

A MAMLUK-PERIOD SITE AT KHIRBAT BURIN IN THE EASTERN SHARON

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INTRODUCTION

Following plans for improving the Qalansawa junction on the road between Kefar Yona and Tūl-Karm, an excavation was carried out during November–December 1998 at the northern part of Kh. Burin (map ref. NIG 1986/6909, OIG 1486/1909; elevation 30 m above sea level; Fig. 1). Since the area did not face destruction, the dig was restricted with the aim of retrieving as much information as possible during a short time. The main find was a medieval-period stratum. All the elevations given below are absolute heights above present sea level, and all the dates are CE, unless stated otherwise.

THE SITE AND ITS HISTORY

Kh. Burin is a registered antiquity site. It was surveyed by Guérin (1875:243–244, Kh. el-Barin), who described it as a ruined, small village, a 20 minute ride north of Qalansawa (not to be confused with another, more northerly Kh. Burin, not mentioned by Guérin). Conder and Kitchener (1882:178) also mention Burin, and, following Guérin, discussed its possible identification with *Mutatio* Betthar mentioned by the Bordeaux pilgrim (see Neef 1981 for an up-to-date discussion). Porath surveyed the site (Porath, Dar and Appelbaum 1985:250–1, No. 53) and reported pottery of the Iron Age II, Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine and medieval periods. In a thorough study of the central Sharon during the Islamic and Crusader periods, Pringle (1986:28–29, 77, Table 4) surveyed the site. He reported sherds from the Roman, Byzantine, Islamic and medieval periods. The site is situated at a junction of two roads: the historic Via Maris, that passes through Qalansawa and Qaqun, and an east–west road from Nablus to the area of present-day Netanya (the latter road was not documented during all the periods under discussion; Pringle 1986:11, 25; Arenson 1985:77–78; Safrai et al. 1990:252, Map 1).

Historical sources mention a certain Hugh of Burin, or Buria, in connection with Caesarea in 1207. Burin is identified with Casal Neuf, a Crusader site mentioned in a source from the year 1253 (Pringle 1986:28–29; see also Dar and Mintzker 1990; Erlich 1997). Baybars I conquered the area in 1265 and gave the lands of Burin to two amirs (Lyons, Lyons and Riley-Smith 1971:II:81; Arenson 1985:78; Amitai-

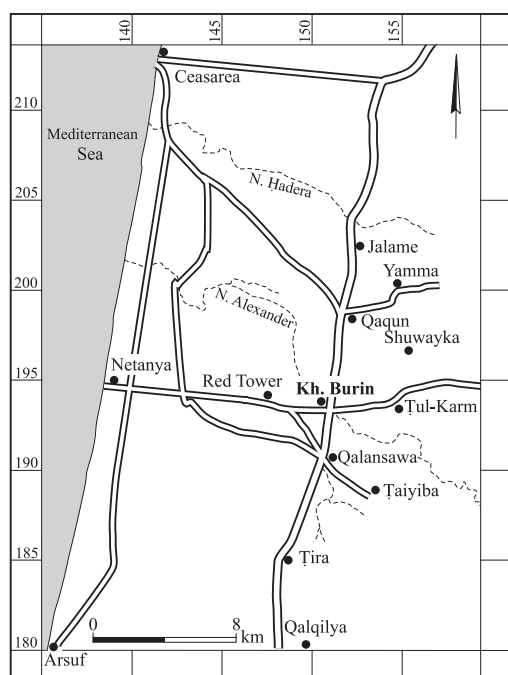


Fig. 1. Location map.

Preiss 1997:280–288). Burin is not mentioned in the Ottoman taxation survey of 1596/7 (Pringle 1986:24–27, Fig. 8). It is marked, however, in the Jacotin map of the turn of the nineteenth century, and a few houses existed there during the days of the British Mandate (Grossman 1990:271).

The area of excavation is situated north of the modern highway. The site occupies a moderate, northern slope. A major water pipe traversing the area dictated the position of a central balk, 2 m wide (Plan 1). After a few days, we realized that the highest area near the road includes modern refuse and debris to a depth of one meter and more, deposited when the road was cut (cf. Pringle 1986:29). On the other hand, architecture was found very close to the surface in the northern squares that were part of a cultivated field. Building stones, pottery and gray-colored soil are visible further north, indicating that the site extended some 30–40 m further northward.

We first cleaned a section along a trench of the modern highway but found only mixed road construction debris. Since the area was too restricted and dangerously close to the heavy traffic on the road, we did not excavate there further.

STRATIGRAPHY AND ARCHITECTURE

The excavations uncovered three strata: two of them (I and II) of the Mamluk period, and one (III) of the Byzantine–Early Islamic periods. In Stratum II, two construction stages were identified (IIa and IIb). The strata are described here from the earliest to the latest.

Stratum III

Stratum III was reached in a small probe beneath the floors of the Stratum II building in Sq L13. Here, about 2 m below the original floor of Stratum IIa, was a white layer of stones and mortar, laid irregularly. North of this layer was a deep fill of brown, compact soil with many fragments of pottery and glass (L148). No architecture was found. The fill included

mixed pottery, without any glazed wares. Most of the pottery dated to the Byzantine period (Fig. 27:1–3).

Fill Under the Floor of Stratum IIa

Above Stratum III was a fill laid under the floor of the building of Stratum IIa (L147, Sq L13). The pottery from the fill includes Byzantine–Early Islamic sherds, most from the latter period, with fine buff Kh. el-Mefjer ware and monochrome green-glazed wares, typical of this period. Since the quantity of pottery found in Stratum III and Fill III–II is small, we do not offer statistic data for the frequency of the types. We did not find a foundation trench for W17, the only wall of Stratum IIa excavated to its base.

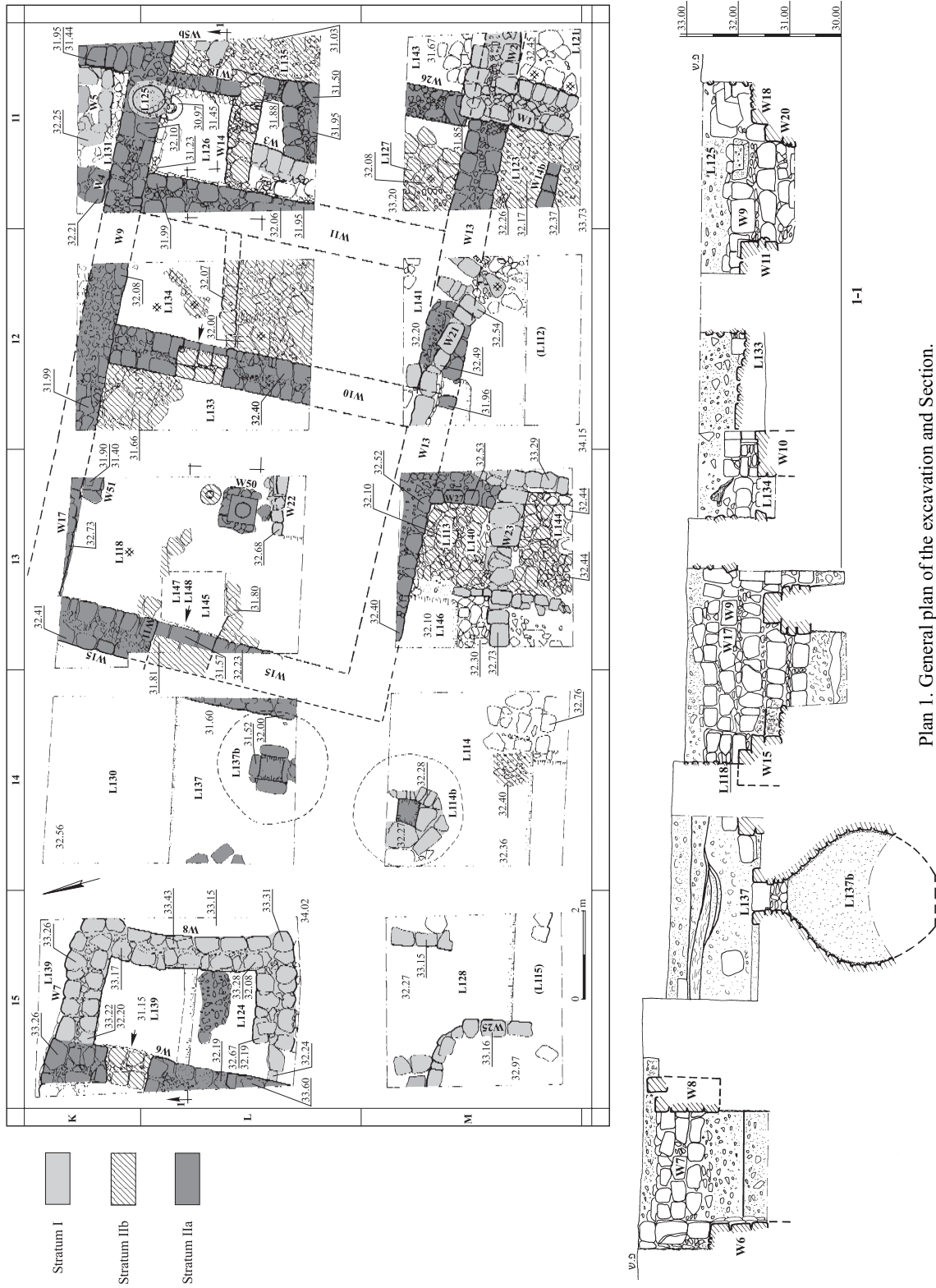
Stratum IIa: Mamluk Period Buildings (Plan 1)

Stratum II is the main phase of occupation discovered in the excavation. It comprises two distinct architectural phases: IIa (erection and first phase of use) and IIb (changes and raising of floors).

The Main Building.— In Stratum IIa, a large building was erected in Sqs L–M/11–13. We found an outer wall in the west (W15), but the building extended further to the south and east, and probably to the north as well. It is more than 16 m in length (W9, W17; Fig. 2). Wall 17—an outer wall—is deeply based (elevation 30.55 m), without a foundation trench. The outer walls (W15, W9, W7, W13) of the building are



Fig. 2. Square L/11 with Wall 9 and *Tabun* 125 right; L132 center; W3 upper left.



c. 1 m thick, well built of local fieldstones. The building comprised several large rooms, c. 7 m long (north–south), separated from each other by inner Walls 10 and 11 (Plan 1; Fig. 3). Part of the building south of W13 was located in Sq M/13.

The building had an original floor made of white plaster and large stones. This ‘white floor’ was found in L145 (elevation c. 31.37 m) and L134 (elevation c. 31.42 m). A well-made entrance led from L133 to L134 through W10 (Figs. 3, 4); the threshold is made of three well-dressed stones at its eastern end (elevation 31.67 m), one of which has a socket for a door hinge. Parts of the standing doorposts were found. Another opening led through W15 westward, with stairs at elevations 31.57 and 31.81 m.

In the middle of the large room (c. 7.0 × 7.5 m), bounded by W13, W15, W17 and W10, was a base for a vaulted construction that supported the ceiling (W50). The well-dressed stone base shows circular traces of mortar in its center (elevation 31.42 m), perhaps indicating a round column that supported arches, one of which was directed northward, connecting to one remaining dressed stone (W51). This stone adjoined W17.

Both the W50 base and W51 had deep, heavy foundations (c. 0.9 m) of stones that bore the weight of the roof. Thus, this room had four arches joining in its center. The fill between the original and the later floors (IIa–IIb) included many stones, reused as the foundation of the new floor. We did note part of the IIa floor in L134. Moreover, Stratum IIa floors were partially damaged when the IIb floors were laid so that the material between the IIa–IIb floors is not completely free of contamination by later sherds. Since the material was also limited in



Fig. 3. W10, Stratum IIb floor at lower right side.



Fig. 4. W10, looking east, with the Stratum IIa entrance blocked by Stratum IIb construction. Sign is on Stratum IIb floor.

quantity, we do not have a distinctive, well-defined assemblage for Stratum IIa.

Open Area and Cisterns.— West of W15 was an open courtyard or passage, c. 5 m wide, in which were two cisterns (L137b, L114b). The location of the cisterns fits the walls of Stratum II (Fig. 5). The cisterns have square openings, of dressed, soft limestone blocks, with a small ledge at the bottom of one stone. The cisterns are rounded inside with a diameter of c. 3 m. Their lower part was filled with debris, leaving a depth of c. 2.2 m above the debris. Danger of collapse precluded our excavating inside the cisterns. The dressed stone in the northern side of Cistern 137b was fixed in place with fragments of clay tiles on both sides (Fig. 25:8). Only one floor was found in L137, made of hard earth and chipped stones, at an elevation of 31.6 m; it is part of Stratum IIa. The stones at the southeastern side of L137 are not part of W15. They may indicate an earlier wall, but a clear relationship cannot be established without removing the entire balk.

The Western Wall.— Wall 6 was found west of the open area or courtyard, and is perhaps the beginning of another building. We assume that such a building extended further west (an area not excavated). The hard floor of courtyard L137 reached W6, at elevation c. 31.6 m (L139), under the later (Stratum I) walls of L124 (W8,

W7). There was an original opening in W6 at elevation 31.88 m, leading into the courtyard from the west. It can be clearly seen flanked by dressed limestone doorposts (Fig. 6).

Since a very limited area was excavated below Stratum IIb floors, we do not have an assemblage of pottery from Stratum IIa. In these places, the 20–30 cm fill between the floors of IIa–IIb proved disappointing—very few sherds were found, mostly handmade and not diagnostic for exact dating.

Stratum IIb: The Later Phase of the Buildings

At a certain time, changes were made to the buildings and floors were raised in the rooms. At the western edge of the excavation, the original entrance in W6 was blocked by rough limestone boulders (see Fig. 6). Immediately south of the blocked entrance there may have been a new entrance. Stones are missing there to elevation 32.19 m, but there is no clear threshold, and the stones of the wall may have been robbed (note the slanting layers of ashes above W6 in Fig. 6, cut by an even later pit at the center).

In the main building, above the lower stair in W15, the entrance was raised to elevation 31.81 m, adapted to the new floor inside. The entrance in W10 was blocked by rough limestones (Figs. 3, 4). Inside the rooms, floors were raised by c. 0.3 m. The new floors were laid over debris, which included many building stones used as fill for the Stratum IIb floors.



Fig. 5. Locus 137, the cistern, Stratum II. Note the burnt layers in the right balk.



Fig. 6. W6 with Stratum IIa original entrance, blocked by Stratum IIb stones (below the arrow), looking west.

The floor of L118 (Sq L/13) is impressive (Fig. 7): parts of it are plastered, and parts made of stones. What seems to be a stone mortar was found near the center of the room, and a similar, but larger, mortar stone was found in L132. Two coins were found on the floor of L118 (B1266, B1291), but both are much earlier than the date of the building—third–fourth centuries CE (see Sokolov, this volume). The coins may be residual, or an indication of a mixture with



Fig. 7. L118, Stratum IIb floor with fallen stones on it; entrance in W15 to the left.

earlier strata. The continuation of this floor was found in L133, at the corner of W17 and W10, where it is made up of large stone slabs, laid diagonally to the direction of the walls. This is a general feature of Stratum IIb floors. East of W10, the floor of L134 was also raised, and the new floor includes large stones (see Fig. 4). The new floor appears as a gray layer in the eastern balk of this locus. A row of stones in the center of Sq L/12 perhaps formed a partition wall, and the Stratum IIb floor south of these stones is at a slightly higher level (elevation c. 32 m). Stone-lined floors of Stratum IIb were also identified next to W13 in L127, and south of W13 in L140 (Fig. 8) and L144. Presumably, there was no change in L137 where Cistern 137b continued in use. In L114, near the mouth of Cistern 114b, a stone slab floor was laid above the original floor.

Two small partition walls in Sq L/11, W14 and W18, are also ascribed to Stratum IIb. They are connected to stone-lined floors to the south (L126) and to the east, at maximal elevation 31.95 m. South of W13, a floor that belonged to Stratum IIb was found in L123 (together with W14b). Perhaps the lower part of W23 is also



Fig. 8. Square M13: L140 in center, W23 in back.

part of the Stratum IIb construction (Fig. 8). The small area designated as L146 was found unpaved.

Except for very few residual or stray sherds of the Early Islamic–Crusader periods, all the pottery from Stratum IIb dates to the Mamluk period—the late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries.

Stratum I

Stratum IIb is not sealed by a clear destruction layer. Nor is there a consistent, homogeneous stratum above it. Stratum I is essentially a group of discontinuous architectural remains, defined only by being above, and later than, the buildings of Stratum IIb. In Sq M/11, W1 and W2 form a corner above W13 of Stratum II. In Sq L/11, a *ṭabun* (L125) cuts W9 and there are poor remains of walls (W3, W5, and two stones marked as W5b near the east balk, above W18; Figs. 2, 9). In Sq M/13, a stone pavement or a wall (L113; Fig. 10) were found above W13. A small wall (W22) was found near the southeastern corner of Sq L/13, at maximal elevation 32.68 m. Nearby were found a few coins (B1188, B1190, B1211). The two identified coins (see Sokolov, this volume) are

of the Mamluk period. A small part of a stone column (diam. 28 cm, discarded) belonged, perhaps, to this stratum. A few other coins found high above the Stratum IIb floor of L118, not in relation to W22, are of no help for dating the strata (B1150 and B1164 are probably from



Fig. 9. Stratum I: *Ṭabun* L125 above W9.



