

POTTERY AND STONE OBJECTS FROM THE ABBASID–FATIMID PERIODS AT RAMLA

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INTRODUCTION

This report presents the pottery assemblage from the excavation in Azrieli Mall (see Toueg and Torgë, this volume).¹ This assemblage comprises material from Area A, Strata III–I, and the five secondary building phases identified in Area C; the material from Area B is not presented here as it was mainly retrieved from the surface. The pottery mainly dates from the Abbasid–Fatimid periods, from the second half of the eighth until the second half of the eleventh century CE. It includes many vessels with a broad time range, spanning the Abbasid and Fatimid periods. Abbasid-period vessels were found in fills between the floors of Stratum III in Area A, although all three strata in this area also yielded Fatimid-period vessels. The pottery from Area C dates the five building phases observed in that area to the Fatimid period. A small quantity of Umayyad-period sherds was also found, although a stratum dated to that period was not uncovered in the excavation. The pottery description below is organized typologically as no clear chronological distinction could be determined among the material from different strata or construction phases. A few stone objects are also presented here.

Early Islamic-period ceramic assemblages are known from many excavations at Ramla, offering a rich source of parallels for the majority of the vessel types identified in the present excavation. Compared with these assemblages, the material from Azrieli Mall comprises types that are very common at Ramla and some that are relatively rare.

¹ Drawings are by Marina Shuiskaya and photographs, by Clara Amit, both of the IAA.

THE POTTERY

BOWLS

Plain Bowls (Fig.1)

Late Roman D/Cypriot Red Slip Ware (Fig. 1:1).— This bowl is fairly shallow. It has a very thick flat rim and is red-slipped and varnished. Bowls of this type were produced between the late Byzantine and Umayyad periods, and have rarely been found in excavations at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 15:5; 2009: Fig. 5:1).

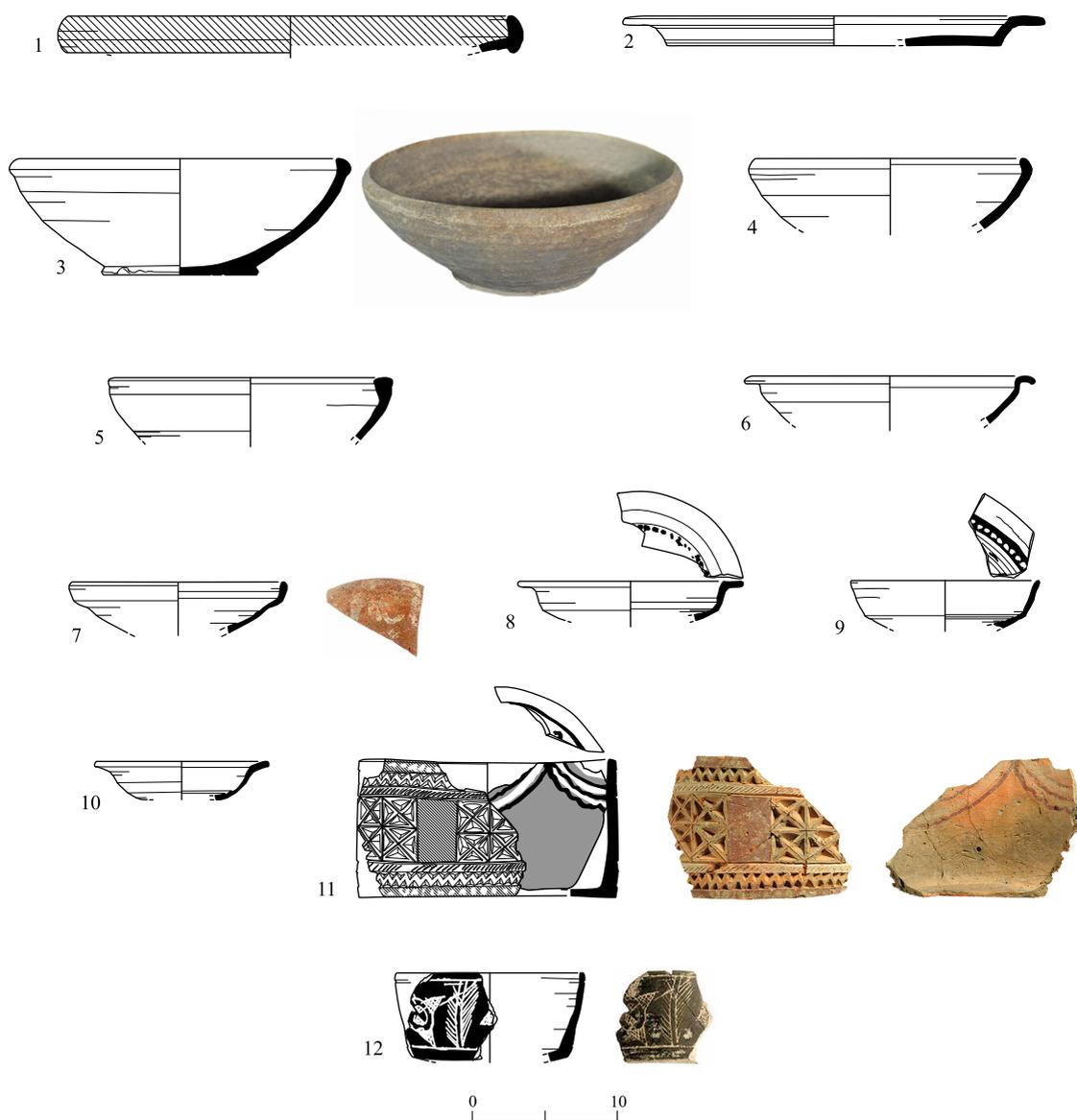


Fig. 1. Plain bowls.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	145	1172/9	Pinkish-gray clay with a few small grits
2	159	1294/8	Buff clay with a few white grits
3	144	1860/3	Buff clay with grits in various sizes
4	197	1503/8	Buff clay with grits in various sizes
5	193	1446/9	Buff clay with a few small grits
6	208	1521/14	Light brown clay with very few grits
7	241	1771/15	Buff clay with a few small grits
8	117	1091/20	Brown-pinkish clay with a few small grits
9	144	1789/21	Pinkish clay with very few grits
10	181	1439/10	Orange clay with very few grits
11	108	1021/2	Brown clay with grits in various sizes
12	143	1467/12	Grayish clay with a few white grits

Shallow Bowl with Wide-Ledged Rim and Flat Base (Fig. 1:2).— This bowl shape resembles that of glazed bowls of the Early Islamic period, and perhaps it was intended to be glazed. Glazed bowls of this type were found in several excavations at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 11:12) and in Caesarea Maritima Stratum VI (Arnon 2008:169, Type 231a), dated between the second half of the ninth and the first half of the tenth century CE.

Hemispherical Bowls (Fig. 1:3, 4).— These bowls have a slightly incurved hemispherical body and a flat base. They are the most common bowl type at Ramla (e.g., Torgë 2005: Fig. 2:4; Shlomi 2008: Fig. 2:6; Elisha 2009: Fig. 6:11; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.17:18), and were probably locally manufactured. These bowls are dated to the Abbasid and Fatimid periods.

Buff Ware Plain Bowl (Fig. 1:5).— This very common type of bowl has a globular shape and an everted guttered rim. Such bowls have been frequently found at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 14.10; Elisha 2009: Fig. 4:9; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.5:3; Kanias and Toueg 2012: Fig. 4:1), mostly in strata dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE.

Bowl with Flaring Rim (Fig. 1:6).— This type of bowl is characterized by a well-levigated fabric, fired to a buff tone. It has commonly been found at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 14.7; Arnon 2007: Fig. 1.4; Elisha 2009: Fig. 6:10; Sion 2009: Fig. 6:1; 2010: Fig. 12:7; Torgë 2009: Fig. 2:11), and dated to the Abbasid and Fatimid periods.

Late Type of Fine Byzantine Ware (Fig. 1:7–10).— Bowls of this type have different rims: straight, ledge or flaring. Their walls are very thin and the clay is well-levigated. These bowls are either painted in colors such as white-on-red (Fig. 1:7), black, white or a combination of

the latter two (Fig. 1:8, 9), or they may be undecorated (Fig. 1:10). Bowls of this type were found in several excavations at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 14:1; Toueg 2006: Fig. 4:2; 2013: Fig. 29:1, 2; Elisha 2009: Fig. 4:15; Jakoel 2011: Fig. 5:9), and dated to the eighth–ninth centuries CE.

Bowl with Kerbschnitte Decoration (Fig. 1:11).— The exterior of this bowl is decorated with carved triangles and diamonds and painted patterns in red and white, while its interior displays drops and lines in purple glaze. Such bowls were only occasionally found at Ramla (Torgë 2009: Fig. 2:1; Haddad 2010: Fig. 18:13; 2013: Fig. 9:10). Nonetheless, they have been commonly found in other sites from the Early Islamic period in Israel, as well as in Jordan and Egypt, and seem to have been locally produced in the Sassanian tradition (Rosen-Ayalon 1974: Figs. 360–365). Similar vessels found at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:101, Type 127c) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.6) were dated to the eighth–ninth centuries CE.

An Imitation of a Soapstone Vessel with Linear Engravings (Fig. 1:12).— This vessel has a flat base, vertical walls and a straight rim. Its fabric is dark gray with many white grits and quartz inclusions. The engraved decoration may have been part of a floral design. Bowls of this type are quite rare at Ramla (Avisar 2011: Fig. 12:10). At Caesarea Maritima they were dated to the end of the eighth–beginning of the ninth centuries CE (Arnon 2008:102, Type 128a).

Glazed Bowls (Figs. 2–4)

All the glazed bowls from the present excavation are of very common and well-known types of the Early Islamic period.

Splash-Glazed Bowls (Fig. 2)

These bowls are alkaline or lead glazed, and in some cases bear sgraffito decoration. They can be divided into two major groups, with or without an underglazed white slip. In the vessels with an underglazed white slip, a colored glaze was splashed, mottled or painted with a brush over the slip, while in the other group the glaze was applied directly onto the vessel, mostly on its interior, while only drippings appear on the exterior.

Bowls with Underglazed Slip (Fig. 2:1–9).— Several variants of this group of splash-glazed bowls were found, comprising vessels with glazing in different combinations of green, yellow, manganese or cream; the part of the vessel covered with glaze varies somewhat among these variants, and one example (Fig. 2:4) bears brown sgraffito. A description of these variants with parallels is provided in the table accompanying Fig. 2. The shape of the body is either hemispherical (Fig. 2:1, 3–5, 9) or comprises slanting straight walls (Fig. 2:2,

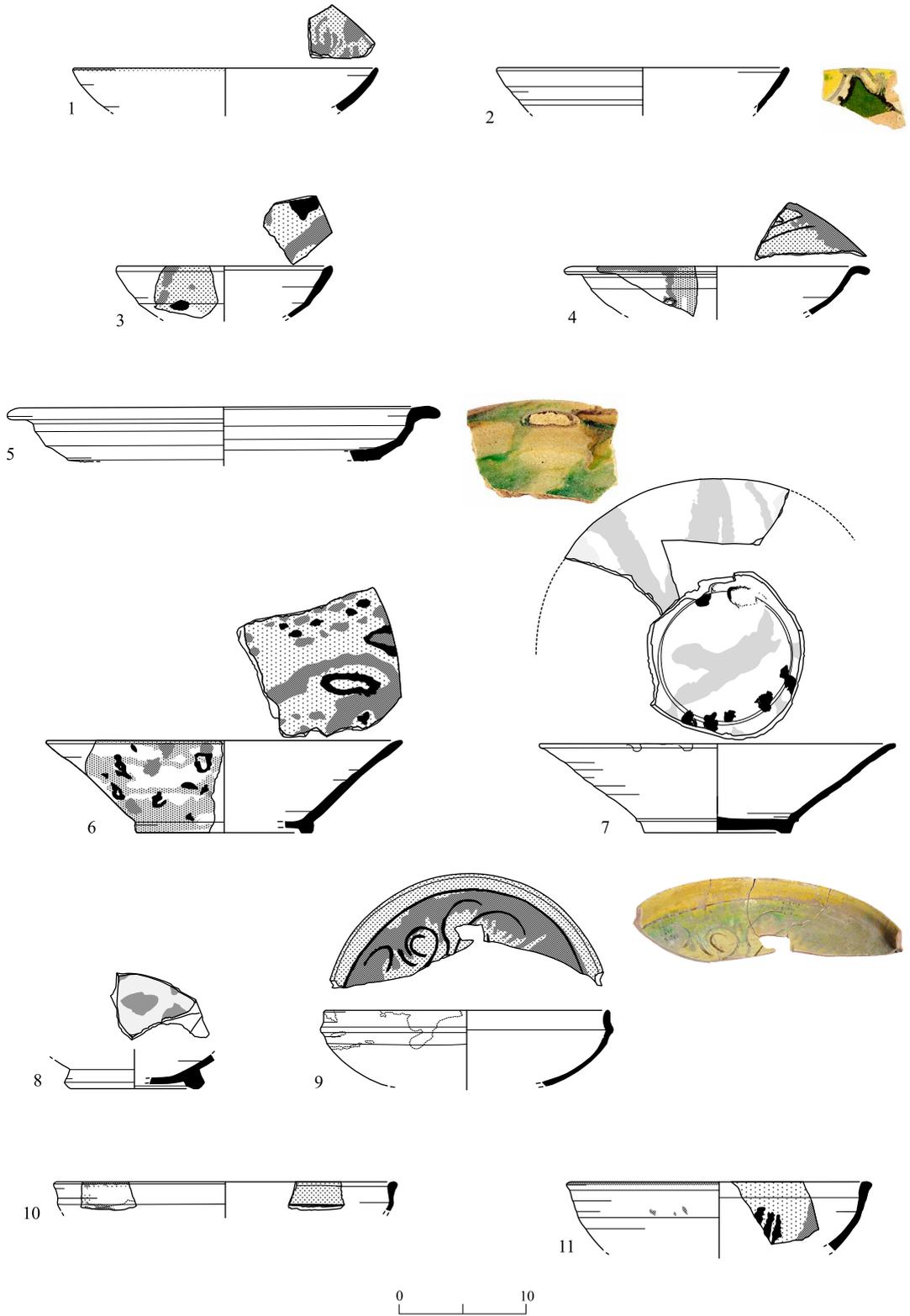


Fig. 2. Glazed bowls.

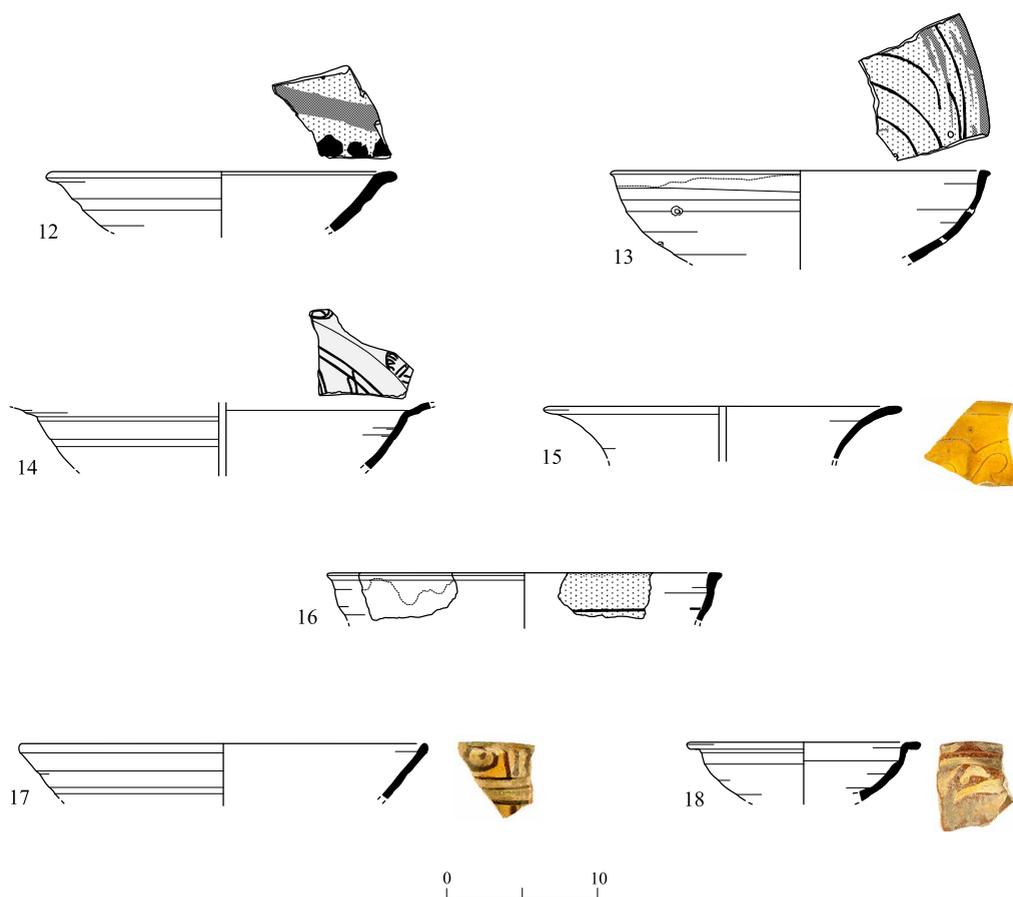


Fig. 2. Glazed bowls (cont.).

