

THE POTTERY OF THE ISLAMIC PERIODS FROM KEREM MAHARAL

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The pottery assemblages presented below were retrieved from the excavations at Kerem Maharal in five strata (VI–II), dated from the eighth to the early twentieth century CE (see ‘Ad and Sa‘id, this volume).¹

These assemblages testify to activity at the site from the Early Islamic to the late Ottoman period, yet leave a chronological gap between the late Mamluk and early Ottoman periods (fifteenth–sixteenth centuries CE). This gap may derive from the difficulty to date ceramic assemblages from stratigraphic layers attributed to this transitional period; another possibility is that there was a settlement lacuna during this period at some of the excavated areas at the site.² Historical sources do mention a small village from the sixteenth century CE, known as Ijzim or Ikzim (according to Palmer 1881:146), which subsisted mainly on agriculture (Hütteroth and Abdulfattah 1977:158). Activity at the site during this period is also represented by a 1540–1544 CE coin recovered from a mixed fill in Area G (L502; see Kool, this volume: Coin No. 5). Clear diagnostic material from the eleventh century CE (Stratum V) is less common, perhaps pointing to an abandonment at its very beginning.

The following discussion is presented in chronological order, and includes a few assemblages of stratigraphic importance, as well as selected finds from various areas. Given the paucity of datable evidence, such as coins, lamps and inscriptions,³ the dating of the

¹ The pottery from Areas B, C, G, H and I was analyzed by the author. The pottery from Areas A, K, L and L2 was examined by Miriam Avissar (ז'רי) and Edna J. Stern of the Israel Antiquities Authority. I wish to thank Uzi ‘Ad and Kareem Sa‘id for inviting me to publish this material. Thanks are also due to Marina Shuiskaya (pottery drawing), David Silverman (photographs) and to the dedicated editors of the Department of Publications of the Israel Antiquities Authority, especially to Shoshana Israeli, whose professionalism, knowledge and patience are commendable. I would also like to thank the anonymous reader and Edna J. Stern for their important insights. I remain responsible for any errors.

² New studies and publications, e.g., Cytryn-Silverman (2010a) on the finds from the excavations north of the White Mosque in Ramla; the pottery from Khirbat Yamma (Stern 2017); and Ramla (Stern, Toueg and Shapiro 2019), as well as Giulia Roccabella’s doctoral research on the districts of Safed and Jerusalem between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, under the supervision of the author), are quickly filling up this gap.

³ A foundation or restoration inscription dated to 1236 AH/1820–1821 CE was found above the entrance to the village mosque (see *CIAP* V:303–304).

various wares and types is based upon parallels from other excavations in the region that have a detailed and well-founded chronological framework (Avissar 1996; Arnon 1999; Cytryn-Silverman 1999; 2005; 2013; Stern 1999; Hadad 2002; Stacey 2004).⁴

THE EARLY ISLAMIC PERIOD

The pottery from two key loci at Kerem Maharal/Ijzim points to a continuous settlement from the Byzantine to the Islamic period. Locus 460 (Area H; see 'Ad and Sa'id, this volume: Plan 6) yielded sherds characteristic of the Early Islamic period, of trends that became common sometime in the eighth century CE, while the assemblage from L258 (Area I; see 'Ad and Sa'id, this volume: Plan 7) yielded types which are typical of the ninth–tenth centuries CE—the latest use of Stratum VI. Only a few clear diagnostic vessels date from the eleventh century CE (Stratum V), perhaps pointing to the abandonment of the site in the very beginning of that century.

THE EIGHTH CENTURY CE (Stratum VI)

A small but representative eighth-century CE assemblage was retrieved from L460 (Area H; see 'Ad and Sa'id, this volume: Plan 6)—an accumulation fill under a Mamluk-period plaster floor (F470; Stratum III). This fill is of great interest as it overlies L461, which dates the abandonment of the building to the Byzantine or transitional Byzantine–Early Islamic period (see Gendelman and Sa'id, this volume: Fig. 7:11).

The assemblage, containing 14 diagnostic sherds (nine of them illustrated in Fig. 1:1–9), is characteristic of Umayyad sites in northern Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The relevant sites in Israel, chosen for their methodical excavation and well-defined archaeological contexts are: Caesarea, to the south of Kerem Maharal on the coast; Yoqne'am to the southeast, on the Carmel range; Bet She'an, in the Jordan Valley; and Tiberias, the capital of the administrative district Jund al-Urdunn, to which Ijzim, Yoqne'am, and Bet She'an belonged during the Early Islamic period. In addition, other assemblages from key-sites in Israel are referred to for better-basing the proposed date ranges and for demonstrating distribution.

Open Vessels

Two open vessels are typical of the Early Islamic period. A bowl with rounded walls and a thickened triangular rim (Fig. 1:1) is similar to Yoqne'am Type 5 (Plain Bowls V; Avissar 1996:119, Fig. XIII.68:1), which was also found in the eighth-century CE deposit above the

⁴ This article was written in 2006, and therefore the references followed the main publications of that time. It has been partially updated with selected recent publications. I am grateful to Dr. Edna J. Stern for her insights and suggestions.