Fig. 10. Stratum I: L113, floor of Stratum I, W23 at the back.



Fig. 11. Stratum I: Room L124, looking south.

the Mamluk period; B1176 is a first–second century coin; and the date of B1187 is not clear; see Sokolov, this volume).

The best preserved remains of Stratum I are Walls 7 and 8. Together with another (unnumbered) small southern wall, they form a room (L124; Fig. 11). The base of these walls is at elevation ± 32.2 m, and they are at a much higher elevation than W6. We did not find a clear floor that relates to these walls. The floor of Stratum IIa was found below these, on both sides of W8. The entrance to the room was probably from the south, near W6. The walls are built of limestone, similar to those of Stratum IIb, but of much cruder quality.

THE MAMLUK STRATA POTTERY

The pottery of the Mamluk strata (II–I) is presented first and extensively, since it represents the main occupation phase in the excavation. It is arranged and discussed by types¹. There is no assemblage from Stratum IIa and the relatively few loci of Stratum I were close to the surface and not sealed. Therefore, most of the pottery presented here belongs to the later phase of the buildings (Stratum IIb). The pottery of Stratum I was very similar to that of Stratum IIb, and types restricted to it alone are noted (below). Comparisons to nearby sites are preferred, the detailed publication of the Red Tower (Pringle 1986) serving as a natural point of reference.¹

UNGLAZED WARES

Unglazed wares are very common at Kh. Burin, with a large variety of functional types that were utilized mainly for storing, transferring, preparing and serving food, and also for light (oil lamps) and industrial use (sugar pots). They include decorated and undecorated handmade wares, wheel-made wares (bowls, sugar pots, flasks, jugs, and jars) and mold-made wares (flasks and oil lamps). Apart from a few types, these vessels are usually undecorated. Some handmade wares are decorated with painting, a type of buff-colored fabric jugs are decorated by stamping, and some mold-made wares bear decorations in relief.

Handmade Unglazed Wares (total 350)

Handmade ware is the most common type of pottery at Kh. Burin, representing 42.2% of the entire ceramic assemblage from the site. The same phenomenon was found in Phase D (the village settlement dated from the late thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries) at the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:139–140) and at Kh. Bet Zeneta, a rural village 7 km southeast of ‘Akko (Getzov 1996; 2000).

The handmade vessels are rather crude and plain, and seem to have been fired in open kilns of a simple type: The firing of most of the vessels is uneven and the fabric is soft. The fabric is coarse, brown to buff in color, with a gray core, and contains many grits, inclusions, and occasionally traces of straw. This ware is divided into two main groups: undecorated, simple handmade wares, and painted handmade wares.

Such handmade ware apparently makes its first appearance in the Levant during the eleventh century (Stern and Stacey 2000:175) and continues to be popular in the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. Presumably, this type of pottery was made mainly in villages and for local use, for it is more common at rural than at urban sites. Van der Steen (1998:124–126) suggested that since the decoration is very homogeneous and the shapes are mainly of

tableware, these painted handmade wares were an industrial production traded over a large area. Such pottery was found mainly in rural sites, at the Red Tower and Kh. Bet Zeneta as mentioned above, and also at Saint Mary of Carmel, Yoqne'am, and al-Qubaiba (see references below). It is very rare in urban sites dating to the thirteenth century, as in 'Akko, where only a few examples of this type were found (Stern 1997:40), and in Beirut (Van der Steen 1998).

Undecorated Handmade Wares (total 325)

This group consists of bowls and cooking pots (Figs. 12, 13). Absent here, as in the Red Tower,

are closed forms of storage vessels that appear rarely in assemblages of contemporaneous handmade ware, but were found, for example, at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:155, Type 19, Fig. XIII.126) and Ḥorbat 'Uza (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming).

Bowls (Fig. 12).— The bowls vary in size from small to large types, and have variously shaped rims. The variation is because these vessels are handmade. The bowls often have ledge or knob handles, and most of them are burnished inside. Despite considerable variations, the rim shapes may be divided into two main categories:

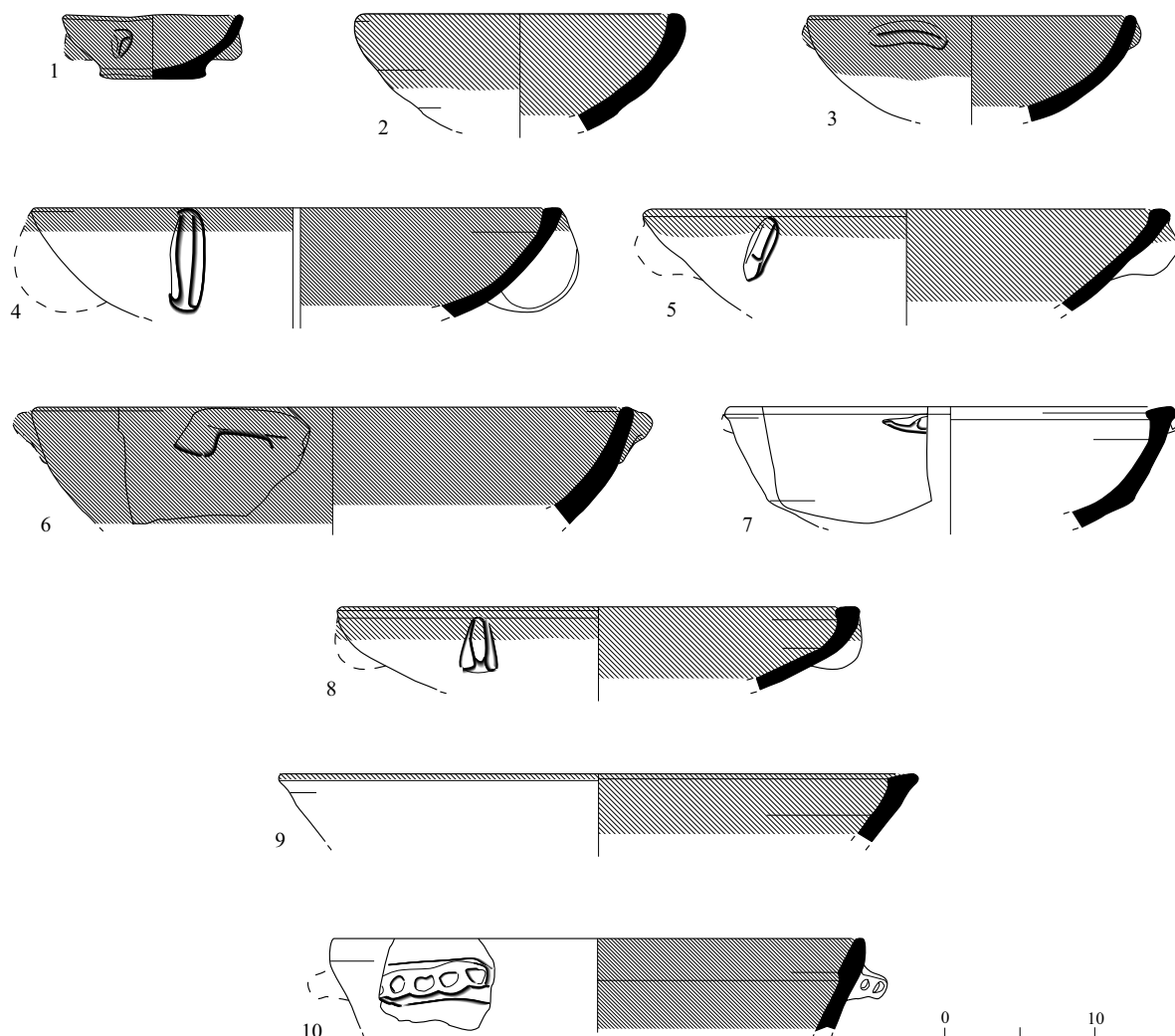


Fig. 12. Handmade bowls.

(1) Bowls with simple, rounded or cut rims (Fig. 12:1–6; total 128 rims). Similar bowls were found at Saint Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984:95–96, Fig. 3:1), Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:128–132, Type 33, Fig. XIII.86), al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947:134–135, Fig. 32:11–16), Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:148, Fig. 41:13, 15, 17) and H. 'Uza (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming).

(2) Bowls having a thickened rim with an internal ridge (Fig. 12:7–10; total 102 rims). Similar bowls were found at the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:139–140, Fig. 41:2, 4) and

Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:148, Fig. 41:14; for clay stoppers see discussion for Fig. 25 below).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 13).— The cooking pots are globular closed forms with basket handles and occasional incised decoration. Some shoulders have a band of thumbed or incised decoration. The cooking pots are slipped and burnished inside, and some on the exterior as well. The fabric contains calcite inclusions. The cooking pots are divided into two main categories according to rim shapes:

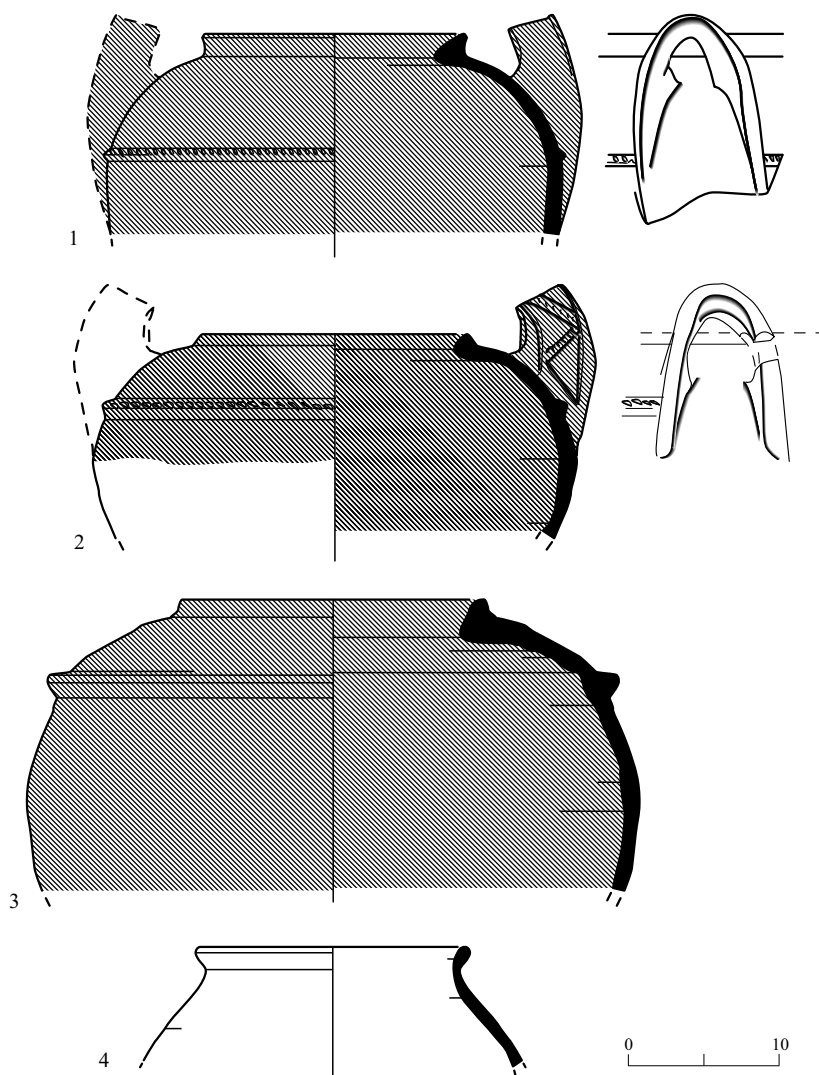


Fig. 13. Handmade cooking pots.

(1) Large to medium-sized cooking pots with thickened, everted, triangular-shaped rims (Fig. 13:1–3; total 78 rims). Similar cooking pots were found at Saint Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984:95–96, Fig. 3:2–4), Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:130*, Fig. 5:4–9), Yoqne'am, Pella and Jerusalem (Avissar 1996:138–139, Type 11, Fig. XIII.98).

(2) Small-sized cooking pots with an everted thin rim, rounded at the edge (Fig. 13:4; total 17 rims). Similar cooking pots were found at the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:139–140, Fig. 41:1) and at Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:130*, Fig. 5:3).

Painted Handmade Wares (total 25)

Fragments of bowls and jugs with painted decoration were found at Kh. Burin. The painted specimens of the handmade ware are less common than the unpainted ones (see Table 1). These painted wares are made of the

same fabric as the undecorated ones. The slip is usually of a lighter color and is burnished. Over the burnished parts, geometric designs were painted with a brush in red paint, often in different shades varying from reddish brown to purple. Rarely does bichrome red and white painting appear (see Fig. 14:3). The decoration is usually painted on the interior, or on rims of the bowls and covering the entire exterior of the jugs.

These vessels had a wide distribution throughout Israel, southern Syria, and Transjordan, mainly in the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries (for more information on this type, see Pringle 1984:97–98; Avissar 1996:132, 168–169; Van der Steen 1998; Walker 1999:220).

Bowls (Fig. 14:1–4; total 17 rims).— The bowls are usually of the small types, and have variously shaped rims. Bowls similar to those from Kh. Burin were found at the Red Tower

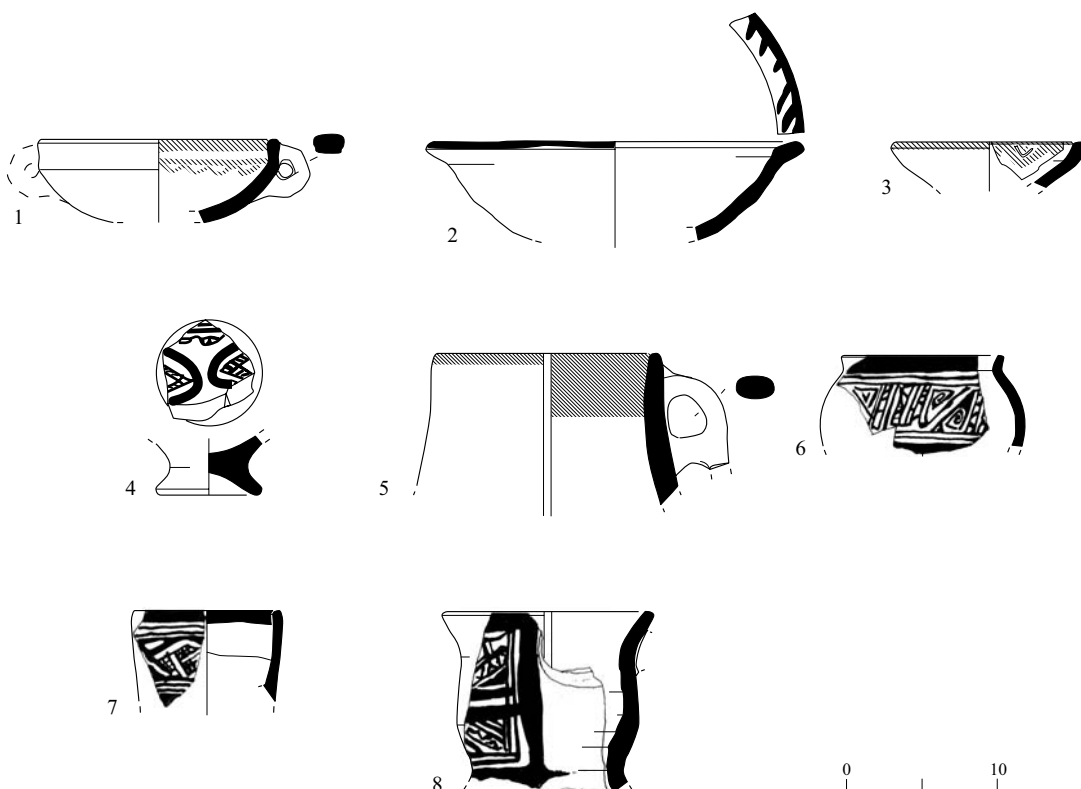


Fig. 14. Handmade painted wares.

(Pringle 1986:140–141, Fig. 43:8), Saint Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984:97–99, Fig. 4:21, 22) and Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:132, Type 34, Fig. XIII.87, and see there for further comparisons).

Jugs (Fig. 14:5–8; total 8).— Many body fragments of painted jugs were found, and only a few rims, which were counted. Jugs similar to those from Kh. Burin were found at the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:140–142, Figs. 42:7; 43:9, 10), Saint Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984:97–99, Fig. 3:10–12) and Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:168–169, Type 28, Fig. XIII.154, and see there for further comparisons).

Wheel-Made Wares (total 260)

The wheel-made vessels found at Kh. Burin—bowls, sugar pots, flasks, jugs and jars—show a greater variation of shapes than the handmade ones. They are described according to shape.

Bowl (Fig. 15:1; total 13 rims).— This type of bowl is crudely made of light brown fabric and has thick walls, a carinated shoulder, and a simple, slightly thickened rim. Similar bowls were found at Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:123–124, Type 14, Fig. XIII.77), al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947:127, Fig. 31:2–6), as well as in Abu Gosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950:141, Pl.

