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Khirbat Burin: Rural Life during the Crusader and Mamluk Periods in the Eastern Sharon Plain

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Introduction

During November 1999–March 2000, a second and third season of salvage excavations were carried out at the northern part of Khirbat Burin (map ref. 1986/6909; Fig. 1). The excavations were required since a large pipeline was planned north of the Netanya–Ṭul Karm road.[1] Thus, the excavation was limited to a long, narrow strip of land, over 100 m long but only 4 m wide. It is situated c. 20 m north of the area excavated during the first season in 1998 (see Kletter and Stern 2006) and runs parallel to it (Plan 1). In total, 20 squares (mostly 4.0 × 4.5 m) were excavated.

Many of the results presented here corroborate those of the first season, and therefore, types of finds which have already been discussed in detail in the first report are only summarily discussed here. The second season is especially important for understanding the stratigraphy and the chronology of Strata I–II, already worked out during the first season.

Readers should bear in mind the special difficulties typical of salvage excavations. In this case, a large complex of medieval buildings (Stratum II) was exposed during four separate excavation seasons under the direction of two different archaeologists (the fourth season was carried out by Uzi 'Ad; 'Ad 2005; 2012; see Plan 1: Areas A, B). With each new season, former areas had already been back-filled or had changed completely by large-scale earth-moving and construction works. Seemingly secure, stationary points of reference within the environs of the excavations, such as existing asphalt roads, tall, massive electricity poles and concrete walls had been dismantled in the meantime, while at that time GPS was not

[1] The excavations (second season, Permit No. A-3145, and third season, Permit No. A-3188), financed by the Mekorot water company, were carried out on behalf of the IAA, under the direction of Raz Kletter. The authors wish to thank Avraham Hagian, Slava Pirsky, Rachel Graph and Dov Porotsky (survey and plans), Elisheva Kamaisky (pottery restoration), Marina Shuiskaya (drawings), Tsila Sagiv and Clara Amit (photography), Ela Altmark (metal restoration), Oded Raviv (treatment of stone finds), Yael Gorin-Rosen (glass finds) and Donald T. Ariel and Ariel Berman (numismatics). Peter Gendelman contributed to the identification of the Byzantine pottery. We also thank Uzi 'Ad for discussing data from his later excavations at the site; Joppe Gosker, for his input on the metal artifacts; and Edwin van den Brink and Aviva Schwartzfeld, for editing the manuscript.

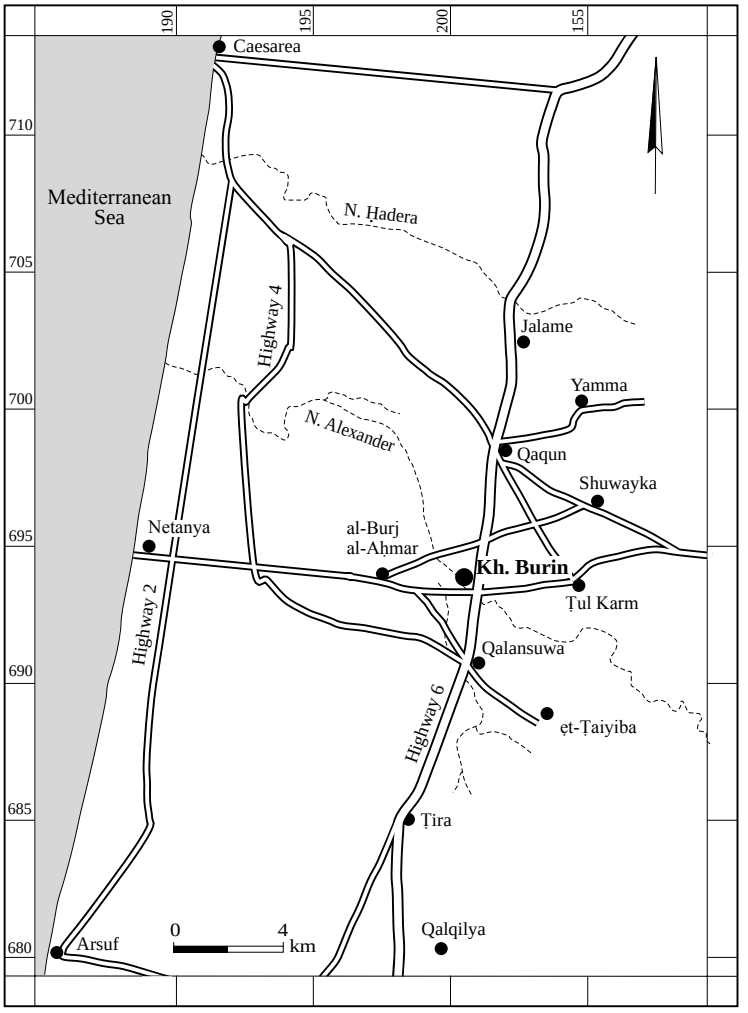
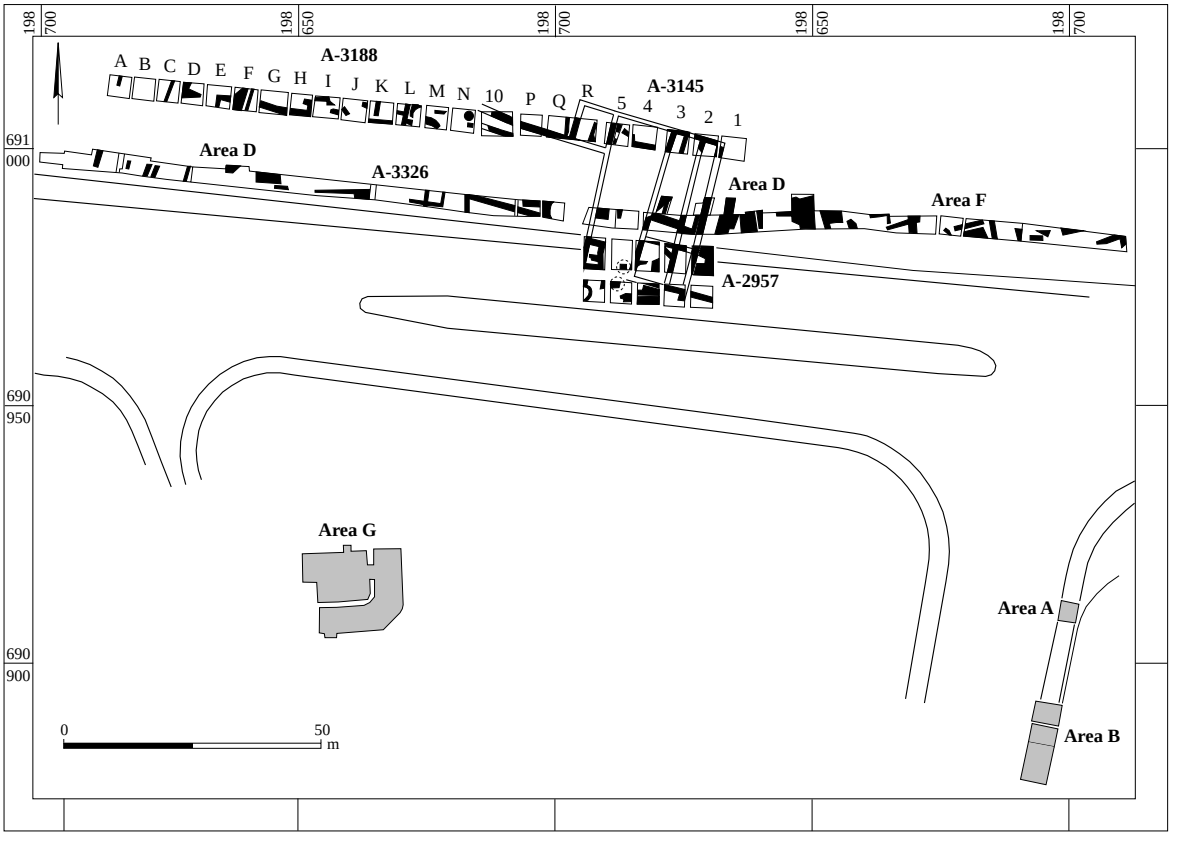


Fig. 1. Location map.

Fig. 2. The excavation area during the third season, looking north.



Plan 1. Plan of the excavations at the site.

yet available. Hence, correlating the exact position of subsequent excavation areas with one another was not an easy task. Excavation during the third season, moreover, was hampered by heavy rains and mud. Often, the dark alluvial surface resembled the fields of Flanders (Fig. 2).

The historical sources concerning Khirbat Burin, its identification and the history of archaeological research have already been treated in depth in our first excavation report (Kletter and Stern 2006). The present excavations were carried out on the northern slope of the site, covered by dark alluvial soil. In comparison with the first season, the areas examined are mostly situated lower down the slope. To the west and north there are agricultural fields. Architecture was found close to the surface in the excavation area; spreads of stones, pottery and patches of gray-colored earth indicate that the site probably extended further to the north, but not beyond the confines of a small dry wadi situated 20–30 m north of the excavated areas.

The strata are described from top (I) to bottom (III). Medieval Strata I–II were located in the entire area probed during the second season (Sqs 1–5, and a trial probe marked as Sq

10; Plan 1). Remains of Strata I–II were also found in Sqs R–P excavated during the third season, that is, the area situated between Sqs 5 and 10 (Plan 1). Stratum III, dating from the Byzantine/Early Islamic period, encompasses remains found in probes below Strata I–II, as well as west of the Strata I–II buildings, in Sqs A–N. For convenience's sake, Sqs A–N are called the "western area". The excavations, however, were not divided into areas with separate registration, and hence the term "eastern area" is not used here.

Loci opened in the second season start with the number 200 and baskets, with 2000, while loci probed in the third season open with the number 300 and baskets, from 3000. Walls were numbered from 1 up each season anew. To avoid confusion, the letter "c" has been added to all walls numbers of the third season in the present report. All heights denote absolute heights above present sea level and dates are CE, unless stated otherwise.

STRATIGRAPHY AND ARCHITECTURE

Stratum I

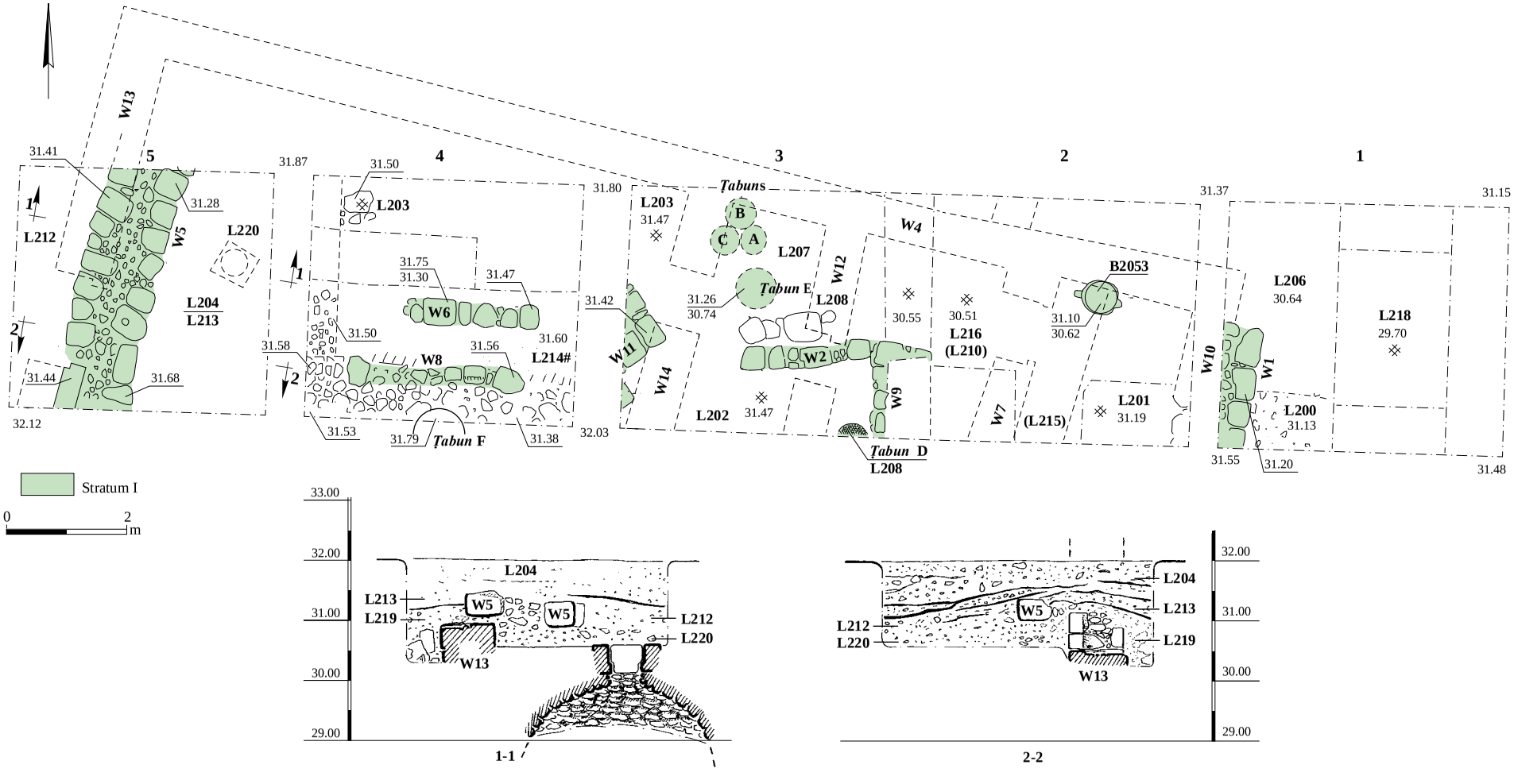
Stratum I comprises a group of sporadic building remains, which do not form a coherent plan (Plan 2). Most of the remains are close to surface. The common denominator here is the fact that they are all situated above the Stratum II remains.

The Stratum I remains include small segments of coarsely built, and often not completely straight walls. The walls are built of rough limestone boulders, usually arranged in two rows of larger stones constituting their outer faces and a fill of small stones in between them. Most of the walls are preserved to a height of 1–2 courses of stones, and some are quite thick (e.g., W5; Sq 5). Several walls of Stratum I follow the orientation of those of the earlier Stratum II, the former situated almost on top of the latter. The Stratum I builders were probably aware of these earlier walls and used them in part as foundations.

Floor segments discovered in relation to the walls of Stratum I are made of small stones and whitish material; with only few exceptions (see below), no restorable or intact vessels were found on them. The Stratum I loci are all close to surface and most of them are not sealed by later deposits. The architectural remains are described below, from east to west.

Square 1. A floor segment (L200) was exposed at the southwestern part of the square, partly covering (and thus later than) some large stones designated as W1. The stones of this coarsely-built wall had been robbed or damaged and it did not run through the entire square. Its orientation differs slightly from that of the Stratum II wall underneath (W10; see Plan 4).

Square 2. Whitish material, probably the continuation of Floor 200, was observed in the southeastern quarter of the probe (L201). A large, flat-based, handled basin (B2053; Fig.



Plan 2. Stratum I, Sqs 1–5, plan and sections.

42:11) was lowered/dug into W4 of Stratum II (Fig. 3). The base of this basin was resting on a Stratum IIa floor (at 30.62 m asl), but its position above W4 suggests a later date. If indeed it belonged to Stratum I, it is the only restorable vessel deriving from this stratum.

Square 3. A corner formed by W2 and W9 was uncovered above W12 of Stratum II. A whitish floor segment, covered with small stones and sherds (L208) is related to these walls, further associated with four *ṭabun*s in L207 (A, B, C and E; Figs. 4, 5). Another *ṭabun* (D; Fig. 6) was found south of W2, protruding from the southern balk of the square. *Ṭabun*s A, B and C are located near the northwestern corner of the square, bisecting each other (B being the latest and C the earliest). The ovens are rounded or oval, 0.6–0.8 m in diameter, and 0.2–0.3 m deep. Their rims were not found, but originally could not have been much higher than the Stratum I floor level. They were filled with fine, gray earth, ash and stones. There was a layer of small, chipped potsherds at the bottom of *Ṭabun* D (Fig. 6), perhaps serving to maintain the heat. *Ṭabun* E (Fig. 5) is located south of *Ṭabun*s A–C. A layer of stones was placed at its bottom to preserve the heat. The finding of the *ṭabun*s indicates that this area was part of an open courtyard that served as a domestic kitchen area.

Remains of well-dressed stones (W11) were found at the western side of Sq 3, above W14 of Stratum II. Their orientation deviates from that of the other walls of Stratum I. Lacking associated finds, these stones can not be dated accurately.

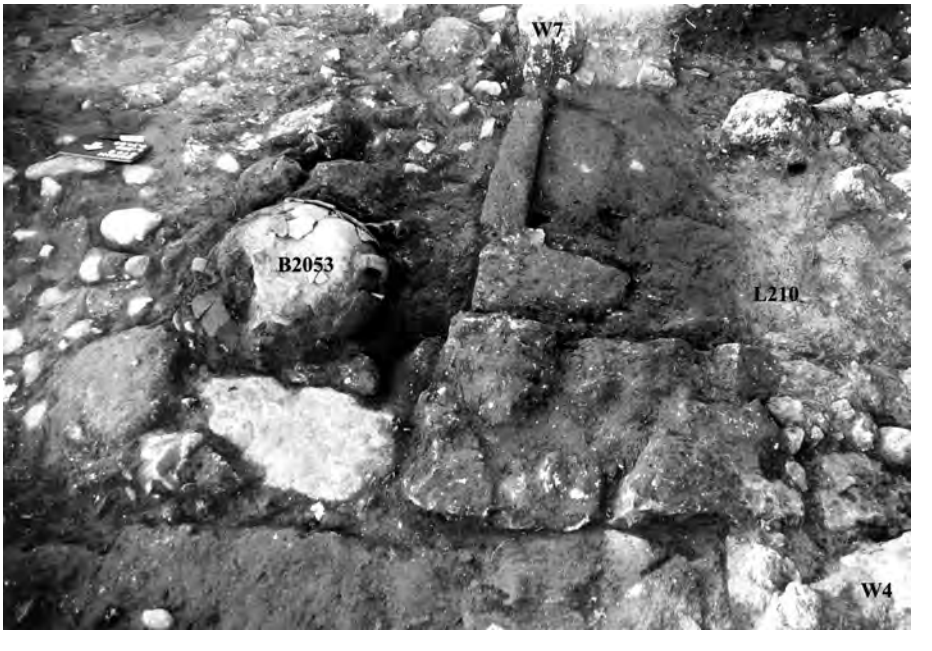


Fig. 3. Square 2, Stratum I, Basin B2053 wedged into L209, and W4 of Stratum II; in the center is the entrance in W7 of Stratum II, with Floor 210 of Stratum IIb on the inside, looking south.

Fig. 4. Square 3, Stratum I, L207, *Ṭabun*s A–C, looking south.

Fig. 5. Square 3, Stratum I, L208, *Ṭabun* E with W2 in the back, looking south.

Square 4. In this square, Stratum I includes remains of two parallel walls oriented east–west. Wall 6 is a segment that does not run through the entire square (Fig. 7). The area north of it was partially ruined by the bulldozer. Scant remains of a Stratum I floor (L203) were

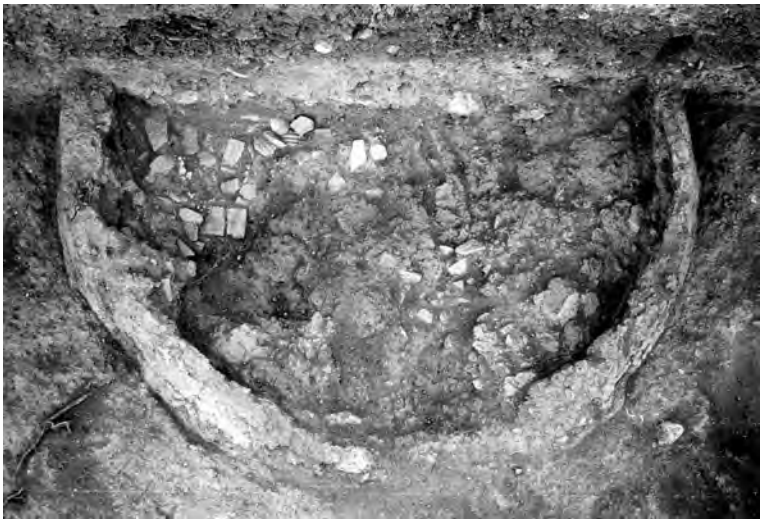


Fig. 6. Square 3, Stratum I, *Ṭabun* D with small pottery sherds inside, looking south.

Fig. 7. Square 4, Stratum I, W6 and W8, looking east.

Fig. 8. Square 5, W5 (Stratum I) above W13 (Stratum II), looking south.

