

Stratum 4 (Plan 2)

The earliest remains were revealed in the southwestern quarter of the excavation. A section of bedrock (L326) covered by dark earth containing organic material was exposed, with a few non-diagnostic finds. In the southwestern corner of Sq C3 was a stone-lined square well (L330; 2.6×2.6 m; Fig. 2; Plan 1: Section 4–4), hewn in the bedrock. It was devoid of finds and full of damp soil. Later W20 (see Stratum 3, below), its foundations resting on bedrock, was built over the well, except for the section above it, which was placed on a stone beam, thereby allowing access. The well apparently continued to function after the construction of W20, which belonged to a building complex that extended northeast of the well. The corner of a structure that continued in use from the Late Roman to the Early Islamic periods was exposed (W3, W6; Plans 1: Section 3–3; Fig. 3). The earth and small-stone floor (L310) lay on a 20 cm thick fill of earth mixed with quarrying waste (L311), on bedrock. On the floor were small fragments of pottery vessels from the Late Roman period (not illustrated) and two unidentifiable coins.

Above Floor 310, a new floor was laid (L309) and on it were found potsherds from the fourth–fifth centuries CE (Fig. 34), Late Roman-period glass (see Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson, this volume: Fig. 1:1, 6, 11, 13, 14) and a coin from the fourth century CE (see Berman and Bijovsky, this volume: No. 8). The finds date Stratum 4 to the end of the Late Roman and the beginning of the Byzantine periods.



Plan 2. Stratum 4.



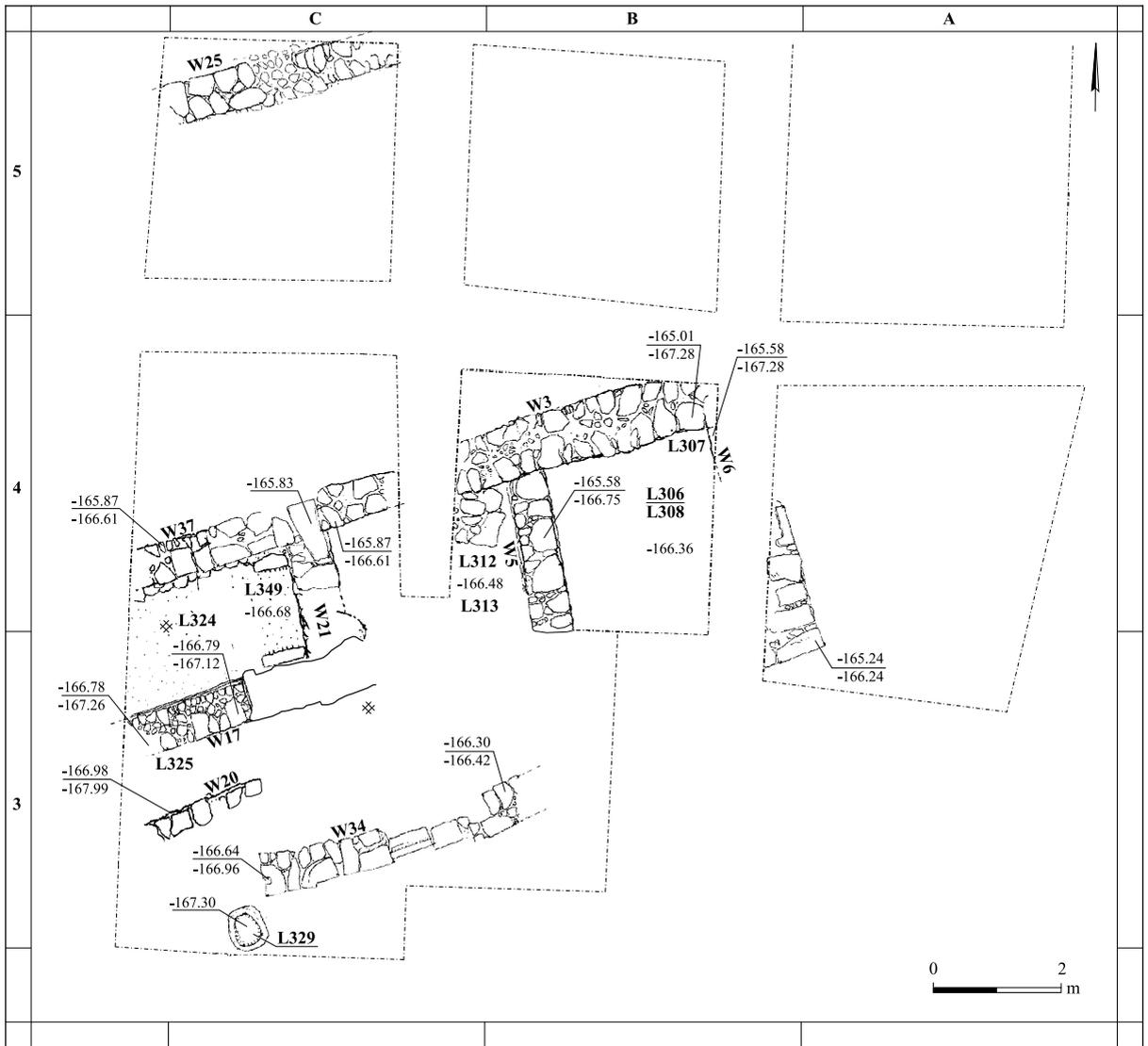
Fig. 2. Well 330 and W20, looking southeast.



Fig. 3. Walls 3, 6 and 5, looking north.

Stratum 3 (Plan 3)

The Stratum 4 building continued to be used in the Byzantine period. Walls 3 and 6 were raised; the additional courses, of dressed stones, are narrower than the earlier ones by 15 cm. Walls 5 and 21 were constructed parallel to W6, creating two rooms. Wall 5 abutted W3, its foundations laid above Stratum 4 Floor 309, 60 cm above bedrock (Plan 1: Section 3–3; Fig. 4).



Plan 3. Stratum 3.

The eastern room contained a fill partly composed of a limey material (L307, L308). The accumulated soil (L306) over this fill contained much Byzantine-period pottery (Figs. 35, 36) and glass (see Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson, this volume: Fig. 2:1–3, 5, 6, 9). Most of the coins were unidentifiable but the latest coin that could be identified is of Justinian I (548–565 CE; see Berman and Bijovsky, this volume: Nos. 17, 18), thereby dating the assemblage to the sixth century CE.

The southern half of the western room was covered with Stratum 2 Paving 321 (Plan 4; Fig. 5), limiting the possibility to completely excavate down to L312 and L313. The finds in these loci included pottery from the sixth and the beginning of the seventh centuries CE,



Fig. 4. Stratum 3 W5 abutting W3 to right, looking west.



Fig. 5. Stratum 2 Paving 321, looking south.

glass from the Byzantine period (see Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson, this volume: Fig. 2:4, 8, 11) and a coin of Justin II (570/569 CE; see Berman and Bijovsky, this volume: No. 19).

Remains of a plastered pool (L324) were found west of W21 (Fig. 6), bounded on the north by W37 and on the south by W17, which abuts Stratum 2 Paving 321. The fragmentary plaster floor of the pool abuts the walls. Two ashlar blocks were placed on either side of the eastern side of the pool (L349); they may have served as steps to assist descent into it. Many

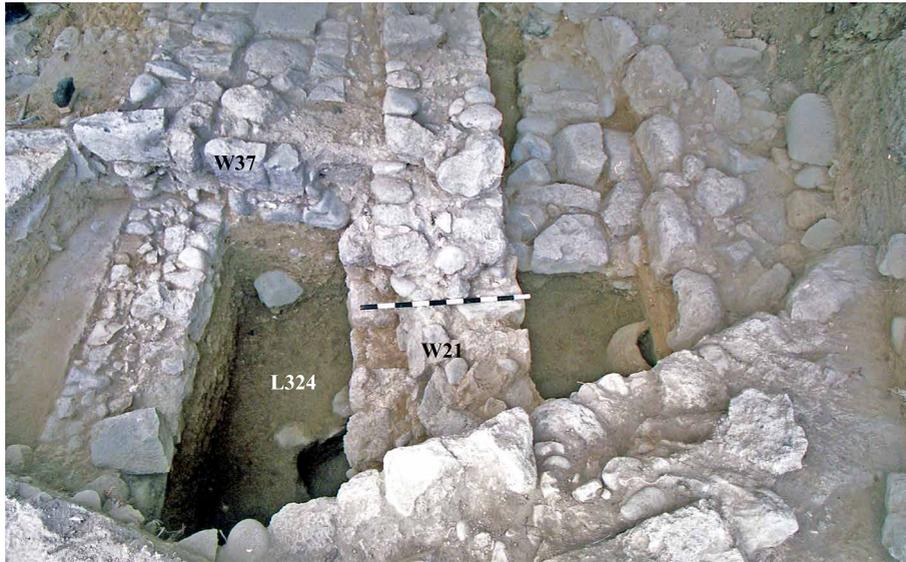


Fig. 6. Stratum 3 Pool 324, looking northeast.

roof-tile fragments were found in the pool's fill, testifying that it was probably roofed over. Umayyad-period pottery, also found in the fill (see below), was apparently dumped into the pool after it went out of use.

Wall 20 was constructed south of and parallel to W17, on the bedrock, over Stratum 4 Well 330 (Fig. 2). Its foundations were lower than those of W17. Umayyad-period W13 (Stratum 2) was built upon it (Plan 4; Plan 1: Section 4–4; Fig. 7). Thus, W20 was built before the Umayyad period (Stratum 2), but its construction date is uncertain. The finds that accumulated adjacent to it (L325) contained potsherds from the late Byzantine period. Apparently, W20 and Well 330 were in use until the end of the Byzantine period, when the area was filled in, perhaps in preparation for the construction of Stratum 3 Pool 324.

Wall 34 probably closed off the structure from the south. A threshold in W34's center (Fig. 7) seems to indicate that the structure was entered via this wall. South of W34 was a stone-lined pit (L328) in which an ovoid stone basin (L329; 0.3×0.4 m; Figs. 8, 9) was found. An almost complete Umayyad-period flask (Figs. 8; 9; 35:36) was found inside the basin and a pre-reform Umayyad coin was found in the pit (see Berman and Bijovsky, this volume: No. 22). The basin lay lower than Stratum 2 W13's foundations, and Stratum 2 W327 was built over it. Thus, it is possible that the basin was in use at the beginning of the Umayyad period—the transition from Stratum 3 to Stratum 2.

Wall 25 is parallel to both Stratum 2 W23 and W24, nearly touching W24 (Sq C5; Plans 3; 4). These walls are part of the supporting walls of the Stratum 2 plaza but do not seem to belong to the plan of Stratum 2 and may have been built in Stratum 3. Only the head of W25 was uncovered and there were no diagnostic finds.



Fig. 7. Stratum 3 W34 and W13, with Paving 321 to the right, looking west.