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	245	1827/14	Buff clay with a few small grits; glazed in green, yellow and manganese over a white slip	
2	117	1091/15	Light brown-pinkish clay with very few grits and grog; yellow, cream and green glaze, applied on the entire body over a white slip	
3	224	1592/13	Buff clay with white grits in various sizes; glazed in green, yellow and manganese over a white slip, a band of brown glazing between two thick brown lines on ext. and some dripping near the base	
4	145	1224/11	Buff clay with a few grits; yellow and green glaze over a white slip, brown sgraffito	Ramla (Marcus 2010: Fig. 4:5)
5	245	1790/16	Buff clay with many small grits; yellow and cream glaze over a white slip	
6	117	1074/20	Buff clay with many small grits and grog; manganese, yellow and light green glaze, ext. over a white slip	
7	154	1260/27	Well levigated buff clay with very few grits ; manganese and light and dark green glaze over a white slip	

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
8	159	1299/15	Well levigated light pink clay with a few grits; manganese and light and dark green glaze over a white slip	
9	245	1826/14	Buff clay with many small grits and grog; yellow glaze on rim and yellow and green glaze over white slip on int.	Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:273, Type 353a)
10	508	4098/19	Brown clay with very large grits; light yellow glazing with brown stripes on int. and the rim, and drippings on ext.	Ramla (Masarwa 2011: Fig. 6:7)
11	173	1342/8	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes; yellow, light green and manganese glaze on int. and part of ext.	Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 11:9) Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:186, Type 232f)
12	144	1789/11	Buff clay with many small grits; yellow, green and manganese glaze; prominent marks from the potter's wheel on ext.	Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2006: Fig. 4:1)
13	529	1224/20	Brown clay with very large grits; mustard-yellow and brown glaze on int. and rim	Ramla (e.g., Torgë 2008: Fig. 4:2)
14	186	1440/16	Pinkish clay with very few grits; light yellow glaze with two incurved lines in sgraffito on upper part	Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:85, Fig. XIII.12, Type 12)
15	110	1030/15	Pinkish clay with very few grits; yellow/orange glaze with brown colored sgraffito	Ramla (Kogan-Zehavi 2009: Fig. 4:13)
16	107	1007/10	Brown clay with white grits in various sizes; yellow and brown lead glaze, applied in two layers, with two sgraffito stripes on rim and center of ext.	Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:232, Type 241i)
17	110	1072/15	Pinkish clay with very few grits; lead glaze in red, cream and manganese, forming a geometric pattern	Ramla (Kogan-Zehavi 2009: Fig. 4:1)
18	102	1069/15	Light brown clay with many grits and grog; lead glazing in cream and manganese	Ramla (Masarwa 2011: Fig. 6:12)

6–8), and the rims may be of varying shapes, including a slightly inverted ledge rim (Fig. 2:5) or a rather narrow pointed rim (Fig. 2:2, 6–8).

Bowls of this group were found throughout Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 11:8; Torgë 2008: Fig. 4:5; Nagorsky 2009: Fig. 5:6; Jakoel 2011: Fig. 5:4; Masarwa 2011: Fig. 6:4), and at other sites such as Caesarea Maritima, where they are represented by two different types (Arnon 2008:186, Type 232f; 189, Type 233c), and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Figs. 5.23; 5.25:1, 4, 5, 10; 5.27:2, 3). They are dated between the second half of the ninth and the end of the eleventh century CE.

Bowls without Under-Glaze Slip (Fig. 2:10–18).— This group of splash-glazed bowls is also represented by a number of variants, mostly of hemispherical shape, comprising types

with or without sgraffito decoration. The variety of glaze colors comprises green, yellow, manganese, brown, red and lead. Some variation in shape is also revealed among these bowls, including an example with a flaring rim (Fig. 2:12); a bowl with a short ledge rim (Fig. 2:14); a cone-shaped bowl with thin in-curved walls and a thin rim (Fig. 2:15); and a small bowl with a short ledge rim (Fig. 2:18).

The bowl in Fig. 2:11 represents a very common type, found in various excavations at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 11:9), and Caesarea Maritima Stratum VI (Arnon 2008:186, Type 232f), where it was dated between the first half of the ninth and the second half of the tenth century CE. An example similar to Fig. 2:16 was found in Caesarea Maritima Stratum V (Arnon 2008:232, Type 241i), where it was dated between the second half of the tenth and the beginning of the eleventh century CE.

Common Glazed Bowls (Fig. 3:1–11)

As with splash-glazed bowls, these bowls are divided into two groups, according to the presence or absence of an under-glaze white slip. They are glazed in different shades of yellow, green, manganese, white and turquoise below a thin alkaline layer.

Common Bowls with Under-Glaze Slip (Fig. 3:1–10).— The bowls of this group are very common at Early Islamic-period sites across the Near East, and are known from many excavations at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 14:7; Elisha 2009: Fig. 5:1; Haddad 2010: Fig. 18:8; Toueg and Arnon 2011: Fig. 17:6). A number of variants from Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:185, Type 232e; 187, Type 232c; 193, Types 233j, 233k) were dated between the second half of the tenth and the end of the eleventh century CE.

Common Bowls without Under-Glaze Slip (Fig. 3:11).— A parallel for this bowl from Ramla (Torgè 2005: Fig. 2:3) was dated to the Abbasid period.

Monochrome Glazed Bowls (Fig. 3:12–18)

These vessels are characterized by a monochrome glaze applied over a white slip or directly over the body. The glazing is alkaline or lead, appearing in varying color combinations similar to those described above for splash-glazed and common bowls. The clay is usually finely levigated and well-fired.

The vessels shown here comprise a number of variants: shallow bowls with a very long ledge rim and a flat base (Fig. 3:12, 13), one of which (Fig. 3: 13) has parallels in Caesarea Maritima Strata V and VI (Arnon 2008:169–170, Type 231a), dated between the second half of the eighth and the beginning of the eleventh century CE; a bowl with rather thick walls and a flaring rim (Fig. 3:14); bowls (Fig. 3:15, 16) belonging to a very common type of the Early Islamic period, found at Ramla (e.g., Kaniyas and Toueg 2012: Fig. 4:7), where this type was dated to the Abbasid period, and Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:232, Type 241i); a small, lightly carinated bowl with a thick rim (Fig. 3:17), a parallel for which

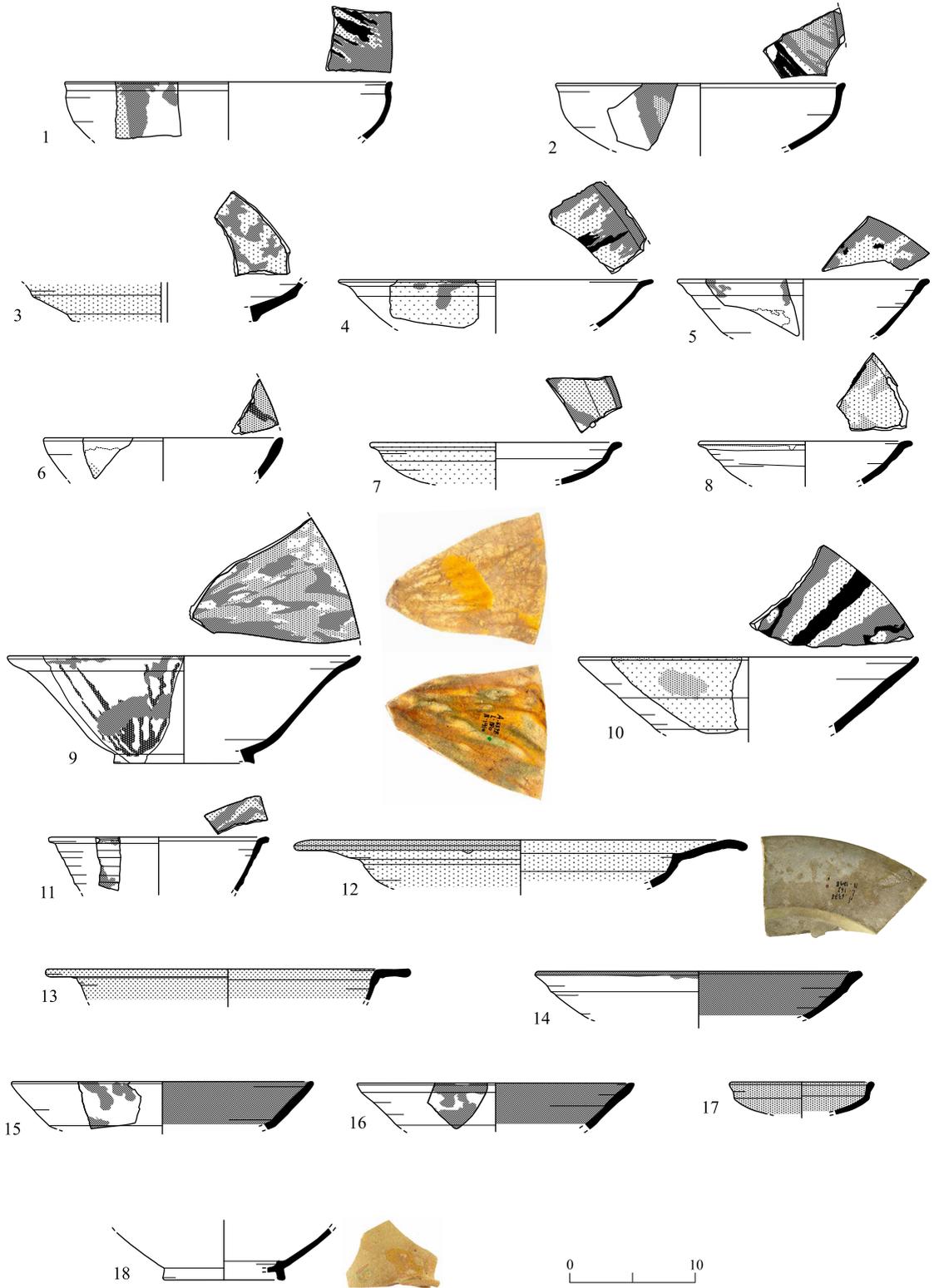


Fig. 3. Glazed bowls.

◀ Fig. 3

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	257	1844/18	Buff clay with a few grits; yellow, green and manganese glaze on ext., except for the base	
2	187	1523/8	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes; yellow, green and manganese glaze on ext., except for base	
3	144	1263/10	Pinkish clay with a few small grits; yellow, white and turquoise glazing on interior, and turquoise glaze on ext.	
4	546	4165/19	Buff clay with a few grits; yellow, green and manganese glaze on int., and light cream glazing with green dots on ext.	
5	257	1844/18	Pinkish clay with many small grits	
6	519	4054/20	Buff clay with a few large grits	
7	510	4031/19	Buff clay with a few large grits	
8	145	1224/11	Buff clay with a few large grits; yellow, green and manganese glaze on int., and light cream glazing with green dots on ext.	
9	180	1410/13	Buff clay with many small grits and grog; yellow, green and manganese glaze on int. and splashes of yellow glaze on ext.	
10	163	1298/11	Pinkish clay with a few large grits; glaze in blotches of cream and turquoise	
11	523	4082/19	Pinkish clay with many small grits; uneven yellow and green glaze on int., and partial glaze with green splashes on ext.	Ramla (Torgë 2005: Fig. 2:3)
12	163	1298/13	Brown clay with very few grits; cream colored glaze on int. and ext., except for the base	
13	199	1725/11	Pinkish clay with very few grits; yellow alkaline glaze	Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:169–170, Type 231a)
14	216	1576/9	Light brown clay with many large grits; light green glaze on int.	
15	130	1255/11	Pinkish clay with very few grits; green glaze and color drippings on the ext.	Ramla (e.g., Kanias and Toueg 2012: Fig. 4:7); Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:232, Type 241i)
16	125	1178/11	Pinkish clay with very few grits; green glaze and color drippings on the ext.	Ramla (e.g., Kanias and Toueg 2012: Fig. 4:7); Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:232, Type 241i)
17	252	1844/8	Buff clay with many small grits and grog; solid green glaze on int. and ext.	Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 12:12)
18	245	1824/16	Buff clay with very few grits; cream/light blue glaze over a white slip	Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2012: Fig. 6:10, 11, 18, 19)

was reported from another excavation at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 12:12) and dated to the Abbasid period; a bowl of a common type at Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2012: Fig. 6:10, 11, 18, 19), dated to the Fatimid period.

Coptic Glazed Bowls (Fig. 4:1–6)

This group of bowls is characterized by porous clay with many grits and mica inclusions. They bear an under-glaze white slip. The variants of these vessels include a bowl with a ledge rim (Fig. 4:2); a hemispherical bowl (Fig. 4:3); a bowl with a short ledge rim and vertical walls (Fig. 4:5). They are very common in sites from the Early Islamic period across the Near East. The earliest examples of these bowls found in Israel date to the second half of the eighth century CE, e.g., at Tiberias (Stacey 1995:164), Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:75) and Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:35).

Opaque White Bowls (Fig. 4:7–9)

Two fragments belong to bowls glazed in opaque white over a white slip and decorated in a gilded color with geometric patterns, a type also known as ‘Gold Luster Bowls’ (Fig. 4:7, 8); one of the fragments (Fig. 4:8) belongs to a small variant of this type. These vessels are dated to the Fatimid period, from the second half of the tenth through the eleventh century CE, and were imported from Egypt. Parallels for these bowls were found at Ramla (Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.11:11) and Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:274, Type 253c).

Another bowl of this type (Fig. 4:9) is an imitation of Chinese porcelain. It bears decoration in relief, perhaps molded. Similar vessels were found at Yavne-Yam (Taxel 2014: Fig. 4:1). Bowls of this type are dated to the Fatimid period, in the eleventh century CE.

