

THE BYZANTINE-PERIOD GLASS VESSELS FROM ḤORBAT ROẒEZ

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The site at Ḥorbat Roẓez yielded about one thousand small glass fragments, some three-quarters of which are non-diagnostic body fragments (see Yannai, this volume).¹ More than ninety percent of the glass finds from Ḥ. Roẓez are associated with the Byzantine period, and are discussed below. Three small body fragments of Hellenistic bowls (not illustrated) were collected in Hellenistic contexts (L3015, L3016, L3019). Three fragments of bracelets were the only definite glass finds of the Mamluk period (not illustrated; from L3000, L3001, L3006).

Most of the vessels are free-blown; a few are mold-blown. The pieces are made of translucent glass, mostly colorless, some with tinges of blue or green. Other pieces are of light blue or light green glass. Some fragments are decorated; among the designs are mold-blown patterns and applied or fused-in trails. Most of the glass contains small, round and oval bubbles and some of the pieces reveal scars and glass remains of the pontil, as well as tooling marks. Most of the vessels bear silver weathering and/or white lime deposits.

Thirty-one of the pieces, representing various types of vessels from the Byzantine period found at the site, were selected for publication (Figs. 1–4). The vessels from L3006 comprise about half of the corpus; the other pieces were discovered largely in Stratum II contexts, assigned by the excavator to the Byzantine period (Yannai, this volume). The following discussion and illustrations are arranged typologically, encompassing all contemporary finds from the site. When possible, preference was given to parallels from excavations in the vicinity (e.g.,

Ha-Bonim, the Naḥal Tanninim Dam site, Ḥorbat 'Aqav, Ḥorbat Sumaq [Sumaqa] and Ḥorbat Raqit), and the surrounding region (e.g., Caesarea Maritima, Ḥorbat Qaṣṣra, Jalame, Kafr 'Ara and Ḥorbat Naẓur). The examples cited from Jalame were retrieved mostly from the glass factory dump, dated to the second half of the fourth century CE, and from the fill of the winepress tank, dated from the late fourth to the early fifth centuries CE (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988); as these dates recur throughout the article, they are mentioned only here.

Bowls and Various Bases

Shallow Bowl with Horizontal Ridge Below Rim (Fig. 1:1).—Bowls of this type are a very common find in fourth-century CE contexts in the north of Israel. Many similar bowls were discovered at Jalame, most of them in the factory dump (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:45–47, Fig. 4–6). Several deep and shallow bowls of this type were found at Ḥ. Sumaq and Ḥ. Raqit (Jacobson 1999:333, Fig. 1:2, 3; Lehrer-Jacobson 2003: Pl. 1:4–6). The nearby sites of Ḥ. 'Aqav (Cohen 2000:168, Pl. 1:12) and Naḥal Tanninim Dam² yielded some incomplete bowls. Other examples were unearthed in the later burial phase at Kafr 'Ara, dated from the late third to the sixth centuries CE (Sussman 1976:99, Fig. 4:11) and in Tomb 16 at Ḥ. Qaṣṣra.³ Bowls with a horizontal ridge were also very popular in fourth-century CE burial caves in the western Galilee (Gorin-Rosen 1997:97, Fig. 5:2, 3; 2002a:290, Fig. 1:2, 3; Stern 1997:109, Fig. 2:12; Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:19–20, Fig. 10:6, 7; and see additional parallels cited in all the above).