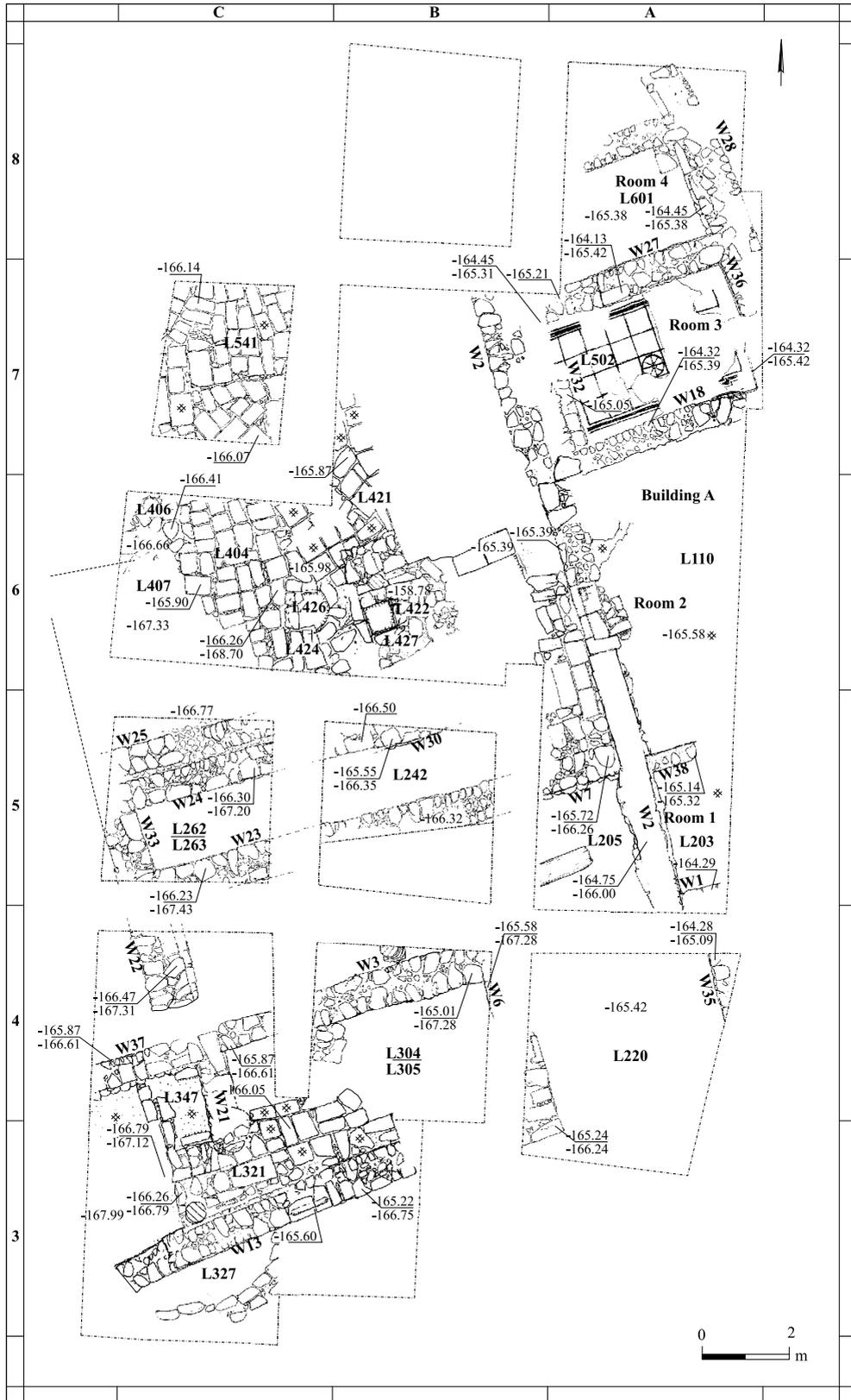
Fig. 8. Basin 329 in stone-lined Pit 328, looking south.



Fig. 9. The flask in Basin 329, looking south.

Stratum 2 (Plan 4)

Stratum 2 revealed that part of the Byzantine structure (W3 and W6) continued to be used during the Umayyad period. A wide threshold was inserted in the southern wall, former W20 now W13, to accommodate a two-winged door (Figs. 7; 10) that provided entry to an ashlar-paved courtyard (L321). The western wall of the structure was not preserved. Pool 324 was filled with soil containing Umayyad-period pottery (Fig. 36:6, 7, 14, 15). The area west of W21 was paved with flat fieldstones (L347). Stratum 3 W5 went out of use, but its top was integrated into an earthen floor (L304), which lay over a stone bedding (L305). On Floor 304, where W5 was integrated, lay complete vessels—a very small jar and a large flask (Fig. 36:15, 17) and adjacent to W3, a fire-pan handle and an iron knife were found (Fig. 11).



Plan 4. Stratum 2.



Fig. 10. Stratum 2 Paving 321, looking north.



Fig. 11. Iron tools on Stratum 2 Floor 304, near W3, looking north.

Outside the threshold in W13, an arc-like partition (L327) of upright stones was constructed over Stratum 3 W34 (Fig. 12). South of the partition was a concentration of building stones arranged in rows, that may have been intended for use as building material.

The southeastern corner of the structure was in Sq A4, which did not yield architectural remains. Below the surface (L220) were *ex situ* architectural elements, including an Ionic capital, a column drum and a stone lintel carved in relief bearing a Syriac inscription (Fig. 13; undeciphered).



Fig. 12. Stratum 2 partition W327 above W34, looking north; in foreground, building stones.



Fig. 13. Stone lintel bearing a cross carved in relief and a Syriac inscription.

Building A

A large public building (Building A; Fig. 14) was constructed to the northeast, on the upper part of the slope. Only the western part, consisting of four rooms aligned on a northwest–southeast axis, was excavated. Mosaic floors were installed in Rooms 1–3. Rooms 3 and 4 were entirely exposed, while Rooms 1 and 2 extended eastward, beyond the excavation limits. The walls were for the most part constructed of fieldstones joined with mud, mostly 0.8 m wide. In the center of the western wall (W2), almost totally in ruins, was a broad opening (1.2 m wide), its threshold extant.



Fig. 14. Building A, Rooms 2–4 and Paving 521, general view to the west; in background, the pool of ‘Ein el-Jarab during modern construction works.

Room 1 (L203) had a floor paved with large white tesserae that joined W2 and W38, of which only a short segment of the foundation course was exposed. Wall 38’s entrance was also paved in mosaic; it was later blocked by W4 of Building B, which was built over it (see below).

Room 2 (L110) was delimited in the north by W18, which showed no openings. The room was paved with a colorful mosaic composed of small red, black and white tesserae, parts of which survived in the room’s southwestern corner and few small sections, in the northern edge. The floor, poorly preserved, was repaired in antiquity with white tesserae. The central carpet was surrounded by a frame consisting of an outer series of rhombi, a narrow strip of small triangles and a wide strip with a guilloche pattern (Fig. 15) that created rhombi and squares and within them, vegetal patterns, such as a palm and flowers, and geometric patterns, such as checkerboards and rhombi (Fig. 16). The mosaic floor abutted W2.

Room 3 (L502) was bound in the west by the foundations of W2 (Fig. 17). No direct connection was exposed between Rooms 2 and 3 through W18 (Plan 4) and it is possible that the entrance to Room 3 was through W2. Sections of white plaster laid over a layer of sherds (Fig. 18) were observed on eastern W36 and W18; this plaster probably coated



Fig. 15. Building A, Room 2, mosaic Floor 110, looking west.



Fig. 16. Building A, Room 2, detail of mosaic Floor 110, looking south.



Fig. 17. Building A, Room 3, mosaic Floor 502, looking west; beyond it, new W19 and Paving 521.



Fig. 18. Building A, Room 3, mosaic Floor 502 and sections of plaster on W18, looking south.

all the walls. Northern W27, also coated with fragments of plaster, ended in the west with travertine ashlar forming a doorjamb (Fig. 19), all that survived.

Room 3 was paved with a mosaic of relatively large black and white tesserae, preserved in the western portion of the room. The central carpet, enclosed within a frame of three lines, the middle line twice the width of the others, was divided into squares, each with a



Fig. 19. Wall 27, with ashlar construction on the left, forming a doorjamb, looking north.

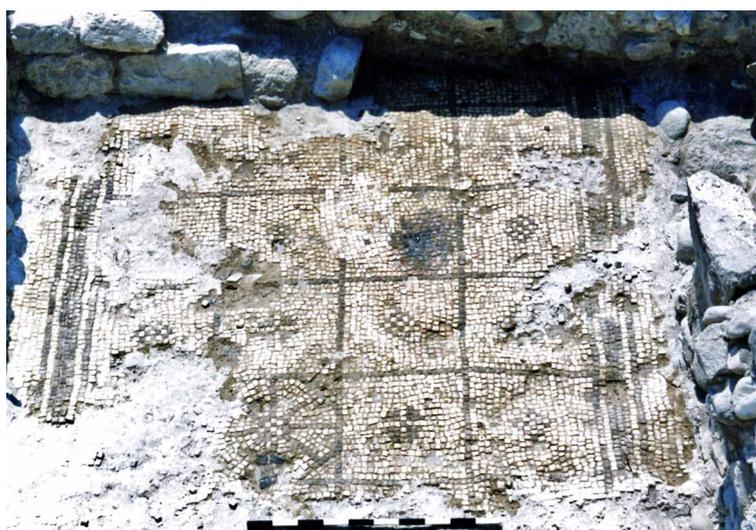


Fig. 20. Mosaic Floor 502 in Room 3 of Building A, looking west.

geometric motif consisting of a rhombus, a circle and wheel spokes (Fig. 20) in the center. The design of the mosaic is crude and of inferior craftsmanship compared to the mosaic in Room 2. The mosaic abuts W18 and W27.

Room 4 (L601), entered via Room 3, had collapsed stones, resting on bedrock.



Fig. 21. Support walls in Sq C5, looking west.

Meager finds were discovered on the floors of Building A; in the building collapse (Sq A5, L205), however, was a pottery assemblage dated to the first half of the eighth century CE (Fig. 33:1–4), similar to the pottery assemblage recovered from the buildings exposed near the Gale Kinneret Hotel, destroyed in the 749 CE earthquake (Hartal 2008; in prep.). Thus, it is feasible that Building A was ruined by the same event, which also destroyed the bathhouse of Ḥammāt Gader.

On the steep slope west of the building, descending to the pool of ‘Ein el-Jarab, an ashlar-paved plaza was built, supported by a series of parallel retaining walls (W23 and W24) oriented east–west; the intervening spaces were filled with earth and stones, perpendicular to W2 and W33 (Fig. 21). Retaining Walls 23 and 24, founded on bedrock, were dry-built of medium-sized fieldstones.

Mostly the northern half of the plaza was preserved, where it was built close to bedrock. The southern part was for the most part collapsed, and only the lower section of the walls remained. On the western edge of the excavation was a small section of a flat fieldstone pavement (L406) resting on a thick fill (0.95 m; L407) above bedrock (Plan 1: Section 1–1). The scant diagnostic sherds in the fill provided a date in the Byzantine and Umayyad periods. The eastern part of the plaza (L404, L421, L422, L424, L427, L541; Fig. 22) was higher than Paving 406, though they are contemporaneous.

In the center of Paving 424, a round well (L426; diam. 90 cm; Figs. 22, 23), partly stone-lined to a depth of 1.1 m and partly hewn in bedrock, was discovered. The excavation



Fig. 22. The plaza, looking north; on left—Paving 404 above Well 426, in center—Paving 424, on right—stone cover of Well 428.



Fig. 23. Well 426, looking north.

reached wet soil at a depth of c. 2.9 m. The well was apparently dug to access the potable water of 'Ein Bulos. Part of Paving 422 to the east of the well was sunken, thereby creating a channel for draining water into the well.

Stratum 1 (Plan 5)

Following the destruction of Building A by the earthquake of 749 CE, a long time elapsed until occupation renewed and Building B was constructed. In this intervening period, a soil layer (L402, L420) accumulated on the plaza, and the walls of Stratum 1 were founded 5–20 cm above the Stratum 2 plaza.

The two northern rooms of Umayyad-period Building A were not rebuilt, and the collapsed walls remained on the floors. New W19 was constructed, its foundations 15–35 cm above mosaic Floor 502 (Fig. 17). The eastern face was constructed of dressed stones and fieldstones, but the western face was constructed of large ashlar (30 × 55 cm). This wall was apparently built to delimit and hide the ruins of Building A from Paving 521, to its west. During this phase, construction was mainly of dressed stones. The walls were generally preserved to a height of four courses (c. 1 m high).

