

OTTOMAN CLAY TOBACCO PIPES FROM RAMLA

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Pipe smoking was practiced in the Levant as early as 1599, as may be read in travel journals of that period (Bent 1893:49, n. 1). It was introduced into Egypt between 1601 and 1603, and from there became common in Turkey by 1605. The custom of smoking spread rapidly throughout the Ottoman Empire. Numerous attempts were made to prohibit the fashion, but nothing could stop the new trend. By the middle of the seventeenth century, pipe smoking was the fashion for men and women regardless of age or social status.

The smoking pipes that were in use across Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean, the so-called *chibouks*, are small, attractive items with miniature decorations, comprising a bowl with a separate stem. They are found at archaeological sites with Ottoman occupation layers, although very few originate in clearly dated contexts. Pipes have been recovered as far distant as Russia, in tombs dated to the nineteenth century (Stančeva 1972; 1975–1976). A few pipes were recovered from a shipwreck dated to the end of the seventeenth century (Walker 1980: Pl. I) and from the Sharm ash-Sheikh shipwreck dated to the eighteenth century (Raban 1971).

Most smoking pipes are known from private collections, and until recently had rarely attracted the interest of archaeologists. The few studies that have been made of clay tobacco pipes include those from Athens (Robinson 1983; 1985) and Saraçhane (Hayes 1980; 1992:391–395). In Israel, clay tobacco pipes usually appear in excavation reports as isolated finds. Avissar has published a number of pipes from Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996) and Baram

has included a study on pipes in his Ph.D. dissertation (Baram 1996).¹

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

The clay tobacco pipes were used mainly for smoking tobacco and examples with tobacco traces have actually been found. Some pipes bear the inscription *dûhane*, which means tobacco in Turkish (Hayes 1992:391). The Turkish pipe called *lüle* consists of a bowl in various shapes with a short stem, into which a long reed or metal tube was inserted for smoking. At the end of the reed is the mouthpiece, which could be of semi-precious stone, such as amber. These mouthpieces are rarely recovered in archaeological excavations and the reed tube is usually not preserved. The part that is usually found in excavations is the bowl. It may be made of metal, wood, stone or clay, clay being the preferred material.

The bowl was usually mold-made in two parts, dried to leather hardness; the shank opening and the bowl were then carved out. After applying a slip to the surface, the bowl would be decorated with carved, stamped, rouletted, incised or inlaid decorations. Some decorations may have been carved into the molds. The finish could be another layer of slip, polishing of the surface, gilding or even glazing. Then the pipe was ready for final firing.

The decorations on the pipes are varied and include geometric, floral and vegetal designs, such as triangles, circles, leaves, palmettes, rosettes and other stylized flowers. Even inscriptions were used to decorate the pipes,

usually appearing around the shank, as can be seen on a pipe from Yoqne'am (Avissar 1996: Photographs XVI.5–8: No. 4) and from the excavations at the Western Wall Plaza in Jerusalem (de Vincenz, forthcoming), and the example from Ramla (No. 21; Fig. 2). The inscriptions may comprise a blessing or a citation from a poem. Potter's marks, such as rosettes or initials, are found on later pipes, when some artists, such as the famous *Tophane* pipemakers (Kocabaş 1963), specialized in the making of pipes.

The pipes from Ramla (see Torge, this volume)² are mostly early types, dated to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and seem to be of local manufacture, except for No. 21 (Fig. 2), which may be an import from Turkey, or a local imitation of such, due to the Turkish inscription. The nineteenth-century pipes with lily-shaped bowls are virtually absent from this repertoire except for one fragment (No. 7; Fig. 1).

CATALOGUE

In this catalogue, the pipes are ordered chronologically, with those of similar dating arranged according to area and basket number.

1. B3010-3, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 1.
Fine clay with small black inclusions; light gray ware (2.5Y 7/1); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Pipe with rounded bowl. Rim slightly broken. Short stem consisting only of a thickened wreath and a stepped ring termination, decorated with two rouletted lines. Bowl decorated with molded horizontal lines and two rouletted lines below rim. Wreath decorated with diagonal lines. Between bowl and stem are three rouletted lines. Probable date: seventeenth century.

