

A COASTAL RURAL OCCUPATION OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD AT 'EN GEV

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During the winter of 2002 a salvage excavation was conducted on the eastern coast of the Sea of Galilee, immediately south of Kibbutz 'En Gev (map ref. NIG 26010–35/74215–65, OIG 21010–35/24215–65; Fig. 1), between the anchorage of Susita (Hippos) to the north and the harbor of Susita to the south (Nun 1990:18).¹ The excavation was prompted by the projected digging of a wide sewer trench, and was preceded by an archaeological trial excavation, consisting of twelve trenches, dug with a mechanical excavator. The trenches were 0.6 m in width, between 4 and 18.5 m in length, and reached a maximum depth of

2.5 m. Portions of walls uncovered in seven of the trenches averaged 0.3 m in depth. The excavation season started by manually widening the most promising trenches directly above the track of the projected sewer based on the primary data. Then, after confirming the presence of significant architectural remains and a preliminary dating of the finds, the excavation area was expanded using a mechanical excavator in order to connect the probe trenches. The dimensions of the explored area were 30 m in length by 2.5–6.0 m in width.

The remains were uncovered between levels -206.85 and -207.15 to the north, and between -207.54 and -208.01 to the south. For reference, prior to 1932 the maximum elevation of the Sea of Galilee was -209.50 (Nun 1991).²

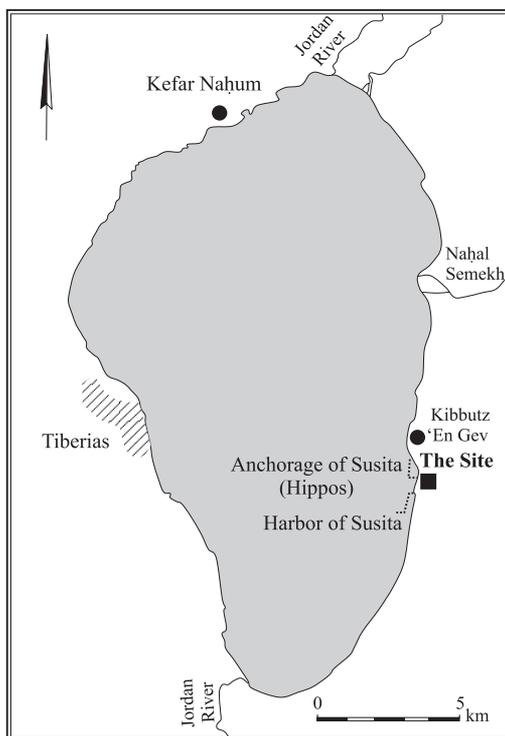
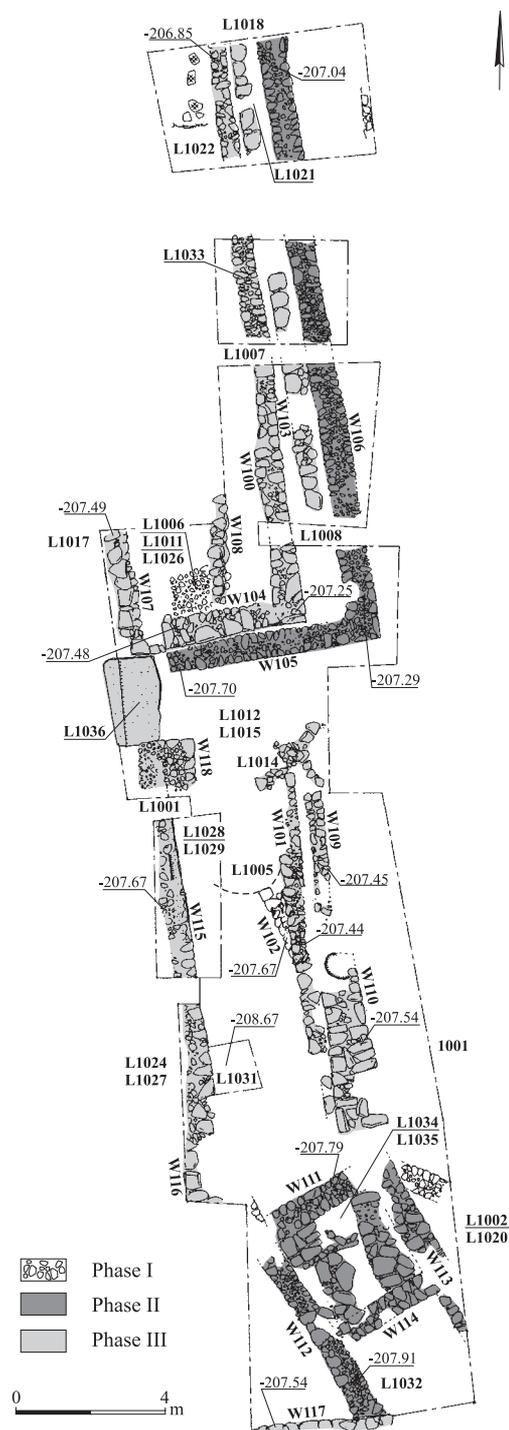


Fig. 1. Location map.

