

## POTTERY AND SMALL FINDS FROM BURIAL CAVE 900 IN NAḤAL REFA'IM, JERUSALEM

LILLY GERSHUNY

A total of 107 pottery vessels were discovered in the cave, 14 from the Intermediate Bronze Age (hereafter IBA; 13%) and 93 from Middle Bronze Age II (87%). The pottery is presented according to the burial layers distinguished in the cave (see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume), beginning with the IBA layer, the initial phase of use in the cave. The two MB II levels are discussed as a single assemblage, as no chronological distinction is evident between them; yet, they are illustrated separately. The MB II pottery and small finds from Cave 900 comprise a homogeneous assemblage found in many MB II burial contexts,<sup>1</sup> along with three rare, if not unique specimens (Appendix 1).

### POTTERY

#### *Intermediate Bronze Age* (Fig. 1)

A pit cut into the marl layer above the bedrock on the eastern side of the cave contained nine jars, mostly broken (B9117–B9125) and a fragment of a four-spouted lamp (B9117/1). All the jars bear combing on the upper part; it covers the shoulders of two jars (Fig. 1:1, 3) and extends down to mid-body in two others (Fig. 1:2, 4). The jar in Fig. 1:3 has a short combed wavy strip on the body, below the combed area, and a row of short diagonal lines of punctures above the combed area and close to the attachment of the neck. Similar diagonal punctures appear on the jar in Fig. 1:1, which also has sporadic diagonal incisions above the row of punctures. All the preserved rims are everted, two are fairly thin (Fig. 1:1, 2) and two are thicker and slightly beveled (Fig. 1:3,

4). The jars have a relatively uniform shape and size, and the diameter of the base seems to have been fashioned in proportion to the height of the jar, so that it remains stable when filled up.

An intact, four-spouted lamp (Fig. 1:5) and fragments of another were discovered at a somewhat higher level along the western side of the cave (L907). Nearby was a base of a broken jar with traces of soot that had been reused as a lamp.

A complete limestone stopper (Fig. 1:6) probably belonged to the jar in Fig. 1:2, and fell aside when the rim of the jar was broken by the collapsed ceiling.

Band-combing on the shoulders of ovoid jars and lines of diagonal punctures at the juncture of the body and the neck are common features of the southern IBA family, e.g., at Tell el-'Ajjul (Kenyon 1956: Fig. 8), Kh. el-Kirmil (Dever 1975: Fig. 4) and Jebel Qa'aqir (Dever 1981: Fig. 4). These patterns also appear sporadically in the central-hills family, e.g., at Efrata Tomb 18 (Gonen 2001: Fig. 21) and Gibeon Tomb 50 (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 56), and along the coast, e.g., at Azor (Yannai 2007: Fig. 9). A partial overlapping between these two families is postulated by Dever (1975:42–49), who maintains that the southern family was the latest in the series of regional groups. The four-spouted lamp is the most familiar ceramic vessel of the period and occurs throughout the country, e.g., at Bet She'an in the Jordan Valley (Oren 1973: Figs. 19, 21, 24), 'Ein Samiya in the central-hills region (Dever 1972: Fig. 4), Azor along the Mediterranean coast (Yannai 2007: Fig. 13)

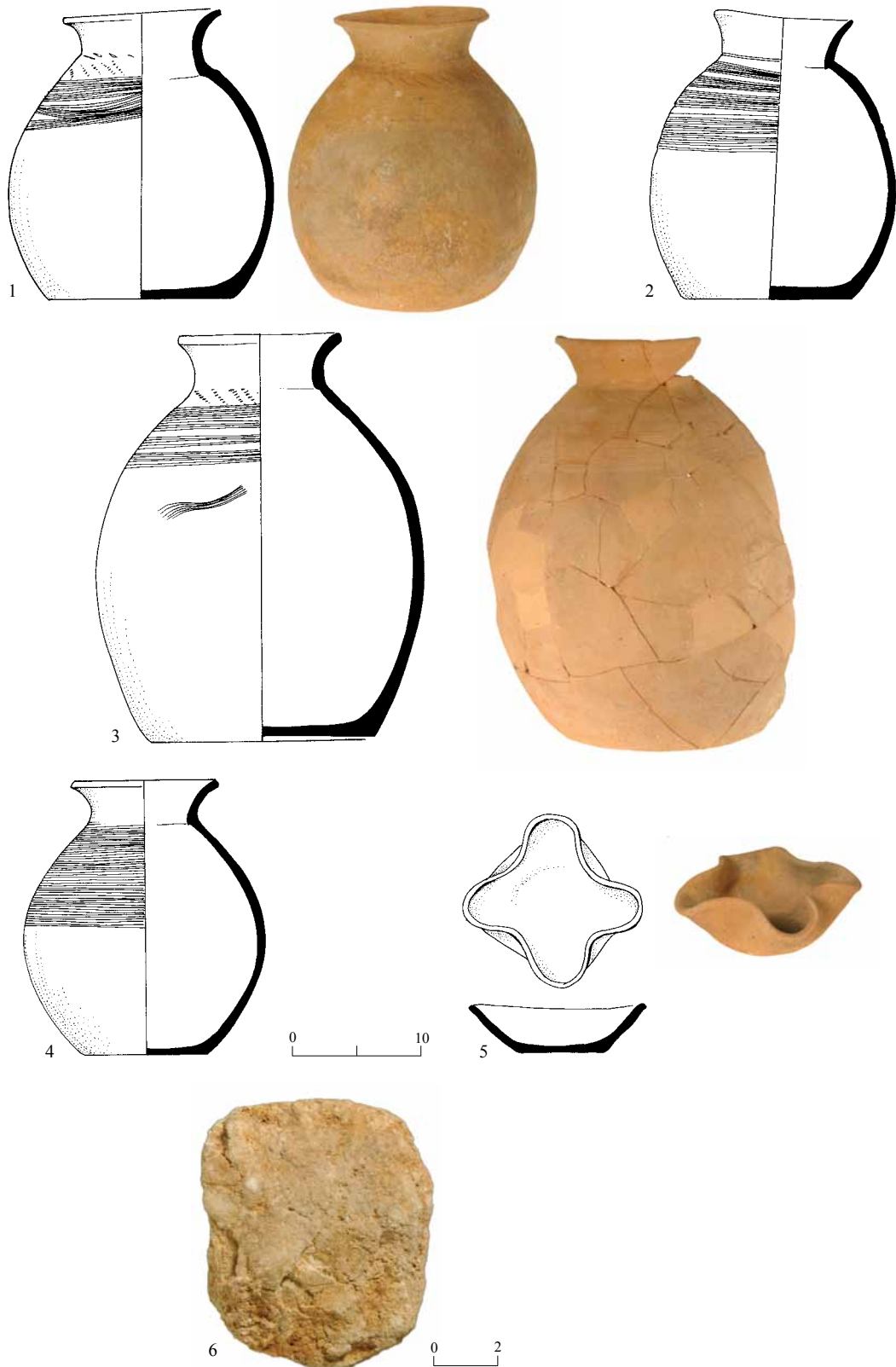


Fig. 1. Intermediate Bronze Age assemblage.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Vessel	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	Jar	9121	912	Brownish ext. (7.5YR 7/6) and int. (5YR 7/8), lime-dotted inclusions, heavy incrustation; cracks indicate poor or insufficient firing
2	Jar	9120	912	Light red-brown ext. (2.5YR 6/4), yellowish brown int. (7.5YR 7/6), lime-dotted inclusions
3	Jar	9123	912	Brownish ext. and int. (7.5YR 7/6)
4	Jar	9118	912	Brownish ext. (5YR 6/6) and int. (7.5YR 6/6), reddish brown core (5YR 5/4), lime-dotted inclusions
5	Lamp	9070	907	Brownish ext. and int. (7.5YR 7/6), lime-dotted inclusions; traces of soot on int.
6	Stopper	9126	912	Limestone

and Lakhish in the south (Tufnell 1958: Pl. 66), to name just a few.

The IBA assemblage from Cave 900 was found *in situ* and as such, is an important contribution to the study of this period in greater Jerusalem.

#### *Middle Bronze Age II (Figs. 2–13)*

The distribution of MB II pottery types in this assemblage is somewhat unusual (Fig. 2), the predominant shape being the piriform juglet, followed by globular bowls and jugs, while store jars and dipper juglets are in stark minority. The lower burial layer included solely carinated and globular bowls, a jug and juglets (Fig. 3), as well as fragments of a Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglet (Fig. 11:1); most of the vessels originated in the upper burial layer (Figs. 4:2–14).

#### *Bowls (Figs. 3:1–3; 4–6)*

*Open Bowls.*— These bowls include deep rounded bowls (Fig. 4) and shallow platter-type bowls (Fig. 5). Most of the open bowls were found close to each other. The bowl in Fig. 5:1, which was found inside the bowl in Fig. 4:3, and the bowl in Fig. 4:5 were lying to the north of the bowl in Fig. 4:1. Within the bowl in Fig. 4:4 were fragments of another open bowl (B9067) and a globular bowl (B9068). The bowl in Fig. 5:2 was part of a large concentration of pottery fragments that constituted various vessel types. The bowl

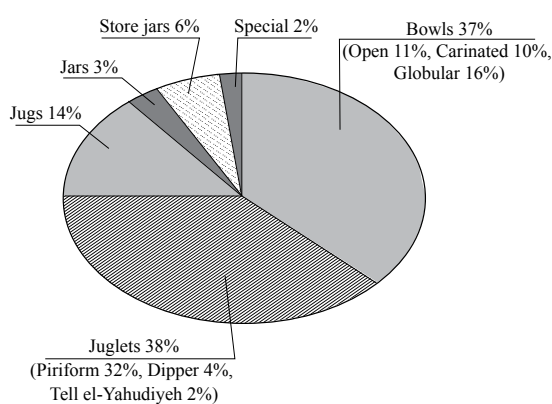


Fig. 2. Breakdown of MB II pottery types (%) in the cave.

in Fig. 4:2 contained fragments of animal bones (see Horwitz, this volume: Table 10).

The dominant base of the open bowls is the flat disc, with one example of a concave disc (Fig. 5:1) and two shallow ring bases (Figs. 4:4; 5:2). The rims are plain and externally beveled in most bowls; flat inverted rims occur in the wide platter-type bowls (Fig. 5:1, 2). The rim of the bowl in Fig. 4:4 has a shallow gutter on its inner side that may have served to accommodate a lid. The two holes bored in the lower wall of this bowl (interior diam. 0.8 cm) may have been repair holes for binding the broken bowl fragments; however, as the holes are on one side and close to each other, it is possible that they were used for draining the contents of the bowl. Holes are also pierced

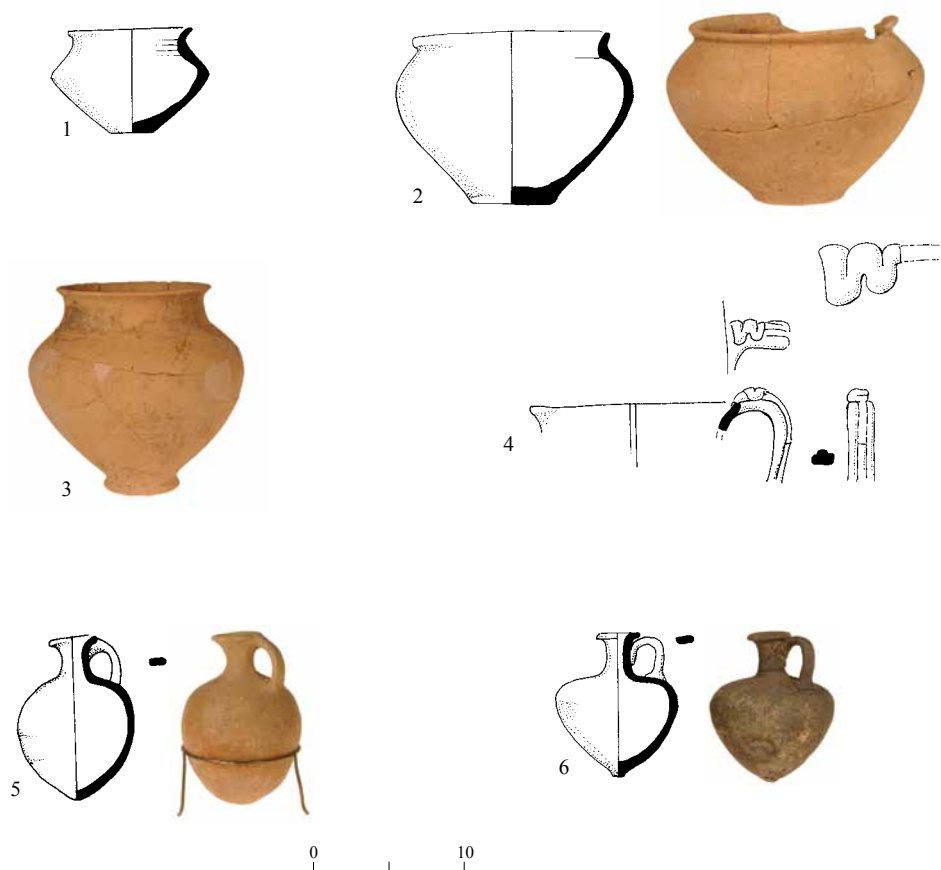


Fig. 3. Pottery vessels from lower MB II level.