Bowls from a Surface Collection of Potter’s Kiln Waste (Fig. 4:10–13)

Surface remains of a potter’s kiln were found adjacent to and southeast of the excavation area, with a large quantity of deformed and unfired vessels immediately on its northwest. This waste material included a bowl bearing spots of bobbled manganese and green glazing that did not preserve well, indicating that the vessel was fired too long (Fig. 4:10). A complete example of such a bowl was found in Caesarea Maritima Stratum VI (Arnon 2008:184, Type 232c), dated from the second half of the eighth to the first half of the tenth century CE. Another bowl is deformed, bearing remnants of decoration in dark stripes on the interior (Fig. 4:11); it belongs to a type that was very common in Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:171, Type 231d), and dated to the Abbasid period. Another deformed bowl is painted white and black on the interior (Fig. 4:12). A deep bowl, with straight, very thin slightly inverted walls, displays plastic rope-shaped decoration on the rim and painting marks on the exterior, indicating that it was designated for glazing (Fig. 4:13). A bowl similar to Fig. 4:13 was found in another excavation at Ramla (Toueg 2011: Fig. 17:5), dated there to the ninth–tenth centuries CE; therefore, it can be determined that the potter’s kiln also dates

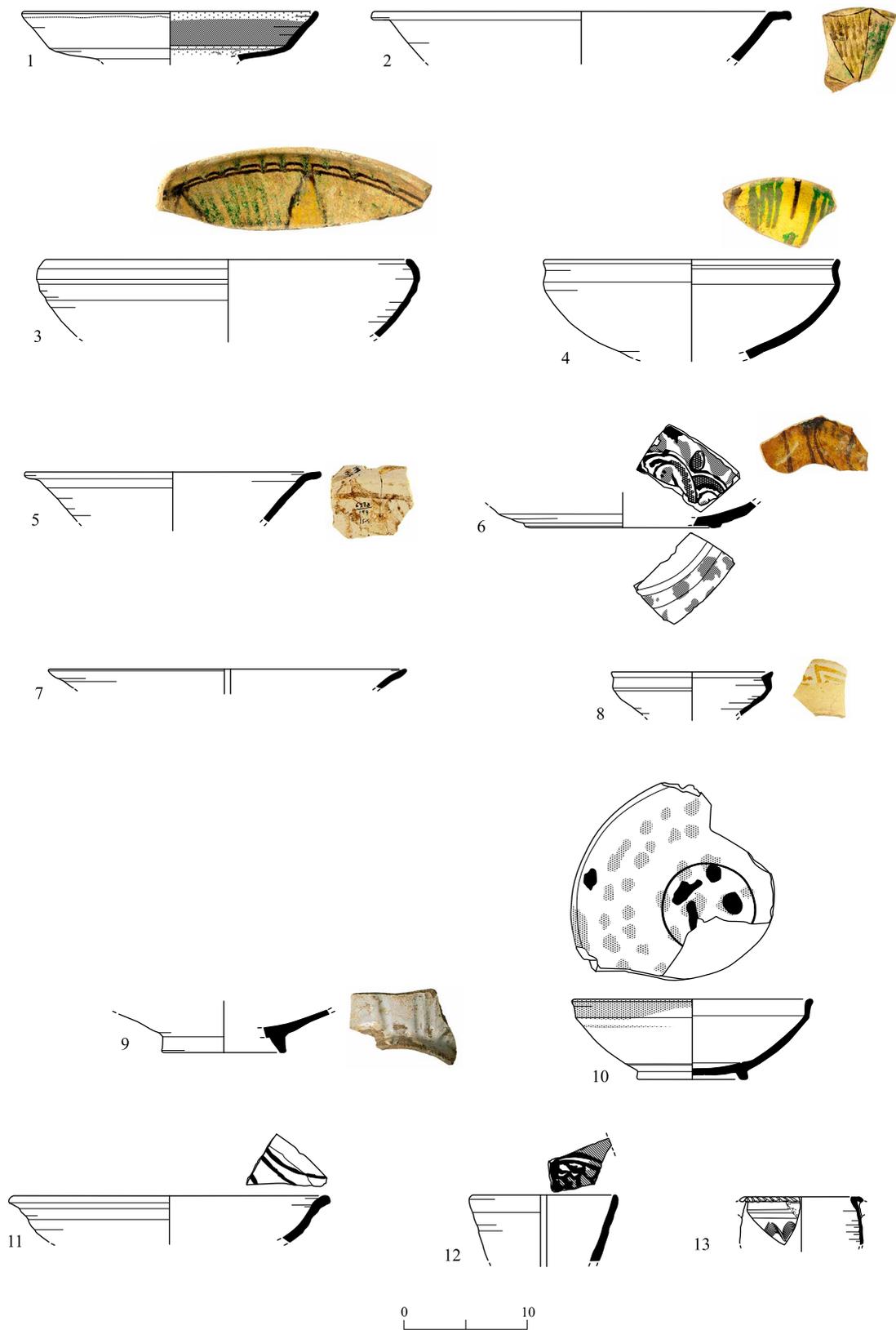


Fig. 4. Glazed bowls (cont.).

◀ Fig. 4

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	509	1522/10	Pinkish clay with many white small grits; yellow alkaline glaze on ext., a broad green band on rim and remnants of green bands on the int., over a white slip	Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:113, Type 221d)
2	125	1218/15	Buff clay with many small grits and grog; green and yellow glaze between bands of manganese	Ramla (Sion 2009: Fig. 12:2)
3	154	1260/15	Buff clay with a few small grits and grog; yellow glaze and thin brown and green stripes	Ramla (Nagorsky 2009: Fig. 2:1)
4	245	1764/15	Buff clay with many small grits and grog; yellow and manganese, applied with a brush over a yellow glaze	Ramla (e.g., Torgë 2005: Fig. 2:6)
5	199	1505/15	Buff clay with a few grits; brown stripes, applied with a brush over a cream glaze and a white slip	Ramla (Masarwa 2011: Fig. 6:10)
6	205	1510/8	Pinkish clay with a few white grits; manganese, light green and orange-yellow glaze on int. and drippings of yellow glaze on upper ext.	Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:274, Type 253c)
7	187	1554/16	Buff clay fired to white with very few grits	
8	224	1592/8	Buff clay with many small grits and grog	
9	245	1755/16	Pinkish clay with many grits and grog	
10	323	3056/2	Brown clay with very few grits	
11	135	1027/10	Buff clay with many small grits and grog	
12	241	1771/21	Brown clay with many grits in different sizes	
13	215	1576/8	Brown clay unevenly fired with gray thin core, many small grits	

from that period. The two deformed vessels (Fig. 4:11, 12) may have been initially prepared for glazing but were eventually found unsuitable.

BASINS (Fig. 5)

The excavation yielded many basins, belonging to four different types. One representative vessel from each of these types is illustrated and described in this report. The rims of these basins are thickened and folded, or triangular in section. They are made of brown or dark red clay with substantial quantities of grits, mica and even small pebbles, and are decorated with combed bands or wavy lines below the rim. These vessels date to the Abbasid and Fatimid periods, beginning from the second half of the eighth century CE. Two of the basins (Fig. 5:1, 3) are the most common types found in excavations, and were found, for example, at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 13:4, 6; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.9:13), Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:126, Type 26), Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:128, Type 452c), Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.13.7) and Jerusalem (Magness 1993:210–211).

Another type of basin (Fig. 5:2) is made of poorly levigated clay, and has a thickened rim that is triangular in section. Basins of this type were found at Khirbat el-Mafjer (Baramki

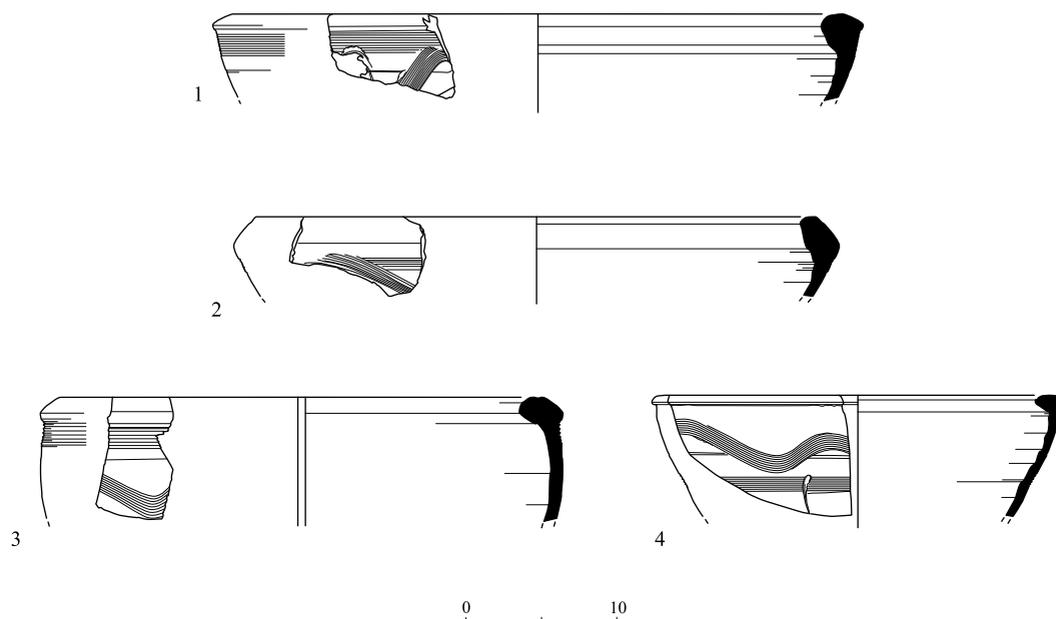


Fig. 5. Basins.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	510	4030/20	Brown-grayish clay with many grits in various sizes
2	223	1776/10	Brown clay with white grits and many inclusions
3	208	1521/14	Grayish clay with grits in various sizes
4	197	1503/9	Pinkish-brown clay with grits and mica

1944: Fig. 10:4, 5, 7), in an Abbasid-period stratum, and at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:126) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.15:6), where they are dated to the Abbasid and Fatimid periods. A basin type with a thick infolded rim (Fig. 5:4) was also found. Many basins of this type were found in excavations at Ramla (Avisar 2006: Fig. 4:9; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.9:2, 13) and Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Figs. 28:9; 29:12–13; 33:19; 35:8; Magness 1993:210–211), and dated to the eighth–ninth centuries CE.

COOKING WARE (Fig. 6)

Glazed Frying Pans (Fig. 6:1–4)

The excavation yielded a relatively small number of frying pans, all glazed in dark or manganese brown on the interior of the base; in some examples, the glazing extends to the lower part of the walls, up to half their height. The frying pans were made from brown clay with many grits, similar to the ware from which open cooking pots were made (see below); such pots were also glazed in the same technique as were the frying pans. One example has horizontal loop handles attached to the rim (Fig. 6:1), while two others have short

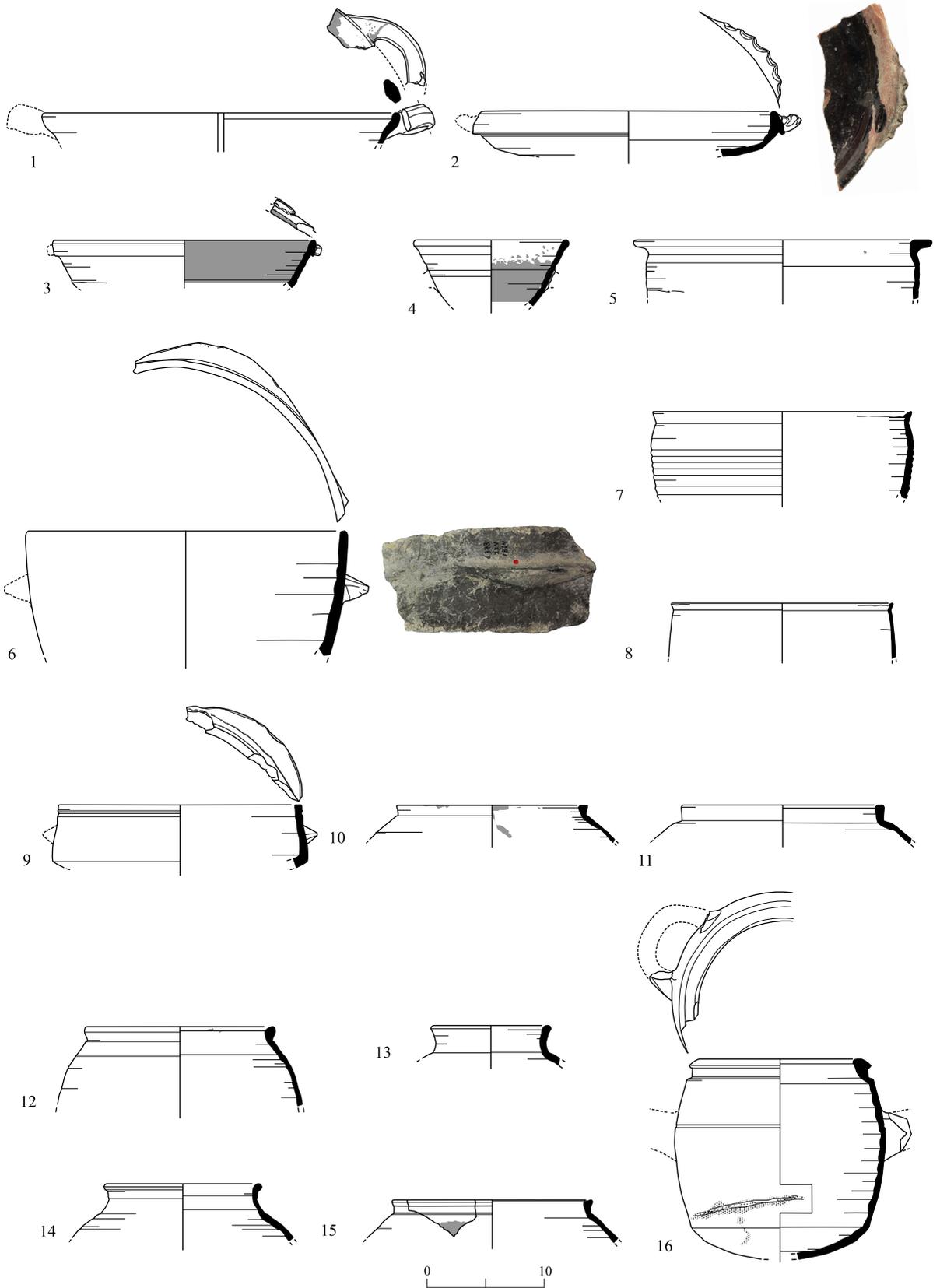


Fig. 6. Cooking ware.

◀ Fig. 6

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	546	4165/20	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes
2	245	1809/16	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes
3	110	1072/13	Reddish-brown clay with many white grits
4	187	1523/9	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes
5	245	1224/14	Reddish-brown clay with many grits in various sizes
6	224	1864/3	Dark gray clay with many grits
7	204	1509/8	Reddish-brown clay with many grits
8	197	1503/9	Brown clay with many white grits in various sizes
9	193	1446/9	Dark gray clay with many grits
10	180	1410/9	Brown clay with many small white grits
11	510	4030/19	Brown clay with a few grits
12	245	1782/14	Brown clay with many white grits in various sizes
13	217	1688/4	Brown clay with many white grits in various sizes
14	197	1503/10	Brown clay with many white grits in various sizes
15	522	4083/19	Brown clay with many white grits in various sizes
16	257	1844/9	Brown clay with many white grits and incisions

thumb-decorated ledge handles (Fig. 6:2, 3); handle-less frying pans were also found (not illustrated). Figure 6:1 has a plain rim, and is glazed dark brown on the interior base and the lower part of the walls.

Glazed pans were first produced in the tenth century CE, replacing the unglazed pans of the eighth–ninth centuries CE. They are very common in sites of the Early Islamic period, e.g., Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: Fig. XIII.100:1–4, Type 13; Fig. XIII.101, Type 14), Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.32:15), Bet-She‘an (Avisar 2014:103), Capernaum (Loffreda 1974: Fig. 7), Khirbat al-Khurrumiya (Yehuda 2007: Fig. 10:2–4), in strata dated from the second half of the eighth to the end of the eleventh century CE. Similar vessels were also found at Fustat, Egypt (Scanlon 1981: Pl. XIV.g) and al-Mina, Syria (Lane 1937: Fig. 5g). The pan in Fig. 6:1 is generally dated from the second half of the ninth century CE onward, although in Ramla such pans were found mainly in later strata, dated to the Fatimid period (Arnon 2007: Fig. 15:1; Toueg 2011: Fig. 18:1; 2012 Fig. 7:1). The pan in Fig. 6:2 is glazed dark brown on the base. Pans of this types were found in numerous excavations at Ramla, mainly in strata dated to the Fatimid period (Torgë 2008: Fig. 5:1; Elisha 2009: Fig. 6:15; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.8:16; Eshed 2011: Fig. 3:7, 11). Vessels similar to Fig. 6:3 were found at Ramla, in strata dated to the tenth and eleventh centuries CE (Zelinger 2007: Fig. 2:3; Toueg 2012: Fig. 7:2), and in Caesarea Maritima Stratum VI, where they were dated from the second half of the ninth through the second half of the tenth century CE (Arnon 2008:202, Type 432e). The pan in Fig. 6:4 is unique in its small size, and no parallel for it was found. The shape of this pan and the type of glaze on its interior, indicate that it should date to a timeframe

similar to that of the other glazed pans, i.e., the tenth and eleventh centuries CE. Given its small size, this pan was perhaps used as a toy.

Open Cooking Pots/Casseroles (Fig. 6:5–9)

Two main types of these vessels were found, with or without glazing. The glazing is usually confined to the interior of the base, although sometimes it extends to the lower part of the walls.

Unglazed Casseroles.— The open cooking pots differ from the frying pans in their greater depth. The rim is plain, straight or flaring in most cases. Some of these casseroles have two horizontal ledge handles placed a few centimeters below the rim, and some have a socket on the rim that fits a lid. Two of the vessels (Fig. 6:6, 9) are imitations of stone vessels. They are made of dark clay and have small horizontal ledge handles placed on the lower half or third of the vessel and fairly straight walls. Some examples of such casseroles appear to have been handmade. Their exterior was smoothed to produce a shiny surface. These vessels are dated from the second half of the eighth through the tenth century CE.