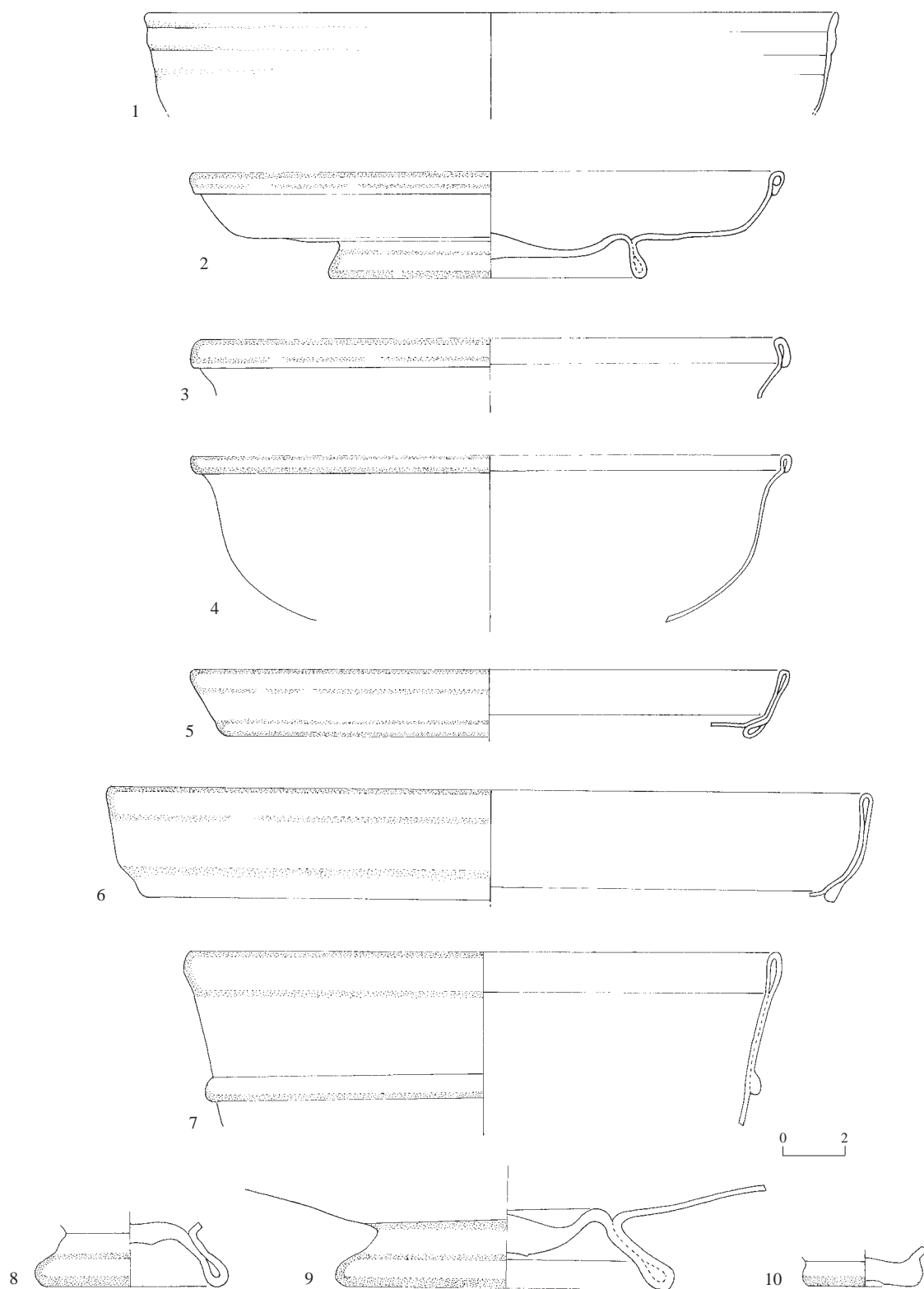


Fig. 1. Bowls and various bases.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Locus	Basket	Vessel	Color	Dimensions (mm)	Comments
1	3003	30107	Bowl	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 220	-
2	3006	30051	Bowl	Light green with olive-green streaks	Rim D 170, base D 100	Pontil glass remains and scar on bottom
3	3006	30068	Bowl	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 190	-
4	3006	30068	Bowl	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D 190	-
5	3008	30053	Bowl	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 200	-
6	3006	30080	Bowl	Colorless with greenish tinge and yellow streaks	Rim D 260	-
7	3051	30226	Bowl	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 200	Polishing marks on fold
8	3003	30026	Jug or bowl	Colorless with bluish tinge	Base D 55	-
9	3006	30080	Bowl	Colorless with greenish tinge	Base D 105	Pontil glass remains and scar on bottom
10	3026	30126	Beaker	Green	Base D 38	Pontil scar on bottom

Bowls with Outfolded Rim (Fig. 1:2–4).— The bowls with a hollow outfolded rim were either shallow or deep, and had thin walls and a pushed-in ring base. The complete bowl (No. 2) is shallow and has a convex floor and a high, hollow ring base. Rim No. 3 is slightly incurved. About 40 additional small fragments of hollow, outfolded bowl rims were collected at the site.