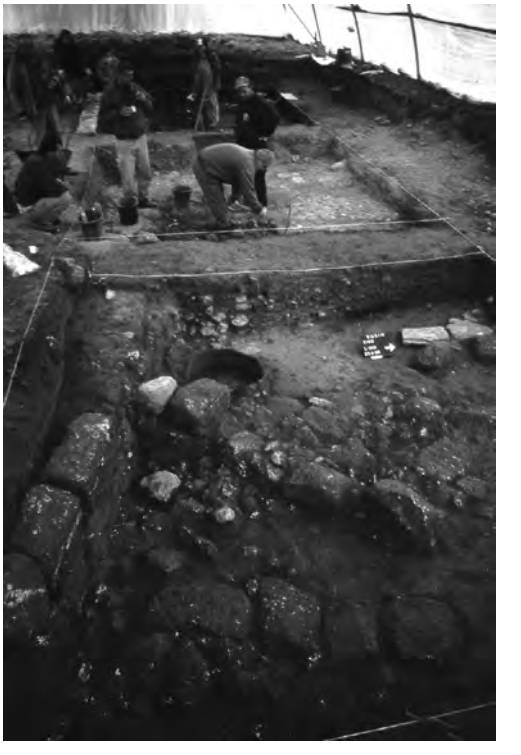
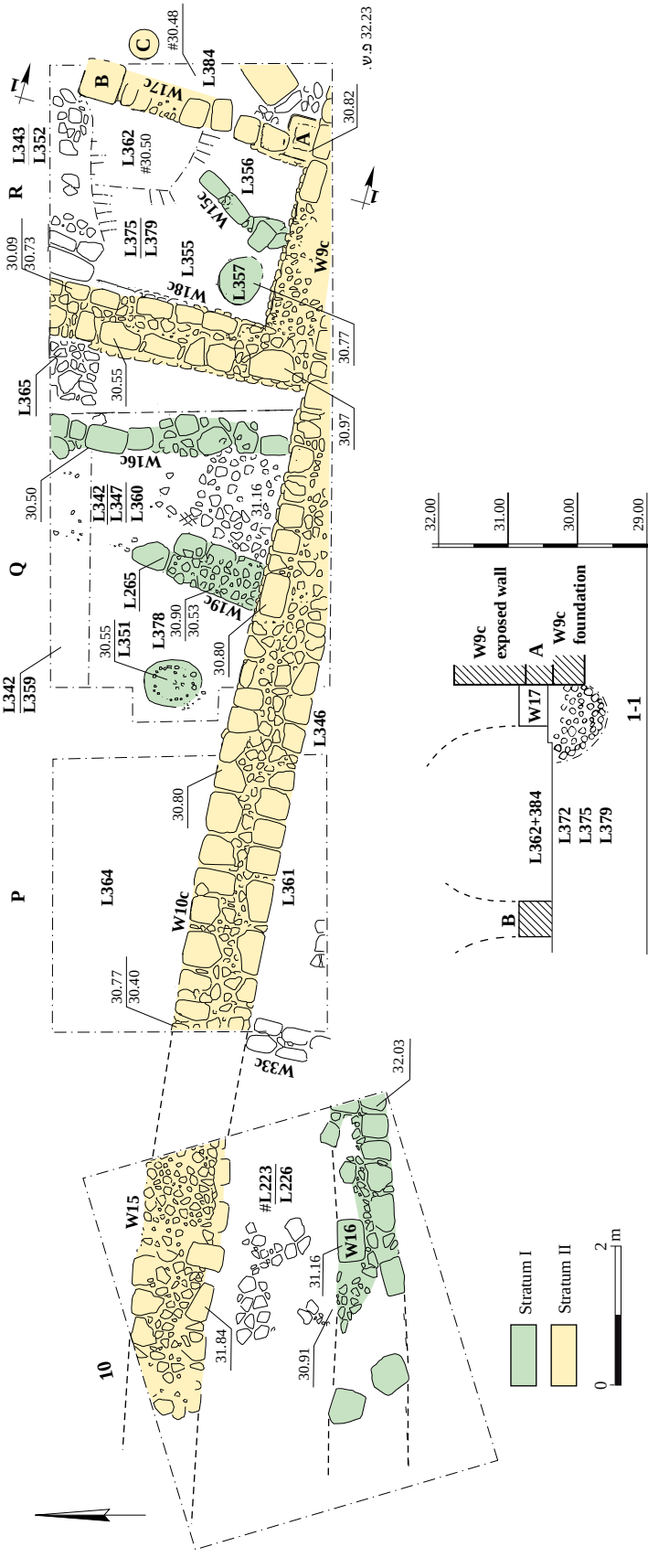


Fig. 9. Square R, Stratum I, W15c and *Ṭabun* 357 in L355; W9c at the left, looking west.

exposed at a height of 31.50 m asl north of the bulldozer trench. Wall 8 consists of a row of stones one meter south of W6 (Fig. 7). It is possible that W8 and W6 are the exterior faces of one and the same wall. A floor of small stones (31.38–31.53 m asl) was found south of W8, as well as along the western balk of the square. A *ṭabun* (F) slightly protrudes from the southern balk of the probe.

Square 5. Below the surface (L204) was a broad, crudely-built wall (W5; width 1.8 m; Fig. 8), running north–south above W13 of Stratum II (Plan 2: Sections 1–1, 2–2). Only two courses of stones of W5 survived. Its foundation course is set at a much higher level than the orifice of a nearby water cistern (L220; Plan 1: Section 2–2) belonging to Stratum II. This cistern must have been out of use by the time of Stratum I, as it had been filled in and covered by a thick layer of debris.

Square R. Remains of a Stratum I wall (W15c) were found, with corresponding L355 to its west and L356 to its east (Plan 3; Fig. 9). A collapse of small stones (L343) covered these remains. No clear floor was found, but its level is indicated by the presence of a large, oval *ṭabun* (L357; preserved at 30.77 m asl) in L355. Some stones of W15c were placed on their narrow side, and a decorated stone was reused (L355, B3279; Figs. 10; 44:1). One can assume that this stone originated from an earlier level, perhaps deriving from one of the Stratum II buildings. The Stratum I dwellers knew about the existence of the earlier remains (W18c and W9c), and built in between, or just above them.



Plan 3. Stratum I–II, Sqs P–R and 10, plan and section.

Fig. 10. Square R, Stratum I, decorated stone (L355, B3279), reused in W15c.

Fig. 11. Square Q, Stratum I, W19c, L359 and W10c, looking south.

Square Q. Floor segments (at 31.16 m asl) and a *ṭabun* (L351; Fig. 11)[2] were found in the southern part of L342. The northern half of the square seems to have been disturbed. A wall made of dressed stones (W19c) ran halfway through the square, but it was preserved only one course high. There was a heap of fallen stones (W16c) east of L342, situated above a segment of W18c of Stratum II. Below Loci 342 and 347, the square was divided by W16c into Loci 359 and 360, down to the foundation level of W16c (at c. 30.50 m asl).

Square P. Floor remains were found south of W10c, but without any connection to it.

Square 10. The position of this square slightly deviates from the excavation grid, since it was excavated as a probe during the second season, before the grid of the third season was in place. Two parallel walls were uncovered: W15 and W16 (Fig. 12). Wall 15 (Stratum II) is an extension of W10c of Sqs R and P; W16, probably belonging to Stratum I, is narrower, with only one foundation course of stones preserved. Floor remains were found between the two walls (L223), with pottery that included two vessels near W16, a chamber pot and a cooking pot, of which half of both was preserved (Fig. 41:1, 2). Their ascription to Stratum I is not completely certain.

[2] A small rim part (B3268) of this *ṭabun* was found inside its fill.

Fig. 12. Square 10, Stratum I, W15 and W16, and Floor 223 in between them, looking south.

West of Sq 10, no walls belonging to Strata I–II could be identified, though sherds from the period represented by Strata I–II continued to appear close to the surface further west until Sq N. Further to the west, in Sqs A–O, the pottery was predominantly Early Islamic in character.

Summary

Stratum I includes segments of distinct walls and floors, as well as several *ṭabuns*, all domestic in nature. Its inhabitants sometimes made use of already existing walls, mainly as foundations for newly erected ones. The Stratum II buildings went out of use before the structures of Stratum I were erected. There is only a relatively small number of sherds deriving from Stratum I. These can be dated to the Mamluk period (approximately fourteenth century). It was the latest period of habitation identified in the excavated areas. Typical Ottoman-period finds, such as tobacco pipes and Gaza ware, were notably lacking, even in surface loci.

A few coins from surface loci are dated to the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries (B2005, B2007; see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. Nos. 23, 26). Coins found above the Stratum I floor segments date to the Mamluk period (B2031, B2034; see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. Nos. 25, 27).

Black, ashy sloping layers covering the Stratum I remains were noticed close to W5 (Plan 2: Section 2–2). A similar phenomenon was observed during our first season of excavation (Kletter and Stern 2006). Although the meaning of these layers is not clear, they certainly are not destruction layers.

Fig. 13. Square 2, Stratum II, W7 with entrance in the center, looking south; L215 is below Stratum II, Phase IIa; Floor 216, with signs of burning and crushed pottery, is to the right.

Stratum II

Stratum II constitutes the main occupation level at the site, including a large building complex (Plan 4) comprising three architectural phases: IIa—the foundation of the buildings and their first use; IIb—building changes and raising of floors; and IIc—a change observable only in W12. The three phases are presented below, in chronological order from early to late.

Stratum IIa

In this earliest phase a large building complex was established. In Sqs 1–5, it is composed of W3, W4, W10, W7, W14 and W13 (Plan 4). In Sqs R–P, it includes W9c, W18c and W17c and W10c (Plan 3). Most of the walls are c. 0.75 m wide, but some reach a width of 1.0–1.2 m (e.g., W13, W9c). The walls are usually built of parallel, straight rows of large stones on the outside, with a fill of smaller stones in between. The architectural units of the complex are described below, from east to west.

Room 209.— This room is delimited by W10, W4 and W7 (Sq 2; Fig. 13). It had only one whitish floor at a height of 30.50–30.60 m asl. Wall 10 protrudes from the eastern and southern balks of the square and is covered by Stratum 1 W1. Since no remains of Stratum II were found further east of W10, it perhaps indicates the edge of the building complex.

Plan 4. Strata I–II, Sqs 1–5.

Fig. 14. Square 2, Stratum IIa, W7 and Floor L216,
with broken pottery *in situ*, looking south.

An entrance with a well-made threshold (30.88–30.84 m asl) was discovered in W7 (Figs. 13, 14). The difference of c. 0.28 m between the top of the threshold and Floor 209 is not exceptional for medieval buildings. On the inner, western side of W7, the two stones west of the threshold served as a kind of stair, facilitating access into Room 216; the same arrangement is noticeable in the entrance in W14 (see below). There were no intact or restorable vessels found on Floor 209, but some iron items were uncovered on it, including nails, part of a chain and a lock (Fig. 46).

Room 216/224.— This room is bounded by W7, W4 and W14 (Sqs 2 and 3; Figs. 13–19). Like L209, it has a white floor at a height of 30.60 m asl near W7, and 30.47–30.51 m asl near W14. This incompletely excavated room is c. 4.75 m wide. An entrance in W14 was found (Figs. 16, 17), of which one threshold stone remained *in situ*. This entrance was probably wider, but another, similar threshold stone was most likely robbed. Like in W7, stones found at the height of 30.75 m asl east of W14 served as a kind of stair leading to the entrance. No white floor was found underneath these stones, indicating that they must have belonged to the original building plan of Stratum IIa. In some places, the foundation levels of the walls were reached (W7, at 31.17 m asl; W14, at 30.16 m asl). Lack of sufficient time prevented us from reaching the foundation level of W4.

Fig. 15. Square 2, Stratum II, L210, flask (Fig. 38:5), as found in a probe; its bottom lies on Floor 216, looking south.

Several restorable or nearly complete vessels, found mostly crushed and carrying signs of burning, were uncovered on the white floor of Room 216/224. One fragmented glass vessel, deriving from Loci 216 and 209, was deformed by heat. It concerns the base of a beaker or of a mosque lamp known from Mamluk assemblages (see Gorin-Rosen, this volume: Fig. 5:2). Fragments of another glass vessel with enamel decoration were found in L224 (see Gorin-Rosen, this volume: Fig. 5:1). Pieces of burned wooden beams were found *in situ* on the floor of Loci 216 and 224 (Figs. 16 and 17). There were also metal finds, including one large tool (B2130; Fig. 45).

The pottery found in Room 216/224 is dated to the late twelfth–early thirteenth centuries, and indicates the end of Stratum IIa. The Mamluks conquered the area only in 1265, hence this pottery indicates that the complex of Stratum II was established before the Mamluk period. The end of Stratum IIa involved some destruction by fire, as proved by Room 216/224. Since other rooms failed to show evidence of violent destruction, perhaps only a small part or element of this building was destroyed by fire.

Courtyard 220/214.— The building complex included a large courtyard, incompletely excavated and bounded by W14, W4 and W13 (Sqs 4 and 5; Fig. 18). Measured from W14 to W13, it was c. 8.9 m wide. The courtyard included a bell-shaped cistern with a square opening (not excavated; Plan 2: Section 2–2). There was a well-made entrance in

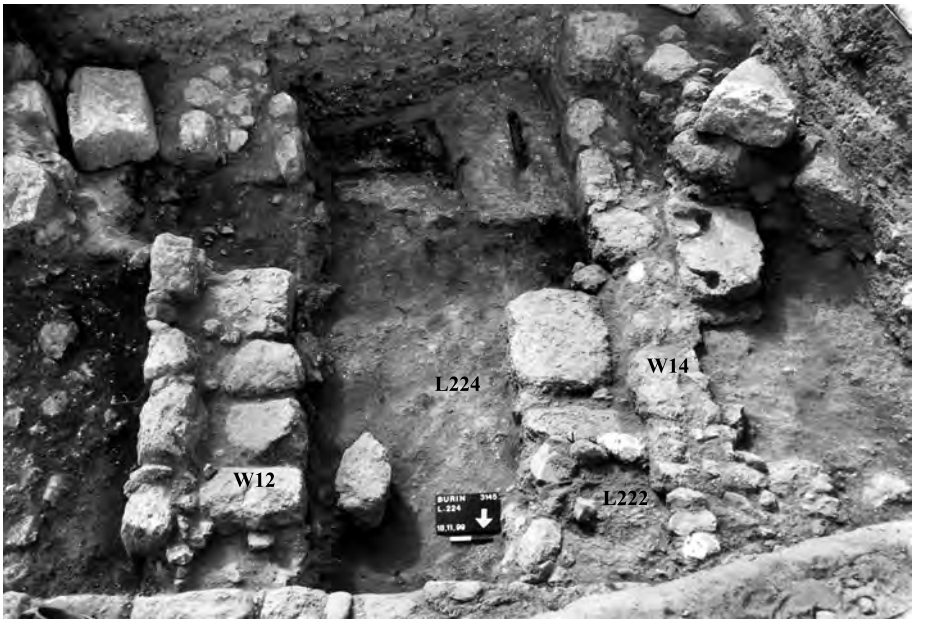


Fig. 16. Square 3, Stratum II, Floor 224 (Phase IIa), looking south; W12 (Phase IIb) at left and W14 at right; note small installation (L222), after removing jug B2113.

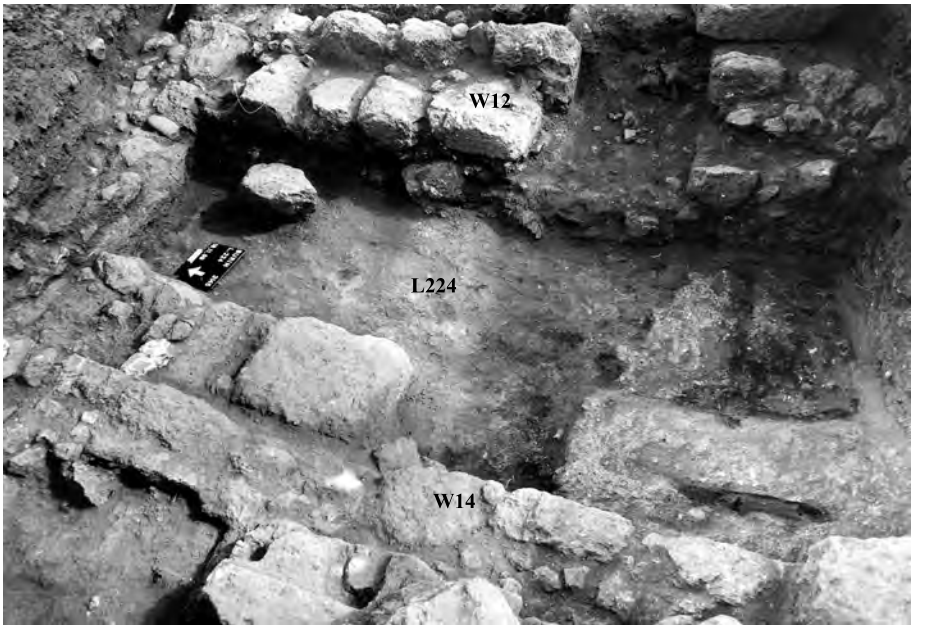


Fig. 17. Square 3, Stratum IIa, Floor 224, looking east; note the burned black wood at its right side.

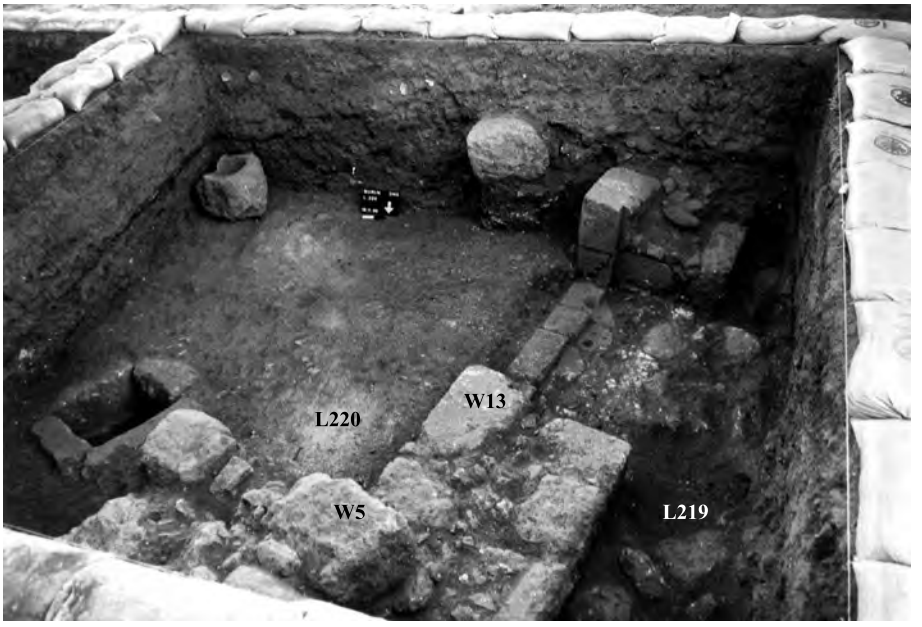


Fig. 18. Square 5, Stratum II, L220 with cistern to the left, looking south; W13 to the right, with remains of W5 above (compare with Fig. 8).

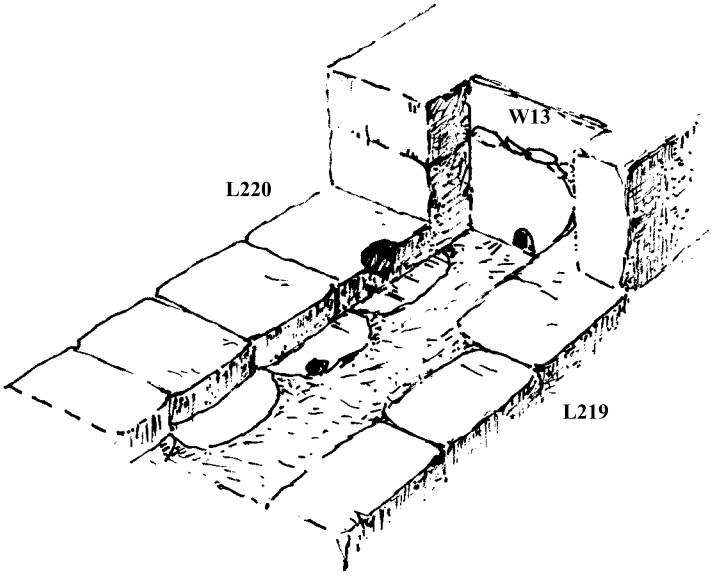


Fig. 19. Schematic drawing of entrance in W13, looking southeast.