No.	Vessel	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	Carinated bowl	9102	908	Reddish brown, plain and puckered ext. (7.5YR 6/6), light yellow-brown int. (10YR 6/4), gray core (10YR 5/1), sporadic large lime and some small black inclusions
2	Globular bowl	9096	910	Brownish, puckered ext. (5YR 6/6), pinkish int. (5YR 7/3), thin gray core (5YR 6/1), sporadic medium lime and small dark inclusions
3	Globular bowl	9089	909	Brownish ext. (7.5YR 6/6), gray core (7.5YR 5/1), light brown int. (7.5YR 7/4), sporadic small lime and black inclusions
4	Jug	9080/1	908	Fragmentary; brownish red fabric (2.5YR 5/6), dark gray core (5YR 3/1), many medium lime and scanty dark inclusions, dark gray slip (5YR 4/1) that may have been burnished
5	Piriform juglet	9085	909	Buff-yellow ext. (7.5YR 7/4), lime inclusions, reddish buff slip (5YR 7/6), vertically burnished
6	Piriform juglet	9088	909	Puckered gray ext., sporadic medium lime inclusions, traces of burnished dark gray slip (10YR 4/1)

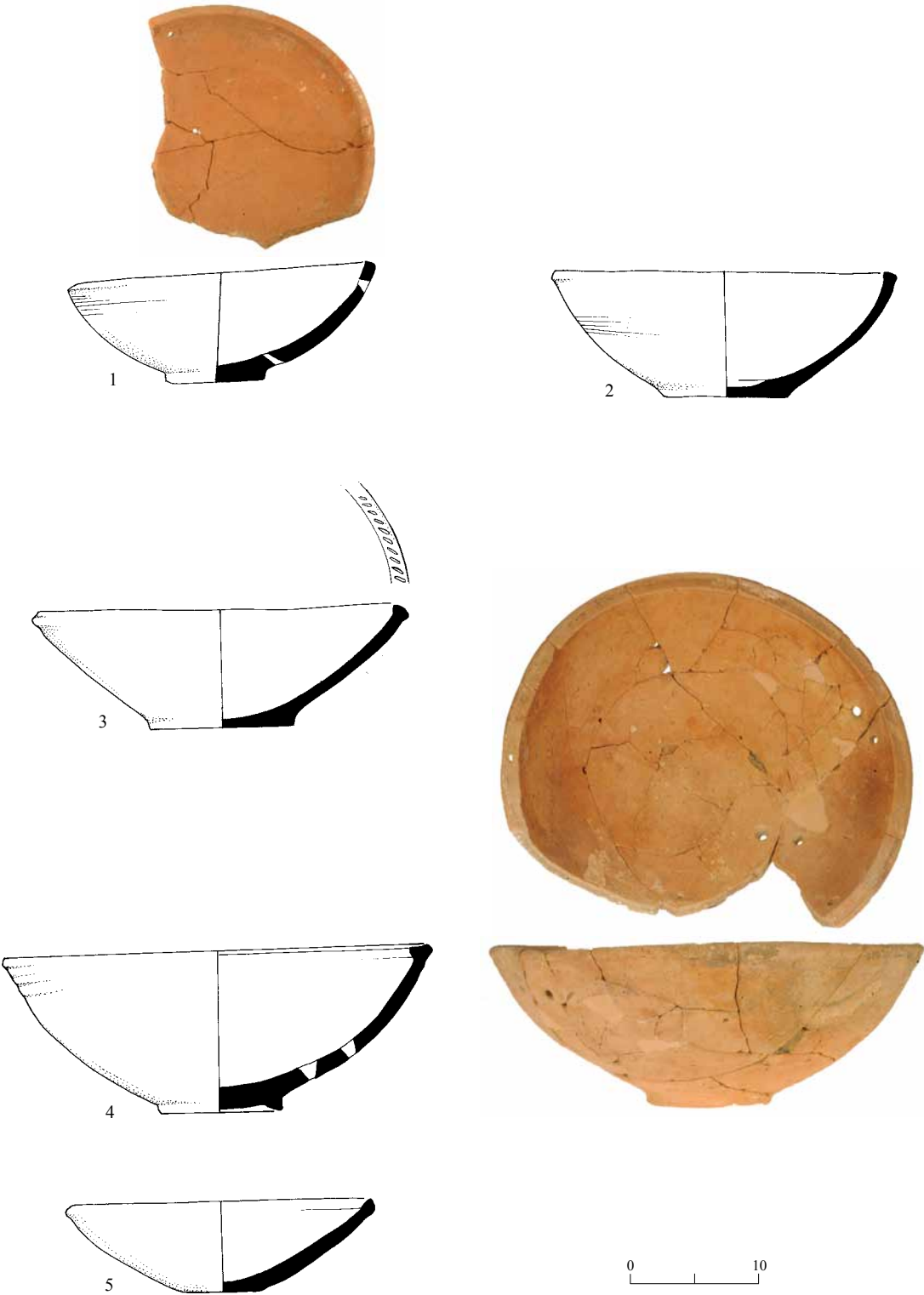


Fig. 4. Open bowls.

◀ Fig. 4

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9010	900	Brownish fabric and surface (5YR 6/6), grayish core (5YR 6/2), sporadic large lime and dark inclusions, traces of reddish int. slip and vertical burnishing
2 <sup>i</sup>	9015	900	Distorted shape, not well finished on ext. where excess clay is jutting out, brown surface (5YR 6/6), dark brown core (7.5YR 5/4), light brown int. (7.5YR 6/4), numerous minute lime and sporadic large inclusions
3	9012	900	Light brown fabric (7.5YR 7/4), gray core (10YR 6/1), sporadic medium lime and occasional dark inclusions; holes in surface and int. due to air bubbles in the clay
4	9066	900	Reddish brown fabric (5YR 5/6), thick gray core (5YR 5/2), sporadic large lime inclusions
5	9009	900	Brownish fabric (5YR 6/6–7/6), heavy incrustation on base and lower part of bowl

<sup>i</sup> Animal bones were found within this vessel, see Horwitz, this volume: Table 10.

through the wall of the bowl in Fig. 4:1. In this case, the holes are smaller (diam. 0.3 cm) and distant from each other, which is better suited for binding the fragments in the event of breakage. The rim of the bowl in Fig. 4:3 has a decorated pattern on its top, which is composed of a series of wedge shapes (Kenyon's definition; see Kenyon and Holland 1982:309, Fig. 113:1) or incisions made with a single-tooth instrument (Dever's designation; see Dever 1972:111). This ornamental band, which is known from IBA pottery of the central hills and southern families, is one of several residual elements that continued in use in the central hills region during the Middle Bronze Age. The radial burnishing on the interior of the bowl in Fig. 5:1 is intersected by a burnished strip across the middle of the bowl; the burnishing on the bowl's exterior is hardly visible. The wide, shallow bowl with four flat loop handles, of which one is missing (Fig. 5:2), is a fairly rare specimen. Bowls with two loop handles are prevalent in MB II assemblages and usually have a standard size, e.g., a bowl from Tomb 1 at Giv'at Sharett (Bahat 1976: Fig. 13:2), and a bowl from Bet 'Anyā that has three loop legs as well (Loffreda 1984: Fig. 5:1); at Jericho, analogous bowls mainly belong to Kenyon's Group III (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 153, 154), which is dated to MB II.

The bowl in Fig. 5:2 has an extremely wide rim diameter (43.5 cm), which was probably hard to handle when the bowl was turned on the wheel, resulting in its uneven circumference.

*Carinated Bowls.*— In this assemblage, few of the carinated bowls are red-burnished. The rim diameters are wide, averaging 84% of the maximum body diameter, although they still have a closed shape, i.e., the rim diameter is smaller than the maximum body diameter. Flat disc bases (Fig. 6:1, 2, 5), as well as concave disc (Fig. 6:3), ring (Fig. 6:4) and flat (Fig. 3:1) bases occur. The average height of the carination is 53% of the total height of the bowl, allowing a fairly balanced weight to these bowls. Comparative material for the closed-type carinated bowls is found in the Middle Bronze Age tombs at Gibeon (Pritchard 1963: Figs. 18, 28, 32, 50) and at Efrata (Gonen 2001: Fig. 23). The exceptional carinated bowl in Fig. 6:5 is of the open type with a concave shoulder ending in a plain, everted rim. The high, thick and narrow disc base is unusual and could be a local initiative of the potter. Similar, yet better-proportioned bowls come from the Bronze Age burial at Dominus Flevit (Saller 1964: Fig. 11:7), from Tomb 4 at Bet 'Anyā (Loffreda 1984: Fig. 4:16) and from Jericho Tomb B3 (Kenyon 1960: Fig. 160:7).

*Globular Bowls.*— These bowls form the second most popular shape in the cave. Fifteen bowls were recovered, partly broken and fragmentary. Most of them have plain, everted rims, except for the bowl in Fig. 6:8, which has a closed, folded-out rim. The bowls have flat (Figs. 3:2; 6:6, 7) or concave disc bases (Fig. 6:8, 9), as well as ring bases (Figs. 3:3; 6:10).



Fig. 5. Open bowls.

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9008	900	Brown fabric (7.5YR 7/6), gray core (7.5YR 7/1), brownish slip on int. and ext. (7.5YR 6/6), int. rilling and radial burnishing, int. by a crosswise burnished band, heavy incrustation on ext.
2 <sup>i</sup>	9021/5	901	Brownish fabric (7.5YR 7/6), thick gray core (7.5YR 5/1), light brown slip and radial burnishing on int. (7.5YR 6/4), badly faded on ext., heavily lime-dotted and some medium lime inclusions

<sup>i</sup> This vessel was checked petrographically; see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

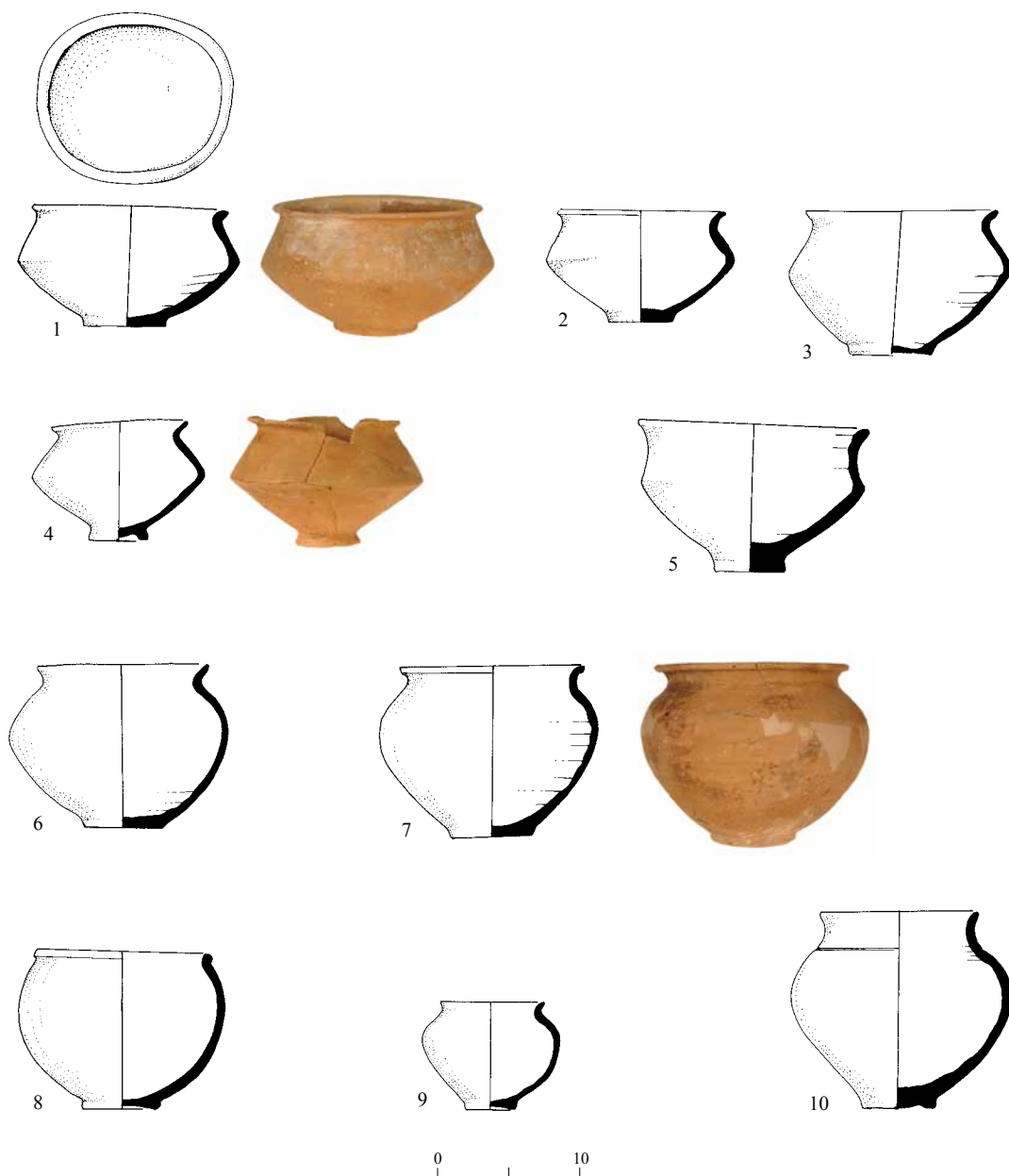


Fig. 6. Carinated (1–5) and globular (6–10) bowls.

Red-burnished slip is rare; a few of the bowls have a buff or variations of a brown burnish. The bowl in Fig. 6:10, as well as that in Fig. 3:3 from the lower burial layer, have the high neck that dominates the carinated and globular bowls during MB II–III.

Comparative bowls are found at Gibeon (Pritchard 1963: Figs. 20, 21, 32), Efrata (Gonen

2001: Figs. 23, 46), Bet 'Anyā (Loffreda 1984: Figs. 3, 4), Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 13) and Giv'at Sharett (Bahat 1976: Fig. 12).