STRATIGRAPHY

The main problem faced by the excavators concerned the chronological interpretation of the remains. Generally, merely one course of the walls survived, rarely two or three. Only one wall (W115; Plan 1), consisting of one course resting on a deep foundation, was preserved c. 1 m high. Only a portion of the preserved top of this wall and its eastern face were uncovered at the western limit of the excavation. Of the eighteen recorded walls, only four bonded (W100 with W104, and W105 with W106), and in two cases one wall cut another (W101 cut W102, W117 cut W112). Nonetheless, it is possible to divide the buildings into two main groups (Plan 1; Fig. 2; Appendix 1): (1) The walls uncovered on the surface layer (Phase III), which provide evidence for the most recent occupation levels, i.e., the Late Ottoman and



Plan 1. General plan of the excavation.

the British Mandate periods (W100, W101, W103, W104, W107, W108, W109, W110, W115, W116, W117 and W118); (2) The walls uncovered in the building fills of the upper phase below the surface layer, belonging to the Crusader and Mamluk periods (Phase II) and somewhat earlier (Phase I) (W102, W105, W106, W111, W112, W113 and W114).

Phase I: Prior to the Medieval Period

A wall oriented northwest–southeast was discovered in the center of the excavated area (W102). Only a short portion of the wall was uncovered, having been disturbed to the north by a pit (L1005). These two features were cancelled by a later wall oriented north–south (W101), thus providing a relative chronology. Although the rim of a Roman cooking pot was discovered during the cleaning of the preserved top of W102 (Fig. 9:1), the fill in direct relation with the wall contained finds from the Early Islamic period (Fig. 9:3, 4).

Phase II: The Medieval Period

Two complexes, designated the southern and northern buildings, were assigned to this period.

The southern building (Fig. 3), oriented northwest–southeast, was delimited by four walls (W111, W112, W113 and W114). Only one course of these walls was preserved, and the northeastern and northwestern corners of the building were destroyed, complicating the understanding of the architectural relationship between the walls. The plan of the building consists of at least two rooms, the southern end having been only partially explored. In the northern room, the paved floor (L1035) was almost completely preserved. Finds related directly to this floor (L1034) date to the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries (Fig. 10:1, 2). In the southern room an almost complete cooking pot (Fig. 10:3) was discovered in

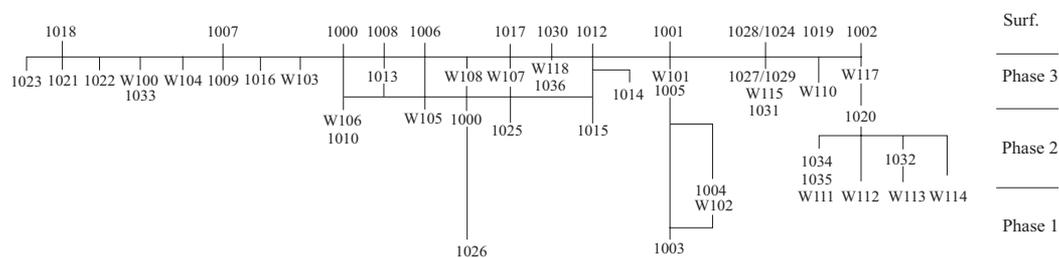


Fig. 2. Stratigraphic chart.



Fig. 3. The southern building, looking southeast.

a small basin surrounded by a few stones (L1032), perhaps the remains of a hearth. This handmade pottery vessel can be dated to the Mamluk or Ayyubid period (see below). The top layers (L1020 and L1002), although later than this occupation, yielded finds mainly, but not exclusively, representative of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (Fig. 10:4–9). Residual finds included a fragment of an oil lamp of the Byzantine period (Fig. 9:2) and a coin of the fourth century CE (IAA97641; L1002, B10002). Intrusive finds include fragments from the late Ottoman period, including characteristic dark gray Gaza Ware (Fig. 12:5).

The second complex consisted of two walls (W105, W106) uncovered in the northern part of the site (Fig. 4). These remains correspond to the eastern and southern walls of a large building. Finds in stratigraphical relation with this building date to the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries (L1006–1011: Fig. 11:1–9; L1012–1015: Fig. 12:2–4). Most of the finds discovered in relation to this complex were gathered in the southwestern area (L1006, L1011). The layers of fill containing these artifacts partly rested on a layer of gravel, which may be identified as the remains of the foundation of a floor. The vast majority of pottery found in these layers



Fig. 4. The northern building, looking northwest.

consisted of handmade plain and painted pottery, including a large bowl that could be only partly restored (Fig. 11:4). However, the presence of fragments of a cooking pot, characteristic of the Frankish period, was noted, familiar from the second half of the twelfth century and not later than the beginning of the thirteenth century (Fig. 11:6). The identifiable finds from the layer below the foundation of the floor, inside the building, belonged to the Byzantine period (L1026). Brown Painted Ware appeared in these levels, outside the building, also dating to the transition between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (Fig. 12:4).

