

OTTOMAN CLAY TOBACCO PIPES AND NARGILE HEADS FROM THE FLOUR MILLS IN THE RIDWAN GARDENS, 'AKKO

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INTRODUCTION

Eighteen clay tobacco pipes and five nargile heads were unearthed in the flour mills in the Ridwan Gardens, 'Akko.¹ The six most complete pipes and two nargile heads are presented in Fig. 1.

According to the archaeological data (see Lerer, this volume), the mills operated from the end of the eighteenth until the beginning of the twentieth centuries. Unfortunately, most of the excavated layers are contaminated. A small amount of pottery was found (see Stern, this volume), dating to the late Ottoman period (eighteenth–nineteenth centuries). The vessels were most probably used by the workers of the mills, as were the tobacco pipes.

The specimens discussed below may be correlated with the typology of some 2000 tobacco pipes and nargile heads retrieved from the excavations in the Hospitaller Compound in the Old City of 'Akko (Shapiro, in prep.). The samples from the Ridwan Gardens, like those from the Hospitaller Compound, were classified according to their fabric, size, shape and finish. The diameter of the shank opening was used as the main criterion for dating the pipes.

THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

The pipes are presented from early to late (Fig. 1; Table 1). All pipes, except for one small shank fragment (No. 18), are locally made. Their fabric is gray to light gray (7.5YR 6/1–10YR 6/1 to 7/1, 2) or light to very pale brown (10YR 8/2 to 7/4) with dark to black

grits and inclusions, and some quartz sand. They are covered with slip, sometimes barely preserved, which varies in color from plum to reddish brown or even brownish orange when the layer is very thin. These features correlate with the Type 3 pipes from the Old City of 'Akko (Shapiro, in prep.). The pipes are of various shapes and their shank-opening diameter (when preserved) ranges between 0.85 and 1.75 cm (see Fig. 1).

Eighteenth Century

1. Basket 1000/1. Biconical shank with undecorated ring termination, and small part of bowl base with carved, vertical lines.

Parallels: Stern 1997:68; Simpson 2000:147–149; Gosse 2001:145, Figs. 4, 5; Avissar 2005:85, Fig. 4.2.11; Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 7:7, 8.

2. Basket 1021 (Fig. 1:2). Short shank with biconical, undecorated ring termination and 'horseshoe' production mark on right side, under the ring. The preserved lower part of the bowl is decorated with gridiron, rouletted stripes creating a V shape, well seen on the complete samples. A circular stamp appears on the bottom of the bowl.

Parallels: Simpson 2000:147–149; Avissar 2005:84, Figs. 4.1:5–9; 4.2:10; Kletter and Stern 2006:206–207; Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 8:1–3.

3. Basket 1004. Shank with rounded, decorated ring termination and small part of bowl.

Parallels: Avissar 1996:199, No. 5, photograph XVI.9; Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 8:7, 9.



Fig. 1. Clay tobacco pipes and nargile heads.

Table 1. Clay Tobacco Pipes and Nargile Heads, arranged Chronologically
(Items marked with an asterisk appear in Fig. 1)

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Shank Opening (cm)	Date (CE)
<i>Tobacco Pipes</i>					
1	100	1000/1	Fill above floor in Building B	1.05	Late 17th–mid-18th c.
2*	103	1021	Fill in wheel-box of M14	1.30	Late 17th–mid-18th c.
3	109	1004	Floor of Building E	0.85	Late 17th–mid-18th c.
4	101	1001	Fill in wheel-box of M1 in Building A	1.00	Late 17th–mid-18th c.
5	Surf.	1	Surface		Late 17th–mid-18th c.
6*	103	1016	Fill in wheel-box of M14	1.05	Mid- to late 18th c.
7*	100	1000	Fill above floor in Building B	1.30 estimated	Mid- to late 18th c.
8*	200	2000	Fill above wheel-box of M15	1.75	Early 19th c.
9	101	1010	Fill above wheel-box of M14 in Building E	1.50	Early 19th c.
10	103	1016/2	Fill in wheel-box of M14	1.40	Late 19th c.
11	105	1003	Above plaster floor between Buildings D and E		Late 19th c.
12	103	1021/1	Fill in wheel-box of M14		Late 19th c.
13*	300	3000	Fill inside arched tunnel of wheel-box of M5 in Building B	1.45	Late 19th c.
14	203	2005	Fill in Building D	Not preserved	Late 19th c.
15	204	2018/1	Fill above Ottoman floor in front of entrance to channel of M7	1.50	Late 19th c.
16	209	2005/1	Fill above layer of hewn stones in front of entrance to channel of M7	1.40	Late 19th c.
17*	103	1016/1	Fill in wheel-box of M14	1.15 estimated	Late 19th c.
18	Surf.	2	Surface	Not preserved	Late 19th c.
<i>Nargile Heads</i>					
19*	204	2018	Fill above Ottoman floor in front of entrance to channel in M7	Complete profile	19th c.
20	112	1039	Fill in channel of M13 in Building E	Half top of rim broken	19th c.
21	Surf.	3	Surface	'Skirt' fragment	19th c.
22	104	1004	Fill above wheel-box in M2 in Building A	Complete	Early 20th c.
23*	130	1042	Fill above floor of channel-house M-13	Complete	Early 20th c.

4, 5. Baskets 1001 and Surf/1. Part of shank with conical ring termination, and body sherd of bowl with carved vertical lines.

Parallels: Avissar 2005:83; Shapiro, in prep.: 'Plum-Colored Slip' type.

6. Basket 1016. Almost complete (Fig. 1:6) with damaged bowl rim. The short shank has a thick, flower-like ring termination.