#### *Store Jars* (Fig. 7)

Five fragmentary store jars were recovered from the cave, although only two could be illustrated. The most complete is the pithos in



Fig. 6

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9027	900	Brown fabric (7.5YR 7/6), traces of burnished reddish slip, heavily tempered with large lime inclusions that render it rough
2	9021/8	901	Brownish surface (7.5YR 5/3), brown core (7.5YR 6/6), lime-dotted and some large lime inclusions
3	9001/1	900	Brown fabric (7.5YR 7/6), dark brown core (7.5YR 5/6), traces of brownish slip (7.5YR 6/6), burnished horizontally on the shoulder and vertically on the body below the carination
4	9024/2	900	Brown fabric (7.5YR 7/6) and core (7.5YR 6/6), brownish slip (7.5YR 5/6), traces of horizontal burnishing, sporadic lime-dotted and black inclusions
5	9021/4	901	Grayish brown ext. (10YR 7/4), light brown int. (10YR 7/3), core partly gray (10YR 6/2) and partly reddish brown (5YR 6/6) where all organic matter has been fired, minute, small and some large lime inclusions
6	9024/1=9034	900	Light brown fabric (10YR 7/4), yellowish brown core (10YR 6/4), some small and medium lime and sporadic black inclusions, int. rilling, fairly wide toward base
7	9003	901	Light brown surface (7.5YR 6/6), darker brown core (7.5YR 5/4), numerous small and sporadic large lime inclusions, traces of buff slip and horizontal burnishing
8	9014/1	900	Light brown ext. (2.5YR 6/6), brownish int. (7.5YR 7/6), medium to large lime and black inclusions
9	9057	900	Thin, delicate, brown fabric (7.5YR 6/6), smooth surface, somewhat puckered on int. and ext.
10	9021/2	901	Brown pinkish ext. and int. (7.5YR 6/6), thick gray core in lower part (7.5YR 5/1), light brown toward rim (7.5YR 6/4), many small and medium lime and numerous small black inclusions

Fig. 7:1, which has an ovoid shape, a short neck and an everted, folded-out rim with a lower exterior step. Two pairs of loop handles are attached to its lower shoulder. The second store jar (Fig. 7:2), whose rim and upper shoulder are preserved, has a folded-out rim, flattened on top and stepped at the folded end.

The pithos joins a fair number of specimens that were found at sites in the central hills region, e.g., Gibeon (Pritchard 1963: Figs. 51:38; 63:56), Shillo (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.9:12), Bet 'Anyā (Loffreda 1984: Fig. 10) and the Nahal Refa'im settlement site (Eisenberg 1993:93, upper photo). The arrangement of two pairs of handles on the pithos shoulder is peculiar to the hilly regions during the Middle Bronze Age and is not found elsewhere in the country (Bonfil 1992:29–30). Our pithos conforms to Bonfil's Type 4d (1992:29), whereas the store jar in Fig. 7:2 belongs to Bonfil's Type 4a (1992:28). Type 4d pithoi, dating to the end of MB II and continuing throughout

MB III, are considered to be later than Types 4a–c, although their co-existence in the cave indicates that they may have been contemporary for a short timespan in MB II.

#### *Jar and Jugs* (Figs. 3:4; 8; 9)

The single handle-less jar (Fig. 8:1) presents a combined form, wherein the general shape and base are of MB I tradition, as seen in both the central hills region and coastal Canaan. The rim, however, is strongly inspired by the thick, molded store-jar rims of MB II, as seen in Shekhem Stratum XIX (Cole 1984: Pls. 32:m; 36:f).

The various jug rims include a simple, plain rim with an externally beveled lip (Fig. 8:3, 6), a vertical rim with a rounded lip (Fig. 8:2), plain everted rims (Figs. 8:4, 5; 9:3) and a short flaring rim (Fig. 9:1, 2). The bases are flat, or flat discs, with one ring base (Fig. 8:4) and one flattened base (Fig. 8:2). All the jugs in Cave 900 are provided with a rim-to-shoulder handle. The handles are predominantly single,

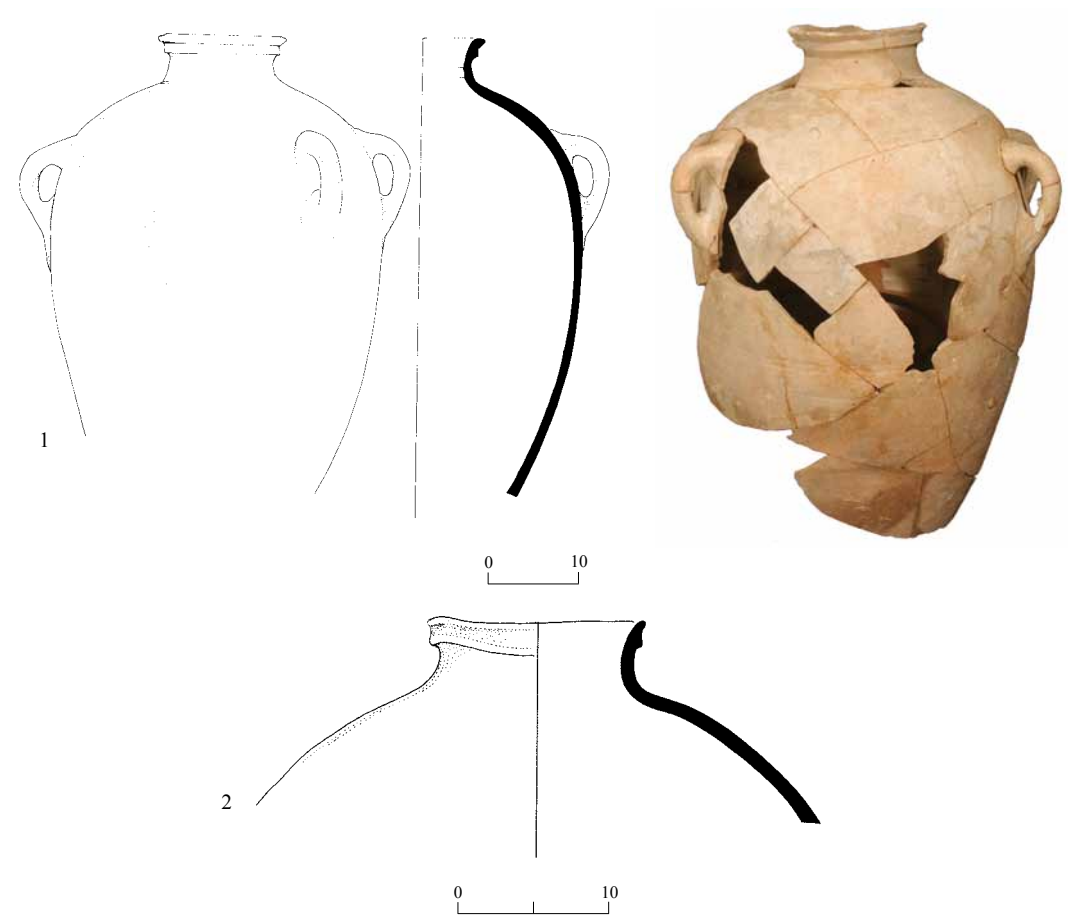


Fig. 7. Pithos and store jar.

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9001/3	900	Poorly kneaded fabric resulting in air pockets that distorted shape, pinkish ext. (7.5YR 7/4), brownish red int. (5YR 7/6), gray core (5YR 6/1), numerous small and medium lime and black inclusions
2	9002/2	902	Light brown ext. (7.5YR 7/4), brownish int. (7.5YR 5/4) and core (7/5YR 5/2), numerous medium and large lime inclusions, very light combing over upper body, heavy incrustation over body

Fig. 8 ▶

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9016	900	Different brown hues on ext. (5YR 6/6), int. (7.5YR 7/6) and core (5YR 5/6), small and medium lime and black inclusions
2	9024/3	900	Reddish brown ext. (2.5YR 6/6), brownish int. (5YR 6/8) and core (5YR 6/8), brownish red slip (5YR 6/6), medium and large lime and sporadic black inclusions
3	9069	900	Brownish ext., int. and core (5YR 7/6), medium and large lime inclusions, incrustation on ext.
4 <sup>i</sup>	9011	900	Broken, fragments do not join; grayish brown ext. (5YR 5/2), brownish int. (5YR 6/6), burnished light gray to gray slip (5YR 6/1–5/1), sandy touch to the brittle surface
5	9021/7	901	Reddish brown ext., brownish slip (5YR 6/6), traces of vertical burnishing
6	9024/4	900	Reddish brown ext. (2.5YR 6/8), brownish int. (5YR 6/6), dark reddish gray core (2.5YR 4/1), infrequent lime-dotted inclusions, heavy incrustation on int.

<sup>i</sup> This vessel was checked petrographically; see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

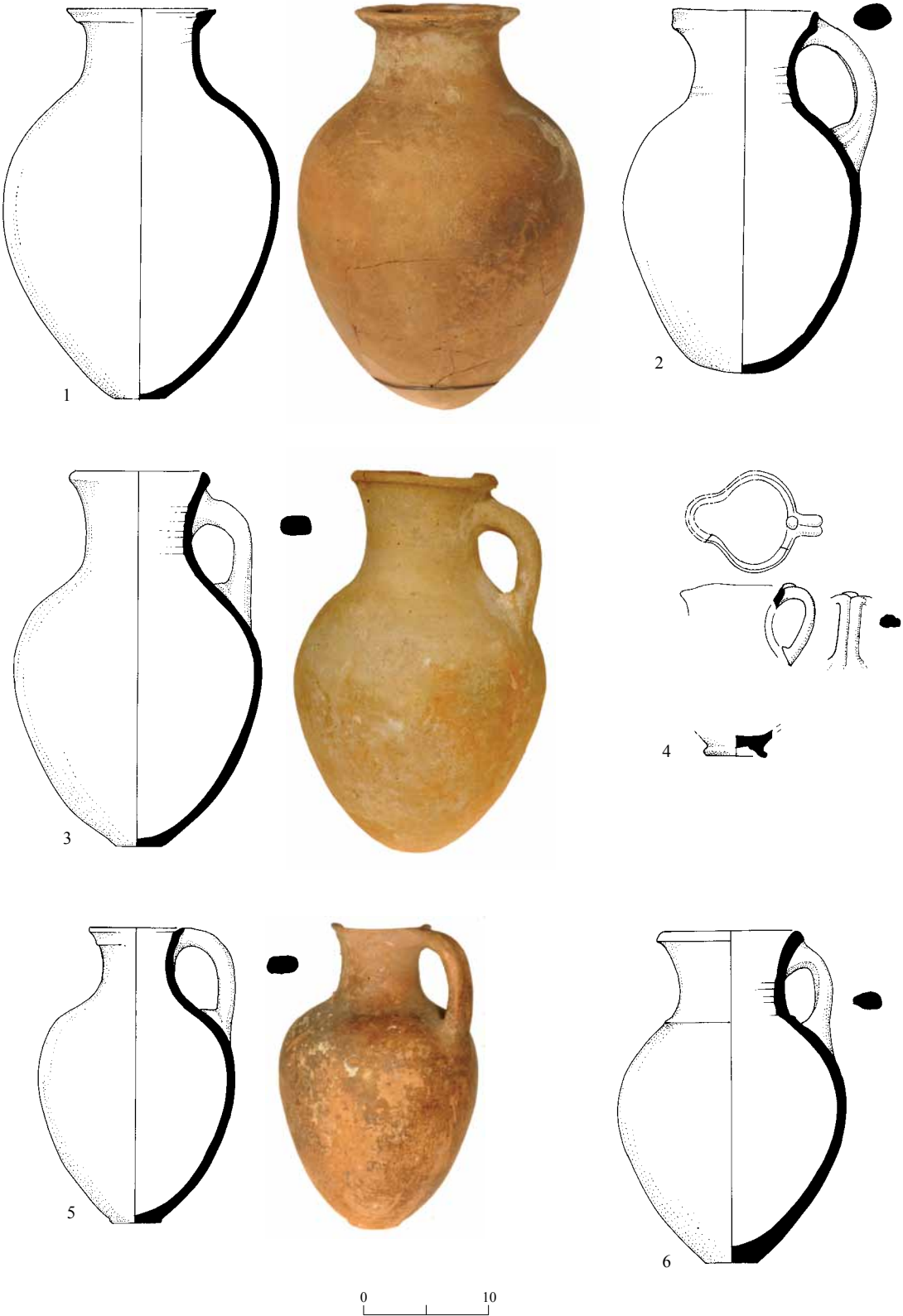


Fig. 8. Jar and jugs.

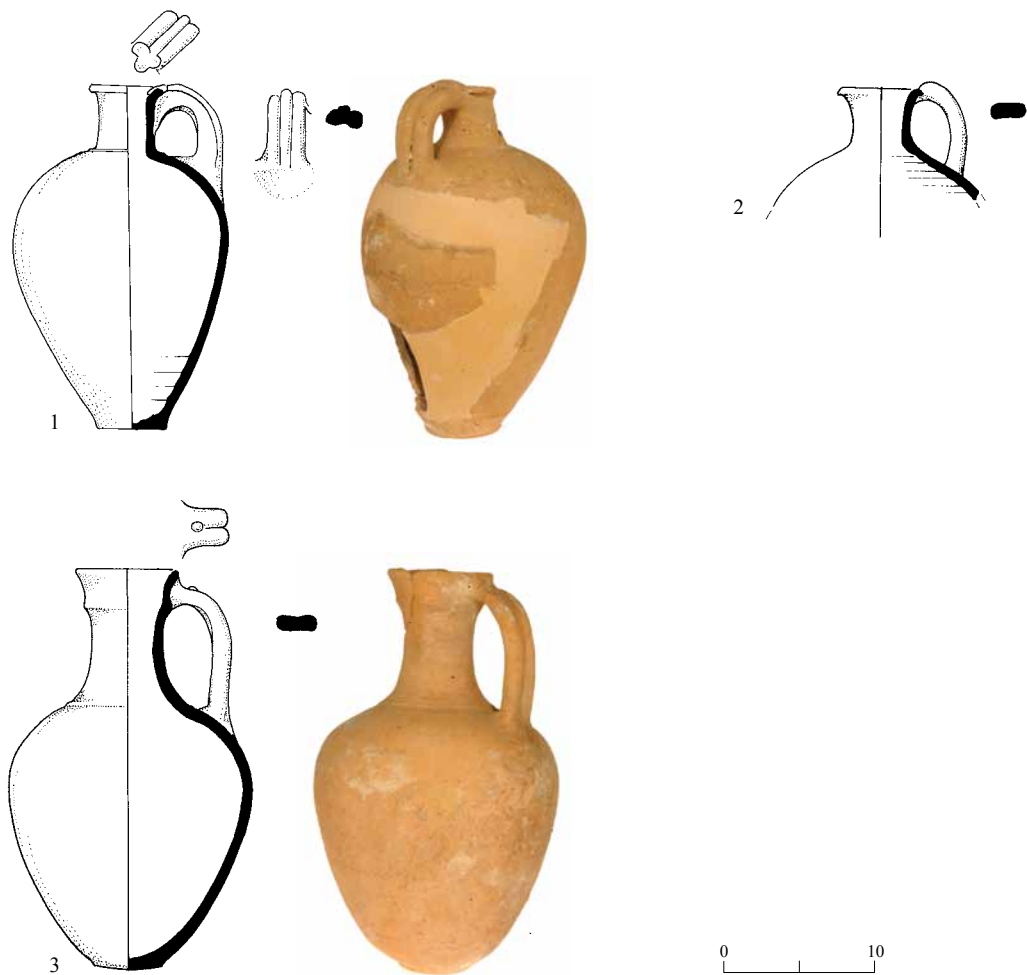


Fig. 9. Jugs.