Besides their location in the same stratigraphic level, dated to the Medieval period by the pottery, the remains of these two buildings exhibit an identical construction technique. Their foundations consist of double faces of fieldstones with a fill of packed small stones. The construction took the form of a horizontally leveled podium, on which the building, probably made of unbaked mudbricks, was set. In the northern room of the southern building, the pavement abuts the inner limit of the floor foundation made of small stones,

at a level higher than the southern building. Originally, this floor abutted the internal faces of the brick walls, now missing, although the negative of these walls may be identified (Fig. 5). This construction technique, consisting of a mudbrick wall resting on a stone foundation, has been in use at least since the Bronze Age in the Mediterranean basin and the Near East (for the Roman period, see Adam 2005:122), and continues until today (Guest-Papamanoli 1978:19–22). Remains of walls, still standing in the immediate vicinity of the excavation area, testify to the use of this technique at ‘En Gev in the Ottoman period and perhaps until the time of the British Mandate (Fig. 6).

Phase III: Modern Occupation

Many remains of walls belong to this occupation phase, while not really displaying a comprehensive plan.

At the southern end of the excavation, a wall oriented east–west (W117) superposes the western wall (W112) of the Medieval-period building; only its northern face was exposed. One to two courses, resting on a concrete foundation, were preserved.



Fig. 5. The northwestern corner of the southern building, showing the relationship between the wall foundations and the pavement with the missing mudbrick walls, looking north.

In the center of the excavation, to the east, is a series of walls, all oriented north–south (W101, W109 and W110). Built of two faces, 0.3 to 0.8 m thick, without an inner fill, they are preserved only one course high. The poor state of their preservation does not enable the determination of a relative chronology between them. Besides the fact that they are all located in the surface layer, W101 in the northwest rested on earlier W102 and on the fill of a pit (L1005), which contained dark gray Gaza Ware of the late Ottoman period, along with residual pottery from the Medieval period.

To the west of this complex, a 6.5 m long wall (W115) oriented north–south was uncovered. Its location at the western limit of the excavation prevented us from uncovering its western face and evaluating its thickness. The eastern face of W115 displayed one course (0.27 m high) coated with a white lime plaster. It rested on a deep foundation (0.76 m high) protruding slightly beyond the line of the face. Although this wall is included in the last phase of occupation due to its stratigraphic



Fig. 6. Remains of a mudbrick wall, still standing, dated to the end of the nineteenth–beginning of the twentieth centuries, looking east.

position, the associated pottery dated exclusively to the Medieval period (L1024, L1027, L1028 and L1029). A pierced coin of Constantine I, perhaps reused as a pendant, was found in the higher part of the stratigraphic sequence (IAA 97642; L1024, B10051; 313–318 CE). A probe revealed that the foundation of this wall was set into a sterile, sandy sediment (L1031). Wall 118, built of relatively small stones and preserved only one course high, was uncovered to the north of W115. It displayed a neater construction with slightly larger stones on its eastern and northern faces, probably corresponding to wall faces and thus defined the corner of a building. While the relationship of this wall with W115 cannot be established, it is clear that its northern end rested on a modern concrete foundation (L1036). This concrete foundation cut the western part of the southern wall of the Medieval-period building (W105). The finds in the layer covering this concrete foundation, dating exclusively to the

thirteenth–fourteenth centuries, merely indicate modern construction or plowing activity in the area.

The last complex is located in the northern part of the excavated area, and its walls are curiously oriented, as were those of the preceding occupation phase. This new construction is mainly defined by two walls (W100 and W104) built of two faces, maximum thickness 0.6 m, preserved to one, or, rarely, two courses, which met and formed a corner. To the west of the southern wall (W104) was the modern concrete foundation (L1036) which may have been a threshold, although no floor could be associated with it. Outside, along the eastern side of the building, were remains of a wall built up of a single line of stones (W103). Its function is even more difficult to understand, since its face was set very close to the eastern face of W100. To the west of W104 and north of foundation L1036 a small wall (W107; 2 m long) built of a single course of stone (one stone wide) was uncovered. It may have been an internal partition belonging to a later building phase, as evidenced by the absence of bonding with the southern wall of the building, and the fact that it is set slightly higher than this wall. The thickness of W107 could not be ascertained, as it was uncovered in the western balk, a length of 2.35 m; its two lower courses protruded below the upper course, and therefore seem to be part of a foundation. The different building technique of W107, compared with the other walls of the building, may also be an indication of the different function of this structure. The position of this wall may signify that it could have been a central partition of the building, located below the position of the ridge purlin.

Although finds from the Medieval period predominated in these layers, some of them contained Ottoman or even twentieth-century pottery (L1001, L1007, L1008, L1017 and L1014; Fig. 12:6). A residual coin of the Hellenistic period, dating from the reign of Ptolemy II, was also associated with this stratum (IAA 97640; L1001, B10053). In the northern part of this stratum, the bottom of

the eastern wall (W100) of the large building rested on a large iron implement, probably an agricultural tool (Figs. 7, 8). The farther the



Fig. 7. Iron implement, as it was uncovered, in the building fill L1007 below the foundations of W100, before its partial dismantlement (L1033), looking south.



Fig. 8. Iron implement.

excavation extended to the north of the site, where buildings were relatively well preserved, the more abundant were modern finds (L1018, L1021 and L1022).

POTTERY³

The Roman and Byzantine Periods

One cooking pot (Fig. 9:1) of Kefar Ḥananya Form 3A (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:111–119) was identified. This type dates between the mid-first century BCE and the mid-second century CE. It is also found at Kefar Naḥum, located at the northern end of the Sea of Galilee, where it appears in a stratigraphic context dating it between the mid-first century BCE and the mid-first century CE (Loffreda 1982:416–417).

