

EXCAVATIONS AT THE DAR EL-GHARBIYA NEIGHBORHOOD OF KAFR YASIF: A CRUSADER ESTATE IN THE TERRITORY OF 'AKKO

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INTRODUCTION

In the year 2000, a trial excavation was conducted on a private, three-dunam plot of land in the Dar el-Gharbiya quarter on the western edge of the village of Kafr Yasif (Fig. 1).¹

Although the site is within the limits of modern Kafr Yasif, it is separate from ancient Kafr Yasif, which is situated in the old center of the village, approximately 700 m east of Dar el-Gharbiya. It stands to reason that during some periods in antiquity there was interaction between the two sites.

Kafr Yasif is a large village on the boundary between the coastal strip and the foothills of the western Galilee, northeast of 'Akko. The inhabitants today are predominantly Christian.

Historical information on the site is limited, dealing mainly with the Jewish population there in the Middle Ages. Sources focus on the cemetery, which also served the Jewish inhabitants of 'Akko, because according to *Halakha* (Jewish law) 'Akko is outside the boundaries of Eretz-Israel, while Kafr Yasif is within those boundaries. This cemetery is still in existence and until recently a stone incised with a menorah was visible there.

The village is also mentioned by nineteenth-century travelers, although most did not remark on its antiquities. Guèrin noted the presence of ancient buildings and a ruined church in the village (Guèrin 1880:5). Kafr Yasif is also documented in the Upper Galilee Survey (Frankel et al. 2001:14, Site No. 43, with references to excavations conducted at the site).

As for Dar el-Gharbiya, Guèrin's mention of "Kharbet Dar Rharbiya" is noteworthy, where he saw a hill "environné d'un mur d'enceinte" (Guèrin 1880:5). It may well be that this is the massive stone wall found in the excavation area (W15, below).

An archaeological survey of the site (Frankel et al. 2001:13, Site No. 33; Frankel and Getzov 2012: Site No. 208) yielded rock-cut tombs and a cistern, as well as pottery from the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Crusader and Mamluk periods. The preponderance of ceramic finds date from the Byzantine period. A head of a limestone figurine was also found in the survey; its style is suggestive of the Crusader period (Fig. 2).²

Our excavation yielded primarily architectural remains and pottery from the Crusader period. Finds also dated to the Persian,

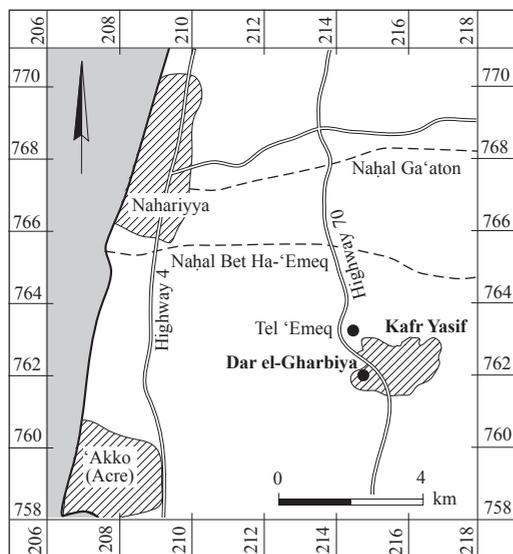


Fig. 1. Location of the site.



Fig. 2. Figurine head (IAA Reg. No. 1980-5046) found at Dar el-Gharbiya.

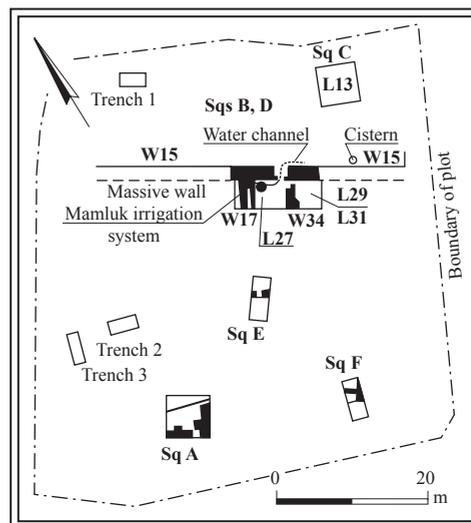
Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Early Islamic, Mamluk and Early Ottoman periods.

THE EXCAVATION

Three excavation squares were opened initially on the plot (Plan 1). Squares A and C were opened where construction was planned, while Sq B was opened south of the massive stone wall that traversed almost the entire plot in an east–west direction. This wall (W15) divides the plot into a higher area on the south and an area that is approximately a meter lower on the north. Subsequently, Sq B was enlarged to the east (Sq D), and two more small squares (E and F) were opened south of Sqs B and D. Three test trenches were dug with a backhoe to estimate the extent of antiquities on the plot. Trench 1 was dug north of W15, near the northwestern boundary of the site, and Trenches 2 and 3 were dug south of W15, near the southwestern boundary.

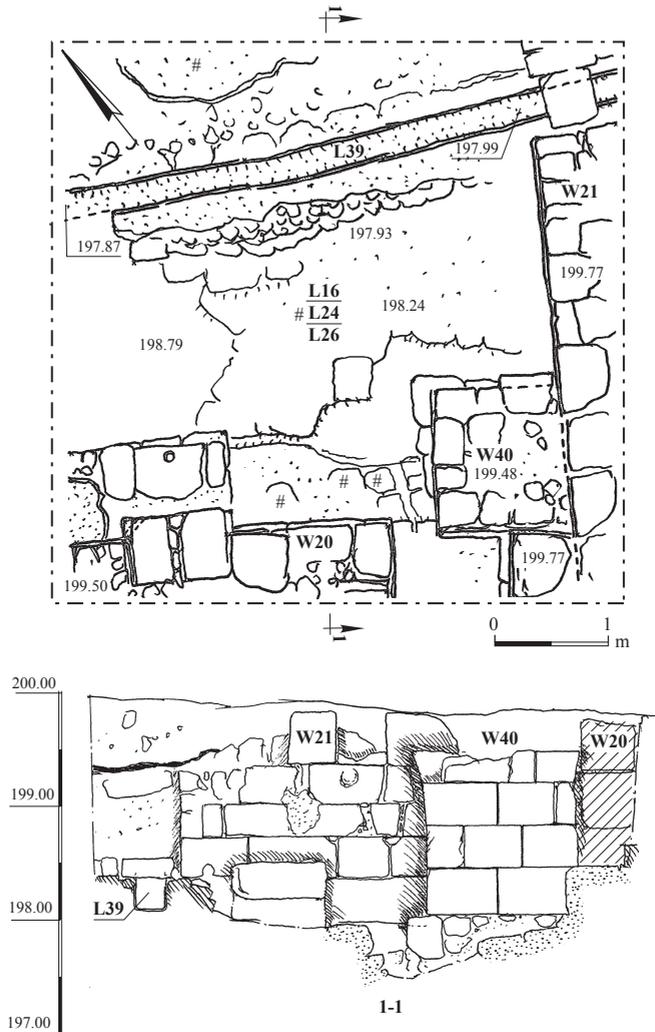
SQUARE A (Plan 2)