Bowls of this type were common in Syria-Palestine, as well as in Cyprus and Egypt. Many pieces were discovered at Jalame, most of them from the factory dump, and a few from the winepress tank (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:41–44, Fig. 4-3, especially Nos. 24–26, and see therein discussion including technique, geographical spread and parallels). Similar bowls were found at the nearby sites of Ḥ. ‘Aqav (Cohen 2000: Pl. 1:5–7), Ḥ. Sumaq (Jacobson 1999:333–335, Fig. 1:6, 7), Ḥ. Raqit (Lehrer-Jacobson 2003: Pl. 2:5, 6) and Ha-Bonim.⁴ Several examples were discovered farther north in burial caves in the western Galilee, dated to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE (e.g., Gorin-Rosen 2002a:290, Fig. 2:6–9; Stern 1997:106–108, Figs. 1:1; 2:9, 10), and farther south in the excavations at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana, dated to the

Late Roman–early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: Figs. 2:1–3; 27:3).

Bowls with Double Folded Collar (Fig. 1: 5–7).— These bowls are characterized by their rim, which is folded out and downward and again, out and upward, creating a high ‘collar’, hollow at the top; at its lower end it is either hollow (as No. 5) or pressed against the side of the vessel (as Nos. 6, 7). Bowl No. 7 has upright walls and is deeper than most of the bowls related to this type.

Such bowls were common in this region from the fourth century CE and into the Byzantine period. Similar shallow and deep bowls were discovered at Jalame, both in the glass factory dump and in the fill of the winepress tank (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:47–50; Figs. 4-7, 4-8:79, and see therein discussion including technique, geographical spread and parallels).

Shallow bowls with a hollow fold as No. 5 were discovered in burial caves in the western Galilee dated to the fourth century CE (Gorin-Rosen 1997:96–97, Fig. 5:1) and into the early fifth century CE (Stern 1997:106, Fig. 1:6). Bowls like Nos. 5 and 7 were also discovered

at the nearby Ha-Bonim site (see n. 4). A wide, shallow bowl with a pressed fold was found in a mosaic-paved gallery that was probably built in the sixth century CE (Phase II/3) inside the Byzantine city wall at Caesarea Maritima (Peleg and Reich 1992:155, 165, Fig. 18:2). Another specimen like No. 6 was unearthed in Tomb 10 at H. Qaṣṣra (see n. 3). A deep bowl resembling No. 7 was unearthed in Burial Cave 3 at Kisra in the western Galilee, dated to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE (Stern 1997:106, Fig. 2:7). Bowls such as Nos. 5 and 6, dated to the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods, were also found farther south at Kh. el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: Fig. 2:4, 5).

Pushed-In Ring Base (Fig. 1:8).— This pushed-in ring base with its very thick floor probably belonged to a Late Roman–early Byzantine jug. Two more jug bases were recorded at the site. Similar jug bases were found at nearby H. Raqit (Lehrer-Jacobson 2003: Pl. 3:9), in the winepress tank fill at Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:65, Fig. 4-29:229, 235), and in a fourth-century CE winepress at Akhziv (Syon 1998:95, Fig. 15:23).

Large Pushed-In Ring Base (Fig. 1:9).— This large and thick-walled sloppy, high pushed-in ring base is characteristic of bowls of the Byzantine period. The base is convex on the exterior, and its floor is convex at the perimeter and irregularly concave at the center. Some 30 bowl-bases of this type were collected at the site.

Bowls with similar bases were unearthed at nearby H. Raqit (Lehrer-Jacobson 2003: Pl. 3:4, 10) and Ha-Bonim (see n. 4), in Burial Cave 2 at Kisra, dated from the fourth to the mid-fifth centuries CE (Stern 1997:106, Fig. 1:1, 2), and in a tomb dated c. 396 CE at Beẓet (el-Bassa) (Iliffe 1934:88–89, Figs. 19, 20; Barag [1970:72–73] disagrees with the excavator’s narrowed-down date of the tomb, and assigns these bowls to the second half of the fourth century CE).

Solid Base (Fig. 1:10).— This flat solid base belonged to a beaker of a type common in the region during the fourth and fifth centuries CE. Beakers of this type usually had a rounded rim and thin, slightly concave walls, often decorated with a horizontal trail. A beaker of this type from H. Sumaq was unearthed in pieces and mended to its complete shape (Jacobson 1999:335–337, Fig. 2:17). Similar bases were discovered at Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:60–62, Fig. 4-23:169–171, and see discussion and parallels therein), and at the nearby sites of H. Raqit (Lehrer-Jacobson 2003: Pl. 4:2, 3) and Ha-Bonim (see n. 4).