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9017	900	Yellow-brown ext. (7.5YR 7/6), brownish gray int. (7.5YR 6/2), gray core (7.5YR 5/1), lime-dotted and sporadic large lime inclusions
2	9002/1	902	Pale brown ext. (10YR 7/4), light brown core (7.5YR 6/4), fabric appears levigated, despite presence of lime and black inclusions, heavily coated with incrustation
3 <sup>i</sup>	9013	900	Yellow-brown ext. (7.5YR 7/6), numerous lime and sporadic large black inclusions

<sup>i</sup> Animal bones were found within this vessel, see Horwitz, this volume: Table 10.

with a thick oval cross-section. Two jugs (Figs. 8:4; 9:3) have a two-strand handle with a pellet at the top and another (Fig. 9:1), has a triple-strand handle with a trefoil plate at the top, overlapping the rim. Another triple-strand handle appears on the jug in Fig. 3:4 from the lower burial layer, and a winding strip of clay at

the top of the upper third strand could represent a serpent. The high, cylindrical neck of the jug in Fig. 9:3 has a stepped rim, to which the handle is attached. The ovoid body shape is common to all the jugs, although the jug in Fig. 9:3 is more piriform in shape. The majority of the jugs are plain. The jug in Fig. 8:2 has a brownish red

slip, that in Fig. 8:5 has a brownish slip with traces of vertical burnishing, and the jug in Fig. 8:4 has a light gray-burnished slip.

The jugs in Fig. 8:3, 6 have analogies at Gibeon Tomb 15 (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 21:46, 48, 50) and Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 30:b). The vertical rim of the jug in Fig. 8:2 can be compared to a jug from Cave 7 at Tel Askar (Magen and Eisenstadt 2004: Pl. 9:5), and the jug in Fig. 9:3 has analogies at Efrata Cave 11 (Gonen 2001: Fig. 47:4, 6; No. 6 has a trefoil mouth). The presumed serpent on the jug in Fig. 3:4 joins a growing number of jugs and other MB II vessel types that bear serpents. It particularly resembles the undulating serpents on two broken jug handles from Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 29:h, i). The upper third strand of a triple handle that occurs in jugs and juglets is sometimes turned into a wiggling or straight serpent, as on the broken handles from Giv'at Sharet (Bahat 1976: Fig. 20:1) and Efrata (Gonen 2001: Fig. 12:6), as well as the complete jugs from Gibeon Tomb 22 (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 30:9), Bet Shemesh Tomb 2 (Grant 1929:151, No. 330), Jericho Tomb B48 (Kenyon 1965: Fig. 97:2) and Rooms 38 and 68 (Garstang 1934: Pls. 22:9; 25:20), and juglets from Yoqne'am (Livneh 2005: Fig. II.1:10) and 'Afula (Sukenik 1948: Pl. 14:18).

Another depiction of serpents is delineated on the upper part of a krater from the MB II temple at Giv'at Sharet (Bahat 1976: Fig. 46:5), and a krater from Tel Qashish Stratum VIII (L438B stone pavement) bears two serpents winding along its wide neck, their heads resting atop the wide rilled rim (Ben-Tor and Bonfil 2003: Fig. 94:5, Photo 110). Serpents also appear on bowls from MB II Hazor (Yadin et al. 1961: Pls. CXCVI:13; CCLX:24) and Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 22:11). A single-handled store jar from the MB II settlement of Naḥal Refa'im has four straight serpents, two on each side of the shoulder, their heads peeking into the jar (Eisenberg 1993:93, upper photo).

The motif of serpents peeking inside containers occurs on both open and closed vessels, as seen in the above examples. Their

bodies are often marked with small incised circles, for which a reed may have been used (Bonfil 2003:283), or simple punctures that were probably made with a pointed tool or stick.

The appearance of serpents on ceramic vessels is prevalent throughout the Middle Bronze Age and seems to dwindle during the subsequent period. It was presumably introduced into Canaan via newcomers who brought this decorative element, with which they were most likely familiar in their original homeland.

*Juglets* (Figs. 3:5, 6; 10)

*Piriform Juglets* (Figs. 3:5, 6; 10:1–10).—

These are the predominant vessels in the cave. The rims are simply everted, and all the juglets have button bases, except for a single juglet from the lower burial layer that has a pointed base (Fig. 3:5). The handles have two strands in five juglets and a single strand in seven juglets. At Shekhem, Cole concluded that the multiple-stranded handles occur at the outset of MB II, but toward the end of MB II and during MB III, the single handle prevails (Cole 1984:69). Most of the piriform juglets are either slipped or slipped and burnished. Three of them have a gray to dark gray burnished slip (Figs. 3:6; 10:4, 5), while three bear a burnished reddish brown, gray or pink slip (Fig. 10:3, 7, 8), although the burnishing is mostly faded. Four juglets have a light brown to buff slip, occasionally burnished (Figs. 3:5; 10:1, 2, 6), and two juglets are plain (Fig. 10:9, 10). The red-burnished slip disappears gradually over time, and is replaced by a buff to cream/light brown burnished slip or, just as often, by plain, unslipped surfaces.

*Wide-Mouthed Juglet* (Fig. 10:11).— This juglet is reminiscent of the wide-necked jugs with a simple rim, as in Shekhem Stratum 19 (Cole 1984: Pl. 31:Jg C) and in 'Askar Cave 6 (Magen and Eisenstad 2004: Pl. 8:10), and similar jugs with the more common trefoil mouths, as in Jericho Tomb A34, Phase 4 (Kenyon 1960:354, Fig. 141.4), attributed

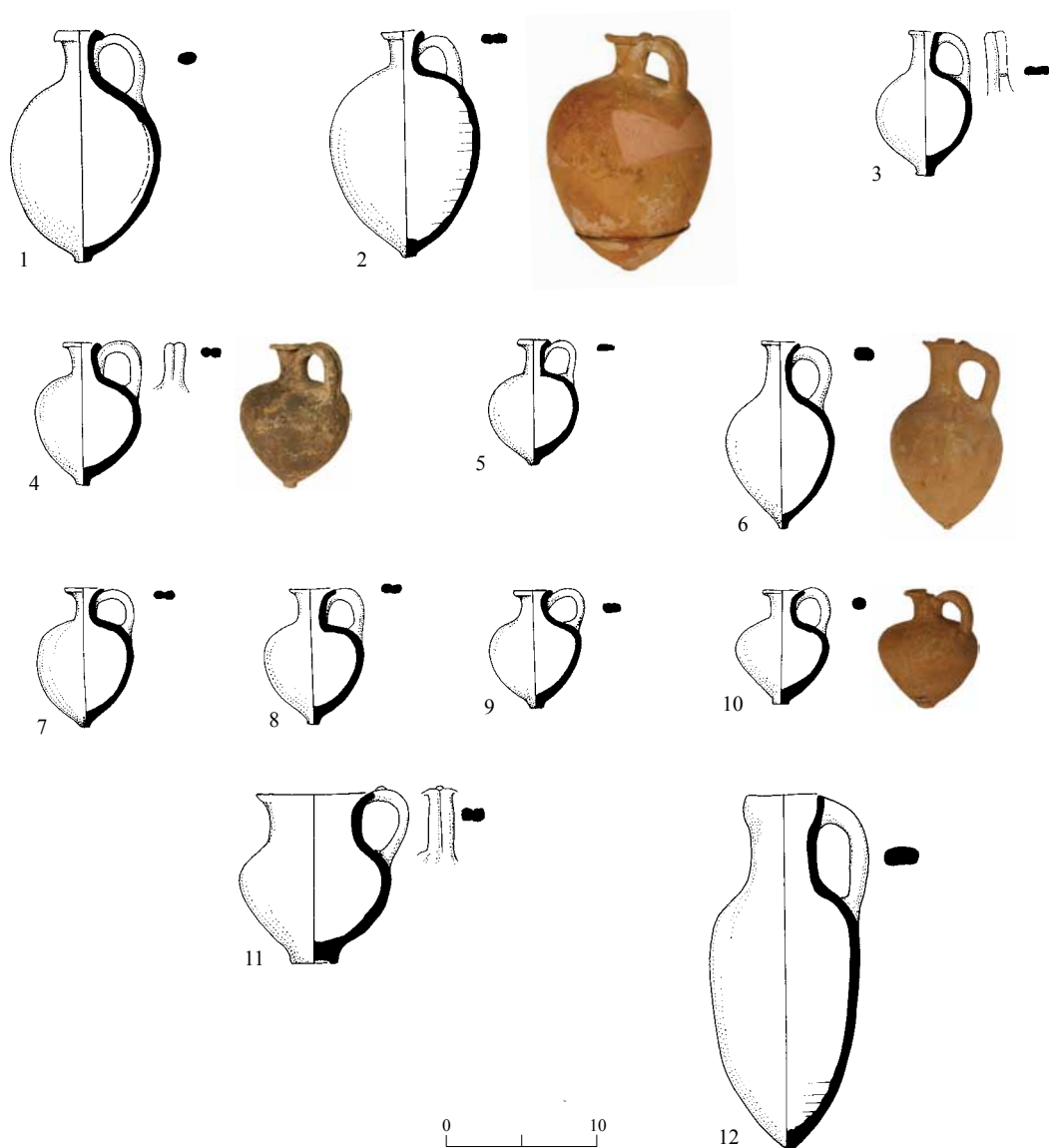


Fig. 10. Juglets.

by Kenyon to Groups II–V. She claims that when the rim diameter equals the maximum diameter, it indicates an early form, whereas in MB II the rim diameter was narrower than the maximum diameter (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 174:6, 7). The narrow base is exceptionally thick, intended to lend the juglet better stability.

*Dipper Juglets* (Fig. 10:12).— Four examples were recovered from the cave, of which only one was complete enough to be illustrated.

This juglet has an angular shoulder, which, according to Cole, appears to be later than the sloping shoulder line on juglets at Shekhem (Cole 1984:69). However, this feature may be particular to Shekhem, as the angular shoulder coexists with the sloping shoulder at other central-hill sites, e.g., Gibeon Tomb 15 (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 23).

The complete absence of cylindrical juglets from Cave 900 indicates an early phase of MB II. Cylindrical juglets were not recorded in Efrata or Bet ‘Anyā, and their occurrence

◀ Fig. 10

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1	9021/9	901	Brownish fabric (7.5YR 7/4), light brown int. (7.5YR 6/2), yellow brownish, vertically burnished slip on ext. (7.5YR 6/6), lime-dotted with some medium and large lime and scanty black inclusions
2	9045	900	Yellowish red core (7.5YR 6/6), ext. buff slip (7.5YR 7/6), traces of burnishing, numerous lime-dotted inclusions, heavy incrustation on ext. and int.
3	9021/6	901	Different brown hues on ext. (7.5YR 6/6), int. (7.5YR 5/6) and core (7.5YR 5/4), traces of burnished brown slip, lime-dotted inclusions
4	9023	902	Gray ext. (7.5YR 5/1), gray slip, vertically burnished (5YR 4/1), numerous small and sporadic large lime inclusions
5	9051	900	Sporadic large lime and some small and medium dark inclusions. Dark gray slip (10YR 4/1), traces of burnishing
6	9033	900	Buff slip (10YR 7/4), traces of burnishing on neck and body
7	9036	900	Dark gray ext. (5YR 4/1), traces of dark reddish gray slip (5YR 4/2), heavy incrustation causing fabric to split
8	9004	901	Brownish red ext. (5YR 4/6), burnished reddish pink slip (5YR 6/6), medium lime and small, sporadic dark inclusions
9	9026	900	Yellowish brown plain ext. (7.5YR 7/6), brownish red core (7.5YR 6/6)
10	9062	900	Light brown, plain ext. (7.5YR 6/4), pinkish core (5YR 7/4), minute and small lime inclusions, partially dotted
11 <sup>i</sup>	9000/1	900	Dark gray, badly damaged ext. (7.5YR 4/1), gray int. (7.5YR 5/1), reddish brown core (7.5YR 6/6)
12	9001/2	900	Brown-yellow ext. (5YR 6/6), reddish brown int. (5YR 6/3), gray core (5YR 5/1), small lime and small and medium black inclusions, leftover clay on inner side of base suggests it was formed after juglet was somewhat dry and could be turned upside down, heavy incrustation

<sup>i</sup> This vessel was checked petrographically; see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

at Gibeon reflects their progressive entry into the MB II repertoire. A single cylindrical juglet appears in each of Tombs 15, 20 and 30 at Gibeon (Pritchard 1963: Figs. 22, 29, 32), which display a majority of piriform juglets. However, in Tomb 36, the ratio is three cylindrical juglets to four piriform juglets (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 41), and in Tomb 44, there is a single cylindrical juglet to two piriform juglets (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 48). This seems to confirm Cole's conclusion (1984:71) that cylindrical juglets made a very gradual appearance in the central-hills region, where they are lacking in early MB II contexts, sporadic in mid-MB II, and increase in number toward the end of the period, taking precedence over the piriform juglets in MB III.

