

## TWO HORN-SHAPED GLASS VESSELS FROM THE ANCIENT CEMETERY AT MIGDAL HA-'EMEQ

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Among the glass finds uncovered in the burial caves at Migdal Ha-'Emeq, two horn-shaped vessels (see Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Figs. 7:3; 19:5) deserve special attention.<sup>1</sup> These vessels, found in Caves L and B, represent a rare type that was known only from various collections around the world. The vessels found at Migdal Ha-'Emeq, dated to the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods (fourth or early fifth centuries CE), are the first excavated specimens, and therefore are very important.

### *Description*

Both horns are similar in their mold-blown ribbing. The horn from Burial Cave B (L4; B116, B140; Fig. 1) was better preserved with a nearly complete profile. It was made of light greenish blue glass covered with sand

deposits, and silver weathering on the exterior and gold weathering on the interior. Its mold-blown decoration starts just below the cut-off, unfinished rim. The ribbing continues to the narrow end, which is broken. The fragment from Burial Cave L (L1; B2265; Fig. 2) was only partially preserved, including merely the narrow end of the horn with its edge cut-off and fire-finished. It is made of light green glass. This horn fragment, although asymmetrical and slightly curved, was identified as a tube by the excavators (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: 12\*). A closer examination of the fragment revealed mold-blown ribs, resembling those of the complete horn. In the process of examining the finds in their original storage box, another fragment of the curved part of this horn was detected (not illustrated by the excavators; see Fig. 2).

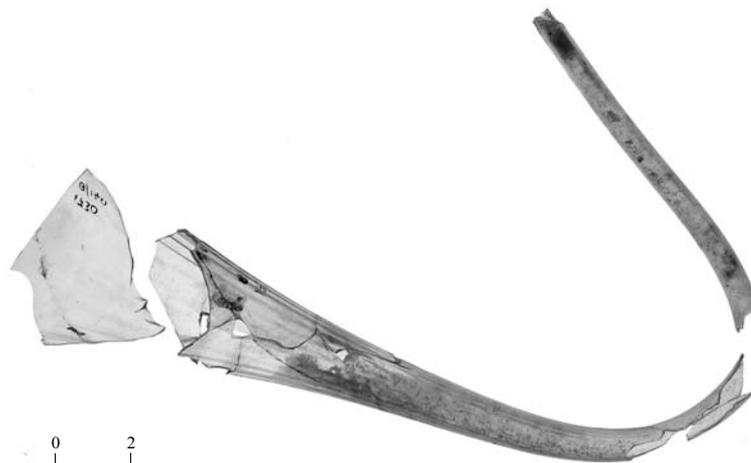


Fig. 1. Horn-shaped glass vessel from Burial B.

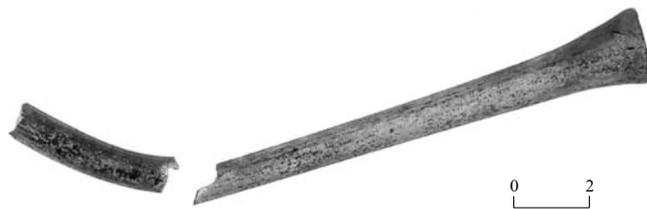


Fig. 2. Horn-shaped glass vessel from Burial L.

### Comparisons

Three horn-shaped glass vessels are in the collections of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto. They are similar in form to those from Migdal Ha-‘Emeq: two of the ROM horns are mold-blown and have the same general shape, although their narrow part is less curved; there are also some differences in fabric and technique (Hayes 1975:91, 122, Pl. 31:480–482). Hayes (1975:91, 122) suggested that the horns were produced in late Syro-Palestinian workshops, dated to the late third or fourth centuries CE.

A “horn-shaped tube” in the collections of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, is said to have come from Palestine, and dated to the third or fourth century CE (Oliver 1980:125, 127: Cat. No. 219). This horn is of natural blue-green glass, probably mold-blown and then extended. According to museum records, the Khayat family reported that the vessel was unearthed near ‘Akko sometime before World War I, and acquired by Azeez Khayat in the early 1920s from the Shoukri-el Saboungy Collection (Oliver 1980:125).

Another horn-shaped vessel is in the Metropolitan Museum Collections (No. 15.43.198; Eisen and Kouchakji 1927:283, Pl. 70, the one before last). This horn was a bequest of Mary Anna Palmer Draper from 1914, said to have been found near Nazareth (Nazareth). Its size is similar to that of the horns from Migdal Ha-‘Emeq, but its body is plain and both edges are unevenly rounded by fire. The color of the glass is yellowish green, covered with silver weathering and iridescence on the exterior, and patches of rusty color crust on the interior.<sup>2</sup>

### Discussion

Horn-shaped glass vessels first appeared during the Early Roman period. However, these early vessels are *rhyton*-shaped, with a wide mouth and a conical body narrowing and curving, ending in a plain or animal head-shaped mouth (see, e.g., examples from excavations in France [Foy and Nenna 2003:253–254, Figs. 89–90], as well as from collections [Brouwer 1991:55]). Such a *rhyton*-shaped horn, now in the Newark Museum, is said to have come from Mt. Carmel and dated from the second half of the first to the early second centuries CE (Auth 1976:94, Cat. No. 100, Color Pl. p. 184). This early horn-type was widespread in the eastern and the western parts of the Roman Empire, unearthed in excavations at Begram, Afghanistan; the Greek Islands of Corfu and Siphnos; Tunisia; and Italy (Auth 1976:94, and see further references therein).