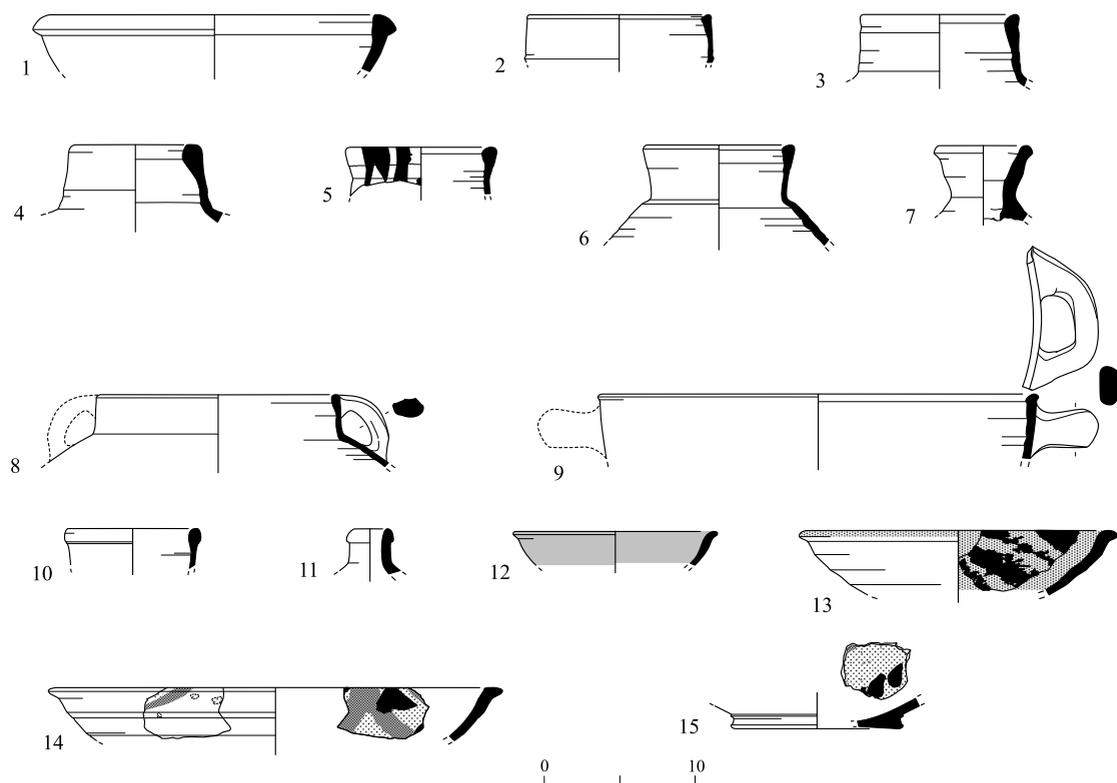


Fig. 1. Areas H and I, pottery from the eighth and ninth/tenth centuries CE.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	460	4519/3	Light yellowish red fabric
2	Mug	460	4521/10	Light red fabric
3	Gray Metallic Ware storage jar	460	4515/2	Gray fabric; highly fired; gray surface; brown core
4	Gray Metallic Ware storage jar	460	4519/2	Gray fabric; highly fired; gray surface; brown core
5	Red-Painted Ware storage jar	460	4515/3	Red fabric; highly fired; light brown slip and dark red streaks on ext.; light red int.
6	Small jar	460	4521/4	Red fabric; white grits; highly fired; red surface
7	Flask	460	4521/15	Red fabric; gritty
8	White-Painted Ware cooking pot	460	4521/7	Red fabric; highly fired; gray surface
9	Casserole	460	4521/6	Reddish brown fabric; thin light brown wash on int.; soot on ext.
10	Storage jar	258	2513/10	Orange to light red fabric; very thin whitish wash
11	Grenade-shaped container	258	2513/13	Reddish brown fabric; minute sand particles; whitish wash on ext.
12	Monochrome glazed bowl	258	2513/8	Yellowish cream fabric; green glaze on int. and ext.
13	Polychrome glazed bowl	258	2517/2	Greenish cream fabric; glazed int., with stripes of bright green and dark yellow to olive green
14	Polychrome glazed bowl	258	2313/14	Yellowish cream fabric; greenish glaze with splashes of green and purple on int., dripping on ext.
15	Polychrome glazed bowl	258	2513/4	Yellowish cream fabric; greenish glaze with splashes of green and purple on int., dripping on ext.

Sepphoris synagogue (Cytryn-Silverman 2005: Pl. B.I:3). According to Arnon's typology of Caesarea (2008:36, 125, Type 422a), similar bowls also appeared in post-Umayyad period Stratum VII, dated from the mid-eighth to the mid-ninth century CE. A mug with a soft carination and a slanted rim (Fig. 1:2) is similar to Yoqne'am Plain Bowls I (Avisar 1996:117, Fig. XIII.64, especially No. 2), dated to the Early Islamic period. A quite similar bowl, though of a wider diameter, was found in Caesarea Stratum VIIIa, dated from the late eighth to the first half of the ninth century CE (Arnon 2008:29, 60, Type 113a).

Storage Jars and Table Jars

Rim and neck sherds of three Gray Metallic Ware storage jars were recovered, two of them are illustrated (Fig. 1:3, 4). The type is characterized by a gray to dark-gray body with a white-painted decoration and a metallic-sounding ring due to high firing temperature. The neck of both vessels is tall and slants inward, but the rims differ: Fig. 1:3 has a beveled rim with a groove under the lip, while Fig. 1:4 is slightly thickened on the interior. These vessels are characteristic of the Early Islamic period (Avisar 1996:147–149, Fig. XIII.114; Stacey 2004:126, Fig. 5.34:1, 2) and may have originated from the kilns of Bet She'an (Bar-Nathan 2011: Fig. 11.3, Type BS-TPWS.SJ2). The neck of the third storage jar (not illustrated) is straight and ribbed, and the rim is flat and slightly thickened on the interior (Arnon 2008:38, 155, Type 821c, Stratum VII, though it also appears in a light red ware version in Stratum VI, which continued up to the mid-tenth century CE; see Arnon 2008:41, 220, Type 831a). It is worth noting that early eleventh century CE Gray Metallic storage jars are characterized by a tapering neck and grooved slanted rim, often tending to a reddish hue (Avisar 1996: Fig. XIII.114: 5, 6; Arnon 2008:46–47, 305–307, Type 851).

The red-painted jar illustrated in Fig. 1:5 has a thickened, rounded rim, and the neck flares out gently. It is made of light cream ware, highly fired, with dark red streaks decorating the neck. Red-painted jars appeared throughout the eighth century CE, and were common in the northern coast and north of Israel, as well as in Jordan (Avisar 1996:149, Fig. XIII.115; Stacey 2004:130; Cytryn-Silverman 2005: Pl. B.I, 14, 15; Arnon 2008:30, 68, Type 512c).

The fragment in Fig. 1:6 belongs to a small jar with a tall neck, carinated at its base. It is made of brick-red clay, reminiscent of cooking vessels. Similar jugs from Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:161, Fig. XIII.139:1, 2) were attributed to the Early Islamic period. A ridged neck of a jug (not illustrated) was made of red ware, fired purplish red on the exterior. Remains of a perforated filter with round holes were preserved on the base of the neck.

A rim and neck fragment of a lentoid flask with a cupped rim (Fig. 1:7) is of a type known from sixth–seventh-century CE deposits at Caesarea (Adan-Bayevitz 1986:110, Fig. 4:19), sixth–eighth-century CE contexts at Horbat 'Aqav (Calderon 2000:110, Pl. IX:56) and Jalame (Johnson 1988:209, Fig. 7-48:714, 715).⁵

⁵ Data courtesy of Peter Gendelman.

Cooking Ware

A cooking pot with an upright neck and a loop handle extending from rim to shoulder (Fig. 1:8) is similar to examples recovered from Umayyad and early Abbasid contexts at Tiberias (Stacey 2004:123, Fig. 5.32:4). According to Stacey, this type of pot seems to be a northern form, with parallels from Ḥammāt Gader, Kursi, Capernaum, Pella and Amman.⁶ This form, as well as other eighth-century CE types, are absent from Yoqne‘am. Stacey suggested that this may be because the Muslim rule at Yoqne‘am occurred not before the second half of the ninth century CE, as concluded by the excavators in their historical interpretation of Area A Stratum IV (Ben-Tor, Avissar and Portugali 1996:19).

The rims of three casseroles—deep cooking bowls with a pair of horizontal handles—were unearthed; only one of them is illustrated (Fig. 1:9). They have upright walls, and the handles extend from under the rim. The surface of the illustrated sherd is plain, while that of the other two is gently ribbed. These casseroles are common in Late Byzantine and Early Islamic contexts (Avissar 1996:139, Fig. XIII.99). Avissar suggested that the position of the handle directly under the rim indicates a date not later than Umayyad, yet this assertion should be carefully reexamined.

THE NINTH–TENTH CENTURIES CE (Stratum VI)

Locus 258, a burned layer in Area I (see ‘Ad and Sa‘id, this volume: Plan 7), represents the latest use of Stratum VI; it yielded pottery dating to the ninth–tenth centuries CE. Such a continuous use beyond the eighth century CE was not found in Area H. The burned layer was not continuous, and at places contained intrusive pottery of the eleventh century CE (Stratum V; Fig. 2:5, 6) as well as of the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE (Stratum IV; L256, Fig. 2:7–12; see below).

Unglazed Wares

Two rim sherds of unglazed vessels were found: a storage jar (Fig. 1:10) and a small grenade-shaped container (Fig. 1:11).

The jar in Fig. 1:10 is reminiscent of the bag-shaped amphora type from the transitional Late Byzantine–Early Islamic period, which continued in use well into the ninth century CE and perhaps even the tenth century CE. The fabric is orange to light red, the rim is slightly thickened, and a thin wash is applied on both sides of the surface. A similar storage jar was found in the topsoil of the synagogue at Sepphoris (Cytryn-Silverman 2005: Pl. B.I:9), dated to the late Umayyad period. It also resembles the jar from Tiberias Stratum III (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.34:3), dated to the mid-ninth century CE, and Caesarea Type 831 from Stratum VI (Arnon 2008:41, 219), dated to the late ninth–mid-tenth century CE.

⁶ As well as in Umayyad and early Abbasid contexts at Sepphoris, analyzed by the author (unpublished).

The rim of a grenade-shaped container (Fig. 1:11), fired to brick-red and of dense fabric, is also characteristic of the Early Islamic period.⁷ Two parallels from reliably dated archaeological contexts in Israel have come to light: the earliest, from the Umayyad kilns in the theater of Bet She'an, includes two variations in different petrofabrics (Bar-Nathan 2011: Fig. 11.42:16, 17); the other, from the eastern tower of the southern gate of Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.52), includes ten complete vessels, recovered from floor level together with an iron axe and early ninth-century CE coins (Stacey 2004:37, 138, Fig. 4:22). Examples from Caesarea were also found in clean contexts in Strata VIII and VII (Arnon 2008:72, 160, Types 516 and 824), the latter dated from the mid-eighth to the first half of the ninth century CE.