*Tell el-Yahudiyeh Juglets* (Fig. 11).— Two of these juglets were found in Cave 900, one from the lower MB II burial layer (Fig. 11:1)

and the other (Fig. 11:2), in the upper burial layer, broken and missing its neck. The juglet in Fig. 11:1 has a simple piriform shape, with a pointed base and a triple-strand handle, the upper third strand somewhat undulating. Very little is preserved of the punctured pattern; a line of vertical triangles may have adorned the shoulder. Very few juglets with pointed bases occur in the Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware. One example is mentioned by Amiran (1969: Pl. 36:5), which is classified as Ovoid 2 by Kaplan (1980:27, Fig. 114b), who claims that pointed bases occur only in this type, which is also characterized by multiple-strand handles. This particular juglet is said to have come from the site of Malḥa in Jerusalem, on the hill immediately above Cave 900 in Naḥal Refa'im (see Weklser-Bdolah, this volume: Fig. 1). In the study of Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglets from Tell ed-Dab'a, Bietak classified the juglet from Malḥa as Ovoid 4 (Bietak 1989:11) and maintained



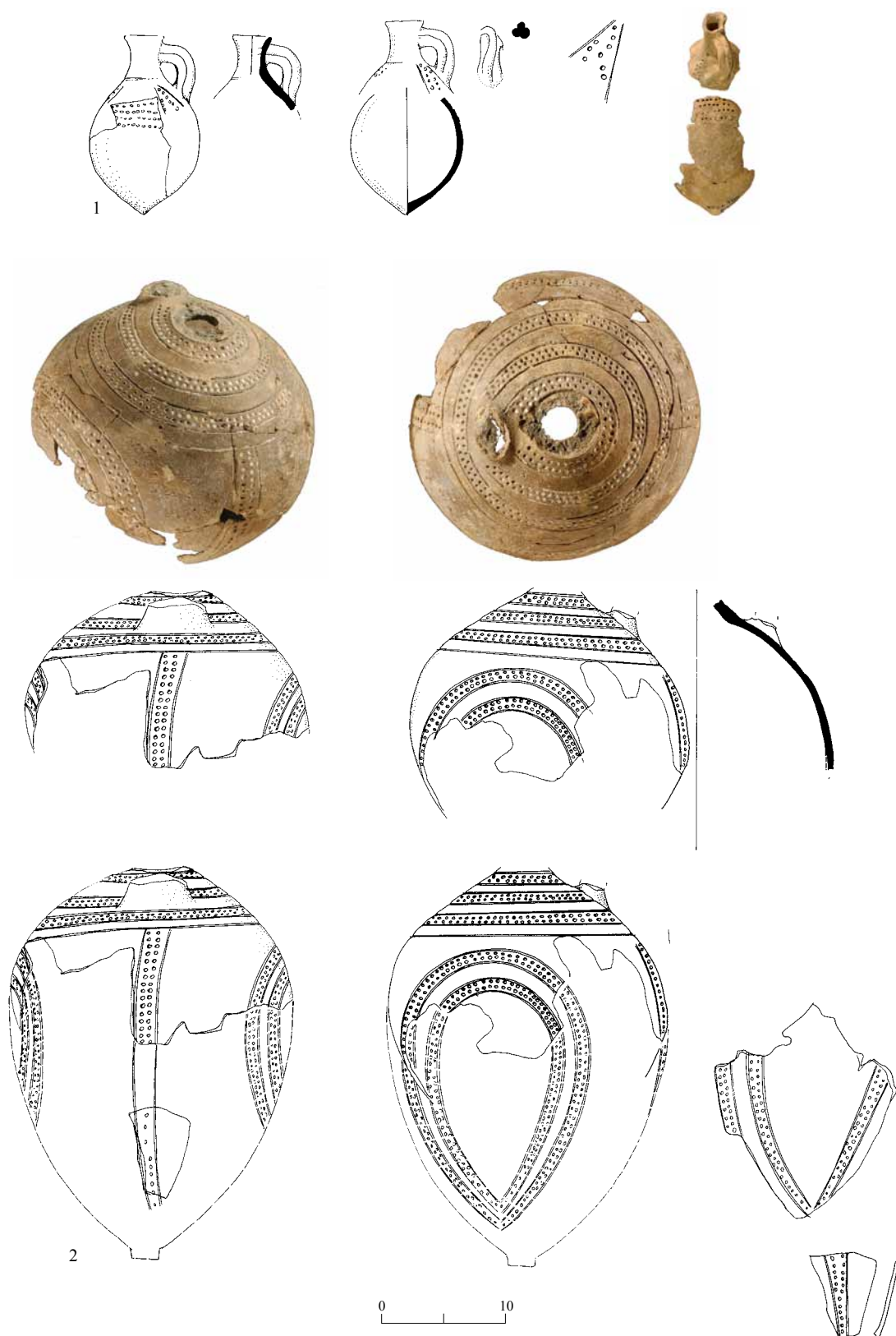


Fig. 11. Tell el-Yahudiyyeh juglets.



◀ Fig. 11

No.	Basket No.	Locus	Comments
1 <sup>i</sup>	9108+9111	908/910	Lime-dotted fabric, flaking, grayish brown ext. (10YR 5/2), gray int. (10YR 5/1), gray core (7.5YR 5/1)
2 <sup>i</sup>	9038	902	Pink-gray, highly faded ext. (5YR 7/2), dark gray int. (7.5YR 4/1), grayish core where wall is very thin, turning into pinkish gray where it is thicker; dense lime-dotted inclusions, giving the paste a lighter hue. Punctured decoration partially retains the chalky filling, rendering the full impact of the design

<sup>i</sup> This vessel was checked petrographically; see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

that it was part of the Palestinian early group, the earliest form of Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware (Bietak 1996:55). Cohen-Weinberger (2007: Table 3.1: No. 138) defines this juglet as Ovoid 5 with a pointed base, which appears to be most common in the central-hills region (Cohen-Weinberger 2007: Table 3.1: No. 61).

The juglet in Fig. 11:2 has a distinctive decoration. Although partly broken and missing its neck, rim, handle and base, the juglet's shape appears to have been piriform and a shallow button base is reconstructed. The shape conforms to Bietak's Piriform 4 (1996: Fig. 47), although the decorative scheme is unknown to date. Cohen-Weinberger classifies this juglet as Spherical 1 (2007: Table 3.1: No. 137), and claims the decoration has no known comparisons.

The design is not divided into the usual zones, but is an original amalgamation of concentric and vertical elements. Three concentric bands decorate the shoulder, each composed of two border lines with white-filled punctures between them. The two faces of the body are separated by two vertical bands, one below the handle and the other on the opposite side. The spaces between these vertical bands are filled with two ovoid/piriform shapes that conform to the shape of the body and are formed by double bands. These double-band ovoids are reminiscent of the concentric circles decorating the Levantine Painted Ware that appear on piriform- and globular-shaped juglets. Most of these were recovered from burials or tombs in the north of the country, e.g., Tel Na'ama (Greenberg et al. 1998:17, Fig.17:4, see further references therein).

The unusual decoration on this juglet presents a different concept with regard to the application of ornamental patterns. The designs of the Levantine Painted Ware juglets were certainly known to the potter of our juglet. The ingenious adaptation of the original concentric circles to the piriform shape of the juglet, as well as to the rudiments of the Tell el-Yahudiyeh decorative style, symbolizes the originality, imagination and skill at the core of craftsmanship.

#### *Ring (Tubular) Flask* (Fig. 12)

This curious vessel (height 13.7 cm, max. diam. 9.9 cm, height of neck 3.5 cm, diam. of neck 1.4 cm; see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume) was found in the northeastern corner of the cave, somewhat higher than the upper layer. Its fabric is reddish brown (5YR 7/6), containing some large calcite inclusions. The neck of this handmade ring was produced separately, most likely thrown on a slow wheel from a hump, and inserted into the hole left in the ring. As the diameter of the neck is too narrow for a human finger, the excess clay could not be removed from inside and was only roughly trimmed on the exterior, leaving the joint extremely prominent and irregular; it seems that no effort was invested in concealing the bulge of the joint. The single, rather thick and uneven strap handle was then attached to the rim and the shoulder, slightly off-center.

The first scholar to correctly identify this type of vessel was Macalister, who discovered a specimen in Tomb 58 at Gezer and defined it as a tubular flask, considering it a rare type that originated in Cyprus (Macalister 1912:321–322, Pl. LXXXI:2a). It has two handles and

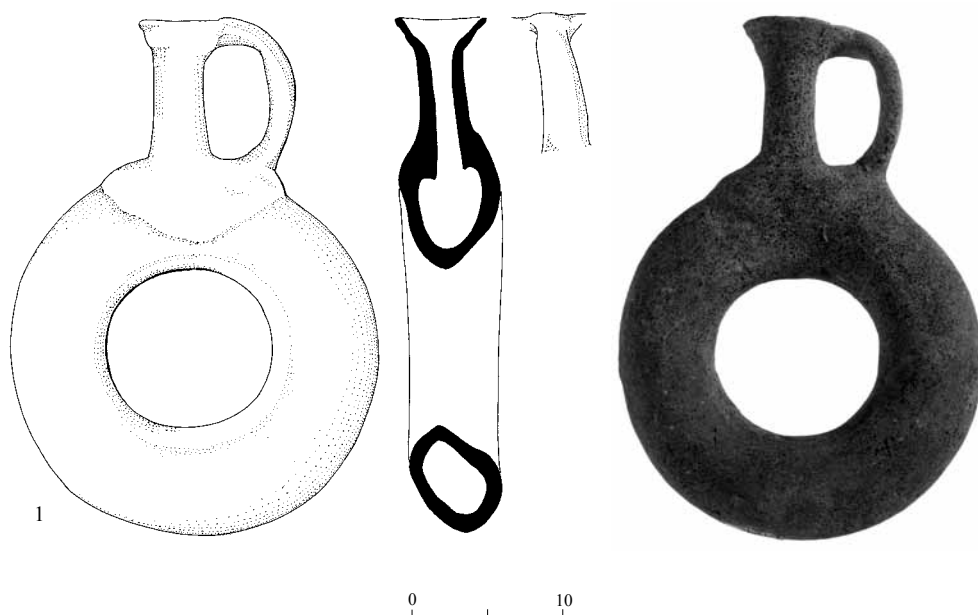


Fig. 12. Ring flask.

comes from an early Iron Age context. Another ring flask from Israel was uncovered in Tomb 1 at Bet Shemesh, dating to the Late Bronze Age (Grant 1929:163, fourth row). It is missing its neck, rim and handles. Another ring flask, from LB IIB, was recovered from Layer 3 of Tomb 1 at Dothan (Cooley and Pratico 1995:161, Fig. 30:8); the ring is decorated with black lines and the comparisons cited for this ring flask refer mainly to whole flasks. A ring flask from the earliest Philistine levels at Tel Mique ('Eqrone) has two handles and the sculpted face of what the excavators describe as an 'Aegean-type Ashdoda goddess' (Wolff 1994:500–501).

A ring flask from Byblos, excavated at the end of the 1920s, was found in Square 32 of the site's eastern sector, dating to MB I (Dunand 1939:275, Fig. 235, Pl. CLXIV:3927). Dunand referred to it as *gourde en forme de couronne*, that is, a crown/diadem-shaped flask. The Byblos specimen has an angular, inverted rim and a two-strand handle, and it is the only early decorated example of a ring flask from the Levant. Bagh (2000:100) referred to it as a 'ring juglet' and suggested that it was the earliest in the series of these vessels, dating to MB IIA.<sup>3</sup>

Two ring flasks were recovered from Cave LVII at Ugarit, which has a timespan extending from the eighteenth to the sixteenth centuries BCE (Schaeffer 1938:244, 247, Figs. 36:E, F; 38). Both flasks have a stepped rim and the joint between the neck and the ring appears to have been well-smoothed. The somewhat larger flask has a twisted handle with a serpent coiling above it, its head peeking into the mouth and its rear end formed into a spiral. A ring flask from Boğazköy, attributed to the same chronological span as those from Ugarit (*Museum of Anatolian Civilizations* n.d.: Fig. 206), has a fairly short neck with a cut-away rim and a flaring, narrow base, which is exceptional in these vessels and can be interpreted as a whim of the potter who produced it. During the 1980s, the Tell ed-Dab'a excavations yielded a ring flask from Stratum H (= d/2), which is referred to as a jug with a ring-shaped body and considered to be of northern origin (Bietak 1996:31, Fig. 29:5673). This ring flask has a fairly wide tube circumference, a two-strand handle and a vertical rim. Stratum H is dated to the end of the nineteenth century BCE in Bietak's chronological scheme of Tell ed-Dab'a (Bietak 1996: Fig. 3). Finally, a ring flask is known

from Cyprus, probably originating in Ayios Iakovos (Maguire 2009:55–59, Fig. 19:2). It has a single handle and is decorated on the ring, neck and handle with various patterns that stem from the Pendent Line and Cross-Line styles of the MCII–III periods in Cyprus.

The ring flasks in Cypriot pottery prompted Åström (1972:45–46) to make the distinction between horizontal and vertical ring vessels, which is accepted by other Cypriot archaeologists, such as Laffineur (1997:145, Pl. XLVIII: vertical ring-vases) and Maguire (1995:55, Fig. 12; 2009:55, Fig. 19), who claims that the Cypriot ring flask imitated Levantine examples.<sup>4</sup>

Only the ring flasks from Byblos, Ugarit, Boğazköy, Tell ed-Dab'a and Cyprus, originating in MB contexts, are relevant to the discussion of our ring flask. The Byblos flask may be the earliest in the series, as suggested by Bagh (2000:100), and the Tell ed-Dab'a flask closely resembles it; relations between these two centers seem to have flourished in the early part of the Middle Bronze Age. The Boğazköy and Ugarit ring flasks date to the later part of the period, as does the ring flask from Cyprus.