The Migdal Ha-‘Emeq horns differ from the Early Roman, *rhyton*-shaped horns. They seem to resemble another type of vessel, *guttus*, which has the same horn shape attached to a globular body with a small knob handle. One vessel of this type, now in the Louvre Museum, is said to have come from Tiberias, and is dated to the end of the first and early second centuries CE (Arveiller-Dulong and Nenna 2005:184, 197, Cat. No. 549, Pl. 41:549). This type was geographically widespread: five such vessels are known from the West and four from the Near East (Arveiller-Dulong and Nenna 2005:184, 188: n. 76). Another very similar vessel is in the Israel Museum collection, dated, probably incorrectly, to the Islamic period (Brosh 2003:376, Cat. No. 547, no provenance).

*Dating the Vessels*

The Migdal Ha-‘Emek horns are the first to be found *in situ*, and therefore can be dated also by the other artifacts found within the burial caves. All the glass vessels found in those caves are of common types, known in the region mainly from burials. Most were produced in local glass workshops during the Roman and early Byzantine periods. The few selected parallels mentioned below are from the region in order to reinforce this assumption.

The glass vessels found in Burial Cave L can be assigned to at least two groups.<sup>3</sup> The earlier group, dating to the first and early second centuries CE, includes a constricted pear-shaped bottle (Tatcher and Gal, this volume:12\*, Fig. 7:5). A similar bottle from the Franciscan Museum at Nazerat was allegedly unearthed at Iksal in 1924 (Bagatti 1967:225, Fig. 1:16). A contemporary miniature vessel (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 7:6)<sup>4</sup> has parallels in a Roman burial cave on Mt. Gilboa and in Bet She’an, as well as in the western part of the Roman Empire (Gorin-Rosen 1999:63\*, Fig. 7:1, and see further references therein). A small flask with a pear-shaped body and an uneven funnel mouth (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 7:4) might also belong to this early group. It bears similarities to vessels in the Franciscan Museum at Nazerat, which were allegedly unearthed in burials at Bet She’an and Sepphoris (Bagatti 1967:225, Figs. 1:27; 6:139, 140).

The later group of vessels dates to the Late Roman and Byzantine periods. It includes a two-handled jar (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 7:2) made of two colors: the body is light purple and the handles and the applied trail below the neck are green. This color combination is rather well known in Israel. Another jar (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 7:1) belonging to this group is of the typical bluish-green hue, decorated with zigzag trails between the shoulders and the rim, and indentions on the body. The upper part of a double kohl tube with remains of trails on the center of the body (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 7:7), and

a bottle with a funnel-shaped mouth decorated with horizontal trails (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 7:8), are part of this group as well. The latter is made of greenish blue glass with purplish red trails. This combination of shape and color is characteristic of the Byzantine, probably late Byzantine, period.

Burial Cave L also yielded pottery vessels dated from the first to the seventh centuries CE, as well as from the Ottoman period (Tatcher and Gal, this volume:7\*).

Burial Cave B yielded, in addition to the horn, four glass vessels and a glass bracelet (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Figs. 19; 20:1). The vessels include three different types of bottles: a bottle with a wide funnel mouth and globular body, with proportions similar to those of a jar (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 19:1); a complete bottle with a long cylindrical neck with a rounded rim at the end, and a rounded body (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 19:2); and a bottle with a cylindrical neck, slightly widening upward toward a rounded rim, with sloping shoulders and an almost cylindrical body (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 19:3). These bottles were common in the region during the fourth–fifth centuries CE.

A double kohl tube, with two pairs of ear-shaped handles drawn from the body up to the rim and uneven horizontal trails on the body (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 19:4), is of a very common type, locally produced during the fourth–fifth centuries CE. An intact glass bracelet (Tatcher and Gal, this volume: Fig. 20:1), horizontally ribbed with a seam, is of a Byzantine type, dating to the fifth–seventh centuries CE, probably made in Syria-Palestine (Spaer 2001:199–200, No. 449).

The glass finds retrieved from Burial Cave B are all dated to the fourth–fifth centuries CE. This date is also supported by a coin found in the cave and dated to 364–375 CE (studied by Helena Sokolov; see Tatcher and Gal, this volume: No. 5). The pottery from this burial cave was dated to the fourth–seventh centuries CE (Tatcher and Gal, this volume:27\*).

### Conclusions

The horn-shaped vessels from Migdal Ha-'Emeq were dated on the basis of their typology and archaeological context to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE. These horns, as well as those in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Toronto, the Metropolitan Museum and Carnegie Museum (see above), reinforce Hayes' suggestion that they were produced

in the late Syro-Palestinian workshops, which he dated to the late third or fourth centuries CE (Hayes 1975:91, 122). I further suggest narrowing the geographical distribution of the horn-shaped vessels from Migdal Ha-'Emeq. These vessels were most probably locally made in a glass workshop situated in the lower Galilee, presumably in the vicinity of Nazaret and Migdal Ha-'Emeq.

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> I wish to thank Clara Amit for taking the photographs. Thanks are due to Rachel Kudish-Vashdi for encouraging me to publish this paper and improving my text.

<sup>2</sup> I wish to thank Dr. Christopher Lightfoot, the Curator of the Greek and Roman Galleries at The Metropolitan Museum, for kindly showing me this vessel and providing me with all the information concerning it.

<sup>3</sup> While rechecking the finds in the storage boxes, I found a few more glass fragments of different glass vessels, four of which belong to the earlier group, and three which belong to the later group of vessels.

<sup>4</sup> Checking the material, I observed that the vertical lines seen on the drawing of this vessel are not a mold blown pattern, but the result of severe pitting following the blowing strikes.

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