The casseroles represent a number of variants: a vessel with very thick walls and narrow ledge handles (Fig. 6:6), examples of which were found at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:300, Type 752b) and are dated to the late tenth–early eleventh centuries CE; a shallow and flat bottomed casserole carinated on the lower third of the body, with narrow ledge handles at its center (Fig. 6:9), a type for which the closest parallel is a glazed vessel from a Crusader-period context at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 2005: Fig. 2.19:1); open casseroles with straight thin walls and a ledge rim (Fig. 6:5) or a flaring rim (Fig. 6:7, 8), a type which is very common in excavations from the Early Islamic period at many sites in Israel, e.g., Ḥammad Gader (Ben-Arieh 1997: Fig. XII:8), Khirbat el-Mefjer (Baramki 1944: Fig. 13:2; Whitcomb 1988: Fig. 1, Period 3:G) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.32:8), as well as in Jordan, e.g., Amman (Northedge 1992: Fig. 155:1)—these casseroles date from the second half of the eighth through the ninth century CE; a casserole with an elongated ledge rim and thin walls (Fig. 6:5), an example of which was found at Ramla (Arnon 2007: Fig. 15:13); a casserole bearing distinct potter’s wheel marks on the body (Fig. 6:7), a type which is very common in excavations at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 18:7; Sion 2010: Fig. 7:4); and a casserole with very thin walls and a slightly flaring rim (Fig. 6:8), an example of which was uncovered at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 18:7).

Glazed Casserole.— This vessel (Fig. 6:10) has thick walls, a thick rim, a wide socket at the bottom of a very narrow neck, a spherical body and horizontal handles attached at its widest part. The interior walls bear dark brown drops of glazing. These vessels date from the end of the eighth to the end of the eleventh century CE. They have parallels in many excavations, such as Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:249, Type 741b), Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.32:10, 12, 13), Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: 132, Fig. 23:9), Amman (Northedge 1992: Fig. 137:7) and al-Mina (Lane 1937: Fig. 5:f).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 6:11–16)

These globular vessels can also be divided to two groups, with or without glazing.

Unglazed Cooking Pots.— Two fragments belong to vessels with a short thick neck and a flaring rim (Fig. 6:11, 12). The body is unribbed and is carinated at the base of the neck; Fig. 6:12 has thin walls and a straight rim. Such vessels were found at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:250, Type 741d) and dated to the tenth century CE. The cooking pots in Fig. 6:13, 14 have a globular body, bearing ribs on its lower part, a long vertical neck and a short flaring rim; Fig. 6:14 has thin walls. These vessels continue a type of cooking pot from the Byzantine period (Magness 1993:219, Form 4B), and are generally quite common at sites containing strata of the Umayyad period. They are quite common at Ramla (e.g., Kogan-Zehavi 2004: Fig. 2:5; Toueg 2006: Fig. 1:5; Torgè 2008: Fig. 5:7; Elisha 2009: Fig. 4:19), in strata dated from the second half of the eighth through the first half of the ninth century CE, and were also found, for example, at Ḥammāt Gader (Ben-Arieh 1997: Fig. XI:7) and Sede Boqer (Nevo 1985: Pl. 5:13).

Glazed Cooking Pots.— These vessels have a plain or flaring rim, a globular body and a very short neck, sometimes with a short groove under the rim. They are glazed dark brown on the interior base, the glaze often extending to the walls. Glazed cooking pots can be found alongside the unglazed pots in strata of the ninth–tenth centuries CE, while only glazed cooking pots were produced from the Fatimid period onward. They are very common in excavations throughout Israel, e.g., Nes Zīyyona (Singer 2004: Fig. 5:8), Capernaum (Loffreda 1974: Fig. 9:4, 5, 7–9, 14–16) and Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:132–133, Fig. XIII.92, Type 5). The examples in Fig. 6:15, 16 have a straight rim that is slightly tilted outward, very thin walls and a dark brown glaze on the interior of the rim and body. This vessel has parallels at Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2011: Fig. 18:4) and Caesarea Maritima Stratum V (Arnon 2008:301, Type 752o), dating from the second half of the tenth to the beginning of the eleventh century CE.

STORAGE JARS (Fig. 7)

Two fragments of a *zir*-type vessel known as ‘Ramla storage jars’ were found (Fig. 7:1, 6; see also Amitai-Preiss and Cohen-Weinberger, this volume), as well as two other fragments that belong to ‘Jerusalem jars’ (Fig. 7:2, 3), which continue Magness’s Form 5A from the Byzantine and Umayyad periods (Magness 1993:226–227). Figure 7:2 is characterized by a bold ridge in the middle of the neck. Jerusalem jars are well-made and have a short neck, various rim shapes—ridged, straight or slightly incurved, and two fairly large handles located on the upper part of the body. They are generally dated to the ninth–eleventh centuries CE. These jars are one of the most common types in excavations at Ramla, and were probably manufactured in the city, or in its vicinity. They were found in strata of both the ninth century CE (e.g., Avisar 2007: Fig. 2:14, 15) and the ensuing Fatimid period (e.g.,

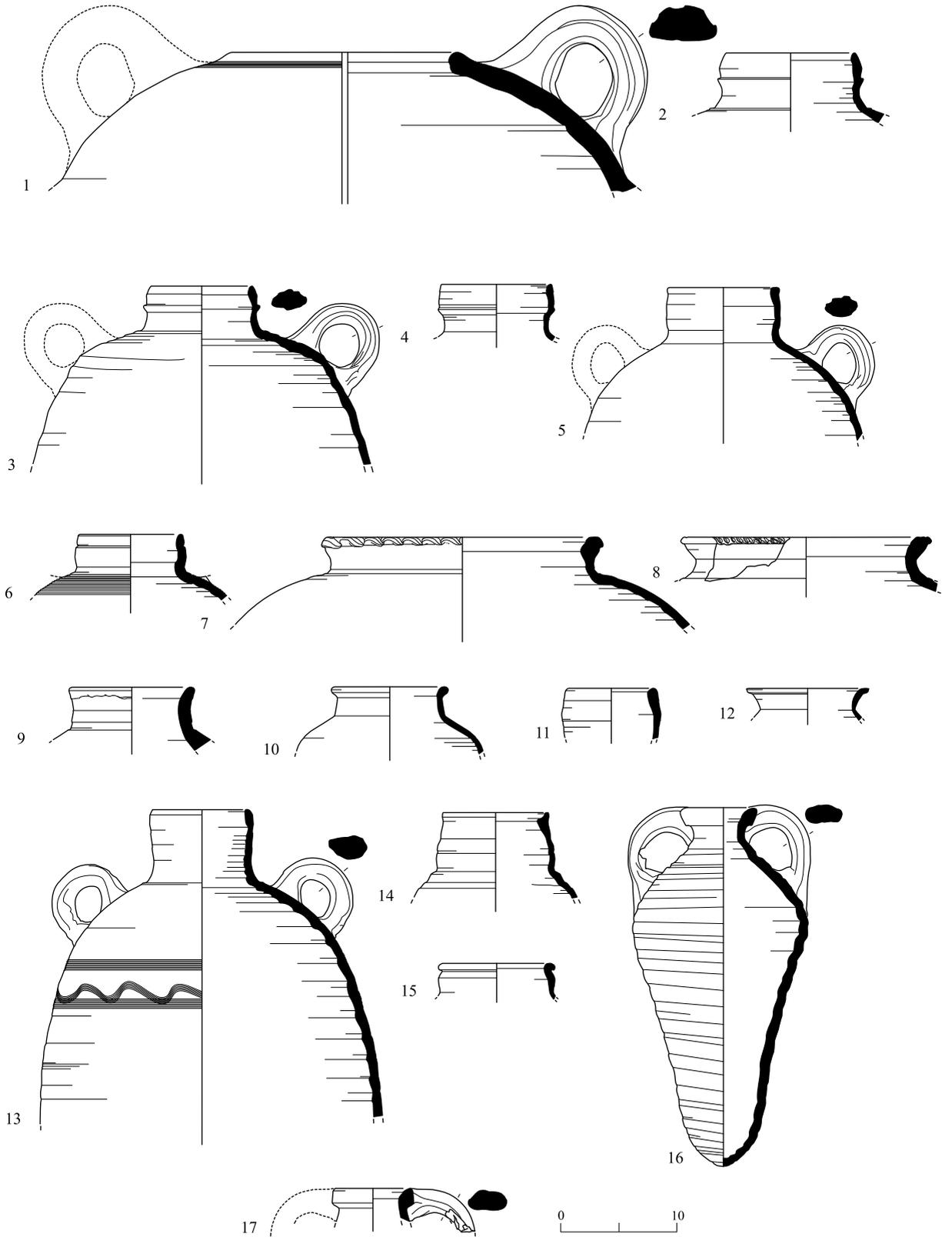


Fig. 7. Jars.

◀ Fig. 7

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	117	1110/18	Pinkish clay with many grits in various sizes
2	510	4021/19	Pinkish clay with many grits in various sizes
3	245	1827/4	Orange clay with many white grits
4	197	1503/9	Brown clay with many small grits in various sizes
5	504	4093/19	Brown clay with small grits
6	215	1585/9	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes
7	110	1051/11	Pinkish clay with gray core and many grits in various sizes
8	205	1510/8	Light brown clay with small grits
9	204	1509/19	Brown clay with many small grits
10	205	1510/15	Brown clay with a few white grits
11	208	1521/14	Grayish-brown- clay with a few very large white grits
12	508	4020/19	Brown clay with many small grits
13	245	1825/6	Brown clay with gray core and many small grits
14	245	1767/14	Brown clay with white grits in various sizes
15	181	1439/9	Pinkish clay with many grits in various sizes
16	245	1809/5	Brown clay with white grits in various sizes
17	245	1781/14	Brown clay with white grits in various sizes

Torgë 2008: Fig. 5:10). These jars were uncovered with their neck cut off and placed under house floors in many excavations at Ramla (e.g., Sion 2009: Fig. 6). Parallels for one of the two Jerusalem jars (Fig. 7:2) are especially prevalent at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2009: Fig. 5:7; Sion 2010: Fig. 9:8, 9; Toueg and Arnon 2010: Fig. 12:11, 12), found in strata dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE. They were also uncovered in Caesarea Maritima Stratum VI (Arnon 2008:223, Type 391d), dated between the second half of the eighth and the first half of the tenth century CE.

Two storage-jar fragments (Fig. 7:4, 5) are made of brown clay and have a ridged rim. These vessels were common in the Early Islamic period, especially during the ninth–tenth centuries CE. They differ from the traditional jars of the *zir* type described above by the absence of a ridge at the bottom of the rim. These vessels are very common at Ramla (e.g., Avissar 2007: Fig. 2:16; 2011: Figs. 12:11; 17:8, 10; Toueg and Arnon 2011: Fig. 18:3). Similar vessels were also found at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:305–307) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.34), as well as at Pella in Jordan (Walmsley 1991: Figs. 4:3; 8:3).

Two fragments (Fig. 7:7, 8) belong to jars with a wide rim and a short conical neck, bearing a plastic, thumbed or combed decoration. Such jars usually have a large ovoid body and four vertical handles. They are a common find at Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2008: Fig. 5:8; Torgë 2009: Fig. 2:14; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.22), dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE. Jars with a short conical neck comprise examples with rather thick walls and a bold ridge at the bottom of the neck (Fig. 7:9) or thin-walled vessels (Fig. 7:10, 11). These vessels are short and have a flat base. They belong to an uncommon type, found only in a

few of the excavations at Ramla (Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.35:5; Kogan-Zehavi 2011: Fig. 4:17). Similar vessels were found in Tiberias Stratum IV, dated to 750–800 CE (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.53:2).

Two fragments belong to ‘northern Palestinian bag-shaped jars’ that have a simple, rounded in-turned neck, a somewhat thick rim and two vertical loop handles placed on the shoulders (Fig. 7:12, 13). Most of these jars have comb decorations of bands and wavy lines. These vessels are very common at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 19:2, 3; Arnon 2007: Fig. 12:8–10; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pls. 9.2:2, 8, 9, 13; 9.8:1; 9.26:11; Toueg and Arnon 2011: Fig. 18:1). They also occur at Caesarea Maritima, in both Strata VII and VI (Arnon 2008:155, Type 821c; 220, Type 831a) and therefore, should be dated from the end of the eighth up to the tenth, and perhaps as late as the eleventh century CE.

The jar in Fig. 7:14 bears very distinct marks from the potter’s wheel on the neck and body. It is unevenly fired, as its color ranges from bright to dark gray. The base of the neck is slightly recessed above a shallow ridge; a socket for a lid is present on the rim. These jars are quite rare at Ramla, and only one parallel can be mentioned (Shlomi 2008: Fig. 2:14), originating from a stratum dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE. Such jars were dated to a similar time span at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:222, Type 831f).

The jar type in Fig. 7:15 has a short, slightly incurving neck, continuing a tradition from the Byzantine period. It is a very common jar type, especially widespread in southern Israel. These jars are dated, by convention, to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Magness 1993:226:2), although at Ramla they are dated to the eighth century CE (e.g., Arnon 2007: Fig. 12:1; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pls. 9.2:5; 9.18:1, 2; Avissar 2011: Fig. 17:1, 2; Toueg 2013: Fig. 5:2). This is also the case at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:74, Type 811a), where such jars are common in Stratum VIIIa, dated to the eighth century CE.

The vessels in Fig. 7:16, 17 are amphorae with a narrow rim and neck; the rim is square in section. These are heavy vessels with very thick walls. Abundant smeared fingermarks occur on the body. These vessels are poorly made and badly fired. Similar vessels were found in several excavations at Ramla (e.g., Kogan-Zehavi 2011: Fig. 4:21; Toueg 2012: Fig. 7:9, 12) and at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008: 308, Type 853b); they are dated to the Fatimid period at both sites.

JUGS (Fig. 8)

The excavation yielded a very large quantity of jugs belonging to several major types.

Jugs of a Late Type of Fine Byzantine Ware (Fig. 8:1, 2).— These vessels are made of finely levigated and well-fired clay, as were the bowls of this group (see above, Fig 1:7–10); cups that were similarly well-made are described below (Fig. 9:4–7). They have thin walls and bear geometrical or floral decoration, typically painted in red, white and black. Vessels of this type were produced continually between the Byzantine and Abbasid periods, probably

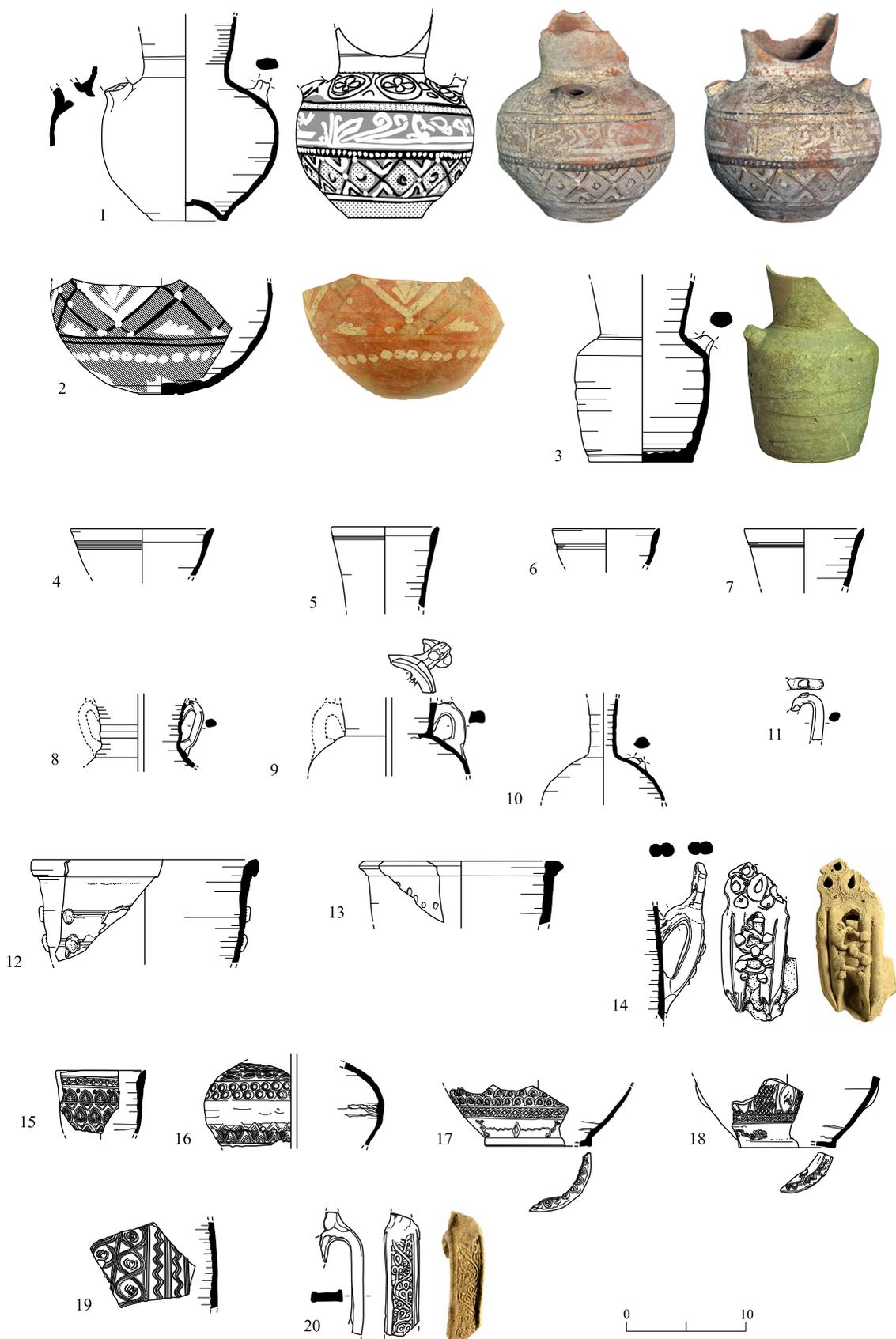


Fig. 8. Jugs.