2. B3098, Area D, L313, Phase 7; Fig. 1.
Medium-fine clay; ware (10YR 6/1) fired to pinkish gray (7.5YR 7/2); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Fragmentary pipe. Bowl broken off. Long thin stem decorated with diagonal molded

lines. Wreath decorated with three rouletted bands. Lines outlining keel are visible.

Possibly similar to Robinson 1983: Table 52:1, which was dated to the seventeenth century.

3. B3197, Area D, L345, Phase 6; Fig. 1.
Medium-fine clay with many white inclusions; light reddish brown ware (5YR 6/3) fired to gray (5YR 5/1); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Pipe with broken bowl. Bowl decorated with impressed circles and triangles. Thick wreath set off by double incised line and decorated with diagonal rows of rouletting. Keel outlined by rouletting. Stepped ring termination. For similar pipes, see Robinson 1983: Table 52: 4, 11. Probable date: late seventeenth century.

4. B2794, Area D, L346, Phase 8; Fig. 1.
Fine clay with white inclusions; gray ware (10YR 6/1); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Stem of pipe. Slightly faceted with impressed palmettes next to thick wreath. Wreath decorated with impressed pointed leaves. Stepped ring termination. For a similar pipe, see Robinson 1983: Table 52:1. Probable date: seventeenth century.

5. B3010-2, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 1.
Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; pinkish gray ware (7.5YR 7/2); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Pipe with small rounded bowl. Rim broken. Bowl and stem are on a horizontal line. Bowl decorated with two registers of impressed pointed leaves. Stem thickened toward shank end and decorated with diagonal rouletting. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

6. B3015, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 1.
Fine clay; pink ware (5YR 7/4); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Stem fragment. Wreath decorated with molded bands of X's and a rouletted band. Keel seems to be outlined by a rouletted band. Stepped ring termination. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