Part of a large building was uncovered, two of its walls (W20, W21) forming a corner in the southeast. The extant architecture allows for the reconstruction of a large room or building (at least 8×8 m) with massive walls (their actual thickness could not be determined because the outer faces lay outside the excavation boundary), surviving to a maximum height



Plan 1. The excavation squares.

of 1.75 m. The walls are constructed of well-dressed *nari* (hard limestone) ashlar (Plan 2: Section 1–1; Fig. 3). The floor (L24) is of compacted earth, although here and there a fragmentary paving stone was discovered. The floor was found directly on bedrock, which had been leveled by earthen and stone fills (L26). A plastered water channel (L39) was uncovered in the northern part of Sq A, dug in the ground directly under the floor (Fig. 3, at left). A Byzantine coin (Cat. No. 2) was found *inside* the rubble and mortar mixture that makes up the sides of the water channel. A considerable quantity of large bones, possibly of horses, was found on the floor.³ Two other Byzantine coins (Cat. Nos. 5 and 6) were found on the stone pavement (L24). At some stage, a massive pillar (W40) was added to the original construction at the corner formed by W20 and W21; behind the pillar, a remnant was discerned of the plaster that covered the walls. The construction of the pillar, which evidently supported a vault, partly obstructed a doorway in W20, leading south (Fig. 3, at right). Along the same wall, farther to the west, was a stone-built trough with a hole in the side near the bottom, probably for tethering animals. An additional tethering hole was found in the pillar.



Plan 2. Square A: plan and section.

The floor was found partly covered with a layer of small stones, over which a burnt layer, approximately 10 cm thick, was observed (L16). The burnt layer extended mostly over the eastern part of the building, sloping down from east to west. This layer, in turn, was covered by a heap of large building blocks, some of which penetrated the burnt layer and were found lying directly on the floor. The sequence probably indicates that the vaulted roof, which was made of small stones, collapsed first and the upper parts of the walls collapsed last. The burnt layer may belong to massive wooden fixtures—

possibly a gallery that extended around the eastern part of the building.⁴

Dating and Discussion of Square A

Based on the coins found in the building, as well as the dating of pottery (e.g., Fig. 8:5) and glass fragments found there (but not on the floor) and in the other squares, the building was probably first constructed not later than the Byzantine period, although only the channel is clearly datable to that period by the coin found *in situ* (see above). The building was reused in the Crusader period, apparently in the twelfth



Fig. 3. Square A, general view to southeast; note corner pillar in center and water channel at left.

century; most of the walls visible today date to that period. In the twelfth-century Crusader phase, robust pillars (W40) were added to the corners of the building to carry a vault. The trough built in W20 also appears to belong to the twelfth-century Crusader phase, suggesting that the building began to be used as a stable at that time.

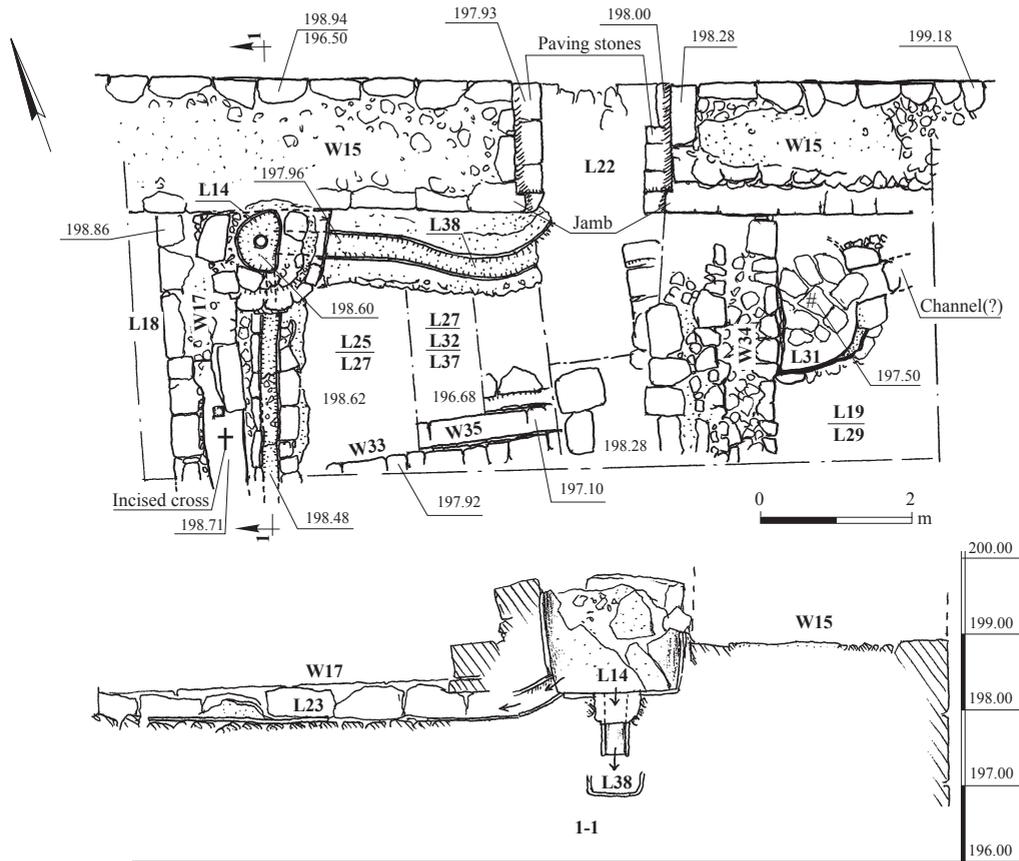
The last phase of the building dates to the Mamluk period, in the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries, although we cannot pinpoint with certainty specific architectural remains. The conjectured gallery, which left the above-mentioned burnt remains on the floor, may date to this period. The large bones found on the floor below the burnt layer suggest that the building may also have served as a stable in its last stage. The heap of stones, mainly above the burnt layer (with some sherds of Persian pottery found mixed in it), dates to the abandonment and deterioration of the building following the Mamluk period, when the vault and upper parts of the walls collapsed and were buried by accumulations of debris.

SQUARES B AND D (Plan 3)

Squares B and D were situated along the top and southward of a 10 m segment of the east–west wall (W15), at the point where an opening in the wall was clearly visible.

The earliest architectural remains identified are W33 and W35, oriented at an angle to W15 and evidently predating it. Locus 32 is a lime floor apparently joining W35. The pottery from Floor 32 dates from the Persian, Hellenistic (Fig. 8:3, 4), Byzantine (Fig. 8:7) and Early Islamic (Fig. 8:9, 10) periods. Probe L37, descending beneath Floor 32 (Fig. 5), contained no architecture and yielded pottery of only the Hellenistic (not illustrated) and Persian (Fig. 8:1, 2) periods.