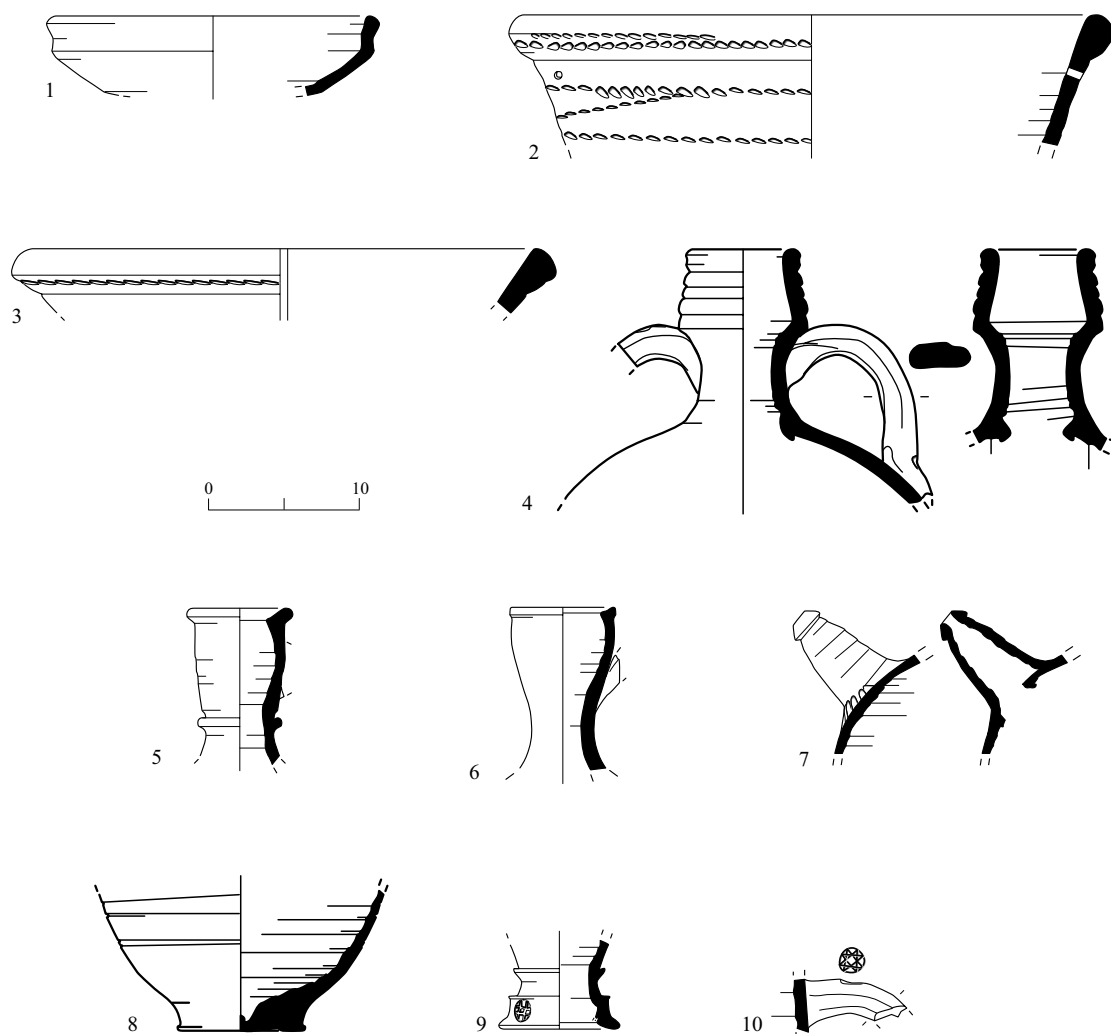


Fig. 15. Wheel-made bowl, flask and jugs.

G:8, 13, 17), dating from the twelfth to the thirteenth centuries. Similar bowls were also found in Mamluk-period contexts, dating to the fourteenth century at Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:148, Fig. 41:1–6) and at Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:130*, Fig. 4:1–6). These bowls are very similar in shape to the monochrome glazed bowls dated to the Mamluk period (see below, Fig. 19:5, 6; Table 1: Type 16).

Sugar Pots (Large Basins?) (Fig. 15:2, 3; total 7 rims).— The upper part of a large, rather crude vessel with thick walls and a thickened rim, decorated with a rope impression, was found. Its shape suggests that it may have been a sugar pot utilized in the process of sugar production (Stern 2001:286–287, 291, Figs. 7:1–9, 13, 19). Since the fragment was lacking a base, we can not know if it had a pointed base with a hole in the tip, or a flat base that would identify it as a large basin. However, since sugar pots with identical decoration were found at Tell Abu-Gourdan we suggest that these vessels are sugar pots (Franken and Kalsbeek 1975:143–144, 151, Fig. 42:26). Only seven fragments of this type of vessel were found. Molasses jars that were also utilized in the process of sugar production (Stern 2001:287, 291, Figs. 7:10–12; 12:4–8, 19) were not found at Kh. Burin, and so we cannot conclude that there was a sugar production site in the vicinity. Ceramic vessels for sugar production were found at other sites that were not sugar production sites, such as Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:154–155, Type 16, Fig. XIII.123), Pella (Smith 1973:236–237, Pl. 70) and Karak (Mason and Milwright 1998:177, Fig. 2). These vessels may have been used in the village in some secondary use.

Flask (Fig. 15:4; 1 rim).— This is the typical Mamluk-period flask, made of light brown colored fabric with a buff colored exterior. The upper part of the neck is wider, has ridges, and the lower part is narrow. Two handles emerge from the base of the neck; the body is globular. Similar vessels were found at Yoqne'am, Jerusalem, Bethany, al-Qubaiba, and Abu

Gosh (Avissar 1996:169–170, Type 31, Fig. XIII.157), and also at Har Ḥozevim, Jerusalem (Kletter and Boas 2002:197–198, Fig. 22:12), and 'Akko (Stern 1997:39–40, Fig. 4:18).

Spouted Jugs (Fig. 15:5–8; total 39).— Spouted jugs of slightly different shapes were quite common at Kh. Burin. These are simple spouted jugs with a narrow bulging neck and an everted rim. The body is globular and the base is flat (Fig. 21:8) or a ring base. These jugs are very common at Mamluk-period sites. Similar jugs were found, for example, at the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:141–142, Fig. 43:13), Yoqne'am, Jerusalem, Abu Gosh and Nazareth (Avissar 1996:167–168, Type 25, Fig. XIII.151), as well as at the Mamluk villages at Giv'at Yasaf (Stern 1999:132, Fig. 4:46–48) and Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:132*, Fig. 6:6).

Stamped Jugs (Fig. 15:9, 10; total 7 neck fragments and one handle, no rims).— These vessels are made of buff clay, and have a round stamped impression on the base of the neck or on the handle. The stamped impression that was found on the necks is a squared or checkered design. Similar jug neck-fragments of these types were found at Yoqne'am, Jerusalem, Abu Gosh, al-Qubaiba and Nazareth (Avissar 1996:167–168, Type 26, Fig. XIII.152), and at Ḥorbat 'Aqav (Boas 2000:216, Pl. III:9, Fig. 1).

Stamp-impressed jug handles are less common. One handle with a round stamped impression of an eight-pointed star was found in L126. Stamp-impressed jug handles with an identical impression on a handle were also found at al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 28:6; Photo 52:4, 5). According to Avissar (1996:168), stamped jugs do not appear before the mid-thirteenth century.

Jars (Fig. 16; total 139).— The fabric of the jars found at Kh. Burin is usually brownish, and some of the types have a buff colored self slip on the exterior. Since no complete vessel and only rims of storage jars were found, the jars

are categorized according to the different rim shapes:

(1) Jar with a thickened rim (Fig. 16:1, 2; total 21). This type has a sloping shoulder, as can be seen on the larger fragment (Fig. 16:1). A jar with a similar shaped rim was found at Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:132*, Fig. 6:5).

(2) Jar with an outfolded, thickened rim (Fig. 16:3; total 4). A similar jar was found at al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 25:7).

(3) Jar with an outfolded, thickened rim and a high neck (Fig. 16:4; total 45). A jar with a similarly shaped rim was found at Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:132*, Fig. 6:7).

(4) Jar with an outfolded, bulging rim and a ridge (Fig. 16:5, 6; total 23). This type of jar has a ridge at the bottom of the neck and the necks may vary in height. Jars of this type are typical of the Mamluk period and were found at Yoqne'am, al-Qubaiba, Jerusalem, Bethany, and Tel 'Arqa (Avisar 1996:152–153, Type 13, Fig. XIII.120), and at Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:132*, Fig. 6:1–3).

(5) Jar with an outfolded rim and a thumbled ridge (Fig. 16:7; total 1). Although this type of jar is known to be typical of the Mamluk period, only one example of this type was found at Kh. Burin. Similar jars were found at Yoqne'am, Capernaum, al-Qubaiba, and Nazareth (Avisar 1996:153, Type 14, Fig. XIII.121), as well as at the Mamluk village at Giv'at Yasaf (Stern 1999:132, Fig. 4:49–51), at H. 'Uza (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming: Nos. 84–86) and at Hammat Gader (Boas 1997:383, Pl. 1:2).

(6) Jar with an outfolded rim and a high, ribbed neck (Fig. 16:8; total 40). This type of jar is similar in shape to Crusader-period jars that were found at Yoqne'am, Caesarea, and Tell 'Arqa (Avisar 1996:155, Type 14, Fig. XIII.125), and at 'Akko and H. 'Uza (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming: Nos. 81–83). This type of jar may date to the end of the thirteenth century at Kh. Burin.

(7) Jar with a wide mouth and an infolded rim (Fig. 16:9; total 5).

(8) Stump base of a jar (Fig. 16:10; total 5).

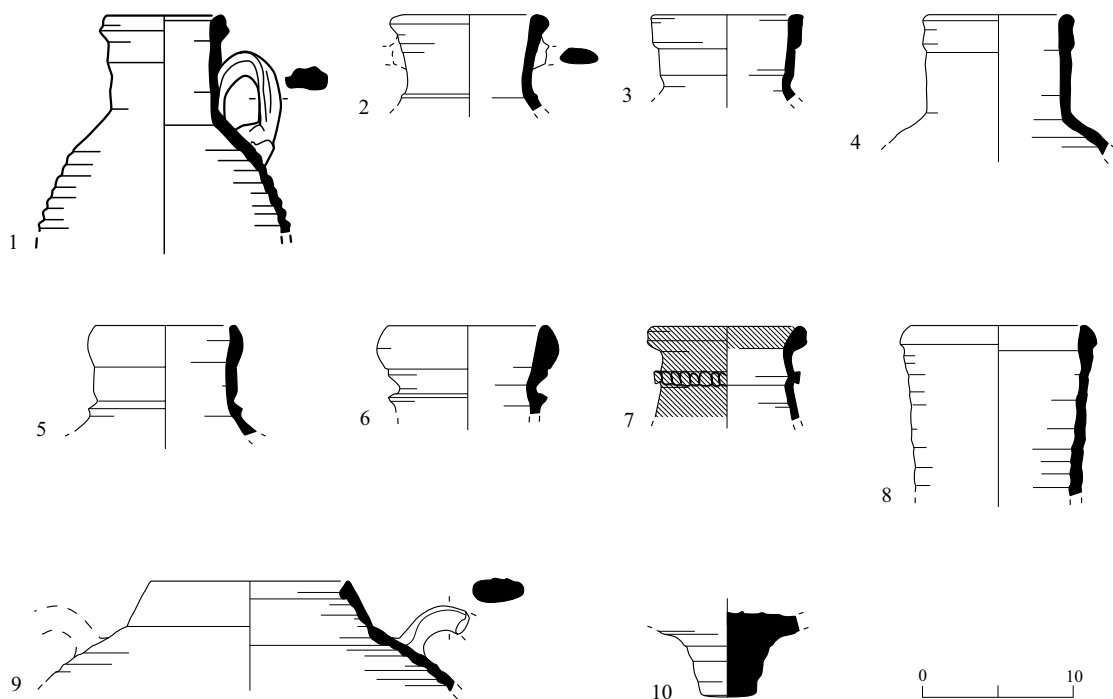


Fig. 16. Wheel-made jars.

Mold-Made Unglazed Wares

Two main types of unglazed molded wares were found at Kh. Burin: mold-made flasks (also known as 'pilgrim flasks') and oil lamps. They are well known from sites in Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and are dated to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Although they are usually considered to be Islamic types (from the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods), they were apparently in use also by the Frankish population as attested by finds from Crusader 'Akko (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming). At Kh.

Burin they may date to the thirteenth-century phase as well.

Flasks (Fig. 17:1, 2; total 2 body fragments).— These mold-made flasks are usually decorated with geometric and floral designs, sometimes with figures or inscriptions (Day 1935:2–10). The fragments from Kh. Burin have a floral decoration. Similar flasks were found at H. 'Uza and 'Akko (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming: Nos. 78, 79), Har Ḥozevim (Kletter and Boas 2002:197–198, Fig. 22:13), Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:132*, Fig. 6:10), Ḥorbat 'Aqav (Boas

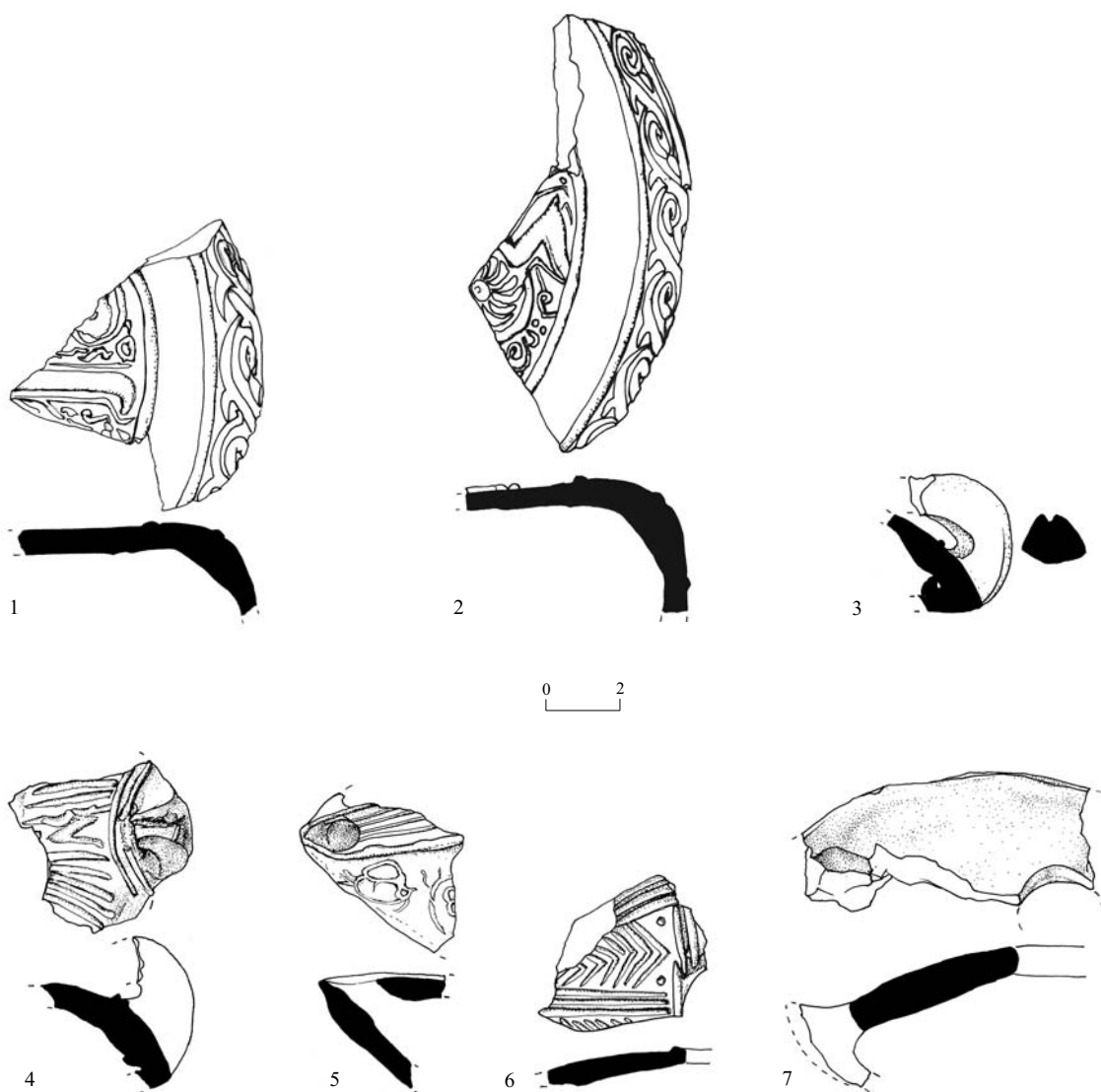


Fig. 17. Mold-made wares.

2000:216–217, Pl. III:14, 15) and Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:169, Type 31, not illustrated).

Oil Lamps (Fig. 17:3–7; total 4 handles, not counting body sherds).— These lamps are the last types of local mold-made lamps. They have an elongated, narrow body, a small filling hole, and several ridges that define the place of the channel. The handle is attached from the shoulder, twists above the lamp, and ends very near the rim, or adjoins it. The decoration is usually of a geometric design, e.g., herringbone pattern between parallel lines (Fig. 17:6) and parallel lines (Fig. 17:4). An unusual design of a bird appears on one of the lamps (Fig. 17:5). Similar lamps were found at Bet She‘an and were defined there as Type 9, dating to the second half of the thirteenth century, and continuing into the fourteenth century (Hadad 1999:217–218, Figs. 4:18, 9:34–35 with additional references). Similar lamps were also found at Ḥorbat ‘Aqav (Boas 2000:222, Pl. V:8–10) and at Har Ḥozevim, Jerusalem (Kletter and Boas 2002:198, Fig. 22:2, 3).