W13 with a threshold at 30.68 m asl, and hinge and bolt sockets for a door (Fig. 19). The level of the floor along the entire courtyard was 30.60 m asl. The courtyard continued to be used as long as the building survived, without noticeable alterations or additions

Fig. 20. Squares R–P, looking west.

in the subsequent Strata IIb and IIc. Therefore, the pottery in the courtyard consists of a mixture of ceramics dating from all three phases. Yet a few sherds could be dated from the late twelfth to early thirteenth centuries. The area immediately west of W13 was not excavated, except in a small probe (L219). It was full of stone collapse, and no Stratum II floor was identified there.

Square R.— The Stratum II building remains here are rather impressive. They consist of part of a room enclosed by W17c, W9c and W18c (Plan 3; Figs. 20, 21). Wall 9c was preserved to a height of c. 1.15 m (Fig. 21). The associated floor is marked by a whitish horizon at the bottom of Loci 362 and 384 (c. 30.50 m asl). This floor was not observed in

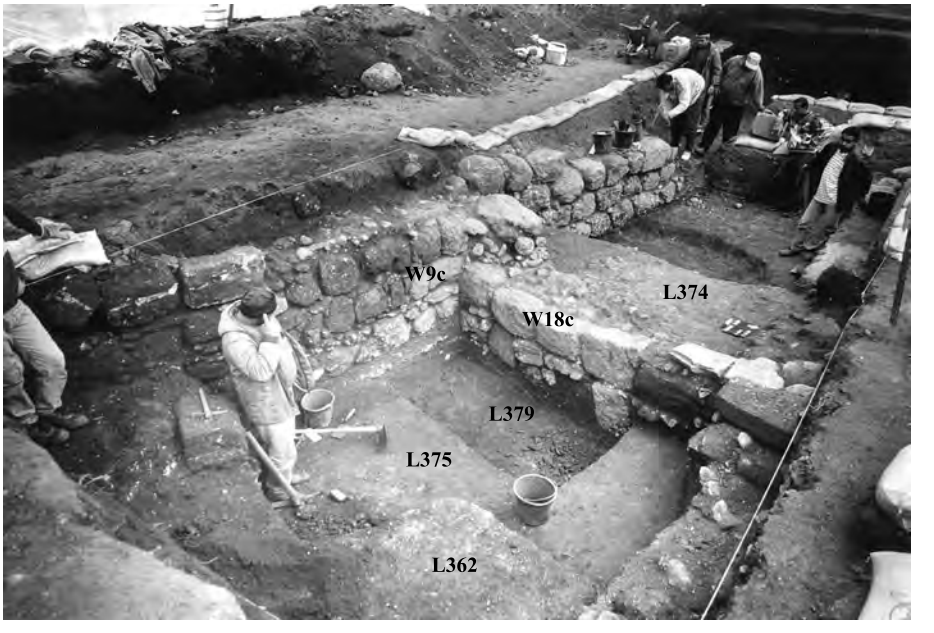


Fig. 21. Squares R–Q, looking southwest.

the entire square—it had probably been ruined by later building activities (e.g., the erection of W15c). No complete vessels were found on the floor. Excavation here was difficult, and not all stratigraphic details are clear, due also to some mistakes in registration of heights, discovered only after the conclusion of the excavations.

At first glance, W17c looked like a crude alignment of stone collapse (Fig. 22). However, it turned out to be a collapsed arch, whose two bases survived *in situ* below the stone debris (Fig. 23; Plan 3: A, B). Both bases were made of well-dressed stones. On their top, remains of mortar in rectangular patterns can be seen, leaving vacant a few centimeters on the edges. The bases are wider than the stones originally constituting the arch that rested upon them. The dressed bases were set atop deep foundations made of small stones. The floor of the room (Loci 362 and 384) was set slightly below the base level of the well-dressed stones. Wall 17c associated with W9c, whose foundation level (30.30 m asl) is 0.2 m below the floor. The lower courses of W9c are composed of stones much smaller than those used in its upper courses (Fig. 23), since they were part of the foundation below the actual floor level. Larger and better-dressed stones were placed in the wall's courses above the floor. The noted change in the courses of W9c (c. 30.50 m asl) also corroborates the identification of the floor level of Stratum IIa.

Base B, far away from W9c (Plan 3), is notably larger than Base A near that same wall. From the data collected in Sq 5, it goes forth that the width of Courtyard 220/214 was larger than the width between the two bases in Sq R. Wall 17c, with its two bases, moreover, is

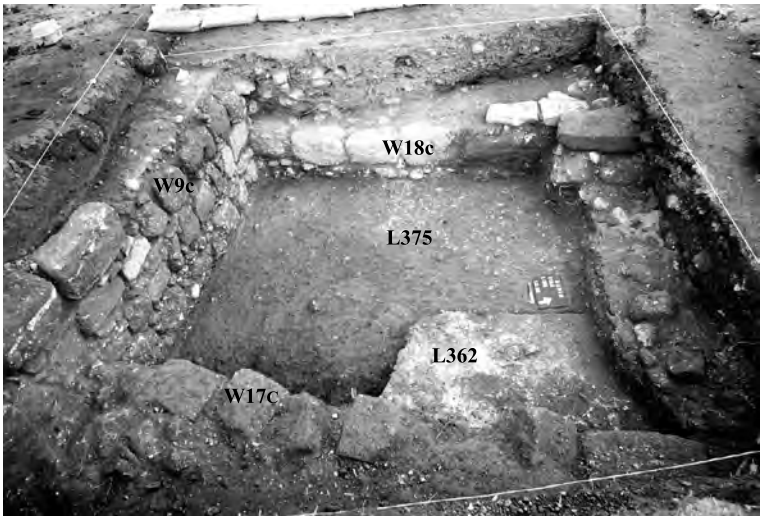


Fig. 22. Square R, stones of collapsed arch W17c and W9c to its left, looking west.

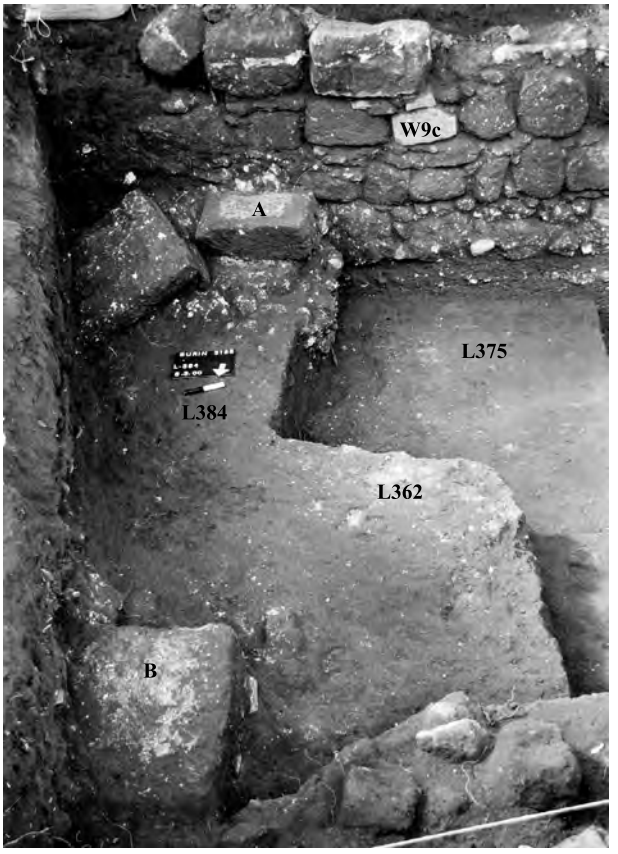


Fig. 23. Square R, the two bases (A, B) of the arch after removal of W17c, looking south; W9c is at back.

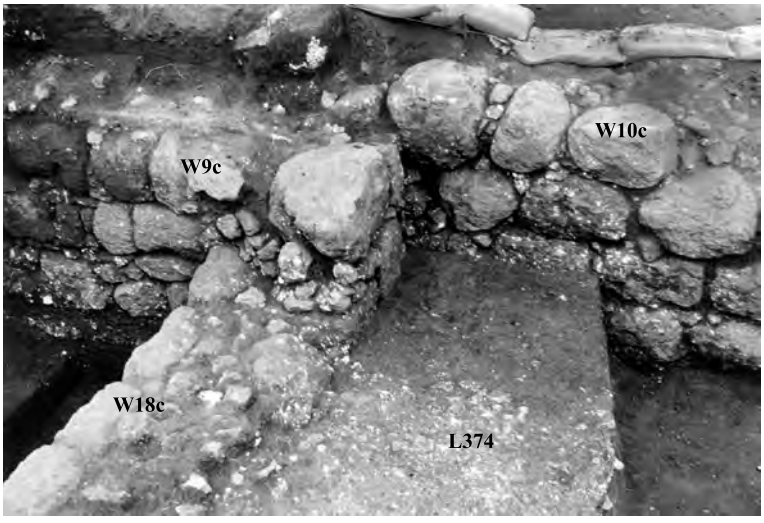


Fig. 24. Square R, L374 at the junction of W9c and W10c, looking south.

situated right in the middle between W13 and W18c. Based on these observations, it is suggested that Sq R was part of a large room covered by a symmetrical cross vault that stretched between W13 and W18c (see Plan 8). This vault encompassed W4 (north), W18c (west), W13 (east) and 9c (south), with Base B serving as a central support, probably topped by a pillar. According to this reconstruction, it may be assumed that Room 362/384 was a large square room measuring approximately 6.5 × 6.5 m. It is very similar in outline to Room 118, uncovered during the first season of excavations (Kletter and Stern 2006: Plan 1, the room bounded by walls W10, W13, W15, and W17; its size 6.75 × 5.50 m). No clear evidence of changes was found in Sq R, so perhaps this part of the complex was used continuously, without change, in both Phases IIa and IIb.

West of W18c.— The only building remains securely attributable to Stratum II in Sqs 10, Q and P is W10c/15 (Plan 3). This is a long, massive, but crudely-built wall. It is not possible to determine whether it was erected during Stratum IIa, or added in Stratum IIb. It is structurally later than W9c (Fig. 24), but this could be a technical detail. Wall 10c survived to a height of c 1.4 m; its foundation level (at 30.30–30.40 m asl) fits other walls of Stratum IIa.

A segment of a whitish floor near W18c (L365; 30.50 m asl) is also ascribed to Stratum II (see Plan 3). There was only a single floor level in Sq 10 (L223), probably belonging to Stratum I. Below it, there were fills with mixed, but mainly Early Islamic, pottery (Stratum III). Since the present surface slopes to the west, Stratum II remains became more fragmentary. A limekiln nearby (Sq N, see below) probably served for making lime from stones taken from the remains of Stratum II.

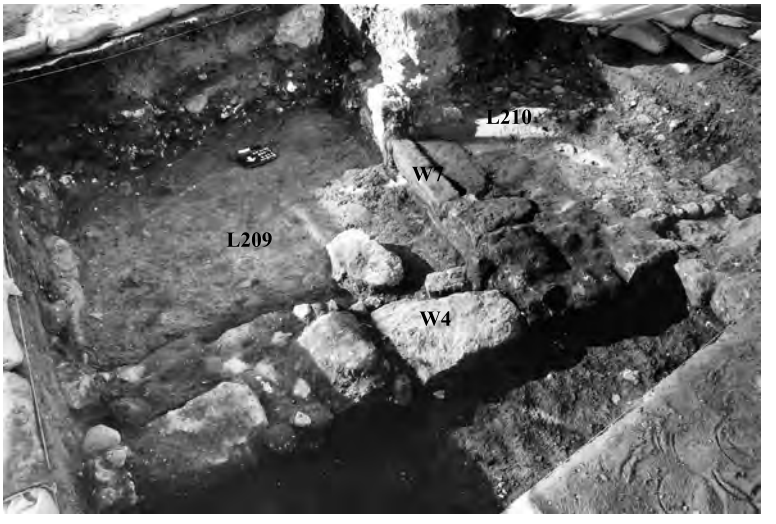


Fig. 25. Square 2, Stratum II, W7 with entrance, looking south; to its left is whitish Floor 209, and to its right is Floor 210.

Stratum IIb

This phase marks inner changes in the building complex and the rising of floors. In Room 209 (Sq 2; Plan 4) no second floor level was observed. Hence, the finds from Floor 209 may reflect the end of Stratum II, that is, Stratum IIc, rather than that of Stratum IIa, if the same floor continued to be used (Fig. 25).

A separation wall (W12) was inserted into Room 216/224, creating two smaller rooms in Stratum IIb (Loci 210 and 222 respectively). The floors of these rooms were raised 0.2–0.3 m above the Stratum IIa floor. The foundation of W12 rested 0.1–0.2 m above the Stratum IIa floor. An entrance in W12 connected Rooms 210 and 222. In Room 210, bounded by W7, W4 and W12, a floor was uncovered at c. 30.90 m asl (Fig. 25), sealing the earlier finds of Stratum IIa. Floor 210 did not yield any complete or restorable pottery finds, nor was it fully sealed by later remains of Stratum I. Thus, there is no secure pottery assemblage from Stratum IIb in this area.

In Room 222 (Fig. 26), bounded by W12, W4 and W14, the floor also had been raised, but separation of the pottery between Strata IIa and IIb was very problematic. A small, stone-built, semicircular installation was probably added during Stratum IIb in the corner formed by W4 and W14. It is founded on the Stratum IIa floor (L224), but its top (at 31.08 m asl) actually fits the later Stratum IIb floor (L222) better. It is assumed, therefore, that this installation was dug from the Stratum IIb floor and was associated with it. An incompletely preserved jug was found (B2113; Fig. 26) inside the installation, similar to the one from L216 of Stratum IIa (Fig. 38:3). Beneath this jug, a fragment of a bowl (B2150; Fig. 40:2) was found, which indicates a date in the late thirteenth century CE for Stratum IIb. Several iron objects, cemented together by corrosion (Fig. 46), were placed inside jug B2113.

Fig. 26. Square 3, Stratum II, L222, looking southwest; at the right, near W14, is the Stratum IIb installation, with jug B2113 *in situ*.

In the courtyard, Floor 220 of Stratum IIa continued to be used, as was the case in the courtyard with the two cisterns excavated during the first season (Kletter and Stern 2006: Loci 137 and 114). Accordingly, it was impossible to identify a specific Stratum IIb assemblage deriving from this courtyard.

Phase IIc

This is the final occupation phase of the Stratum II building. It is marked by the blocking with stones of the Stratum IIb entrance in W12. While dismantling this blockage, a few diagnostic sherds that belonged to the upper part of a jug were found between the stones (Fig. 40:1). This type of jug appears only during the thirteenth century CE; hence, the use of the building must have continued at least until this date.

Summary

A large, well-planned complex of buildings was erected in Stratum IIa. The walls of this initial phase have shallow foundations, only 0.2–0.3 m below the associated floors. The pottery found on the floors represents the end of this phase, roughly dated to the early thirteenth century CE. It is more difficult to date the foundation of this complex, but a date in the mid-twelfth century seems likely (see below).

Strata IIb and IIc mark changes in the buildings, mainly the raising of floors and subdivision of already existing rooms into smaller units. Stratum IIc is a constructional phase, which does not find expression in pottery finds (except for the jug from W12 mentioned above). The finds found on the floors of Stratum IIb most likely represent the last

days of the building's use, with some possible mixture with later remains, since the Stratum IIb floors were not completely sealed by remains of Stratum I.

There is hardly any evidence for destruction at the end of Stratum II and the lack of intact or restorable finds indicates that the building did not meet a violent end. The closing stage still came within the Mamluk period, perhaps in the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century CE. This conclusion is based on the fact that Stratum I, located above and sealing the building complex, still dates to the Mamluk period.

Few identifiable coins from different periods are associated with Stratum II and they can hardly date it with precision: a Mamluk coin from the end of the thirteenth century CE (L214, B2078; see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. No. 24); an Ayyubid coin of 1193 CE, found in L362 (B3285; Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. No. 22); and a Byzantine-period coin from L209, much earlier than the construction of the buildings (B2048; Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. No. 13), and therefore, considered intrusive.

Stratum III

Stratum III is a general entity that encompasses all the remains earlier than Stratum II. In fact, it includes two distinctive features: fills in probes below the Stratum II buildings, and remains in Sqs A–O (the so-called "western area"), west of the medieval buildings.

Probes Below Stratum II

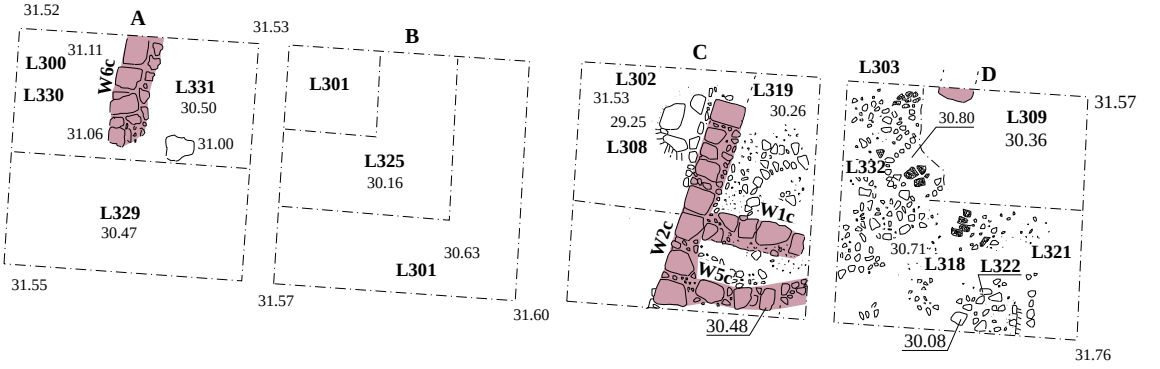
Several probes were made below the Stratum II building remains. They include L218 east of W1 and L219, west of W13 (Plan 4), and L361 and L364 at opposite sides of W10c (Sq P) and L226 (Sq 10; Plan 3). In all these loci only fills with Early Islamic and some earlier potsherds were found. A whitish floor was noticed in Sq R (L375); below it were soil fills (L379). A whitish layer, perhaps remains of a floor, was also identified at the bottom of L218 (Sq 1; Fig. 27). Locus 218 yielded five identifiable coins, all from the third–fourth centuries CE (see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. Nos. 2, 4–7).

The recent-most finds in the fills below Stratum II are a few potsherds dating to the early twelfth century CE. They provide a *terminus post quem* for the establishment of the Stratum II buildings.

The Western Area (Sqs A–O; Plans 5, 6)

A layer of 0.3–0.4 m of topsoil was removed with a bulldozer in this area prior to the excavation, until poorly preserved architectural remains began to appear. Subsequently, 14 squares (4 × 4 m) were manually excavated. In most squares, the uppermost remains consisted of white patches, possibly traces of floors (Loci 300, 301, 303, 304 and 305). Only rarely could they be related to equally poorly preserved walls, such as W6c (Sq A). Below these remains, usually one or two phases of poorly preserved architectural remains—segments of foundations of walls and floors—could be identified.

Fig. 27. Square 1, Stratum III, L218, a deep probe dug by a bulldozer, looking north.



Plan 5. Stratum III, Sqs A–H (continued on opposite page).

Square A. White patches related to the poorly preserved wall remains (W6c) were uncovered.

Square B. No significant finds were found.

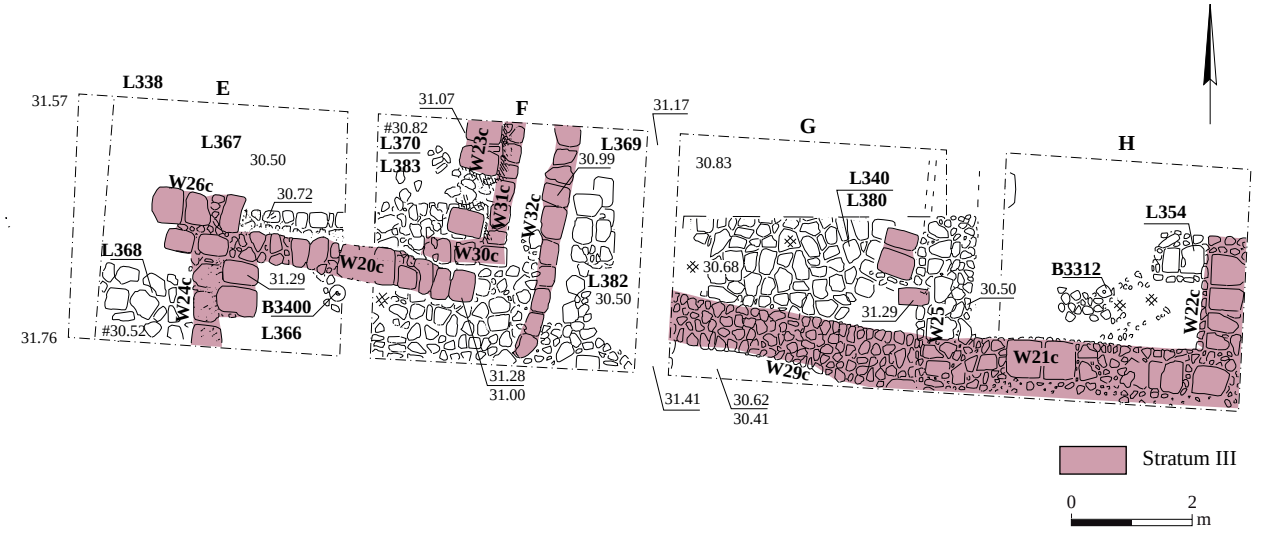
Square C. Segments of three walls (W1c, W2c and W5c) with adjacent whitish patches, probably the remains of floors, were uncovered. Wall 1c is later than W2c and W5c.