Wineglasses

Two subtypes of wineglasses are represented here by three different upper parts and a base; ten more wineglass bases were collected at the site.

Large Wineglass (Fig. 2:1, 2).— This type of wineglass has a thickened, slightly incurved, rounded rim and slightly convex walls (No. 1). The foot (No. 2) has a short hollow cylindrical stem, ending in a hollow concave ring base. It is of the same color and comes from the same basket as No. 1, and probably belonged to the same vessel.

Large wineglasses or goblets of this type appeared, albeit infrequently, in the Byzantine period. An uncommonly large goblet with a trumpet-shaped base, dated to the fifth–sixth centuries CE, was discovered in the baptismal font at Nir Gallim, where it may have been used for liturgical services (Gorin-Rosen 2002b:119–121, Fig. 1:1, and see discussion on large goblets therein). A wineglass similar to the one from H. Roẓeẓ in size and wall profile, although displaying a different rim and a solid base (Gorin-Rosen 2004: Fig. 47), was among the remains of a Byzantine settlement excavated at Jatt, on the western slopes of the Samarian Hills. The goblet was found together with other glass vessels of the fourth–sixth centuries CE. This goblet and the one from H. Roẓeẓ, both of irregular size, may have also served liturgical

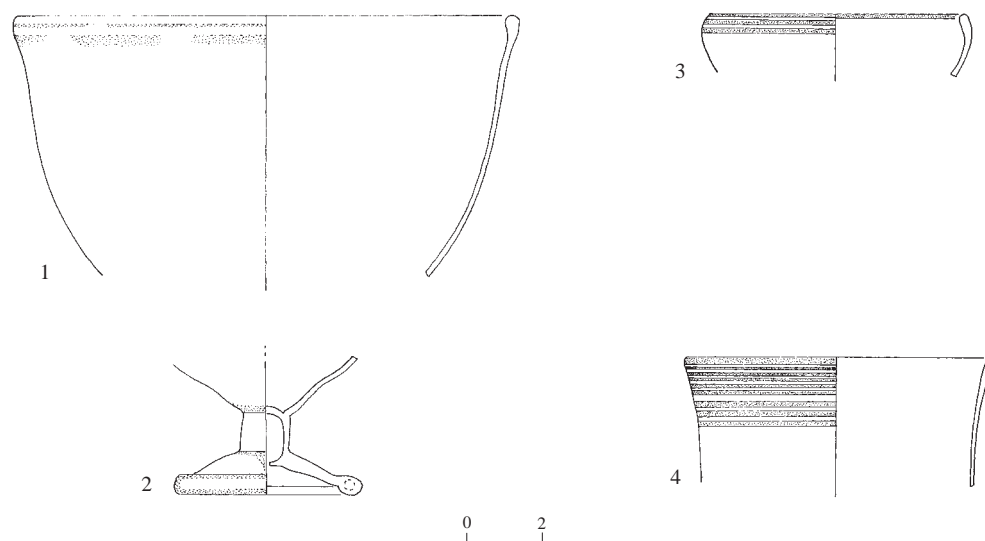


Fig. 2. Wineglasses.

No.	Locus	Basket	Color	Dimensions (mm)
1	3006	30139	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D at least 130
2	3006	30139	Colorless with bluish tinge	Base D 48–50
3	3008	30053	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 70
4	3026	30126	Colorless	Rim D 85

purposes. Their recurrence in non-religious settings calls for a more scrutinizing look and the detection of irregular pieces among material from all contexts, not only those of a clear ecclesiastical nature.

Wineglasses with Applied Trails (Fig. 2:3, 4).—These wineglasses have a blue trail, horizontally applied and fused-in on and below the rim. Number 3 has a thickened, rounded, incurved rim and convex walls; No. 4 has a rounded flared rim. Their feet probably resembled Fig. 2:2.

This type of wineglass usually has a rounded, slightly incurving rim, a beaded stem and a hollow ring base. On and below the rim are applied horizontal trails of varying quantity

and density, and generally of a darker color than the vessel. These wineglasses are characterized by distinct shape, decoration, workmanship and fabric, suggesting local production.