A handle belonging to a Samaritan oil lamp of the fourth century (Fig. 9:2; Sussman 1978:241–243) was recovered. However, wide-ribbed handles are also present on later types of Samaritan lamps (fifth–sixth centuries).

The Early Islamic Period

Among the finds from Phase I, a small rim fragment of a krater (Fig. 9:3) dates to the end of the Umayyad period (mid-eighth century), as evidenced by parallels in well-dated contexts at Pella (McNicoll and Houston Smith 1982:164–167; Walmsley 1995:661). This object was found in the same layer as a basin (Fig. 9:4) with thick walls and combed decoration attributed to the Abbasid period (Avissar 1996:127).

The Medieval Period⁴

Wheel-Made Types

Bowls.— Carinated, monochrome glazed bowls with green or yellow glaze on white slip (Fig. 10:6) appear in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries at Yoqne' am (Avissar 1996:94) and in the thirteenth century at St. Mary of the Carmel (Pringle 1984:103) and Caesarea (Pringle 1985:177). But this type seems to continue into the fourteenth century, as witnessed in the

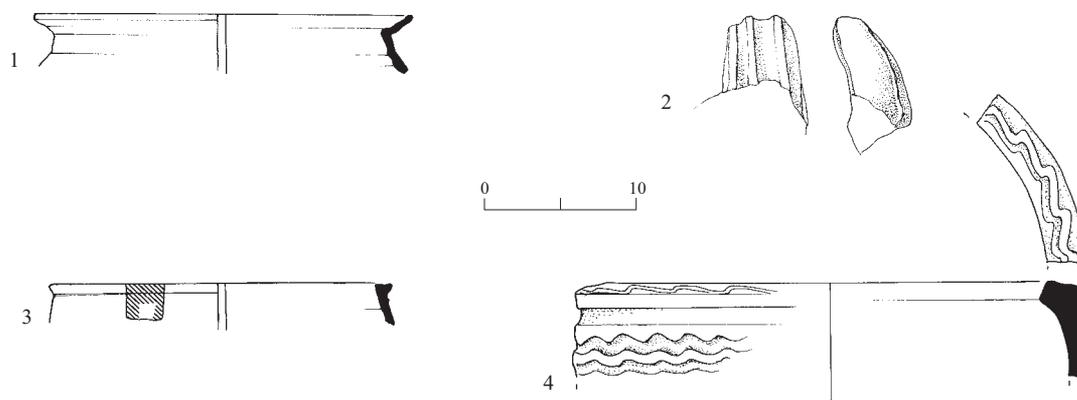


Fig. 9. Pre-Medieval pottery.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Comparisons
1	Cooking pot	10009/1	1004	Light brown clay	Adan-Bayewitz 1993: Pl. 3A Loffreda 1982: Fig. 6:7
2	Oil lamp	10052/3	1020	Light brown clay	Sussman 1978: Pl. 46:46
3	Krater	10007/2	1003	Very light brown clay, red-painted decoration on ext.	Walmsley 1995: Fig. 6:2 McNicoll and Houston Smith 1982: Pls. 142:3; 143:1
4	Basin	10007/1	1003	Reddish brown clay, orange and gray core with many calcite inclusions, combed decoration on ext. and rim	Avissar 1996: Type 28, Fig. XIII.81:1, 4