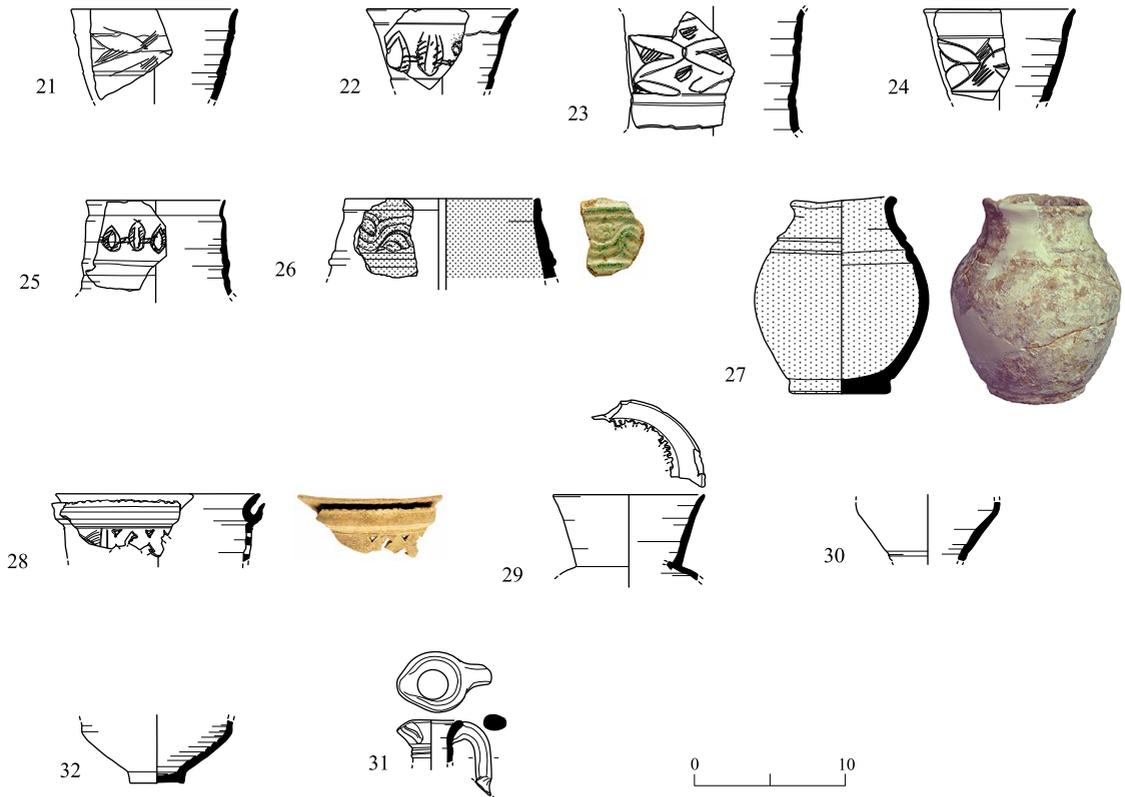


Fig. 8. Jugs (cont.).

until the tenth century CE. Similar vessels were found in other excavations at Ramla (Sa'ïd 2006: Fig. 3:24) and at Tiberias (Stacey 2004:138, Fig. 5.50:1, 2).

Plain Buff Ware Jugs (Fig. 8:3–11).— These vessels are characterized by a flat base and carinated shoulders. They are usually made of well-levigated, well-fired clay, and appear to have been fired to different tones of buff, greenish, cream, yellow and gray. The handle is vertical, made of one or more bands and sometimes decorated with a plastic or molded decoration. Some of these jugs are finely engraved on the upper part of the neck, close to the rim. They were produced between the Abbasid and Fatimid periods, beginning in the second half of the eighth century CE. The earlier types have thicker walls than the later ones. Plain buff ware jugs are the most common type of jug found at Ramla (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:10; Torgë 2007: Fig. 3:17; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.2:14), and may have been produced in the city, among other locations. They are also common in other excavations of Early Islamic-period sites, such as Khirbat el-Mefjer (Baramki 1944: Fig. 14:9), Mevo Modi'im (Eisenberg and Ovadiah 1998: Fig. 15:3), Tiberias (Stacey 1995: Fig. 10:12), Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:204, Type 531f), al-Mina (Lane 1937: Fig. 3f, g) and Fustat (Scanlon 1974: Pl. XV.9). The jug in Fig. 8:10 is a long-necked vessel that has

◀ Fig. 8

No.	Type	Locus ⁱ	Basket	Description
1	Jug	117	1098-7	Pinkish clay with very few grits
2	Jug	n/a	n/a	Pinkish clay with very few grits
3	Jug	110	1038-2	Buff clay with many small grits
4	Jug	230	1791-9	Buff clay with many small grits
5	Jug	110	1038-3	Buff clay with many small white grits
6	Jug	514	4072-19	Buff clay with many small grits
7	Jug	193	1515-27	Buff clay with many small white grits
8	Jug	197	1503-13	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes
9	Jug	516	4045-20	Buff clay with very large grits
10	Jug	163	1325-21	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes
11	Jug	110	1038-3	Buff clay with many small grits
12	Jug	523	4082-20	Buff clay with a few small grits
13	Jug	543	4095-19	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes
14	Jug	116	1288-21	Buff clay with many small grits
15	Jug	508	4032-20	Pinkish clay with many small grits
16	Jug	241	1771-21	Buff clay with many small grits
17	Jug	132	1155-21	Brown clay with a few grits
18	Jug	209	1522-21	Buff clay with many small grits
19	Jug	132	1120-21	Buff clay with many small grits
20	Jug	180	1362-21	Buff clay with many small grits
21	Jug	144	1215-10	Pinkish clay with many grits in various sizes
22	Jug	125	1178-21	Buff clay with many, very small grits
23	Jug	187	1554-8	Buff clay with very few grits
24	Jug	163	1325-10	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes
25	Jug	159	1294-8	Buff clay with many small grits
26	Jug	503	4208-19	Buff clay with very few grits
27	Jug	143	1200-2	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes
28	Jug	223	1776-21	Buff clay with many small grits
29	Jug	257	1844-10	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes
30	Strainer	224	1592-16	Buff clay with very few grits
31	Cooking jug	257	1844-18	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes
32	Cooking jug	103	1297-9	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes

ⁱ n/a = not available.

many parallels from excavations at Ramla (e.g., Arnon 2007: Fig. 7: 6, 7; Torgè 2008: Fig. 7:7; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.27:2, 7, 11).

'Barbutine'-Decorated Jugs (Fig. 8:12–14).— These large jugs are almost jar-sized and made of buff, well-levigated and well-fired ware. The walls and rim are thick, the base is flat, in some cases appearing to be string-cut, and the body is globular. They have between

three and four handles that are decorated with an imprint of a large clover or many small buttons; decorations also appear on the body. Similar vessels were found at Ramla (e.g., Kogan-Zehavi 2004: Fig. 2:6; Avissar 2011: Fig. 18:6; Toueg and Arnon 2011: Fig. 18:14), in strata dating from the ninth to the first half of the tenth century CE. Similarly dated examples were found at other sites, such as Capernaum (Peleg 1989: Fig. 62:1, 3, 4, 8, 17) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.48:1–6). The handle in Fig. 8:14, which bears plastic decoration, has parallels at Ramla, in strata dated to the Fatimid period (Torgë 2008: Fig. 7:10; Toueg 2013: Fig. 29:16), and at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:246, Type 641a).

Jugs with Molded Decoration (Fig. 8:15–20).— These vessels are made of buff or pinkish clay. The molded decoration was produced using two different techniques: in one, the decorated body was made separately and then attached to the mold-made neck, while in the other, two halves of the body were made separately and then joined together (Fig. 8:19). The base is flat and sometimes also bears a molded decoration. In some known examples of these jugs the handle was made in ‘arabesque’ style. The decoration is usually geometric or floral. These jugs are generally dated between the second half of the ninth and the end of the eleventh century CE, and are very common at Ramla (e.g., Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.1:7) and at other sites, such as Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit (Greenhut 1998: Fig. 24:12, 13), Khirbat el-Mefjer (Baramki 1944: Fig. 14:2, 3, 5), Mevo Modi‘im (Eisenberg and Ovadia 1998: Fig. 15:1, 2, 4) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Figs. 5.49:1–5; 5.61:13). At Caesarea Maritima, these jugs are dated from the eighth century onward (Arnon 2008:133–139, Type 521K).

Jugs with Incised Decoration (Fig. 8:21–25).— Two subtypes of these vessels were found in the excavation: one bearing floral decoration (Fig. 8:22) and the other bearing geometric patterns of circles and bands (Fig. 8:24, 25). Both subtypes are very common at Ramla (e.g., Kogan-Zehavi 2004: Fig. 2:8, 12; Shmueli and Artzi 2006: Fig. 2:4, 6, 8), and at other Early Islamic-period sites, such as Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:140, 141), Yoqne‘am (Avissar 1996: Fig. XIII.129:10), Bet She‘an (Avissar 2014:144, Fig. 33:7) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.41:2). They are dated between the beginning of the ninth and the end of the eleventh century CE.

Glazed Jugs (Fig. 8:26, 27).— These two fragments of glazed jugs bear a green alkaline glaze. Glazed jugs are common at Ramla, and were found in contexts dated to the beginning of the ninth century CE (Avissar 2007: Fig. 2:21) and the end of the eleventh century CE (Toueg 2012: Fig. 7:13), alluding to the time span of their use in the city. They were also found in Caesarea Maritima Stratum V, dating from the second half of the tenth through the beginning of the eleventh century CE (Arnon 2008:247, Type 641b).

Jug with Plastic Decoration on the Rim (Fig. 8:28).— This jug bears a knife-cut plastic decoration of small triangles around the rim. This is a common jug type at Ramla (e.g., Parnos and Nagar 2008: Fig. 15:1; Torgë 2008: Fig. 6:1; Toueg 2012: Fig. 4:10), dated to the

Fatimid period. It was also found in Fatimid-period contexts at Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:242, Type 541b) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004:133, Fig. 5.43:4–8).

Strainer Jugs (Fig. 8:29, 30).— These vessels have the shape of a simple jug, with the addition of a fine-mesh strainer at the base of the neck. They are dated from the beginning of the ninth through the end of the eleventh century CE, and have parallels in many sites, e.g., Ramla (Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:12; Cytryn-Silverman 2010:169, Pl. 9.12:3, 4), Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:290, Type 553c) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004:132, Fig. 5.42:2).

Cooking Jugs (Fig. 8:31, 32).— These jugs have a trefoil rim and a low ring base. The clay of these vessels and the quality of their firing process are similar to those of the frying pans and open cooking pots described above. They were produced throughout the Early Islamic period.

SMALL CONTAINERS (Fig. 9)

Flasks (Fig. 9:1–3).— Figure 9:1 has a ridged neck and vertical loop handles on the shoulders. This type of flask is made of two bowls joined together, to which the neck was then attached. Such flasks were found at Ramla, mainly in strata of the ninth–tenth centuries CE (e.g., Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.24:8; Segal 2011: Fig. 10:19; Toueg 2012: Fig. 8:2), although they probably continued to be produced in the eleventh century CE. They were also found in Mevo Modi'im (Eisenberg and Ovadia 1997: Fig. 16:16), Ḥamat Gader (Ben-Arieh 1997: Fig. XVI.8), Amman (Northedge 1992: Fig. 132.4) and 'Aqaba (Whitcomb 1988: Fig. 1, Period 3). The flasks in Fig. 9:2, 3 are of rather uncommon types. Figure 9:2 has a long thick neck and a thick flaring rim; a parallel for this vessel was found at Yoqne'am (Avisar 2005: Fig. 2.22:5). Figure 9:3 has a handle bearing a decorative button, and bears a narrow band of dense linear incisions on the upper part of the body. This flask has a parallel from Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.46:3).

Cups (Fig. 9:4–7).— The excavation yielded four cups, two of which (Fig. 9:4, 6) are made of buff clay and are slightly deformed. The other two (Fig. 9:5, 7) have the shape of small juglets, and are made of pinkish, well-levigated and well-fired clay. All four bear very prominent marks of the potter's wheel. These vessels have been identified at times as juglets or miniature bowls. They represent very common types found, for example, at Ramla, in strata dated to the Abbasid period (e.g., Kletter 2005: Fig. 17:6, 8, 9; Torgë 2005: Fig. 2:22; Elisha 2009: Fig. 4:18; Avisar 2011: Fig. 15:11) and the Fatimid period (e.g., Toueg 2012: Fig. 8:7). They were also found at Tiberias (Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.51:4).

Juglets (Fig. 9:8, 9).— Very few juglets were found in the excavation. Figure 9:8 belongs to a late type of Fine Byzantine Ware. This vessel is made of well-levigated clay, its walls are very thin and the body is painted white on red. It resembles vessels categorized at

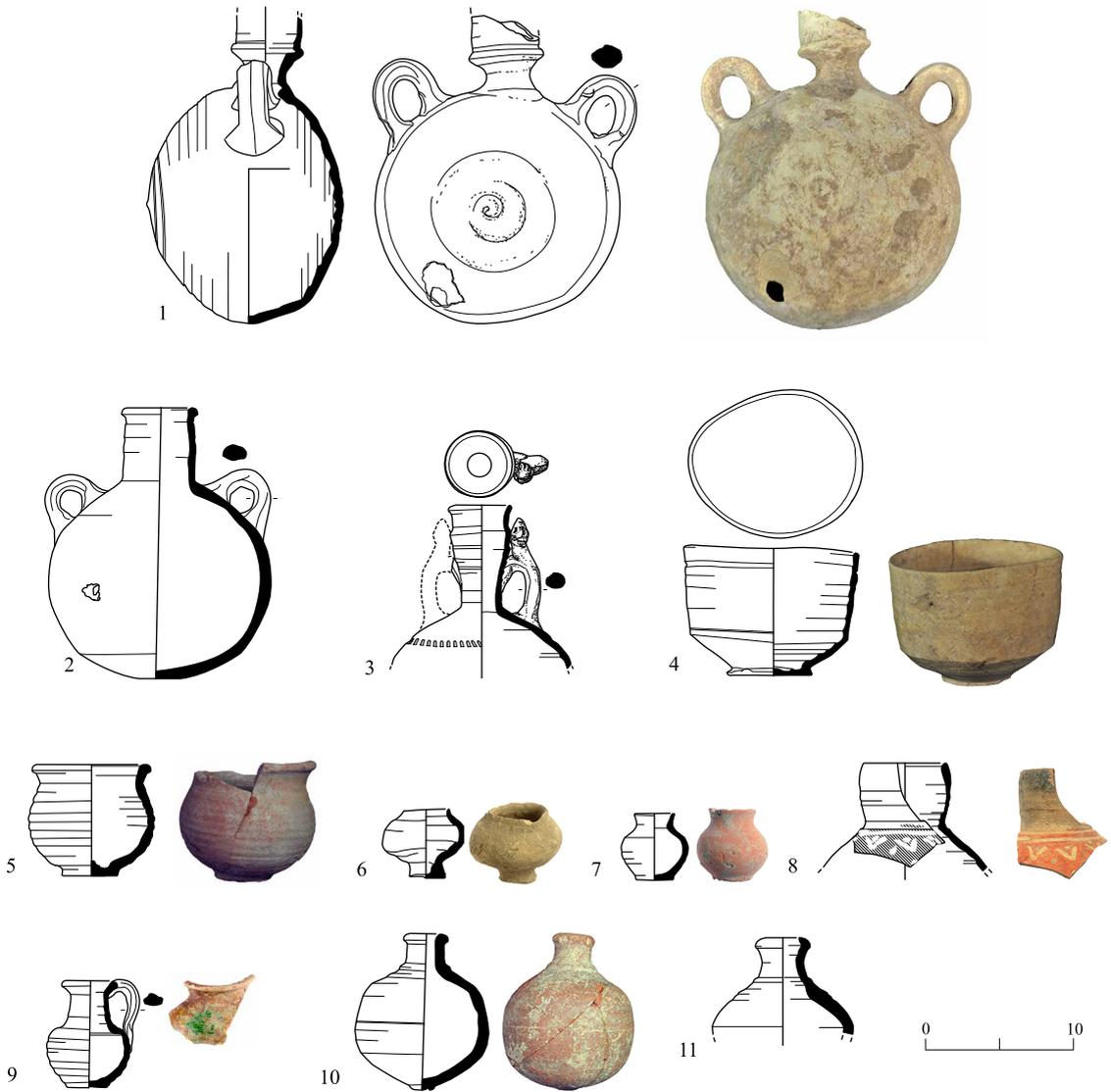


Fig. 9. Small containers.