The second stratum relates to W15, which could be traced for 50 m (Plan 1), but appears to have been longer. It is 1.75 m thick; a backhoe trench sunk in front of its northern face proved that it survived 2.5 m above its foundation on bedrock (Fig. 4). Both faces of the wall were constructed of well-dressed *nari* ashlar laid in



Plan 3. Squares B, D: plan and section.

close-fitting courses and bonded with mortar with a rubble and mortar core. The passage through W15 (L22) appears to be flanked by doorjambes on the southern side (see schematic reconstruction in Plans 1, 3, and Fig. 4, just under the pole in the center supporting the shade canopy). The location of the doorjambes ostensibly suggests a door that opened into the wall, northward. Nonetheless, the lack of hinge sockets, the difference in elevation between the two sides of the wall, and the presence of architectural remains solely to the south of the wall (suggesting an open space to the north), all give reason to expect the door to open southward.

A thick, well-constructed wall with a rubble and mortar core (W17) is perpendicular

to and abuts the southern face of W15 and rides above W33 (Fig. 5). Wall 17 was not excavated to its foundation, but is clearly contemporaneous with W15. One of the stones in this wall is a threshold in secondary use and is incised with a small Greek cross (visible on Plan 3). A second wall (W34) runs parallel to W17, meeting W15 on the eastern side of the passage. Wall 34 is as thick as W15, but is far less solid and appears to have served as the wall of the presumed corridor that led from the passage in W15 into the structure/compound. Loci associated with these architectural features (L27 and L29) contain pottery from the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods (Fig. 8:6, 11, 12), but primarily from the Crusader period (Fig. 9:3).



Fig. 4. Wall 15, looking southwest; note the passage through the wall and the deep foundations.



Fig. 5. Square B: Mamluk water system using the Crusader walls, looking north.



Fig. 6. Square D, looking north; note Installation 31 and the black ashes on its paved floor, at left—Channel 38 as it curves north through the passage in W15.

Under and east of W34, an installation (L31) was discovered. It was constructed of a single course of fieldstones arranged in a circle, approximately 2 m in diameter. The installation is plastered on the inside, except for the floor, which consists of partly compacted earth over a fill of small stones, some of which are flat (Fig. 6). At the bottom, a 5 cm thick layer of ashes was found, along with traces of a channel or conduit that joined it at its eastern end and receded into the unexcavated baulk. The nature of this installation is not clear: on the one hand, the plaster on the walls and the traces of the channel suggest an irrigation system; on the other hand, the unplastered bottom may indicate a different use, perhaps as a silo of some sort. In either case, the ash deposit seems to have resulted from an event post-dating its use. The latest pottery from L31 (not illustrated) was of the Crusader period.

The third and latest construction is a rather elaborate water system, built next to W15 and W17. The system consists of a small, circular plastered basin (L14) that fed two channels

(L23, L38; Plan 3: Section 1–1; Fig. 5). Channel 23 originates in an outlet at the bottom of the wall of Basin 14 and leads southward. The sides of the channel are constructed of stone, and the bottom is an amorphous agglomeration of stone masonry; the inner surfaces are plastered. Channel 38 was dug into the ground and also lined with plaster. It was fed by a vertical ceramic pipe segment fixed in the center of the bottom of the basin. The water flowed freely from the bottom of the pipe into the channel, some 25 cm below. Channel 38 first flowed east, then north, through the passage in W15. It probably fed a rock-cut and built cistern that was identified north of W15 (not excavated; marked on Plan 1). There is no physical contact between Channel 38 and the cistern.

The source of water that fed Basin 14 was not identified. The construction of the system suggests that water could be directed into either channel by blocking one or the other outlets at the bottom of the basin. The basin and channels are probably part of an agricultural irrigation system.

In Sq D, east of the opening in W15, a pile of small fieldstones was found about 1 m south of the wall. It is probably the rubble core of the wall, indicating that one course of the inner face of W15 had been robbed (see Fig. 6). This pile was found on a floor of gravel and lime (L19) that joined W15 on the north and covered part of W34 on the west. Loci 19 and 25 and Channel 23 contained mostly Mamluk pottery (only one fragment illustrated: Fig. 10:1).

Dating and Discussion of Squares B and D

Most loci in this area contained mixed material in small quantities, thus making it impossible to date the strata exclusively by pottery. The meager glass fragments (see below) contribute nothing. As noted, W33, W35 and Floor 32 in Sq B represent, evidently, the earliest architectural stratum. The latest material on Floor 32 was Byzantine and Early Islamic, although most of the pottery was from the Hellenistic and even the Persian periods. Moreover, in Probe 37 (under Floor 32) only a few pottery fragments were collected, dating from the Hellenistic and Persian periods. Thus, this earliest architectural stratum should be tentatively dated to the late Byzantine or Early Islamic period, because of the latest pottery found in it, as well as the presence of pottery, coins and the threshold with the cross in later levels in this area. As is the case elsewhere at the site, there seems to have been considerable activity in this period.

The second architectural phase dates to the Crusader period, and specifically to the twelfth century. This dating is borne out by pottery in L27 and L29 and by the construction method of W15 and W17, which have mortar in the joints, a practice rare in earlier periods (see e.g., Ḥorbat Manot, Stern 2001:281, Plan 2: W1, W2). The round installation (L31) is also tentatively dated to the Crusader period, both because of its lower elevation in respect to the water installation in Sq B and because of Crusader pottery found inside. Wall 34 is difficult to date, but judging by its thickness

and orientation, it should be assigned to the Crusader period as well, albeit later than Installation 31.

The third and last phase is clearly datable to the Mamluk period, when the site was reused after a period of abandonment in the thirteenth century. The water system in Sq B belongs to this phase, as does the gravel and lime floor in Sq D (L19). Most of the pottery found in L19, L25 and Channel 23 is datable to this period.

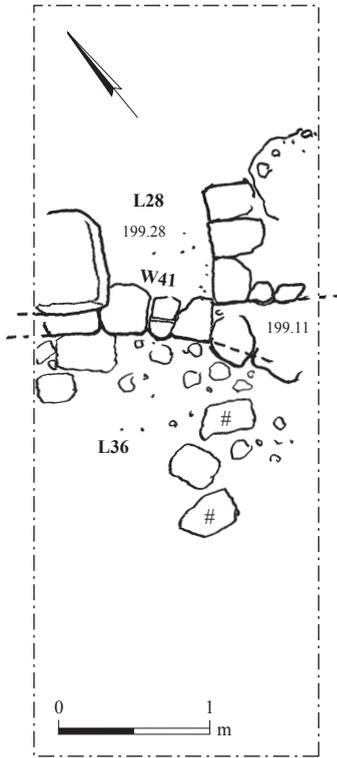
The identifiable coins found in these two squares (Cat. Nos. 3, 7, 8) do not aid much in the dating, as all predate the latest pottery.