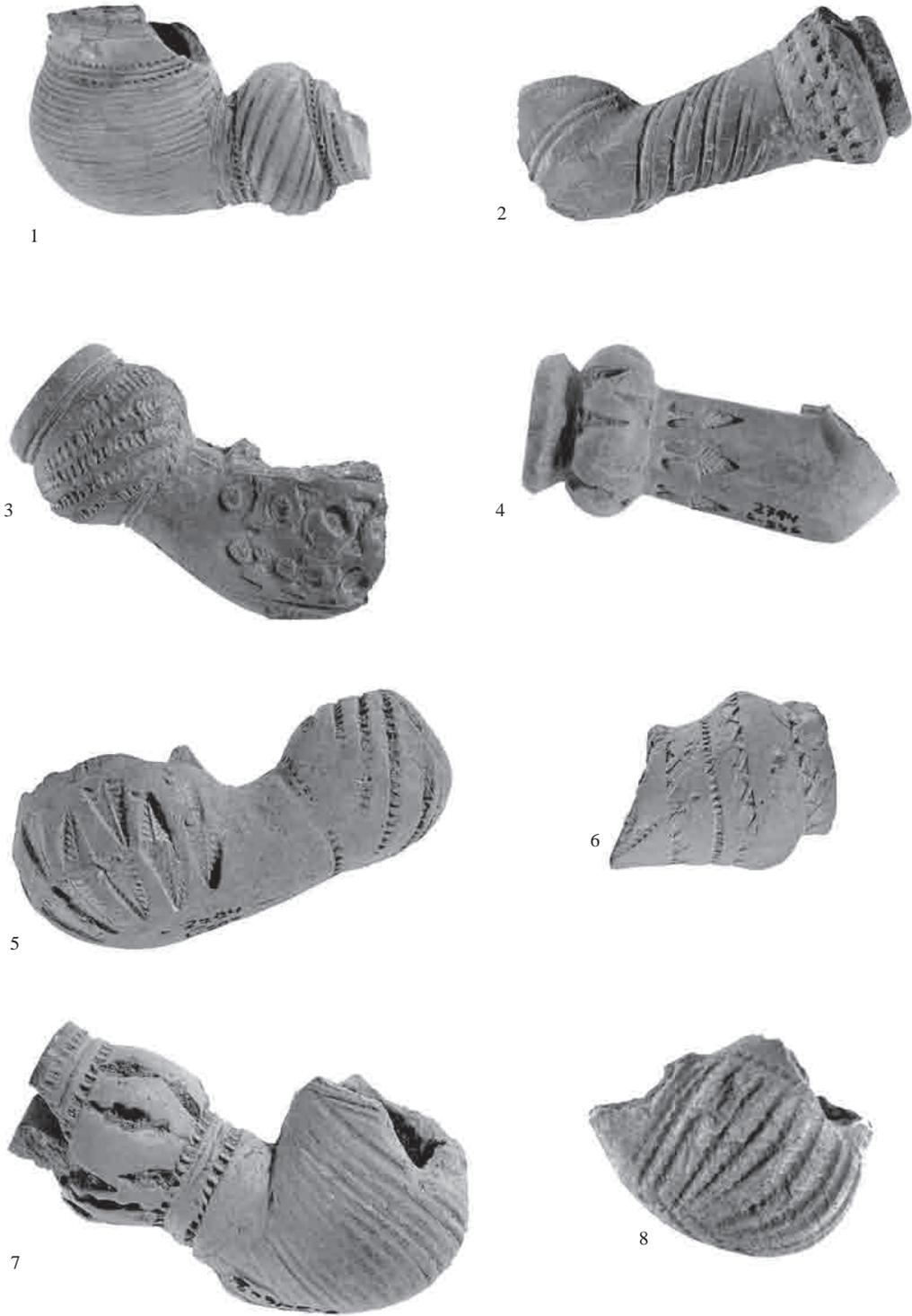


Fig. 1.