Two buff ware sherds were also found in L258 (not illustrated): a fragment of a rounded handle and a rim of a jar with a ridged neck. The former is too generic to establish a date within the typical range of this ware, from the late eighth–ninth century to the early eleventh century CE (Cytryn-Silverman 2010a:104–108). The latter is common in various contexts dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE beyond the regions under discussion. It is worth noting that jugs with ribbed necks were also associated with perforated filters of the ninth century CE (Scanlon 1988: Fig. 5, Type A-I-B).⁸

Glazed Wares

Among the glazed vessels are a monochrome green-glazed bowl of buff clay with an everted rim (Fig. 1:12) and polychrome glazed bowls in green, deep purple and yellow (Fig. 1:13–15). Six additional rim sherds and four body sherds of polychrome glazed bowls are not illustrated. Both monochrome and polychrome variants seem to have developed between the early ninth and the tenth centuries CE. Monochrome and polychrome glazed bowls made of buff clay are best represented in corpuses from Khirbat al-Mafjar (Baramki 1944: Pl. XVI:4, 5), Abu Ghosh (Vaux and Stève 1950: Pl. A:2–5),⁹ Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996: Fig. XIII.2, Type 2), Caesarea (Arnon 1999: Fig. 4h; 2008:39–40, 175–176 monochrome Type 231f; 181–183, polychrome Type 232b from Stratum VI; 42, 229–230 monochrome Type 241b from Stratum V); Ramla (Cytryn-Silverman 2010a:110–111, Pls. 9.5:19, 22; 9.8:18, 19; 9.9:12, 'Common Lead Glazed Ware') and Jerusalem (Cytryn-Silverman 2013: Figs. 7.5:17–19; 7.8:4; 7.10:3, 4). Their popularity and widespread distribution during the ninth–

⁷ For a summary of these vessels, known as *fuqqā'a*, see Cytryn-Silverman 2010:116–117. For discussions on typology and functions, see Savage-Smith 1997:324–333 and Pradines 2017.

⁸ Ribbed-neck jugs are absent from the Khirbat al-Mafjar assemblage (Baramki 1944), Abu Ghosh (Vaux and Stève 1950) and Giv'ati Parking Lot in Jerusalem (Cytryn-Silverman 2013). This is perhaps only coincidental, as they are absent from Torge's typology of Ramla (Torge 2017:88ff) but appear in Cytryn-Silverman's report on the pottery north of the White Mosque of Ramla (2010a: Photo 9.24.7).

⁹ On dating the pottery assemblage to the late eighth–ninth centuries CE instead of the tenth–eleventh centuries CE as proposed by Vaux and Stève, see Cytryn-Silverman 2010b:139, n. 491. Stacey (2004:12–13) also claimed an earlier date for the assemblage.

tenth centuries CE are further attested by their occurrence at sites along the northern Sinai strip (Cytryn-Silverman 2001:28, Fig. 11).¹⁰

A small sherd of a Gouged Sgraffito Glazed bowl was found (not illustrated), covered with a thick slip on both sides over a brick-red ware. This type is typical of the eleventh century CE (see discussion below) but is doubtless intrusive here.

THE ELEVENTH CENTURY CE (Stratum V)

Ceramic finds from the eleventh century CE (Stratum V) were retrieved from a few loci, mainly in Area I (Fig. 2). Four sherds, found in connection with a *ṭabun* (L268, L270; see ‘Ad and Sa‘id, this volume: Plan 7), indicate the time of its construction. The earth abutting the wall of the *ṭabun* (L268) yielded a Buff Ware jug (Fig. 2:1) and ring-base and body sherds of a mottled glazed bowl (Fig. 2:4). The jug has an everted rim, a slightly splaying neck and an incised decoration, too fragmentary to determine the motif. Similar vessels are common in ninth to eleventh-century CE contexts (Arnon 1999: Figs. 3:b, 7:f; Stacey 2004:132–133, Fig. 5.41:6–8). The mottled glazed bowl is partly covered with lime, but a radial design made of green and yellow glaze interspersed with purple spots is visible. Despite its decoration, reminiscent of earlier mottled glazed bowls, this bowl is made of brick-red ware characteristic of the so-called Beirut Ware (Stern 2012:44–47, Type BE.GL.6). These bowls have a thick, light double slip (see also Fig. 2:5) similar to the glazed bowls from the shipwreck at Serçe Limani (Jenkins 1992:56–60), and are known to have developed during the early eleventh century CE (Avisar 1996:89–90; Arnon 1999:226–227, Fig. 9e–f; 2008:44, 271, Type 252g Stratum II, dated to the late tenth–first half of the eleventh century CE; Stacey 2004:122; Avisar and Stern 2005:6, Type I.1.1, Fig. 1). During the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE, this group developed a coarser variation without the double slip on the exterior (see below).

Two sherds were recovered when the *ṭabun* was dismantled (L270): a rim of a globular cooking pot (Fig. 2:2) and a ring base of a sgraffito mottled glazed bowl (Fig. 2:3). The cooking pot is small and neck-less with an out-folded rim. Similar vessels were found in Yoqne‘am Stratum IV (Type 3), dated to the Early Islamic period (Avisar 1996:132, Fig. XIII.90). In Tiberias, also designated Type 3 (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.32.9–13), they first appeared in Stratum III (880–980 CE), but the closest parallel to our pot is from Stratum I (1033–1100 CE; Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.32:13). The interior of the glazed bowl in Fig. 2:3 has a radial sgraffito design, enhanced by radial glaze-painting. Segments framed with green glazing are incised with a ‘corkscrew’ pattern and enhanced by yellow glaze; alternating

¹⁰ Petrographic analysis of four sherds from northern Sinai indicates that these bowls were made of a fabric similar to that of Buff Ware vessels originating in the central Palestinian coastal plain (Ramla and/or surroundings; see Cytryn-Silverman 1996: n. 91). Buff-Ware bowls, found in Ramla and Abu Ghosh, with profiles similar to the polychrome glazed bowls, confirm the petrographic results.