SQUARE C (Plan 1)

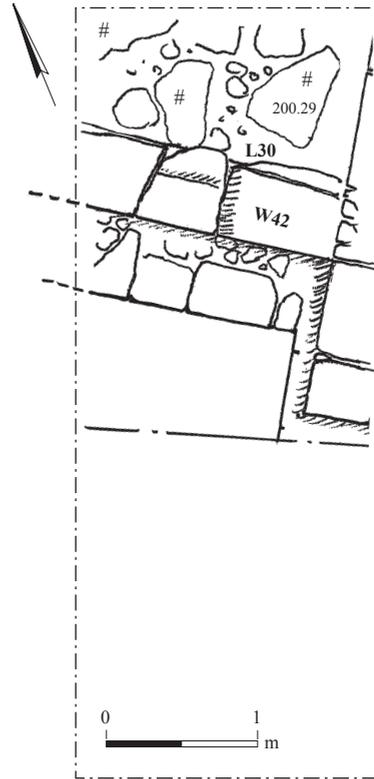
This square (L13) was excavated to a depth of about 2.5 m, but yielded no architectural remains, except for a few large building blocks with no context whatsoever. It did contain a large quantity of pottery, mostly from the Crusader period, from the twelfth century (see Figs. 9:8, 9, 11, 13, 14; 10: 2, 3, 5) but also from the Byzantine and Late Roman periods, as well as two identifiable coins: one Late Roman (Cat. No. 1) and the other Byzantine (Cat. No. 4). These results suggest that this area, north of W15, was an open area; the pottery may represent a late disturbance or a dump.

SQUARES E AND F (Plans 4, 5)

Square E (Plan 4), in the center of the plot, and Sq F (Plan 5), in the southeastern corner, both measuring 2 × 5 m, were opened to determine the density of architectural remains elsewhere in the plot. Square E yielded fragmentary remains including large, fallen building blocks. Square F yielded massive architectural remains of the corner of two well-built walls, one of them 2 m thick (Fig. 7), which are closely aligned with the Crusader walls in Sq A and the massive W15. The latest datable finds in Sq F are Crusader (twelfth century), including a coin (Cat. No. 9) and a lead token (Cat. No. 10), both from L30.⁵



Plan 4. Square E.



Plan 5. Square F.



Fig. 7. Square F, looking northwest.

TEST TRENCHES (Plan 1)

Trenches 1 and 3 yielded no ancient material whatsoever. In Trench 2, meager remains of walls were identified, but not excavated.

THE POTTERY

Similar types of pottery were found throughout the excavation and a selection is presented here in a chronological and typological sequence. The main occupation unearthed in this excavation dates to Crusader times (twelfth century CE); hence, the pottery study focuses on this period. Pottery dating to the Persian, Hellenistic, Byzantine, Umayyad and Abbasid periods was found mainly below the Crusader building on the site, while above the Crusader level, pottery from the later occupation in the Mamluk and early Ottoman periods was found.

THE PERSIAN PERIOD (Fig. 8:1, 2)

Pottery from this period includes an imported Athenian black-glazed bowl (Fig. 8:1) and a local jar (Fig. 8:2). The bowl is of a common shape, with a thickened, incurved rim and is dated to the fourth century BCE (Marchese 1995:127, Photograph 4.1, Fig. 4.1). The jar is of the Phoenician type dated to the Persian period and is commonly found in northern Israel (Frankel et al. 2001:59–60, Fig. 3.7:6–9) as well as, for example, at the nearby coastal site at Tel Nahariyya (Ovadiah 1993:24*, Fig. 3:9).

THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD (Fig. 8:3, 4)

Two vessels that are characteristic of the Phoenician sphere and date to the late Hellenistic period are presented here: a lid (Fig. 8:3) and a jar (Fig. 8:4). The lid is of a lesser-known type that was defined by Berlin as a “semi-fine, hooked-rim saucer-lid.” Similar lids have been found at Tel Anafa, in Tyre, Spain and North Africa (Berlin 1997:79–82, Pl. 19: PW 168–170). The jar, defined by Berlin

as a “semi fine baggy jar” (Berlin 1997:151–156, Pl. 57), is very common in northern Israel (Frankel et al. 2001:63, Fig. 3.9:4).

THE BYZANTINE PERIOD (Fig. 8:5–7)

Two red-slipped bowls (Fig. 8:5, 6) and an imported amphora (Fig. 8:7) represent the small amount of Byzantine pottery that was found at Dar el-Gharbiya. The first bowl is of the well-known and widely distributed Late Roman C Ware, Form 3 (Hayes 1972:329–338, Fig. 69), most likely imported from Phocaea in western Anatolia (Hayes 1980:525–527). In the survey of Upper Galilee it was the most common import among the Later Roman Red Wares (Frankel et al. 2001:66, Fig. 3.11:5, 6). The second bowl seems to be a Cypriot import, tagged as Cypriot Red Slip 2 (Hayes 1972:373–376, Fig. 80:10, 13). The amphora, made of a light-colored fabric, belongs to a type that was widely distributed in the Mediterranean. This type is commonly found in the Levant, and seems to have been produced in Cyprus, Asia Minor or northern Syria (Peacock and Williams 1986:186–187; Johnson 1988:212).

UMAYYAD AND ABBASID PERIODS (Fig. 8:8–12)

The discovery of pottery from these periods in an excavation is important, since the Upper Galilee survey noted the paucity of such pottery (Frankel et al. 2001:68). Some of the pottery types presented here were in use for a long time, from the Umayyad and into the Abbasid periods, while the use of others was confined to the Abbasid period.

A fragment of a basin rim with a handle on the shoulder is made of well-fired gray fabric with a combed, incised decoration on the shoulder (Fig. 8:8). Vessels of this type were found at Yoqne‘am and various sites in Jordan (Avisar 1996:124, Type 24, Fig. XIII.78:1) and at Caesarea (Arnon 2008:31, 65, Type 411).