Building B

Building B was constructed above Building A's southern Rooms 1 and 2; the ruins were cleared, leaving only the foundations. Wall 2 was rebuilt. Building B's cross walls were not constructed directly on the walls of Building A, perhaps due to the poor condition of Stratum 2 W18. Therefore, the builders preferred to begin anew and built W26, which delimited Building B on the north.

Room 1 was bounded in the south by earlier W1, rebuilt of dressed stones; plaster coated the wall. Apparently, mosaic Floor 203 remained in use (Fig. 24), as no other floor was found and the collapse that filled the room lay directly upon it. Apart from collapsed stones, the room contained large quantities of fresco fragments and tiles (L202), evidence of plastered walls and elements of roofing.

Room 2. A pier built of three courses of ashlar to support an arch was attached to W26 (Fig. 25), 3 m from its corner with W2, indicating that Room 2 was at least 6 m long. Between the pier and W2, along W26, was a bench-like platform of flat fieldstones (L112), partly over mosaic Floor 110 (Fig. 25).

Southern W4 was built in part over Stratum 2 W38, offset 0.3 m to the north and 0.15 m above mosaic Floor 110. The wall, built of ashlar and dressed stones, blocked the passage between Umayyad Building A Rooms 1 and 2. A floor of compact earth and pebbles (L104 and L106) was laid on mosaic Floor 110, abutting W2 and W4 (Fig. 26). The meager finds on the floor date to the ninth–tenth centuries CE (Fig. 35:13, 31).

During the Abbasid period, Room 2 was partitioned using upright ashlar (W8), over Floor 104. North of the partition was a fragmentary stone floor made of flat fieldstones (L103) and south of this partition was a floor of earth mixed with large quantities of plaster (L105). The few potsherds found on Floor 103 date it to the ninth–tenth centuries CE (Fig. 35:5, 9, 18, 36).



Fig. 24. Stratum 1 Building B, part of mosaic Floor 203 in the corner formed by W2 and W4, looking south.



Fig. 25. Building B, Room 2, Floor 112 above mosaic Floor 110, looking east; on left, W26 and beyond, it the pier.



Fig. 26. Building A, southwestern corner of Room 1 mosaic Floor 110 covered by Building B Floor 106 (on left), looking west; note the doorjamb in W2.

Apparently, Building B was also destroyed by an earthquake. The northeastern section of Room 2 was filled with collapsed stones from the walls (L101), reaching partition W8. Western W2 revealed damage, its lower courses missing stones. Heaps of fresco fragments and roof tiles were found in Room 1, above Floor 203. The latest finds in Building B date to the tenth century CE, which may indicate that Building B was destroyed by the earthquake of 1033/4 CE (Amiran, Ariei and Turcotte 1994:268).

Well 428

During the Abbasid period, Stratum 1 Well 426 went out of use and was blocked (see Fig. 22). The upper part of the fill contained much pottery from the ninth–tenth centuries CE, thereby providing a date for the well's blockage (Fig. 35:15–17, 22, 27, 32–34, 42).

Just east of Well 426 a new well was dug (L428), with a square ashlar-lined shaft (c. 85 × 85 cm; Fig. 27). Some missing stones in its northeastern corner reveal that the shaft was hewn in bedrock. The well was partly excavated to a depth of 2.3 m. The few finds inside included Early Islamic-period pottery (Fig. 35:25, 26, 39, 41) and a small Corinthian capital, found in the well's depths. Covering its mouth was a round stone pipe segment, apparently taken from the baths (cf. Hirschfeld 1997:49, Fig. 42) and adapted to the square shaft with the aid of small stones (Fig. 28). Well 428's mouth was covered with a flat stone (Figs. 22; 29).

The digging of the well necessitated breaking up a section of Paving 422, which was carelessly repaired with stone slabs. Ninth–tenth-century CE vessel fragments were found under the repaired section.



Fig. 27. The square shaft of Well 428, looking north; behind it—the stone pipe segment that served as a well head, following its removal.



Fig. 28. Stone pipe segment serving as a well head from Well 428 and behind it, Well 426, looking west.



Fig. 29. Well 428 and Paving 422, looking east.

The Northwestern Area

The remains here show that a certain degree of renovations was undertaken. Walls 11, 12, 19 and 31, built of dressed stones and fieldstones, as well as ashlar, were uncovered west of the ruins of the northern rooms of Building A, enclosing a stone-paved area (L521). Wall 11, built perpendicular to Building B W2, approached Well 428 on its western end. Fieldstone-built W12 was better-constructed on the face opposite the paving (Fig. 30). Wall 31's foundations were about 0.45 m above bedrock. Paving 521 was laid with rectangular flagstones, neatly arranged in parallel lines. The lowest course of the northern part of W2 was integrated into the paving. It is possible that the walls surrounding Paving 521 were intended to level it, since the paving was 0.6 m higher than Paving 421 in the west. Only a few body sherds were found on the paving.

Two short walls (W15 and W16) were built south and east of Well 428, slightly after the completion of the well and the repairs to the paving. They created, together with W11, a small courtyard that opened to the west (Fig. 29). Wall 15 was constructed of ashlar in secondary use and may have had an opening that was blocked between its northern end and W11. Wall 16 was constructed of dressed stones and ashlar in secondary use, including an Ionic capital. The courtyard was paved using part of the Stratum 2 plaza. Many potsherds were found in the accumulations over the courtyard paving.



Fig. 30. Paving 521 fronted by W12 and behind the paving, W19, looking east.

A few sections of the Stratum 2 plaza were preserved in the area between W15 and Building B (L423, L429). Two large ashlar blocks were placed at a slight angle to W11 (Fig. 31). Some paving sections remained, attached to W2. Apparently, the Stratum 2 paving in this area was partly removed and its stones taken for the construction of the ashlar walls of Building B and Walls 15 and 16.



Fig. 31. Paving stones (L423) and W11 on right looking west; in foreground—foundation course of W2, note the threshold, in background—Well 428 and Paving 404.

THE POTTERY

The ceramic finds are presented according to strata, from early to late, the plates presenting assemblages from selected loci. Parallels to the vessels are taken—as far as possible—from the previous excavations at Ḥammāt Gader (Hirschfeld 1997) and from the region in general.

Stratum 4 (Fig. 32)

Stratum 4 is represented by finds retrieved exclusively from L309. The assemblage includes vessels that continue over time, all appearing together in the fourth or the beginning of the fifth centuries CE. This is confirmed by the total absence of imported vessels, such as Late Roman Red Ware, that are common in Strata 3 and 2. Most of the glassware also dates to the Late Roman period, and the only identified coin from this stratum likewise dates to the fourth century CE (see Berman and Bijovsky, this volume: Cat. No. 8).

Basins

Two basin types were found in Stratum 4. One has an everted, sloping rim with three ridges and straight walls (Fig. 32:1). Such basins were found in Capernaum (Loffreda 2008:247–248, DG 252, Type PIAT 61) and at Ḥammāt Gader (Ben-Arieh 1997:350, Pl. 2:9) and are dated to the Late Roman and Byzantine periods. The other type (Fig. 32:2) has a flat rim, rhomboid in section, with its exterior arched out and down, and straight walls. This type was found at Ḥammāt Gader (Ben-Arieh 1997:350, Pl. 2:10–17) and Gadara (Nielsen, Andersen and Holm-Nielsen 1993: Taf. 32:262, 273, 274).

Cooking Bowls

Three types of cooking bowls were found. The cooking bowl in Fig. 34:3 has an everted ledge rim and rounded walls. This type is classified as Kefar Ḥananya (hereafter, KH) Type 3A and dates from the mid-first to the mid-second century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:111–119). The second type (Fig. 32:4) is a cooking bowl with an everted ledge rim and straight walls; the interior of the rim inclines upward. The third type (Fig. 32:5) has a cut rim, straight walls and horizontal loop handles attached to the rim, rising above it. These cooking bowls are common in the Late Roman and Byzantine periods (Ben-Arieh 1997:351, Pl. 3:27; Loffreda 2008:213–215, DG 199, Type TEG 20).

Cooking Pots

Two cooking-pot types were identified. Figure 32:6, 7 shows examples that are square-rimmed, neck-less and with a spherical body. Such cooking pots were dated at Ḥammāt Gader to the fourth–seventh centuries CE (Ben-Arieh 1997:351, Pl. 3:20). The cooking pots in Fig. 32:8, 9 have a simple rim or a rim with an external groove, a high neck and a spherical body. Such pots are defined as KH Type 4E1 and are dated from the beginning of the fourth century CE till the beginning of the fifth century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:132–135).

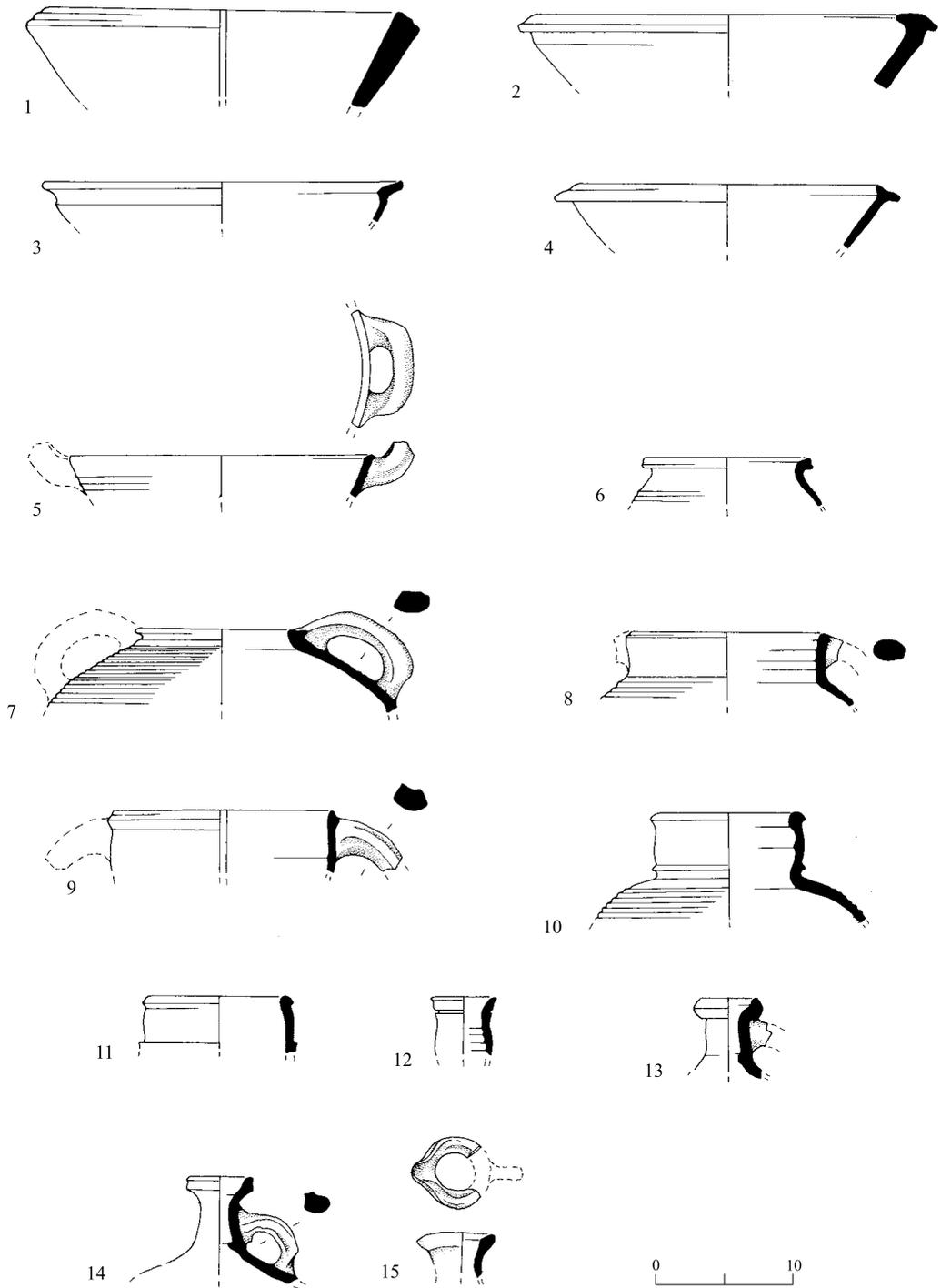


Fig. 32. Stratum 4 pottery, L309.