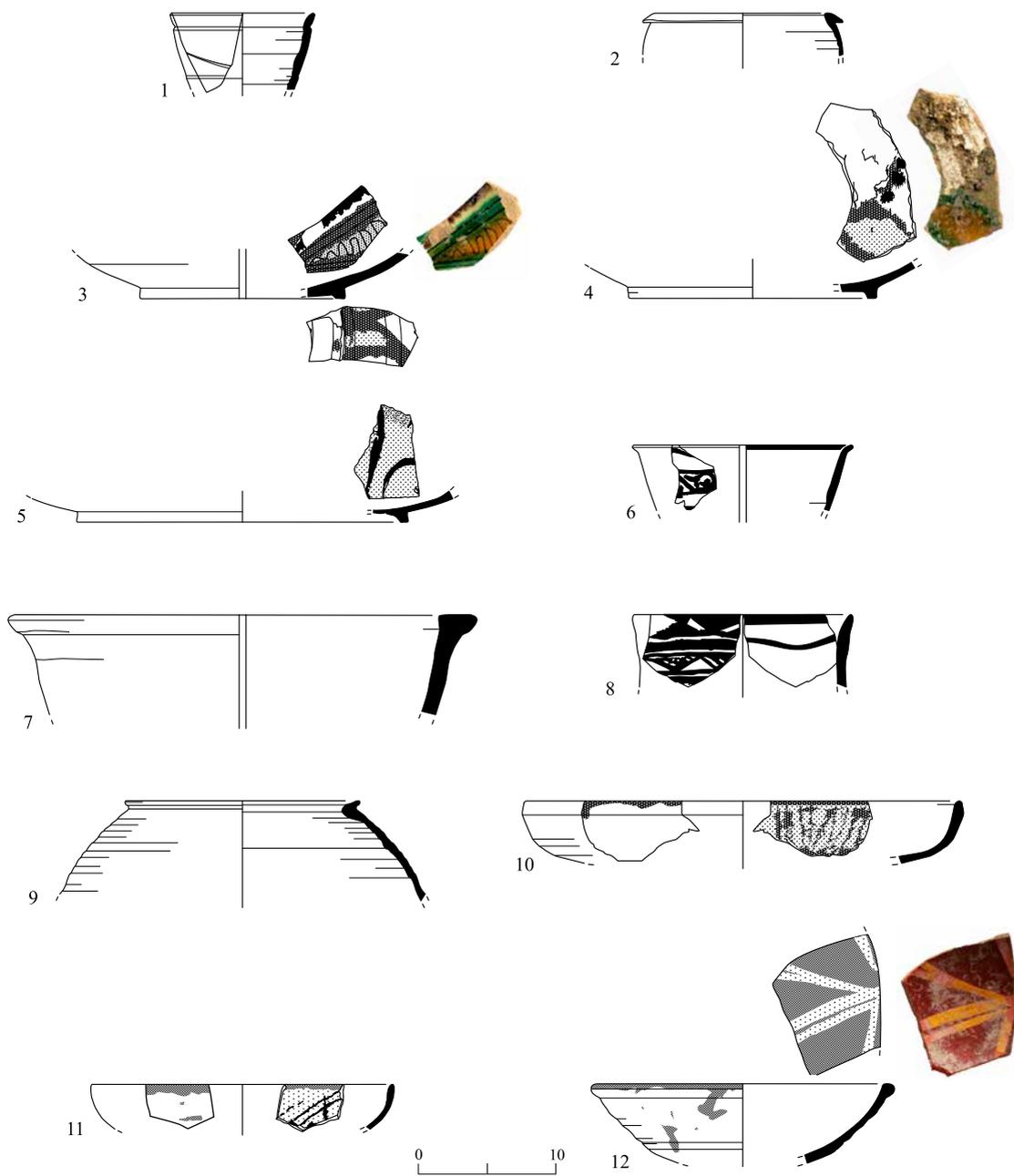


Fig. 2. Area I, pottery from the eleventh and twelfth centuries CE.

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Buff Ware jug	268	2534/1	Yellowish buff fabric
2	Cooking pot	270	2533/1	Brick-red fabric; blackened with soot
3	Mottled glazed sgraffito bowl	270	2533/2	Light red fabric; white slip on int. and ext.; greenish glaze with splashes of green, yellow and purple; sgraffito
4	Mottled glazed bowl	268	2529/1	Brick-red fabric; slip on both sides greenish glaze with splashes of green, yellow and purple; lime sediment on wall
5	Gouged sgraffito bowl	256	2510/9	Brick-red fabric; thick slip on both sides; mottled yellow to olive glaze on int.
6	Fatimid underglaze painted ware mug	254	2506/12	Light red; white slip on both sides, black painting, colorless glaze on int. and ext.
7	Handmade ware basin	256	2507/2	Brown fabric; thin light-brown slip on int. and ext.; black core
8	HMGF jar	256	2510/16	Light reddish-brown fabric; yellowish-cream slip on int. and ext.; dark red painting
9	Cooking pot	256	2510/13	Brick-red fabric; drips of brown glaze on int. and ext.
10	Coarse monochrome Glazed bowl	256	2510/16	Brick-red fabric; thin and uneven slip on int. and ext.; yellow glaze on int.
11	Coarse polychrome glazed bowl	256	2512/6	Brick-red fabric; thin slip on int.; yellow glaze with splashes of green and purple
12 ⁱ	Yellow Slip-Painted Glazed ware bowl	256	2507/4	Brick-red fabric; slip-painted narrow bands; yellow glaze on int.; some dripping on ext.

ⁱ For petrographic results of No. 12, see below.

segments are decorated with purple spots on a white background. The outer wall is decorated with green and yellow glaze. Bowls with ‘corkscrew’ pattern are believed to have been produced in Tiberias during the eleventh century CE (Stacey 2004:117, Fig. 5.25:6, 7). A bowl fragment of a similar type was also found in L268 (not illustrated).

In addition, a mixed fill (L254) that sealed a Stratum III (the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries CE) foundation trench (L266) contained a good example of an eleventh–twelfth-century CE Fatimid Underglaze Painted mug (Fig. 2:6). The Fatimid Underglaze Painted Ware originated in Egypt, and according to petrographic analysis (Mason and Keall 1990:177), the fabric matches that of the Egyptian Lustre Ware. It was common in Fustāt, in clear eleventh century CE contexts (Scanlon 1988:188). At Caesarea, Fatimid Underglaze Painted Ware first appeared in the late eleventh–mid-twelfth century CE (Arnon 1999:227, Fig. 9:g–h; 2008:47–48, 318–323, Type 264). Avissar and Stern stated that the date-range for this ware is from the last quarter of the eleventh to no later than the end of the twelfth century CE (Avissar and Stern 2005:35, Fig. 13:4, Type I.3.2).

THE MIDDLE ISLAMIC PERIOD

THE TWELFTH–THIRTEENTH CENTURIES CE (Stratum IV)

A representative assemblage (Fig. 2:7–12) found in L256, probably indicates the covering up of a *tabun* (L251). It comprises characteristic transitional types from the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE, together with some residual wares from the ninth–eleventh centuries CE. Within the assemblage (not illustrated) are a flat base and a bifid handle made of buff ware; a small fragment of a polychrome glazed bowl similar to those in Fig. 1:13–15; a cyma-recta rim in mottled glaze, similar to bowls from Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.25:6, 7); a corroded alkaline-glazed ring base; and a handle of a small jug made of light red ware.

The dating of this assemblage was based on an unglazed handmade basin (Fig. 2:7) made of a coarse, reddish brown ware with shiny grains, a black core and an uneven brown slip. Such coarse vessels appeared in the Levant sometime in the twelfth century CE, contemporary with the Handmade Geometric Painted vessels (HMGP), represented here by body sherds and a flaring neck of a jar (Fig. 2:8). Similar vessels are also known from other sites, e.g., ‘Akko (Stern 2012:49–50, Type VL.PL.5) and Caesarea Stratum II, dated to the late twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE (Arnon 2008:51, 365–366, Type 572b; see also Pringle 1986:139–142; Wightman 1989:61–64, Pls. 50–53; Avissar 1996:128–132, 168–169, Unglazed Bowls Types 33–34, Unglazed Closed Vessel Type 28; Avissar and Stern 2005:88–90, Type II.1.4, Fig. 38; 113–116, Type II.4.4, Figs. 47, 48).¹¹

The upper body of the neck-less, globular cooking pot in Fig. 2:9 has some splashes of transparent glaze on the exterior. The rim is thickened inside and flares out, while the body is very lightly ribbed. This form matches Yoqne‘am Type 7 (Avissar 1996:135, Fig. XIII.94) and Avissar and Stern’s Type II.2.1.2 (2005:91, Fig. 39:2), dated to the end of the twelfth–first half of the thirteenth centuries CE; it corresponds also to ‘Akko Type BE.CW.1, which appeared in the assemblage of the twelfth century CE and is considered residual in the later assemblage of the thirteenth century CE (Stern 2012:41–44). At Caesarea, this type is one of the diagnostic vessels of Stratum II, dated to the late twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE (Arnon 2008:52, 369–371, Type 772a). Four additional rim fragments of a similar type (representing at least three different vessels), as well as four body sherds, were also collected.

The two Beirut Ware bowls with gritty glaze (Fig. 2:10, 11) appeared only in the second half of the twelfth–first half of the thirteenth centuries CE (Avissar and Stern 2005:8; Type I.1.2, Fig. 2), together with Yellow Glazed Slip-Painted bowls (Avissar 1996:90, 96; Avissar and Stern 2005:19, Types I.6.1–I.1.6.2, Fig. 7; Arnon 2008:50–51, 361, Type 276, dated to the late twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE). The form of the bowl in Fig. 2:12 is more typical of the thirteenth century CE. According to the petrographic analysis of similar sherds from

¹¹ For a recent study on the production and distribution of Handmade Geometric Painted pottery, see Gabrieli, Ben-Shlomo and Walker 2014.

‘Akko, this type probably originated from a workshop in South Lebanon (Stern 2012:47, Type BE.GL.4).

THE THIRTEENTH–FIFTEENTH CENTURIES CE (Stratum III)

In Area B, the main loci were mixed fills, which yielded a pottery repertoire of the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries CE. These fills (Loci 201 and 213) are associated with a burned layer (Loci 204 and 220; see ‘Ad and Sa‘id, this volume: Plan 2). All these loci also contained earlier material.