One mold-made lamp that lacks any decoration was found at Kh. Burin (Fig. 17:7). A similar lamp was found at Har Ḥozevim, Jerusalem (Kletter and Boas 2002:198, Fig. 22:1).

GLAZED WARES

During the Mamluk period, the technique of glazing ceramic wares was very common, and was in use for a long time from the Early Islamic period (c. ninth century) onward. At Kh. Burin a large variety of wheel-made glazed types was found. These include glazed cooking wares, glazed oil lamps and local and imported glazed tableware decorated in different techniques.

Cooking Wares

The cooking wares found at Kh. Burin are classified as closed vessels (globular cooking pots) and open vessels (baking dishes). The cooking wares are glazed inside the base with a brown-appearing transparent glaze, and occasionally have splashes of glaze on the

exterior. It seems that the glaze was applied so that the vessels could be cleaned easily in the places where food might stick.

Cooking Pots (Fig. 18:1–5; total 19).— The cooking pots found at Kh. Burin are of the globular types dating to the thirteenth century. The cooking pots are categorized as those with everted rims (Fig. 18:1–4; total 17) and those with molded rims (Fig. 18:5; total 2). These cooking pots are similar to those found in ‘Akko of the thirteenth century (Stern 1997:40–42, Fig. 5:22–33, with additional references).

Notable is the complete absence of wheel-made cooking pots that are well-known from the fourteenth century (for this type see Avisar 1996:136–138, Type 10; Stern 1999:132, Fig. 3:37–40). At Kh. Burin in the fourteenth century cooking pots were exclusively handmade.

Baking Dishes (Fig. 18:6–10; total 32).— The baking dishes found at Kh. Burin are of two main types: One (Fig. 18:6, 7; total 19) has thick walls, thickened rim, two horizontal lug handles, coarse sandy dark fabric and a glaze that appears dark brown. This type dates to the thirteenth century and is similar to baking dishes found at ‘Akko (Stern 1997:42–43, Fig. 5:38–39). The second type (Fig. 18:8–10; total 13) is distinguished from the former type by form and fabric. The walls of this type are thin and flaring, and the rim is grooved. The horizontal lug handles are thinner and more delicate. The fabric is rather fine and the glaze is of high quality, well melted and evenly spread over the inside and occasionally on the rim. The grooved rims look as if they were intended for lids, but no matching lids are known from this excavation or elsewhere. This type dates to the fourteenth century. Baking dishes of this type were found at Giv‘at Dani (Lazar 1999:130*, Fig. 5:1), Yoqne‘am, Saint Mary of Carmel and the Red Tower (Avisar 1996:144, Type 19, Fig. XIII.106).

Lamps

One type of a glazed lamp found at Kh. Burin is known as a ‘saucer lamp’ or ‘beehive-shaped

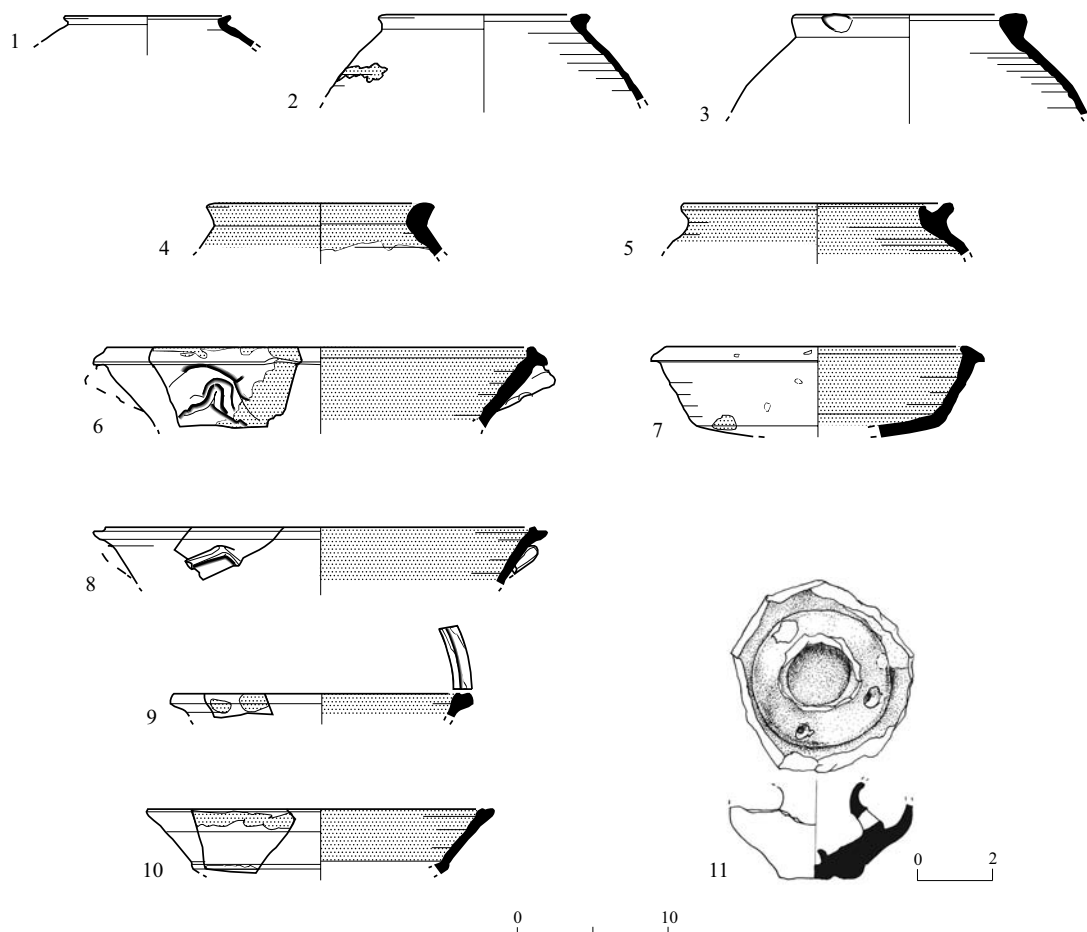


Fig. 18. Glazed cooking wares and lamp.

lamp' (Fig. 18:11). This lamp is wheel-made and comprises a bowl and an inner reservoir of oil. This type of lamp usually has a handle extending from the reservoir to the rim of the bowl and is glazed. The fabric is brown, similar to that of the cooking wares, suggesting that they were produced in the same workshops. This type of lamp has a long time range. The earlier type, dated to the eleventh–twelfth centuries, has a large reservoir and a rounded flattened base; a later type, dating to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, has a smaller reservoir and a narrower disk base. Lamps of the latter type were found in Israel and its surroundings (Avisar 1996:196–197: Type 5; Hadad 1999:215–217, Type 7, 218–219, Type 11). The

lamp from Kh. Burin is of the later type and is dated to the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries.

Local Glazed Tablewares

The local glazed tablewares include bowls decorated in different techniques (monochrome glazed, slip painted, sgraffito, or gouged). The most common type is the monochrome glazed bowl, green glaze being most common.

Monochrome Glazed Bowls (Fig. 19:1–8; total 130).— Monochrome glazed bowls found at Kh. Burin are the most common group of glazed bowls at the site. They all share the same type of brown fabric and a thick white slip in the interior, occasionally extending just below the

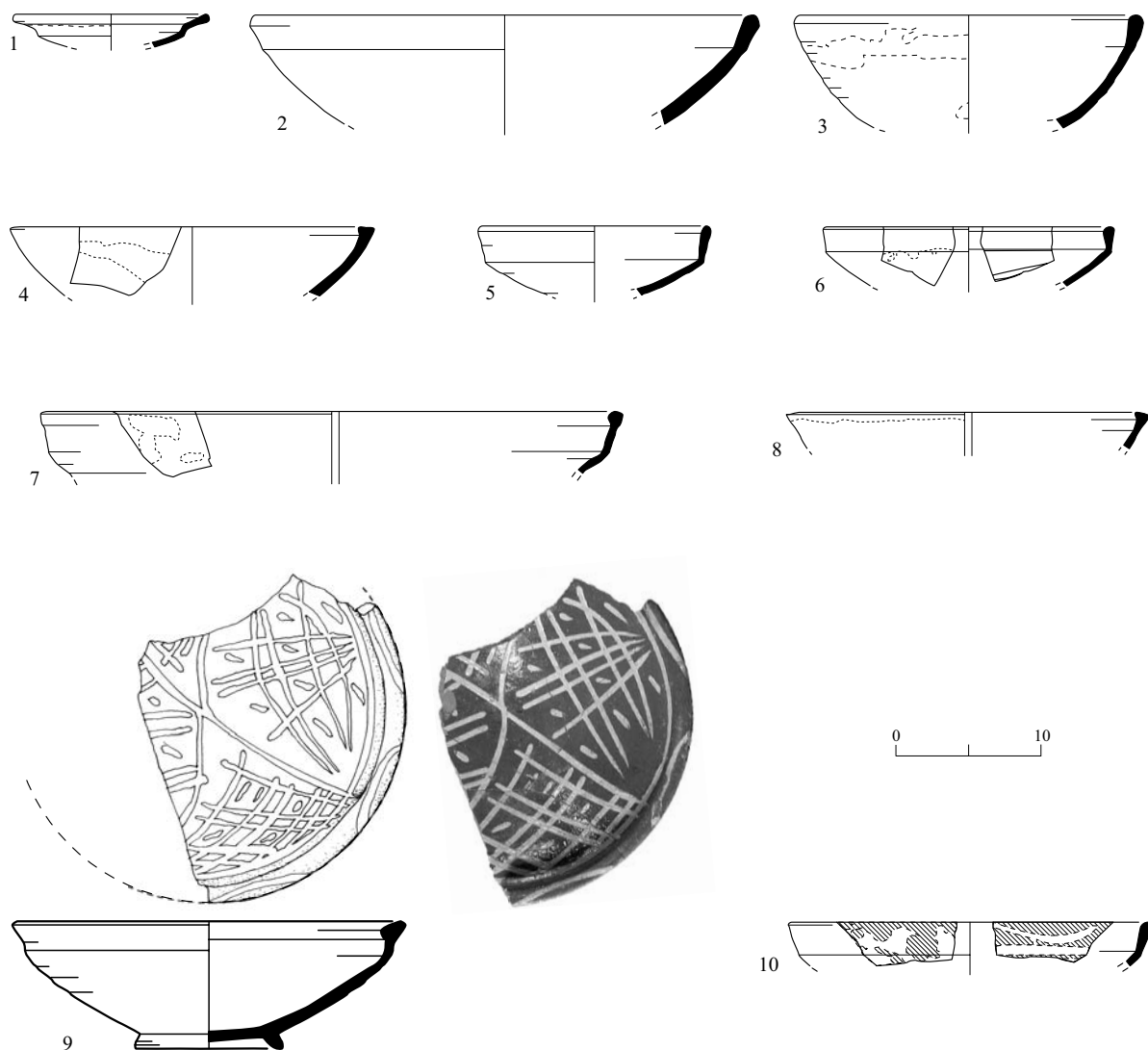


Fig. 19. Local glazed tablewares.

rim on the exterior. The green or yellow glaze applied over the slip was usually well melted, but occasionally tends to flake off. Green glaze is far more common than yellow glaze. Three forms of rims were distinguished: (1) a ledged rim that is rather rare on the site and may be dated by its shape to the thirteenth century (Fig. 19:1; total 4 with green glaze); (2) a plain rim (Fig. 19:2–4; total 53 of green glaze, 34 of yellow glaze); and (3) an inverted, slightly thickened rim (Fig. 19:5–8; total 39 with green glaze). The latter rim form usually has a

carinated shoulder as well. Rim Form 1 seems to be related to the Crusader-type bowls of the thirteenth century (Avisar 1996:93–94, Type 40, Fig. XIII.27), and rim Types 2 and 3 are of the Mamluk period, dated to the second half of the thirteenth and the fourteenth centuries (Avisar 1996:96, 99–101, Types 48, 51, Figs. XIII.36, XIII.39, with additional references).

Slip-Painted Bowls (Fig. 19:9, 10; total 41).—The slip-painted bowls found at Kh. Burin are similar in shape, fabric, slip and glaze to the

monochrome glazed bowls, but differ in the decoration. These bowls are decorated with a brush-painted design in slip under a coat of glaze. The slip-painted pattern appears in the color of the glaze, and the background is several shades darker. The painted patterns on these bowls are composed mainly of straight lines, which occasionally criss-cross to create net patterns. The glaze is of good quality, very shiny, and usually yellow. Green glaze occurs as well, but less frequently. Two main rim variations were found at Kh. Burin: a thickened extended rim (Fig. 19:9; total 18) and a simple, or inverted, slightly thickened rim and a carinated shoulder (Fig. 19:10; total 23). Bowls of this type, dating to the Mamluk period, were found in various sites in Israel, for example, at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:96, Type 44, Fig. XIII.32:6–7), the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:149–150, Fig. 50:64–69), Meiron (Meyers, Strange and Meyers 1981:214, Pl. 2.7:23), Giv'at Dani

(Lazar 1999:128*, Fig. 2:12–13) and Ḥammat Gader (Boas 1997:392, Pl. IV:1–8).

Sgraffito Bowls (Fig. 20:1–6; total 10).— Glazed bowls decorated with sgraffito are here less common than the other types of local glazed bowls mentioned above. The sgraffito bowls are decorated with designs incised with a pointed tool, which removed some of the slip that was applied previously to the leather-hard clay. After the application of glaze to the inside of the bowl and firing the bowls, the incised areas appeared darker than the background. The incised decorations are mainly simple straight (Fig. 20:3, 6) or wavy (Fig. 20:1, 5) lines. These bowls, apparently of local manufacture, were found in various Mamluk-period sites in Israel, for example, at Kh. Shema' (Meyers, Kraabel and Strange 1976:215–216, Pl. 7/18:23–24), Meiron (Meyers, Strange and Meyers 1981:214; Pl. 8.7:29–30), Nazareth (Bagatti

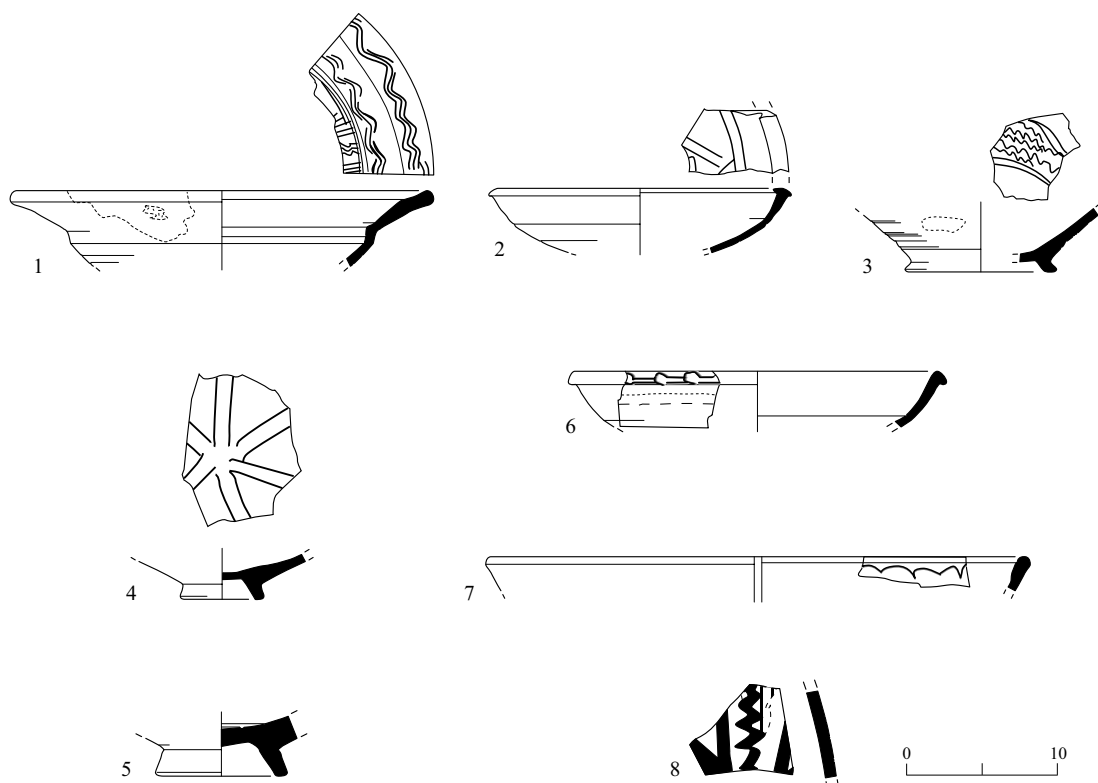


Fig. 20. Local glazed tablewares (cont.).

1984:185–190, Figs. 65–66), the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:150, Fig. 50:70–71), Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:143, 148–149) and Bethany (Saller 1957:278; Fig. 55, 174, 178, 27).