Wineglasses adorned with horizontal trails applied on and below the rim were recorded in contexts of the sixth–seventh centuries CE, mostly in Jerusalem and its vicinity (e.g., Gorin-Rosen 1999:210–211, Fig. 2:23, 24; 2005:202–203, Fig. 2:20, 21). Other examples were discovered, e.g., at H. Hermeshit (Winter 1998:174–175, Fig. 2:5, 11), in the Byzantine fill of the painted tomb at Migdal Ashqelon (Katsnelson 1999:70*–71*, Fig. 2:9–11), and in the ‘En Boqeq fortress on the Dead Sea shores (Gichon 1993: Pl. 60: 25a, b).

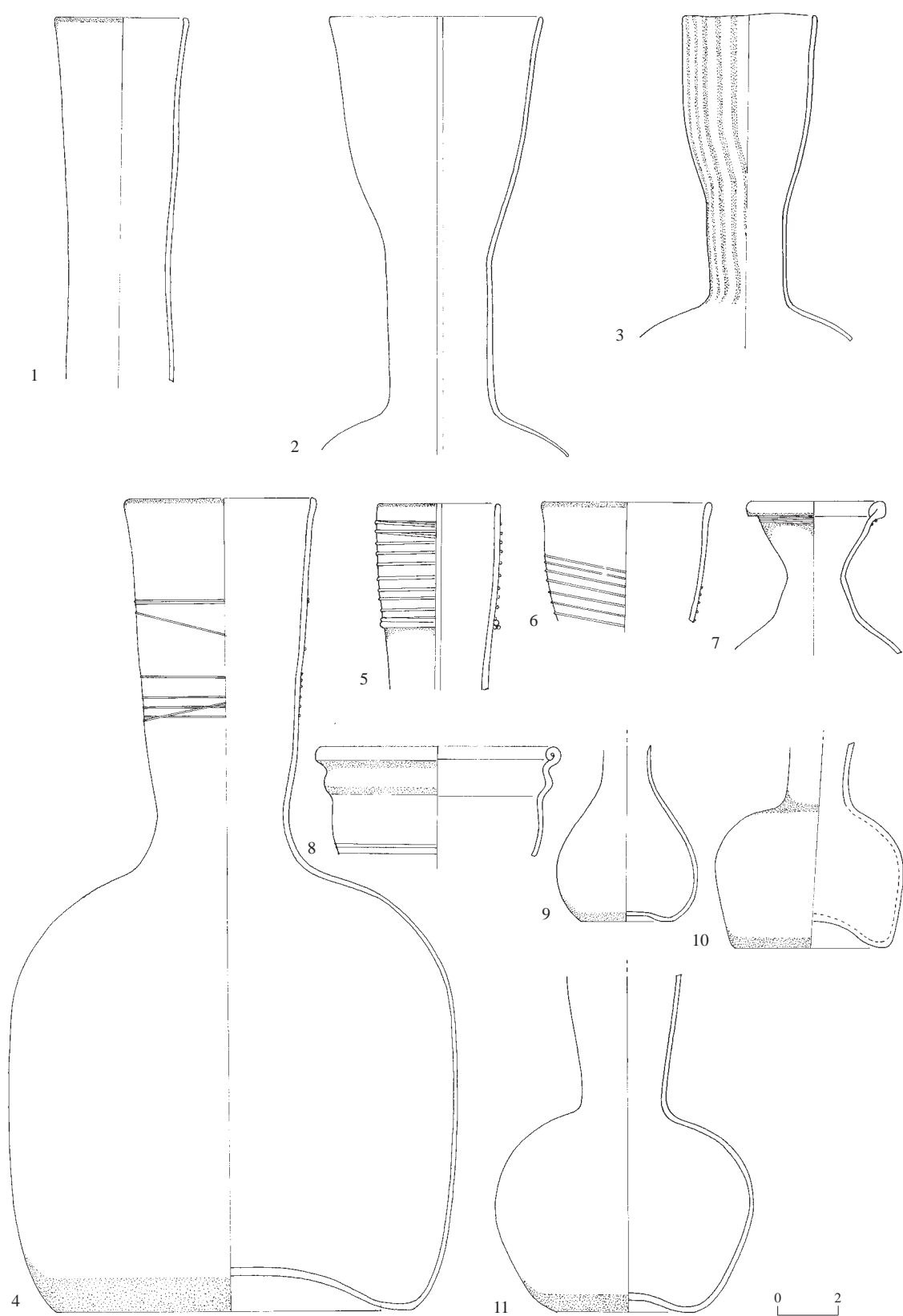


Fig. 3. Bottles, jugs and juglets.