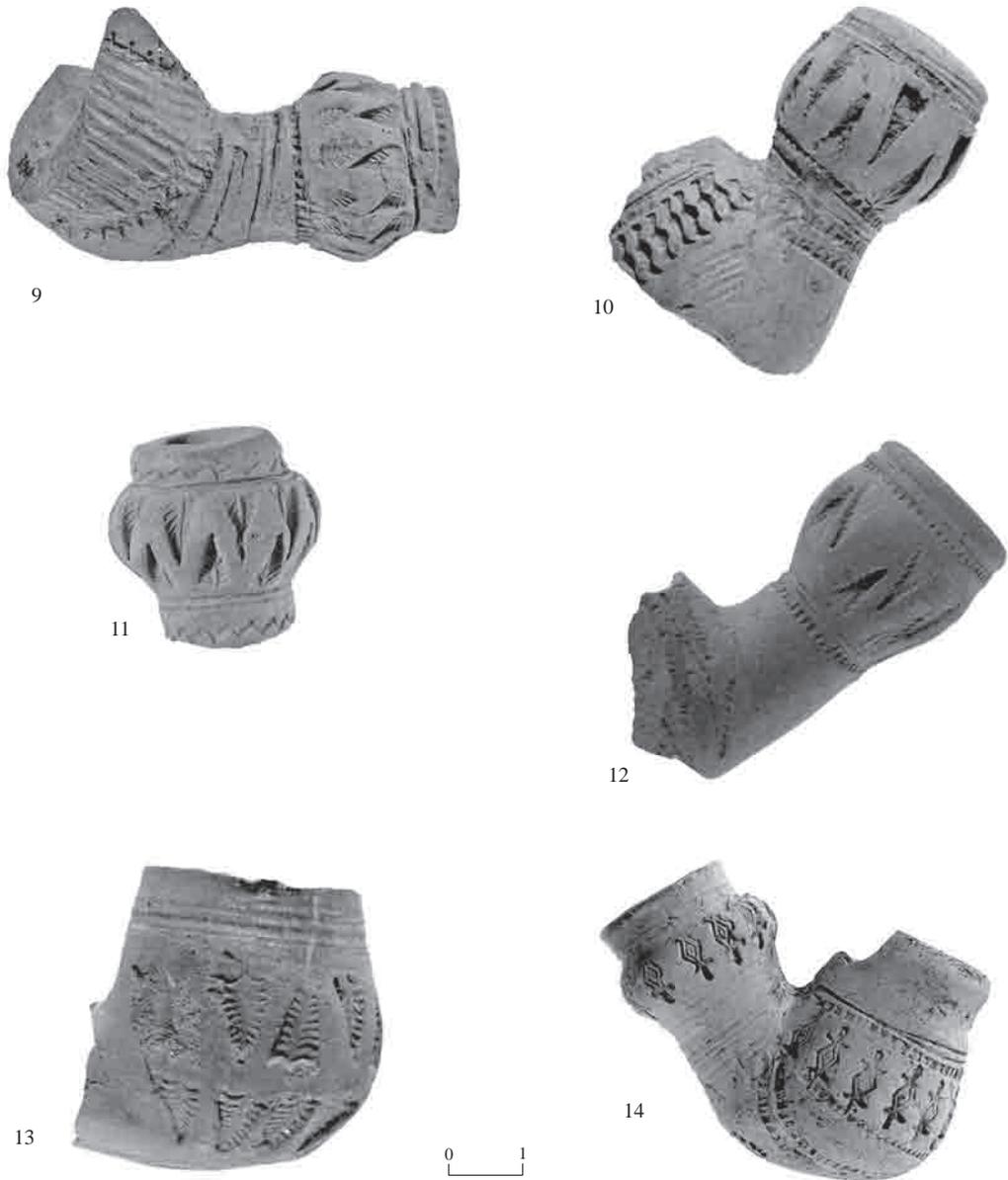


Fig. 1. (cont.).

7. B3016-2, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 1. Medium-quality clay with white and black inclusions; pink ware (5YR 7/4); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Heavy pipe with rounded bowl. Rim and stem slightly broken. Bowl decorated with molded horizontal lines. Short stem decorated with two rouletted lines. Thick wreath bears impressed leaves. Stepped ring termination

with two rouletted bands. Similar pipes have been found at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996: Photographs XVI.1, 2: No.1; XVI.3: No. 2). Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

8. B3018, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 1. Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; gray ware (5YR 6/1).

Bowl fragment. Stem broken off. Decorated with vertical rouletted lines. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

9. B3044-1, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 1.

Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; gray ware (10YR 6/1); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Bowl partly broken. Small rounded bowl decorated with molded horizontal lines. Rim outlined with a line of rouletting. Keel outlined by rouletted nicks. Thick wreath decorated with impressed leaves. Stepped ring termination, additionally decorated with two incised lines and a band of rouletting. Shank decorated with diagonally incised lines. Pipes decorated with similar leaves have been found at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: Photographs XVI.1, 2: No.1; XVI.3: No. 2). Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

10. B3044-2, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 1.

Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; light gray ware (10YR 7/2); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Bowl partly broken. Small rounded bowl decorated with molded horizontal lines and impressed triangles pointing toward the rim, which is outlined by rouletting. Thick wreath decorated with impressed pointed leaves. Ring termination very slightly stepped and outlined by rouletting. Very short shank decorated with three rouletted bands. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

11. B3044-3, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 1.

Fine clay with small white inclusions; light gray ware (10YR 7/1); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Stem fragment. Thick wreath decorated with impressed pointed leaves. Stepped ring termination decorated with a wavy incised line. Pipes decorated with similar leaves have been found at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: Photographs XVI.1, 2: No. 1; XVI.3: No. 2). Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

12. B3044-4, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 1.

Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; reddish gray ware (2.5YR 6/1); shank opening 1 cm.

Stem and fragment of bowl. Bowl decorated with impressed pointed leaves. Stem has thickened wreath decorated with impressed pointed leaves and two bands of rouletting at each end. Ring termination only slightly stepped. This pipe belongs to the same series as Nos. 9–11. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

13. B3060, Area D, L306, Phase 3; Fig. 1.

Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; gray ware (10YR 5/1).