Yellow and Green Gouged Ware (Fig. 20:7, 8; total 7).— This ware was first defined and named by Pringle on basis of material from the Monastery of St. Mary of Carmel and Caesarea (Pringle 1984:106, Fig. 8:69–71; 1985:186, Figs. 10:54, 11:55). At Kh. Burin this ware is almost as common as the sgraffito bowls. The typical forms are large basins with vertical rims and carinated shoulders. This ware may be a development of the local sgraffito bowls, differing from the latter by the thickly potted walls, and slip and glaze that seem to be thicker as well. The most distinctive feature of this ware is the decoration and the glaze. The decoration was deeply incised with a thin point and/or a gouge through a white slip when the vessel was leather-hard, then covered with a bright yellow glaze with bright green splashes over it. The incised designs include thin horizontal wavy lines on the rim (Fig. 20:7), wide gouged vertical wavy lines on the body (Fig. 20:8), and triangles filled with dots and lines (for other designs see Stern 1999:125–126, Fig. 1:5–9).

The distribution of this ware is restricted to Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. It seems to be a very common ware. This ware was found in Israel at Belvoir castle (Kokhav Ha-Yarden; in the post-Crusader layers), Capernaum, Nazareth and St. Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984:106, Fig. 8:69–71), Caesarea (Pringle 1985:186, Figs. 10:54, 11:55), Giv'at Yasaf (Stern 1999:125–126, Fig. 1:5–9), Nein (Porat 2000:6*–7*, Fig. 9:2–4), Mazor (Gudovitch 1998:58, Fig. 107:7), Bet She'an (Boas 1991:239, Pl. 8:451; Avshalom-Gorni, forthcoming) and Ḥammāt Gader (Boas 1997:394, Pl. IV:9–10).

In Lebanon this ware was published from two sites in the Tripoli region (Salamé-Sarkis 1980:175–176, Group A.I.7, Pl. LII, 2:1, 2) and from Beirut (El-Masri 1998:109, Fig. 11; both publications date the ware to the late thirteenth

to fourteenth centuries). From Syria this type was published at Damascus (Toueir 1973:210–211, Pl. 1:d–l) and was dated to the end of the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries. From Jordan the type was published at Tell Abu Gourdan (Franken and Kalsbeek 1975:139–140, Fig. 38:23, 27, 28) and on the Kerak Plateau (Brown 1991:236, Pl. 8:451).

That this ware may have been locally produced is suggested by its distribution and by analysis carried out by Boas (1991:213), who conjectured that it might have been produced in the Jordan Valley region. This ware is totally absent from Crusader-period contexts (for example in 'Akko, see Stern 1997) and was found in post-Crusader contexts in Belvoir castle and St. Mary of Carmel. Therefore it is usually dated to the end of the thirteenth and to the fourteenth centuries. This type apparently appeared in the southern Levant after the fall of the Second Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, when import of glazed tableware (mainly from Cyprus, northern Syria, and Italy) ceased. Thus, this ware can be considered a distinctive Mamluk ceramic type. Its absence in Ottoman contexts shows that it ceased to be produced at the end of the fifteenth or beginning of the sixteenth century.

Imported Glazed Tablewares

The imported glazed wares at Kh. Burin came from different sources, and are dated from the fourteenth to the fifteenth centuries. These wares are presented here in chronological order, from the early ones to the later ones.

Aegean Wares (Fig. 21:1; total 5).— Only a few examples of this well-known Crusader-period type, dated to the end of the twelfth century and the early thirteenth century, were found at Kh. Burin. One bowl fragment was found in L132 that is assigned to Stratum II, and the four others were found in L116, L124, L128 and L137 that are assigned to Stratum I or to fills. This type comprises mainly shallow or deep bowls, with low and wide ring bases and variously shaped rims. The fabric is coarse, the

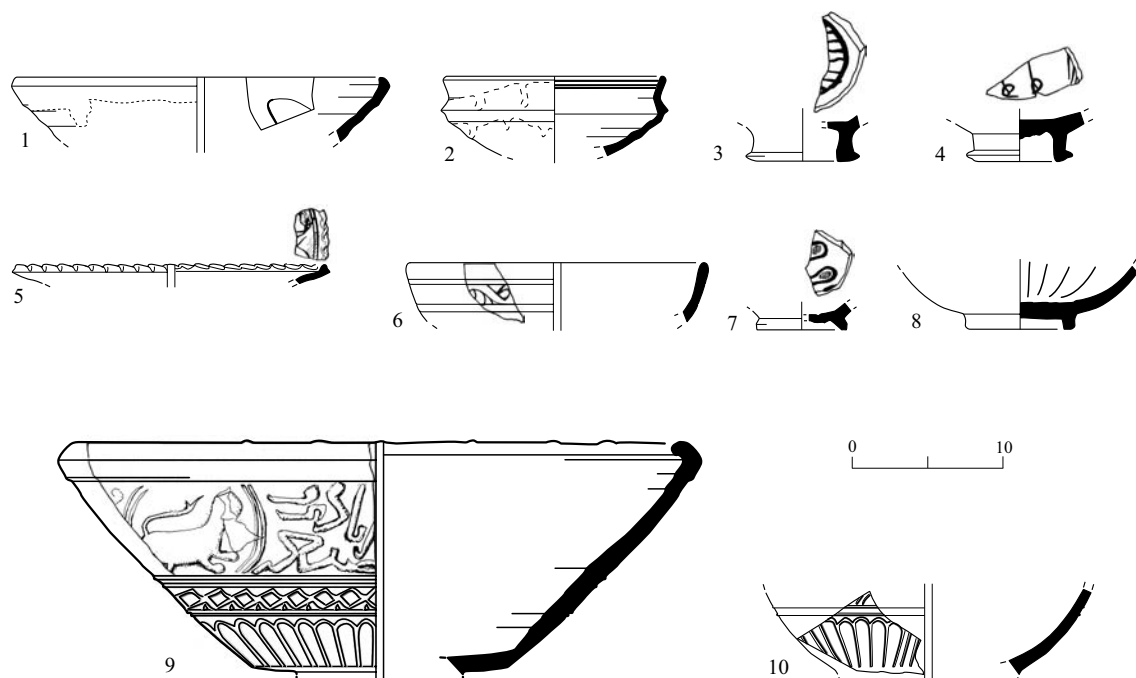


Fig. 21. Imported glazed table wares.

pots are roughly executed on the potters wheel, and have wheel ridges and a thin layer of white slip on the exterior. The interior is covered with a transparent yellow lead glaze with occasional splashes of green glaze. The bowls are decorated with coarse, free design incisions (for more information on this type and parallels in Israel, see Stern 1997:58, Fig. 13:99–101; Avissar 1996:110–111, Types 71, 72).

This type was imported from the Aegean region during the Crusader period, and apparently was not manufactured in the late thirteenth century. Its presence in this assemblage may represent residual pieces of pottery that came from the earlier, Crusader settlement of the site.

Cypriot Thirteenth Century Wares (Fig. 21:2–4; total 10 rims).— These distinctive types of wares include bowls and jugs decorated in slip-painted and sgraffito techniques. At Kh. Burin, ten bowls decorated with sgraffito designs and only one body sherd of a bowl decorated in the slip-painted technique were found (for more

information on this type and parallels in Israel, see Stern 1997:48–51; Avissar 1996:111–112, Types 73, 74). A Cypriot sgraffito base was found in the Red Tower (Pringle 1986:150–151, Fig. 50:73). These bowl fragments were mainly found in loci assigned to Stratum I or to fills (L114, L116, L117, L124, L128, L130). One bowl fragment was found in L132 that is assigned to Stratum II.

This ware was manufactured in southwestern Cyprus, in the Paphos region, as attested by several kiln sites that were excavated there (Papanikola-Bakirzis 1996:215–216; Von-Wartburg 1997:336). These vessels were produced from the beginning of the thirteenth century until the early fourteenth century (Von-Wartburg 1997:340), or the end of that century (Papanikola-Bakirtzi 1996:218). Until now, no Cypriot glazed bowls dating after the Crusader occupation were found in Israel, and it seems that they were imported only during the Crusader period (as opposed to Alexandria, where later Cypriot pottery was found: François 1999:112–113). This type of pottery apparently

ceased to be imported to Palestine due to the end of intensive western commercial activity at 'Akko with the fall of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem in 1291. Only one bowl of this type was found in Stratum II at Kh. Burin, and it most likely dates to the last years of the Crusader Kingdom, between 1265 (the Mamluk occupation of the area) and 1291 (the fall of the Crusader Kingdom). Its presence may indicate that local Mamluk inhabitants used such bowls, and not that the type was imported after 1291. The other bowls found in Stratum I or in mixed fills are perhaps residual sherds from an earlier, Crusader-period stratum. The presence of these vessels here supports the assumption that their distribution in Palestine was not limited to the coastal Frankish sites, but also to sites further inland, which were not necessarily settled by the Franks (Stern 1995:327, Fig. 4).

Port St. Symeon Wares (Fig. 21:5, 6; total 3 rims).— This is a type of polychrome sgraffito ware that at Kh. Burin is very scarce and appears only in Stratum I or in mixed loci (L113, L116, L124; body sherd L130). Its presence in this assemblage may be explained, like the presence of the Aegean and some Cypriot wares, as residual pieces of pottery that originated in an earlier Crusader settlement.

The type is named after the site (Port St. Symeon, Al-Mina on the northern Syrian coast), where it was first found in large quantities along with kiln wasters, indicating that it was manufactured there (Lane 1937:45–53). The site was occupied by the Franks from the beginning of the twelfth century until 1268. Lane suggested that the production of this type of pottery ceased at the end of the Frankish occupation. Recent research points to the fact that Port St. Symeon Ware was not manufactured in the single center at Al-Mina, but at other sites in Turkey and northern Syria as well (Scott and Kamilli 1981:685–687; Hild and Hellenkemper 1990:358, Figs. 312–315; Tonghini 1998:57–62). The pieces that were found in Kh. Burin, as well as those found in other Crusader sites in Israel, are similar to those from Al-Mina,

and seem to have been manufactured there (for more information on this type and parallels in Israel, see Stern 1997:56–58; Avissar 1996:113, Type 75).

Proto Maiolica Ware (Fig. 21:7).— Of this well-known Crusader type of pottery, only one sherd of a base was found in a mixed locus (L112). Apparently, this sherd is also residual, coming from the earlier, Crusader settlement at the site.

Proto Maiolica ware was imported to the Crusader kingdom from Sicily and southern Italy, and was found here mainly in coastal sites, dating to the thirteenth century. This ware has a light buff-colored fabric and is decorated with geometrical or floral designs painted in tin-opacified glaze over a white glazed background (for more information on this type and parallels in Israel, see Stern 1997:58–63; Avissar 1996:113, Type 76).

The presence of these four types of well-known Crusader-period ceramic wares (Aegean, Cypriot thirteenth century, Port St. Symeon and Proto Maiolica) may attest that the population under Mamluk rule here used such pottery prior to the fall of the Latin Kingdom in 1291 when the importation of these types to the Holy Land ceased. Alternatively, they may all be residual pieces from an earlier Crusader occupation.

Chinese Celadon (Fig. 21:8).— Only one base of a bowl, recognized as a Chinese celadon bowl, was found in L118 (Stratum II) at Kh. Burin. This type of pottery is rarely found in Israel. The bowl is made of light gray, compact and vitrified stoneware, covered with pale green-gray glaze resembling jade in color and texture. The glaze covers the entire vessel, except for the bottom of the ring base. Inside is a carved vegetal decoration.

This type is of celadon ware, first manufactured under the Sung dynasty in the southern part of China, is known as Southern Celadon or as Lung-ch'üan Celadon dated from the late twelfth century to the mid-fourteenth

century. During this period the kilns in that region produced large quantities of high quality celadon, and the area flourished as a result of overseas trade (Medley 1989:145–152).

As mentioned above, Chinese celadon is but rarely found in Israel and its presence at Kh. Burin is therefore of considerable significance. Chinese celadon dating to the thirteenth century was found in Crusader 'Akko, where it seems to have had a connection with the activities of Italian merchants, although it was also used by local inhabitants (Stern 1999:260; Stern 2000:59, photo on p. 59, left column). The Chinese celadon fragment from Kh. Burin is not identical to those found in 'Akko. It has thicker walls and the carved decoration is cruder than in those from 'Akko and thus can be dated to the early fourteenth century. Chinese celadon dating to the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries was found in Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:151, 337, Fig. 41:23).

Chinese celadon was also found in a Mamluk phase in Shobak castle in Jordan (Brown 1988:237, Fig. 12:33) and in the Tripoli region, dating to the fourteenth century (Salamé-Sarkis 1980:225, Group D.1, Pl. LXX:1–7). Chinese celadon is known from various sites in the Middle East, among them several sites in Syria (Tonghini 1998:67), Iran (Morgan 1991) and Alexandria (François 1999:145–146).

Chinese celadon must have been a high-priced luxury ware in this period and attests to the connection between the Islamic world and the Far East. Its presence at Kh. Burin suggests that some inhabitants of this site were of a high social rank, or were connected to major trading centers during the Mamluk period.

Mold-Made Glazed Bowls (Fig. 21:9, 10; total 1 rim).— Sherds of mold-made glazed bowls of an elaborated type were found in the excavations: a large fragment with a rim in L119 (Fig. 21:9) and six body sherds in L113, L114 and L130 (Fig. 21:10)—apparently representing at least three different vessels. Such bowls are usually of light brown clay with a bright glaze, green on the exterior and yellow on

the inside, or the other way around. These bowls are decorated by registers with geometrical or floral designs, or with Arabic inscriptions. Kapitakin (this volume) describes the large bowl (Fig. 21:9) that bears an inscription and a depiction of a leopard (a fragment with what seems to be the hind part of a leopard was found in Bet She'an; Avshalom-Gorni, forthcoming). The script and the decoration are assigned to the Mamluk period (see Kapitakin, this volume).

Such vessels were found in different sites in Israel, Syria and Jordan, and even in northern Sinai (Cytrin-Silverman 1996:125; Walker 1999:220–221). It has been suggested that this type was produced in Jerusalem (see Avissar 1996:102). Nevertheless, wasters of these bowls were not found there, and the clay, glaze, and decoration differ from the local glazed wares of the Mamluk period (Figs. 19, 20; see Table 1: Types 16–19). Conceivably, these bowls were imported to Kh. Burin from another Islamic center in Syria or Transjordan.

Frit Wares, or Syrian Under-Glazed Painted Wares (Fig. 22; total 21 rims).— A few examples of this ware were found in Strata II–I. The Frit Ware (also known as Syrian Under-Glazed Painted Ware) is made of a soft-paste, fired to a fritti white-colored fabric. The vessels may have a monochrome glaze or a painted decoration in black, or black and blue, under a transparent or turquoise alkaline-based glaze. The painted designs are mainly of floral motifs. Geometric and pseudo-Kufic script designs appear as well. The vessels of this ware at Kh. Burin are assigned to different subgroups: Monochrome Glazed dated to the twelfth century (Fig. 22:1; total 3 rims); Under-Glazed Painted in one color (black or blue) (Fig. 22:2, 3, 5, 6; total 5); and Under-Glazed Painted in black and blue (Fig. 22: 4, 7?, 8–10; total 11). The two last subgroups are dated from the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries, and were manufactured in different centers in Syria (for more information on this type and parallels in Israel, see Avissar 1996:113–116, Types 78, 79; Tonghini 1998:38–55; Redford and Blackman 1997).

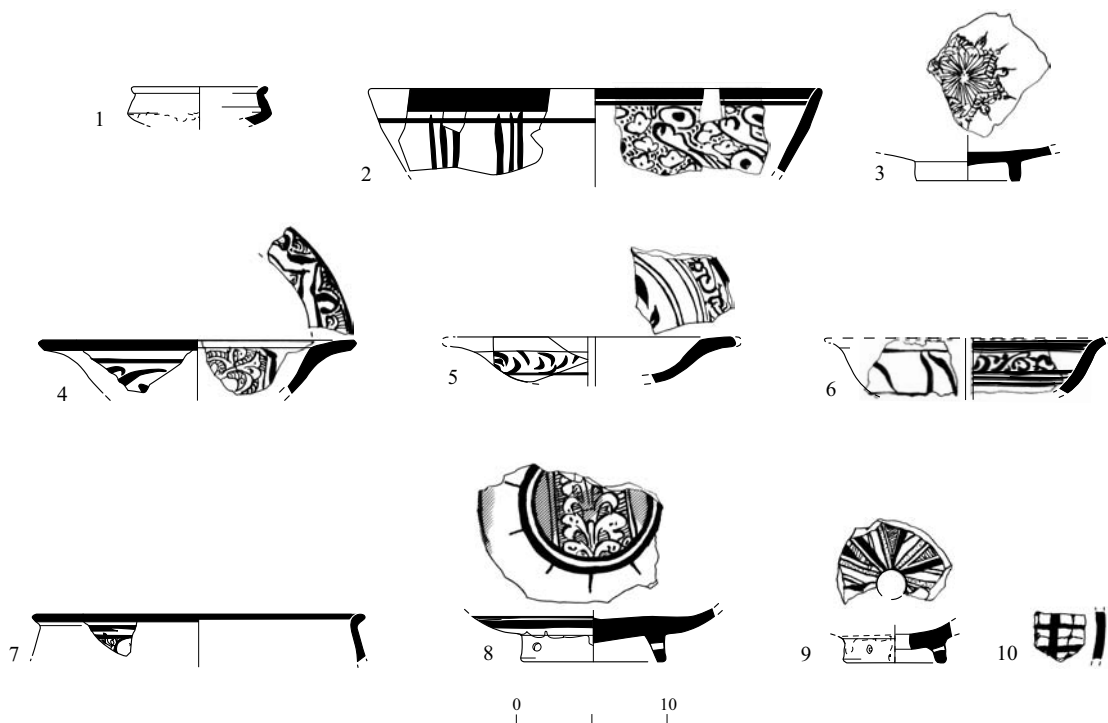


Fig. 22. Frit wares.