A deep cooking vessel of a type that also has a long timespan (Fig. 8:9) can be dated to the Umayyad or Abbasid periods by the form of

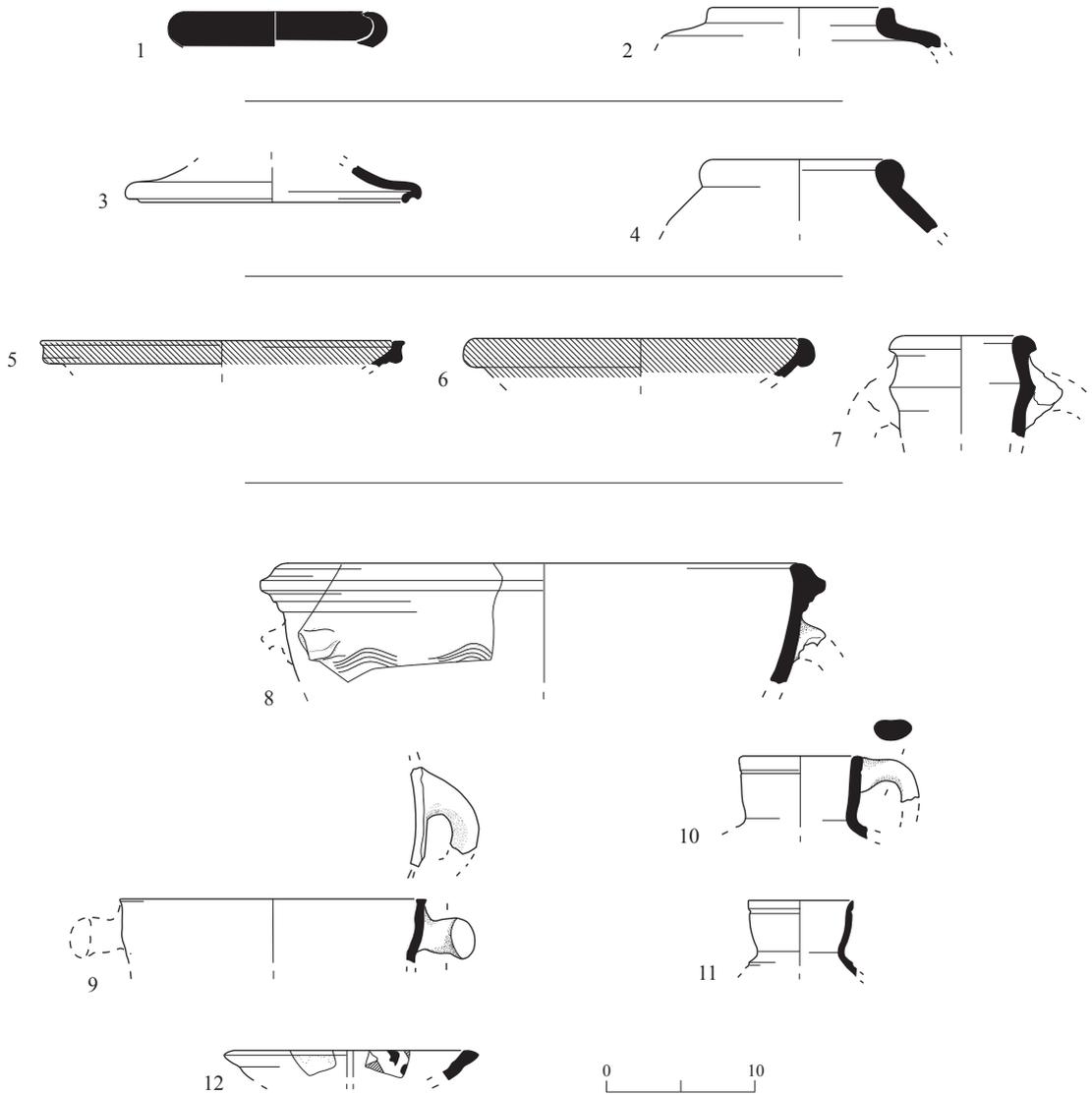


Fig. 8. Pottery from the Persian (1, 2), Hellenistic (3, 4), Byzantine (5–7), Umayyad and Abbasid (8–12) periods.

the rim and handle. Similar vessels dating to these periods were found at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:139, Type 12, Fig. XIII.99:6), Caesarea (Arnon 2008:31, 32, 38, 72, 151, Type 712) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004:123–125, Type 2, Fig. 5.32:8).

A simple jug made of a reddish, coarse fabric, with a simple rim and a wide neck, is of a less common type (Fig. 8:10). Similar jugs were found at Yoqne'am and various

sites in Jordan (Avisar 1996:161, Type 13, Fig. XIII.139:1–5). The common jugs of the Abbasid period are made of fine buff ware and have thin walls.

Fragments of another type of undecorated jug were also found at Dar el-Gharbiya (Fig. 8:11). These have parallels, for example, at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:117, Type 3, Fig. XIII.129), Caesarea (Arnon 2008:36, 37, 129, Type 521) and Tiberias (Stacey 2004:130–132,

◀ Fig. 8

| No. | Vessel | Square | Locus | Basket | Description |
|-----|-------------------|--------|-------|--------|--|
| 1 | Bowl | B | 37 | 170/2 | Light reddish brown 5 YR 6/4 fine fabric; black glaze on int. and ext. |
| 2 | Jar | B | 37 | 170/1 | Pink 7.5 YR 8/4 fabric; some white grits and inclusions |
| 3 | Lid | B | 32 | 159/1 | Reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 fabric; many white grits |
| 4 | Jar | B | 32 | 166/1 | Reddish yellow 5 YR 7/6 fabric; some white and red grits |
| 5 | Bowl | A | 26 | 141 | Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric |
| 6 | Bowl | D | 29 | 143 | Light red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric; red |
| 7 | Amphora | B | 32 | 159/2 | Very pale brown 10 YR 8/3 fabric |
| 8 | Basin | B | 18 | 126 | Dark reddish gray 2.5 YR 4/1 fabric; some white grits and inclusions; incised combed decoration on ext. |
| 9 | Deep cooking bowl | B | 32 | 155/2 | Light red 2.5 YR 4/2 fabric; many white grits and some inclusions |
| 10 | Jug | B | 32 | 155/1 | Red 2.5 YR 5/6 fabric; some white grits and inclusions |
| 11 | Jug | D | 29 | 147/2 | Buff ware; pale yellow 2.5 Y 8/3 fine fabric |
| 12 | Bowl rim | D | 29 | 147/1 | Pale yellow 2.5 Y 7/3 fabric; some white grits; green- and brown-painted design under a transparent glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim |

Fig. 5.41). The form continued in use into the eleventh century; however, the later examples are elaborately decorated.

As for glazed bowls, only simple glazed bowls of an early type were found (Fig. 8:12). They are painted with green lines and brown daubs under a transparent glaze. This is a very common type in the southern Levant, occurring at many sites (Avissar 1996:77, Type 3, Fig. XIII.2; Arnon 2008:40, 181, 182, Type 232b). At Caesarea, it was found in Stratum 6, dated from the late ninth to the mid-tenth centuries CE.

THE CRUSADER PERIOD

As noted, this is the main period of occupation at the site. Most of the pottery found in this phase dates to the twelfth and early thirteenth centuries CE (Stern 2009:228–229, Assemblage II; 2012a:24–25, Table 3.1, ‘early assemblage’), consequently dating the building that was excavated. In presenting a rim-count of the Crusader ceramic types (Table 1), we have differentiated between secure loci and mixed

contexts. The following loci were defined as Crusader: Loci 18, 27, 29, 31 in Sqs B and D; L13 in Sq C; L36 in Sq E; and L30 in Sq F. The Crusader-period pottery is domestic in character and is divided into two main groups: local wares (54 rims), being the majority, and imported wares (5 rims), the minority.⁶ These are further subdivided according to surface treatment and function: unglazed wares, glazed cooking ware and glazed tableware.