The ring flask from Cave 900 in Naḥal Refa'im is the earliest of its kind in Canaan and was undoubtedly inspired by northern trends. This vessel type sporadically reappears during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age I in tombs, with a single specimen from Tel Miqne, recovered from the earliest Philistine level at the site. The small number of ring flasks does not permit a thorough discussion of these unusual vessels. However, when compared to each other, it can be noted that the Middle Bronze Age ring flasks have a single handle, including the two-strand ones, whereas those of the Late Bronze and Iron Ages have two handles, resembling the common pilgrim-flask shape of these periods.

#### *Bull-Shaped Rhyton* (Fig. 13)

The ultimate find from the cave is a bull-shaped rhyton that was found lying head down and facing north. Its location indicates it fell from

a higher spot, probably a rock ledge where it was originally positioned, overlooking the interior of the cave. Immediately around it was a skull fragment that had been placed on a flat stone and covered with fragments of a store jar (B9046), a broken juglet (Fig. 11:2) and a fragmentary globular bowl (B9032).

The bull-shaped rhyton (see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume) is intact except for the broken tips of the horns. It was rendered naturally, the hoofs are marked by a deep groove and the tail is hidden behind the left hind leg. The head is somewhat small, although very detailed. The ears are applied flaps below the horns, the eyes are applied conical pellets, the nose extends in a ridge between the horns, the nostrils are marked by minute cavities and the snout is perforated. The legs are noticeably asymmetrical: the right front leg is the thickest and most cumbersome, the left front leg is uneven, and the hind legs are relatively thin.

The juglet neck on the rear back of the bull has an everted rim and a two-strand handle that extends from the rim, almost at a right angle, to approximately the center of the back. The part of the bull's back enclosed by the juglet neck is perforated like a colander. The eighteen holes were punctured from the top inward and are not uniform in size or arrangement—the exterior circle contains ten holes, while the other eight are dispersed in disarray within it.

The grayish color of the fabric is probably due to reduction firing. The cylindrical body and the juglet neck were thrown on a wheel, while all the other components were handmade. The process of assembling the vessel began with the cylindrical body, to which the juglet neck and the bull's neck and head were joined. Whereas the head-neck joint was smoothed and pared on the exterior, the juglet-neck joint was not trimmed very carefully and the ring coil used to join them was unevenly flattened. The next step entailed the colander-like piercing inside the juglet neck. The final stage involved the application of the legs, tail, handle, horns and facial elements. All the joints and applications were done when the body was in the initial leather-hard stage, so

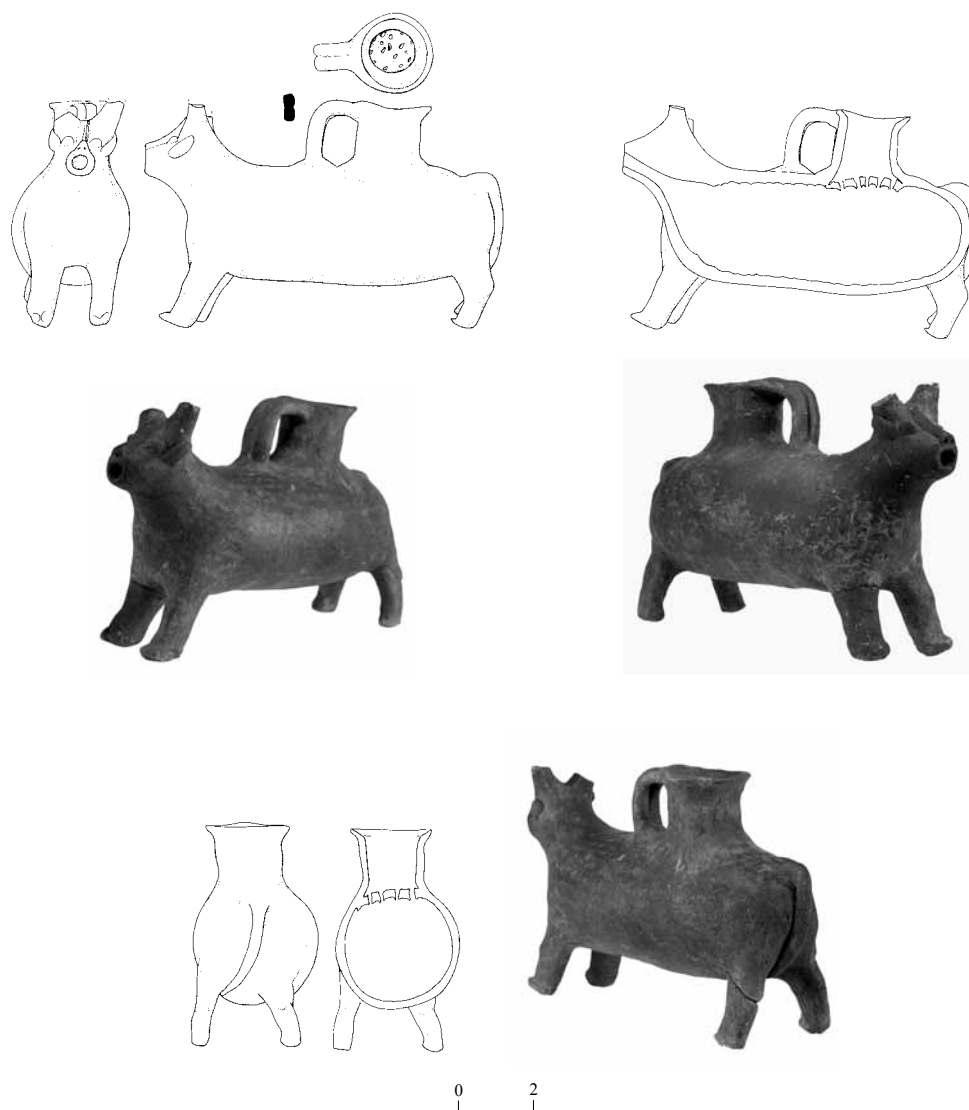


Fig. 13. Bull-shaped rhyton.

that the shrinkage of all components would be similar enough to avoid fractures. The paring was performed when the vessel was completely leather-hard, and finally, the dark gray slip was applied when the vessel was bone-dry so as to avoid running or uneven spreading, and then burnished horizontally along the body.

Middle Bronze Age comparisons for our bull-shaped rhyton are scant and none exhibit the natural rendering of our vessel. A bull-shaped rhyton from Tell Nagila is perhaps the best-preserved example (Amiran and Eitan 1965:118,

Fig. 9). It originated in a public building in Area A, dated to MB II–III, somewhat later than the Cave 900 specimen. It differs in a number of details: it has a red-burnished slip with traces of white-and-black painted decoration, a prominent dewlap and cloven hooves, no handle, and its pouring-in orifice is a hole in the rear back surrounded by a shallow, carinated band with a plain, upright rim. Amiran suggested that this bull-shaped rhyton was reminiscent of Anatolian pottery from the Middle Bronze Age (Amiran and Eitan 1965:121). Another bull-shaped vessel

was recovered from an architectural context in Stratum VII of Area F at Shillo, dating to MB III (Brandl 1993:225, Fig. 9.2, L1522). The vessel is missing the greater part of its back and rear part.<sup>5</sup> It was entirely painted with brown-red stripes that resemble basketwork, and Brandl suggested that it may have been imported from Anatolia (Brandl 1993:226–227). A third bull-shaped vessel was found in a tomb at Amman, dated by the excavator to MB II (Harding 1953: Figs. 6–9). This vessel is crude and unimaginative, unlike the previous comparisons and the usual quality of MB pottery (Harding 1953: Fig. 9:10). While its white slip and red-painted decoration relate it to the vessel from Shillo, its cumbersome shape and rudimentary details are at odds with the divine association that these vessels usually have.

Fragments of zoomorphic vessels from Middle Bronze Age contexts that are too inconclusive to determine whether they belonged to bull-shaped vessels or rhyta, consist of legs from Ḥazor (Yadin et al. 1961: Pl. 244:8) and Tell el-Far'ah North (Mallet 1988: Fig. 23:8), heads from Ḥazor (Yadin et al. 1958: Pl. 93:24) and Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 247:2, 3), and body fragments from Ḥazor (Yadin et al. 1958: Pl. 93:11) and Tell Beit Mirsim Stratum D (Albright 1932: Pl. 8:3).<sup>6</sup> The legs could have been part of zoomorphic figurines, while the heads may have been zoomorphic protomes on a jug or a juglet, known from Middle Bronze Age contexts, e.g., a juglet from a tomb at Tur'an (Gershuny and Eisenberg 2005:13, Figs. 11, 12) and a juglet from Tomb 498 at Kabri (Kempinski, Gershuny and Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 5.40:12). The two body fragments are clearly indicative of zoomorphic vessels. The fragment from Tell Beit Mirsim prompted Albright to suggest that the painted decoration represented a harness and the broken pouring-in neck may have been a rider (Albright 1932:31). However, a more accurate interpretation of this fragment would probably be a zoomorphic vessel, most likely a rhyton.

Except for Ḥazor and Megiddo, all the other sites that yielded bull-shaped vessels or rhyta are concentrated in the central hills and the

south of the country. Furthermore, apart from the present vessel from Jerusalem and that from Amman, which originated in tombs, all the other examples came from habitation contexts, not necessarily of a religious character.

Bulls appear in other Middle Bronze Age media, although they are relatively rare. The best known example of a bull representation is the bronze statuette from Ashqelon that was retrieved from the temple area and dated to the late Middle Bronze Age. It was associated with a clay model of a shrine with a cylindrical shape and a beehive roof (Stager 1991). The statuette was originally sheathed in silver foil and was attached to a firm base or plinth via the tenons protruding from its legs. This statuette is obviously one of the more unique art pieces of this period, displaying further aspects of the bull in Canaanite cult and religion.

In archaeological excavations of tombs, the majority of animal bones from Middle Bronze Age contexts belong to sheep and goats, probably the leftovers of sacrifices for the dead, part of the funerary feast, or subsistence offerings for the deceased (Horwitz 2001:78, 81). Bovine bones are practically absent in tombs of the period, which may be a reflection of the special role of bulls. If bulls were regarded as a symbol of the god, or even a manifestation of the god himself, they evidently benefited from a more revered status and were only sacrificed in the service of the deity.

The bull's association with the storm god is expressed in various forms. The bull is one of the epithets of El, the head of the Ugaritic pantheon during the second millennium BCE, which most likely symbolized strength rather than fertility (Curtis 1985:83). Ba'al is another deity that has the bull as its attribute. He is considered to be the son of Dagan, who was an Amorite deity, and seems to have no ties to El, which is probably reflected in the occasional disputes between Ba'al and members of the El family (Curtis 1985:86). Ba'al is given the equivalent name of Hadad in Akkadian versions of Ugaritic texts, Hadad being the ultimate storm god of the ancient Near East. Another

option sees Ba'al as one of Hadad's many titles, and the one that became the most popular in the southern Levant (Green 2003:173).

The association of the storm god with the bull had become very fashionable by the First Dynasty of Babylon (Vanel 1965:31–32). This is demonstrated in various ways, such as bull horns attached to the god's headgear, as on stelae of El and Ba'al from Ugarit (Schaeffer 1933: Pl. XVI; 1937:129, Fig. 1, Pl. XVII), the god standing on the back of a bull, as on a bulla from Kültepe (Özgüç 1989: Pl. 86:5[100]), or the god standing on the back of a recumbent bull and holding the ends of a rope that is tied to the bull's horns or head, as depicted on cylinder seals from Kültepe (Özgüç 1965: Pl. IV:11a; Leinwand 1992:154, Fig. 10), and on a cylinder seal from Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl.161:21).

During the first half of the second millennium BCE, Assyrian trade colonies flourished in central Anatolia, for example at Achem Hüyük and Alishar, although the most significant colony was at Kaneş-Kültepe. The wealth of finds discovered in the excavations of Kültepe included objects of different artistic media that were firmly rooted in the local religious and ceramic milieu, such as animal-shaped rhyta, mostly lions and antelopes (Özgüç 1953:218). Bull-shaped rhyta were rare, although bulls, complete or in parts, adorned other vessels and appeared in other media. A large, black-slipped and burnished krater recovered from a private house in Level Ib depicts a file of bulls on its shoulder, their heads fashioned in the round and their bodies and legs worked in relief (Özgüç 1983:423, Pl. 86:1, 2). Another unusual vessel from Level Ib is a bowl with four vertical loop handles surmounted by a short, concave-sided, cylindrical neck and four bull heads applied between the handles (Özgüç 1983: Pl. 85:2).

At other sites in central Anatolia that are dated to the subsequent Old Hittite period, the tradition of bull representations continued. A jar from Eskiyapar has bull heads attached to its inner, tubular rim, facing inward. The liquid was poured into the ring and would slowly flow through the pierced muzzles of the bull heads

into the jar (Özgüç 1988: Pl. D:3; for an identical vase from Alaça Hüyük, see Koşay 1951: Pl. 70:2a, b). Bull heads were also fashioned as spouts of large jugs, e.g., the jug from Inandik (Özgüç 1988: Pl. 86:3a, 3b), which was found near the famous relief vase that is dated to the time of Hattuşili I (Özgüç 1988: Figs. 27, 64, 65; Pls. 36–59; Color Pls. F–K). This vase depicts a deity in the shape of a bull positioned on a high stool and being awarded animal offerings, in this case a complete bull (Özgüç 1988: Pl. 46). The parallel scene on the other side of the vase shows a seated female deity accepting offerings (Özgüç 1988: Pl. 50).