Square D. No architecture was found, except for an installation made of small stones (L322).

Square E. Wall 26c was uncovered, being an extension of W20c in Sq F (see below). There were scant remains of a floor south of W26c (L366). An alignment of a few stones was designated W24c. A stone-paved floor was exposed west of this wall (L368).

Square F. Two occupation phases could be distinguished here: an upper one, including W20c and W23c, and a lower one, including W30c, W31c with Loci 382 and 383 (Fig. 28). Locus 370 might have served as the floor, on which a fourth-century CE coin was found (see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. No. 8). The attribution of this floor to either the upper or lower phase of poorly preserved W32c is not clear.

Square G. Two phases were distinguished here as well, an upper one (L340) with white patches and a few collapsed stones, and a lower one, with W29c and a stone-paved floor (L380; Fig. 29).



Plan 5. (cont.)

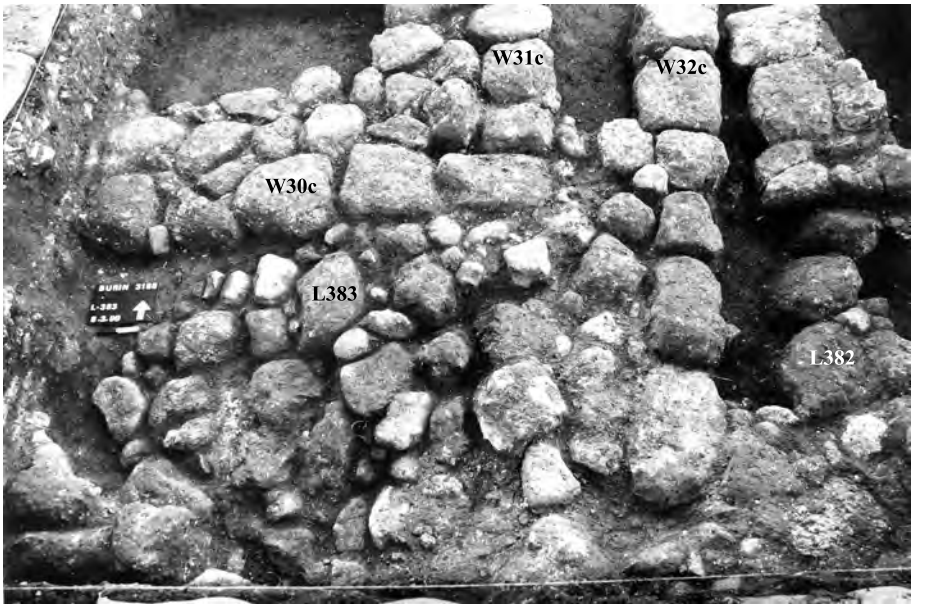


Fig. 28. Western Area, Sq F, lower phase, looking north; note corner of W30c and W31c above L383, and W32c to the right.

Fig. 29. Western Area, Sq G, lower phase, looking north; W29c and paving L380.

Plan 6. Stratum III, Sqs I–M.

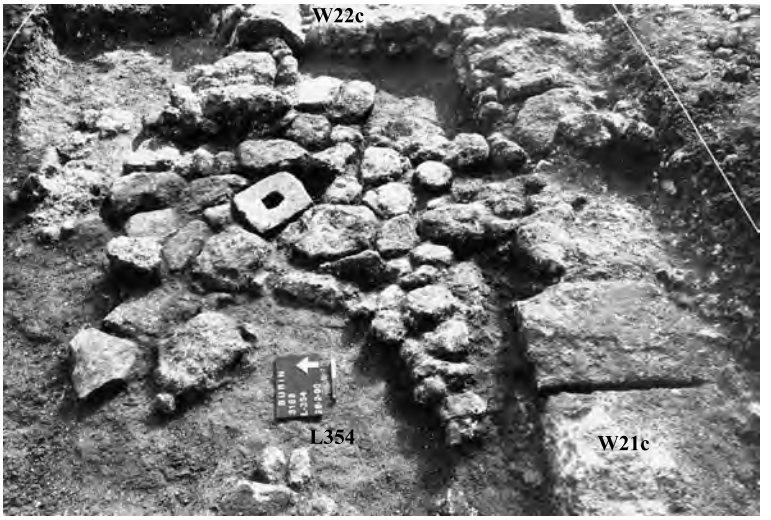


Fig. 30. Western Area, Sq H, L354 and W21c to its right, looking east; note stone with hole (B3321) in the center.

Square H. Below white patches there was a stone paved floor (L354) related to W21c and W22c (Fig. 30). Broken ground stone finds were embedded within this floor, including a basalt bowl (B3333; Fig. 44:4), probably reused as flooring material.

Square I. Scant remains of a wall (W13c) were found in this square, with some stone collapse (Loci 312 and 323).

Square J. Only soil fills containing a few potsherds (L320, L326, L327) were found, below white patches of L305 (Fig. 31).

Square K. Two phases were distinguished here. The upper phase includes L310, *Ṭabun* 324, stones near L333, and a reused stone mortar (B3245; not drawn). Walls 12c and 11c, as well as a spread of very poorly preserved stones (L345, perhaps a floor) must have belonged to an earlier phase, since they are located at slightly lower levels and do not fit the upper phase remains.

Square L. Here as well, two phases were distinguished (Figs. 32 and 33). The upper phase (Loci 313, 314, 316 and 317) includes W4c (extending from Sq L to Sq K), W3c and *Ṭabun* 315 (Fig. 32). Part of a buff-ware jug was found in L317 (B3152; Fig. 37:8). The lower phase (Fig. 33) included the foundations of W7c, W8c and W14c, associated with Loci 334, 348 and 349 respectively.

Fig. 31. Western Area, Sq J, white patch of upper phase in the upper right area, looking north; probe L326 with virgin soil at center.

Fig. 32. Western Area, Sq L, upper phase, *Ṭabun* 315, looking south.

Square M. Below white patches only a single phase of poorly preserved wall remains (W27c, W28c) and a *ṭabun* (B3415) were found.

Below the Stratum I remains, red virgin soil was reached in most squares: Loci 329–331, 325, 308, 367, 371, 336 in a probe below Loci 326 and 350, as well as in probes below W7c and W8c.

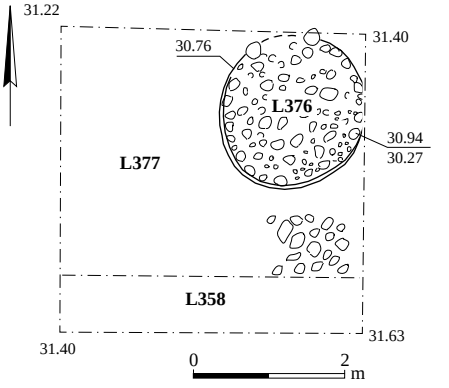
Fig. 33. Western Area, Sq L, upper phase, *Ṭabun* 315 and W3, looking south; note lower phase W7 and underneath it W14.

Summary

Due to a lack of secure loci, the pottery could not be separated according to phases. It mostly dates from the Early Islamic period. Coins collected from the surface date to several distinct periods, including the Seleucid, Byzantine, Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid periods (see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. Nos. 1, 11, 19–21). In deeper loci, the coins mainly date from the Roman and Byzantine periods (third–seventh centuries CE; see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. Nos. 3, 8–10, 12, 14–17), in addition to a single Umayyad coin (L337; phase ascription unclear; see Ariel and Berman, this volume: Cat. No. 18). Many of the coins belong to types that were in circulation for long periods of time, and therefore, they do not provide accurate dates.

A Limekiln in Square N (Plan 7)

Square N is located on the border between the Early Islamic "western area" (Sqs A–M) and the medieval complex (Sqs 10, R–P, 1–5). It was full of dark, fine soil with some animal bones (not kept). A limekiln (L376; Plan 7) was dug. The round kiln (Figs. 34, 35) measured c. 2 m in diameter. It was found full of burned, crumbling limestone, dark earth and some remains of charcoal. The opening to the firing chamber was originally probably located



Plan 7. Square N.

Fig. 34. Square N, Limekiln 376, looking north.

Fig. 35. Square N, Limekiln 376, looking south; note possible opening between stones.

in its north, between two well-placed stones. The other stones shown in Plan 7 are those that were placed in the kiln, for actual burning. At the edge of the kiln, a dark red, burned layer, c. 4 cm thick, was noticed—the result of the thermal shock created by the fierce fire in the kiln. Very few potsherds were found inside, including some diagnostic pieces of the Mamluk period. Outside the kiln (L377), no floors or any other significant finds were noticed. It seems that the kiln postdates Stratum II and used stones thereof as a source for lime production. How much later the installation is can not be stated with any certainty.

THE FINDS

The finds are presented below in chronological order, from the earliest to the latest. The earliest find from the present excavations is a worn fragment of a Hellenistic-period ungentarium deriving from a surface locus (L201, B2022; not drawn). Coincidentally, a subsequent, fourth season of excavation, directed by Uzi ʻAd at another area of the same site (Khirbat Burin [East]), revealed a large building from this period (ʻAd 2005; 2012; see Plan 1: Areas A, B).

Pottery

Stratum III (Figs. 36, 37)

Most of the sherds retrieved from the fills below the Stratum II building complex are dated to the Early Islamic period. One Late Roman bowl (Fig. 36:1) is Cypriote Red Slip Form 9 (Hayes 1972:379, Figs. 81:9; 82:9), which is dated to the late Byzantine period. Another bowl (Fig. 36:2) is Phoecan Red Slip Form 10, dated approximately to the seventh century CE (Hayes 1972:343–346, Fig. 71:11–15). The unglazed buff ware bowl (Fig. 36:3) is identical in shape to glazed bowls of the ninth–tenth centuries CE (Kletter 2005: Fig. 14:7; Avissar 2006:41*). Vessels similar to the incised krater with thick sides (Fig. 36:4) were found at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 14:4). The buff ware jug, with an impressed decoration (Fig. 36:5), is a common type of vessel with a similar date (Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:6, 7; Avissar 2006: Fig. 4:17). A large jar handle (Fig. 36:6) belongs to a jar type found in Nebi Samuel, often bearing impressions (cf. Ramla—Kletter 2005: Fig. 19:1). A rim of a *dolium* (Fig. 36:7) dates to the late Byzantine period (Ayalon 1991:80–82; Calderon 2000:135–137, Pl. XXI:31). No small finds were retrieved from Stratum III, except for a single spindle whorl from L218 (Fig. 36:8). Such whorls are common in the Early Islamic period (cf. Yoqneʻam—Agadi 1996:236, Photograph XIX:1–3).

Similar Early Islamic pottery was found in the western area of the excavation (Fig. 37). It is presented separately here because this area was not sealed by later strata. Very few vessels deriving from L317 were preserved half complete; the rest are sherds. The assemblage includes a deep, buff ware bowl (Fig. 37:1, cf. Kletter 2005: Fig. 14:4–8) and an orange ware bowl (Fig. 37:2). The Byzantine Fine Ware bowl with a white-painted decoration (Fig. 37:3) appears from the late Byzantine period till the ninth century CE (Magness 1993:293;

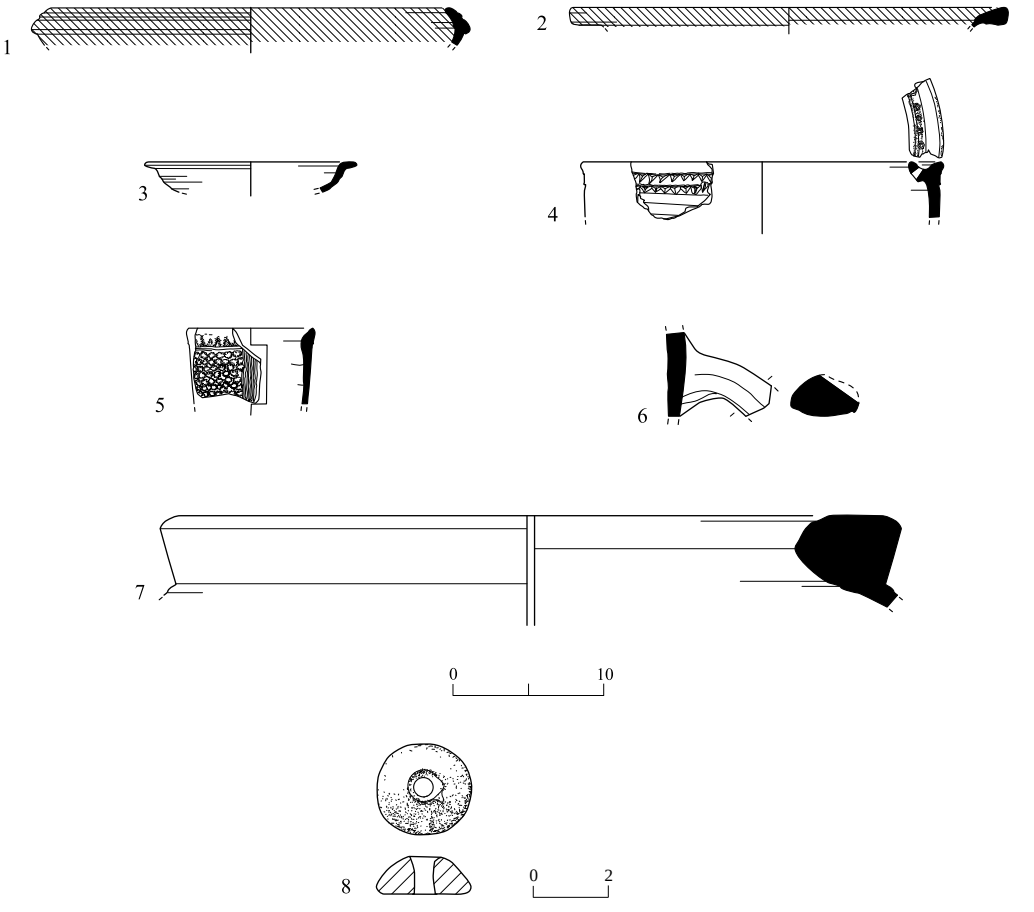


Fig. 36. Stratum III pottery and a spindle whorl.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	CRS Bowl	2069/4	215	Pink ware, red surface, worn
2	FRS Bowl	2152	227	Pink-brown ware, red surface
3	Bowl	2069/3	215	Ware, unglazed
4	Krater	2161/3	226	Orange ware, buff surface, incised decoration on ext.
5	Jug	2161/4	226	Buff ware, impressed decoration of stars
6	Jar handle	2071/5	215	Orange ware, gray core
7	*Dolium*	2124/1	215	Brown ware
8	Spindle whorl	2094	218	Gray stone, worn, diam. 23 mm

Arnon 2008:31, Type 514). Glazed wares include common glazed bowls (Fig. 37:4; cf. Avissar 1996:75, Fig. XIII.2:1–3; Kletter 2005:63, Fig. 11:1–10; Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 29:9, 10). The cooking krater (Fig. 37:5) exists over a long time span (Kletter 2005: Fig. 18:7; Arnon 2008:38, 151, Type 721), as does the open cooking pot (Fig. 37:6, cf. Avissar 2006: Fig. 5:7; Kletter 2005: Fig. 18:1–3). Figure 37:7 is a buff ware, open vessel.

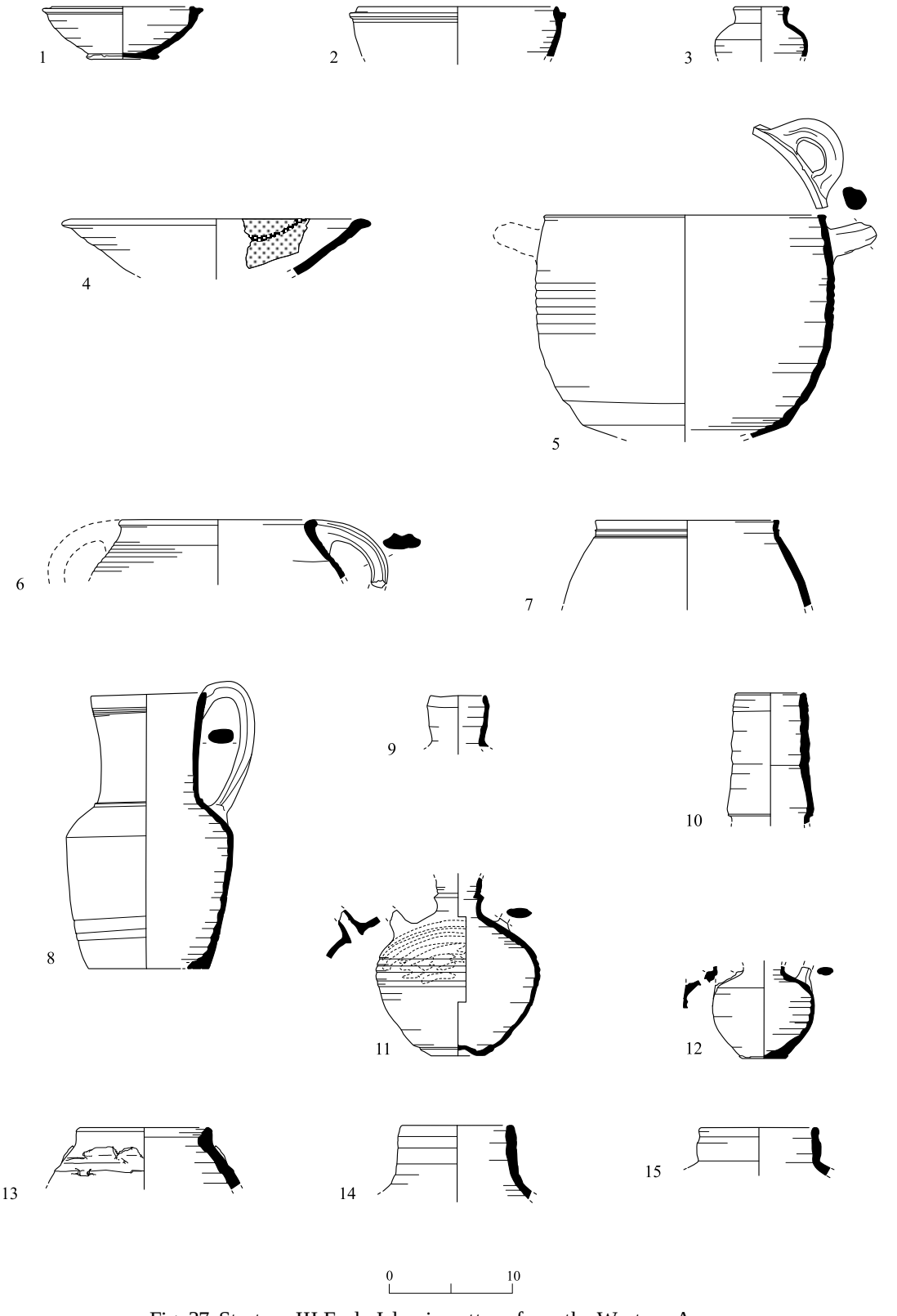


Fig. 37. Stratum III Early Islamic pottery from the Western Area.

