

AN INSCRIBED HANDLE FROM KHIRBAT BURIN

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A jar handle with a stamp impression of an Arabic inscription was found on the surface at Kh. Burin (see Kletter and Stern, this volume; Fig. 28:4). The round stamp was incised with two words within a circle. The inscription is in two lines, each with one word. It reads: بركة ابوب *barakah Ayyūb* “Blessing Ayyūb”.

Vessels with stamp impressions on the handles were produced in the kilns at Nabi Samwīl (Sharon 2004:122, 124–134). Similar inscriptions to that on our stamp have been found at other sites in Israel, e.g., Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:327, Fig. 35, No. 13), Caesarea (Sharon 1999:292),

Ashqelon (Amitai-Preiss, forthcoming [a]), and Kh. Ka'kul near Jerusalem (Amitai-Preiss, forthcoming [b]).¹

The fact that the word *barakah* (blessing) is found before the name (in this case, Ayyūb) seems to indicate that the owners were intended (Sharon 2004:131). Another Arabic inscription, found on a jar handle at Nabi Samwīl, may refer to the same Ayyūb mentioned in our stamp. It reads: Blessing to Ayyūb b. 'Uthmān, thus providing the full name of the mentioned person, including his father's name (Sharon 2004:131).

NOTE

¹ All the unpublished excavations were conducted by the IAA. I thank Fanny Vitto (Ashqelon) and Jon

Seligman (Ka'kul) for allowing me to mention the stamps from their excavations.

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