A few sherds from other areas, also collected from mixed fills, are illustrated in Fig. 3, adding further information concerning the wares of Strata IV and III.

Bowls

Among the unglazed open vessels collected from Middle Islamic assemblages are wide bowls with thick walls, potted on a slow wheel with a brown fabric, further slipped on their interior and/or exterior. The bowl in Fig. 3:1 has a flat rim, slightly interned, and is burnished inside. It is reminiscent of a bowl from Yoqne‘am (Avisar and Stern 2005:82, Fig. 35:3, Type II.1.1.1), dated to the twelfth and the first half of the thirteenth century CE. The grooved disc-base in Fig. 3:2 seems to belong to a deep bowl, similar to the deep, crude bowls published by Avisar and Stern (2005:82, Fig. 35:7–10, Type II.1.1.3).

The shape of the Handmade Geometric Painted bowl in Fig. 3:3 is not clear. It is reminiscent of squared bowls with flattened rims (Avisar and Stern 2005:88, Fig. 38:9, Type II.1.4.2), but the sherd slightly turns out at the bottom; it could also be the upper part of a wide-mouthed jar.

Jars and Jugs

Two jars typical of the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries CE are illustrated in Fig. 3. The jar in Fig. 3:4 has a thickened rim and an upright neck with a groove near its base. This type is classified by Avisar and Stern (2005:100, Fig. 42:4) as Type II.3.1.3, dating from the second half of the twelfth to the end of the fourteenth century CE. At Yoqne‘am, this type appears in Crusader and Mamluk assemblages (Avisar 1996:152–153, Fig. XIII.120, Type 13). In the excavations at the Armenian Garden in Jerusalem, the type was recovered from Mamluk deposits and was described as “the most common type of amphora represented in the cistern, dated to the last quarter of the fourteenth century” (Tushingham 1985:149, Fig. 42:12). It was also found in fourteenth–fifteenth-century CE contexts at Herod’s Gate in the northwestern part of the Old City (Cytryn-Silverman, forthcoming), as well as in post-Crusader assemblages from the Damascus Gate (Wightman 1989: Pl. 57). At Giv‘at Yasaf it appeared in late thirteenth–fifteenth-century CE assemblages (Stern 1999: Fig. 4:49–51).

The jar in Fig. 3:5 has a prominent ridge on the neck, a groove under a thickened rim and the interior is also marked by a ridge. The ware is brown, with a brick-red surface, highly

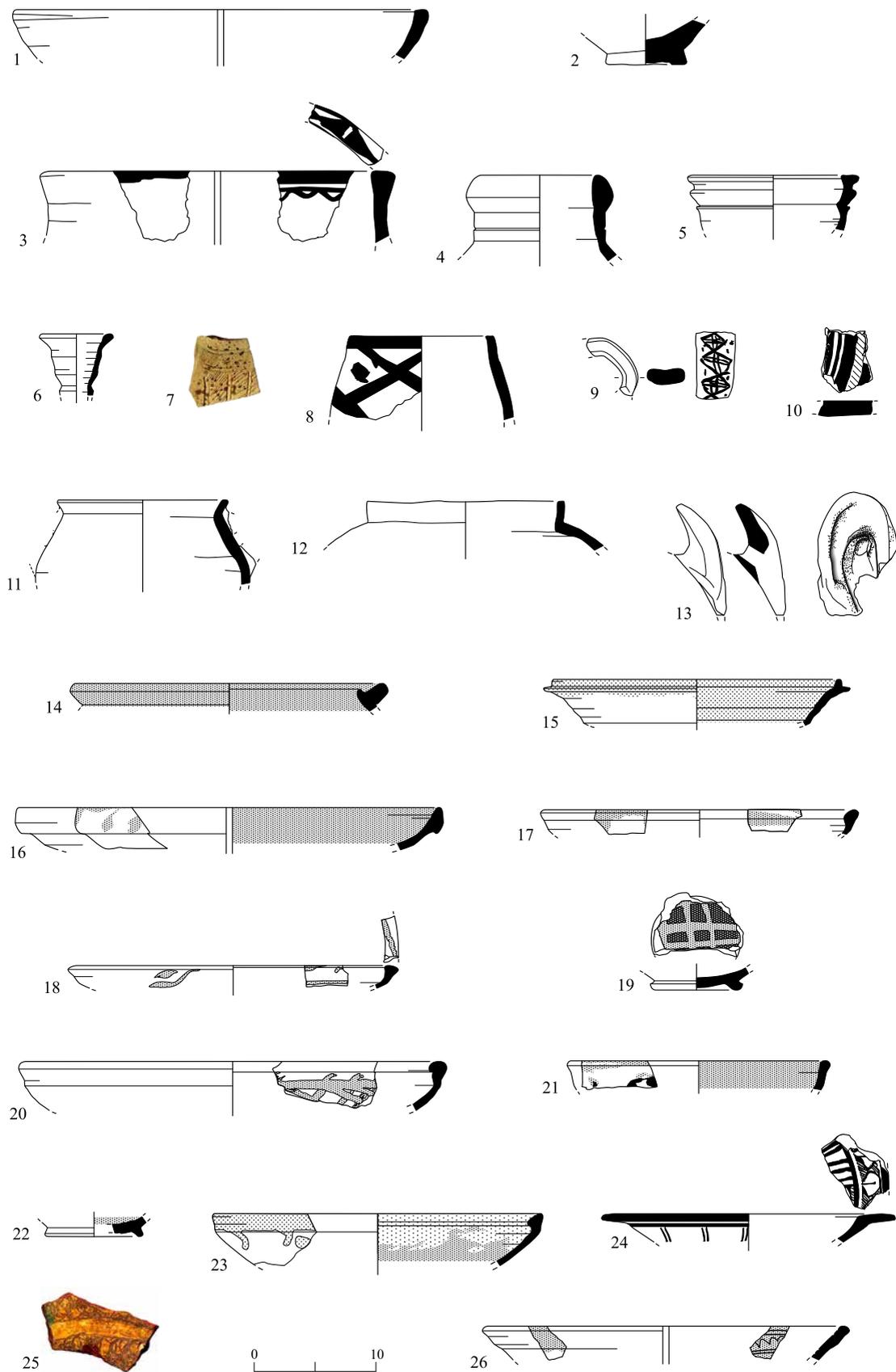


Fig. 3. Pottery from the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries CE.

◀ Fig. 3

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	204	2016/6	Brown fabric; inclusions; mottled yellowish to brown slip; burnished on int. and lip; brown core
2	Bowl	204	2016/1	Brown fabric; inclusions; yellowish pink slip on ext.; gray to black core
3	HMGP bowl	254	2506/4	Reddish yellow fabric; grainy; reddish yellow slip on int. and ext., red painting; brown core
4	Jar	201	2000/1	Brown fabric; yellowish cream on int. and ext.; light and dark gray at places; reddish yellow core with many white and some dark grains
5	Jar	506	5021/4	Brown–light brown fabric; red surface; gray core
6	Jug	201	2000/17	Light brown fabric; greenish gray surface; thin, reddish yellow core
7	Jug body sherd	202	2005/1	Decorated
8	HMGP jug	213	2046/14	Grayish brown fabric; grainy, including shiny sand particles; light red int.; burned on ext.; dark red painting; grayish brown core
9	HMGP jug	204	2016/11	Reddish yellow fabric; grainy; burnished red slip; black painting; reddish yellow core
10	HMGP jug/jar	204	2016/10	Light brown to reddish yellow fabric; grainy; red slip on int.; pink ext.; black and red painting; light brown core
11	Cooking pot	204	2016/2	Very light brown fabric; many grains and voids from burned organic matter; light red slip on ext.; light brown core
12	Cooking pot	213	2046/22	Dark brown fabric; grainy with many shiny sand particles; dark brown surface, burnished and blackened with soot; dark gray core
13	Cooking ware handle	213	2046/20	Dark brown fabric; grainy with many shiny sand particles; dark brown surface; dark gray core
14	Glazed cooking pot	213	2046/8	Brick-red fabric; grainy; dark red surface with splashed of glaze
15	Glazed cooking bowl	304	2016/3	Light red fabric; dense with some grains; caramel glaze on int.; blackened ext.
16	Glazed cooking ware bowl	506	5016/2	Yellowish red fabric; grainy with quartz and pit(?); dark brown ext.; brown glaze on int.
17	Yellow glazed slip-painted bowl	506	5016/5	Orange-red fabric (see Fig. 6, below)
18	Yellow glazed slip-painted bowl	201	2000/15	As No. 17
19	Yellow glazed slip-painted bowl	201	2000/2	As No. 17
20	Yellow glazed slip-painted bowl	201	2000/4	As No. 17
21	Green glazed bowl	506	5021/6	Orange-red fabric; yellowish cream slip on int. and partly on ext., green glaze on int.; dripping on ext.