Bowl slightly broken. Stem broken off. Bowl decorated with two bands of impressed pointed leaves. Rim set off with incised lines. One leaf on keel. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

14. B3175, L341, Area D, Phase 6; Fig. 1.

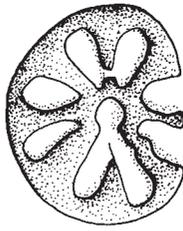
Fine clay with small white inclusions; white ware (2.5Y 8/1); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Pipe with rounded bowl. Bowl partly broken, decorated with impressed, elaborate lozenges between rows of rouletting. Short stem has incised lines. Wreath decorated with elaborate lozenges. Keel outlined by two rows of rouletting. Stepped ring termination with incised lines. Similar lozenges have been found on pipes from Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: Photograph XVI.1, 2: No.1). Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.

15. B4006, Area D, L400, surface; Fig. 2.

Fine clay with white inclusions; light gray ware (10YR 7/1); light red slip (7.5YR 4/3); burnished.

Fragment of large, rounded bowl with impressed rosettes. Keel outlined by rouletting. For a similar pipe, see Robinson 1985: Pl. 47:C5. Date: seventeenth–eighteenth centuries.



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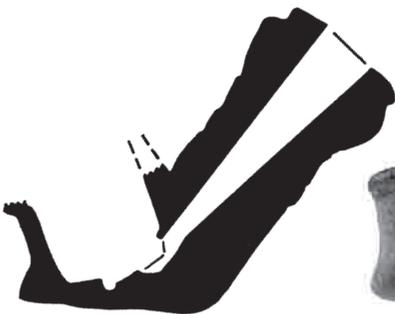


Fig. 2.

16. B1013, Area B, L101, Phase 3; Fig. 2.

Very fine clay; pale yellow ware (2.5Y 8/3); very dark gray core (2.5Y 3/1); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Pipe with round bowl and short stem with thickened wreath. Rim broken. Keel is outlined by three rouletted lines and a stamped lily or *fleur-de-lis*. The lilies reappear as a decoration between four incised lines on the bowl. Stepped ring termination. The shank is decorated with bands of rouletted triangles, rectangles and bars. The pipe was apparently not used. Probable date: early eighteenth century.

17. B3003, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 2.

Fine clay with micaceous inclusions; light reddish brown ware (5YR 6/4); light gray core (5YR 7/1); burnished; shank opening 0.8 cm.

Stem fragment with an undecorated wreath. Below the wreath is a band of geometrical patterns. Stepped ring termination. May have belonged to a small rounded pipe. Probable date: early eighteenth century.

18. B3007, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 2.

Fine clay; gray ware gley (6/N); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Stem fragment with an undecorated wreath. Below the wreath is a line of rouletted decoration. Stepped ring termination. Possibly similar to Robinson 1983: Table 52:8. Date: early eighteenth century.

19. B3069, Area D, L306, Phase 3; Fig. 2.

Very fine clay; pink ware (5YR 7/4) fired to 7.5YR 8/4; shank opening 0.8 cm.

Stem fragment decorated with rows of rouletting and bands of triangles. Ware and shape are similar to No. 17. Probable date: early eighteenth century.

20. B2794, Area D, L345, Phase 6; Fig. 2.

Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; pinkish gray ware (7.5YR 7/2); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Pipe with large rounded bowl, partly broken. Bowl decorated with impressed pointed leaves.

Below rim, row of rouletting. Short stem undecorated, ends in thick wreath with diagonal rouletting. Stepped ring termination. Probable date: early eighteenth century.

21. B1117, Area C, L109, Phase 4; Fig. 2.

Fine clay; gray ware (10YR 6/1).

Part of bowl and stem. Rim slightly broken. Bowl flattened at bottom and keel bulged. Stem is rather long and has an inscription written in Arabic letters, but possibly in Turkish, between two rouletted lines. Bowl and wreath are undecorated. Stepped ring termination. This is possibly a predecessor of the nineteenth-century, disc-base pipe, probably dating to the eighteenth century (same type as No. 24; Fig. 3).