Fourteenth–Fifteenth Century Italian Imports (Fig. 23:1–3).— Three types of glazed vessels have been identified as Italian imports, one item of each type. They seem to postdate the main occupation period at Kh. Burin. Vessels similar to the first two types presented here were found in the last phase of a Mamluk village—today Giv‘at Yasaf (Tell er-Ras)—near ‘Akko. The last phase there was dated by the pottery to the fourteenth to fifteenth centuries.

The first type is of a basin with a square-profiled rim and dark green glaze over the interior and exterior of the vessel (Fig. 23:1, found in Stratum I). Similar basins were found at Giv‘at Yasaf (Stern 1999:129, Fig. 2:15–17) and in Split on the Dalmatian coast in a Venetian assemblage dated to the end of the fourteenth and the beginning of the fifteenth centuries (Buerger 1979:66–67, Pl. 7:GIV8–9). A basin with a similar profile was found at Venice (Saccardo 1996:365, Pl. III:45).

The second type is a small bowl with a carinated shoulder, a protruding ridge and a

ring base (Fig. 23:2, from a mixed locus). The fabric is red, and the yellowish-brown glaze was applied directly to the vessel with no slip. Similar bowls were found at Giv‘at Yasaf (Stern 1999:129–130, Fig. 2:18, 19), Giv‘at Dani (Lazar 1999:128*, Fig. 2:7), St. Mary of Carmel and Tripoli in Lebanon (Pringle 1984:99, Figs. 6:31, 32; 7:33, 34), as well as in Split in a Venetian assemblage dated to the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries (Buerger 1979:67, Pl. 8:GIV22–23). A bowl with a similar profile was found at Venice (Saccardo 1996:365 Tav. III:3 5).

The third type of Italian import wares is a base fragment of a bowl decorated with sgraffito and polychrome glaze (Fig. 23:3, from Stratum I). This bowl belongs to a type known as “Graffita Arcaica Padana” (of the Po Valley in Italy). Graffita Arcaica is a general name for red-bodied pottery with incised decorations manufactured in northern Italy, where production centers have been defined (Whitehouse 1980:75–77; Blake 1986:321–341, 347). This ware began to

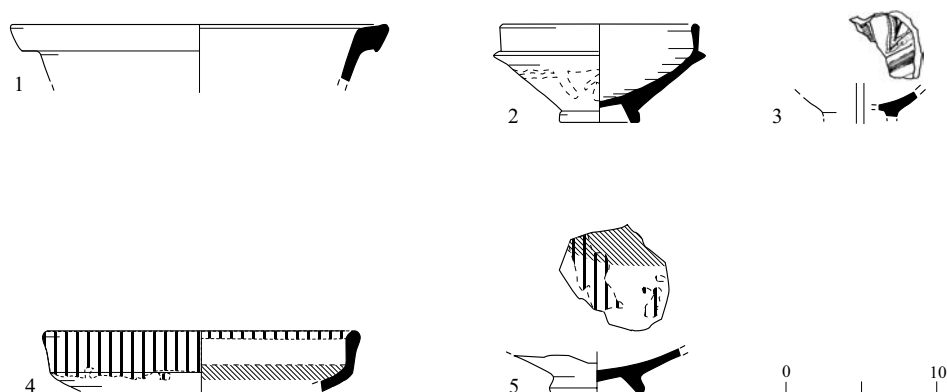


Fig. 23. Italian imports and a glazed bowl.

appear from the end of the thirteenth century, but became widespread from the end of the fourteenth century. Its production continued in the fifteenth–sixteenth centuries. Graffita Arcaica ware was found in Israel as well, e.g., at ‘Akko (Stern and Shalvi-Abbas 1999:12*, Fig. 17:61), Latrun, Jerusalem and Bethany (Stark 1999:217).

The interior of the bowls of this ware is covered with a layer of white slip under a transparent lead glaze that appears white or pale yellow. Incised geometric, stylized vegetal, and, more rarely, zoomorphic motifs, are enhanced by splashes of green and brown-yellow glaze.

The Italian ware types found here probably arrived in Palestine with Italian merchants during this period.

Yellow, Brown and Green Glazed Bowl (Fig. 23:4, 5; total 1).— Two fragments that may belong to the same bowl were found in L113 (Stratum I) and L114 (mixed locus) (Fig. 23:4, 5). This is a unique type of bowl decorated with slip-painted stripes and three different colors of glaze. The shoulder is carinated and it has a ring base similar to that of Fig. 23:2. Since body fragments of this type were also found near the surface in L103 and L105, this type seems to be of a later date, probably the fifteenth or sixteenth century. This type is not known from other sites in Israel, and may be an import. The shape of the base may point to Italy as its origin.

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MAMLUK POTTERY

In order to establish the relationship between the different Mamluk-period wares, and thus to better understand this assemblage, a rim count was conducted of all the pottery types of Strata II–I,² since the rim is the most characteristic part of the vessel. Although we are aware that the number of the rims does not represent the absolute number of vessels, a quantitative analysis of rims offers a convenient counting method. The type counts and their relative frequencies are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Our analysis points to the following conclusions: (1) the undecorated handmade wares by far outnumber the painted handmade wares; (2) the handmade vessels are the most common in this assemblage; (3) the wheel-made jugs and jars outnumber the other wheel-made types; (4) among the local glazed wares, the number of monochrome glazed bowls is twice that of the other local glazed bowls decorated in various techniques; (5) undecorated wheel-made vessels and local glazed tableware were found in similar quantities; (6) among the imported glazed wares, frit ware is the predominant type, and among the so-called ‘Crusader types’ the Cypriot thirteenth century wares are the most common; (7) local glazed tableware is more predominant than the imported glazed wares.

Table 1. Pottery Types at Kh. Burin—The Mamluk Period (Strata II–I)

Type No.	Pottery Group	Quantity
1	Undecorated handmade wares—bowls	230
2	Undecorated handmade wares—cooking pot	95
3	Painted handmade wares—bowls	17
4	Painted handmade wares—jugs	8
5	Wheel-made wares—bowls	13
6	Wheel-made wares—sugar pot?	7
7	Wheel-made wares—flasks	1
8	Wheel-made wares—spouted jugs	39
9	Wheel-made wares—stamped jugs	0
10	Wheel-made wares—jars	139
11	Mold-made wares—flasks	0
12	Mold-made wares—oil lamps	0
13	Glazed wares—cooking pots	19
14	Glazed wares—baking dishes	32
15	Glazed wares—oil lamps	1
16	Local glazed wares—monochrome bowls	130
17	Local glazed wares—slip-painted bowls	41
18	Local glazed wares—sgraffito bowls	10
19	Local glazed wares—yellow and green gouged ware	7
20	Imported glazed wares—Aegean wares	5
21	Imported glazed wares—Cypriot 13th c. wares	10
22	Imported glazed wares—Port St. Symeon wares	3
23	Imported glazed wares—Proto Maiolica	0
24	Imported glazed wares—Chinese celadon	0
25	Imported glazed wares—mold-made glazed bowl	1
26	Imported glazed wares—frit wares	21
27	Imported glazed wares—Italian imports	3

Table 2. Kh. Burin—Simplified Comparative Analysis

No.	Pottery Group	Types	Quantity	%
1	Local glazed tableware	16–19	188	22.7
2	Imported glazed tableware	20–27	42	5.1
3	Cooking ware	13, 14	51	6.1
4	Undecorated wheel-made	5–10	199	24.0
5	Handmade vessels	1–4	350	42.2
<i>Total</i>			<i>830</i>	<i>100.0</i>

These data are important for comparisons with other contemporaneous sites in Israel. Unfortunately, we were unable to compare

the numerical data from Kh. Burin with many excavated sites in Israel, where such data are not given, and even when the numerical data are published, a comparison with the data from Kh. Burin is not always possible. Thus, for example, the pottery from the Red Tower (al-Burg al-Aḥmar) that was published by Pringle (1986:135–138) was counted according to sherds, not according to rims. This site would have been ideal for comparison with Kh. Burin, since the two sites are near each other, and phases D and D1 at the Red Tower date to the same period as Stratum II at Kh. Burin. Due to the difference in the counting systems, we must restrict the comparison to general

conclusions: (1) at both sites the proportion of handmade wares is high in comparison to other types; (2) the percentage of local monochrome glazed bowls is higher than that of other glazed bowls decorated in various techniques; (3) the number of glazed wheel-made cooking pots is relatively small. At Kh. Burin this can be clearly explained by the use of handmade cooking pots, and this may also be the case at the Red Tower. These conclusions can probably be taken as characteristic for Mamluk rural pottery assemblages in the Sharon region.

Two other sites, where the pottery assemblages were counted in a similar way to Kh. Burin, are the Courthouse Site in 'Akko (Stern 1997:36, Table 1) and H. Bet Zeneta (Getzov 2000:97*,

Table 1).² These two sites are situated in the same vicinity in western Galilee, but are dated exclusively to the thirteenth century—not exactly to the same time as Kh. Burin. Since the Courthouse Site in 'Akko and H. Bet Zeneta are only slightly earlier than Kh. Burin Stratum II, comparison of these sites may indicate trends of changes in the nature of ceramic assemblages from the Crusader to the Mamluk periods, and the differences between ceramic assemblages of a town ('Akko) and of rural sites (Kh. Burin and H. Bet Zeneta). The data are presented in Table 3 and Fig. 24. The general conclusions that may be drawn from the comparison of pottery types from these three sites are: (1) the proportion of handmade vessels is much greater in rural sites,

Table 3. A Comparison between Three Sites

No.	Pottery Group	Types	Kh. Burin		H. Bet Zeneta		'Akko Courthouse Site	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
1	Local glazed tableware	16–19	188	22.7	106	23.6	36	11.8
2	Imported tableware	20–27	42	5.1	2	0.4	133	43.8
3	Cooking ware	13–14	51	6.1	75	16.7	61	20.1
4	Undecorated wheel-made vessels	5–10	199	24.0	70	15.6	72	23.7
5	Handmade vessels	1–4	350	42.2	197	43.8	2	0.7
<i>Total</i>			<i>830</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>304</i>	<i>100.0</i>

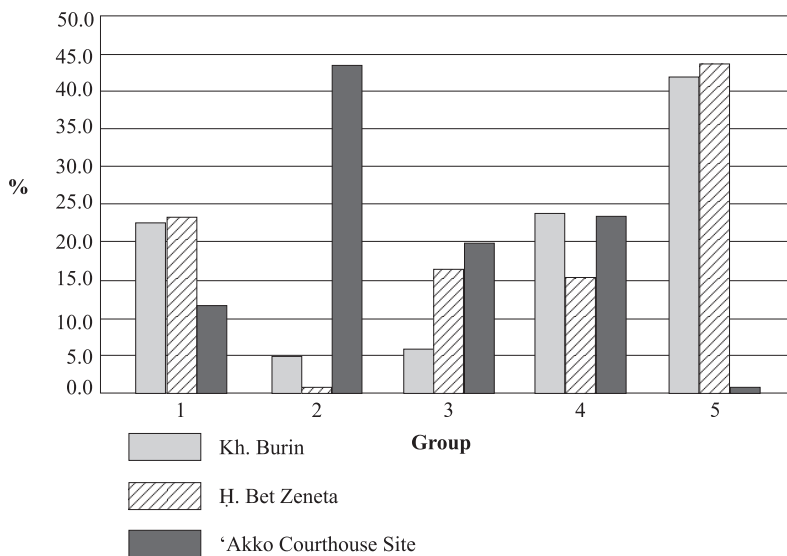


Fig. 24. Simplified comparison of three sites (see also Table 3).

and hardly exists in a Crusader-period town; (2) in the rural sites, local glazed wares outnumber imported glazed wares, whereas at 'Akko imported glazed wares predominate; (3) during the Mamluk period the number of wheel-made cooking wares decreases at rural sites, apparently as a consequence of the increased use of handmade cooking pots.

VARIOUS FINDS

Small Clay Finds and a Bead (Fig. 25)

Handmade Bowl-Stoppers (Fig. 25:1–3).— The bowls themselves are similar to handmade bowls of the period (see Fig. 12). These bowl-stoppers (Fig. 25:1, 2; total 2) are shaped as small bowls with a central protrusion in the

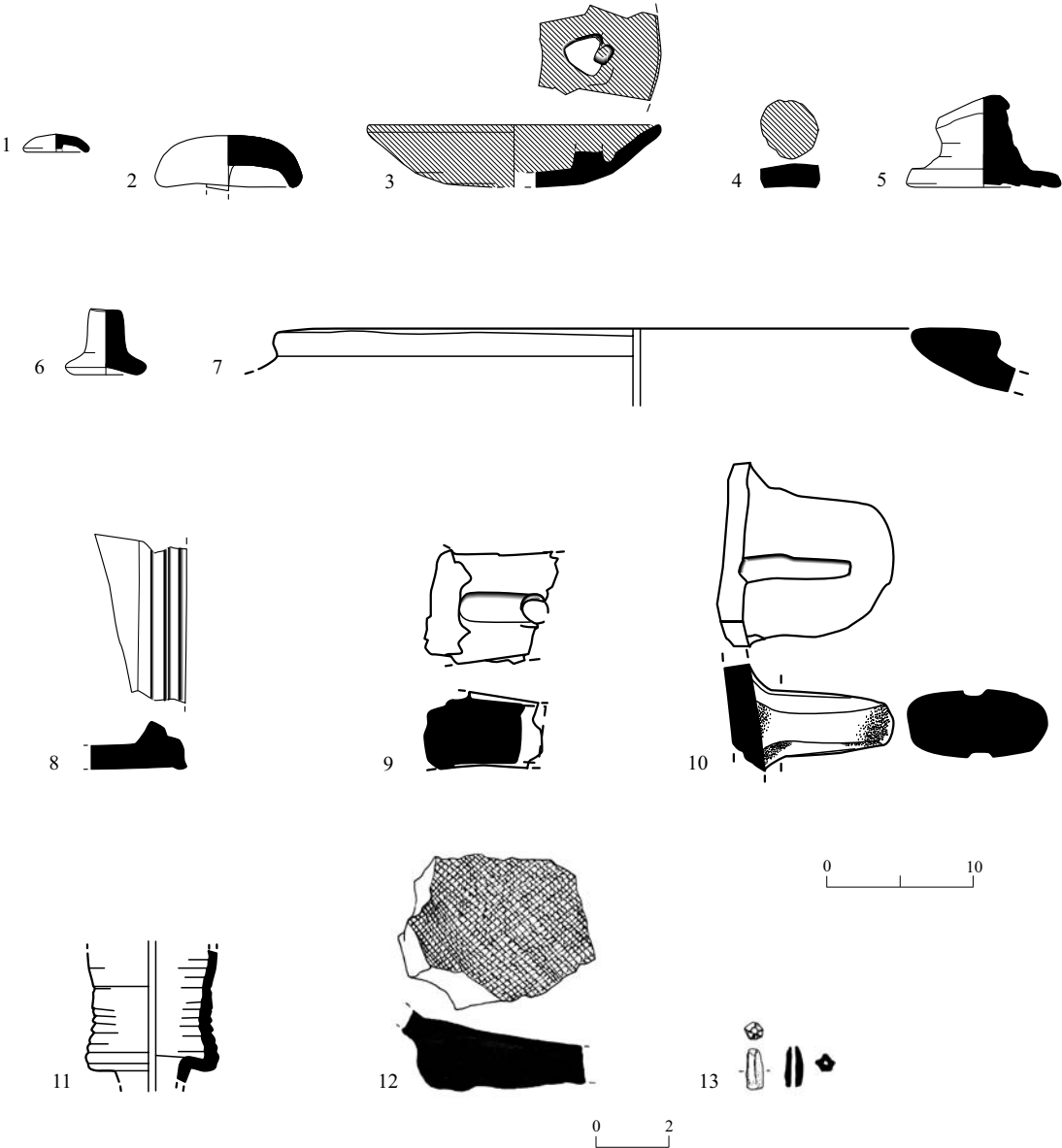


Fig. 25. Small pottery finds and a bead.

middle. Similar bowl-stoppers are known from Abu Ghosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950: Pl. G:2) and al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 32:1–3). A painted example is known from Abu Ghosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950: Pl. F:4).

A third bowl-stopper, also handmade (Fig. 25:3), is larger, but instead of the central protrusion it has a loop handle inside. This bowl probably served as a stopper, although the form vaguely recalls spinning bowls known from much earlier periods. Comparisons are known from a survey in Samaria (Finkelstein 1991: Fig. 9:14), Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 45:15) and al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947: Fig. 32:4).

Disk-Shaped Lids (Fig. 25:4; total 11).— These lids are the most common type of stoppers/lids. They are rounded pieces, usually made from handmade bowls, and so have a burnished side. Similar lids were discovered at al-Qubaiba (Bagatti 1947: Pl. 24, Photo 53:6–8).

Mushroom-Shaped Stoppers (Fig. 25:5, 6; total 6).— These stoppers are intended for narrow-necked, closed vessels. The crude, ribbed and white-washed stopper in Fig. 24:5 was probably used for the mouth of a jar or amphora. Another badly worn example comes from L32 (B1239/1). More common are smaller clay stoppers, but of similar form (Fig. 25:6). Another such stopper was made of stone (see Fig. 26:5, below). Compare Abu Ghosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950: Pl. G:5).