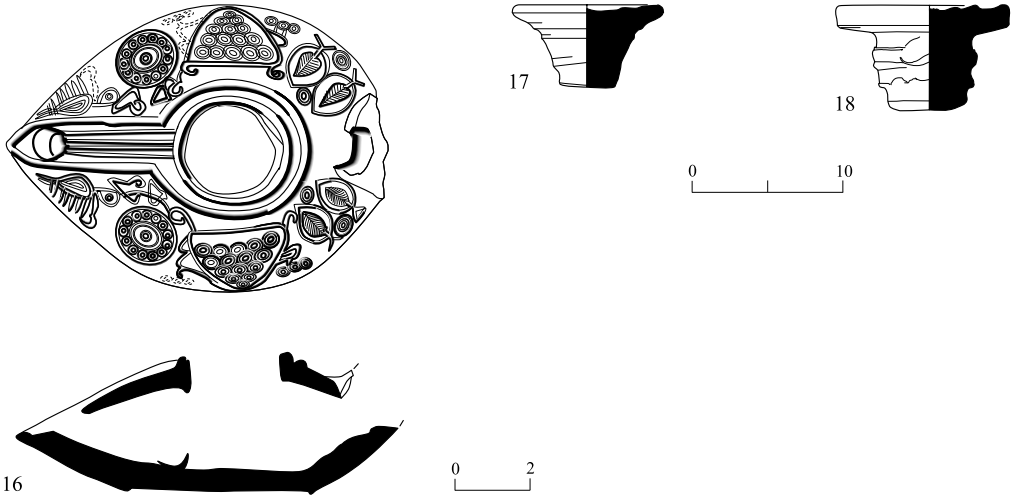


Fig. 37. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Phase	Description
1	Bowl	3370	381		Buff ware
2	Deep bowl	3201	335	Lower	Orange ware
3	Bowl	3046/1	385		Orange ware, white decoration
4	Bowl	3174/2	315	Upper	Glazed, buff ware, green and yellow glaze on int.
5	Cooking krater	3121	315	Upper	Brown ware, burned
6	Cooking pot	3157	325		Dark brown gritty ware, gray ext.
7	Open vessel	3174/1	315	Upper	Buff ware
8	Jug	3152	317	Upper	Buff ware, base missing
9	Jug	3209	335	Lower	Orange ware
10	Antilia jug(?)	3201	335	Lower	Buff ware
11	Juglet	3066	317	Upper	Gray ware, white-slipped bands on ext.
12	Juglet	3067	317	Upper	Orange ware, buff ext.
13	Gaza jar	3077/8	304	Surface	Brown-orange ware
14	Jar	3219/5	337		Orange ware
15	Jar	3117	325		Brown-orange ware
16	Lamp	3065	317	Upper	Buff ware
17	Stopper	3114/1	325		
18	Stopper	3126	319		

The buff ware jug (Fig. 37:8) lacks a base and was found upside down, perhaps re-used in a floor. Almost identical jugs were found in two excavations at Ramla (Kletter 2005:73, Fig. 16:1; Cytryn-Silverman 2010:104–108, Photograph 9/7, Pl. 9.17:11, and see therein for additional comparisons). There was also one orange-ware rim of a jug (Fig. 37:9). Figure 37:10 illustrates a jug with a carination at its lower part, possibly an antilia jar of the Early Islamic period (cf. Ayalon 2000:226), or perhaps a pipe (Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:13).

Juglets include a gray, piriform spouted juglet with an omphalos base (Fig. 37:11; cf. Kletter 2005: Fig. 17:1) and a similar, but smaller spouted juglet (Fig. 37:12). Jars include the common Gaza jar type (Fig. 37:13), typical of the sixth–seventh centuries, or perhaps slightly later (Majcherek 1995:169, Form 4, Pl. 3:4–8). The jar with a long neck (Fig. 37:14) is common in the Early Islamic period (Kletter 2005: Fig. 9:2, 9). The bag-shaped jar with a short neck and a bulging wall (Fig. 37:15) is dated to the seventh century (Calderon 2000:104, Pls. VI:7–10; XVII:11–15). Only one buff ware lamp was found, its handle lacking (Fig. 37:16; cf. Kletter 2005:86, Fig. 21:3–10). A few clay stoppers were found as well (Fig. 37:17, 18; cf. Kletter 2005: Fig. 20:4, 5).

Most of the material from Stratum III is dated to the ninth–tenth centuries, with only a few late Byzantine sherds. The latest material under the floors of Stratum II includes one small fragment of a late Byzantine slip-painted vessel, dated to the twelfth century (L225, B2136/3, not drawn; cf. Avissar and Stern 2005:40, Fig. 15:1, 2).

Stratum IIa (Figs. 38, 39)

Several restorable or nearly intact vessels were found on the floors (Loci 216 and 224) of Stratum IIa. They date to the twelfth–early thirteenth centuries. In addition, potsherds from the same loci were also drawn, including potsherds from other floors attributed to this phase of Stratum II (Loci 209, 211, 213, 220 and 222). The latter date to the same period, but their stratigraphic position is less secure. The overall assemblage is small, since floors bearing material from Stratum IIa were scarce.

Handmade Wares.— Several handmade vessels are attributed to Stratum IIa. Handmade pottery is first introduced in the eleventh century (for further discussion, see Kletter and Stern 2006:180–184). Two rather unusual forms were found, a small bottle and an oil lamp. The bottle is a small cylindrical vessel (Fig. 38:1). Elaborately decorated cylindrical metal inkwells are known from the same period (Ziffer 1996:24, Fig. 5; Taragan 2005: Figs. 1, 6–10); however, this item does not seem to be an inkwell, as it lacks loops or handles, necessary for tying it to a scribe's body. Another handmade vessel, a closed lamp, was found in L213, whose stratigraphic position is not secure (Fig. 38:2). It bears signs of red burnish outside and traces of soot. A handmade lamp, slightly different in form, was found at Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta in a context dating to the thirteenth century CE (Getzov 2000:87*, Fig. 21:4).

Jugs.— The nearly complete, wheel-made jug, with spout and handle missing, has a rounded body, an omphalos base, a straight narrow neck with a pronounced ridge below an everted rim (Fig. 38:3). It is made of well-fired fabric, thin-walled, and with bands of white slip decoration on the exterior. An identical jug, albeit missing a rim, was found in the installation in the corner of W4 and W14 dated to Stratum IIb. A spout from another similar jug was found in L222 (Fig. 38:4). Red ware, wheel-made jars with a decoration of white-painted lines and omphalos bases are known from Transjordan, where they are dated to the late eleventh century CE (Walmsley 2001:546, Fig. 14:15). Similar jugs, made of light

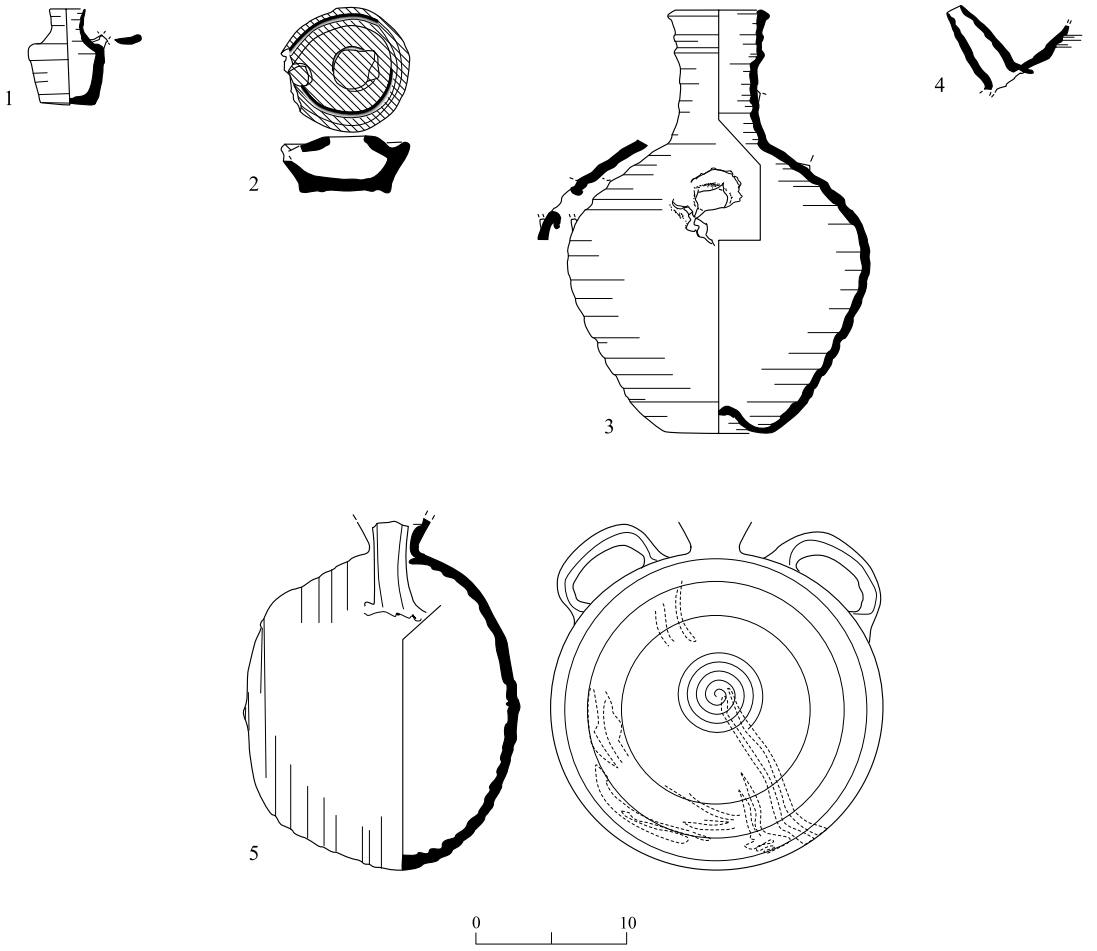


Fig. 38. Stratum IIa pottery.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bottle	2140	216	Reddish buff ware, burned ext.
2	Lamp	2065	213	Red-burnished ext., traces of soot
3	Spouted jug	2067	216	Gritty red ware, burned ext., bands of white slip
4	Spout of jug	2116/1	222	Gritty brown ware, gray ext. with white slip bands
5	Flask	2066	216	Orange-brown ware, gray slip and white bands on ext.

clay and decorated with dark (red or black) painted bands, were found in Bet She'an and in Pella, and date from the second half of the thirteenth to the fifteenth century CE (Avissar and Stern 2005:111, Fig. 46:1, 2), and at two excavations in Tiberias, in a Mamluk-period stratum (Stern 2013:197, Fig. 15:8) and in a twelfth/early thirteenth-century stratum (Stern, forthcoming: Fig. 2:7). The jug from Kh. Burin is almost identical in form to one found in the Hebrew University excavations at Bet She'an (Avissar and Stern 2005, Fig. 46: 2), and this seems to show a link between these two fabric and decoration variations. It appears to

be a rare type—heretofore reported only from sites in the northern Jordan Valley—not often published.

Flask.— One nearly complete, asymmetric flask (Fig. 38:5) was found in L216, lying on a Stratum IIa floor. It has two handles, the rim is missing. The material is similar to that of the jugs (above) and has the same type of simple white-band decoration. A similar flask is known from Ayla (Whitcomb 1994:24, Vessel "h"; date not discussed). The position of the handles is typical of the Early Islamic period, but the vessel at issue was found in a locus also containing later types.

Cooking Wares.— The cooking wares that were found in this stratum consist of thin-walled cooking pots that were in use from the twelfth to the first half of the thirteenth century CE. According to chemical and petrographic analyses, such vessels were produced in Beirut (Waksman et al. 2008; Stern 2012:41–44, Type BE.CW.1, Pls. 4.14–16:1, 2). One cooking pot with an extended, thin triangular rim has a transparent glaze inside and glaze splashes outside (Fig. 39:1; cf. Stern 2012: Pl. 4.15:8–12).

Two globular cooking pots with simple rims (Fig. 39:2, 3) vary only in size; they have vertical lug handles and were originally glazed inside on the base only, with a transparent glaze (Stern 2012: Pl. 4.15:3–7).

The glazed baking dish (Fig. 39:4) with transparent glaze, simple rim and thin strap handle, probably dates to the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE (cf. Stern 2012:41–44, Type BE.G2.1, Pl. 4.14:6).

Levantine Glazed Bowls (Fig. 39:5–8).— The bowls are made of a red-brown fabric with a thin slip and yellowish or green glaze that has a gritty appearance and sgrafitto lines on the extended rims (Fig. 39:5). Another fragment (not drawn) of the same type was found in B2057, possibly from the same vessel as illustrated in Fig. 39:5. Like cooking wares, these Levantine glazed bowls were apparently produced in Beirut (Waksman et al., 2008; Stern 2012:44–47, Type BE.G2.7, Pl. 4.23). The bowl in Fig. 39:8 is similar in shape and material to that illustrated in Fig. 39:7, but was found in L211 whose phase ascription within Stratum II cannot be ascertained, since this locus lacks a clear floor.

Aegean Incised Sgrafitto Bowl.— This bowl has a green glaze over a white slip (Fig. 39:9). The sgrafitto decoration includes a central medallion with concentric rings around it. This bowl was probably produced in the Aegean region during the twelfth–early thirteenth centuries (Stern 2012:65–69, Type GR.G2.6, Pl. 4.49:1–9). Evidence of pottery production was identified in Thebes and Chalcis, after which it was suggested to rename this ware "Middle Byzantine Production" (MBP; Waksman et al. 2014), combining the two wares previously known as "Byzantine" and "Aegean."

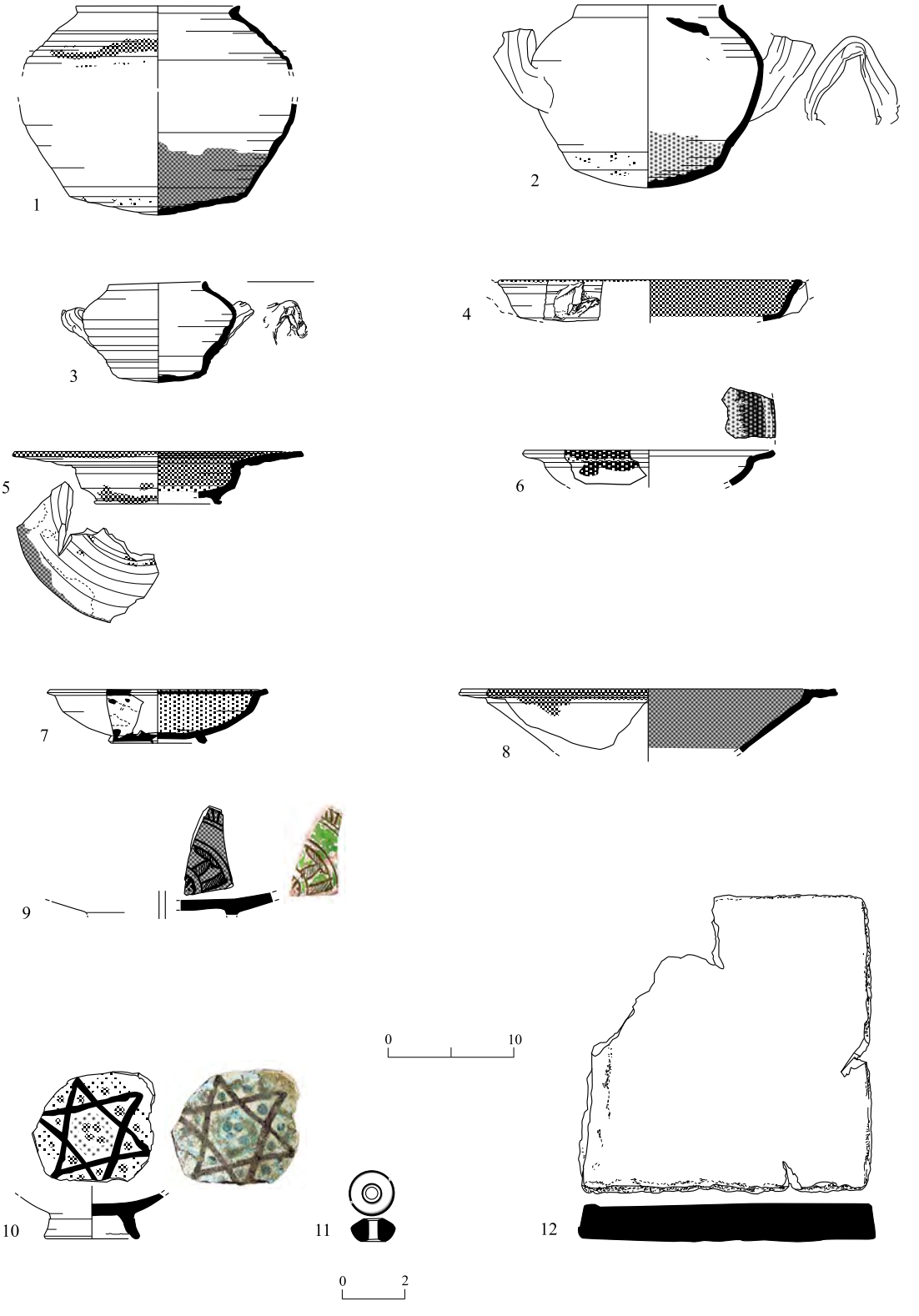


Fig. 39. Stratum IIa pottery and varia.

◂ **Fig. 39**

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Cooking pot	2072	216	Brown-red ware, transparent glaze on int., splashes on ext.
2	Cooking pot	2141/2	216	Dark brown ware, transparent glaze on int. base
3	Cooking pot	2141/1	216	Dark brown ware, traces of transparent glaze on int. base
4	Baking dish	2137/3	220	Brown-red ware, transparent glaze on int.
5	Glazed bowl	2041/1	209	Red-brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim, radial sgrafitto lines on rim, transparent glaze on int., splashes on ext.
6	Glazed bowl	2063/1	209	Gritty red ware, transparent glaze on int. and near rim ext., yellowish glazed areas
7	Glazed bowl	2116/4	222	Gritty brown-red ware, green and yellow glaze on int., transparent glaze on ext.
8	Glazed bowl	2045/2	211	Gritty brown-red ware, yellow and transparent glaze on int. and near rim
9	Bowl	2127/3	214	Brown, gritty ware, white slip, green glaze with sgrafitto lines
10	Bowl	2041/2	209	Brown-orange ware, blue, turquoise and transparent glaze on int., brown star
11	Loomweight	2135/1	224	Conical, brown ware, diam. 34 mm
12	Tile	2134	216	Traces of burning

Base of Bowl.— The shape is identical to that of Syrian under-glazed, painted soft-paste ware bowls; however, this bowl (Fig. 39:10) is made of brown-orange clay, glazed in turquoise and blue, with a brown decoration of a six-pointed star in the center. The star motif appears on soft paste, monochrome glazed ware of the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE (Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 9:3), as well as on Syrian under-glazed wares of the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries (Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 10:3). Bowls, similar in decoration and glaze to the under-glazed, painted soft-paste wares, but made of clay instead of soft paste, are rare, and may point to a regional production center (Watson 2004:401, Cat. R.6).

Other pottery finds from Stratum IIa include a conical loomweight (Fig. 39:11) and fragments of a rectangular, flat tile from L216 (Fig. 39:12).

Strata IIb and IIc

The sole find securely attributed to Stratum IIc is a fragment of a jug with a stamped neck, found when dismantling the stones blocking the entrance in W12 (Fig. 40:1). This type of jug appears only from the mid-thirteenth century. It is not found in Crusader levels, but almost exclusively in Ayyubid or Mamluk deposits (Avissar 1996:167, Fig. XIII.152; Avissar and Stern 2005:110–111, Fig. 45:6; cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:185, Fig. 15:9).

A jug without a rim, found in the installation near the corner of W4 and W14, can be ascribed to Stratum IIb (B2113; not illustrated). It has an omphalos base, is made of well-

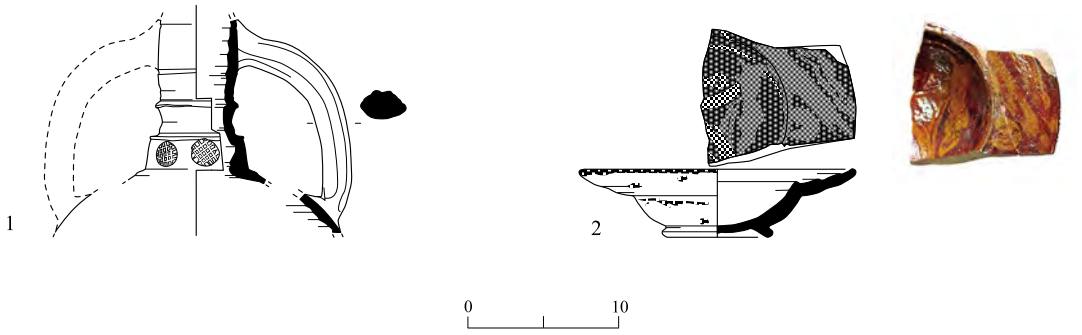


Fig. 40. Stratum IIc pottery.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Jug	2158	222 (W12)	Buff-yellow ware, stamped decoration
2	Bowl	2150	222	Red gritty ware, yellowish slip on int. in irregular patterns, transparent glaze on int. with splashes on ext.

fired clay and has bands of white slip applied over its exterior. It is identical to a better preserved jug found on the floor of L216 of Stratum IIa (B2067; see Fig. 38:3).

Below jug B2113, a large fragment of a thick-sided bowl with a wide ledge rim, made of gritty red ware (Fig. 40:2) was found. It has a slip-painted pattern on the interior, transparent glaze inside and splashes of glaze on the rim's exterior. It seems to date to the thirteenth century.