The bowl is rounded, the sides rising up and possibly flaring out toward the missing rim. The protruding keel is marked with notch-rouletted lines. A floral decoration, carved on the bowl's base, seems to be an unfinished design.

Parallels: Sarre 1925:132, Figs. 65; 65a; Wightman 1989:73–74, 257, Fig. 63:7; Simpson 2000:153–154; Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 9:6.

7. Basket 1000. Almost complete profile (Fig. 1:7) with a broken shank opening. The shank is short with a decorated ring termination. The sides of the bowl are roughly cylindrical, fully decorated with a rhomboid stamped design.

Parallels: Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 9:7.

Early Nineteenth Century

8, 9. Baskets 2000 and 1010. Two pipes with identical shanks and bowl bases. The decorated shank is long, thickening toward the opening. The more complete specimen (Fig. 1:8) has an unusually wide shank opening (diam. 1.75 cm). The bowl has a round, stepped keel, resembling a gear. The sides of the bowl are heavily decorated with two rows of a deep-stamped design. An out-flaring, undecorated rim is barely preserved.

Parallels: Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 10:5.

Late Nineteenth Century

10–12. Baskets 1016/2, 1003 and 1021/1. One shank and two bowl-rim fragments, one of which is decorated. They belong to a group called ‘lily-shaped pipes’. The shank is long and has a round decorated termination, and the rim of the bowl is out-flaring.

Parallels: Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 12:1, 2.

13–16. Baskets 3000 (complete pipe; Fig. 1:13), 2005 (bowl), 2018/1 and 2005/1 (shanks). All shanks are long with a round decorated termination. The sides of the bowls rise upward and the rim is slightly out-flaring. Pipe No. 13 (Fig. 1:13) has a notch-rouletted V design on the base of the bowl, and the same rouletted lines adorn the lower part of the body. Pipe No. 16 exhibits signs of knife paring around the bowl.

Parallels: Wightman 1989:73–74, Fig. 63:3; Avissar 2005:91, No. 87, Fig. 4.4; Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 12:5, 6.

17. Basket 1016/1. Unidentified shank-and-bowl fragment (Fig. 1:17). The bowl has a rouletted V design on the base. The preserved shank is fully decorated with an unusual design of a rouletted grid with a deep dot in each cell.

Parallels: No parallels.

18. Basket Surf/2. Very small and therefore unidentified, undecorated shank fragment. The fabric is different from the other pipes, and is orange with some golden mica, as that of the nargile heads described below; remains of reddish slip.

THE NARGILE HEADS

The nargile heads (Fig. 1; Table 1) are of two groups: one is dated to the nineteenth century and the other, to the beginning of the twentieth century.

Nineteenth Century

19–21. Baskets 2018, 1039 and surf/3. Three profiles of the same type of nargile head (Fig. 1:19) were found. The fabric is typical of Istanbul’s Tophane workshops (Bakla 1985:12–17), i.e., light red to light brownish orange with golden mica. The color of the slip for sample 2018 is the same as the fabric, red for sample 1039 and gray for the surface sample. The gray color seems to be the result of being exposed to fire. All these heads have a typical shape of a cylindrical tube, with a calyx-like cup on top and a five-hole strainer on the bottom. The lower part of the tube is slightly conical to match the bottle. A petal-like ‘skirt’ divides the tube approximately in the middle. Their fabric and shape are similar to those from the Old City of ‘Akko (Shapiro, in prep.: Fig. 18:1). This type of nargile head is dated to the nineteenth century.

Parallels: Turquety-Pariset 1982:38, 63; François 2008:90 900:2.

Early Twentieth Century

22, 23. Baskets 1004 and 1042 (Fig. 1:23). These two are almost complete nargile heads. Their fabric is light brown to pink (7.5YR 7/4 to 6/4), containing quartz sand and tiny laths of mica. They are heavy in weight and are not well-finished nor decorated. In general, their shape is similar to that of the previous group. The tube is thick-walled and out-flaring on top. The rim is almost flat, and pinched to create

a six-hole strainer. The 'skirt' on the lower third of the tube is trapezoidal in section with no petals. The lower part of the tube is similar to that of the previous group, i.e., it matches a standard bottle. Sample No. 23 (Fig. 1:23) has inaccurately stamped floral decorations on the 'skirt' and on a the out-flaring rim, and a rouletted line around the tube. Sample No. 22 has a stamped decoration only on the top, and a rouletted line around the tube and the 'skirt'.

Parallels: No parallels.

CONCLUSIONS

Tobacco smoking pipes were introduced into the Middle East during the beginning of the seventeenth century, and were common in the Ottoman period (Robinson 1985:149–157; Baram 1996:41–51). As the stratigraphy of the Ottoman layers is usually intermixed and disturbed, we have been unable to establish an absolute date for each type. It is possible, however, to suggest an approximate timespan for the various types.

Based on previous researches and studies, the tobacco pipes and the nargile heads found in the flour mills in the Ridwan Gardens, 'Akko, reveal a date range from the eighteenth to the beginning of the twentieth centuries (Table 1). Seven pipes were dated to the eighteenth century and the other two, to the early nineteenth century. The tobacco pipes and the nargile heads, mostly retrieved from above the floors of the buildings and from the water channels and the wheel-boxes, must have been dropped by the persons who operated or visited the mills. They may reflect human activities at the site, including smoking rituals, which probably began in the eighteenth century and continued until, at least, the beginning of the twentieth century. The greater quantity (nine pipes and three nargile heads) dates to the nineteenth century, possibly pointing to an increase in smoking during that period. Alternately, it may indicate that the flour mills were mostly active in the mid-nineteenth century.

NOTE

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