Rim of a Ṭabun (Fig. 26:7).— This rim piece is shaped like that of a thickened holemouth jar. Usually, rims of ṭabuns are not preserved. It was found in L125, and belongs to Stratum I (see Fig. 10).

Tiles (Fig. 25:8).— Only a few tile fragments were found in the excavation. The drawing (Fig. 25:8) is of one of the two fragments used in positioning the stones of the cistern's opening structure (L137b).

Large Handles (Fig. 25:9, 10).— The nature of these very rough, crudely fired and crumbling fragments is not clear. They may have been part of a ṭabun or some other installation.

Wasters (Fig. 25:11).— Very few wasters were found in the excavation, all of them fragments of vessels. Since we did not find the pottery kilns themselves, they are important as evidence of pottery manufacture at the site.

Base Fragment (Fig. 25:12).— One base of a handmade bowl of the Mamluk period (see above, Fig. 12:7–10) has on the inside the imprint of a textile that was used during its manufacture. The shape seems to indicate that it was an open vessel, perhaps a bowl or krater. Reed impressions are found on the outside of bases of this period (cf. al-Qubaiba; Bagatti 1947: Photo 53:5, 10). Compare the fabric impressions from Tel Abu-Gourdan (Franken and Kalsbeek 1975:166–167, Figs. 50, 51).

Bead (Fig. 25:13).— The only bead found in the excavation in L118 is elongated, made of soft blue paste, and pierced.

Stone Finds (Figs. 26, 27)

Marble Column (Fig. 26:1).— A small, broken round column was found out of context as a building stone in L126. Wear-grooves cut by ropes across it may suggest a previous use at a cistern or well head.

Marble Slab (Fig. 26:2).— This is the only fragment of a marble slab from the dig. From the shape, the rough back and remains of mortar on the back, it seems to have been part of an inscribed block, but only the edge survived, with no traces of an inscription.

Decorated Stone (Fig. 26:3).— The stone was found upturned in the center of L145, in a secondary context under floor L118. It is 57 cm long and about 20 cm thick, and has three intact sides (the fourth is broken). The decoration

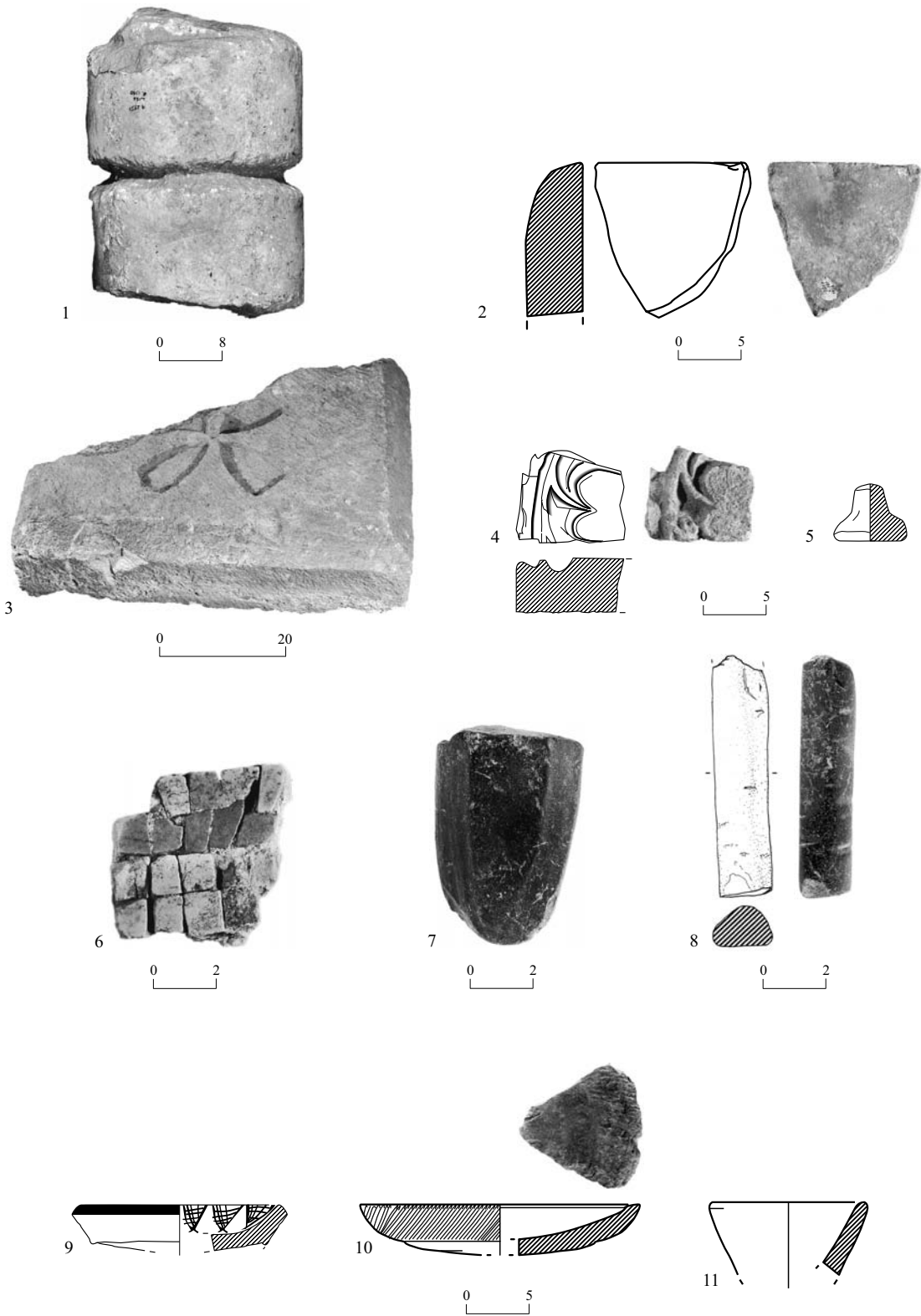


Fig. 26. Stone finds.

consists of four pointed 'leaves' arranged symmetrically and neatly carved (diam. of decoration 25 cm).

Decorated Relief (Fig. 26:4).— A small fragment of limestone, with deep relief at one side. It depicts a branch and leaf of a vine or ivy(?).

Stopper (Fig. 26:5).— This small stopper is made of soft, white limestone. The shape is similar to that of the clay stoppers (see Fig. 25:5, 6).

Mosaic Fragment (Fig. 26:6).— The small mosaic piece is of crude tesserae, white and gray, perhaps of an earlier (Byzantine period?) origin.

Stone Vessels and Varia (Fig. 26:7–11).— Fig. 26:7 is probably a pestle; Fig. 26:8 is a small stick of green stone, perhaps schist, worked by hand. One small bowl (Fig. 26:9), made of very soft limestone, is similar to the handmade, geometric decorated bowls (see Fig. 14:1–3). A second bowl (Fig. 26:10) is made of hard, gray-green stone (diorite?) with a combed pattern inside. Fig. 26:11 is a rim of a basalt bowl or basin.

Quern Stones (Fig. 27:1–4).— Pieces of some basalt and conglomerate quern stones (Fig. 27:1–4) were found at the site. Except for No. 1, they are all of the round, flat type of quern or grinding stones worked by hand, with a central hole for the cereals, and another slanted hole (not preserved) into which a stick was inserted for rotating the upper stone. Comparisons: Red Tower, dating to the Mamluk period (Pringle 1986: Fig. 64:7, 8) and H. 'Uza, dating from the twelfth to the thirteenth centuries (Tatcher, forthcoming).

Metal Finds (Fig. 28)

Very few metal items were found at the site. Two bronze spatulae (Fig. 28:1, 2) may be compared to those found at the Red Tower

(Pringle 1986:16, Fig. 54:5) and Giv'at Dani (Lazar 1999:134*, Fig. 7). Iron nails (Fig. 28:3) are common, six being found at Kh. Burin (Baskets 1067, 1097, 1270, 1240, 1236, 1288). For comparisons from the same period see the Red Tower (Pringle 1986: Fig. 59) and Giv'at Yasaf (Rochman-Halperin 1999:115, Fig. 28:4). One small iron ring (Fig. 28:4) was found in a poor state of preservation.

POTTERY FROM STRATUM III, FILL III–II AND OTHER PERIODS

Pottery of Stratum III (L148; Fig. 29:1–3)

The pottery comes from a small probe under floor L145—not a well-defined floor, designated Stratum III (L148). There was no glazed pottery or other finds later than the Byzantine period. Due to the very limited nature of the assemblage, no statistic analyses were made of the pottery of Stratum III and Fill III–II, hence the following brief review.

Stopper (Fig. 29:1).— This is probably the rim of a jar stopper that cannot be dated accurately.

Cooking Bowl or Casserole (Fig. 29:2).— These vessels are also common throughout the Byzantine period and later, and do not serve for exact dating (see Magness 1993:211–212, Form 1).

Jar (Fig. 29:3).— It has a tall neck, thickened rim, and ridge on the base, and may be dated to the Byzantine period (Magness 1993:223–224, Form 4).

Pottery of Fill III–II (Fig. 29:4–12)

The fill defined as Stratum III–II (L146/7) includes mixed pottery, most of it of the Late Byzantine/Early Islamic periods. A selection includes the following types:

Late Roman Bowl (Fig. 29:4).— Probably a Late Roman C (Phocaean) bowl, cf. Caesarea (Magness 1992:151, Fig. 67:16) and Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 64:6, 7, 13).

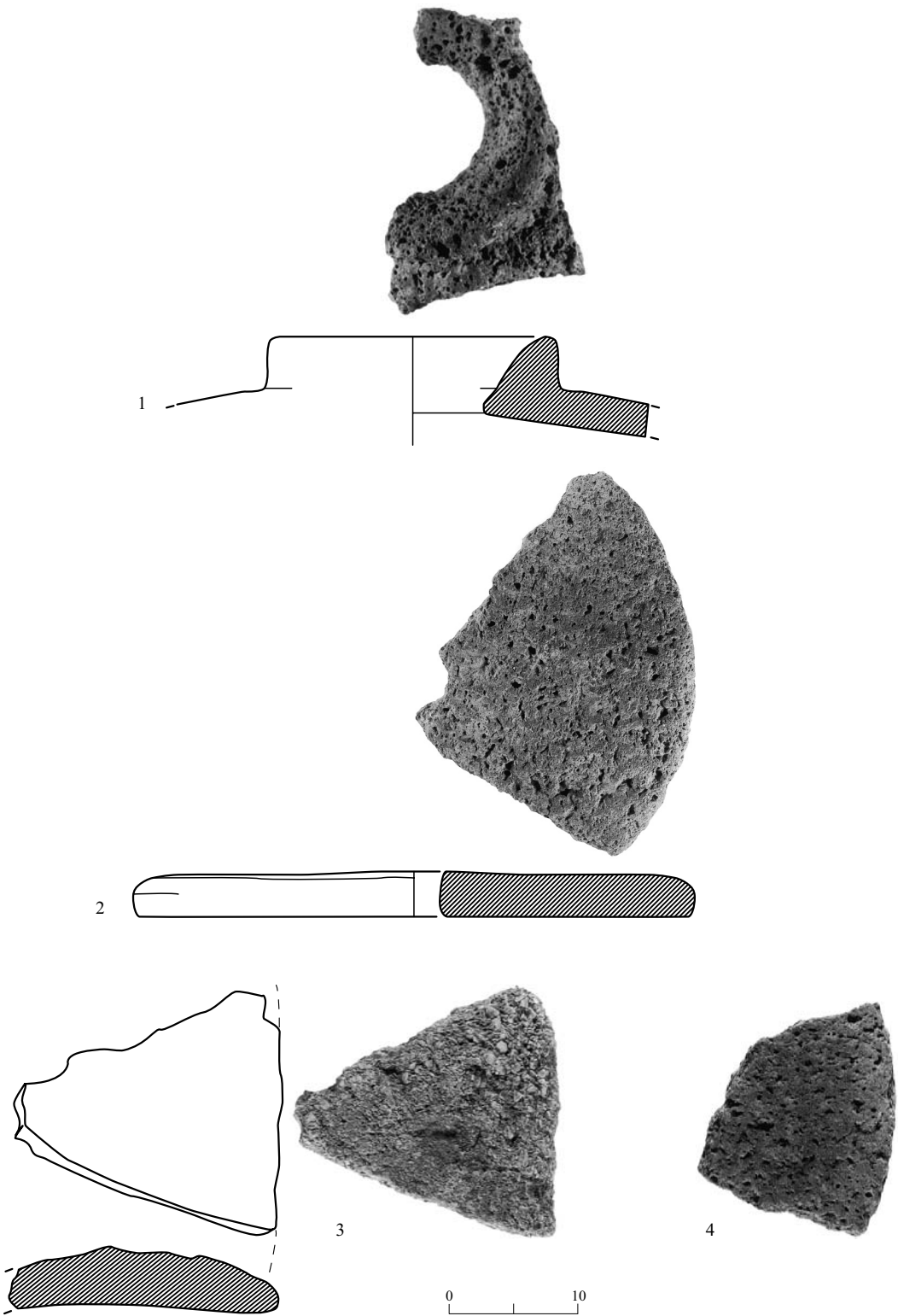


Fig. 27. Quern and grinding stones.

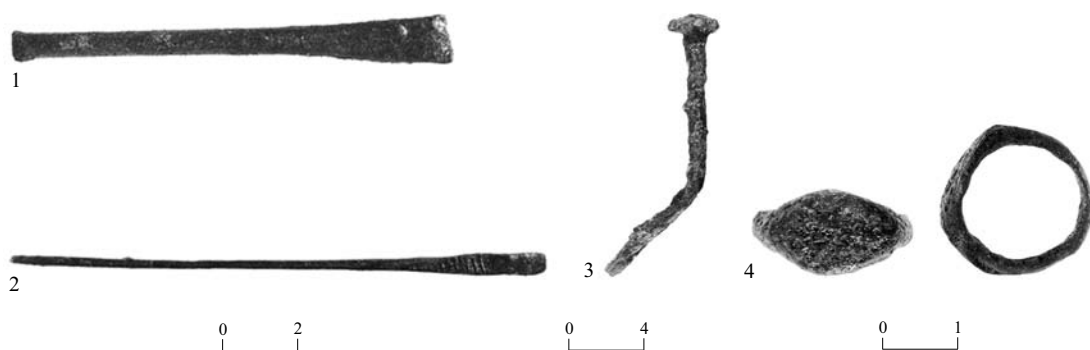


Fig. 28. Metal finds.

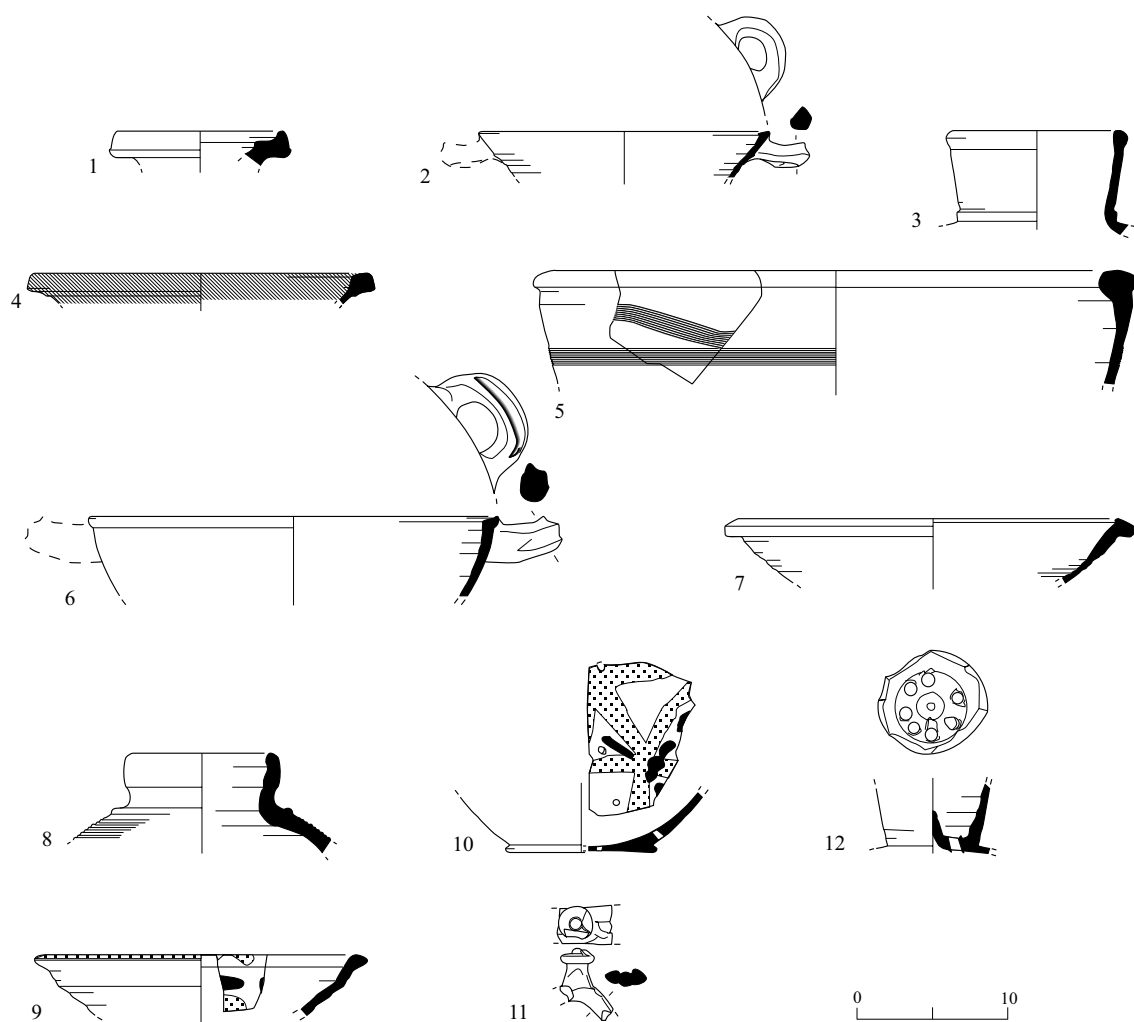


Fig. 29. Pottery from Stratum III and Fill III-II.