No.	Type	Locus ⁱ	Basket	Description
1	Flask	110	1039/7	Buff clay with many small grits
2	Flask	144	1858/3	Greenish buff clay with many grits in various sizes
3	Flask	215	1568/13	Yellowish buff clay with many small grits
4	Cup	257	1870/3	Buff clay with many small grits
5	Cup	534	4109/2	Brown clay with many grits in various sizes
6	Cup	102	1006/24	Buff clay with very small grits
7	Cup	185	1501/24	Pinkish clay with many small grits
8	Juglet	n/a	n/a	Pinkish clay with a few small grits
9	Juglet	132	1155/27	Buff clay with many small grits
10	Container	132	1173/2	Brown clay with gray core and many grits in various sizes
11	Container	123	1262/8	Brown clay with gray core and many grits in various sizes

ⁱ n/a = not available.

times as jugs or bowls, dated to the Umayyad period and the beginning of the Abbasid period. A similar vessel was found at Ramla (Sion 2010: Fig. 4:19). Figure 9:9 bears a partly preserved greenish glaze. This glazed juglet is dated to the tenth–eleventh centuries CE, the approximate period in which glazed jugs appeared. No exact parallels were found for this vessel, although a somewhat similar unglazed juglet was found at Ramla (Kletter 2005: Figs. 16:10; 17:1).

Sphero-Conical Containers (Fig. 9:10, 11).— These vessels have very thick walls, a pear-shaped body, a round or somewhat pointed base and a rounded thickened rim with a slight ridge below it. The vessel wall is slightly pushed-in on one side, forming a flat surface, likely used to stabilize the container in the absence of a flat base; it is noteworthy that this vessel has never been found with a pedestal. The rim is everted (Fig. 9:10) or in-turned (Fig. 9:11). These two containers have parallels from many excavations at Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2006: Fig. 1:2; Sion 2009: Fig. 9:7; Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pls. 9.5:21; 9.13:6).

The function of these containers is unknown, and there have been many suggestions regarding their use, including hand grenades for use in warfare (Ettinghausen 1965:219), or as containers for beer (Ghouchani and Adle 1992:78), mercury (Sharvit 2008:101–112), perfumes and ointments (Ettinghausen 1965:218–229) or inflammable materials (Brosh 1980:114–115). They have been uncovered both in industrial and residential contexts at other excavations; Fig. 9:10 was found next to part of a structure of Stratum III in Area A which seems to have been used as a kitchen. Such containers are routinely found in excavations of sites from the Early Islamic period, such as Tiberias (Stacey 2004:159), Ḥammāt Gader (Ben-Arieh 1997:380) and Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:160, Type 824a); in addition to these parallels from urban sites, a parallel from the rural site of Khirbat el-Khurrumiya (Yehuda 2007: Fig. 10:13) can be mentioned. The manufacture of these vessels began in the second half of the eighth century CE and lasted at least until the end of the eleventh century CE.

OIL LAMPS (Figs. 10, 11)

Almond-Shaped Oil Lamps (Figs. 10; 11:1–11).— These oil lamps are molded and have an ovoid body, a tongue handle and a ring base that sometimes bears the potter's marks. The ware of these lamps is usually buff, light red or light brown, and some are glazed. In the molding process, the lamp base and its upper part were made separately, later joined together, sometimes retaining visible seams on their interior. These lamps were the most common oil-lamp type during the Early Islamic period, and are found in excavations across the entire territory of early Islam. Molds of these lamps were found in several excavations at Ramla, belonging to different workshops (for parallels, see Figs. 10, 11). Almond-shaped oil lamps are dated from the Umayyad through the Abbasid and Fatimid periods.

The examples shown here vary in their decoration. A description of these variants with parallels is provided in the tables accompanying Figs. 10, 11. A number of these variants

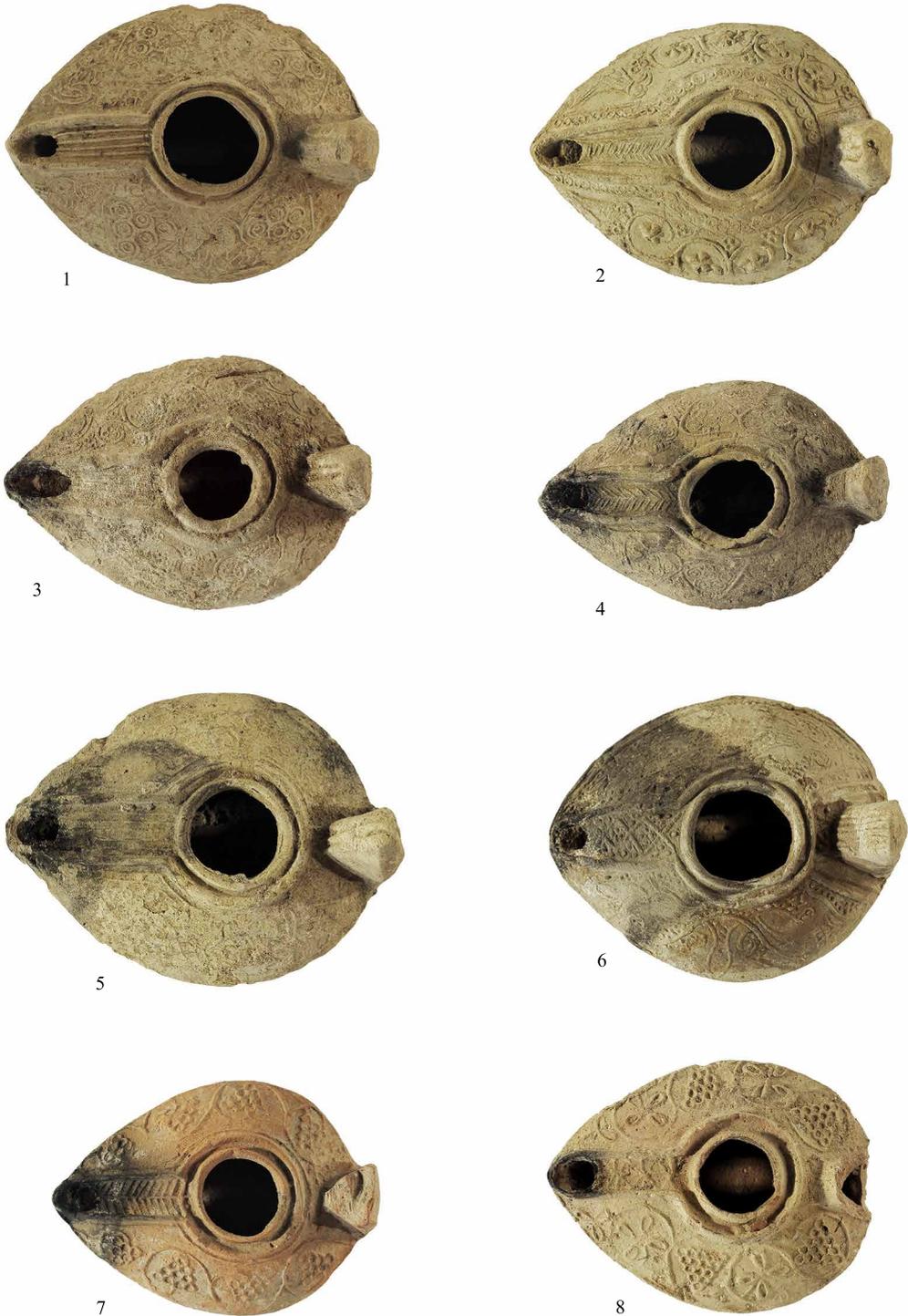


Fig. 10. Oil lamps.

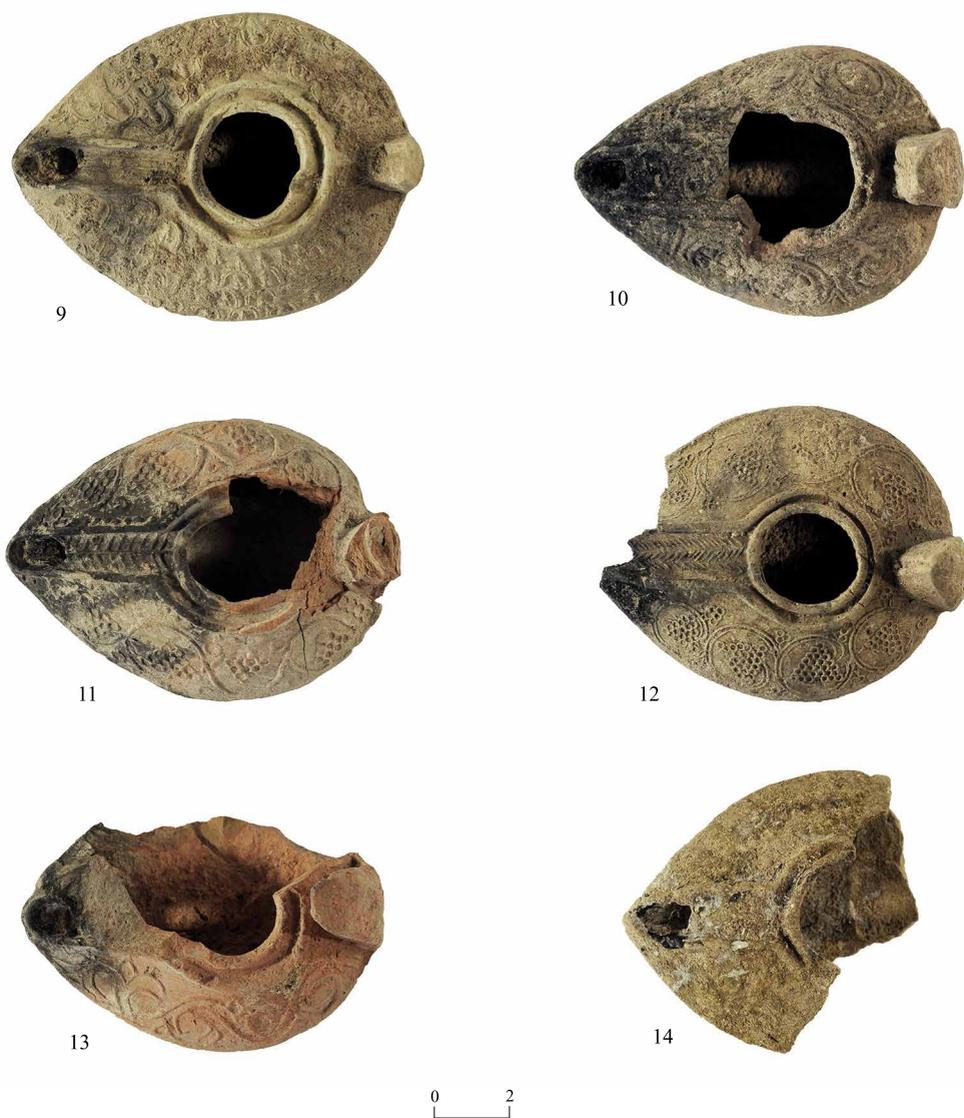


Fig. 10. (cont.).

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	110	1058	Buff clay with many large grits; nozzle with four straight lines and a bird next to it, followed by a cluster of grapes, two branches and another cluster of grapes with curling vine	Ramla (Arbel 2005: Fig. 3:1)
2	110	1056	Buff clay with many small grits; bird on both sides of the nozzle and curved branches with fig leaves, surrounded by a chain of small circles on the body	Horbat Hermas (Sion and Parnos 2006: Fig. 9:13)
3	188	1598	Grayish buff clay with many small grits; five straight lines on the nozzle and two parallel straight lines of curling vine branches with grape clusters on the body	
4	180	1394	Buff clay with many small grits; fishbone pattern on the nozzle, a bird on the front part and vine branches with grapes curled into a heart shape on the body	Ramla (Toueg and Arnon 2011: Fig. 19)

◀ Fig. 10

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
5	146	1279	Buff clay with many small grits; five long stripes on the nozzle and a worn, unrecognizable pattern on the body	
6	125	1232	Greenish buff clay with many small grits; rhombuses and dots on the nozzle and a bird, a tree and another bird with spread-out wings on the body; the decoration is preserved on only half the lamp the other half is worn	
7	120	1105	Brown clay with many small grits; grapes between scrolls and fishbone decoration on the nozzle	Ramla (Torgë 2008: Fig. 6:17)
8	181	1498	Buff clay with many grits in various sizes; body with four paddle wheels in the shape of flowers and grape clusters between scrolls	Ramla (Avisar 2011: Fig. 18:19)
9	515	4096	Buff clay with many small grits; body with arches and branches int. and three straight lines on the nozzle	
10	184	1485	Brown clay with many small grits; body with circles and loops, and a potter's mark in the shape of a circle and triangle on the base	Ramla (Toueg 2011: Fig. 9)
11	245	1787	Brown clay with many small grits; twining branches with grapes and a floral pattern on the nozzle	Ramla (Jakoe1 2011: Fig. 5:18)
12	241	1788	Buff clay with many small grits; bodu with twining branches with grapes, and two fishbone patterns on the nozzle	Ramla (Haddad 2011: Fig. 5:9)
13	245	1780	Brown clay with many small grits; body with curled stripes	Ramla (South; Gorzalczany and Marcus 2010: Fig. 5)
14	180	1379	Buff clay with many small grits; slightly deformed; decoration not preserved, except for some remains of green glaze on both the upper and lower parts	Ramla (Haddad 2011: Fig. 4:8)

have noteworthy parallels: an identical parallel for a lamp bearing a net-like pattern (Fig. 11:2) was found at Ramla (Kanas and Toueg 2012: Fig. 6:2); a parallel for a lamp bearing a pattern of a bird and a Star of David surrounded by circles (Fig. 11:5), which also depicts the Star of David, was found at Ramla (Haddad 2010: Fig. 20:3); a close parallel for a rare lamp variant bearing a pattern with a horse, two birds sitting on a gazelle and an elephant or rhinoceros (Fig. 11:6) was found at Yoqne'am (Avisar 2005: Fig. 3.1:6); an identical parallel for a lamp bearing branches and circles on the body and a fishbone on the nozzle (Fig. 11:10) was found at Ramla (Zelinger 2007: Fig. 2:5); a lamp bearing grapes set amongst half loops (Fig. 11:11) represents a very common design for which many parallels have been found at Ramla (e.g., Torgë 2008: Fig. 6:17).