Local Wares (Fig. 9)

The local wares consist of pottery that was most likely produced in the western Galilee and ‘Akko, as well as pottery produced in Beirut or other workshops along the Lebanese coast. Although the imports from Beirut were probably brought to ‘Akko by sea, they are considered local wares because Beirut was also part of the Crusader kingdom (Stern and Waksman 2003:173–178; Waksman et al. 2008; Stern 2012a:41–47, Types BE.CW.1 and BE.GL., Pls. 4.15:8–12; 4.16:1, 2; 4.18–4.23).

This assemblage consists of ceramic types that were in use in this region in the late

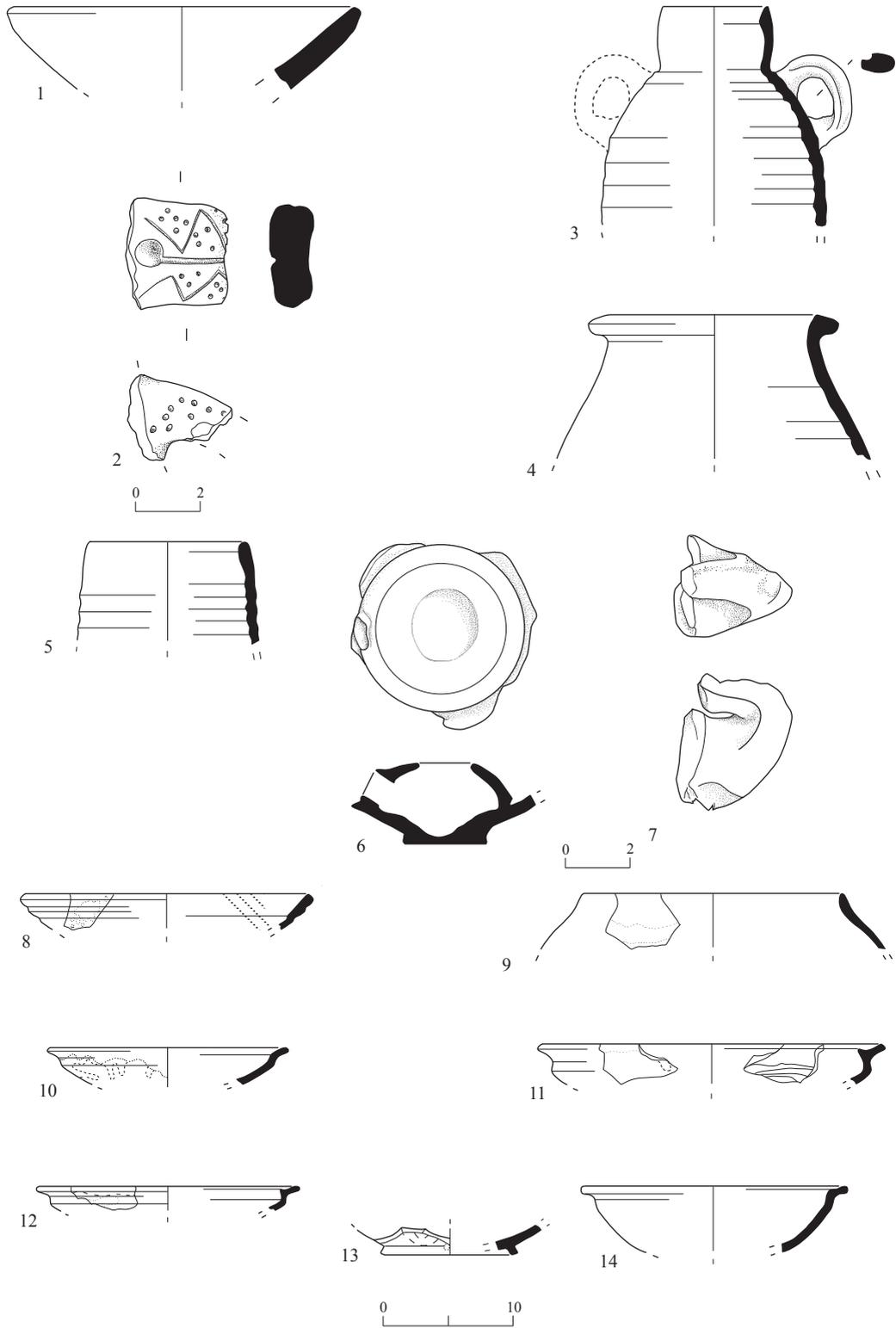


Fig. 9. Crusader pottery, local wares: unglazed types (1-7), glazed cooking vessels (8, 9) and glazed tableware (10-14).

◀ Fig. 9

| No. | Vessel | Square | Locus | Basket | Description |
|-----|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|---|
| 1 | Handmade bowl | F | 30 | 167/1 | Light red 2.5 YR 6/6 surface, very dark gray 10 YR 3/1 fabric; large white inclusions and straw negatives |
| 2 | Handmade handle | E | 36 | 168 | Light red 10 R 7/6 surface, very dark gray 10 YR 3/1 fabric; large white inclusions and straw negatives |
| 3 | Storage jar | B | 27 | 146 | Red 2.5 YR 5/6 surface, reddish brown 2.5 YR 5/3 fabric; large white inclusions and some white grits |
| 4 | Molasses jar | B | 18 | 126/1 | Red 10 R 5/8 fabric, reddish gray 5 YR 5/2 core; white 10 R 8/1 ext.; white and black grits |
| 5 | Jug | A | 11 | 101/2 | Light reddish brown 2.5 YR 6/4 fabric, pink 7.5 YR 8/3 ext.; white and black grits, few white inclusions |
| 6 | Beehive oil lamp | E | 28 | 162 | Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric; few white grits |
| 7 | Mold-made oil lamp | A | 16 | 119 | Pink 5 YR 7/4 fine fabric; few white grits |
| 8 | Baking dish | C | 13 | 114/1 | Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric; transparent glaze on int. and splashes on ext. |
| 9 | Cooking pot | C | 13 | 114/2 | Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric; wavy line of transparent glaze on shoulder |
| 10 | Bowl rim | E | 36 | 168 | Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric, light red 10 R 5/4 ext.; white grits, white slip under yellow glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim |
| 11 | Bowl rim | C | 13 | 114/4 | Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric, light reddish brown 2.5 YR 6/3 ext.; white grits; beige slip under yellow glaze and an incised design on int.; slip and glaze extending over ext. of rim |
| 12 | Bowl rim | A | 11 | 106 | Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric, light reddish brown 2.5 YR 6/4 ext.; white grits; white slip under green glaze and an incised design on int.; slip and glaze extending over ext. of rim |
| 13 | Bowl base | C | 13 | 109/1 | Yellowish red 5 YR 5/8 fabric, light reddish brown 2.5 YR 6/4 ext.; white grits and some inclusions; white slip under yellow glaze and an incised design on int. |
| 14 | Bowl rim | C | 13 | 109/4 | Pink 7.5 YR 7/4 fabric; some white inclusions; light blue glaze on int. |

Fatimid period, and continued in use after the establishment of the First Latin Kingdom (Stern 2009:228–229, *Assemblage II*; 2012a:24–25, Table 3.1, ‘early assemblage’). It includes unglazed handmade wares, storage jars, jugs, oil lamps, glazed cooking ware and glazed bowls.