Heavy, Combed Basin (Fig. 29:5).—A common type of the Late Byzantine or Early Islamic periods. Comparisons: Kh. al-Mafjar (Baramki 1944: Fig. 10), Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:127 Type 29) and Mevo Modi'im (Eisenberg and Ovadiah 1998: Fig. 14:5–8).

Cooking Bowls (Fig. 29:6, 7).— These are common in the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, and appear over a long chronological time range (see Magness 1993:212, Form 1).

Gaza Jar (Fig. 29:8).— A diagnostic type of the late Byzantine period, this type of jar (under various names) has an extremely wide distribution all over Cisjordan (Meyerson 1992, with references).

Early Islamic Glazed Bowls (Fig. 29:9, 10).— These vessels are made of the typical buff ware of the ninth–tenth centuries. They include common glazed bowls (Fig. 29:10–12), decorated carelessly with green bands and dark brown daubs inside; cf. Caesarea (Arnon 1996:49, Fig. 20) and Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996:77, Type 2).

Early Islamic Unglazed Wares (Fig. 29:11, 12).— Unglazed wheel-made wares of this period include a buff-ware jug handle (Fig. 29:11) of a very common type, cf. Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996: Fig. 138) and Ramla (Rosen-Ayalon and Eitan 1969). The neck fragment of a strainer (Fig. 29:12) belongs to the type of crude, thick-bodied jugs with strainers of the same period; cf. Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996: Fig. 158:2), Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 33:26) and Caesarea (Arnon 1996: Pl. 1:5).

Artifacts from Other Periods (Fig. 30)

The few artifacts presented here were not found *in situ*.

Early Bronze Age.— One flint tool was found in L128 (not drawn). It is a fragment of a burnt Canaanite sickle blade of the Early Bronze Age (identified by O. Marder and H. Khalaily of the IAA). No pottery of this period was found in the excavation, nor is any reported from earlier surveys at Kh. Burin.

Persian Period (Fig. 30:1).— The high ring-base of a mortarium is typical of the Persian period,

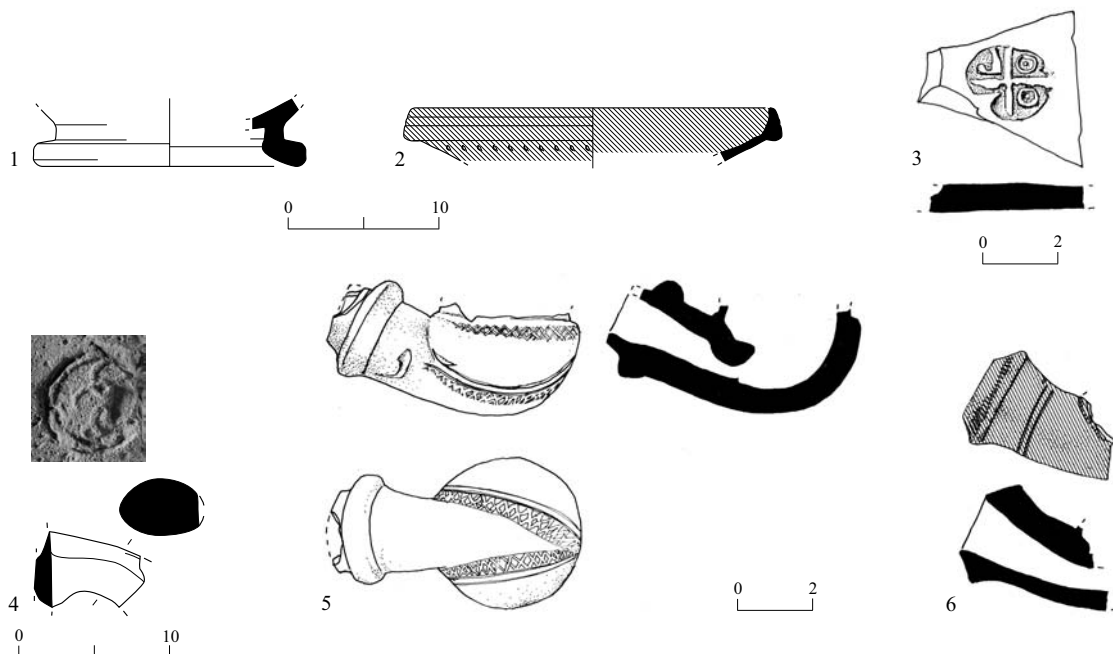


Fig. 30. Pottery of other periods.

sixth–fifth centuries BCE, when these were all imported to Palestine. Two other fragments are not drawn. Comparisons: Dor (Stern 1995:53–55, Fig. 2.2) and Tel Ya‘oz (Kletter, Segal and Ziffer, forthcoming: Fig. 7).

Byzantine Period (Fig. 30:2, 3).— This period is represented by two sherds: A bowl with rouletted decoration on the outside (Fig. 30:2), possibly Aswan Ware (comparisons: Jerusalem [Magness 1993:188, Form 2a:1, 2]); and a Late Roman C bowl (Fig. 30:3) with a shallow, stamped imprint of a cross (comparisons: Hayes 1972:365, Group III, dated around 500 BCE; Fig. 78: No. 68:j–l; and Jerusalem: Tushingham 1985: Fig. 64:21).

Early-Islamic-Period Stamped Handle (Fig. 30:4; total 1).— This handle belongs to a large pithos. A few other handles of such pithoi were found at Kh. Burin, but this is the only stamped one among them. The handle was found out of context in L111, close to the surface. It bears a blessing formula, and originates from Nebi Samuel near Jerusalem (Nitzan Amitai-Preiss, pers. comm.). Few handles of this type have been published so far, e.g., from Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 35:13).

Ottoman-Period Tobacco Pipes (Fig. 30:5, 6; total 2).— One tobacco pipe (Fig. 30:5) is gray-burnished, the other red-burnished (Fig. 30:6). Studies of pipes from Greece and Turkey (Robinson 1985; Hayes 1992) suggest that in the first half of the seventeenth century the pipes are small, gray or white. Larger, red-slipped and burnished pipes appear in the second half of that century, and are very common in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when also pipe-bowls become much larger. Tobacco pipes from Jezre‘el and Belmont (Simpson 2002; 2004; cf. Ziadeh 1995:210) and from Cyprus (Baram 1995) fit this typology, and we know that several manufacturing centers for pipes existed in Cisjordan (Milwright 2000:199–200; Ziadeh 1995:210–211).

CONCLUSIONS

Sporadic remains of the Persian, Byzantine, Early Islamic, and Ottoman periods were found in the present excavation at Kh. Burin. With the exception of one Early Bronze Age object, the finds corroborate the evidence already gathered in former surveys of this site. The main importance of the present excavation lies in the discovery of large buildings in Stratum II—the Mamluk period (late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries).

These are well planned buildings, that survived to considerable height. Two phases in the buildings (IIb–IIa), may indicate a long period of use. It is difficult to fix the construction date of these buildings on archaeological grounds, since the dividing line between the Crusader and Mamluk periods is not sharp in terms of material remains. The transfer of political rule occurred at different dates in each region of Cisjordan, and attaching ‘ethnic’ labels to archaeological finds, such as pottery vessels, is fraught with problems. Pottery termed ‘Crusader’ in sites such as ‘Akko and Caesarea may have been used by Muslims at sites like Kh. Burin. It could have been used also for a few years after 1265, the date of the conquest of the area by Baybars I. Architectural features typical of Frankish buildings, such as marginal drafting, log holes for wooden beams, and diagonal tooling marks on stones are lacking at Kh. Burin (for such features, see Boas 1999:217–225; Kletter and Boas 2002:187–190). Nor do we have remains of an earlier, Crusader-period stratum beneath the Stratum II buildings. That the site was certainly settled in the Crusader period is clear from written sources. Notable also is the complete absence of Crusader-period coins (though on the whole the general number of coins is small). Ceramic types dating to the beginning of the thirteenth century are absent from the assemblage found in our excavation, among them Byzantine glazed imports (Avisar 1996:105–110, Types 63–70) and the common glazed bowls with a

gritty glaze (Avisar 1996:90–93, Types 34–38). The almost complete lack of pig bones from all the strata fits Muslim practice (only one pig bone was found—0.22 percent of all the bones retrieved and studied; see Sade, this volume). Though these are all negative arguments, they carry some weight. Unfortunately, we lack an assemblage from the first phase of the buildings (IIa), and the finds (Stratum IIb) represent a later stage of its occupation (for the date of erection of Stratum II, see below).

The Mamluk-period pottery related to the buildings of Stratum II (mainly IIb) includes a wide variety of pottery types from the end of the thirteenth and the fourteenth centuries. It enabled us to compile an extensive catalogue of pottery types that were in use during this period. Although few of the vessels are complete, this assemblage may well comprise a solid base for assessing pottery assemblages in rural sites of the Mamluk period in Israel. Few ceramic assemblages of the Mamluk period have been published from excavations in Israel. Excavations containing Mamluk-period pottery, as well as Crusader-period pottery, make it very difficult to differentiate between the Crusader and Mamluk pottery types. Such excavations are: Nazareth (Bagatti 1984), St. Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984), Caesarea (Pringle 1985), the Red Tower (Pringle 1986), Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996) and Ḥ. 'Uza (Stern and Thatcher, forthcoming). Hence, the ceramic assemblage of Kh. Burin is significant.

Other rural Mamluk-period ceramic assemblages were recently published from Giv'at Yasaf in northern Israel (Stern 1999) and from Giv'at Dani in central Israel, not far from Lod (Lazar 1999). Comparison of these three assemblages, all dating to the same time, reveals interesting information regarding the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of these villages. Although there are no numerical data for sherds, a comparison of the general types shows that at Giv'at Yasaf more later western imported types were found. Presumably, this is due to connections with Venetian merchants in 'Akko, who were active during the fifteenth century in

trade of agricultural goods, mainly cotton (Stern 1999). The Mamluk-period stratum at Giv'at Dani was dated to the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. It contained only Islamic imports and many local types. The site at Giv'at Dani was interpreted as an agricultural settlement on the outskirts of the center of Lod (Lazar 1999). On the assumption that Giv'at Yasaf in the close vicinity of the port of 'Akko represents a rural site with connections to Venetian merchants, and Giv'at Dani represents an inland rural site without international connections, the ceramic assemblage at Kh. Burin represents a third, intermediate site. On the one hand, we have here the expected types of a Mamluk-period village, with many handmade wares and local glazed wares, and on the other hand, some unique imported glazed vessel-types like Chinese celadon, Italian imports, and the mold-made bowl with a representation of a leopard. This may lead to the conclusion that the ceramic assemblage from Kh. Burin does not represent a 'typical' rural Mamluk village, but an area or buildings populated by people of a higher social and economic status (for comparison of ceramic assemblages of Mamluk elite vs. local peasantry in Jordan, see Johns 1994:20).

The nature of the structures and the finds suggest a Mamluk-period date for Stratum II. Historical sources indicate that Baybars I, after conquering the region in 1265, distributed about 37 villages to 61 of his amirs. The lands, situated inland and not on the coast, were given as private freehold (*mulk*). This rather unusual procedure may have been an expression of Baybars' gratitude and for ensuring the loyalty of these amirs (Amitai-Preiss 1997:280–282). The lands of Kh. Burin were divided between two amirs—Jamāl al-Dīn Aqqūsh al-Muḥammadī al-Sāliḥī, and Fakhr al-Dīn al-Ṭunbā' al-Ḥīmṣī (Lyons, Lyons and Riley-Smith 1971: II:81, Map 249; cf. Abel 1939:38–44). Many amirs in the list were senior, but some were otherwise unknown (for the composition of the list and the possible motives of Baybars, see Amitai-Preiss 1997:280–289). Jamāl al-Dīn Aqqūsh al-Muḥammadī was one of the commanders of an

expeditionary force sent to al-Bira in 1265, who was later arrested and rehabilitated. The same is true for Fakhr al-Dīn al-Ṭunbā', who also commanded an expedition in northern Syria in 1261, and was mentioned in the beginning of Qalawun's reign (Amitai-Preiss 1997:294, Nos. 15, 16). Leading amirs had ample income, as often a single *iqta'* given to such amirs in Egypt consisted of up to ten villages (Holt 1977:52). For them, revenues of half a village in the Sharon plain were only symbolic (Amitai-Preiss 1997:289). Lesser amirs often received *iqta'* of half a village, and *mulk* donations were sometimes given on the occasion of retirement (Holt 1977:52; Irwin 1977:68). The two amirs connected with Kh. Burin were senior amirs, and it seems unlikely that they would choose to live in such a marginal village. Little is known about arrangements made by such amirs to ensure revenues from the Sharon villages. Most of the scholarly literature on Mamluk architecture discusses larger public buildings of the period, such as mosques and caravanserais (Petersen 1995; Meinecke 1992; Lee and Hillebrand 1992; Sadek 1991; Walker 1999:218–219). Rural Mamluk architecture has not yet been discussed in detail. Since we excavated only a limited area, the general plan of the buildings is not clear, and the archaeological data do not indicate the exact identity of the owners.

There is no evidence for violent destruction of the buildings at the end of Stratum II. Following desertion, the site was reoccupied for some time; based on the pottery assemblage, this was still within the Mamluk period (Stratum I). It was a much more ephemeral occupation, with modest, domestic activities (*tabuns*, crude walls) above the Stratum II buildings. In the Ottoman census list of 1596, Kh. Burin is not mentioned, which suggests a *terminus ante quem* for the end of Stratum I. If so, the abandonment of the Stratum II buildings took place earlier, perhaps in the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century. The gradual deterioration and eventual desertion of Kh. Burin conforms to what we know of the general conditions in the region: a process of economic decline, depopulation,

and nomadization is apparent throughout the fifteenth century. In this period, only the major 'sea road' (the ancient Via Maris) with its stations and sites was maintained (Ashtor 1981; Walker 1999:205, 214). Kh. Burin was situated off this road, and the secondary road that led by it to the coast lost its importance.

The archaeology of the Mamluk period in Israel is a relatively new field of study (Whitcomb 1997; Walker 1999). Villages from this period have not yet been assessed in detail, and the finds there are often mixed or disturbed by other periods (for a recent examination of the archaeology of Mamluk villages in Jordan, see Walmsley 1998). At Kh. Burin, we have attempted to define the material culture of a Mamluk-period village in the hope that comparison with data from contemporary excavated villages can give a better understanding of the material culture and the social conditions of this period.

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Appendix 1: List of Loci

Locus	Square	Stratum	Definition
101–110			Surface loci with mixed material (discarded)
111	M/11	I	Surface
112	M/12	I	Fill/debris
113	M/13	I	Fill/debris
114	M/14	Mixed I–II	
115	M/15	I	Fill/debris
116	L/15	I	Fill/debris
117	L/14	I	Debris/burnt layers
118	L/13	I–IIb	Fill/debris, floor of room
119	L/12		Mixed debris
120	L/11	IIb	
121	M/11	I?	Room?
122	N/11–15		Surface/debris
123	M/11	I–IIb	
124	L/15	I	Room
125	L/11	I	<i>Ṭabun</i>
126	L/11	IIb	Part of room
127	M/11	IIb	Room
128		I	Fill/burnt layers
129	L/15	I	
130	L/14	I	Fill/burnt layers
131	L/11	Mixed	Between W5 and W9
132	L/11	IIa?	Room
133	L/12	II	Room
134	L/12	IIa	Room
135	L/11	IIa	Room
136	M/12	II–I	Room?
137	L/14	IIa–b	Courtyard
138	M/11	II	Room
139	L/15	IIa–b	Perhaps mixed with I, courtyard
140	M/13	II	Room
141	M/12	Building II, but mixed material	Room
142	M/11	II	Room
143	M/11	II	Room
144	M/13	IIb?	Room?
145	M/13	Mostly IIa, some IIb intrusion	Floor of a room
146	L/13	II	Debris
147	L/13	III–III	Fill
148	L/13	III	Fill/white surface

NOTES

¹ This article was submitted and edited before the publication of the Pottery of the Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk Periods in Israel, by Stern and Avissar 2005. See there additional references to the various pottery groups described below.

² The statistical data here are based upon counting of all diagnostic rims from those ascribed to Strata II–I, excluding mixed loci, loci from the surface, and loci

below Stratum II. For some very rare types, body sherds are also noted, even from such loci.

³ The pottery from Kh. ‘Uza (Stern and Tatcher, forthcoming) was counted in a similar way, but because of the long time span (twelfth to fourteenth centuries), comparisons to Kh. ‘Uza are not relevant.

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