Figure 41 presents the pottery from L223. This locus was initially ascribed to Stratum I; however, it was not sealed (neither from below nor from above) and therefore, its ascription remains uncertain. Moreover, it contained two incompletely preserved vessels lying on a floor (B2115), whereas Stratum I loci so far included only sherds. The first vessel is a large, open chamber pot, slip-painted and glazed (Fig. 41:1). Such vessels are only rarely found, usually in assemblages dating to the Mamluk period and usually unglazed (Safed: Barbe 2014:129, Fig. 18:1; Cohen 2014:81*, Fig. 11:9). A glazed chamber pot dating from the thirteenth century and manufactured from local fabric was found in the Hospitaller Compound at 'Akko (Stern 2012:35, Pl. 4.5:9). The second vessel is a deep, wheel-made cooking pot (Fig. 41:2), with transparent glaze inside and glaze splashes outside, dated to the second half of the thirteenth century. A similar example was unearthed at Khirbat Shari (Avissar and Stern 2005:92, Fig. 39:8).

Stratum I

The pottery from this stratum includes only sherds (Fig. 42). The pottery illustrated here was selected from secure loci only, such as the fill of *ṭabun*s, even if the sherds found within them were rather small. Many of the types were already encountered during the first season

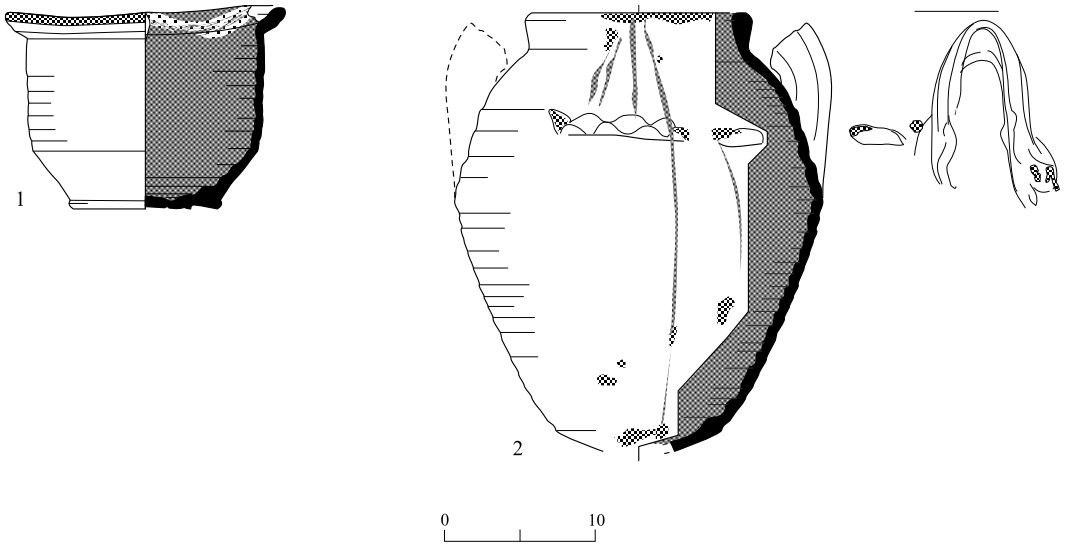


Fig. 41. Locus 223 pottery.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Chamber pot	2115/4	223	Red-brown ware, yellow slip-painted, transparent glaze on int. and on rim
2	Cooking pot	2115/1	223	Dark brown-reddish gritty ware, transparent glaze on int. and on rim with splashes on ext.

of excavations at the site, and have been previously presented (Kletter and Stern 2006; see Appendix 1); therefore, they are not discussed at length here.

Handmade Vessels.— These include bowls with small knob handles, simple rims and red burnish (Fig. 42:1, 2; see Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 12:3–6), and cooking pots. Handmade wares were further studied by Gabrieli, Ben-Shlomo and Walker (2014, and see references therein). The bowl in Fig. 42:3 is similar, but carries a geometric pattern in red (cf. Avissar and Stern 2005:88, Fig. 38:6–8; Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 14:1–3). The handmade jug (Fig. 42:4) with geometric decoration is common in the Mamluk period, when its quality of decoration is the best (Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 47; Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 14:5–8). The cooking pots are all globular and handmade, with thick walls and triangular rims (Fig. 42:5–7). This type is typical of the Mamluk period, dating from the mid–thirteenth to the end of the fifteenth centuries (Kletter and Stern 2006:182–183, Fig. 13:1–3; Stern 2017:3–4, Fig. 2:1–4).

Jugs.— One tall-necked jug has an out-turned triangular rim (Fig. 42:8). It is of a type well-known from the Mamluk period, dating to the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries (Avissar and

Stern 2005:111, Fig. 45:9). A small fragment of a stamped jug (Fig. 42:9) is identical to the one found in Stratum IIc (see Fig. 40:1).

Jars.— Among the jars, the one with an outfolded, bulging rim (Fig. 42:10) is typically dated to the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries (Kletter and Stern 2006:186, Fig. 16:6; Stern 2017:5, Fig. 2:7).

Basin.— A large basin with handles (Fig. 42:11) was incorporated within W4. There are no fitting comparisons for this basin.

Frying Pan or Baking Dish.— This vessel, with thin walls and a grooved (gutter) rim (Fig. 42:12) is typical of the Mamluk period, dating approximately from the end of the thirteenth to the end of the fourteenth century (Avissar and Stern 2005:97, Fig. 41:8; cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:188, Fig. 18:8, 9; Stern 2014:83, Fig. 6:8–10).

Glazed Bowls.— These included the common, yellow slip, painted bowls (Fig. 42:13; cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:190–191, Fig. 19:9; Stern 2017:9:19, Fig. 4:5). The bowls illustrated in Fig. 42:14, 15 have a monochrome green glaze typical of the late thirteenth to fifteenth centuries (cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:189–190, Fig. 19:5–7; Stern 2017:8, Fig. 4:1, 2).

Unstratified Crusader and Mamluk-Period Pottery

Finds deriving from mixed fills, uncertain loci and surface loci are grouped under this heading (Fig. 43). Most of the types have already been discussed above, or in the report of the first season (Kletter and Stern 2006; see Appendix 1). Therefore, their discussion is brief.

A neck and rim of a flask (Fig. 43:1), made of buff ware, derives from L364. This is a typical Mamluk-period flask with handles (now missing). For a similar vessel from Yoqne‘am, see Avissar 1996:196, Fig. XIII.157:2.

A deep bowl (Fig. 43:2) and a jug (Fig 43:3) are both handmade, but follow the shape and decoration of handmade vessels of the same period. Comparable handmade vessels were found during the first excavation season (Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 14:6–8).

Cooking wares include a wheel-made cooking pot with an outfolded rim (Fig. 43:4; cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:188, Fig. 18:1).

Syrian Under-Glazed, Painted Soft-Paste Bowls.— For a general discussion, see Avissar and Stern 2005:25–33; Kletter and Stern 2006:195. The bowl rim in Fig. 43:5 has red-painted spots, a variation not encountered during the first season (but cf. Avissar and Stern 2005:28, Fig. 10, Pl. IX:4, 5). This feature dates it to the thirteenth century. Soft paste vessels with red paint were found, e.g., at ‘Akko (Stern 2012:52–54, Type Sy.GL.4, Pl. 4.28:15–18). The rim in Fig. 43:6 is glazed, with a blue-painted decoration (cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:195, Fig. 22:5, 6).

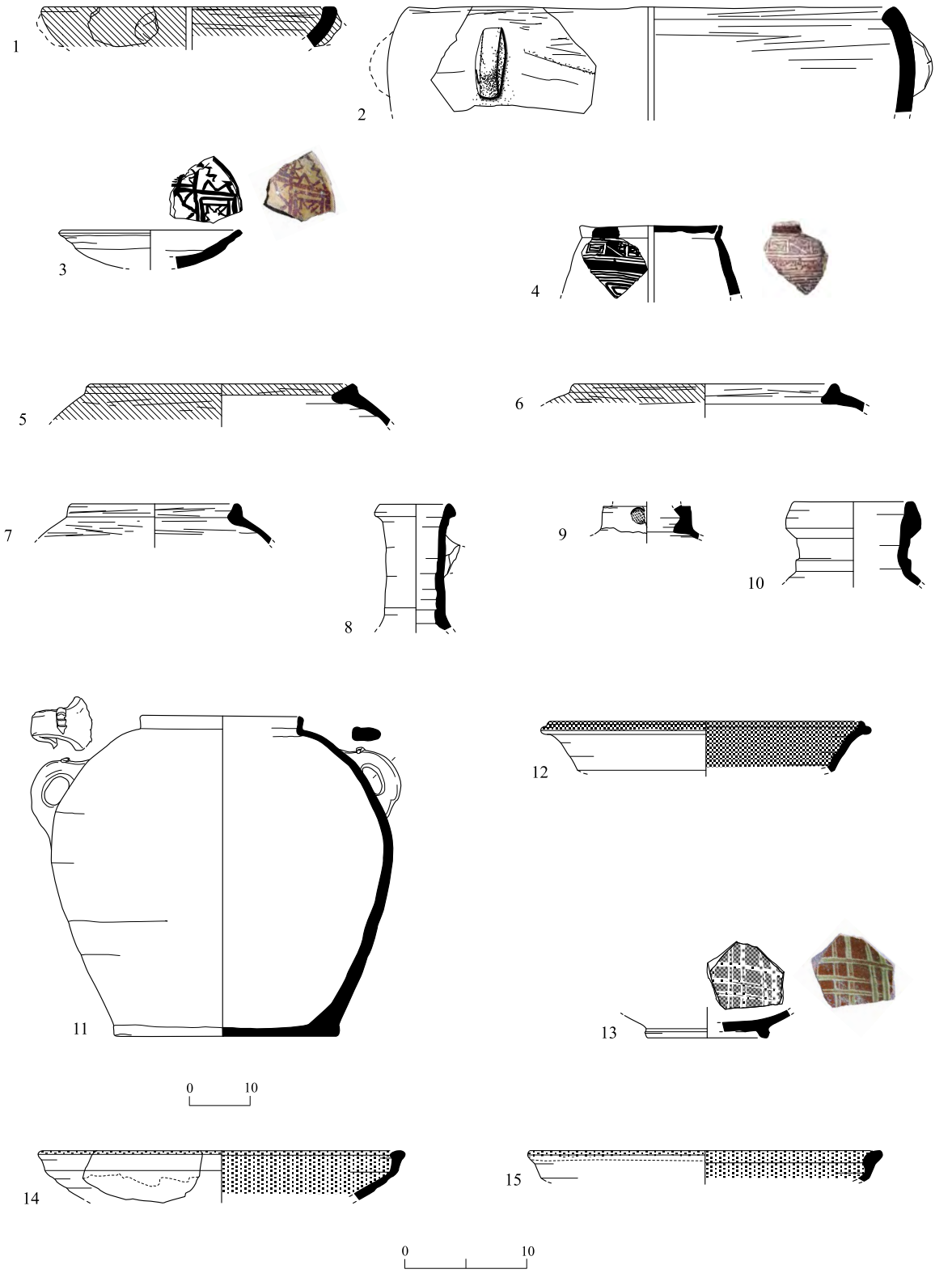


Fig. 42. Stratum I pottery.

◂ **Fig. 42**

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Handmade bowl	2016/1	207	Light brown ware, gray core, red burnish
2	Handmade bowl	2246/3	203	Brown ware, gray core, horizontal burnish
3	Handmade bowl	2003/2	203	Brown ware, brown-red geometric pattern on int.
4	Handmade jug	2075/2	213	Brown-green, poorly fired ware, white slip, purple geometric pattern on ext.
5	Handmade cooking pot	2003/1	203	Brown ware, gray core, red-brown burnish on ext.
6	Handmade cooking pot	2015/1	207	Brown ware, gray core, red burnish with traces of burning on ext.
7	Handmade cooking pot	2019	203	Brown ware, brown-gray core, brown burnish with traces of burning on ext.
8	Jug	2051	203	Brown ware, buff ext.
9	Jug	2051/?	203	Whitish ware, stamped decoration
10	Jar	2051/?	203	Red-brown ware
11	Basin	2053	201	Brown ware, ridges on one handle
12	Frying pan/ baking dish	2032	203	Brown ware, brown-gray core, transparent glaze, burned ext.
13	Glazed bowl	2012	203	Brown-orange ware, slip painted bands and glazed on int.
14	Glazed bowl	2019	203	Brown-orange ware, white slip on int. and near rim, green glaze
15	Glazed bowl	2003/3	203	Brown-gray ware, white slip and dark green glaze on int. and rim

Aegean Glazed Bowl.— A bowl with green glaze and sgrafitto decoration is an import from the Aegean region (Fig. 43:7; cf. Kletter and Stern 2006:192–193, Fig. 21:1; Avissar and Stern 2005:46, Fig. 17:3). This bowl belongs to the same type as Fig. 39:9. It usually has yellow glaze; the green glaze is more rare.

Port St. Symeon Ware.— A small fragment of a Port St. Symeon ware bowl of the thirteenth century was found on the surface (L341, B3223/6; not drawn). For this ware, see Stern 2012:55–58, Type NSY.GL.4, Pls. 4.32–4.39.

Molded Glaze Bowls.— A few fragments of this type of bowl were found, but not drawn; for a discussion of similar bowls found during the first excavation season, see Kapitaikin 2006; Kletter and Stern 2006:195, Fig. 21:9, 10.

Lamps.— Few lamps were found, including two fragments of a molded lamp dating from the Mamluk period. Figure 43:8 lacks decoration (cf. Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 7:1). Figure 43:9 is a common Mamluk-period slipper lamp, previously found at the site and in

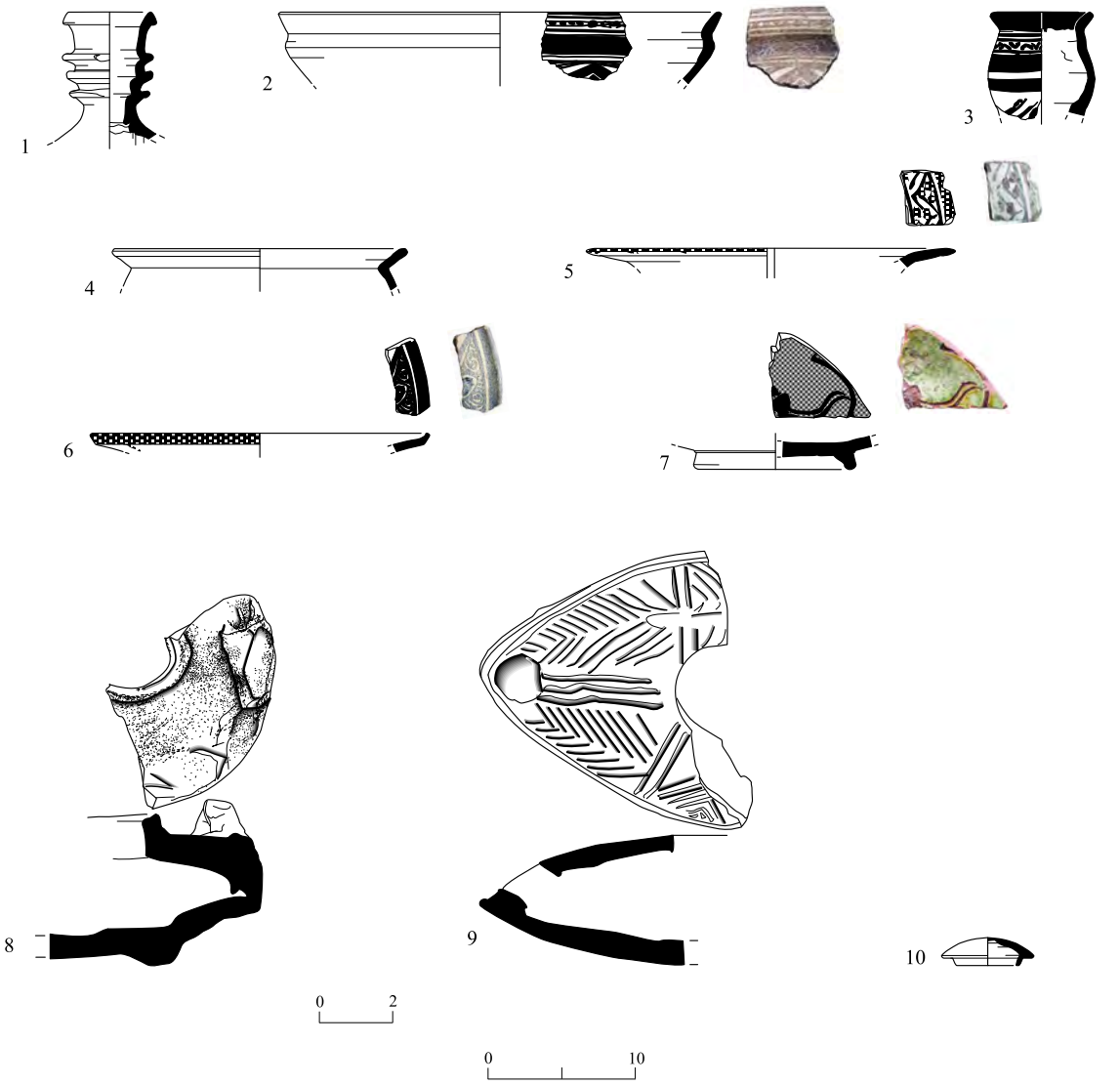


Fig. 43. Mamluk-period pottery, unstratified.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Flask	3348/7	364	Buff ware
2	Bowl	2074/9	214	Buff ware, brown geometric decoration on ext.
3	Jug	2010/7+2018	202+208	Brown ware, gray core, white slip on ext. and rim with brown geometric decoration
4	Cooking pot	2088/9	214	Dark brown ware, traces of burning on int.
5	Bowl	2030	208	Paste, red and blue glazed
6	Bowl	2013/6	201	Paste, blue on white decoration
7	Bowl	2028	206	Brown-pink gritty ware, green glaze with sgrafitto lines
8	Lamp	2009/5	203	Mold-made, brown-gray ware
9	Lamp	3314/8	358	Red ware, traces of soot near spout
10	Stopper	2021/1	Surface	Light brown ware, whitish ext., diam. 63 mm

the Sharon region (Kletter and Stern 2006:188, Fig. 17:3–6; Stern 2017:6, 7, Fig. 3:2, 3). Based on its simple linear decoration, it can be dated from the mid-thirteenth till the end of the fourteenth century.

Clay Stopper (Fig. 43:10).— This stopper was found on the surface.

Ground Stone Finds

The worked stone (Figs. 10 and 44:1) probably originated in Stratum II, or possibly even in Stratum III, and was reused in Stratum I. It is broken and its surfaces are worn. A small fragment of a marble capital with a floral motif (Fig. 44:2) was found in L208 (cf. Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 26:4). A 'stick' of green stone (Fig. 44:3) is perhaps a whetstone (cf. Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 26:8).

A few broken basalt vessels were found, including a pedestalled bowl or mortar (Fig. 44:4), and a rounded and a rectangular grinding stone (Fig. 44:5, 6). The latter was perforated many times before it finally broke. Two door sockets, or perhaps large mortars, made of limestone, were found (not drawn): one was found in L310 (B3245), the other inside W5 (cf. Fig. 18, upper left corner).

The bowl in Fig. 44:7 is a rendition in soft stone of a handmade pottery bowl (cf. Fig. 43:5, above). It even has a red geometric decoration, often found on the handmade pottery bowls (see Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 26:9).

Shell Finds

A nearly complete pilgrim scallop shell was found on the Stratum IIa Floor 222 (L210, B2067; Fig. 44:8). It is blackened by fire and has two perforated manmade holes. It was defined as Pecten *jacobaeus* by Henk Mienis.[3]

Another fragment of such a shell was found in L209 (B2041). These pilgrim scallop shells served as pilgrim badges, marking a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella from the twelfth century onward. Similar shells are known from Jerusalem, where they were sometimes marked with crosses. Another was found in a thirteenth century context in a Carmelitic Monastery at Wadi es-siah, Haifa (Ktalav 2016). Thus, the two shells from Khirbat Burin were related to Franks, who may possibly have made the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella.

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[3] The authors would like to thank Henk K. Mienis (Curator of the Mollusc Collections of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University) and Inbar Ktalav for their assistance with the identification of these shells and for sharing related information.

Fig. 44. Ground stone and varia.

◂ **Fig. 44**

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	3279	355	Limestone, reused in W15
2	2054	208	Marble fragment of capital, Sq M (upper layer)
3	3339	363	Green stone, Sq H
4	3333	354	Basalt pedestalled bowl, Sq I
5	3139	323	Basalt grinding stone, Sq G
6	3412	380	Basalt grinding stone with drilled holes
7	3086/3	316	Soft stone bowl, red geometric decoration
8	2067	210	Shell with manmade holes, traces of burning

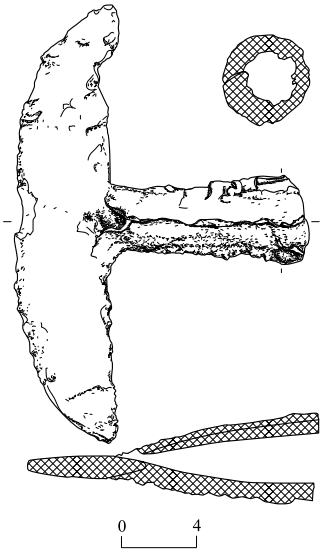


Fig. 45. Metal tool from L224 (B2130).