The bull associations at Kültepe and other sites on the central Anatolian plateau clearly show that these vessels were involved in cultic or religious activities for storing and transferring liquids. If we return to the bull-shaped rhyton from Cave 900, it appears to have functioned in a similar manner. The colander at the base of the pouring-in neck indicates that the liquid required further purification before entering the vessel. Wine could be a likely candidate for the liquid poured into the rhyton, and considering its production methods, it could certainly use an additional purifying barrier. Another option for the liquid could be beer or malt, although it is doubtful whether these were readily available to the residents of the region.

Finally, we would like to examine the origins of the bull-shaped rhyton. It is evident that it was locally manufactured from the composition of its fabric (see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume), as well as the technical aspects of its production. Yet, who was the craftsman who created it? As noted above, in the mid-1960s the late Ruth Amiran suggested that the bull-shaped rhyton from Tell Nagila was reminiscent of pottery from Anatolia of the first half of the second millennium BCE (Amiran and Eitan 1965:121). In the early 1990s, Brandl proposed that the erroneously reconstructed bull-shaped vessel from Shillo showed “a possible northern origin, very probably in the Hittite land” (Brandl 1993:227). A clear distinction is made here between the physical place of manufacture and

the source of the concept, which clearly displays northern roots. We propose that the bull-shaped rhyton from Cave 900, which is based on a concept that most likely originated in Anatolia, was created by a craftsman who was familiar with the idea and belonged to a contingent of people from Anatolia that migrated south, toward the southern Levant, during the first half of the second millennium BCE. Their course can be traced via the Anatolian-inspired pottery shapes that have appeared along the route. The large Middle Bronze Age town at Kabri, on the northern coastline of Israel, yielded a number of various-sized juglets with a cut-away neck (Kempinski, Gershuny and Scheftelowitz 2002: Figs. 5.26, 5.27), which is one of the hallmarks of Anatolian pottery. All these juglets were locally produced of native clays, but their makers fashioned them in forms they were acquainted with in their former homeland. These newcomers eventually filtered southward and made their way through the central hills region, to Jerusalem, where our bull-shaped rhyton presents a viable case for their presence at the site.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SMALL FINDS

Metal, stone and bone artifacts compose the assemblage, as well as a single scarab (see Ben-Tor, this volume).

##### *Metal Artifacts* (Fig. 14)

*Bronze Daggers.*— The better preserved of the two daggers has a triangular blade (max. width 3.6 cm), defined shoulders with broken tips, and a short, cone-shaped tang, clearly modeled separately from the blade, with two rivet holes, one on each shoulder (Fig. 14:1). It belongs to Phillip's Type 13 (1989:117). Both sides of the blade are marked by two incised lines that enclose short, dense longitudinal strokes. Similar decoration, although between two ribs, occurs on a dagger from Stratum G at Tell ed-Dab'a (Phillip 2006:45, Fig. 12). The second dagger is plain and not as well preserved (width 3.5 cm). The edges of the blade are irregular, with two V-shaped notches in the lower part

(Fig. 14:2). The mid-rib is prominent and the blade's point is sharp. The tang is more rounded than the previous example, and has three rivet holes, one on each shoulder and the third below them in the center. A similar dagger with a slight mid-rib and two rivet holes in its broken tang was found in Gibeon Tomb 15 (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 24:92). The tangs of the two daggers from Cave 900 were hafted with globular, stone or bone pommels such as were found in the cave (see below).

*Toggle Pins.*— Six toggle pins were found, one of them broken. Whereas two of the pins have nearly identical measurements (Fig. 14:3, 4), the other three (Fig. 14:5–7) are longer. The toggle pin in Fig. 14:3 is the only pin decorated with intermittent incised bands encircling the top and the middle of the shank and below the eye. Similar intermittent decoration appears on a toggle pin from Gibeon Tomb 45 (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 51:43), while toggle pins with shanks entirely decorated with the same pattern appear in other tombs (Pritchard 1963: Figs. 18:5, Tomb 13; 49:12, 13, Tomb 44). The shank of the toggle pin in Fig. 14:6 is surmounted with a small, plain, onion-shaped bulb. This shape is relatively rare, as the bulb is usually in the shape of a mushroom or a small ball (Damati and Stepanski 1996: Fig. 18). According to Henschel-Simon's classification (1938:173–174), three of the toggle pins in the present assemblage belong to Type 3 (Fig. 14:4, 5, 7), one to Type 8a (Fig. 14:6) and one to Type 5b (Fig. 14:3). The five complete pins from Cave 900 are of the slender type, which tends to include minimal amounts of tin and appears in assemblages of MB I and early MB II (Shalev 2002:313).

*Rings/Earrings.*— These two artifacts are made of a curved wire whose ends overlap to close the circle. The two rings differ in size—that in Fig. 14:8 has an average diameter of 1.8 cm, its wire length is 9.2 cm with an overlap of 2 cm. The ring in Fig. 14:9 has an average diameter of 1.4 cm, its wire length is 5.8 cm, with an overlap of 1 cm. They could have been either

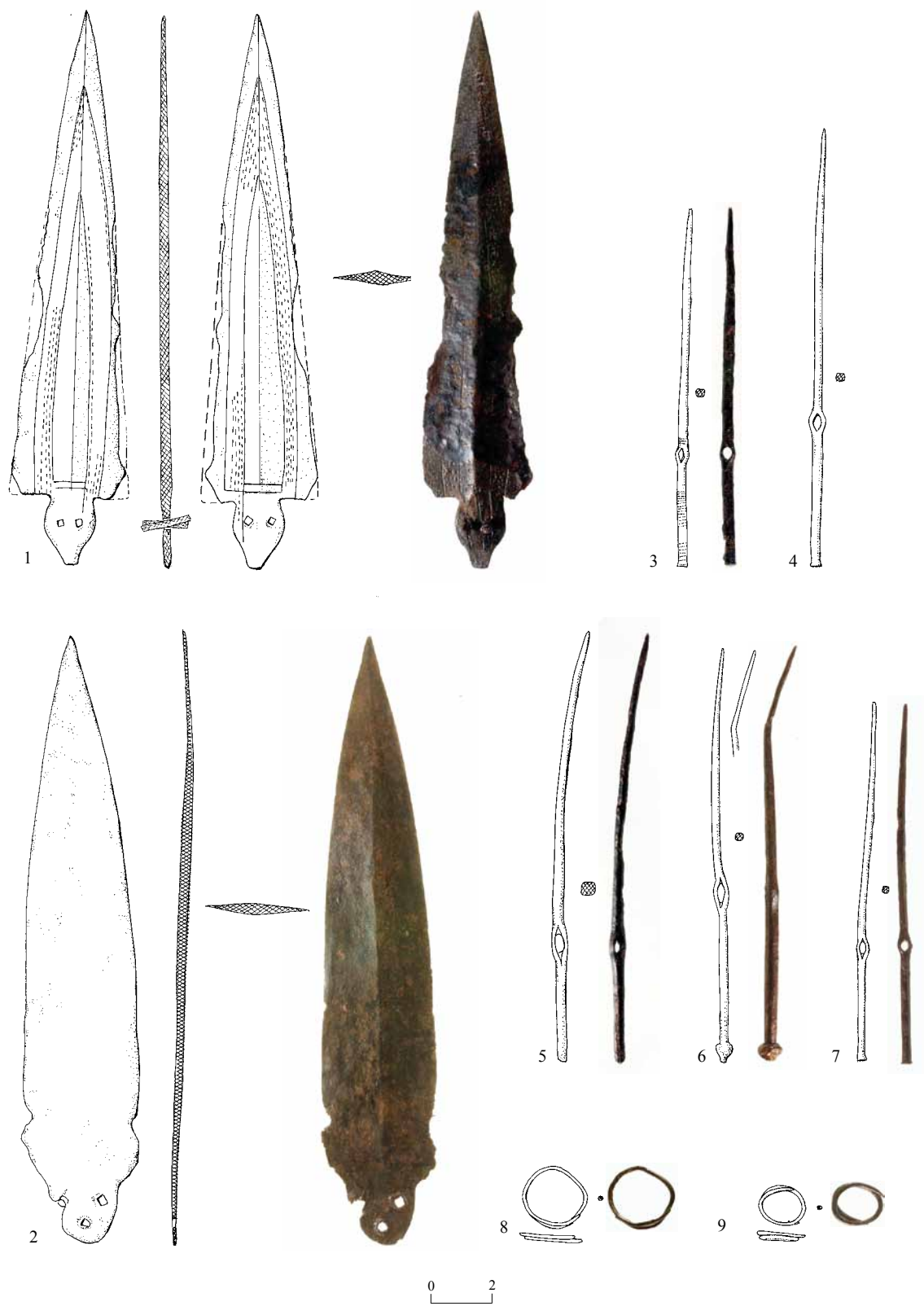


Fig. 14. Metal artifacts.



◀ Fig. 14

No.	Object	Basket No.	Locus	Measurements (cm)
1	Dagger	9063	900	Total length 18; length of blade 15.8; max. width 3.7
2	Dagger	9040	904	Total length 19.5; length of blade 17.7; max. width 3.9
3	Toggle pin	9030	900	Total length 11.6; shank length 3.3; shank diam. 0.4; point length 7.6; eye 0.7
4	Toggle pin	9031	900	Total length 11.6; shank length 3.3; shank diam. 0.4; point length 7.6; eye 0.7
5	Toggle pin	9028	902	Total length 13.9; shank length 3.1; shank diam. 0.6; point length 9.5; eye 1.3
6	Toggle pin	9054	902	Total length 13.3; shank length 4.9; shank diam. 0.6; point length 7.3; eye 1.1; bulb on top 0.6 × 0.7
7	Toggle pin	9081	908/910	Total length 14.1; shank length 4.2; shank diam. 0.5; point length 9.1; eye 0.8
8	Ring/earring	9091	900	Diam. 1.8
9	Ring/earring	9041	904	Diam. 1.4

Table 1. Pommel Measurements (in centimeters)

Basket No.	Height	Exterior D	Central Hole D	Central Hole D	Side Holes D	Fig. No.
9061	2.0	2.8	1.5	1.5	0.5	15:1
9042	2.1	3.4	1.8	1.3	0.4	15:2
9099	2.5	3.1	1.2	1.2	0.7	15:3
9100	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.4	0.4–0.6	15:4
9115 (bone)	2.0	2.8–3.3	1.1–1.3	1.7	0.3	15:5

rings or earrings, as even the smaller one is big enough to open and be inserted into an earlobe.

Rings and toggle pins tend to appear together, as in our cave, as well as in Caves 1 and 7 at Efrata (Gonen 2001: Figs. 26:1, 3; 37:1, 2, 5–7), and in Tomb 45 at Gibeon (Pritchard 1963: Fig. 51:42–45, 47).

#### *Stone and Bone Artifacts (Fig. 15)*

*Pommels.*— Four limestone pommels (Fig. 15:1–4) and one of bone (Fig. 15:5) were found. The stone pommels are similar in size (Table 1) and globular in shape; in one case (Fig. 15:4) the upper part is concave, giving the pommel a sort of neckline. All the pommels have holes on opposite sides, through which the hemp passed to tie the wooden handle that held the dagger. Limestone pommels were recorded in Cave 3 at Efrata (Gonen 2001: Fig. 29:1) and in higher numbers in the Gibeon cemetery, where they occur in Tombs

15, 18, 22, 31 and 45 (Pritchard 1963: Figs. 24:99, 100; 26:17, 18; 30:24; 34:3; 51:46).

The bone pommel has a lentoid shape (Fig. 15:5) and its proportions correspond to those of the limestone pommels (see Table 1). Bone is an unusual material for a pommel, and therefore it was probably intended for ceremonial use.

*Bone Bead.*— The single bead recovered from the cave is cylindrical and quarto-segmented (Fig. 15:7). A similar bead, although triple-segmented and made of faience, was found in Tomb 984 at Kabri (Scheftelowitz 2002: Fig. 10.6:19).

*Whetstone.*— The smoothness of this artifact (length 6.2 cm, width 1.7 cm, thickness 0.7–0.9 cm) points to its original use, although it can safely be assumed that once it no longer served for sharpening blades, it was reused as

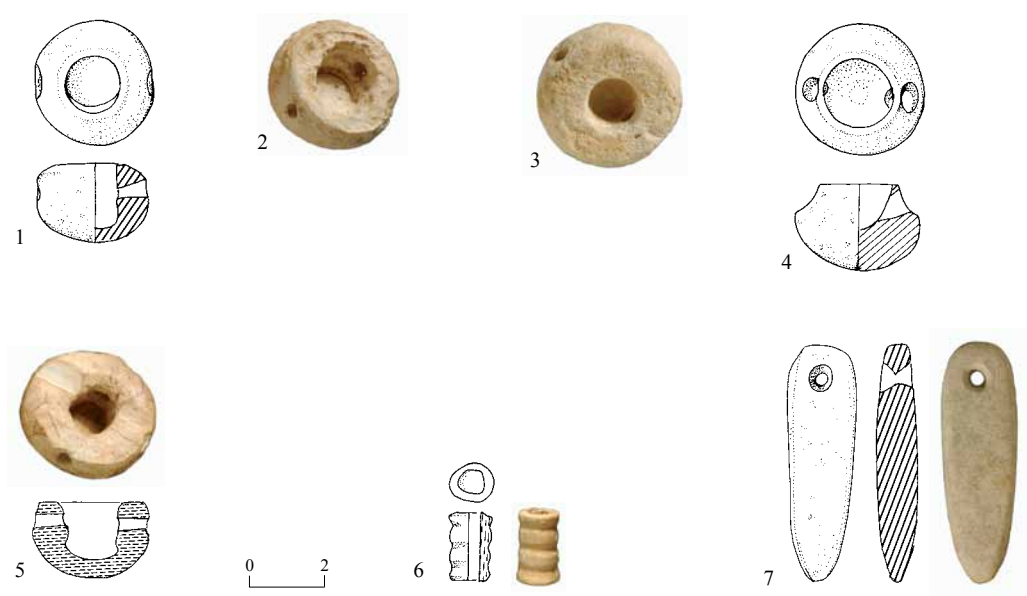


Fig. 15. Stone and bone artifacts.