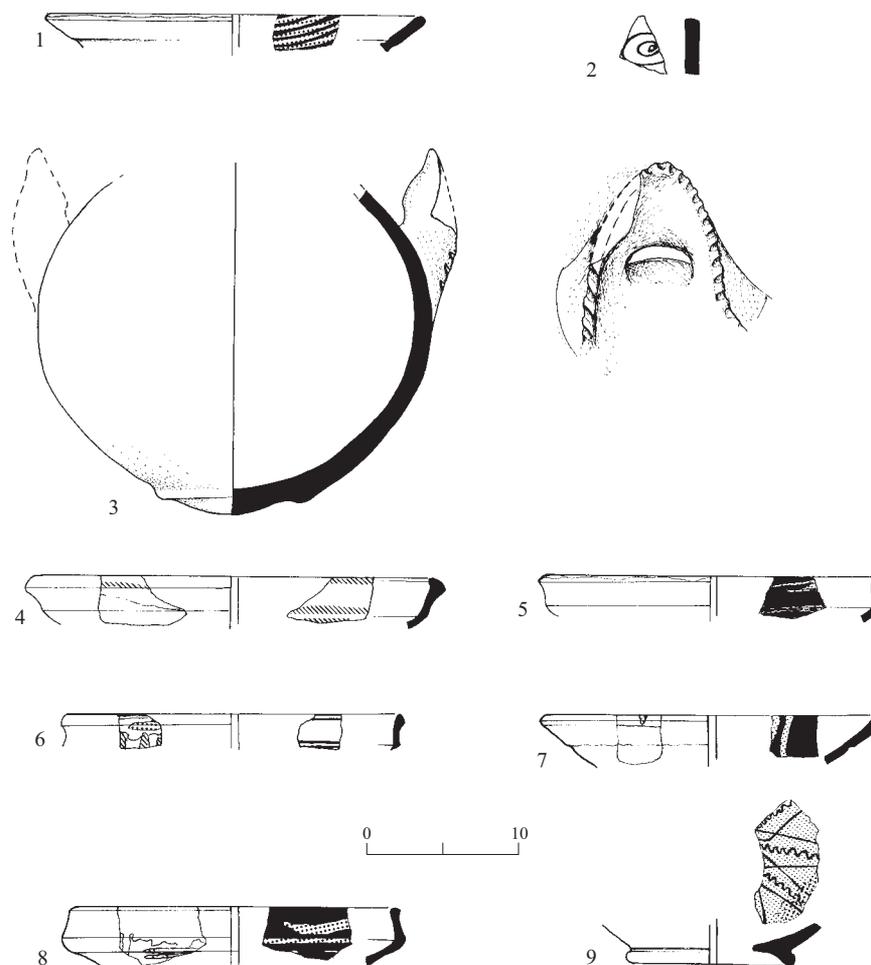


Fig. 10. Medieval-period pottery from the southern building.

excavations at Tripoli, Lebanon (Salamé-Sarkis 1980:186–191).

An example of a Brown Painted Bowl (Fig. 12:4) is also found at Yoqne‘am. This pottery, imported from the Byzantine Empire, appears at sites such as Constantinople, Sparta and Corinth by the end of the eleventh century. It occurs at sites in Syria-Palestine only at the end of the twelfth century and continues into the thirteenth century (Avisar 1996:105–106).

Glazed Green or Yellow Slip Painted Ware (Figs. 10:5, 7, 8; 11:5, 8; 12:1) is quite common at the site. It appears at many sites in the Near East and the difference in the color of the glaze does not seem to be a chronological criterion. The two types represented at Yoqne‘am date

from the twelfth–fourteenth centuries (Avisar 1996:96). A bowl from ‘En Gev (Fig. 10:8) is related to Type 45 of Yoqne‘am, based on its green glaze, and to Type 44, based on its form (which is generally decorated with yellow glazing). Pottery with yellow decoration appears in Stratum I at Emmaus–Qubeibeh, which dates from the second half of the twelfth to the first half of the thirteenth centuries (Bagatti 1993:127–130). Always associated with yellow decoration, this form appears only in Stratum D of al-Burg al-Aḥmar (The Red Tower), starting at the end of the thirteenth century (Pringle 1986:149–150). Very slightly represented at twelfth century Belmont, in the period of Frankish occupation (Stratum B),

◀ Fig. 10

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Comparisons
1	Glazed bowl	10065/1	1034	Dark reddish brown clay, slip-painted decoration on int. under transparent green glaze	Avissar 1996: Type 45, Fig. XIII.33
2	Glazed bowl	10065/2	1034	Light reddish brown clay, white slip and sgraffito decoration on int. under transparent yellow glaze on int.	Loffreda 1982: Fig. 9:1 Bagatti and Battista 1976: Pl. 28:3
3	Cooking pot	10063/1	1032	Handmade; light brown clay with quartz inclusions and straw imprints, black core, traces of burnish, hold-up horizontal handle; this type usually has a thumb-indented rim	Tushingam 1985: Fig. 45:16, 18 Avissar 1996: Type 11, Fig. XIII.98:7 Grey 2000: Fig. 6.6:116
4	Glazed bowl	10052/2	1020	Light orange-brown clay, cream slip and yellow glaze on int. and over the rim	Pringle 1984: Fig. 7:41–45
5	Glazed bowl	10052/1	1020	As No. 1	As No. 1
6	Glazed bowl	10046/1	1020	Reddish brown clay, white slip and green glaze on int. and over the rim	Avissar 1996: Type 42, Fig. XIII.30 Pringle 1984: Fig. 7:41 Pringle 1985: Fig. 3:13
7	Glazed bowl	10060/1	1002	Reddish brown clay, slip-painted decoration on int. under transparent yellow glaze inside	Avissar 1996: Type 44, Fig. XIII.32:3 Pringle 1986: Fig. 50:67 Bagatti 1993: Fig. 31:10
8	Glazed bowl	10013/1	1002	As No. 1	As No. 1
9	Glazed bowl	10060/3	1002	Reddish brown clay, white slip int., sgraffito decoration on int. under transparent yellow glaze with splashes of green	Riis and Poulsen 1957: Group CXVc., Fig. 820 Loffreda 1982: Fig. 9:4 Bagatti and Battista 1976: Pl. 28:3