◀ Fig. 3. (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
22	Green glazed bowl	204	2016/8	Orange red fabric; reddish ext.; green glaze on int.; orange-red core; dark brown near surface
23	Yellow and green glazed bowl	201	2000/6	Orange red fabric; cream slip on int. and below lip; light yellow glaze with green splashes on int.
24	Underglaze painted frit bowl	254	2504/8	Stone paste; corroded turquoise glaze on int. and ext.
25	Bowl body sherd	202	2001/17	Egyptian Sgraffito Ware
26	Yellow and green glazed bowl with gouged sgraffito	506	5016/3	Orange red fabric; cream slip on int. and ext.; grayish ext.; yellow-green glaze on int. and under lip

fired. It is similar to Avissar and Stern's Type II.3.14 (2005:102, Fig. 42:7), dated from the second half of the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries CE. The wide distribution of jars with a prominent ridge is attested in the excavations north of the White Mosque in Ramla, in a late fourteenth–early sixteenth-century CE deposit (Cytryn-Silverman 2010a: Fig. 9.26:2, 3), and in Mamluk assemblages from sites surveyed in northern Sinai (Cytryn-Silverman 1996: Fig. 6:10–13). This type was also found at Tell Jemmeh in the northwestern Negev (Schaefer 1989: Fig. 6:5, 6), dated to the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries CE. The profile seems to relate to some of the jars recovered from the late thirteenth–fifteenth-century CE assemblage from Giv'at Yassaf (Stern 1999: Fig. 4:49, 50), although the fabric is different.

Related in shape are jars with a ribbed neck and a prominent ridge under an upright rim (not illustrated). The fabric is red and gritty with mainly white inclusions, and the surface is cream-colored. At Yoqne'am, these jars were associated with Crusader and Mamluk assemblages (Avissar 1996:153, Type 13, Fig. XIII.120:6).

The greenish gray jug with a splayed neck and rim (Fig. 3:6) is reminiscent of jugs dated to the Mamluk period with a tall neck and a globular body (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 42:13). A single body sherd of a decorated jug (Fig. 3:7), incised and punctured in typical Mamluk-period style (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 43:1–3; Pringle 1986: Fig. 48:29–31; Wightman 1989: Pl. 61:1–6; Avissar and Stern 2005:111, Fig. 46:3–6, four examples from Jerusalem) was recovered from a fill (L202) in Area B (see 'Ad and Sa'id, this volume: Plan 2).

A few sherds of jugs and jars of the diagnostic Handmade Geometric Painted Ware (Fig. 3:8–10), typical of Middle and Late Islamic periods, represent the range of fabrics found among this ware. They are all made of a coarse grainy fabric, ranging from light brown to reddish yellow, sometimes also slipped and burnished. The paint color also varies, ranging from red to black. The uneven firing is evident from the grayish to brown thick cores.

Cooking Ware

During the Middle Islamic period, from sometime in the thirteenth century onward, heavy handmade cooking pots became popular in the Levant. The ware is coarse and very grainy,

mainly characterized by the many visible shiny inclusions. The vessels are usually fired brownish gray to gray and are often stained black with soot.

The common shapes correspond to Avissar and Stern's Type II.2.2.2 (2005:94–96, Fig. 40), such as the cooking pots with everted (Fig. 3:11) or upright (Fig. 3:12) rims, as well as neck-less vessels with a thickened and slanted rim (not illustrated; as in Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 40:6, 7). The typical handle is an ear-shaped loop (Fig. 3:13), attached under the shoulder of the vessel. This variety of handmade vessels was the most common cooking ware during the Mamluk period, from the mid-thirteenth to the late fifteenth century CE; during the second half of the thirteenth century CE they co-existed with the Beirut Glazed Wheel-made types (less popular in Kerem Maharal), which continued the tradition of the Early Islamic period and became characteristic of the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE.

Typical Mamluk-period shapes are represented in Fig. 3:14–16. They are completely glazed on the interior and usually left bare on the exterior. The pot in Fig. 3:14 is neck-less with a grooved ledge-rim (gutter rim). This shape corresponds to Avissar and Stern's Type II.1.4 (2005:92, Fig. 39:7), which appears in many sites in Israel, in layers dated to the second half of the thirteenth century CE (Avissar 1996:136, Type 9, Fig. XIII.96; Stern 2012, 1:42–44; 2012, 2: Pl. 4.17, Type BE.CW.2).

A shallow cooking bowl (Fig. 3:15) with a grooved rim and thin walls and a caramel glaze on the interior, is also a common type (Pringle 1986: Fig. 48:45–46; Avissar 1996:144, cooking bowl Type 19, Fig. XIII.106:1; Avissar and Stern 2005:97, Type II.2.3.5, Fig. 41:8; Stern 2012, 2: Pl. 4.14:17, Type BE.CW.2).¹² Rounded cooking bowls with a thickened rim (Fig. 3:16) are dated by Avissar and Stern to the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries CE and perhaps even later (Avissar and Stern 2005:97, Type II.2.3.4, Fig. 41:6, 7).

Glazed Wares

Although a sherd count of the glazed wares from Kerem Maharal is not available, it is possible to determine three notable groups: Slip-Painted Glazed Ware (Fig. 3:17–20), mostly in yellow glaze; Green Glazed Ware (Fig. 3:21, 22); and Yellow Glazed Ware with Green Splashes (Fig. 3:23).

Slip-Painted bowls were first encountered in the late twelfth-century CE fills discussed above. Many of the bowls from Kerem Maharal are characterized by an orange-red fabric and crisscross decoration, usually with a thickened rim, a light carination of the upper wall and a ring base. This shape is characteristic of the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries CE, and also appears in monochrome glazed bowls of the Mamluk period (Avissar and Stern 2005:14, Type I.1.4.2, Fig. 5:1–6). Similar slip-painted bowls are known from Mamluk contexts at al-Burj al-Aḥmar (The Red Tower; Pringle 1986:149, Fig. 50:64–69) and Yoqne'ām (Avissar 1996:96, Type 44, Fig. XIII.32.4–7). At Giv'at Yassaf, such bowls were dated

¹² Avissar and Stern suggested a date-range for this variant from the end of the thirteenth to about the end of the fourteenth century CE.

to the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries CE (Stern 1999:127), although the whole assemblage ranged in date between the end of the thirteenth and the fifteenth centuries CE.

The Green Glazed vessels (Fig. 3:21, 22) were made of a similar red-orange ware, slipped and covered with a glossy green glaze on the interior. They seem to relate to the Yellow Glazed Ware with Green Splashes, which were made of a similar fabric (Avissar and Stern 2005:12–14, Type I.1.4, Figs. 4, 5).¹³ The shape of the Yellow Glazed Bowl with Green Splashes (Fig. 3:23) is also common amongst Green Glazed bowls, indicating a common production source for both wares. Avissar (1996:100) had already pointed out that Monochrome Green Glazed Bowls with a thickened outturned rim (Avissar 1996, Type 49) and some of the Yellow Glazed Slip-Painted Bowls (Avissar 1996; Type 44) had a common profile and probably originated in the same workshop.

A few Underglaze Painted Frit Ware vessels (stone paste; Fig. 3:24) were found, generally classified as Syrian types of the thirteenth century CE (Avissar 1996:115, Type 78, Fig. XIII.61.2; Avissar and Stern 2005:26, Type I.2.3.1, Fig. 9:4–11).