22. B3011-1, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 3.

Fine clay with small white inclusions; light gray ware (10YR 7/1); shank opening 1 cm.

Pipe with large, rounded bowl. Rim slightly broken. Bowl decorated with impressed stylized palmettes. Below rim, row of rouletting and incised lines. Thick wreath decorated with two rows of pointed leaves and a line of rouletting at each end. Keel outlined by two incised lines and a rouletted line. Stepped ring termination. Probable date: eighteenth century.

23. B3011-2, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 3.

Fine clay; black ware; shank opening 0.9 cm.

Pipe with a small rounded bowl. Rim slightly broken. Below rim, a rouletted ladder decoration. Short stem with thick wreath decorated with oblique molded lines. Keel outlined by lines. Stepped ring termination. For similar pipes, see Robinson 1983: Table 52:11; 1985: Pl. 47:3. Probable date: eighteenth century.

24. B3016, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 3.

Fine clay with small white inclusions; gray ware (5YR 5/1); shank opening 0.8 cm.

Pipe with a small flat bowl. Rim broken. Bowl decorated with impressed rayed dots. Rim offset and decorated with gadroons. Thin



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Fig. 3.

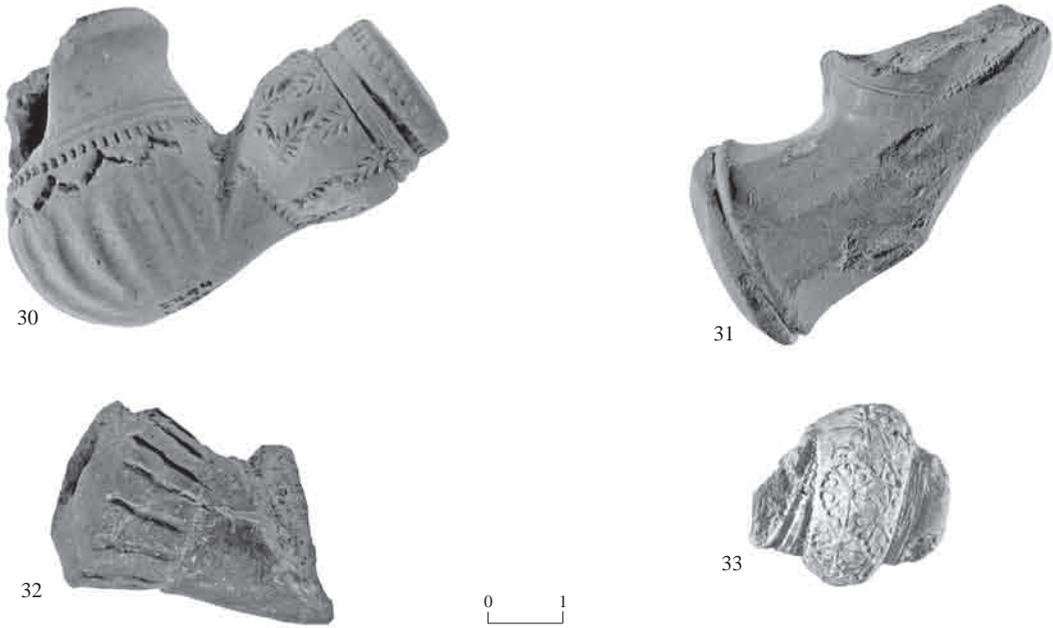


Fig. 3 (cont.).

stem is decorated below the wreath with a rouletted line. Wreath remains undecorated. Keel outlined with three incised lines. Stepped ring termination. Probable date: eighteenth century (same type as No. 21; Fig. 2).

25. B3020-3, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 3. Fine clay with small black inclusions; pale yellow ware (2.5Y 8/2); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Almost complete pipe with a large bowl. Rim slightly broken. Bowl decorated with impressed pointed leaves between rows of rouletting. Stem bears rouletting. Thick wreath also decorated with impressed pointed leaves. Keel outlined by rouletted lines. Stepped ring termination with rouletted band. Probable date: eighteenth century.