Fig. 11 ▶

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Comparisons
1	Basin	10021/7	1011	Light brown clay with grits and straw imprints, black core, handmade, buff slip and traces of burnish on the rim	Avissar 1996: Type 33, Fig. XIII.86:8 Tushingam 1985: Fig. 36:16 Pringle 1984: Fig. 3:1 Pringle 1986: Fig. 41:4
2	Basin	10021/4	1011	Light brown clay with many grits and straw imprints, black core, handmade, buff slip and traces of burnish on the rim	Avissar 1996: Type 33, Fig. XIII.86
3	Bowl	10021/6	1011	Light brown clay with grits and straw imprints, gray and black core, handmade, buff slip and burnish on int. and on the rim, decorated with geometric patterns painted in light red on int. and on the rim	Avissar 1996: Type 34, Fig. XIII.87:2 Tushingam 1985: Fig. 45:13 Pringle 1984: Fig. 4:21 de Vaux and Stève 1950: Pl. F:14, 24, 25
4	Bowl	10021/3	1011	As No. 3	As No. 3
5	Glazed bowl	10021/2	1011	Reddish brown clay, slip-painted decoration on int. under transparent yellow glaze	Avissar 1996: Type 44, Fig. XIII.32:7 Pringle 1986: Fig. 50:68 Bagatti 1993: Fig. 31:11–13
6	Cooking pot	10021/1	1011	Reddish brown clay, brown glazed mark on ext.	Avissar 1996: Type 7, Fig. XIII.94:3 Pringle 1986: Fig. 48:41 Knowles 2000: Fig. 7.1:7
7	Basin	10016/3	1006	Light brown clay with grits, gray core, handmade	Avissar 1996: Type 33, Fig. XIII.86:6–8
8	Glazed bowl	10016/2	1006	As No. 5	As No. 5
9	Flask	10016/1	1006	Buff clay, molded decoration	Sauvaget 1932: Pl. 24:93, 97–99 Riis and Poulsen 1957: Group DXVIIIc., Fig. 929

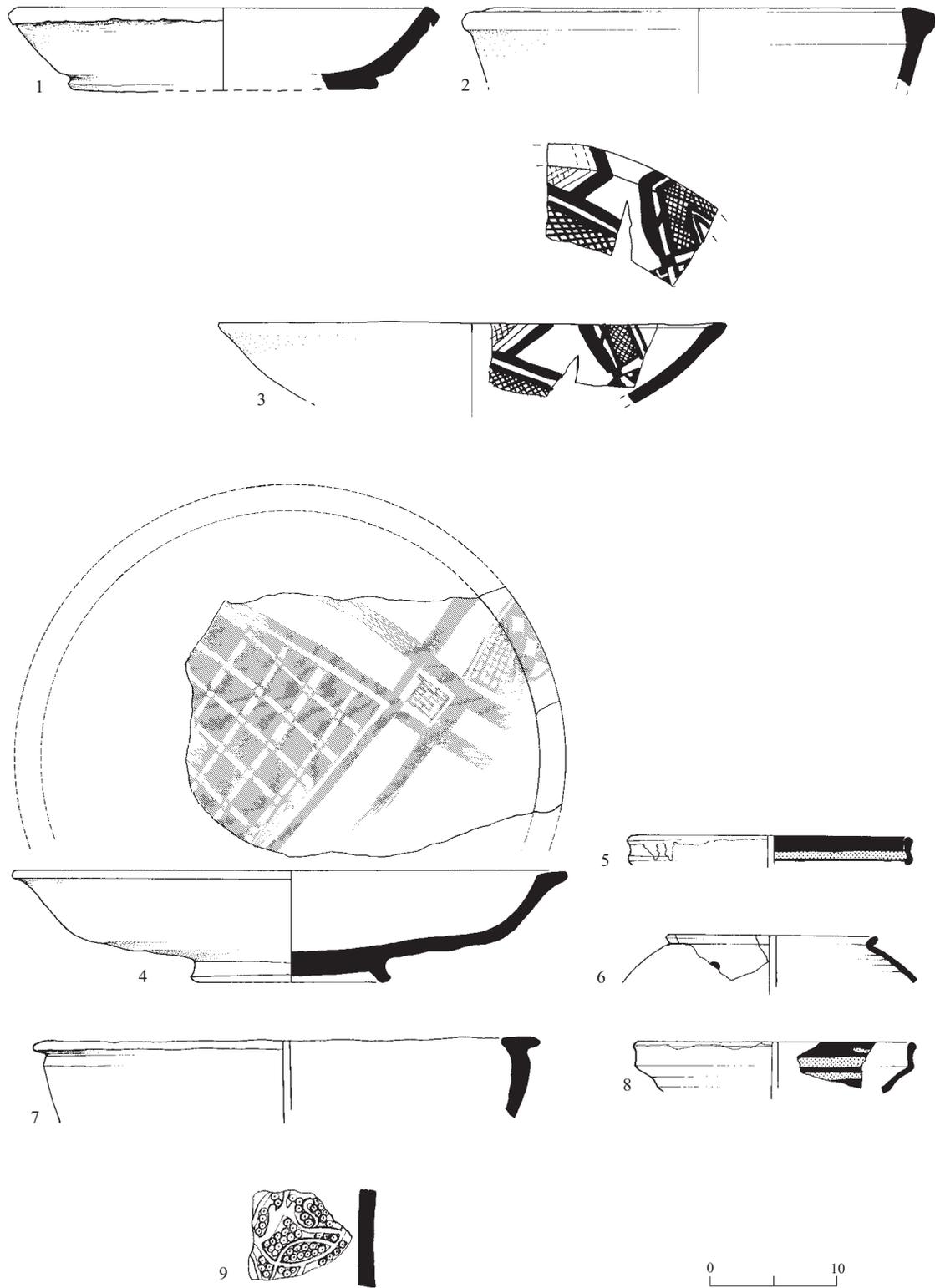


Fig. 11. Medieval-period pottery from the northern building.