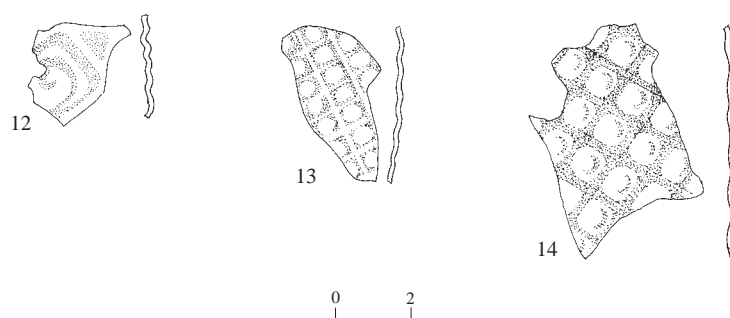


Fig. 3. (cont.)

No.	Locus	Basket	Vessel	Color	Dimensions (mm)
1	3006	30080	Bottle	Light green	Rim D 40
2	3006	30045	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	-
3	3006	30068	Bottle	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 42–43
4	3022	30130	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D 63, base D 115
5	3006	30068	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	-
6	3006	30080	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D 55
7	3006	30068	Jug	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 42–45
8	3005	30065	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D 90
9	3021	30106	Bottle	Colorless with greenish tinge	Rim D 30
10	3006	30068	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D 48
11	3006	30022	Bottle	Colorless with bluish tinge	Rim D 48
12	3009	30011	<i>Eulogia</i> juglet	Colorless	-
13	3009	30011	<i>Eulogia</i> juglet	Colorless	-
14	3008	30053	<i>Eulogia</i> juglet	Colorless	-

Bottles, Jugs and Juglets

Plain Bottles (Fig. 3:1, 2, 9–11).— This group is represented by two rim-and-neck fragments and three lower body pieces. At least 30 additional plain bottle rims and about 20 concave bottle bases were collected at the site. Numbers 1 and 2 have a rounded rim; No. 1 has a long and narrow cylindrical neck, whereas No. 2 has a conical mouth, a cylindrical neck and convex shoulders. Number 9 has a piriform body with a concave bottom. Bottle Nos. 10 and 11 have a globular squat body with a concave bottom and a cylindrical or conical neck.

The plain bottles usually have a globular or piriform body and a flat or concave bottom. The neck occurs in many variations: long or short, cylindrical or funnel-shaped,

with or without a constriction at the lower end. These bottles are characteristic of the Byzantine period throughout Syria-Palestine. Many specimens were recently unearthed at the nearby sites of Ha-Bonim (see n. 4) and Naḥal Tanninim Dam (see n. 2), and at Ḥ. Naḥur in Wadi ‘Ara (Winter, forthcoming). Bottles resembling No. 10 (as well as Fig. 3:4 in shape, not decoration) were found farther south, e.g., at Kh. el-Ni‘ana, dated to the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: Fig. 35:3, 4, 6). Rim-and-neck pieces of similar bottles were also discovered in the Byzantine fill of the painted tomb at Migdal Ashqelon (Katsnelson 1999:73*–74*, Fig. 3:10–12, and see many parallels therein).

Bottle with Mold-Blown Decoration (Fig. 3:3).— This bottle has an uneven rounded rim, a funnel-shaped mouth, a cylindrical neck, and convex shoulders; its shape resembles that of contemporary Byzantine plain bottles. The bottle is decorated with mold-blown, slightly twisted, vertical ribbing on the mouth and neck.

Bottles with mold-blown ribbing were common in the Byzantine period; a similar bottle was found in the excavations of the Byzantine city wall of Caesarea Maritima, in a context assigned to the sixth and early seventh centuries CE (Peleg and Reich 1992:155, Fig. 18:6). Several bottles with mold-blown ribbing on the mouth or neck were excavated at the nearby sites of Ha-Bonim (see n. 4) and Naḥal Tanninim Dam (see n. 2). Two examples, discovered in the church at Shave Ziyon, were dated to the fifth–sixth centuries CE (Barag 1967:66–67, Fig. 16:6, 10). Many vessels with different variations of mold-blown ribbing were unearthed in Tomb 10 at Ḥ. Qaṣṭra (see n. 3) and in the Byzantine fill of the painted tomb at Migdal Ashqelon (Katsnelson 1999:74*–78*, Fig. 4:9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and see discussion and parallels therein).