Unglazed Wares (Fig. 9:1–5).— Among the undecorated handmade wares are simple open forms (Fig. 9:1; Avissar and Stern 2005:88, Type II.1.4.1, Fig. 38:1, 2) and a handle,

decorated with piercing and incisions, of what seems to be a closed vessel (Fig. 9:2).

Wheel-made wares include vessels made of two different fabrics. One is a jar made of a reddish fabric, whose form developed from the local storage jar of the Byzantine period also known as the ‘Palestinian baggy jar’ (Fig. 9:3). This type of jar continued to be manufactured during the Umayyad period and into the Abbasid and Fatimid periods. During these periods, the general shape of the jar remained the same, but the mouth became progressively wider, the

Table 1. Quantitative Analysis of Crusader Ceramic Types at Dar el-Gharbiya (No. of Rims)

| Ceramic Group | Crusader Loci ⁱ | Later Loci | Total |
|--|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| <i>Local Wares</i> | | | |
| Handmade wares | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Unglazed wheel-made vessels | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Baking dish | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cooking pot | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Gritty glazed bowl | 19 | 4 | 23 |
| Alkaline glazed (monochrome) | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>38</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>54</i> |
| <i>Imported Wares</i> | | | |
| Amphorae (small) | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Byzantine slip-painted ware | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Byzantine fine sgraffito ware | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Byzantine green and brown painted sgraffito ware | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Grand total</i> | <i>42</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>59</i> |

ⁱ Loci 13, 18, 27, 29, 30, 31, 36.

neck lower and the shoulders disengaged. Such jars have been published mainly from Fatimid-period assemblages such as Caesarea (Arnon 2008:46, 305, 306, Type 805), Tiberias (Stacey 2004:126–127, Type 3, Figs. 5.34:4, 5; 5.58:1, 2) and Khirbat al-Khurrumiya (Stern and Stacey 2000:175, Fig. 4:13).

Other wheel-made vessels that were found in this assemblage were made from a different fabric, and hence, apparently in different workshops. These include a jar and a jug made of a reddish fabric, with some large white inclusions and a light-colored, almost white exterior (Fig. 9:4, 5). The fabric of these vessels is very similar to that of wares produced in 'Akko during the Crusader period, and they are therefore called 'Acre Ware' (Avisar and Stern 2005:82, Type II.1.1.2; Waksman et al. 2008; Stern 2012a:34–38, Type AC.PL. 6, Pl. 4.11:4). The jar (Fig. 9:4) is a tall, ovoid shaped jar with no handles. It is similar to molasses jars found in sugar production sites (Stern 2001:287,

Fig. 7:11; Avisar and Stern 2005:103, Type II.3.1.5, Fig. 43:1–7). The presence of this type of jar here may suggest a sugar-production site nearby; the closest known sites are at el-Kabri and Lower Ḥorbat Manot, about 7 and 10 km to the north, respectively (Stern 2001; Smithline 2004). Another possibility is that molasses was marketed in the jar, since molasses jars were found in settlements where sugar was not produced, for instance at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996:154–155, Type 16, Fig. XIII.123). The jug (Fig. 9:5) has a wide neck (Avisar and Stern 2005:108, Type II.4.1.1, Fig. 45:1; Stern 2012a:34–38, Type AC.PL.3, Pl. 4.6:13, 18, 19).

Oil Lamps (Fig. 9:6, 7).— The oil lamps found at Dar el-Gharbiya are of two distinctive types (not included in Table 1). The first is of a common type known as a saucer or beehive lamp (Fig. 9:6). It was made from a reddish fabric, similar to that of the cooking wares

described below, and was composed of two separate parts. Like the above-mentioned storage jar, this is a type that continued in use from the Fatimid period (Stern and Stacey 2000:175–176, Fig. 4:17; Hadad 2002:109–110, Type 43; Stacey 2004:165–166, Form 4, Fig. 6.21:5; Avissar and Stern 2005:124, Type III.1.1.1, Fig. 52:1; Stern 2012a:40–41, Type BE.PL, Pl. 4.13:9–14). The variant from Dar el-Gharbiya was dated to the twelfth century based both on its similarity in shape to the Fatimid examples and its thin walls. The second type of oil lamp (Fig. 9:7) is less common. It is a late-twelfth and early-thirteenth century Ayyubid mold-made type with a tongue handle, which occasionally bears Arabic inscriptions (Hadad 2002:109–112, Type 44; Avissar and Stern 2005:126–128, Type III.2.1.1, Fig. 53:1). It is interesting to note that such lamps were also used by the Frankish population, as attested by finds from ‘Akko and Yafo. At ‘Akko they were produced in the Acre Ware fabric (Stern 2012a:34–38, Type AC.PL.6, Pl. 4.11:9, 10).

Cooking Ware (Fig. 9:8, 9).— The cooking ware consists mostly of open baking dishes with glaze covering the interior (Fig. 9:8; Avissar and Stern 2005:96, Type II.2.3.1, Fig. 41:1, 2) and closed cooking pots with glaze often on the interior base and/or splashed on the exterior (Fig. 9:9; Avissar and Stern 2005:92; Type II.2.1.3, Fig. 39:4). The vessels are exclusively of the thin-walled types dating to the twelfth century, whose production site has been identified as Beirut (Waksman 2002; François et al. 2003; Stern and Waksman 2003:169–171, 173–175, Figs. 3, 5; Waksman et al. 2008; Stern 2012a:41–44, Type BE.CW.1, Pls. 4.14–16:1, 2).

Glazed Table Wares (Fig. 9:10–14).— Two types of local glazed wares were found. The first is a common type of a gritty glazed bowl, also known as a Levantine glazed bowl (Fig. 9:10–13; Avissar and Stern 2005:8, Type I.1.2, Fig. 2; Stern and Waksman 2003:170–171, 173–175; Waksman et al. 2008; Stern 2012a:44–47, Type

BE.GL.7, Pl. 4.23). This type of bowl is shallow with rounded (Fig. 9:10) or carinated sides, a small ledge rim that is often separated from the body by a ridge (Fig. 9:11, 12) and a low, wide ring base (Fig. 9:13). The glaze is either green or yellow and has a gritty appearance, probably as a result of inadequate firing. Some of the bowls are incised on the interior, usually with a very fine instrument, producing a carelessly executed, quite abstract decoration. Like the cooking wares, these Levantine glazed bowls seem to have been produced in Beirut, where medieval pottery kilns that produced similar glazed table wares were revealed during excavations in the center of modern Beirut (El-Masri 1998; François et al. 2003).