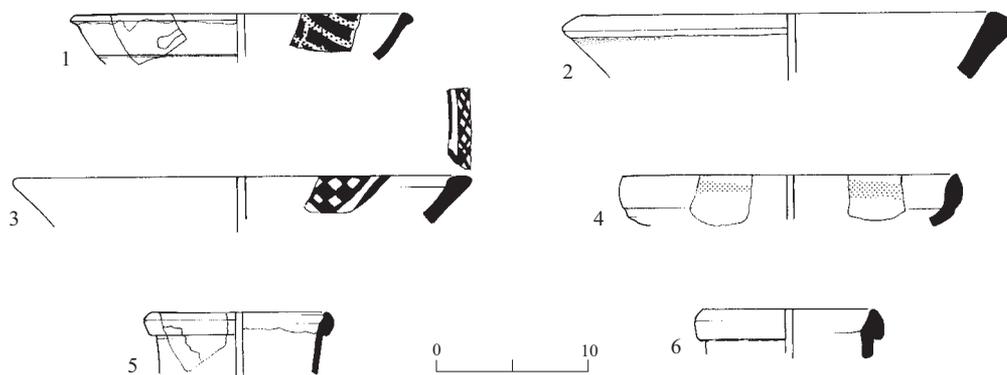


Fig. 12. Medieval-period pottery outside the buildings (1–4) and Ottoman-period pottery (5, 6).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Comparisons
1	Glazed bowl	10010/1	1005	Reddish-brown clay, slip-painted decoration on int. under transparent green glaze	Avissar 1996: Type 45, Fig. XIII.33
2	Bowl	10031/2	1015	Light brown clay, gray core, handmade, buff slip and burnish on int. and rim	Avissar 1996: Type 33, Fig. XIII.86:5 Pringle 1986: Fig. 41:3, 4
3	Bowl	10031/1	1015	As Fig. 11:3	As Fig. 11:3
4	Glazed bowl	10024/1	1012	Light brown clay, thick white wash int. and over the rim, decorated with brown painted band on inner rim, colourless transparent glaze on int. and over the rim	Avissar 1996: Type 64, Fig. XIII.48:2
5	Jar	10060/2	1002	Reddish brown clay, fired to black ext.	
6	Jug	10030/1	1014	Light brown clay, dark purple slip int. and ext., splash of green glaze ext.	Zevulun 1978:196, Fig. 10

this local production appears at Belmont in the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods (Stratum C) and continues as late as the Ottoman period (Stratum D; Knowles 2000:105).

Pottery vessels with sgraffito are poorly represented at the site (Fig. 10:2, 9). Parallels appear at Kefar Nahum, dated from the mid-twelfth to the thirteenth centuries (Loffreda 1982:420). One vessel (Fig. 10:9) displays a decoration identical to a cup from Ḥama (Riis and Poulsen 1957:236). This form was found there in great quantities in several poorly dated structures (i.e., before 1401), and in another one dated before 1260. At Ḥama, they are interpreted as imitations of Saint-Simeon Port pottery, the production of which decreased after the conquest of the site by the Mamluks in 1268.

Cooking Pots.— A cooking pot characteristic of Frankish sites (Fig. 11:6) appears also at Yoqne'am from the end of the twelfth to the first half of the thirteenth centuries (Avissar 1996:135). An identical date is suggested by the discovery of similar cooking pots in Stratum C of al-Burj al-Aḥmar (Pringle 1986:146) and Strata B and C of Belmont (Knowles 2000:101).

Mold-Made Types

Flask.— A fragment of a pilgrim flask with an elaborate, mold-made decoration was found in L1006 (Fig. 11:9). This type is very common at Ḥama and is most likely a Syrian import. While in shape it is related to the so-called “gourde en tambour” (“drum flasks”) with flat walls, found at Ḥama (Type 1), its decoration can be found on flasks of spherical form, found in smaller

numbers there (Type 2). This pottery appears at Ḥama in three contexts dated no later than 1401, and in one structure dated before 1260 (Riis and Poulsen 1957:256).

The largest collection of this type originated from a clandestine excavation carried out in Damascus between 1925 and 1926. Although the discovery was disconnected from its context, the quantity of fragments, the repairs carried out thereafter and the presence of mold fragments, provide evidence that the site was a workshop. Like at Ḥama, it is possible to distinguish two main types for this product in Damascus: one with convex walls, the other with flat walls. This latter category is decorated with motifs identical to those on the flask from 'En Gev. The use of the mold relates these vessels not to Syrian manufacture, but rather to a Mesopotamian one, and scholars have established a parallel with the *cruches de Mossoul* (Sarre 1921:19–21). Sauvaget (1932), who studied the Damascus workshop, explains the appearance of this production in Syria as a result of the exodus of craftsmen from the Euphrates during the Mongolian invasion (with the conquest of Baghdad in 1258). He also identified the presence of a heraldic symbol—a lion—on some pieces, which can be related to Sultan Baybars. However, he does not mention the two polo sticks, also belonging to the Mamluk heraldry. Surprisingly, whereas his observations and the arguments he develops make it possible to date this item to the second half of the thirteenth century, he believes that this production started in the beginning of the fourteenth century (Sauvaget 1932). Although this premise is based only on a few fragments of spouts, this pottery is present in the first phase of Emmaus–Qubeibeh, dated from the end of the twelfth to the first half of the thirteenth centuries (Bagatti 1993:133).