◀ Fig. 32

No.	Vessel	Basket	Description
1	Basin	1319/2	Brown fabric with large grits
2	Basin	1302/3	Pink fabric
3	Cooking bowl	1302/4	Dark reddish brown fabric
4	Cooking bowl	1297/1	Orange fabric
5	Cooking bowl	1295/3	Orange fabric
6	Cooking pot	1295/1	Orange fabric
7	Cooking pot	1302/5	Reddish brown fabric
8	Cooking pot	1395/2	Dark brown fabric
9	Cooking pot	1304/2	Dark brown fabric
10	Jar	1292/3	Dark brown fabric
11	Jar	1304/1	Black fabric
12	Jug	1292/1	Orange fabric
13	Jug	1302/1	Orange fabric
14	Jug	1292/2	Orange fabric
15	Jug	1319/1	Orange fabric

Jars

One jar type was recorded (Fig. 32:10, 11). It has a thickened rim, a high neck with a ridge at its bottom and ribbed shoulders. Jars of this type were dated at Ḥammāt Gader to the third and fourth centuries CE (Ben-Arieh 1997:351, Pl. 4:2–12).

Jugs

Two jug types were found. Figure 32:12 is a jug with a simple and slightly flaring rim with a narrow ridge underneath and a high, narrow neck. The jugs in Fig. 32:13, 14 have a narrow neck that broadens at the top and a loop handle from mid-neck to the shoulder. They belong to KH Type 6C and are dated from the beginning of the fourth to the beginning of the fifth century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:144–146; Loffreda 2008:160, DG 138, Type VAS 9). The spouted-rim jug with a handle attached opposite the rim (Fig. 32:15) belongs to KH Type 5B1, dated from the early fourth to the early fifth century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:139–141).

Stratum 3 (Fig. 33)

The pottery from Stratum 3 ranges in date from the fourth century CE, with the majority attributed to the sixth–beginning of the seventh centuries CE. Apart from the flask depicted in Fig. 33:36, none of the types in this stratum appear only in the Umayyad period, thereby assisting in dating Stratum 3 to the end of the Byzantine period.

Bowls

Fine Byzantine Ware.— Bowls from Stratum 3 include a bowl with an inverted grooved rim, a straight, thick wall and disc base (Fig. 33:1), and a well-fired hemispherical bowl with a simple rim and an incised wavy line on the exterior (Fig. 33:2). These types belong to the Fine Byzantine Ware family and are dated to the sixth–eighth centuries CE (Magness 1993:193–194, Type 1, Variant A; Ben-Arieh 1997:363, Pl. 6:16–17). Figure 33:3 is a hemispherical bowl with a simple rim and a thick wall.

Phocaean Red Slip Ware (PRS).— Phocaean Red Slip 3F (Fig. 33:4) was dated to the first half of the sixth century CE (Hayes 1972:333–337, Fig. 69). Type PRS 3G (Fig. 33:5) appears from the sixth to the beginning of the seventh century CE (Tsuf 2003:136–140) and Type PRS 3H (Fig. 33:6) was dated to c. 580–600 CE until the beginning of the seventh century CE (Hayes 1972:335–336, 338, Fig. 69).

Cypriot Red Slip (CRS).— Type CRS 1 (Fig. 33:7) was dated from the end of the fourth century to the third quarter of the fifth century CE (Hayes 1972:372–373, Fig. 80:1–4). Type CRS 2 (Fig. 33:8) dates to the mid-fifth–sixth centuries CE (Hayes 1972:273–276, Fig. 80:10, 13). Type CRS 9 (Fig. 33:9) dates from 580–600 CE until the end of the seventh century CE (Hayes 1972:379–382, Fig. 82).

Cooking Bowls

The most common types have cut rims, rounded or carinated walls and horizontal loop-handles that attach under the rim. These cooking utensils continued in use from the Roman period until the Early Islamic period and therefore are not useful as a means of dating (Hartal 2005:142).

Two cooking-bowl types were found in Stratum 3. The first, carinated with handles joining the rim or slightly below it (Fig. 33:10–12), were found at Ḥammāt Gader in loci dated to the Roman and the Byzantine periods (Ben-Arieh 1997:351, Pl. 3:32). Figure 33:13 is an example of a deep bowl with a spherical body and handles that rise above the rim. Such bowls are common at Ḥammāt Gader in the Byzantine and the Early Islamic periods (Ben-Arieh 1997:371, Pl. 12:5).

Cooking Pots

Five cooking-pot types were recovered from Stratum 3. The cooking pot in Fig. 33:14 is classified as KH Type 4E1, with a simple rim and a low ridge; it can be attributed to the beginning of the fourth until the beginning of the fifth century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:132–135). The neck-less pots with an out-folded rim and two loop-handles reaching from the rim to the ribbed body (Fig. 33:15–20) are dated from the end of the sixth to the mid-eighth century CE (Magness 1993:219, Form CP4A; Ben-Arieh 1997:351, Pl. 3:19–23). The cooking pot with a grooved curved rim, a high neck, a gradually sloping shoulder and two thick loop handles drawn from the rim to the shoulder (Fig. 33:21) is similar to

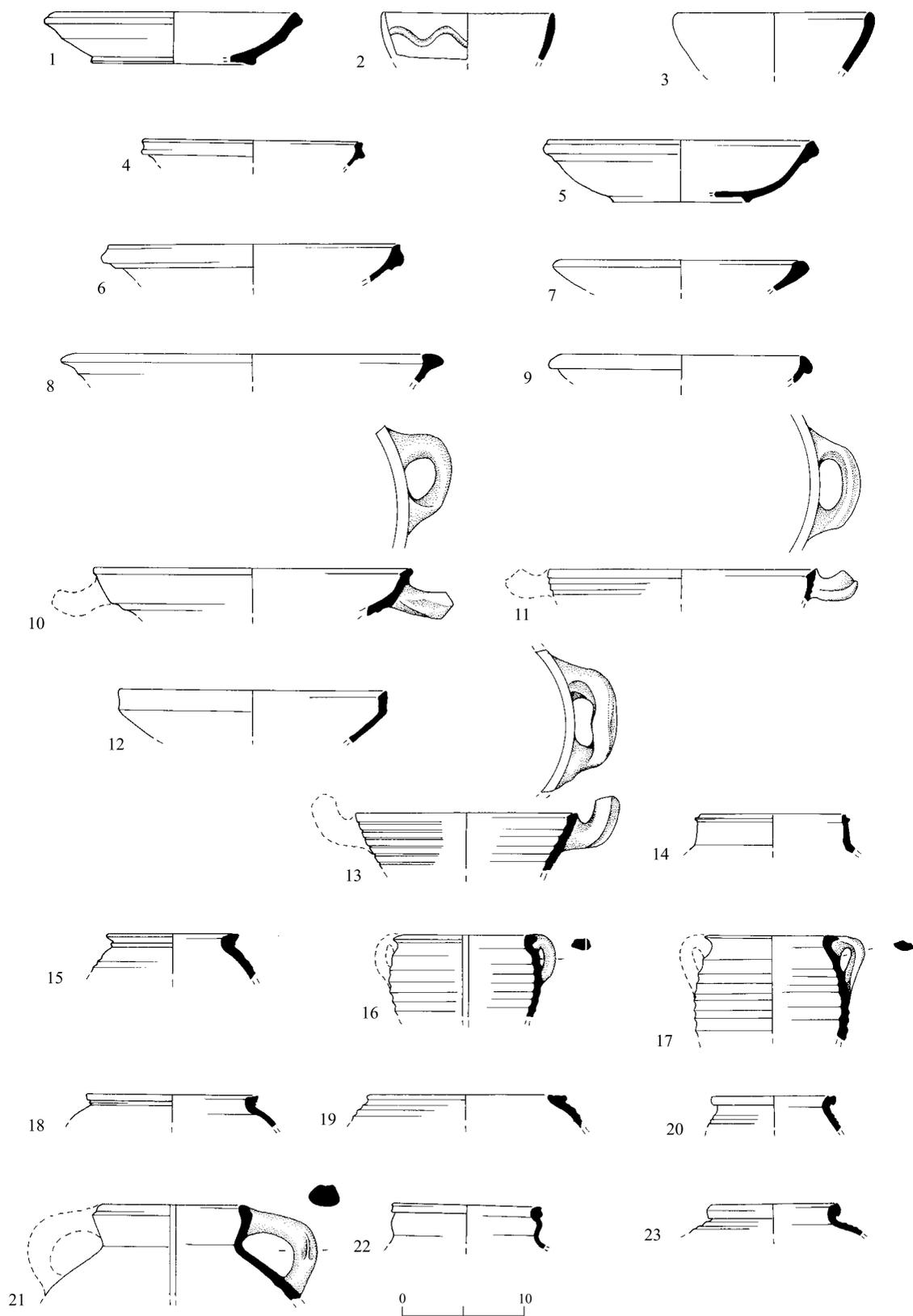


Fig. 33. Stratum 3 pottery.

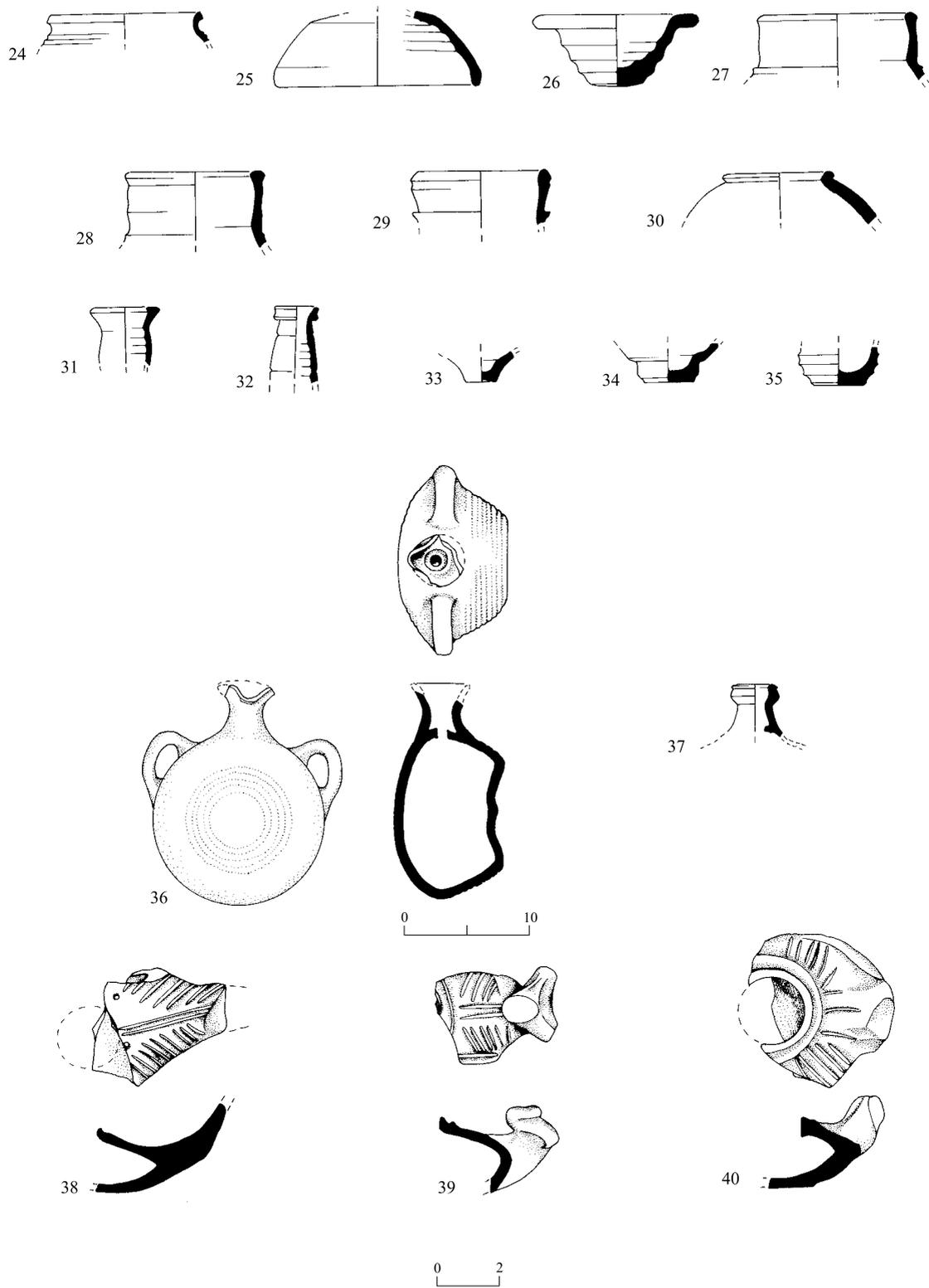


Fig. 33. (cont.)