Bottles and a Jug with Trail Decoration on the Mouth or Neck (Fig. 3:4–8).— This diverse group is represented by five illustrated pieces and seven additional fragments with trail decoration. The complete bottle, No. 4, was mended from several pieces and has a rounded rim. A very thin trail winds around its cylindrical neck, nine windings are intact. The bottle's shoulders are convex and the bottom concave. Bottle Nos. 5 and 6 also have a rounded rim and a cylindrical neck. Number 5 is adorned with 14 thin horizontal trail windings. Number 6 has a thin trail wound diagonally around its neck (or mouth), of which seven windings are intact. Number 7 probably belonged to a jug. It has an unevenly infolded rim with traces of a handle, and a funnel-shaped mouth with a very thin trail wound three to four times below the rim. Number 8 is unusual in its thickened, infolded rim and very thin trail windings, of which three

are intact; its walls are deformed, creating a wavy profile.

The decorated bottles and jugs resemble their plain counterparts in shape and variations. Trail decoration on the mouth or neck appeared in the region during the fourth century CE and was frequent throughout the Byzantine period (Barag 1970:193–196, Pls. 42:20, 21, 21-1; 43:22, 22-1, 23-1, 23-2, 27-1, 29-1 and see many parallels therein; 1983:37, Fig. 9:2). Various mouth-and-neck fragments resembling Nos. 5 and 6 were discovered at the nearby sites of Ḥ. 'Aqav (Cohen 2000: Pl. 3:29, 32, 33–35), Ḥ. Raqit (Lehrer-Jacobson 2003: Pl. 9:1, 2, 7), Ha-Bonim (see n. 4) and the Naḥal Tanninim Dam (see n. 2). Tombs 10 and 16 at Ḥ. Qaṣṭra yielded bottles resembling Nos. 4 and 6, one of them with an infolded rim (Castru 1999:23). Bottles such as Nos. 4 and 5 were found at Kh. el-Ni'ana and dated to the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: Fig. 34:4, 6). Pieces similar to No. 7 have so far scarcely been published.

Eulogia Juglets (Fig. 3:12–14).— The three colorless pieces bear mold-blown decorations: No. 12 has a concentric lozenge with a depression near its corner; Nos. 13 and 14 are adorned with a grillwork pattern. Fragment Nos. 12 and 13, from the same basket, probably belonged to two sides of the same vessel.

These fragments belonged to a group of hexagonal-sectioned, mold-blown *eulogia* juglets bearing geometric and floral motifs, usually three motifs recurring twice in the same order on the body (Israeli 2003:277–280). They probably served pilgrims as containers of 'blessings', oil, or water from the Holy Land, and are most likely contemporaneous (or slightly earlier) with the hexagonal vessels bearing Jewish and Christian symbols that were made in Jerusalem between 578–636 CE for the same purpose (Barag 1971; Israeli 2003:270–271).

The mold-blown *eulogia* juglets are not frequent finds in excavations in the region, yet

several specimens with the same designs as on the pieces from H. Rozez were recorded. A mold-blown hexagonal juglet adorned with palm fronds, lozenges and grillwork pattern, was unearthed in the Late Roman–Byzantine Tomb 16 at H. Qastra (see n. 3). Three body fragments of this type with lozenges and triangles were discovered at H. Hermeshit.⁵ The town site at Samaria-Sebaste yielded the lower part of a hexagonal mold-blown vessel, with each of its sides decorated with a different design: palm fronds, disks, lozenges and lattice (or grillwork) pattern (Crowfoot 1957:416, Fig. 96:8). A similar bronze vessel, probably a mold, was discovered in the town (Kenyon 1957:451, Fig. 109:9). Two hexagonal mold-blown juglets with the same designs, in the collections of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, are assigned to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Israeli 2003:277, Cat. Nos. 371, 372).

Cosmetic Vessel

Double Tube Vessel (Fig. 4:1).— This piece belonged to a double tube, made by pinching

along the center of a cylindrical tube to form two tubes. Plain, undecorated pieces appeared in the fourth century CE, and continued in elaborately ornamented versions well into the Byzantine period (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnleson 2007: Figs. 17–21, and see discussion and parallels therein). This fragment cannot be precisely dated as it is too small to allow reconstruction of the complete vessel or its decoration, if any.