Handmade Pottery

Cooking Pot.— A handmade cooking pot (Fig. 10:3) finds parallels in Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:151), Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:136) and

Belmont (Grey 2000:100). The most relevant parallels, both in the general form as well as in the indented decoration on the edge of the handle, are from Jerusalem, based on relevant current published data. These contexts are dated to the Mamluk period, between the end of the thirteenth and the fourteenth centuries. However, an example with the same type of handle, lacking the indented decoration, appears in Stratum C at Belmont, which would date this type to the Ayyubid period.

Handmade pottery, with or without geometric decoration (Plain Handmade, Painted Geometric Handmade), is very common at the site. Except for the cooking pot, the identified forms always display a largely open profile: bowls or basins (Figs. 11:1–4, 7; 12:2, 3). This type of pottery, widespread in the Medieval period in Syria-Palestine, appears in the twelfth century and characterizes primarily the Ayyubid and Mamluk occupations (thirteenth and fourteenth centuries), while continuing throughout the Ottoman period (Avisar 1996:132; Grey 2000:94; Pringle 1984:97). If the chronological appearance of handmade pottery coincides with the beginning of the Frankish occupation, it is very poorly represented during this period in urban or military sites. Insignificant in terms of percentages of occurrences at Caesarea (Pringle 1985:176) and Acre (Stern 1997:40), handmade wares appear at 'Atlit (Pilgrims' Castle) only after the departure of the Franks in 1291 (Johns 1936:54). Could the significant presence of this class of local ware at 'En Gev indicate an indigenous occupation of a rural or village type?

The Ottoman Pottery

The Ottoman pottery present at the site is primarily characterized by the dark gray Gaza Ware (Fig. 12:5) or types from the Lebanese workshops in Rashaya el-Fukhār (Fig. 12:6). These finds are in accordance with a reoccupation of the site at the end of the nineteenth and during the first half of the twentieth centuries.

CONCLUSIONS

This excavation unearthed a rural occupation on the eastern coast of the Sea of Galilee during the Medieval period. No particular find argues in favor of identifying the site as a fishing village, despite its location on the Sea of Galilee between the harbor and the anchorage of Susita. The limited salvage excavation did not allow a reconstruction of the plan of the buildings, nor an evaluation of the extent of the settlement. On the other hand, the analysis of the finds provided evidence for a continuous settlement from the twelfth through the fourteenth centuries, thus testifying to a permanent occupation of the village under Frankish, Ayyubid and Mamluk dominations, uninterrupted by political changes.

As, according to the stratigraphic evidence, the earlier large building is Medieval in date, what is the explanation for the fact that

the modern building is a copy of its size and orientation? Apparently there was no continuity of occupation, since sixteenth to eighteenth century finds are lacking. What was the function of these large buildings? Taking into account the rural context, how do we distinguish the dwellings from the agricultural structures? The size and structural features of the southern building point to a dwelling, while the northern elongated building seems to have served an agricultural purpose, i.e. a barn or cattle shed. This seems to have been the case for the modern building located in the same area.

The small finds (i.e., Gaza Ware, Rashaya el-Fukhār Ware and, especially, the well-preserved iron implement) and historical sources suggest that later building remains uncovered at the site may be related to a settlement of Persian emigrants of the Bahai faith, which was established at the end of the nineteenth century and ended in 1948 (Nun 1979).

Appendix 1. List of Loci

Locus	Stratum	Relationship between Loci			Description
		Above	Below	Equals	
1000	3	1016			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1001	3	1003-1004-1005			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1002	2/3	1020		1019	Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1003	1		1004-1005		Light beige sand
1004	1	1003	1001-1005		Cleaning of wall W102
1005	2/3	1003-1004	1001		Pit filling with brown earth and layers of sand
1006	2/3	1011			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1007	3	1009-1010-1033			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1008	3	1013			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1009	Ind.		1007		Beige earth
1010	Ind.		1007		Brown earth
1011	2	1026	1006		Beige earth
1012	2/3	1014-1015			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1013	3		1008		Light beige earth
1014	2/3		1012		Light sandy earth
1015	2		1012		Brown earth with gravel
1016	Ind.		1000		Brown earth with stones

Appendix 1. List of Loci (cont.)

Locus	Stratum	Relationship between Loci			Description
		Above	Below	Equals	
1017	3	1011-1025			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1018	3	1021-1022-1023			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1019	3	1020		1002	Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1020	2/3	1032-1034	1002-1019		Beige sandy earth
1021	3		1018		Light beige earth
1022	3		1018		Brown earth
1023	3		1018		Brown earth
1024	3	1027			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1025	2		1017		Cleaning of wall W105
1026	1		1011		Beige earth
1027	3	1031	1024		Beige sandy earth
1028	3	1029			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i>
1029	3		1028		Beige sandy earth
1030	3	1036			Surface, brown <i>husmus</i> with gravel
1031	Ind.		1027		Natural sterile sand
1032	2		1020		Grouped stones in a light sandy sediment
1033	3		1007		Dismantling of wall W100
1034	2		1020		Cleaning of walls W111- W112-W113 and W114 and of pavement L1035
1035	2		1034		Pavement
1036	3		1017-1030		Concrete floor

NOTES

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² This is the date of the artificial change in the natural water level, which was a consequence of

the construction of an electrical power station at the junction of the southern outlet of the Jordan River with the Sea of Galilee.

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⁴ The pottery plates were arranged according to the architectural complexes in which they were found.

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