◀ Fig. 33

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	306	1217/2	Pink fabric
2	Bowl	306	1229/2	Orange fabric; wavy decoration on ext.
3	Bowl	313	1475/6	Orange fabric; cream color on ext.
4	Bowl	306	1164/2	Light red fabric; light red slip
5	Bowl	206	1229/1	Red fabric; red slip
6	Bowl	313	1475/1	Reddish brown fabric; matte reddish brown slip
7	Bowl	306	1278/2	Pink fabric; light red slip
8	Bowl	313	1475/3	Pink fabric; light red slip
9	Bowl	306	1229/3	Light red fabric; light red slip
10	Cooking bowl	306	1278/2	Pink fabric; light red slip
11	Cooking bowl	313	1475/2	Reddish brown fabric
12	Cooking bowl	206	1271/2	Reddish brown fabric
13	Cooking bowl	306	1217/6	Pink fabric
14	Cooking pot	306	1259/1	Orange fabric
15	Cooking pot	306	1253/1	Light red fabric
16	Cooking pot	306	1253/3	Gray fabric; pink on ext.
17	Cooking pot	306	1253/4	Pink fabric; thick gray core
18	Cooking pot	313	1475/5	Reddish brown fabric
19	Cooking pot	317	1499/4	Reddish brown fabric
20	Cooking pot	306	1278/3	Light red fabric
21	Cooking pot	306	1269/2	Reddish brown fabric
22	Cooking pot	306	1164/3	Orange fabric
23	Cooking pot	206	1255/1	Reddish brown fabric
24	Cooking pot	312	1422/1	Orange fabric
25	Lid	206	1118	Orange fabric, bright gray core
26	Lid	313	1499/1	Dark brown fabric, thick black core
27	Jar	306	1269/1	Orange fabric
28	Jar	306	1217/1	Orange fabric
29	Jar	306	1278/1	Orange fabric
30	Jar	306	1217/3	Reddish brown fabric
31	Juglet	306	1182	Orange fabric
32	Juglet	206	1149/1	Orange fabric
33	Juglet	306	1253/2	Orange fabric
34	Juglet	313	1499/3	Orange fabric
35	Juglet	313	1499/2	Orange fabric
36	Flask	329	1716	Light brown fabric
37	Flask	306	1202/1	Dark brown fabric, gray on ext.
38	Lamp	306	1269	Gray fabric
39	Lamp	313	1435/7	Pink fabric
40	Lamp	328	1721/1	Pink fabric

KH Type 4C, which dates from the beginning of the second to the mid-fourth centuries CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:128–130). The cooking pot depicted in Fig. 33:22 has a low neck that swells midway and a band rim. The neck-less cooking pots with a deep-grooved band rim (Fig. 35:23, 24) are often found in the northern Golan and Upper Galilee. They date to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Hartal 2005:138, Fig. 128:12).

Lids

Two types of lids were found. The lid with a simple rim and a hemispherical body, thick walls and wheel marks on the interior (Fig. 33:25) has soot marks on the exterior. The crude inner surface, as opposed to the smooth finish of the exterior, hints to their use as lids and not as bowls. The soot on the external side of the rims lends further credence to their definition as lids, probably of cooking bowls. The lid shown in Fig. 33:26 belongs to a jar or an amphora. Its form is that of a deep bowl with a wide ledge rim and thick walls with wheel marks on the interior. The bottom was left rough. Such lids were in use from the sixth to the eighth century CE (Smith and Day 1989: Pl. 50:12; Magness 1993:247, Form 1).

Jars

Jars with a thickened rim and a high neck with a ridge at its bottom (Fig. 33:27–30) were dated at Pella to the end of the sixth–beginning of the seventh centuries CE (Walmsley 1982: Pl. 139:9; Ben-Arieh 1997:373, Pl. 4:2). A neck-less jar (Fig. 33:30) with an outturned, rounded rim and a sloppy finish with clay residues on the surface hails from the area of Gaza. They are common in central and southern Israel and are dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Mayerson 1992).

Juglets

The juglets (Fig. 33:31–35) have a long and narrow neck and rope-cut bases. One juglet (Fig. 33:31) has a flat rim and a flaring neck, while another (Fig. 33:32) has a flanged rim with a groove on the neck below the rim. They are dated to the sixth–beginning of the seventh centuries CE (Smith and Day 1989: Pl. 48:18; Ben-Arieh 1997:351, Pl. 13:19).

Flasks

The complete flask (Fig. 33:36) with a pointed rim, a narrow neck and an asymmetrical oblate body has concentric ribbing on one side and a low omphalos on the other. Omphalos bases are typical of the Umayyad period. Similar flasks, but with less pronounced omphaloi, were produced in the Umayyad potters' workshop at Bet She'an (Bar-Nathan 2011: Fig. 11.28). Apparently, the flask was made in the Umayyad period (Stratum 2) although it was found inside Basin 329, which is attributed to Stratum 3. The rim, neck and beginning of a shoulder illustrated in Fig. 35:41 is a flask with an out-folded rim and a low neck that expands as it rises. Such flasks are dated to the Byzantine period and continue into the Umayyad period (Ben-Arieh 1997:377, Pl. 14:1).

Lamps

The lamps in Fig. 33:38–40 have the same elliptical form and large filling hole surrounded by a double ridge. The body is decorated with lines and spirals in high relief and the handle is high, ending in an animal head. These lamps were probably manufactured in Jerash, from the end of the sixth to the mid-ninth century CE (Coen Uzzielli 1997:325, Fig. 10).

Stratum 2 (Fig. 34)

The Stratum 2 pottery assemblage is representative of the Umayyad period. Clean assemblages and complete vessels were found on Floor 304. Vessels characteristic of the period before the earthquake of 749 CE were also found in Building A.

Basins

Two types were found. The first (Fig. 34:1) is of gray ware, with an infolded rim and thumb impressions. While they first appear in the Byzantine period, they are common in the Umayyad period (Ben-Arieh 1997:365–367, Pl. 9:9; Shalem 2002:154–156, Figs. 6, 7). The second (Fig. 34:2) is a large basin with a carination between the rim and the body, which is decorated with a grooved wavy strip. Basins of this sort were common in the Umayyad period at Hippos until the earthquake of 749 CE (Młynarczyk 2001:17, Fig. 4:2) and in Kursi (Tzaferis 1983:32–33, Fig. 5:10–12, Pl. XIII:4). The excavation at Gale Kinneret in Tiberias revealed that these basins were common in the stratum destroyed by the earthquake and were totally absent from later strata (Hartal, in prep.). They were not found in the Abbasid strata in the excavations at Capernaum (Peleg 1989:59–60, Figs. 48, 50) nor in the Old City of Tiberias (Stacey 2004:97, Fig. 5.11).

Cooking Bowl

This wide, carinated cooking bowl (Fig. 34:3) with an everted rim decorated with thumb impressions has brown glaze on the lower part of the bowl's interior. The bowl underwent extreme firing, which changed the fabric's color to black. Glazed cooking bowls do not appear before the end of the ninth century CE. Chronologically, this bowl does not belong to the Byzantine period and is probably a late intrusion.²

Cooking Pots

The cooking pots from this stratum (Fig. 34:4–7) display a simple rim, a high, ribbed neck, a moderate shoulder and a spherical body. Two loop handles extend from the rim to the shoulder. They are common at Ḥammāt Gader from the mid-seventh to the mid-eighth

² I thank Miriam Avissar, for drawing my attention to this fact.

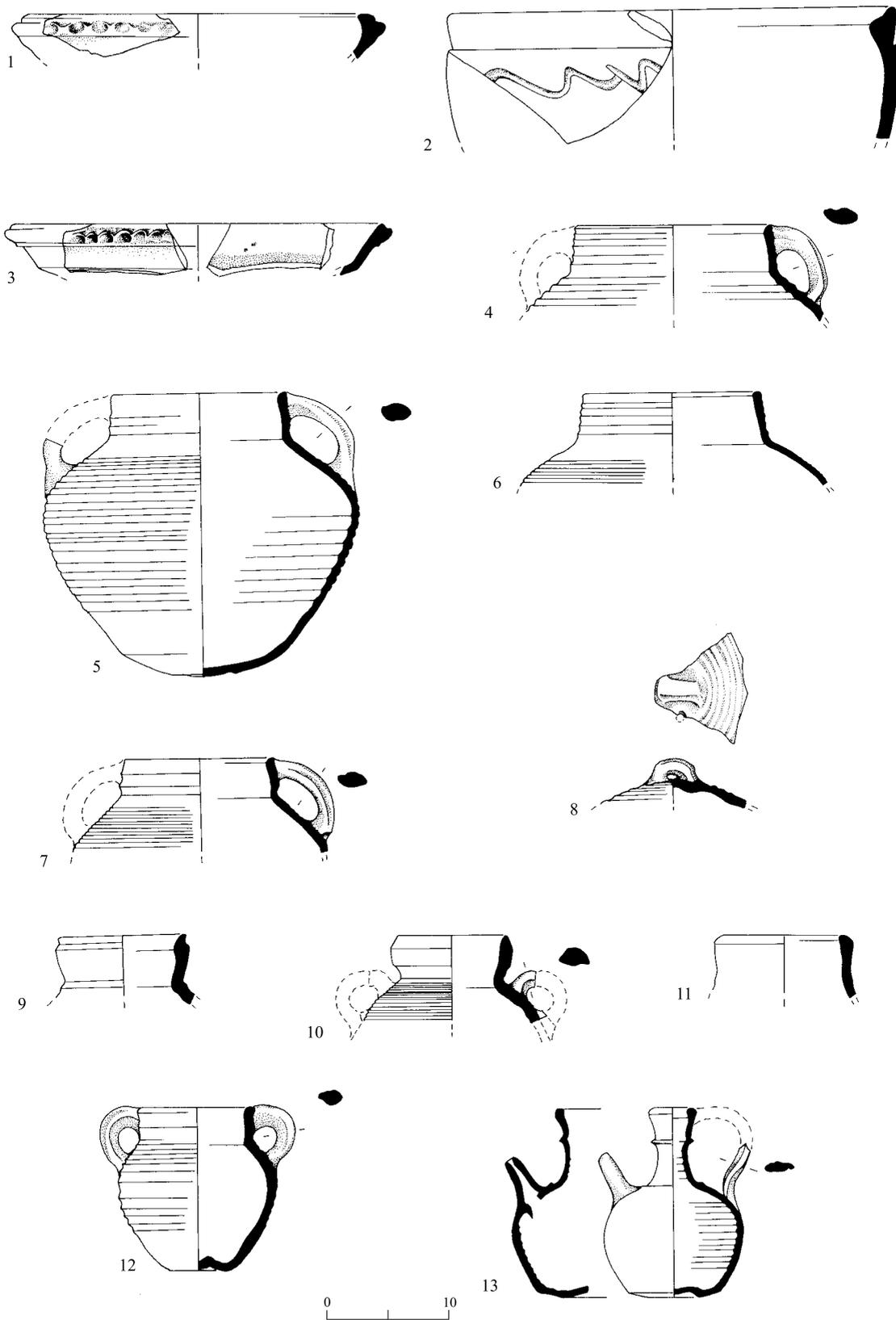


Fig. 34. Stratum 2 pottery.