No.	Object	Basket No.	Locus	Material
1	Pommel	9061	900	Limestone
2	Pommel	9042	904	Limestone
3	Pommel	9099	909	Limestone
4	Pommel	9100	908	Limestone
5	Pommel	9115	910	Bone
6	Bead	9112	910	Bone
7	Whetstone	9106	910	Stone

a decorative pendent (Fig. 15:6). The stone is not indigenous to the region, as it contains mica, and thus should probably be associated with metamorphic rocks, such as schist or gneiss, which are known in northern Syria and Anatolia, as well as in Sinai and Transjordan.<sup>7</sup>

A similar, but somewhat larger whetstone was recovered from Cave 11 at Efrata (Gonen 2001: Fig. 50:2). Gonen (2001:33) suggests that it is possibly granite and may date to the Intermediate Bronze Age.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The relatively mundane assemblage of Cave 900 is accentuated by a few distinct and rare finds, as well as the manner of burial and the distribution of the contents within the cave.

The nine jars recovered from the oval burial pit in the Intermediate Bronze Age layer (L912) could have been inserted intact into the pit without difficulty. However, the jars were of various sizes and some of them must have projected higher than the top of the pit, which rendered it difficult to cover them without causing damage. This was solved with the use of reddish *terra rossa* soil brought into the cave to fill the pit and cover its top. The jars were eventually disturbed when the ceiling of the cave disintegrated and partially collapsed.

The lower MB II burial level consisted solely of small vessels and miscellaneous finds distributed in an apparently uniform manner among the three loci (Table 2). The sole exception is the number and variety of small finds in L910, the burial layer below Stone

**Table 2. Distribution of Finds in the Lower MB II Burial Level**

Finds \ Locus	L908	L909	L910
Carinated bowls	9102	9087	
Globular bowls		9089 9092/9093	9096/9097 9101
Jar			9104
Jug	9080/1		
Piriform juglets	9080/2 9082 9083	9085 9086 9088 9098	9095 9108+9103+9111 9109
Dipper juglet		9094	
Toggle pins	9081		9105 9107 9114 (fragment)
Pommels	9100	9099	9115 (bone)
Scarab	9084		
Whetstone			9106
Bead			9112

Pavement L909. Five interred individuals were identified in L910, one of them estimated to be of an older age (above 40; see Nagar, this volume), and the few small finds can perhaps be assigned to this individual—as a token of respect for a position held in the community. The sole scarab from the cave (Ben-Tor, this volume) and the jug with the serpent applied to the top of its handle (see Fig. 3:4), were found in the soil fill (L908) that surrounded the stone pavement. Piriform juglets were the predominant vessel of this lower level, as they occurred on top of, around and below Stone Pavement 909.

The upper MB II burial layer was undoubtedly the main mortuary phase in the cave. The clusters of pottery vessels around the circumference of the cave were labeled Groups 1–7 (see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume) and the distribution of finds among the groups is uneven, as well as odd at times (Table 3).

The piriform juglets and globular bowls are dominant in Group 1, comprising 65% of its contents. Groups 2 and 4 are very similar in content, apart from the pithos and the distinctive

Tell el-Yahudiyeh juglet in Group 2 (see Fig. 11:2). Groups 5 and 6 are characterized by small assemblages, and the three vessels in the latter may indicate that a young individual was buried in this cluster.

Group 7 in the southern corner of the cave and Group 3 in the opposite, northern corner, yielded the most unique finds in the cave. Group 7 contains the two bronze daggers found in the cave, together with two pommels that were most likely used to base the handles attached to the daggers and a ring/earring. The bull-shaped rhyton is a clear indication that the individual interred in this cluster was a prominent personality in the community, apparently associated with religion and cult. Group 3 has a preponderance of open bowls and jugs. The relatively rare ring flask and the ring/earring in this cluster may have been associated with the consort of the individual in Group 7. Both the ring flask and the bull-shaped rhyton were positioned somewhat higher and apart from the main contingent of the groups, as if to emphasize the higher position and spiritual connotation of the deceased.

**Table 3. Distribution of Finds in the Upper MB II Burial Level, Groups 1–7**

Finds \ Group	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
Open bowls	9021/5	9052/1	9008 9009 9010 9012		9064 9066 9067	9015	
Carinated bowls	9021/4 9028/8	9001/1 9001/5		9024/2 9024/6 9027			
Globular bowls	9003 9021/1 9021/2 9021/3 9025	9001/4 9007/1	9014/1	9024/1=9034 9032+9047	9068	9057	
Store jars/jars	9021/11 9043	9001/6 9002/2				9016	9046
Pithos		9001/3					
Jugs	9021/7	9002/1 9007/2	9011 9013 9017	9024/3 9024/4			
Piriform juglets	9004 9020 9021/6 9021/9 9021/10 9021/12 9053/1	9022 9023 9038 9051	9014/2 9026	9024/5 9024/7 9024/8 9033 9037	9036 9062		9045
Wide-mouthed juglet							9001/1+9055
Dipper juglets	9019/1	9001/2			9035		
Ring flask			9090				
Bull rhyton							9044
Toggle pins		9028 9054		9030 9031			
Daggers							9040 9063
Pommels							9042 9061
Ring/earring			9091				9041

It is suggested that the arrangement of separate burials along the circumference of the cave, with Groups 3 and 7 at either end, may have been related to the status of the interred. As seven individuals were identified in the upper MB II layer (see Nagar, this volume), we can assume that each of the seven clusters contained a single individual (see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume). Hence, it appears that the remains in the upper layer represent a single

family whose heads were interred in Groups 3 and 7.

Furthermore, this singular arrangement of burials in the upper layer may have to do with the possible foreign origin of the interred, as proposed above for the craftsman of the bull-shaped rhyton. Be that as it may, it certainly opens a venue to be explored in the future, as more excavation reports containing detailed descriptions become available to the scholarly world.

## APPENDIX 1. POTTERY AND SMALL FINDS BASKET LIST

Basket No.	Locus	Vessel/Object	Comments	Fig. No.
9000/1 (+9055)	900	Piriform juglet	Large, wide aperture	10:11
9000/2	900	Open bowl	Rim fragment	
9000/3	900	Jug	Base	
9001/1	900	Carinated bowl	Fragment	6:3
9001/2	900	Dipper juglet		10:12
9001/3	900	Pithos	4 handles (two pairs)	7:1
9001/4	900	Globular bowl	Upper part	
9001/5	900	Carinated Bowl	Base	
9001/6	900	Store jar	Fragments	
9002/1	902	Jug	Upper part	9:2
9002/2	902	Store jar	Broken	7:2
9003	901	Globular bowl	Juglet 9004 inside it	6:7
9004	901	Piriform juglet	Intact	10:8
9007/1	902	Globular bowl	Broken	
9007/2	902	Jug	Base	
9008	900	Open bowl	Intact	5:1
9009	900	Open bowl	Intact	4:5
9010	900	Open bowl	Broken	4:1
9011	900	Jug	Fragments, trefoil aperture	8:4
9012	900	Open bowl		4:3
9013	900	Jug	Complete	9:3
9014/1	900	Globular bowl		6:8
9014/2	900	Piriform juglet	Ring base	
9015	900	Open bowl		4:2
9016	900	Jar	Complete	8:1
9017	900	Jug	Triple handle; 3 pellets	9:1
9019/1	901	Dipper juglet	Broken	
9020	901	Piriform juglet		
9021/1	901	Globular bowl		
9021/2	901	Globular bowl		6:10
9021/3	901	Globular bowl		
9021/4	901	Carinated bowl		6:5
9021/5	901	Bowl/plate	Four loop handles	5:2
9021/6	901	Piriform juglet		10:3
9021/7	901	Jug	Removed by a backhoe loader	8:5
9021/8	901	Carinated bowl	Broken	6:2
9021/9	901	Piriform juglet	Large; fragments don't join	10:1
9021/10	901	Piriform juglet	Upper part	
9021/11	901	Jar/store jar	Base	
9021/12	901	Piriform juglet	Fragments	

## APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Basket No.	Locus	Vessel/Object	Comments	Fig. No.
9022	902	Piriform juglet	Rim missing	
9023	902	Piriform juglet	Intact	10:4
9024/1 (=9034)	900	Globular bowl		6:6
9024/2	900	Carinated bowl		6:4
9024/3	900	Jug		8:2
9024/4	900	Jug		8:6
9024/5		Piriform juglet	Not complete	
9024/6		Carinated bowl	Lower part	
9024/7	900	Piriform juglet	Fragments	
9024/8	900	Piriform juglet	Button base	
9025/1	903	Globular Bowl	Base	
9026	900	Piriform juglet	Intact	10:9
9027	900	Carinated bowl	Intact	6:1
9028	902	Toggle pin	Bronze	14:5
9030	900	Toggle pin	Bronze	14:3
9031	900	Toggle pin	Bronze	14:4
9032 (+9047)	900	Globular bowl	Broken	
9033	900	Piriform juglet	Intact	10:6
9035	900	Dipper juglet	Broken	
9036	900	Piriform juglet	Intact	10:7
9037	900	Piriform juglet	Lower part and base	
9038	902	TEY juglet	Distinctive	11:2
9040	904	Dagger	Bronze	14:2
9041	904	Ring/earring	Bronze	14:9
9042	904	Pommel	Limestone	15:2
9043/1	901	Jug(?)	Base	
9044	900	Bull rhyton	Intact	13
9045	900	Piriform juglet		10:2
9046	900	Store jar	Fragments	
9051	902	Piriform juglet	Intact	10:5
9052/1	902	Open bowl	Rim fragment	
9053/1	901	Piriform juglet	Broken	
9054	902	Toggle pin	Bronze	14:6
9057	900	Globular bowl		6:9
9061	900	Pommel	Limestone	15:1
9062	900	Piriform juglet		10:10
9063	900	Dagger	Bronze	14:1
9064	900	Open bowl		
9066	900	Open bowl		4:4
9067	900	Open bowl	Broken	
9068	900	Globular bowl	Broken	

## APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Basket No.	Locus	Vessel/Object	Comments	Fig. No.
9069	900	Jug		8:3
9070	907	Lamp	4-spouted; intact	1:5
9072	907	Lamp	4-spouted; fragment	
9074	907	Store jar	Base, reused as lamp	
9076	911	Jug(?)	Base	
9080/1	908	Jug	Fragments; serpent on handle	3:4
9080/2	908	Piriform juglet	Fragments	
9081	908/ 910	Toggle pin		14:7
9082	908	Piriform juglet	Lower part	
9083	908	Piriform juglet	Upper part	
9084	908	Scarab		Ben-Tor, this volume
9085	909	Piriform juglet	Intact	3:5
9086	909	Piriform juglet		
9087	909	Carinated bowl		
9088	909	Piriform juglet		3:6
9089	909	Globular bowl		3:3
9090	900	Ring flask		12
9091	900	Ring/earring		14:8
9092+9093	909	Globular bowl	Fragments	
9094	909	Dipper juglet	Broken	
9095	910	Piriform juglet	Broken	
9096+9097	910	Globular bowl		3:2
9098	909	Piriform juglet	Broken	
9099	909	Pommel	Limestone	15:3
9100	908	Pommel	Limestone	15:4
9101/1	910	Globular bowl	Fragments	
9102	908	Carinated bowl		3:1
9104	910	Jar/jug	Fragments	
9105	910	Toggle pin	Fragment	
9106	910	Whetstone	Reused as pendent	15:7
9107	910	Toggle pin	Fragment	
9108+9103+9111	908/ 910	TEY juglet	Broken	11:1
9109	910	Piriform juglet	Fragments	
9110/1	911	Lamp	4-spouted; fragment	
9110/2	911	Jar IBA	Broken	
9112	910	Bead	Bone	15:6
9114	910	Bronze	Fragment	
9115	910	Pommel	Bone	15:5
9117/1	912	Lamp	4-spouted; fragment	

## APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Basket No.	Locus	Vessel/Object	Comments	Fig. No.
9117/2	912	Jar IBA	Broken	
9118	912	Jar IBA	Complete profile	1:4
9120	912	Jar IBA	Complete profile	1:2
9121	912	Jar IBA	Complete profile	1:1
9122	912	Jar IBA	Broken	
9123	912	Jar IBA	Complete profile	1:3
9124/1	912	Jar IBA	Rim missing	
9124/2	912	Jar IBA	Broken	
9125	912	Jar IBA	Shoulder fragment	
9126	912	Stopper	Limestone	1:6

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The terms used in this article are IBA (= Intermediate Bronze Age), MB I (= MB IIA), MB II (= MB IIB) and MB III (= MB IIC).

<sup>2</sup> It is unclear why Bonfil defines the rim of Type 4a 'square', as it has a triangular rather than a square cross-section.

<sup>3</sup> We find the term 'ring juglet' misleading. The vessel has the shape and profile of a flask and to define it a juglet is a misnomer.

<sup>4</sup> The horizontal and vertical distinction is superfluous because the so-called vertical vessel has a flask shape and should be referred to as a ring flask, while the horizontal vessel is a ring-vase, as Laffineur (1997:145) defines it, or a *kernos*.

<sup>5</sup> The reconstruction of this vessel, with an imaginary in-pouring aperture on the back, is entirely

misleading and should be rejected, as should the claim that the vessel had no handle. Although an in-pouring aperture is reconstructed, Brandl (1993:226) still classified it as 'a zoomorphic vessel', which of course it is not, as having two apertures clearly marks the vessel as a rhyton.

<sup>6</sup> Some of the citations in Brandl (1993:227) are wrong: *Hazor II*: Pl. 260 does not exist.; *Hazor III-IV*:223 is another clear error, since the 1961 *Hazor III-IV* volume is the plates volume and no zoomorphic fragment appears on Pl. 223.

<sup>7</sup> I wish to thank Anat Cohen-Weinberger for this information.

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