Metal Finds

Metal finds were found mainly in association with the Stratum II building complex.

L224 (B2130; Fig. 45).— A large, rounded iron tool was found in this locus. It originally had a wooden handle, fitting a round socket. It is 230 mm wide. The socket is 152 mm long and 40 mm in diameter (inner diam. 32 mm). The shape recalls the tabur, a large axe used in the Mamluk period (Hillenbrand 1999:456, Pl. 7:2). A similar weapon, the pole axe, was used in Europe, especially in the fifteenth century CE (Ashdown 1970:210, 240, 321, Fig. 265:2). However, this tool lacks the sharp blade, and its handle is positioned differently, and thus, it seems to be an agricultural tool for digging or scraping. Agricultural tools from the

Fig. 46 ▸

No.	Basket	Description
1	2063/1	Iron lock
2	2049/1	Iron part
3	2049/2	Chain with nail
4	2063/2	Iron nail
5	2063/3	Iron nail
6	2063/4	Iron nail
7	2063/5	Broken parts of iron nails

twelfth century CE were found at Vadum Yakob, but those published are not similar (Boas 1999:248, Fig. 12). Spades from the Mamluk period have a somewhat similar, though more elongated shape (cf. al-Hassan and Hill 1986:211, Fig. 8.7). Narrower tools, from Crusader-period Yoqneʿam, are defined as chisels (Khamis 1996:234, Fig. 18.11:2).

L209 (Fig. 46).— The finds in L209 derive from Stratum II. Potsherds dating to Stratum IIa were found in the lower basket numbers of L209. Complete vessels were not found here and the locus was not sealed from above. It is therefore difficult to ascertain whether these finds date to the initial phase or to a later phase of Stratum II.

A notable find is a square iron lock (Fig. 46:1). Without an X-ray photograph, its inner mechanism cannot be reconstructed. It is a fixed lock, as indicated by traces of four nails in the corners, most likely for a chest or a box. The size seems too small to fit a large door, though the lock was found quite close to the building's entrance in W7. A hole in the center of the lock marked a keyhole. According to its shape, it was most likely a lock with a turning key.

In ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia, tumbler locks with sliding keys with pins were used until the Roman period. They afforded good safety, but were inconvenient (Pitt-Rivers 1883:6–10, Pl. III:24b; Vikan and Nesbitt 1980:2, Fig. 1; Potts 1990; Kasparek and Wilhelm 2001). Tumbler locks with turning keys appeared for the first time in the Roman period, and were used, with an almost unchanged shape, till the fifteenth century (Pitt-Rivers 1883:11, Pl. III:25b; Vikan and Nesbitt 1980:3). Their keys had wards and often ended with a ring-like loop, which facilitated carrying the key on a finger (Vikan and Nesbitt 1980: Figs. 3–8; Waldbaum 1983:74–76, Nos. 395–398).

A lock's outer box is not always indicative of the type of its inner mechanism. Locks with rectangular boxes working by turning keys were common in the Byzantine period; however, they had loops or latches at the back, and were therefore lever padlocks (that is, used with chains; Pitt-Rivers 1883: Pl. VI:21–34; Tanavoli and Wertime 1976; Waldbaum

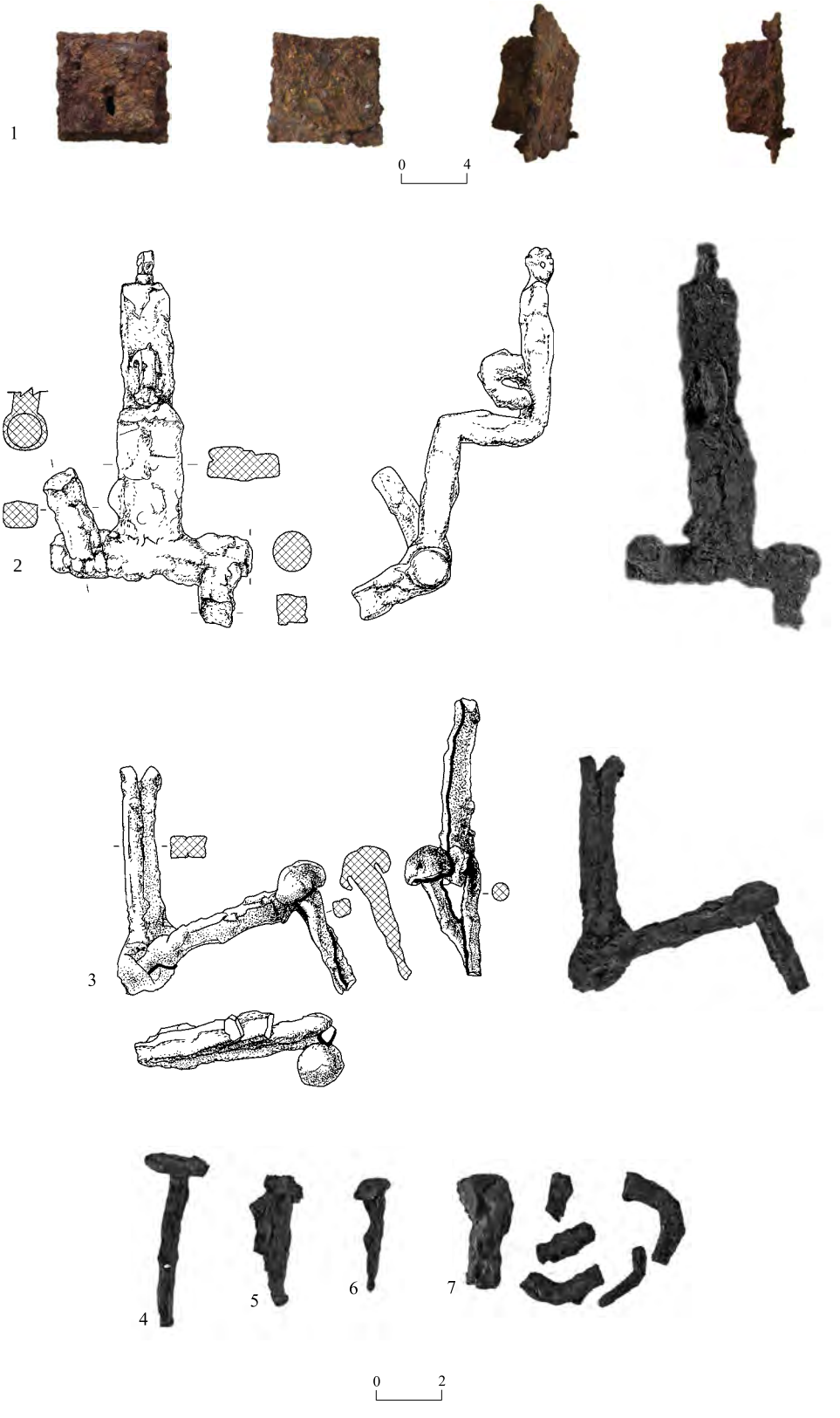


Fig. 46. Metal finds from L209.

Fig. 47

No.	Basket	Description
1	2113/2	Horseshoe
2	2113/11	Part of horseshoe
3	2113/3	Flat piece of iron
4	2113/4	Iron nail, twisted
5	2113/5	Iron nail
6	2113/6	Head of iron nail
7	2113/8	Parts of iron nails
8	2113/9	Iron nail
9	2113/10	Iron nail
10	2113/7	Twisted iron nail

1983:70–71, Pl. 23, Nos. 346–357; Pulak 2004). Similar locks from Byzantine-period Israel are known from Shiqmona (Vikan and Nesbitt 1980: Fig. 14).

By the twelfth century, Islamic metalworkers reached a sophisticated level that equaled and even surpassed that of Europe. Sophisticated twelfth–thirteenth-century combination locks operating by dials were described by al-Jazarī (1974:199–203), and can still be found in several collections (Maddison 1985:141–153).

Publications of locks from the Crusader or Mamluk periods in Israel are lacking, possibly since they are often made of wood (Boas 1999:159l; however, see Gosker and Tatcher, in press: No. 59). A small number of keys was published from several sites. Two keys from the Red Tower are probably turning keys (Pringle 1986: Fig. 58:27, 28; the wards in No. 28 are now missing). Similar keys were published from Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta, dated to the thirteenth century (Getzov 2000: Fig. 30:5). The size of these keys indicates a probable use for boxes or chests (cf. Waldbaum 1983:74–76; see also Gosker and Tatcher, in press: Nos. 60, 61).

Another iron object (Fig. 46:2) found nearby is probably part of a latch of a box or chest. It would presumably be a turning part of the mechanism for closing the chest. The loop would enter a fixed part, perhaps on the front or upper side of the chest, and a shackle of a lock would cross it (for bronze hinges and latches of the Byzantine period, see Vikan and Nesbitt 1980:8, Fig. 15; for twelfth–thirteenth-century box hinges and latches, see Maddison 1985: Figs. 5–7, 10). It is unknown how the chain part with the nail (Fig. 46:3) relates to the former item.

In the same locus, several iron nails of various sizes were found as well; some are bent (Fig. 46:4–7; for similar nails, see Khamis 1996:222; Getzov 2000: Fig. 30:1–3; Kletter and Stern 2006: Fig. 28:3). Medieval-period nails typically had a large, round head and a rounded, or rectangular shaft (cf. Pringle 1986:169, Figs. 59, 60).

Jug B2113 (Fig. 47).— Metal items were found in Jug B2113 standing in the installation in the corner of W4 and W14 (L222), attributed to Stratum IIb. These were all corroded iron items, probably broken and of relatively little value. They include parts of one or two

Fig. 47. Iron finds from Jug B2113 (L222).

horseshoes of the open type (Fig. 47:1, 2). This type appeared in the Levant in the Crusader period. It is known from Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta, Stratum II, dated to the thirteenth century CE (Getzov 2000:98*, 101*, Fig. 30:7–12; Rosen 2000:107*); Ḥorbat Raqit (Ayalon 2003: Pl. 13:3); Crusader-period Abu Ghosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950:148–149, Fig. 36:3); ʻAtlit (Johns 1950:43); Bellvoire (Raphael 1999: Fig. 10); and Yoqneʻam (Boas 1999: Fig. 6.17:1; Khamis 1996:220, Fig. 18:2). A second type of horseshoe, thicker and with a square inner opening, also appears in Crusader sites and was perhaps locally manufactured (Boas 1999: Fig. 6.2:10; Rosen 2000:107*–108*). This type is not attested at Kh. Burin. Local, Ottoman-period horseshoes have a different shape: they are closed and triangular and have small holes in their center (Khamis 1996:222; Boas 2000; Getzov 2000:102*, Fig. 32).

As Rosen (2000) mentioned, written sources prove that large quantities of iron horseshoes were brought from Europe to the Holy Land for the benefit of the crusades. For example, a shipment of 6000 horseshoes was sent from Sicily to ʻAkko in 1280–1281 CE (see Pryor 1988:140; Nicolle 2001:161). Therefore, Rosen (2000) concludes that open horseshoes were European imports, while the second type, with a rectangular inner hole is perhaps a local product. A similar view was voiced by de Vaux and Stève (1950:148): "cette piece se rattache certainment à l'industrie europeenne, pendant le sejour de Hospitaliers à Qaryat el-ʻEnab." Yet de Vaux and Stève (1950:149) also noticed that these shoes fitted the small local Arab horse or pony, since the horseshoe size is small (c. 5 × 8 cm).

The open type of horseshoe was found also in villages of non-Franks, such as Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (Nimrod Getzov, pers. comm.). It is also known that in the later thirteenth and fourteenth centuries CE large amounts of horseshoes were imported to Mamluk Palestine from Ayas, a central port in Armenian Cilicia. These were manufactured from ores of nearby mines, e.g., in the Taurus Mountains. A document from 1277 CE mentions import of 10 boxes (c. 225 kilo) of horseshoes from Cilicia. In a contract dated 1285, King Leon III of Cilician Armenia promised to send each year, over the next 10 years, 10,000 horseshoes plus nails to Qalawun of Egypt. This trade was conducted mainly by Pisan (and some Genoese) ships. Crusader cities in Palestine, such as ʻAkko, served as middlemen. Furthermore, during the Crusader period, European kingdoms supplied Egypt with various war materials, mainly wood and iron, despite efforts to ban this lucrative trade. Here too merchants acted while being situated in Crusader ports (Jacoby 2001:122–124). As a result, soon after their first introduction to the Levant, open horseshoes could be and were imported from several sources, and were supplied both to the Crusader kingdom and to its Islamic rivals. Therefore, the finding of open horseshoes at Khirbat Burin does not prove the presence of Franks at the site.

The jug included also one relatively thick iron bar with a central depression (Fig. 47:3). Its function is not clear. There were also about a dozen of large iron nails in the jug (Fig. 47:4–10; for comparisons, see Fig. 46:4–7). The more intact nails (Nos. 4, 9, and 10) are 8–10 cm long, excluding the heads. Distinctive fiddle key nails used for horseshoeing, of the type found at Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (Rosen 2000:107*–108*), were not encountered at the site.

Other Loci (Figs. 48, 49).— Figure 48:1 is probably another part of a horseshoe (see Fig. 47:1, 2). The fragment illustrated in Fig. 48:2 seems to be part of an agricultural tool, similar

Fig. 48. Other metal finds from Strata II–II.

◂ **Fig. 48**

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	2074	214	Iron horseshoe?
2	2145	227	Iron horseshoe?
3	2088	214	Bronze pin
4	2081	214	Bronze pin
5	2137	220	Irregular piece of lead
6	2129	223	Bronze bracelet
7	2050	206	Iron knife
8	2027	204	Iron knife, remains of wooden handle
9	3318	362	Bell and piece of bronze
10	3308	359	Bell
11	2103	213	Bronze
12	2091	218	Bronze pin?

to the one from L224 (Fig. 45). Another similar fragment was found on the surface (Fig. 49:6).

Two bronze needles or pins were found in L214 (Fig. 48:3, 4). For similar items from Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta, see Getzov 2000: Fig. 30:4, and for Yoqneʿam, see Khamis 1996:223–225. In L220 a small, irregular piece of lead was found (Fig. 48:5). Figure 48:6 illustrates a thin bronze bracelet.

Several iron knifes or blades were found (Fig. 48:7, 8). One of them (Fig. 48:8) shows traces of wood from its handle. Comparable knives were found at Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (Getzov 2000: Fig. 29:5, 6), Qaryet el-ʿEnab (de Vaux and Stève 1950: Fig. 35:5) and Yoqneʿam (Khamis 1996:220, 221).

Other items recovered include two small bronze bells (Fig. 48:9, 10), a flat bronze sheet (Fig. 48:11) and a bent bronze wire or pin (Fig. 48:12).

An intact bronze vessel (Fig. 49:1) was found below the Stratum II remains, in a fill of unclear nature. Such vessels were interpreted as oil lamps, as receptacles for filling oil lamps, or even as feeding vessels for babies. It seems, however, that they were mortars, used for making cosmetic or medicinal pastes (Ziffer 1996:68–69, Figs. 43, 44). Such vessels are common in the Early Islamic period. Comparable vessels were found at Ḥorbat Tinani (Yavor 1999:30, Fig. 35), Ramat Gan (Brand 1993: Fig. 45), Yavne (Gorzalczany and Barkan 2006: Fig. 3) and Tiberias (Khamis 2013: Items 163–175).

In the Western Area, only a few metal finds were found: some iron (Fig. 49:2) and bronze (Fig. 49:3, 4) nails, as well as an iron blade (Fig. 49:5). A thin bronze bracelet was found here as well (Fig. 49:7).

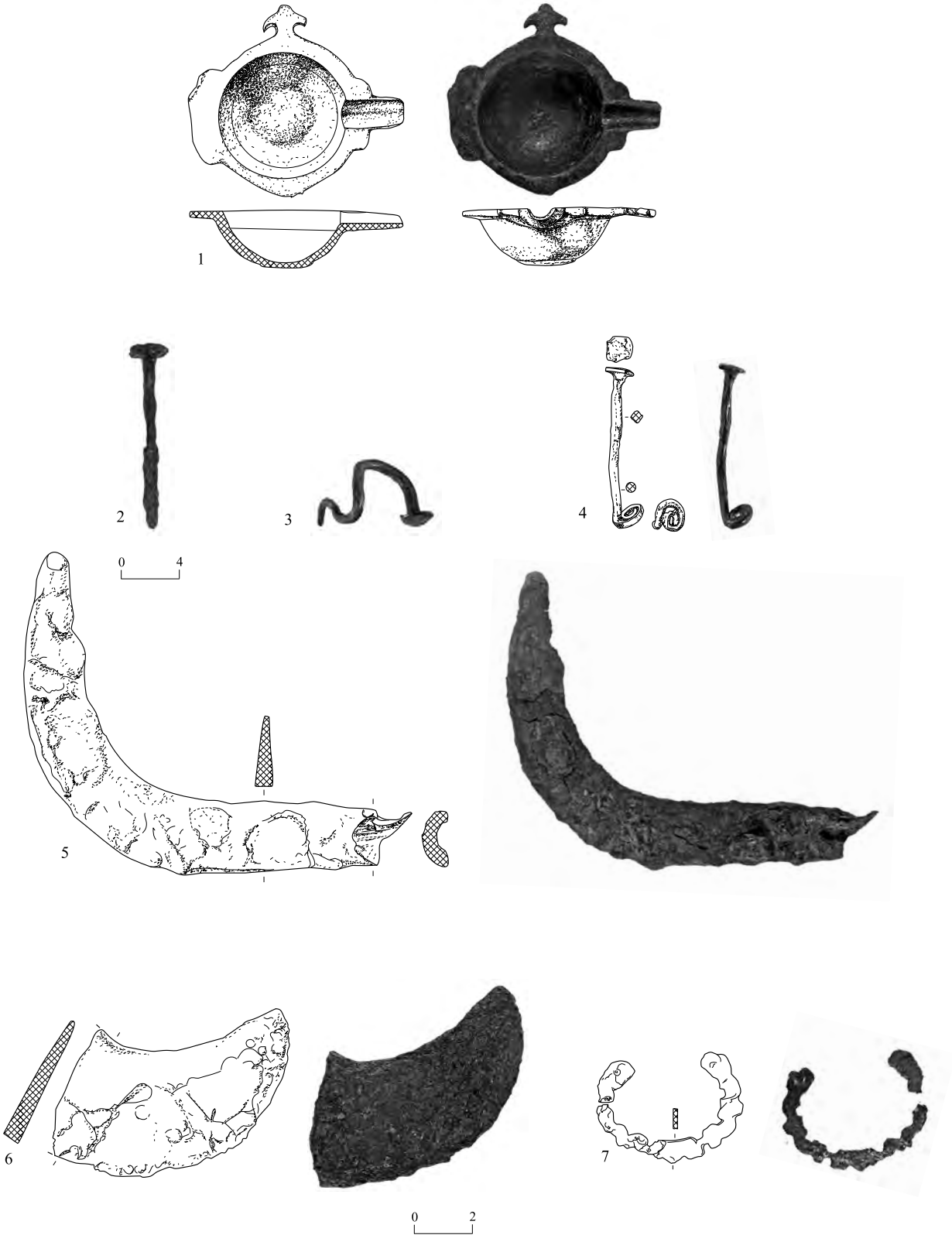


Fig. 49. Metal finds from the Western Area, and unstratified.

◂ **Fig. 49**

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	3450	Below 384	Bronze tool for filling lamps
2	3244	335	Iron nail, Sq L (lower layer)
3	3208	337	Bronze nail, Sq L (lower layer)
4	3394	381	Bronze nail, Sq M (mixed locus)
5	3025	305	Iron blade Sq J (surface)
6	3027	300	Iron tool, surface
7	3313	358	Bronze bracelet

CONCLUSIONS

Stratum III

Below Stratum II there are fills with mixed materials, mostly of the late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. In the Western Area, there are two building phases with predominantly Early Islamic pottery, but the remains are badly damaged and the loci are not sealed.