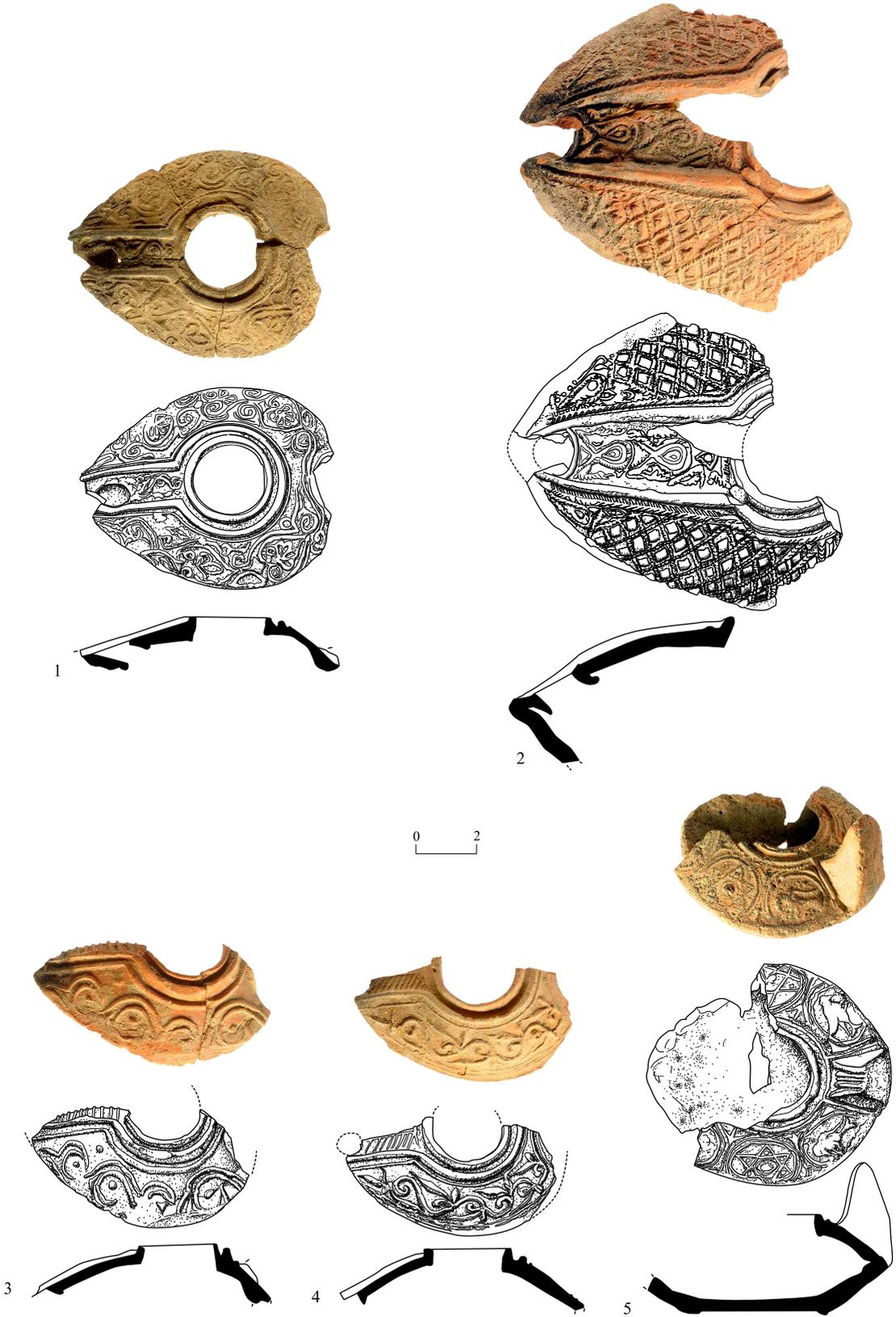


Fig. 11. Oil lamps (cont.).

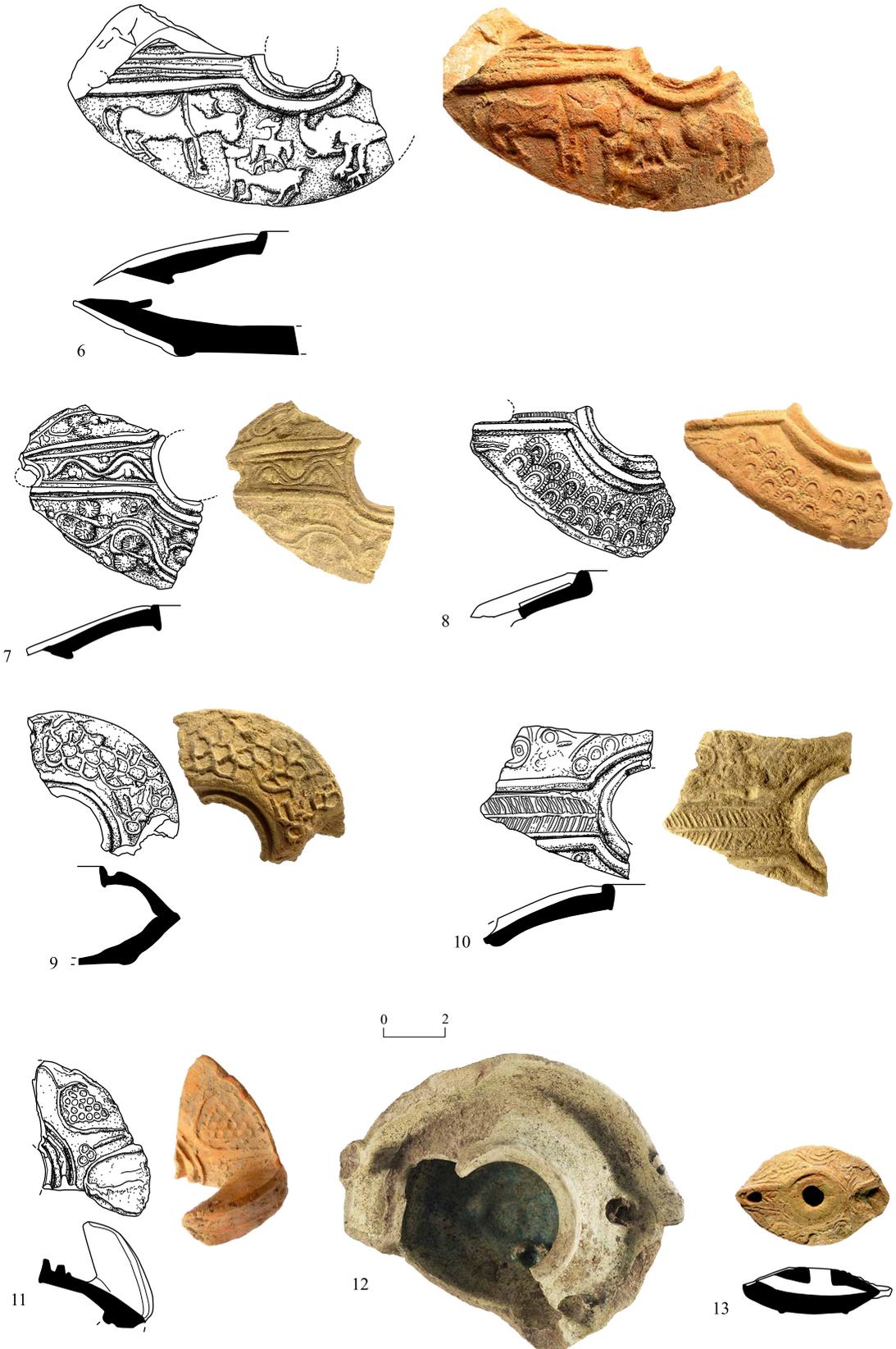


Fig. 11. (cont.).

◀ Fig. 11

No.	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	245	1876/24	Buff clay with many small grits; body with twisted branch with leaves and small flowers	Ramla (Toueg 2011: Fig. 20:9)
2	144	1859/16	Pinkish clay burned to yellow tone with many small grits; net-like pattern	Ramla (Kaniyas and Toueg 2012: Fig. 6:2)
3	123	1494/23	Pinkish clay with very few small grits; body with curling branch and large dots	
4	245	1763/23	Pinkish clay with very few small grits; branches and leaves	Ramla (Kogan-Zehavi 2004: Fig. 2:15)
5	180	1373/25	Buff clay with very few small grits; body with a bird and a Star of David surrounded by circles	Ramla (Haddad 2010: Fig. 20:3)
6	117	1207/26	Pinkish clay burned to yellow with many small grits; body with a horse, two birds sitting on a gazelle and an elephant or rhinoceros	Yoqne‘am (Avisar 2005: Fig. 3.1:6)
7	216	1708/26	Buff clay with many small grits; body with circles surrounded by a branch	Ramla (Masarwa 2011: Fig. 12:14)
8	234	1813/25	Buff clay with very few small grits; body with several arches and branches within each	Ramla (Buchenino 2009: Fig. 4:12)
9	187	1460/25	Buff clay with many small grits; body with scales forming asymmetrical loops	Ramla (Kaniyas and Toueg 2012: Fig. 6:2)
10	116	1560/23	Buff clay with a few small grits; branches and circles on the body and a fishbone of the nozzle	Ramla (Zelinger 2007: Fig. 2:5)
11	116	1102/23	Orange clay with a few small grits; body with grapes set amongst half loops	Ramla (e.g., Torgĕ 2008: Fig. 6:17)
12	246	1762	Grayish buff clay with many small grits; remnants of light blue turquoise glaze	
13	144	1861/24	Orange clay with a few small grits; body with a curled branch	

Wheel-Made Saucer-Shaped Lamp (Fig. 11:12).— This type of lamp was produced in two separate parts that were joined together: a bottom part in the shape of a rounded saucer and a globular upper part with a large filling hole surrounded by a ridge. A loop handle is drawn from the saucer to the upper part of the lamp, and attached near the filling hole. These lamps were found in several excavations at Ramla, in layers dating from the end of the tenth through the mid-eleventh century CE (Toueg 2006: Fig. 4:16; 2010: Fig. 8:9; Arnon 2007: Fig. 17:7, 8; Haddad 2011: Fig. 12:5; Jakoel 2011: Fig. 5:16), and appear in several other sites in layers dated to the Fatimid period, such as Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:196, Type 5), Bet She‘an (Hadad 1999:206, Fig. 3:9–11), Tiberias (Stacey 2004:165 Fig. 6.21:5) and Fustat (Kubiak 1970: Fig. 6).

Miniature Oil Lamp (Fig. 11:13).— This type of lamp is quite common in sites from the Early Islamic period. They have the form of the ordinary almond-shaped lamps, except for

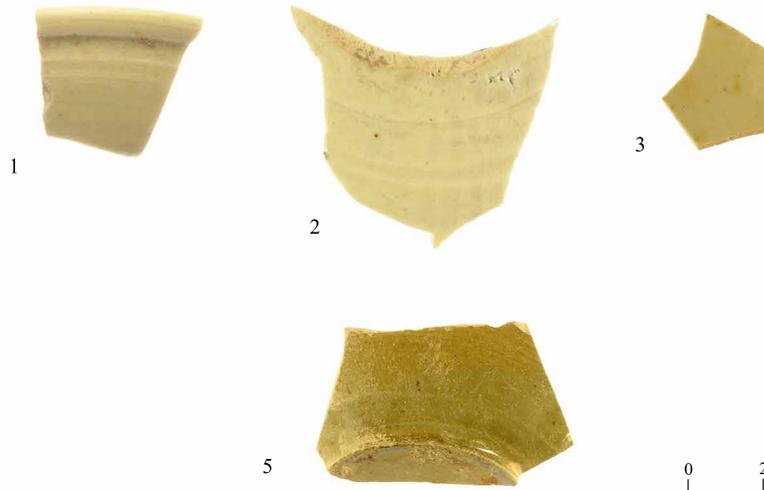


Fig. 12. Porcelain and celadon vessels.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	245	1885	Porcelain
2	245	1875	Porcelain
3	101	1001	Porcelain
4	222	1705	Porcelain
5	127	1250	Celadon

their diminutive size, and bear a similar variety of decorations. In some of these lamps the nozzle is blackened, indicating that they were used as oil lamps, although these marks are absent in many other examples whose purpose is unclear. Similar lamps were found at Nes Ziyona (Singer 2004: Fig. 4:48) and Bet She'an (Hadad 1999:206, Fig. 3:8). They are dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE.

Porcelain and Celadon Vessels (Fig. 12)

Two different types of imported porcelain bowls were found.

Chinese Porcelain Bowls (Fig. 12:1–4).— Four fragments belong to white porcelain vessels of the Song Dynasty (960–1279 CE). They are smooth, straight, undecorated and display transparent glazing on the white paste material. Two of the fragments (Fig. 12:2, 4) belong to vessels with a plain thin rim, and another (Fig. 12:3) belongs to a vessel with a thick outturned rim. These vessels are dated to the Fatimid period (Scanlon 1970:82–85; Taxel 2014:131).

Celadon Bowl (Fig. 12:5).— This fragment is part of a gray celadon vessel bearing an opaque greenish glaze, also of the Song Dynasty. Vessels of this type are fairly common

in excavations at Ramla (e.g., Gorzalczany and ‘Ad 2010: Fig. 13; Eshed 2011: Fig. 3:3; Toueg and Arnon 2011: Fig. 20) and were also reported from other sites, such as Ashqelon and Caesarea Maritima (Frierman 1975), in layers dated to the Fatimid period. They were also found at Fustat (Scanlon 1970:82).

ZOOMORPHIC VESSELS (Fig. 13)

These vessels were probably used as decanters, as indicated by the presence of a funnel-like cavity at the animal’s mouth that could have been used for pouring liquids. They have hollow bodies and are made of well-levigated and well-fired clay. Some examples of such vessels are known to feature small cups attached onto the animal’s back. Two types of zoomorphic vessels were found in the excavation: one type has a gazelle-like form with long straight horns (Fig. 13:1, 3–5) and the other has a donkey-like form (Fig. 13:2). Two of the gazelle-like vessels (Fig. 12:1, 4) are painted in black lines around the eyes and body. This type of vessel is very common at Ramla (e.g., Haddad 2008: Fig. 3:2; Sion 2009: Fig. 9:8; Vilozny 2010: Pl. 15.1:1, 3), while the donkey-like vessel is quite rare (Kaniyas and Toueg 2012: Fig. 6:4). Zoomorphic vessels were found in many sites throughout Israel, mostly in contexts dated to the Umayyad period, such as Caesarea Maritima (Brosh 1986: Fig. 2.1–2.3), Khirbat el-Mefjer (Baramki 1944: Pl. XVIII:4), Bet She’an (Fitzgerald 1931: Pl. XXIX.4), Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985: Fig. 34.11), Tiberias (Oren 1971:276; Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.56) and Yoqne’am (Avisar 1996:171).

Although these vessels are usually dated to the Umayyad period, at Ramla, the vast majority were found in strata of later periods, including what was perhaps a workshop dating to the Abbasid period (Torgë 2014: Fig. 13). Possibly, their use continued into the Fatimid period, although there is presently no evidence to substantiate this suggestion.

Scholars have suggested that these vessels were either votive (Scanlon 1968a:5) or a child’s toy (Rahmani 1981:74), although their wide distribution in a variety of contexts indicates a more practical use. The hollow body, the funnel in the animals mouth and the presence of small cups on the animal’s back in some examples indicates that these vessels held some kind of liquid. Perhaps they were used for pouring oil or sauce. The vessel with a donkey-like form lacks a funnel and therefore, may have been used as a child’s toy.