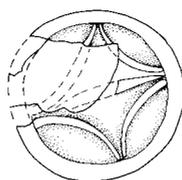
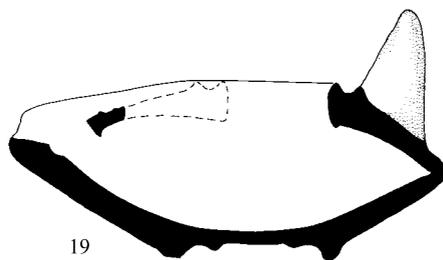
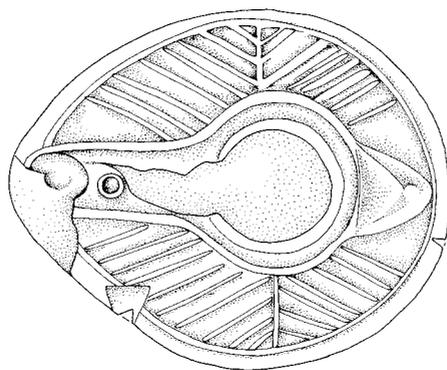
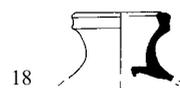
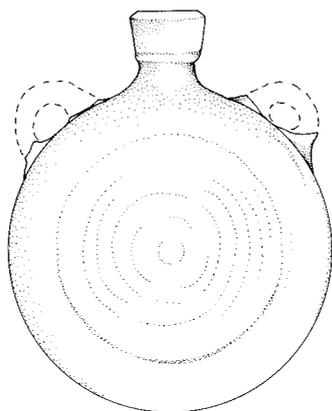
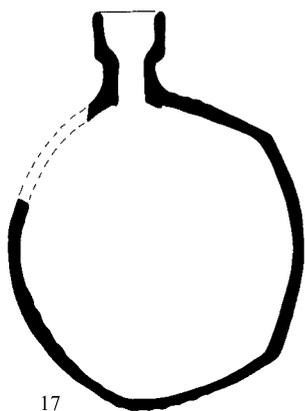
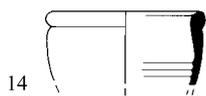


Fig. 34. (cont.)

◀ Fig. 34

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Locus	Description
1	Basin	1661/2	205	Gray fabric
2	Basin	1071/1	205	Light brown sandy fabric
3	Cooking bowl	1077/2	205	Reddish brown fabric; brown glaze on lower part of vessel
4	Cooking pot	1106/1	205	Dark reddish brown fabric
5	Cooking pot	1089/1	304	Dark reddish brown fabric
6	Cooking pot	1473/1	324	Dark reddish brown fabric; gray on ext.
7	Cooking pot	1473/4	324	Dark gray fabric
8	Lid	1713/2	361	Dark brown fabric
9	Jar	1694/1	361	Reddish brown fabric
10	Jar	1694/2	361	Reddish brown fabric
11	Jar	1630/1	361	Reddish brown fabric
12	Miniature jar	1090	304	Buff ware
13	Jug	1713	361	Orange fabric
14	Jug	1473/4	324	Buff ware
15	Jug	1473/3	324	Buff ware; incised decoration under rim
16	Juglet	1713/1	361	Reddish brown fabric
17	Flask	1102	304	Buff ware
18	Flask	1677/1	361	Reddish brown fabric; thick gray core
19	Lamp	1713	361	Orange fabric

century CE (Ben-Arieh 1997:367, Pl.11:1–8) and at Capernaum, from the mid-eighth to the mid-eleventh century CE (Peleg 1989:59–60, Fig. 52:4–6).³

Lid

Cooking-bowl lids (Fig. 34:8) with a small loop handle were in use from the sixth to the mid-eighth century CE (Hartal 2005:144).

Jars

These jars have a simple rim, sometimes with a groove on the exterior (Fig. 34:9–11). The type features a neck that thickens in the middle and two loop handles attached to the ribbed shoulder (Watson 1995:319–320, Fig. 9).

Miniature Jar

This intact jar (Fig. 34:12) has a simple rim, a low wide neck, two loop-handles attached from the rim to the shoulder and a spherical, ribbed body with an omphalos base. Such miniature jars are dated to the Umayyad period at Capernaum, Tiberias, Kursi and Pella

³ The dating of the finds from Capernaum is based on the modification offered by Stacey (2004:16–20, Table 3.3).

(Walmsley 1982: Pl. 145:5; Tzaferis 1983: Fig. 8:2, 3; Peleg 1989: Fig. 57:1; Stacey 2004:129, Fig. 5.39:2).

Jugs

Two jug types were found (Fig. 34:13–15). Nearly complete jug Fig. 34:13 has a round rim, a narrow neck with a sharp ridge midway and another ridge at the neck's base, a spherical body, a strap handle reaching from rim to shoulder and a spout opposite the handle. The jug has an omphalos base. Potter's wheel marks are seen on the interior. At Ḥammad Gader and Pella these jugs were dated to the mid-eighth century CE (Walmsley 1982: Pl. 142:1; Smith and Day 1989: Pl. 61:1, 9; Ben-Arieh 1997:378, Pl. 14:20, 21). At Tiberias, similar jugs with white decoration were found in Umayyad-period shops and continue to be found in the early Abbasid period (Stacey 2004:129, Fig. 5.39:4).

Two Buff Ware jugs (Fig. 34:14, 15) have a wide neck that bulges midway. One (Fig. 36:14) has a rounded rim with a groove under it and the other (Fig. 34:15) has a narrow ledge rim, its neck bearing incised decoration. Buff Ware appears already in the Umayyad period, when it was used primarily for jugs and flasks with thick, undecorated walls. Decorated vessels first appear in the ninth and tenth centuries CE (see below, Stratum 1). The decoration of Jug No. 15 is exceptional.

Juglet

The juglet (Fig. 34:16) has a round thick rim, a short neck and thick walls. Such spherical juglets with a small base are known as 'grenades.' They were probably used for storing expensive liquids. Many such vessels were found in the baths at Ḥammad Gader, where they were dated to the Umayyad period (Ben-Arieh 1997:380, Pl. 15:14–19). In Tiberias, they were dated as late as the ninth century CE (Stacey 2004:138, Fig. 5.52).

Flasks

Two flasks were found (Fig. 34:17, 18). The almost intact flask (Fig. 34:17) has a simple rim, a short straight neck and an asymmetrical body with two small loop handles on the shoulders. Both sides show shallow potter's wheel marks. It is made of Buff Ware. Similar flasks were dated in Pella and Kursi to the first half of the eighth century CE (Walmsley 1982: Pl. 141:1; Tzaferis 1983:34, Fig. 8:20). The other flask (Fig. 34:18) has a similar rim and a short neck.

Lamp

The large lamp (Fig. 34:19) has an ovoid body with a channel running from the large filling hole to the nozzle; the filling hole and the channel are surrounded by a double ridge. It has a high pyramidal handle. The body and ring base are decorated with a geometric motif in high relief. These lamps are dated to the Umayyad and the beginning of the Abbasid periods (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:129–130; Coen-Uzzielli 1997:326–328; Hadad 1997:174–178, Type 3).

Stratum 1 (Fig. 35)

The Stratum 1 pottery assemblage is dominated by Buff Ware vessels (Fig. 35:1–13, 27–39, 41, 43) dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE, which is probably the time span that should be assigned to the stratum. Buff Ware vessels were made using clay that was taken from deposits without iron, which allowed them to absorb water, thus keeping the water cool. Buff Ware was used primarily for flasks and jugs, but also for other vessels. Vessels of a similar fabric appear already in Umayyad-period Stratum 2. While in Stratum 2 mostly jugs and flasks with relatively thick, usually undecorated walls were found, in Stratum 1 the vessels have thin walls, often incised and decorated in relief. Bowls manufactured from this buff fabric were sometimes glazed. The manufacture of decorated Buff Ware began in the ninth century CE and continued in the tenth century (Peleg 1989:91–104, Figs. 62–67; Boas 1997:385–386; Walmsley 2001).

Bowls

Two families of bowls were found (Fig. 35:1–13): unglazed bowls and bowls with a matte monochrome glaze. Of the unglazed bowls, some have a simple incurving rim (Fig. 35:1, 2) and were dated in Tiberias to the eighth–ninth centuries CE (Stacey 2004:92–93, Fig. 5.5:5), while others have down-curving ledge rims (Fig. 35:3). Some of the bowls with matte monochrome glaze have an outturned rim and brownish-green glaze (Fig. 35:4), but most have incurving rims with brown, yellow or green glaze (Fig. 35:5–10). The bowl fragments (Fig. 35:11–13) have a ring or disc base.

Basin

Basins with an arched rim like our specimen (Fig. 35:14) were dated at Capernaum to the eighth–tenth centuries CE (Peleg 1989:54–59, Fig. 47:1–4).

Cooking Bowl

This deep cooking bowl (Fig. 35:15) has a cut rim, from which protrude horizontal loop handles, and a rounded body. Such bowls were in use at Capernaum from the eighth to the eleventh century CE (Peleg 1989:70, Fig. 52:24–27).

Cooking Pots

Three cooking-pot types were found (Fig. 35:16–18). One has a simple rim, a high neck, a shallow ribbed shoulder and thick walls (Fig. 35:16). At Capernaum, they were dated from the eighth to the eleventh century CE (Peleg 1989:69, Fig. 52:4–6). The second type has a flat rim, a short neck with three ridges and a shallow, ribbed shoulder (Fig. 35:17). The third type has an inner lip, a high neck and bears potter’s wheel marks (Fig. 35:18). Similar cooking pots were found in Stratum 2.