26. B3034, Area D, L302, Phase 2; Fig. 3. Fine clay; gray ware gley (6/N); dark reddish gray slip (7.5R 3/1); burnished; shank opening 1 cm.

Stem fragment. Thin wreath decorated with diagonally incised lines. Similar pipes

have been found at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996: Photograph XVI.9: No. 5). Probable date: eighteenth century.

27. B1038, Area B, L106, Phase 3; Fig. 3. Fine clay; dark gray ware gley (1 4/N); black slip; shank opening 1 cm.

Only part of stem preserved. Thick wreath with diagonal, mold-formed grooves. Stepped ring termination. On the lower side, a small handle is attached. A similar pipe has been found in Jerusalem (de Vincenz, forthcoming). Probable date: second half of the eighteenth century.

28. B3172, Area D, L332, Phase 4; Fig. 3. Fine clay; dark gray ware (10YR 4/1); shank opening 0.9 cm.

Almost complete pipe. Rim broken off. Small rounded bowl decorated with impressed, star-shaped rosettes. Below rim, row of rouletting. Rim probably decorated with vertical lines. Thick wreath decorated with incised lines. Keel outlined with three incised lines. Stepped ring

termination. Same type as No. 27 (Fig. 3; see also de Vincenz, forthcoming). Probable date: second half of the eighteenth century.

29. B1025, Area C, L103, Phase 1; Fig. 3.

Clay with lime inclusions; pink ware (7.5YR 7/4); reddish yellow slip (7.5YR 7/6); dark yellow glaze outside; shank opening 0.9 cm.

Pipe with round bowl and short stem. Rim and end of stem broken. Stem decorated with two incised lines. Gadrooned rounded bowl with at least six bands of horizontal rouletted rectangles. Keel slightly outlined with a single line. Similar pipes have been found in Greece (Robinson 1983: Tables 53:20; 55:45), with glazed examples from Athens (Robinson 1983: Table 52:3 with yellow glaze) and Corinth (Robinson 1983:273, n. 36, one yellow glazed and two green glazed). As Robinson notes, glazed pipes are relatively uncommon and seem to be a by-product of some talented potter (Robinson 1983:273). The bowl shape would suggest a date in the eighteenth–nineteenth centuries.

30. B3151, Area D, L332, Phase 4; Fig. 3.

Fine clay with small white and micaceous inclusions; light gray ware (10YR 7/1); shank opening 1 cm.

Almost complete pipe. Rim slightly broken. Bowl gadrooned, the upper part decorated with impressed triangles and row of rouletting. Thick wreath decorated with impressed pointed

leaves and rouletted bands. Stepped ring termination. For a similar gadrooned pipe, see Robinson 1985: Pl. 61:A13. Date: eighteenth–nineteenth centuries.

31. B3017-2, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 3.

Fine clay with micaceous inclusions; pink ware (7.5YR 7/4); burnished; shank opening 1.6 cm.

Fragment of stem and small part of bowl, probably belonging to a large, rounded pipe. Stem faceted and ends in a thickened ring. On lower part of stem, an eroded potter's mark. Keel outlined by rouletted line. For faceted stem, see Robinson 1985: Pl. 54:C69. Date: nineteenth century.

32. B3017, Area D, L301, Phase 2; Fig. 3.

Medium-fine clay with small white and black inclusions; gray ware (10YR 5/1); light red slip (10R 4/4); shank opening 1.4 cm.

Fragment of stem, probably belonging to a lily-shaped pipe. Flaring end of stem socket is decorated with mold-made vertical grooves. For similar socket form, see Robinson 1983: Table 56:61, 63. Date: late nineteenth century.

33. B3184, Area D, L344, Phase 7; Fig. 3.

Fine clay; gray ware gley (1 6/N) fired to white (5Y 8/1).

Fragment of stem decorated with rows of rouletting. Wreath is decorated with a very dense pattern of dotted stars. Date unknown.

NOTES

¹ This article was written in 2001. No updating of the bibliography was attempted after its submission.

² I wish to thank Hagit Torge for drawing my attention to these pipes. Photographs are by Tsila Sagiv and Clara Amit.

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