A single body sherd of an Egyptian Sgraffito bowl (Fig. 3:25) was uncovered. The style of its glaze and sgraffito decoration is similar to that of the bowls recovered from the excavations at Kom al-Dikka, Alexandria (Marzouk 1959: Pl. VIII), and is also well-known from museum collections (Fehérvári 2000:253–259). The fabric is typically dark red and grainy, and the bowl is heavily potted.¹⁴ The interior is slipped and glazed in yellow with green stains, while the exterior is left bare, with a radial dripping of yellow glaze. Marzouk dated this group from the mid-twelfth to the mid-fourteenth century CE, based on the heraldic motifs that commonly decorate these bowls (Marzouk 1959:5–7). However, an Ayyubid date for the beginning of its production seems rather too early. It is more likely that Egyptian Sgraffito bowls were common from the mid-thirteenth through the end of the fourteenth centuries CE, a time range also suggested by Avissar and Stern (2005:38, Type I.3.5.1, Fig. 14:7) and discussed extensively by Walker (2004).

Yellow and Green Gouged Glazed bowls (Fig. 3:26), also common in the Levant from the end of the thirteenth to the fifteenth century CE (Stern 1999:125–126; Avissar and Stern 2005:16, Type I.1.5.2, Fig. 6:5–7), are scarce in the examined assemblages from Kerem Maharal.

The scarcity of Frankish imports in Kerem Maharal is notable. Only two fragments (not illustrated) were recovered from the baskets studied for this publication: one is a base of a thirteenth-century CE Cypriot Sgraffito bowl (L507; Basket No. 5022/2); and the other is a body sherd of a thirteenth-century CE Port St. Symeon bowl (L202—no basket number).

¹³ Avissar and Stern classified both types as Monochrome Glazed Bowls II, dated from the second half of the thirteenth to the fifteenth century CE.

¹⁴ For the petrofabric of this ware according to samples from Fustat, see Mason and Keall 1990:180–181.

THE LATE ISLAMIC AND MODERN PERIODS

THE EIGHTEENTH–NINETEENTH CENTURIES CE (Stratum II)

The late Ottoman period and the beginning of the modern era in Kerem Maharal (eighteenth to mid-nineteenth/early twentieth centuries) are well-represented in the ceramic assemblages. Common wheel-made or handmade wares, mostly unglazed (Fig. 4:1–6), were found, as well as Gaza Ware (Fig. 4:7–11), Ottoman Slip-Painted bowls (Fig. 4:13–15) and tobacco pipes (*chibouks*; Fig. 5).

The illustrated examples are only a sample of the many vessels and respective profiles recovered, mostly originating from poor archaeological contexts. This shortcoming may explain the absence of clear sixteenth- or seventeenth-century CE assemblages. In fact, Gaza

Fig. 4 ▶

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Jar	458	4509/1	Light orange red fabric; moderate small black and white grains; minute shiny sand particles; light red surface; gray core
2	Jug	258	4511/4	Brown fabric; minute shiny sand particles; greenish gray surface
3	Jug	331	3005/2	Reddish brown fabric; very dense with many minute sand particles; metallic ring; red-slipped surface; burnished
4	Jug	458	4518/2	Orange red fabric; grainy; many white grains; cream slip on int. and ext.
5	Jug	458	4511/1	Orange red fabric; uneven cream slip on ext.
6	Bowl	300	3000	Orange red fabric; very grainy; uneven cream slip on int. and ext.
7	Gaza Ware jar	305	3006/2	Gray fabric; metallic ring
8	Gaza Ware jar	201	2000/3	As No. 7
9	Gaza Ware jar	458	4509/6	As No. 7
10	Gaza Ware jug	501	5001/2	As No. 7
11	Gaza Ware jug	501	5005/1	As No. 7
12	Handmade bowl	305	3006/7	Brown fabric; very grainy; many shiny, black and white sand particles of various sizes; light red slip on int.; dark gray ext.; burnished; gray core
13	Green glazed slip-painted bowl	458	4509/7	Red fabric; metallic ring; white slip-painting under green glaze
14	Yellow glazed slip-painted bowl	310	3020/6	white slip-painting under yellow glaze
15 ⁱ	Yellow glazed slip-painted bowl	256	2510/4	Red fabric; metallic

ⁱ For petrographic results of No. 15, see below

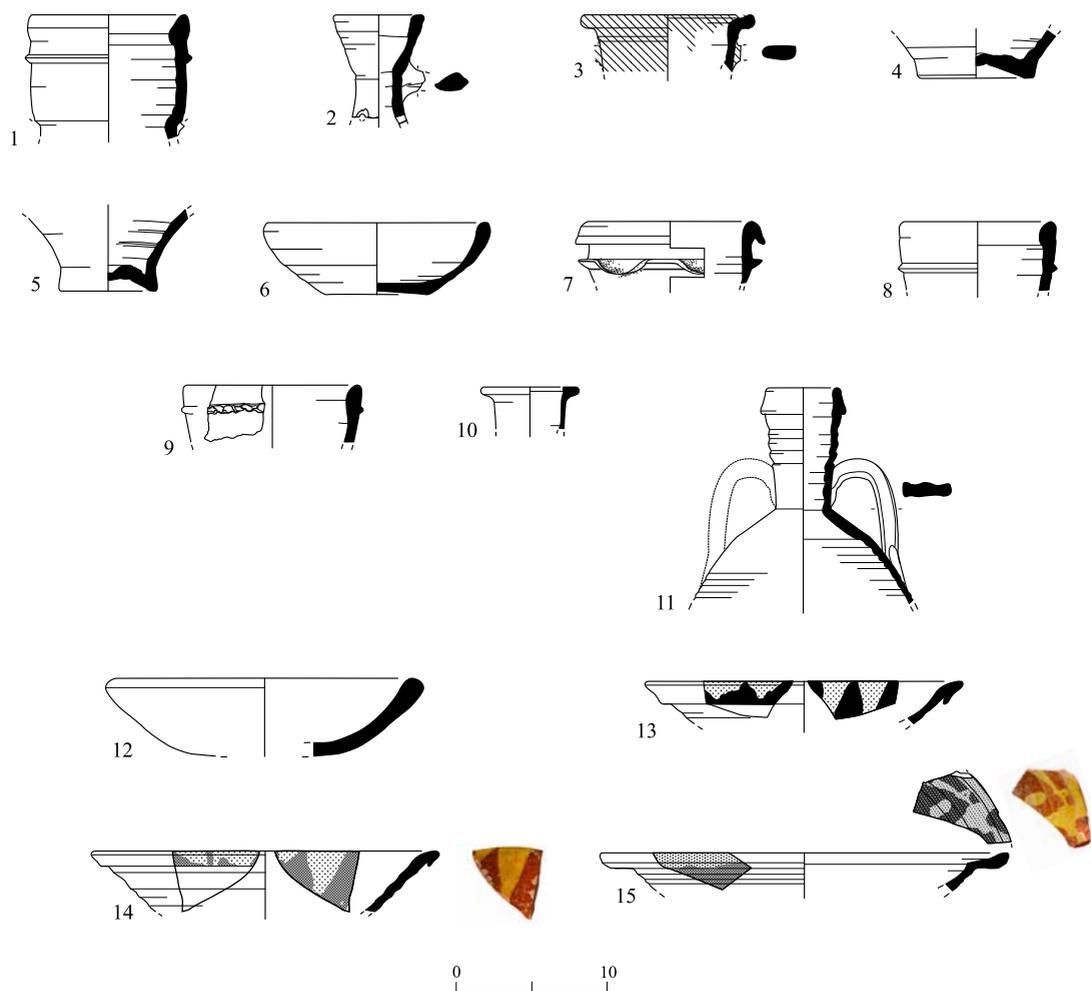


Fig. 4. Pottery from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries CE.

Ware (Fig. 4:7–11), which is usually considered diagnostic of eighteenth–early twentieth-century CE contexts (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994:173, Fig. 14; Boas 2000:547–551, Pls. I, II.1–10; Avissar 2009: Figs. 2.6:4–7, 2.12:8–12; Vincenz 2019:187–192, Figs. 7–9), may have commenced much earlier, perhaps as early as the sixteenth century CE.¹⁵

¹⁵ This is indicated by some “Gray Ware” vessels found within the foundation trenches of the sixteenth-century CE Ottoman wall of Jerusalem near Herod’s Gate (Cytryn-Silverman, forthcoming). For a similar conclusion, see Avissar 2009:11.