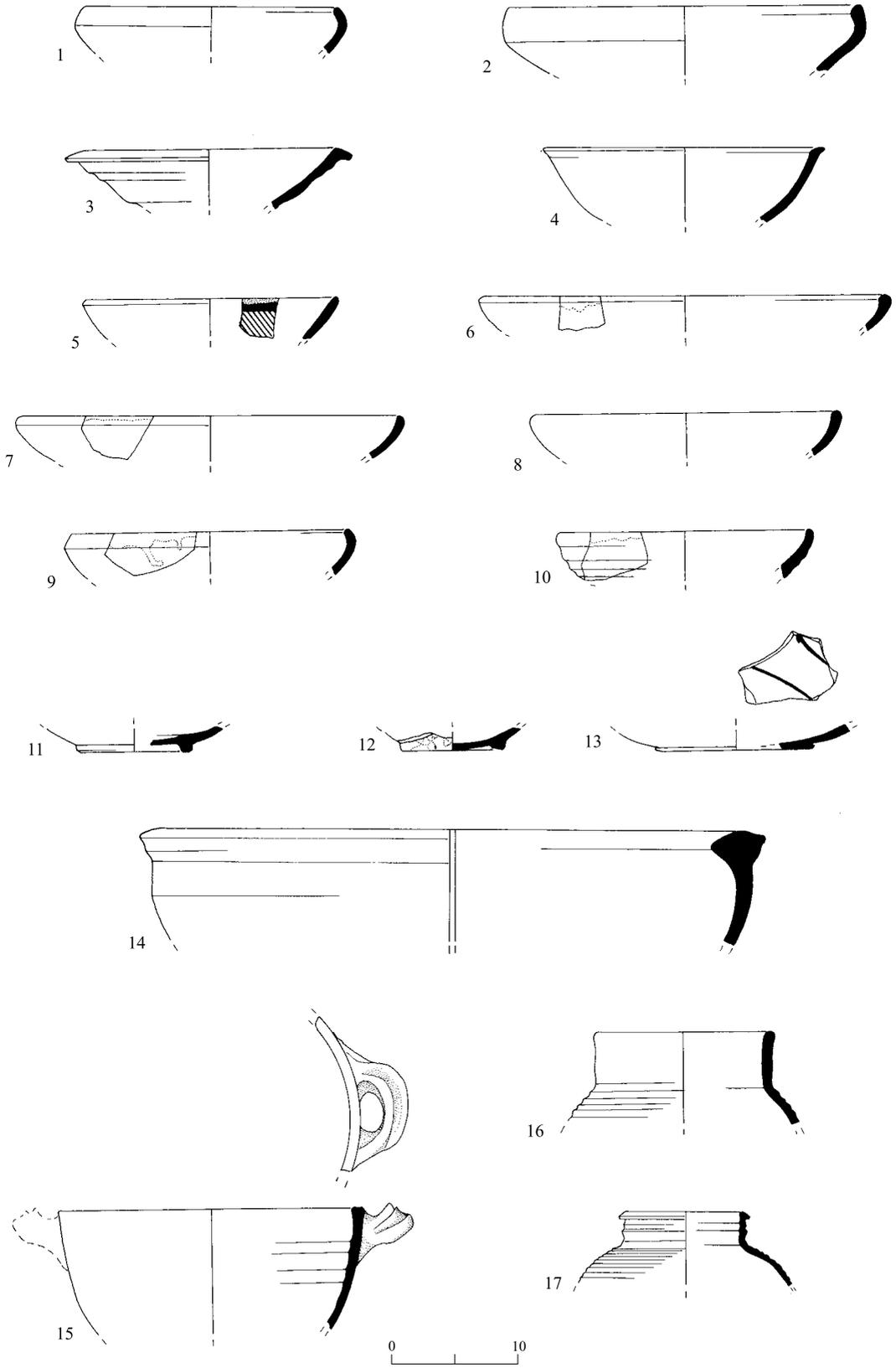


Fig. 35. Stratum 1 pottery.

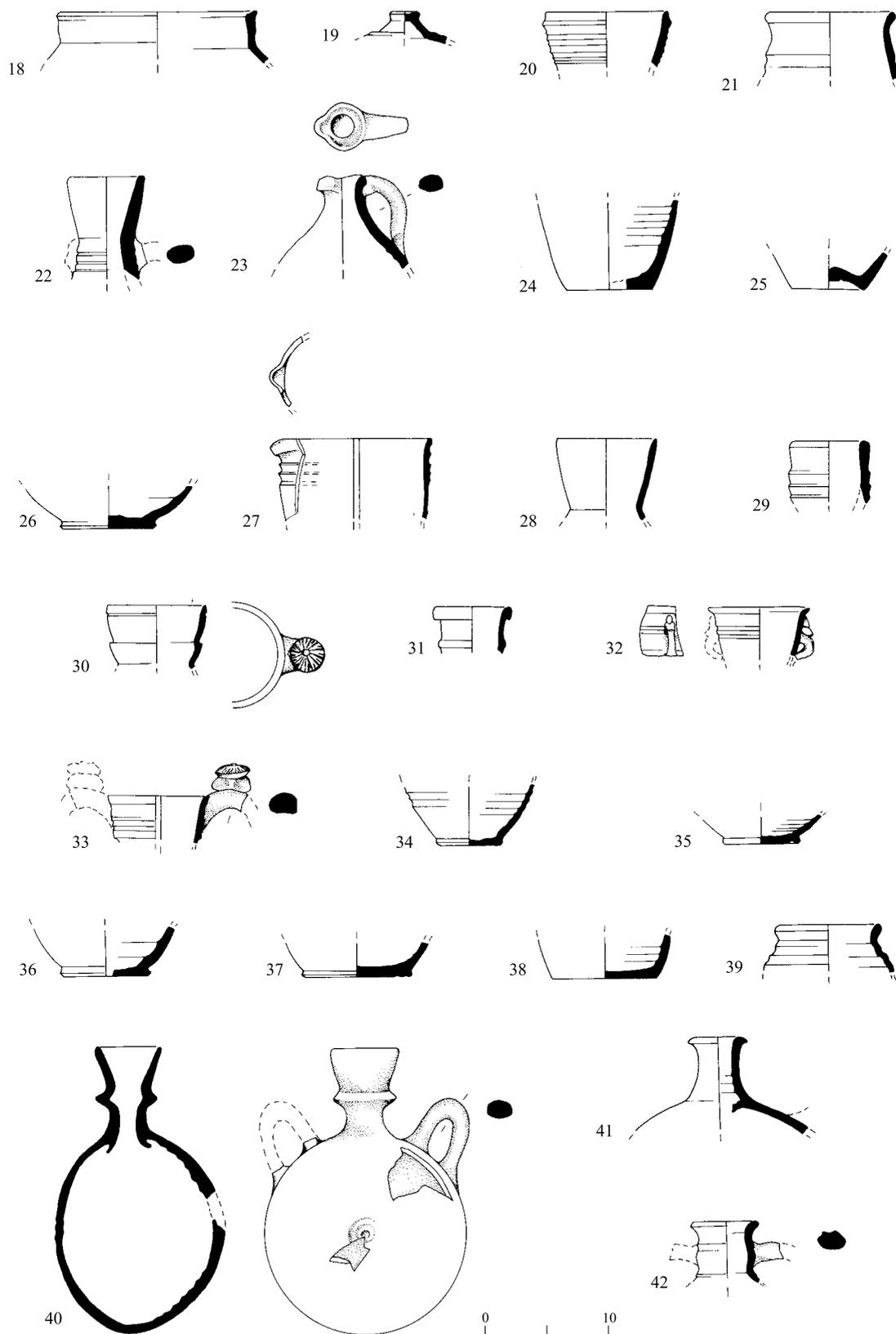


Fig. 35. (cont.).

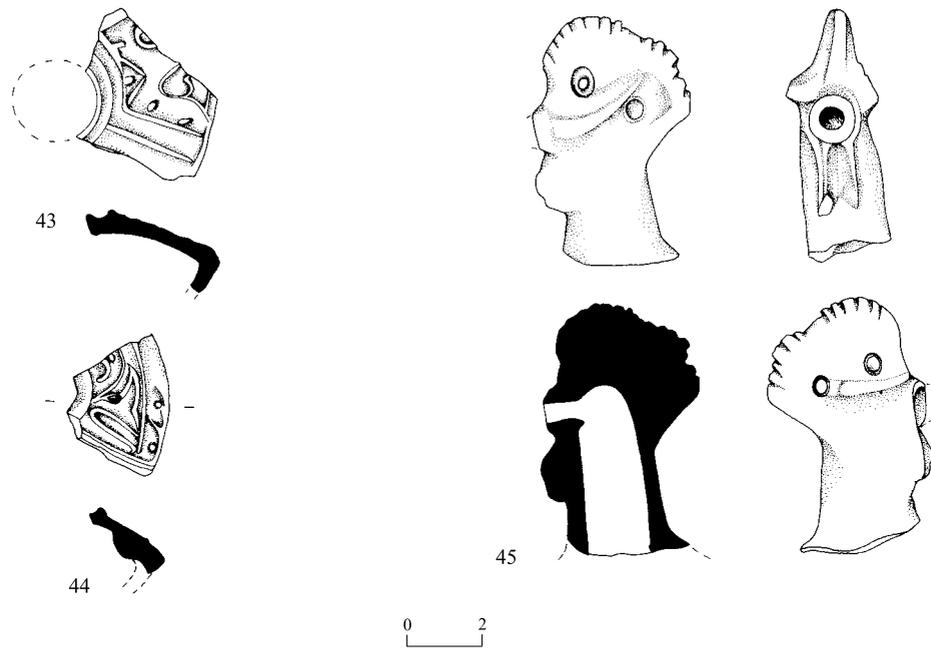


Fig. 35. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1575/3	424	Buff Ware; dark brown monochrome matte glaze on lower int. and on rim
2	Bowl	1575/2	424	Buff Ware
3	Bowl	1481/3	422	Cream fabric
4	Bowl	1602/3	424	Buff Ware; green-brown monochrome matte glaze
5	Bowl	1073/4	103	Pink fabric; azure matte glaze except rim, with mustard glaze
6	Bowl	1575/4	424	Cream fabric; green monochrome matte glaze on int. and ext.
7	Bowl	1435/3	422	Buff Ware; dark brown monochrome matte glaze on int. and on rim
8	Bowl	1435/1	422	Pink fabric; dark brown monochrome matte glaze on int. and on rim
9	Bowl	1073/3	103	Brown-cream fabric; cream monochrome matte glaze on int. and on rim
10	Bowl	1457/1	422	Buff Ware; green monochrome matte glaze on int. and on rim
11	Bowl	1575/1	424	Buff Ware; dark brown monochrome matte glaze on int.
12	Bowl	1407/4	422	Cream fabric; light green and mustard matte glaze
13	Bowl	1111/1	104	Orange fabric; yellowish green glaze covered with dark brown bands
14	Basin	1602/4	424	Dark gray fabric
15	Cooking bowl	1649/6	426	Dark gray fabric
16	Cooking pot	1649/4	426	Orange fabric
17	Cooking pot	1649/7	426	Orange fabric; gray core
18	Cooking pot	1073/2	103	Dark brown fabric; black core
19	Lid	1575/5	424	Reddish brown fabric; thick gray core

◀ Fig. 35

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Locus	Description
20	Jug	1481/4	422	Red fabric
21	Jug?	1435/2	422	Orange fabric
22	Jug	1649/5	426	Red fabric
23	Jug	1423/1	422	Pink fabric
24	Jug	1423/2	422	Orange fabric
25	Jug	1700/2	428	Light red fabric; gray core
26	Jug	1718/1	428	Pink fabric
27	Jug	1649/2	426	Buff Ware
28	Jug	1602/2	424	Buff Ware
29	Jug	1435/4	422	Buff Ware
30	Jug	1407/2	422	Buff Ware
31	Jug	1111/2	104	Buff Ware
32	Jug	1681/1	426	Buff Ware
33	Jug	1681/2	426	Buff Ware
34	Jug	1649/1	426	Buff Ware
35	Jug	1407/3	422	Buff Ware
36	Jug	1073/1	103	Greenish buff fabric
37	Jug	1602/1	424	Buff Ware
38	Jug	1481/1	422	Cream fabric
39	Juglet	1700/3	428	Orange fabric
40	Flask	1446	422	Buff Ware
41	Flask	1700/1	428	Pink fabric; thick gray core
42	Flask	1649/8	426	Dark gray fabric
43	Lamp	1407	422	Buff ware
44	Lamp	1575/6	424	Brown fabric
45	Zoomorphic vessel	1504	422	Light red fabric; white slip decorated with dark brown diagonal bands

Lid

A cooking bowl lid with a button handle was found (Fig. 35:19). Such lids were in use from the Byzantine period until the tenth century CE (Magness 1993:215; Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.33:1, 2).