Fig. 13 ▶

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	126	1150/26	Pinkish clay with very few small grits
2	136	1131/25	Pinkish clay with very few small grits
3	185	1562/17	Pinkish clay with very few small grits
4	131	1829/17	Pinkish clay with very few small grits
5	185	1476/17	Pinkish clay with very few small grits

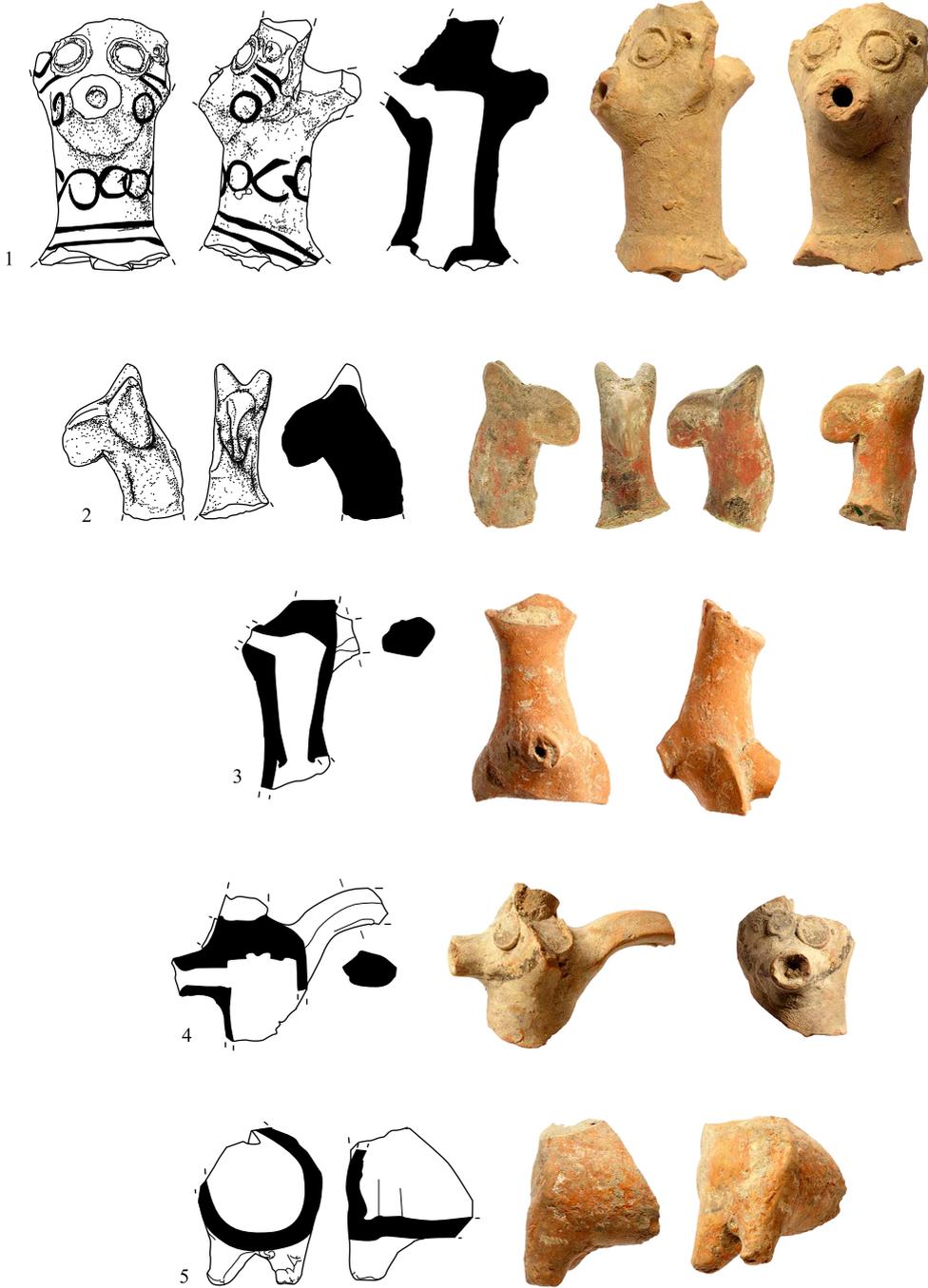


Fig. 13. Zoomorphic vessels.

SHABTI FIGURINE (Fig. 14)

This molded mummy-shaped Shabti figurine is made of white faience (height 12 cm) and stands on a base (height 1 cm). Its features include the Egyptian royal-style wig and fake beard, and an engraved representation of a basket behind the left shoulder. Only the palms remained of the characteristic crossed hands; based on parallels, they held two working tools, a hoe and pick-axe. The left hand appears to hold onto a coiled rope attached to the basket behind the shoulder. The eyes are protruding, encircled by an engraving of the make-up used to create the elongated eye shape. The figurine's mouth and nose are damaged; however, it is known from parallels that the nose of such figurines was rather broad and that the mouth was fashioned to portray a slight smile.



Fig. 14. Faience Shabti figurine (L131, B1135).

Although other Shabti figurines of this kind bear inscriptions on the chest, under the arms and on the legs down to the base, this is lacking in the present example; such an inscription may have been painted rather than carved on the figurine, and in that case, was not preserved. Similar figurines are included in the collection of Shabti figurines of the West Park Museum in northern England (Janes 2010:23–39), ascribed to Egyptian Dynasty XXVII, dating to the fifth century BCE.

These small mummiform statuettes appear as part of the funerary equipment in tombs, beginning at the time of the Dynasty XIII, and continued to be manufactured for a long period during which their form changed (Silver 2009). Beginning in the New Kingdom period, the portrayed figures often held implements or tools. The inscriptions appearing on some examples include a statement that the figurine was offered as a gift, the owner's name and title, the standard Egyptian 'coffin texts' or quotations from the 'Book of the Dead.' The figures are in the form of a laborer or a servant, in a posture signaling that they are prepared to fulfill the wishes of their deceased master. Some of the Shabti figurines served as votive offerings in temples, for example, at Saqqara and Giza, where they represented the deceased and were offered on his behalf.

Four Shabti figurines similar to the present example were discovered in Scanlon's excavations at Fustat, within an Early Islamic-period context (Davies 2015: Cat. Nos. 27–30), and another was recently found at the site by the French expedition excavating near its ancient walls (unpublished;² for information on the recent excavations, see Pradines and Talaat 2007). Two of these figurines were made of faience, as is the case with the example from Azrieli Mall. The four figurines from Scanlon's excavations were found in contexts of secondary deposition, in part of a drainage system and a wall foundation, and while their function remains unclear, it was hypothesized that they originated from a nearby necropolis (Davies 2015). The five Shabti figurines found at Fustat were ascribed to Dynasty XXVII, as were those in the West Park Museum collection mentioned above. Most of the Dynasty XXVII graves are located at Saqqara and Abusir, less than 2 km from Fustat. Especially large quantities of Shabti figurines were uncovered in some of the main burial chambers and adjoining niches at that site, sometimes exceeding 400 in one burial complex (Bareš and Smoláriková 2008). The time that these tombs were robbed is indicated in one case, at the tomb of Padihor, by graffiti in Kufic Arabic inscribed on the wall of the corridor (Coppens and Smoláriková 2009). Six Shabti figurines recently unearthed in a Fatimid-period context in Israel were interpreted as evidence for trade in stolen goods at that time (Torgë 2020).

The Shabti figurine from Azrieli Mall was found near a bronze oil-lamp filler (see Lester, this volume: Fig. 1:2) and both these items were probably placed on a shelf for display. The figurine may have simply been a souvenir, or perhaps purchased as a talisman.

² I would like to thank Prof. Stéphane Pradines, Institut français d'archéologie orientale, for this information.

MISCELLANEA (Fig. 15)

Chamber Pot (Fig. 15:1).— This ceramic vessel has a wide, slightly upturned ledge rim, and is glazed yellow, black and turquoise. Similar vessels were found at Ramla (e.g., Cytryn-Silverman 2010:153, Pl. 9.4:20); in Caesarea Maritima Stratum VI (Arnon 2008:178, Type 231k), dated to the late ninth and the first half of the tenth centuries CE; and Fustat, in contexts of the tenth–eleventh centuries CE at (Kubiak and Scanlon 1989:41, Figs. 61, 62).

Lantern Handle (Fig. 15:2).— No parallels for this object made of buff clay were found among the material from Ramla; the closest parallel is from Ashqelon (Milevski and Krokhmalnik 2010), dated to the sixth and seventh centuries CE.

Miniature Bottle (Fig. 15:3).— This bottle is made of poorly levigated clay and has very thin walls bearing prominent wheel marks. Spots of smeared clay and fingermarks appear on the walls. A similar vessel was found at Ramla (Shlomi 2008: Fig. 2:18). Such vessels have been found in both Abbasid- and Fatimid-period strata.

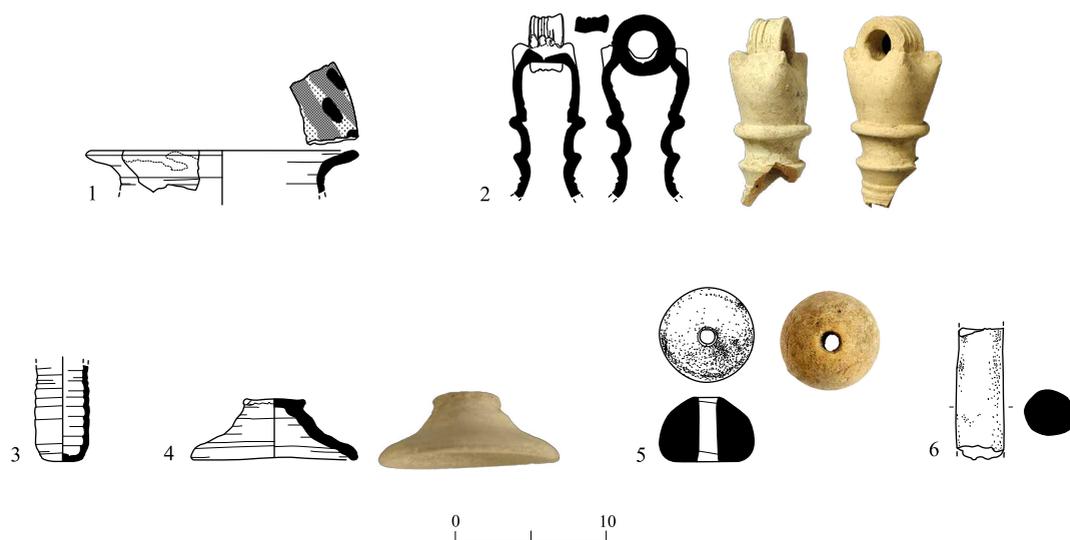


Fig. 15. Miscellaneous finds.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Chamber pot	216	1576	Buff clay with a few grits
2	Lantern handle	116	1730	Buff clay with many white grits
3	Miniature bottle	117	1099	Buff clay with a few grits
4	Jar lid	102	1007	Buff clay with many large grits
5	Loomweight	185	1597	
6	Kiln wedge	216	1576	Greenish-buff clay

Jar Lid (Fig. 15:4).— This lid is a common find in Early Islamic-period sites, and similar lids were reported from Ramla (e.g., Avissar 2011: Fig. 14:11).

Loomweight (Fig. 15:5).— Similar clay loomweights were previously found at Ramla (e.g., Toueg 2011: Fig. 22).

Kiln Wedge (Fig. 15:6).— Such wedges are very common in sites dated to the Early Islamic period, especially at Ramla, which was a major production center for pottery (e.g., Masarwa 2011: Fig. 7).

THE STONE OBJECTS

Steatite Vessels (Fig. 16:1–4).— These vessels were carved in soft stone or steatite—a gray metamorphic rock, originating in South Arabia. It has been suggested that such vessels were fashioned in Egypt and traded with other regions of the Near East (Scanlon 1968). Such vessels are typically decorated with incisions, often in a geometric pattern of stripes and at times circles, although some are smooth or bear rough horizontal or vertical chiseling marks.

Two main types of steatite vessels were found in the excavation: two bowl-shaped cooking vessels bearing geometric patterns (Fig. 16:1, 2); a four-legged open box, part of an incense burner (Fig. 16:3) and a long grip handle of such a box (Fig. 16:4). Another bowl-shaped steatite vessel was found in secondary use as a drainage basin at the bottom of a domestic water channel (not illustrated); it was found in a crumbly state within the Stratum III room, apparently used as a kitchen. Such vessels are quite common at Ramla (e.g., Torgë 2009: Fig. 7:10; Chachy-Laureys 2010: Pl. 14.4:3; Avissar 2011: Fig. 12:10). One example of an incense burner from Ramla (South) can be mentioned (Gorzalczany, Yehuda and Torgë 2010: Fig. 7), although its precise date is yet to be determined. Such items with a long grip handle (Fig. 16:4) belong to Le Maguer's Type Sd (Le Maguer 2011:179). Vessels of this type are generally considered luxury items, although they are fairly common in layers of the Umayyad period. The incense burners of this type from Caesarea Maritima (Arnon 2008:29) were confined to Stratum VIII, dating from the first half of the eighth century CE. A similar date was given to such items from Tiberias (Stacey 2004:94). A longer time span was determined for these incense burners at Fustat, extending until the end of the ninth century CE (Scanlon 1968a: Figs. 1, 2, 7; Kubiak and Scanlon 1973: Fig. 11a).

Stone Weight (Fig. 16:5).— This weight (2 × 2 cm) is made of purpuras stone and has a deep groove in the middle.

Green Marble (Fig. 16:6).— This item is perhaps made of serpentine rock or Marmor Lacedaemon marble (green porphyry). This type of marble is not found locally and was probably imported from Egypt.

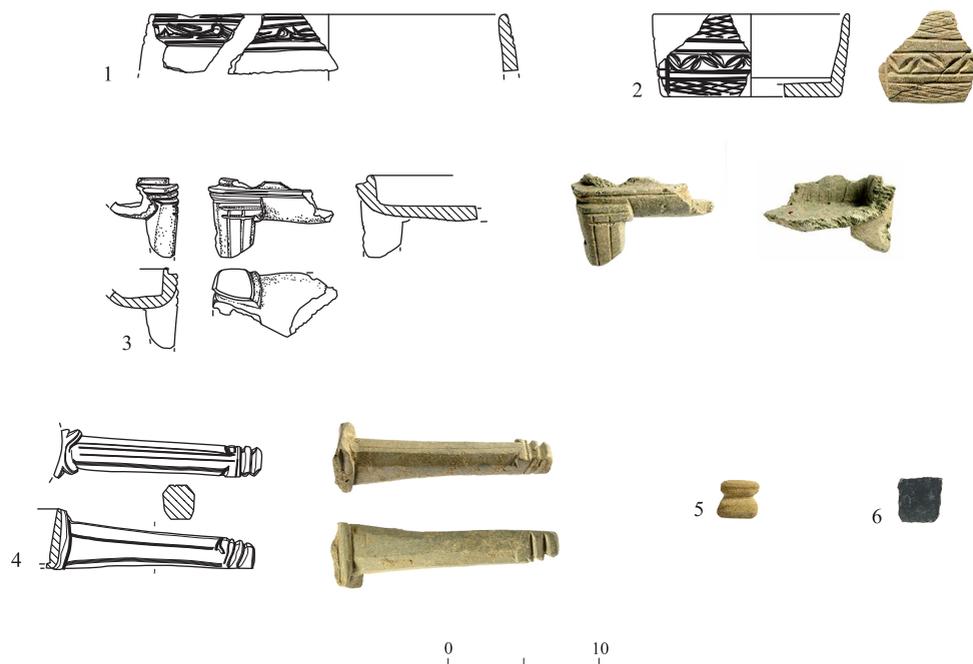


Fig. 16. Stone objects.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Cooking vessel	163	1487	Steatite
2	Cooking vessel	116	1489	Steatite
3	Incense burner	217	1811	Steatite
4	Incense burner	144	1810	Steatite
5	Stone weight	163	1320	
6	Green marble	188	1881	

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The pottery from the excavation in Azrieli Mall, Ramla, comprises well-known vessel types of the late Abbasid–Fatimid periods, mostly dating between the ninth and eleventh centuries CE. Vessels of this timeframe were retrieved from all strata (Strata III–I) in Area A. While a few Abbasid-period types were found in Stratum III, most of the pottery from this stratum comprised types that continued into the Fatimid period or that first appeared at that time. Material that could be ascribed more specifically to the Fatimid period was found in Stratum II of Area A and in loci from the five secondary construction phases in the Area C structure. Stratum I of Area A, while it also yielded Fatimid-period material, was interpreted as an ephemeral Mamluk-period use of Fatimid-period remains (see Toueg and Torgè, this volume).

While most of the vessels found in the excavation were of locally made types, the assemblage also comprised fine-ware vessels imported from Egypt and as far as China, and other artifacts probably imported from Egypt, such as the Shabti figurine and a fragment

of green marble. A local imitation of a vessel belonging to a well-known foreign group and a bowl decorated in the *kerbschnitte* technique of the Sassanian tradition were also found. These luxury finds indicate that the remains uncovered in the excavation were the buildings of a wealthy population that dwelled in the city in the late Abbasid–Fatimid periods. The excavation area was most likely a continuation of the affluent neighborhood of Ramla uncovered south of the White Mosque that may have housed the upper class, or possibly the ruling elite of Ramla in the Early Islamic period (Avni et al. 2008; Avni 2014:166).

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