The handmade bowl in Fig. 4:12 is reminiscent of cooking bowls of pre-Ottoman times, which continued well into the nineteenth century CE (Avisar 2009: Fig. 2.8:5; see Avisar and Stern 2005:88, Fig. 38:4).

Didymoteicho-Style (Çanakkale) Slip Painted conical bowls with an out-folded rim (Fig. 4:13, 14), and the slip-painted bowl with a ledge rim (Fig. 4:15), are also common in Late Ottoman assemblages (nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries CE; Boas 2000:554–555, Pl. III:1–6; Vroom 2005:186–187; Avisar 2009: Fig. 2.7:1–3; Tekkök 2011; Vincenz 2019:179–181, Fig. 3). They are made of dense orange ware, and are decorated with radial slip-painted stripes, enhanced by the overall yellow or green glazing on the interior and on the lip of the bowl. Similar bowls from the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem were mistakenly compared with twelfth–thirteenth-century CE slip-painted bowls (Wightman 1989: Pl. 66:9–12). Worthy of mention is a Yellow-Glazed Slip-Painted bowl with a sunken ledge-rim (Fig. 4:15), dated based on its context and profile to the twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE. However, its orange-hue ware with mica and minute white grits, highly fired to a metallic ring, suggests a late eighteenth–early nineteenth-century CE date, when Çanakkale Slip-Painted glazed bowls (Fig. 4:13, 14) with folded and ledge rims were very common (Cytryn-Silverman 1996: Fig. 23:6, 7, 12; Avisar 2008: Fig. 6.2:21).

The tobacco pipes (Fig. 5) are mostly dated to the nineteenth–early twentieth centuries CE. The lily/tulip-shaped bowls in Fig. 5:1, 2, 7 (and probably also Fig. 5:8) are similar to Dekkel's Bowl Type 9 (Dekkel 2008:127, Figs. 4.2:9; 4.15:84–86), dated to the second half of the nineteenth–beginning of the twentieth century CE. The rounded-end shanks in Fig. 5:1, 2 correspond to Dekkel's Shank Type 9c (Dekkel 2008:123, Figs. 4.2; 4.14: No. 78), dated to the second half of the nineteenth century CE (see also Vincenz 2019: Fig. 10:1, 3, 5). The pipe in Fig. 5:3 has a rounded bowl with upper cylindrical registers parallel to Dekkel's Bowl Type 5, dated to the eighteenth century CE (Dekkel 2008:125, Figs. 4.2:5; 4.9:48, 49). The typical shank of this type has a wreath and a stepped ring (Dekkel 2008:126, Fig. 4.2:5a–c). The rim of the flaring bowl illustrated in Fig. 5:5 is similar to a pipe from Kefar Gabirol, el-Qubeibe (Vincenz 2019: Fig. 10:6); it could also belong to large pipes with a disc-shaped base (Dekkel 2008:123, Figs. 4.2:8; 4.12:67) that usually display a shank similar to the one illustrated in Fig. 5:4 (Dekkel's Type 10b), dated to the first half of the nineteenth century CE (Dekkel 2008:126). One example made of a very porous and light yellowish gray ware (Fig. 5:6) seems to be of an earlier date (Dekkel 2008:119, Fig. 4.4: No. 3), most probably the end of the seventeenth century CE. The piece illustrated in Fig. 5:9 might be part of a small clay nargila/hookah.

The scarcity of Turkish imports is noteworthy, and no English or Chinese imports were recorded.



Fig. 5. Tobacco pipes (1–8) and nargila (9).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Tobacco pipe	458	4509	Burnished dark reddish brown surface; light gray core
2	Tobacco pipe	507	5017/2	
3	Tobacco pipe	200	2003/1	
4	Tobacco pipe	200	2003/2	
5	Tobacco pipe	507	5017/8	As No. 1; gray core
6	Tobacco pipe	200	2003/4	
7	Tobacco pipe	300	3000	
8	Tobacco pipe	200	2003/3	
9	Nargila/hookah	500	5050/8	Light red fabric; gray core

PETROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF SLIP-PAINTED YELLOW GLAZED SHERDS¹⁶

A limited number of sherds decorated with slip-painting under yellow glaze were submitted for petrographic analysis. These sherds represent three groups of Slip-Painted Wares, which are usually easily discernible by the naked eye for their fabric and glaze. Different firing conditions and/or nuances in the glaze tonality, however, pose difficulties in identifying some of the sherds, and consequently in dating them.

The first group of Slip-Painted Ware dates to the late twelfth–thirteenth centuries CE, and is represented by a sherd (Fig. 2:12; L256, Basket No. 2507/4), which derives from a late twelfth century CE assemblage in Area I. The matrix is ferruginous. Opaque minerals are abundant in the silt fraction. The non-plastic components account for 20% of the paste and comprise rounded to subangular grains of quartz (200–500 μm). This raw material was identified as the red soil of the central littoral areas of Israel, which is found along the coastal plain from Ashdod northward.

The second group is represented by a rim fragment of a carinated bowl (Fig. 6; L1005, Basket No. 10005/1) made from a fine orange red fabric and glazed by a thin and glossy yellow glaze. It is a typical type of the thirteenth century, but distinct in ware and finish from the previous example. The matrix is ferruginous, rich in silty quartz and some mica laths (biotite). The non-plastic components account for 10% of the paste and include rounded quartz grains (300 μm). The matrix is identified as terra rossa soil. This soil unit occurs in the hilly areas of Israel, where a sub-humid Mediterranean climate prevails, including the central highlands, Mount Carmel, the Shephelah and the Galilee. A second sherd in this group (L458; Basket No. 4509/2, not illustrated) seemed distinct by the naked eye, mainly because of its darker color and somewhat less glossy glaze. It resembles the sherds illustrated in Fig. 3:19, 20.

The third group corresponds to the Ottoman variation of the Slip-Painted Glazed bowls. As the sample sherd (Fig. 4:15; L256, Basket No. 2510/4) was found in a prominent late twelfth century CE assemblage, it was intrusive. Both profile and glaze are common in the Ottoman variation of the type, but it seemed prudent to prove this distinction also by



Fig. 6. Rim fragment of a carinated bowl.

¹⁶ The petrographic study was conducted by Anat Cohen-Weinberger of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

petrography. The matrix is characterized by non-carbonated clay rich in mica minerals. The non-plastic components account for 10% of the paste and include mainly angular quartz grains (300 µm) and some feldspar and mica (biotite) grains. This composition is not typical of Israel, but its provenance could not be determined based on the petrographic data.¹⁷

SUMMARY

The present study of the Islamic-period pottery from Kerem Maharal points to a continuous settlement from the Early Islamic to the late Ottoman period, though not always located in the same areas.

The earliest Islamic assemblage from a clear architectural context was found in a fill in Area H, below the plaster floor of Stratum III (Mamluk period), dated to the eighth century CE. Despite the gap in the usage of the building in Area H, the settlement continued in other areas at Kerem Maharal. The last phase of Stratum III is represented by sections of a burned layer found in Area I (L258) with pottery ranging between the ninth and tenth centuries CE. Sometime during the eleventh century CE (Stratum V), an occupation of a different nature seems to have occurred, represented by the *ṭabun* in Area I. The pottery assemblage overlaying the *ṭabun* dates from the mid-thirteenth–fifteenth centuries CE (Strata III and IV) and is similar to contemporary pottery recovered in other excavated areas at the site.

The latest examined assemblage was dated to the late eighteenth–early twentieth centuries CE and was related to the village of Ijzim, a settlement in the Haifa region during the late Ottoman and Mandatory periods (Khalidi 1992:163–165).

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¹⁷ These bowls seem to have been produced in Çanakkale, Turkey (Cytryn-Silverman 1996:131; Boas 2000:554). The bowl with a slightly sunken ledge-rim in Fig. 4:15 seems to belong to the Çanakkale bowls, which appear in different decorative styles, including monochrome glazed slip-painted vessels.

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