Jugs

A relatively large number of jugs (Fig. 35:20–38), including those manufactured of Buff Ware, were retrieved at the site. This large number is probably due to the proximity of wells.

The jug depicted in Fig. 35:20 has a simple rim with a ridge beneath it and a flaring, gently ribbed neck. Figure 35:21 is a jug with an outturned simple rim and a medium-height neck with potter's wheel marks on its lower part. Another jug with a simple rim (Fig. 35:22)

has a high neck that narrows midway where a handle is attached, thick walls and bears wheel marks. The jug in Fig. 35:23 has a narrow mouth, rounded, outturned rim and a spout opposite the loop handle, which stretches from rim to shoulder; its short neck expands into a moderate shoulder. Several types of bases are seen. One has a flat rope-cut base (Fig. 35:24) as occurs in the case of the Buff Ware jugs. A jug with an omphalos base (Fig. 35:25) is like the jugs found in Stratum 2. The jug illustrated in Fig. 35:26 has a discus base like the Buff Ware jugs (Fig. 35:34–36).

Buff Ware Jugs.— These jugs have a simple, sometimes pinched rim, a high neck and ridges under the rim (Fig. 35:27–31); most have thin walls (Fig. 35:27–38). Similar jugs were found in Capernaum Stratum IV, dated from the mid-eighth to the mid-ninth century CE (Peleg 1989: Fig. 62:5, 7, 9). Some jugs are decorated with a miniature loop-handle attached under the rim (Fig. 35:32). Such jugs were found in Capernaum Stratum III, dated from the mid-ninth to the mid-tenth centuries CE (Peleg 1989: Fig. 62:3, 8, 12, 19). Other jugs have a handle attached from the rim to the shoulder with a plastic ‘button’ on top (Fig. 35:33). The jugs have discus bases, some of them rope-cut (Fig. 35:34–37), one is decorated with one or two concentric grooves (Fig. 35:38).

Juglet

Juglets such as this example (Fig. 35:39), with a wide mouth, a simple rim, a short neck and a wide ribbed body, appeared in Tiberias in the eighth–ninth centuries CE (Stacey 2004:139, Fig. 5.54:1).

Flasks

Three flasks were found (35:40–42): a complete flask (Fig. 35:40), with a simple rim, a flaring neck with a bulging ridge, an asymmetrical body and no ribbing, has two loop handles on the shoulder; Fig. 35:41 has an outfolded rim and a high, narrow neck that was attached to the body prior to firing; and Fig. 35:42 has an outturned simple rim and a short neck with a bulge midway, where two loop handles are attached.

Lamps

The lamps (Fig. 35:43, 44) have a large filling hole surrounded by a double ridge. One (Fig. 35:43) is made of Buff Ware and the other (Fig. 35:44), of a brown fabric.

Zoomorphic Vessel

This fragment of a cock’s head (Fig. 35:45) with an erect crest and a double crest (broken) under the beak is made of a white-coated light red fabric and is decorated with brown diagonal bands. The eyes were formed using a reed, pressed into the clay. Vessels like this were found in Umayyad sites, as well as at sites dated from the ninth–tenth centuries CE. They may have served as toys (Avisar 1996:171, Fig. XIII.158:4, 5; Ben-Arieh 1997:380, Pl. 15:12, 13; Shalem 2002:168, Fig. 15:6; Stacey 2004:141, Fig. 5.56).

CONCLUSIONS

The slope east of ‘Ein el-Jarab was first settled at the end of the Late Roman period (Stratum 4). Excavation of one of the rooms of a structure built close to a square well hewn in bedrock exposed two floors, the lower yielding no datable finds, whilst the finds on the upper one provide a date in the fourth or fifth century CE.

During the Byzantine period (Stratum 3), the walls of the Late Roman building were raised and apparently, the structure continued in use into the sixth or the beginning of the seventh century CE. The building was still active during the Umayyad period (Stratum 2); it was apparently destroyed by the earthquake of 749 CE and was not restored.

In the Umayyad period, a public building was built on the upper part of the slope (Stratum 2, Building A). It comprised at least four rooms, three of them paved with mosaic floors. A plaza was built in front of the structure, paved with flagstones over a system of supporting walls and fills, and a well was hewn in its center, reaching down to the ground water of ‘Ein Bulos. Building A was destroyed at the end of the Umayyad period, probably in the earthquake of 749 CE.

The site was reoccupied in the ninth century during the Abbasid period (Stratum 1). The ruins of the southern part of Building A were removed and new Building B was built with a different ground plan, partly reusing the Building A remains. The entry room (Room 2) was broadened, its roof supported by at least one arch, and the door between the entry room and the southern room (Room 1) was blocked with a wall, resting on the Umayyad-period mosaic floor. The mosaic floor in Room 2, in poor condition, was covered with a new floor of earth and pebbles, while in Room 1, the original mosaic floor continued in use. The ruins of the northern parts of Building A remained untouched, hidden by a new wall constructed of dressed stones and ashlar, the stones probably taken from the southern part of the plaza.

The Stratum 2 plaza continued in use although during the time the site lay deserted, a layer of earth accumulated on the floors. The well, damaged by the earthquake, was blocked and covered with flagstones and a new well was dug nearby with a stone pipe taken from the ruined bathhouse serving as a well head. In the northeastern part of the plaza a new floor was built, perhaps part of a structure that did not survive.

It is unlikely that Buildings A and B, both built on the margins of the warm-water pool, would have served as residences due to the strong smell of sulfur and the extreme heat. It is likely that the structures and the plaza at their fore serviced the patrons of the hot springs, possibly as dressing rooms and as therapy spaces, much like the structures that were built at this same location in recent years.

REFERENCES

- Adan-Bayewitz D. 1993. *Common Pottery in Roman Galilee: A Study of Local Trade*. Ramat Gan.
- Amiran D.H.K., Ariei E. and Turcotte T. 1994. Earthquakes in Israel and Adjacent Areas: Macro seismic Observations since 100 B.C.E. *IEJ* 44:260–305.
- Avissar M. 1996. The Medieval Pottery. In A. Ben-Tor, M. Avissar and Y. Portugali. *Yoqne 'am I: The Late Periods* (Qedem Reports 3). Jerusalem. Pp. 75–172.
- Bar-Nathan R. 2011. The Pottery Corpus. In R. Bar-Nathan and W. Atrash. *Bet She'an II: Baysān; The Theater Pottery Workshop* (IAA Reports 48). Jerusalem. Pp. 229–343.
- Ben-Arie R. 1997. The Roman, Byzantine and Umayyad Pottery. In Y. Hirschfeld. *The Roman Baths of Hammat Gader: Final Report*. Jerusalem. Pp. 347–381.
- Boas A.J. 1997. Late Ceramic Typology. In Y. Hirschfeld. *The Roman Baths of Hammat Gader: Final Report*. Jerusalem. Pp. 382–395.
- Buckingham J.S. 1821. *Travels in Palestine through the Countries of Bashan and Gilead, East of the River Jordan: Including a Visit to the Cities of Geraza and Gamala in the Decapolis*. London.
- Coen-Uzzielli T. 1997. The Oil Lamps. In Y. Hirschfeld. *The Roman Baths of Hammat Gader: Final Report*. Jerusalem. Pp. 319–346.
- Foerster G. 1984. Ḥammat Gader, Synagogue. *ESI* 2:41.
- Glueck N. 1933. The Archeological Exploration of el-Ḥammeh on the Yarmūk. *BASOR* 49:22–23.
- Guérin M.V. 1880. *Description géographique, historique et archéologique de la Palestine III: Galilée I*. Paris.
- Hadad S. 1997. Oil Lamps from the Third to the Eighth Century C.E. at Scythopolis–Bet Shean. *DOP* 21:147–188.
- Hartal M. 2005. *Land of the Ituraeans: Archaeology and History of Northern Golan in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Periods* (Golan Studies 2). Qazrin (Hebrew; English summary, pp. 1*–7*).
- Hartal 2008. Tiberias, Galei Kinneret. *HA–ESI* 120 (April 15). http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.aspx?id=773&mag_id=114 (accessed November 9, 2020).
- Hartal M. In preparation. Excavations at Gale Kinneret, Tiberias.
- Hayes J.W. 1972. *Late Roman Pottery*. London.
- Hirschfeld Y. 1997. *The Roman Baths of Hammat Gader: Final Report*. Jerusalem.
- Loffreda S. 2008. *Cafarnao VI–VIII* (SBF Collectio Maior 48–50). Jerusalem.
- Magness J. 1993. *Jerusalem Ceramic Chronology: Circa 200–800 CE* (JSOT/ASOR Monograph Series 9). Sheffield.
- Mayerson P. 1992. The Gaza 'Wine' Jar (*Gazition*) and the 'Lost' Ashkelon Jar (*Askalōnion*). *IEJ* 42:76–80.
- Młynarczyk J. 2001. Pottery Report, Sussita 2001. In A. Segal, J. Młynarczyk and M. Burdajewicz. *Hippos (Sussita): Second Season of Excavations, July 2001*. Haifa. Pp. 15–34.

- Nielsen I., Andersen F.G. and Holm-Nielsen S. 1993. *Gadara-Umm Qēs III: Die byzantinischen Thermen* (Abhandlungen des deutschen Palästinavereins 17). Wiesbaden.
- Peleg M. 1989. Domestic Pottery. In V. Tzaferis. *Excavations at Capernaum 1: 1978–1982*. Winona Lake. Pp. 31–113.
- Rosenthal R. and Sivan R. 1978. *Ancient Lamps in the Schloessinger Collection* (Qedem 8). Jerusalem.
- Schumacher G. 1888. *The Jaulân*. London.
- Shalem D. 2002. Nevé Ur—An Early Islamic Period Village in the Bet She'an Valley. *'Atiqot* 40:149–176.
- Smith R.H. and Day L.P. 1989. *Pella of the Decapolis 2: Final Report on the College of Wooster Excavations in Area IX, the Civic Complex, 1979–1985*. Wooster.
- Stacey D.A. 2004. *Excavations at Tiberias, 1973–1974: The Early Islamic Period* (IAA Reports 21). Jerusalem.
- Sukenik E.I. 1935. The Ancient Synagogue of el-Ḥammeh. *JPOS* 15:101–180.
- Tsuf O. 2003. *Red Slip Bowls in the Late Roman and Byzantine Period: Social, Economical and Technological Aspects*. Ph.D. diss. University of Haifa. Haifa (Hebrew; English summary, pp. 1*–12*).
- Tzaferis V. 1983. *The Excavations of Kursi—Gergesa* ('*Atiqot* [ES] 16). Jerusalem.
- Walmsley A.G. 1982. The Umayyad Pottery and Its Antecedents. In A. McNicoll, R.H. Smith and B. Hennessy. *Pella in Jordan 1: An Interim Report on the Joint University of Sydney and the College of Wooster Excavations at Pella 1979–1981*. Canberra. Pp. 143–157.
- Walmsley A.G. 2001. Turning East. The Appearance of Islamic Cream Ware in Jordan: The “End of Antiquity”? In E. Villeneuve and P.M. Watson eds. *La céramique byzantine et proto-islamique en Syrie-Jordanie (IV^e–VIII^e siècles apr. J.-C.)* (Actes du colloque tenu à Amman les 3, 4 et 5 décembre 1994) (Bibliothèque archéologique et historique CLIX). Beirut. Pp. 305–313.
- Watson P.M. 1995. Ceramic Evidence for Egyptian Links with Northern Jordan in the 6th–8th Centuries AD. In S.J. Bourke and J.-P. Descoedres eds. *Trade, Contact and the Movement of Peoples in the Eastern Mediterranean: Studies in Honour of J. Basil Hennessy* (MA Suppl. 3). Sydney. Pp. 303–320.