Oil Lamps

Stemmed Bowl-Shaped Oil Lamps (Fig. 4: 2, 3).— These solid cylindrical stems, together with three more found at the site, belonged to oil lamps of the stemmed bowl-shaped type. They were common mostly during the late Byzantine period, and are a frequent find in churches and synagogues of the period (Barag 1970:182–183, Types 13:3–13:9, Pl. 40:3–9, and see parallels therein). A solid stem was discovered at the nearby site of H. 'Aqav (Cohen 2000:168–170, Pl. 2:24). Many examples were associated with the Phase II/4 construction of the Byzantine

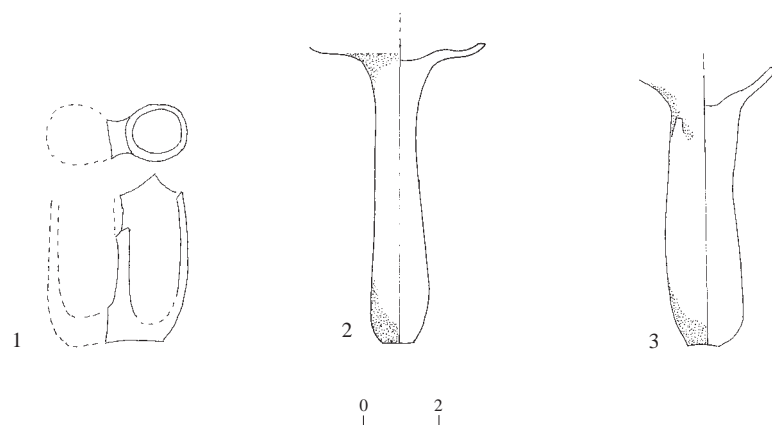


Fig. 4. Cosmetic vessel and oil lamps.

No.	Locus	Basket	Vessel	Color	Dimensions (mm)	Comments
1	3006	30078	Double tube	Colorless with bluish tinge	-	-
2	3001	30010	Oil lamp	Green	Stem H 70	Pontil scar on bottom
3	3001	30021	Oil lamp	Green	Stem H 60	Pontil scar on bottom

city wall at Caesarea Maritima, dated between the sixth and the early seventh centuries CE (Peleg and Reich 1992:155, 158, 159, 165, Fig. 20, and see discussion and parallels therein).

Summary

The vast majority of the glass finds from the excavation at H. Rozez are from the Byzantine period. The vessels continue Late Roman traditions and generally date from the mid-fourth through the late sixth centuries CE. Some of the types may have continued into the early seventh century CE, although not later, as characteristic Umayyad types are absent from the assemblage.

This group consists of domestic, generally undecorated glass vessels of common types, mostly bowls and bottles. Noteworthy are the large goblet and the *eulogia* juglets.

A deformed vessel (Fig. 3:8) and two small glass-production wasters with remains of chunks and raw glass (not illustrated; L3009) may attest to the existence of a local glass workshop at the site, producing either raw glass or vessels. Glass production activity in the vicinity, as well as elsewhere along the coastal plain, is evident from various surveys and excavations in the region (Gorin-Rosen 1993; 2000).

NOTES

¹ I wish to thank Eli Yannai for the opportunity to study the glass finds, and Yael Gorin-Rosen for her learned advice. The finds were mended by Olga Shorr and drawn by the late Michael Miles, bar Fig. 1:1, drawn by Alina Pikovsky.

² The glass from the IAA excavations at the Naḥal Tanninim Dam site was studied by the author. Thanks are due to the excavators Uzi 'Ad and 'Abed as-Salam Sa'id for permission to cite these yet unpublished finds.

³ The glass from the IAA excavation at Horbat Qaṣṭra, as yet mostly unpublished, is being studied by Yael Gorin-Rosen and Natalya Katsnelson;

I wish to thank them and Ze'ev Yeivin and Gerald Finkielsztejn, directors of the H. Qaṣṭra excavations, for permission to cite these unpublished finds.

⁴ Thanks for permission to cite these unpublished finds are due to Herve Barbé and Miriam Avissar, who headed the IAA excavation at Ha-Bonim, and to Yael Gorin-Rosen, who studied the glass finds.

⁵ These fragments (L412, B1637; L426, B1862) were discovered in the 1991–1993 seasons of the Ne'ot Qedumim excavations, headed by Michal Yron-Lubin. I wish to thank her for permission to cite these unpublished finds. The glass was studied by the author.

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