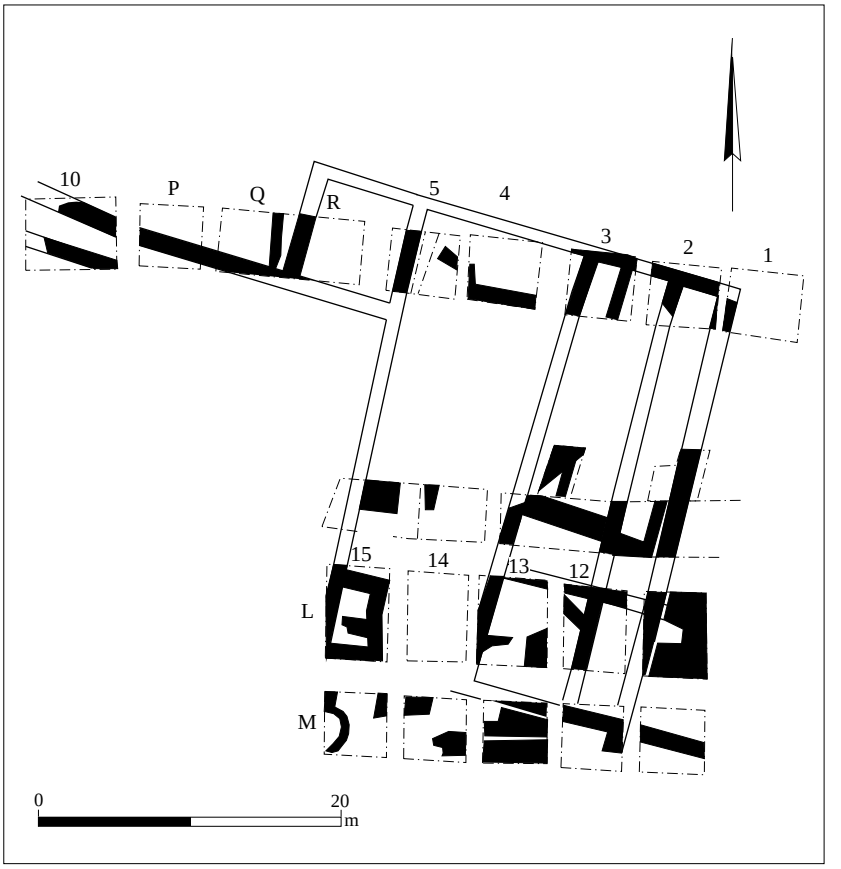
Stratum IIa (Plan 8)

The building complex of Stratum II has already been defined in our first report (Kletter and Stern 2006). There, it was dated to the Mamluk period (late thirteenth to fourteenth centuries), based upon the ceramic finds, which included only sherds found in fills in the building.

Now, following the excavations of the second and third seasons, we understand that these sherds represent only the later phases of the building (that is, Strata IIb and IIc). Floors that belong to Stratum IIa, the first phase of the building complex, were found only in a limited area during the second season of excavation. These floors carried several complete or nearly complete vessels dating from the mid-twelfth to the early thirteenth centuries, including imported Aegean glazed bowls and local Levantine glazed bowls. In addition, two shells of a type linked to Frankish pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella were found in this Stratum.

The finds of Stratum IIa represent the end of the first stage of this building complex. This took place before 1265 CE, the year in which the area of Khirbat Burin was conquered by Baybars I. Thus, the large building complex of Stratum II was established before the Mamluk period, most possibly during the Crusader period. It is difficult to offer a more precise date for its foundation. At least one potsherd that dates roughly to the early twelfth century was found in a fill below the Stratum IIa floors, suggesting that the building complex was not erected earlier.

It is difficult to define the ethnicity of the dwellers of mid-twelfth–early thirteenth-century Khirbat Burin. Were they Muslims or Franks? Between 1099 and 1265, Khirbat Burin was part of the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem. Hugh of Burin is mentioned in Crusader documents and it is known that in 1253 this settlement belonged to the Archbishop



Plan 8. Stratum IIa building complex combining the finds from three seasons of excavations.

of Caesarea (Ehrlich 1997; Frenkel 1999:251). In Ellenblum's (1998:263–265) view, Crusader-period pottery is lacking from Khirbat Burin, and hence it was a Muslim village. These excavation seasons revealed that pottery dating to the Crusader period does exist at the site (Stratum IIa), and therefore, it is possible that the building was inhabited by Franks, based on the imported pottery and the presence of pilgrim shells. However, the building complex lacks characteristic features of Crusader buildings, known from both rural and urban sites (cf. Ellenblum 1998:159–193; Kletter and Boas 2002). It is known that at that time villagers in Palestine were mostly Arab, and in general, they were not harmed by the Crusaders (Frenkel 1999:241–242); however, there was also a rural Crusader population.

Villages in Palestine were administrated by a *ra'is* from the eleventh century until the Ottoman period (plural: *ru'assat*; in Crusader period documents they are called raisage, raicius, etc.). The *ru'assat* served as middlemen between the villagers and the central authority. A *ra'is* could descend from an Eastern Christian or Muslim family. They were mainly responsible for agricultural productivity and taxation of the villages. The title

ra'is was used till the seventeenth century (Frenkel 1995:25–30). Those in office could accumulate considerable wealth, since some of their property was exempt from taxes. Moreover, the function was inherited from father to son. In the Mamluk period, we hear of very wealthy *ru'assat*, who had considerable sums of money at their disposable (Frenkel 1995:30–31). The Crusaders also employed *ru'assat*, or appointed local officials for similar functions (the Dragoman and the Kateb; Frenkel 1999:243). The buildings at Khirbat Burin form a quite large complex, indicating a certain level of wealth. Perhaps it represents the house of such a *ra'is*.

The building complex cannot be dated exactly by its architectural features, since mainly foundation levels have survived and a full plan is lacking. Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk architecture all share basic architectural features, but studies deal mainly with large cities and extensive buildings (mosques, madrasas and palaces; see Meinecke 1992; Tabbaa 1993; Korn 1998; 2001; for domestic architecture, see Edwards et al. 2006; Ahn 2010; Boas 2010).

Strata IIb and IIc

What was designated Stratum IIa in the first report (Kletter and Stern 2006) is actually part of the Strata IIb–IIc horizon described in this report, dated to the Mamluk period (late thirteenth–fourteenth centuries). The building complex continued to be used with only minor changes, such as the raising of floors and a change in entrances. Some large rooms were subdivided by inner walls. Pottery of this phase includes types such as Chinese Celadon, mold-made glazed bowls and Italian imports (Kletter and Stern 2006:194–196, Figs. 21:8–10, 13:1–3).

After 1265, the village of Burin was given as private *Iqta* to two *Amirs* of Baybars, as discussed in our first excavation report (Kletter and Stern 2006:208–209; cf. Abel 1941:41 No. 10; Amitai-Preiss 1997:281–294, Nos. 15, 16). The transfer probably did not alter much the status of the local population, which was already accustomed to outside control by military Lords. The high-ranking *Amirs* did not reside in the village itself, but lived in Egypt (Frenkel 1999:251–252; for amiral residencies, see Ibrahim 1984:52–56). Also, the administration did not change much with the transfer from Crusader to Mamluk rule. The 'feudal' rule of Crusader knights was replaced by *Iqta* land endowments of Mamluk *Amirs*, but the legal position of the land and that of the local village population remained the same. The villagers were exposed to similar or even worse taxation (Irwin 1977; Frenkel 1999:240–241, 245–246, 265).

Stratum I

This stratum postdates the building complex, but is still dated to the Mamluk period (fourteenth–fifteenth centuries CE). It reflects a period of decline. The architecture is poor, including segments of walls and remains of *ṭabuns* that reflect domestic activities. Following this stratum, the area was not occupied again, and the surface loci included only a few Ottoman-period sherds.

APPENDIX 1. Pottery Descriptions for Figures of the First Season of Excavation at Khirbat Burin (Permit No. A-2957; see Kletter and Stern 2006)[i]

Fig. 12. Handmade Bowls.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1182/2	124	Brown ware, thick gray core, dark red slip on int. and ext., burnished
2	1160/4	118	Brown ware, dark brown-gray core, white grits, dark red-brown burnish on int., rim and part of ext., blackened
3	1179/2	113	Brown ware, gray core, dark brown slip, remains of burnish
4	1248/11	118	Brown ware, dark gray core, gray and black grits, brown slip on int. and rim, hand-burnished horizontally
5	1186/3	126	Light brown ware, light gray core, brown-red slip, burnished, gray encrustation
6	1199/4	113	Brown ware and core, red-brown slip, burnished
7	1113/3	123	Light brown ware, buff on surfaces, applied handle
8	1181/3	128	Brown ware, brown-gray core, red slip on int. and rim, burnished
9	1236/4	118	Brown ware, thick dark gray core, white and shiny grits, dark brown slip on int., burnished horizontally
10	1060/3	116	Buff ware, gray core, white grits, ledge handle, brown slip on int., burnished horizontally, remains of blackening

Fig. 13. Handmade Cooking Pots.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1208/1	118	Brown ware, light gray core, shiny grits, dark brown-red slip, hand-burnished horizontally on int. and vertically on rim
2	1208/2	118	Dark brown ware, thick dark gray core, shiny grits, dark red-brown slip, burnished, surfaces blackened, incised handle
3	1153/5	118	Brown ware, gray core, red-brown slip, horizontally burnished, blackened ext.
4	1274/2	114	Brown ware, gray core, white/shiny grits, blackened ext.

Fig. 14. Handmade Painted Wares.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1220/10	130	Brown-red ware, gray core, brown-pink slip, traces of burnish, red paint
2	Bowl	1129/1	125	Brown ware, gray and white grits, white slip on int., geometric pattern of black paint on rim
3	Bowl	1109/5	117	Brown-gray ware, gray core, red-burnished slip, red and white paint and on int. and rim
4	Bowl	1011/1	106	Base; brown ware, buff slip, brown paint on int.
5	Jug	1100/1	115	Gray ware, dark gray core, buff slip, brown pattern painted on handle, blackened by fire
6	Jug	1233/2	128	Brown ware, buff slip on int., purple geometric pattern
7	Jug	1233/7	128	Brown-buff ware, light gray core, purple-brown geometric pattern on ext.
8	Jug?	1217/9	113	Brown ware, white slip on ext. and upper int., purple-brown pattern on ext. and rim

[i] These pottery descriptions were mistakenly excluded from the publication of the first season of excavation at Khirbat Burin (Kletter and Stern 2006). They are published here to complete the lost information.

Fig. 15. Wheel-Made Bowl, Flask and Jugs.

No.	Vesse	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1165/3	118	Light brown ware, dark brown slip, crude
2	Large bowl	1110/10	118	Sugar pot? Light brown ware, tiny white grits, buff slip, crude decoration on ext.
3	Large bowl	1110/11	118	Sugar pot? Orange-buff ware, brown core, crude decoration on ext.
4	Flask	1094/1	117	Light brown ware, buff surface
5	Jug	1041/13	112	Brown ware, buff ext., broken handle
6	Jug	1060/6	116	Buff ware, blackened by fire
7	Jug Spout	1233/2	128	Buff ware
8	Jug	1223/1	123	Base; buff ware
9	Jug	1158/6	124	Buff ware, remains of geometric impressions
10	Jug handle	1186	126	Buff ware, 8-pointed star stamp

Fig. 16. Wheel-Made Jars.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1227/9	118	Brown-red ware
2	1077/4	119	Light brown ware, buff ext.
3	1227/4	118	Brown-red ware, white grits
4	1131/2	115	Brown ware, buff ext.
5	1226/8	118	Brown ware, tiny white grits, buff ext.
6	1131/3	115	Light brown ware, brown-pink core, buff slip
7	1051/9	117	Brown ware, light gray core, traces of white slip(?) on int. of rim
8	1128/14	119	Brown-red ware, few large white grits
9	1232/14	114	Brown-orange ware, white grits, gray core
10	1059/1	115	Base; brown ware, gray core

Fig. 17. Mold-Made Wares.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	‘Pilgrim’s flask’	1149	128	Buff ware, molded decoration
2	‘Pilgrim’s flask’	1140	128	Buff ware, molded decoration
3	Slipper lamp	1244/16	114	Light brown-buff ware
4	Slipper lamp	1245/3	128	Reddish ware, red slip, impressed
5	Slipper lamp	1085/13	119	Buff ware, molded bird decoration
6	Slipper lamp	1018/9	102	Buff ware, blackened by fire
7	Slipper lamp	1093/16	116	Brown ware, blackened by fire

Fig. 18. Glazed Cooking Wares and a Lamp.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Cooking pot	1226/10	118	Brown ware, blackened surfaces
2	Cooking pot	1222/2	133	Brown-red ware, well-fired, gray grits, daubs of glaze on ext.
3	Cooking pot	1288/3	118	Dark red ware, well-fired, few white grits, red slip
4	Cooking pot	1127/22	124	Brown ware, red slip, glazed int. and ext.
5	Cooking pot	1245/9	128	Brown ware, reddish slip, glazed
6	Baking dish	1050/9	110	Brown-red ware, dark-red ext., glazed int. with daubs on ext.
7	Baking dish	1122/15	117	Dark brown ware, red slip, green paint on int., glazed int. with daubs on ext., signs of blackening on ext.
8	Baking dish	1127/13	124	Brown ware, well-made, red slip on ext. and rim, green int., glazed on int. and rim.
9	Baking dish	1169/8	118	Brown ware, glazed on int. and rim, daubs on ext.
10	Baking dish	1226/3	118	Brown ware, glazed on int. and rim, blackened by fire
11	'Beehive' lamp	1239	132	Red ware, tiny white grits, yellow slip, glazed

Fig. 19. Local Glazed Table Wares.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1165/7	118	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim, daubs on ext.
2	Bowl	1243/1	113	Brown ware, white grits, gritty green glaze on int. and rim
3	Bowl	1218/2	138	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim
4	Bowl	1084/7	121	Base; dark brown ware, tiny white grits, white slip on int. and most of the ext., dark brown glaze
5	Bowl	1092/1	115	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim, daubs on ext.
6	Bowl	1267/5	138	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim, daubs on ext.
7	Bowl	1110/5	118	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim, daubs on ext.
8	Bowl	1090/3	113	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze on int. and rim
9	Bowl	1068	122	Brown ware, yellow slip pattern, glazed on int. and rim
10	Bowl	1220/12	130	Brown ware, yellow slip pattern, glazed on int. and rim

Fig. 20. Local Glazed Table Wares (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1218/5	128	Brown ware, green glaze on int. with daubs on ext., dark brown sgraffito geometric pattern on int.
2	Bowl	1183/7	117	Dark gray-brown ware, glazed, brown sgraffito on int.
3	Bowl	1313/4	128	Base; brown-red ware, glazed yellow with green patches, brown sgraffito wavy and straight lines on int.
4	Bowl	1107/15	115	Base; brown-red ware, tiny white grits, white slip on int., yellow-brown glaze, dark brown sgrafitto line on int.
5	Bowl	1123/1	118	Base; brown ware, white slip on int., green glazed, sgraffito decoration
6	Bowl	1138/5	113	Brown ware, white slip on int. and upper ext., green glaze
7	Bowl	1067/10	122	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze and sgraffito lines on int.
8	Bowl	1117/2	112	Brown ware, white slip, yellow and green glaze, wide gauged int.

Fig. 21. Imported Glazed Table Wares.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1313/2	128	Brown ware, buff slip, yellowish glaze on int. and rim
2	1141/14	124	Brown-gray ware, white slip on int. and ext. above the carination, glazed, brown sgrafitto lines on int. under the rim
3	1158/4	124	Base; ware, white slip on int., glazed, green sgrafitto 'emblem' on int.
4	1245/1	128	Base; brown ware, gray core, glazed, dark brown sgrafitto pattern on int.
5	1090/6	113	Brown ware, white slip, glazed yellow and green, with brown sgrafitto lines on int.
6	1075/10	116	Brown ware, white slip, green glaze, delicate, green-brown sgrafitto on int.
7	1067/14	122	Brown ware, buff-gray slip, green pattern on int., glazed
8	1189/14	118	Base; light gray porcelain with pattern, transparent glaze, except for bottom of base
9	1062	119	Brown ware, white slip pattern, green glazed on int. and upper ext., yellow glaze on lower ext., molded decoration in registers
10	1106/2	119	Brown ware, white slip pattern, green glazed int. and upper ext., yellow glaze on lower ext., molded decoration in registers

Fig. 22. Frit Wares.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Carinated bowl	1144/15	118	Pale blue glaze on int. and ext.
2	Bowl	1184/2	118	7 small fragments, geometric black lines on ext., floral designs on int.
3	Bowl	1111/1	120	Base; elaborate blue floral pattern on int., glazed
4	Bowl	1184/4	118	Ledge rim; black pattern on int. and ext., bluish glaze
5	Bowl	1077/8	119	Blue pattern on int. and ext., glazed
6	Bowl	1062/6	119	Blue pattern on int. and ext., glazed
7	Bowl	1189/21	118	Black pattern on ext. and rim, glazed
8	Bowl	1169	118	Base; black and blue floral pattern on int., turquoise glaze
9	Bowl	1168/4	128	Base; black and blue pattern on int., turquoise glaze
10	Body fragment	1138/7	113	Turquoise glaze, pattern of dark blue squares

Fig. 23. Italian Imports and a Glazed Bowl.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	1062/4	113	Brown-pink ware, green-brown glaze on int. and ext.
2	Bowl	1189	118	Reddish ware, red slip? covered with colorless glaze on int. and rim
3	Bowl	1056/11	112	Brown-orange ware, white slip, geometric sgraffito lines with green and dark-brown glaze
4	Bowl	1099/8	114	Brown ware, glazed in horizontal bands of brown, yellow and green int., green glazed above the carination on ext.
5	Bowl	1062/13	113	Base; similar to No. 4

Fig. 25. Small Pottery Finds and a Bead.

No.	Artifact	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Stopper	1017	101	Dark brown ware, white grits
2	Stopper	1144	118	Brown ware, black core, badly fired
3	Stopper	1221/1	118	Brown ware, dark gray core, white grits, red slip, burnished
4	Stopper	1127/20	124	Brown ware, gray core, dark brown slip, burnished, from a handmade bowl
5	Stopper?	1276/1	132	Light brown ware, light gray core, white-washed
6	Stamp/lid?	1054/9	120	Brown ware, dark gray core, white grits, traces of dark red slip
7	Tabun rim	1146	125	Brown ware, signs of straw
8	Tile	1323/2	137	Brown, very hard ware, tiny white grits
9	Clay lump/handle	1185/5	119	Brown, crumbling
10	Handle?	1115/12	115	Brown and gray ware
11	Waster	1092/13	115	Buff ware, dark gray int, cracked.
12	Bowl/krater	1247	130	Base; brown ware, gray core, few grits, textile impression on int.
13	Bead	1116	118	Perforated, shiny light blue stone

Fig. 26. Stone Finds.

No.	Artifact	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Marble column	1320	126	Round, incision in middle
2	Marble slab	1112	121	
3	Decorated stone	1322	145	
4	Relief	1027	103	Limestone, floral, signs of mortar on back
5	Stopper	1248	118	Soft limestone, gray encrustation
6	Mosaic	1093	116	Gray and white tesserae
7	Stone pestle?	1007	102	
8	Stick	1144	118	Soft, dark green stone
9	Bowl	1094/4+ 1094/63	117	Soft limestone, dark red pattern on int., black pattern on rim
10	Bowl	1067/1	122	Incised lines on int, flat base
11	Basalt bowl	1270/3	128	

Fig. 27. Quern Stones.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus
1	Basalt quern?	1265/2	118
2	Basalt quern	1002	102
3	Basalt quern	1184	118
4	Conglomerate quern	1265/1	118

Fig. 28. Metal Finds.

No.	Artifact	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Spatula	1213	118	Bronze, incised pattern
2	Spatula	1280	140	Bronze
3	Nail	128	1270	Iron
4	Finger-ring	112	1065	Iron, poorly preserved

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

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Stopper	148	1332/2	Light brown-buff ware, few white grits
2	Cooking bowl	148	1332/1	Brown-orange ware, white grits
3	Jar	148	1332/2	Brown ware, few white grits
4	Bowl	147	1326/20	Red ware, red slip on int. and ext., black slip(?) on ext.
5	Krater	147	1326/22	Brown ware, well-fired, gray ext., combed
6	Cooking bowl	147	1329/6	Brown ware, blackened on surface, tiny white grits
7	Cooking bowl	147	1331/2	Dark brown-red ware, blackened on rim and ext., tiny white grits
8	Jar	147	1331/1	Red ware, well-fired, few white grits
9	Bowl	147	1326/24	Buff ware, green glazed on int. and rim, dark brown daubs on int. and ext.
10	Bowl	147	1329/4	Base; buff ware, green lines on int., dark brown and yellow daubs, mending holes
11	Jug handle	147	1326/9	Buff ware
12	Jug	147	1326/21	Fragment; buff ware, strainer holes (broken)

Fig. 30. Pottery of Other Periods.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Mortaria	1010/6	105	Buff-orange ware, tiny black grits
2	Bowl	1242/2	112	Red ware, levigated, dark red slip, roulleted decoration
3	Bowl	1232	114	Base; red-brown ware, levigated, dark red slip, impressed
4	Pithos handle	1045	111	Brown ware, Early Islamic impression
5	Pipe bowl	1053/19	119	Gray ware, incised
6	Pipe mouth	1053/20	119	Gray ware, dark red slip, burnished and incised

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