The second type of local glazed ware consists of alkaline glazed bowls (Fig. 9:14). The fabric is different from that of the Levantine glazed bowls; it is light brown or pinkish and has some white grits and inclusions. The bowls are covered with a monochrome alkaline glaze applied directly on the clay body on the vessel, without a layer of slip. Like many of the other types in this assemblage, this one also has its roots in the Fatimid period and continued into the Crusader period. It was found at Caesarea, dated there to slightly before the Crusader period, representing the earliest stage of this type, and at Fustat (Pit K), dating to the Fatimid period (Avissar and Stern 2005:37–38, Type I.3.4.1, Fig. 14:3–6). At Ḥorbat ‘Uza, bowls of this type were unearthed in Stratum 5a, which was dated to the first half of the twelfth century (Stern and Tatcher 2009:126–128, Fig. 3.18:7, 9, 10). They were also retrieved at ‘Akko, in assemblages dating to the twelfth century (Stern 2012a:96, Type VI.GL.1, Pl.4.79:1–4). The origin of this type has not been fully established. It was thought to have come from Egypt; however, recently, new evidence from Beirut suggests that these types were produced there (François et al 2003:334–335, 338–339).

Imported Wares (Fig. 10)

The imported types of pottery found at Dar el-Gharbiya are amphorae and glazed bowls from

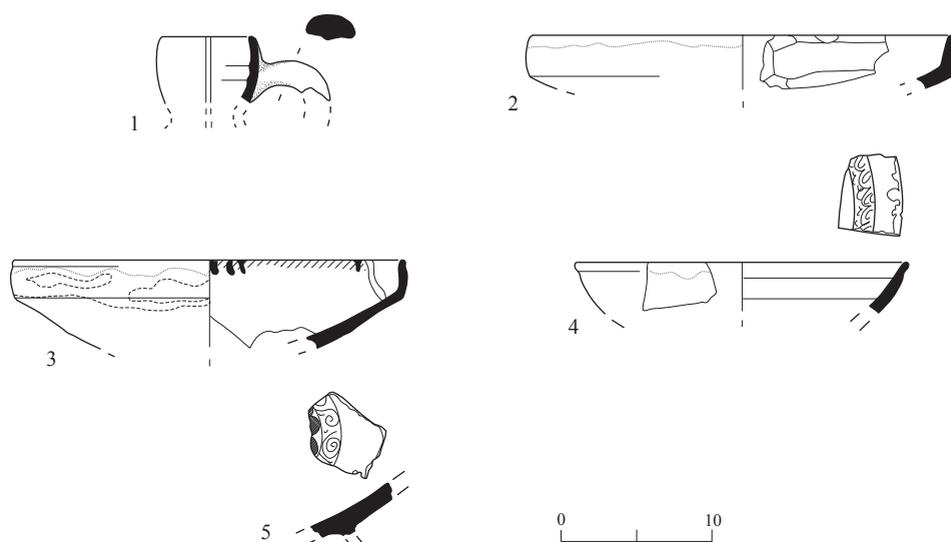


Fig. 10. Crusader pottery: imported amphora and glazed tableware.

| No. | Vessel | Square | Locus | Basket | Description |
|-----|-----------|--------|-------|--------|--|
| 1 | Amphora | D | 19 | 124 | Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric; fine material; some black and lime grits |
| 2 | Bowl rim | C | 13 | 109/3 | Yellowish red 5 YR 5/6 fabric; some white grits; white slip-painted design on int. under a yellowish glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim |
| 3 | Bowl rim | C | 13 | 114 | Yellowish red 5 YR 5/8 fabric, pink 5 YR 7/4 ext.; some white grits and inclusions; white slip with a green and brown-painted design on the rim under a transparent glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim |
| 4 | Bowl rim | A | 11 | 101/1 | Yellowish red 5 YR 5/8 fabric, reddish yellow 5 YR 7/6 ext.; some white grits; white slip on int. under a green glaze on int. with thin incised designs; glaze and slip extending over ext. of rim |
| 5 | Bowl base | C | 13 | 109/2 | Light reddish brown 5 YR 6/3 fabric, reddish yellow 5 YR 7/6 ext.; some white grits; white slip on int. under a yellow glaze on int. with thin incised and brown-painted designs |

Greece and the Aegean region. These ceramic types began to be imported into the Levant only after the establishment of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, due to the change in maritime trade patterns (Stern 2007; 2009; 2012a).

Amphora (Fig. 10:1).— This vessel has a simple rim, a high, narrow cylindrical neck and handles attached from under the rim. The fabric is very fine and light brown in color, with some grits and occasional mica. The fabric and shape of this type of amphora

indicate that it was an import, although the origin is still unknown. In Israel, two complete examples of this type were found at Ḥorbat ‘Uẓa and Nazareth, and fragments were found at ‘Akko and Mi‘ilya. This amphora type was also found at Kinet in Turkey, and other complete examples were found at Istanbul and at Ras in Serbia. This type of amphora is dated to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (Avissar and Stern 2005:105, Type II.3.2.2, Fig. 44:2; Stern and Tatcher 2009:138, Fig. 3.22:9; Stern 2012a:72, Type TUR/GR.PL.4, Pl. 4.52).

Glazed Bowls (Fig. 10:2–5).— These bowls are subtypes of Byzantine Ware. They include slip-painted ware (Fig. 10:2; Avissar and Stern 2005:40, Type I.4.1, Fig. 15:1, 2; Stern 2012a:65–69, Type GR.GL.3, Pl. 7, 8), green-and brown-painted ware (Fig. 10:3; Avissar and Stern 2005:40–42, Type I.4.2, Fig. 15:3, 4; Stern 2012a:65–69, Type GR.GL.5, Pl. 4.48:16, 17), fine sgraffito ware (Fig. 10:4; Avissar and Stern 2005:42, Type I.4.3, Fig. 15:5–7; Stern 2012a:34–38, Type GR.GL.4, Pl. 4.48:9–14) and green-and-brown-painted sgraffito ware (Fig. 10:5; Avissar and Stern 2005:42, Type I.4.4, Fig. 15:8). The Byzantine Ware subtypes date from the end of the twelfth to the early thirteenth centuries and were distributed widely in the eastern Mediterranean, mainly regions under the Byzantine Empire, and also in the Levant. A number of production centers have been identified within the Byzantine Empire, and shipwrecks with these wares as their cargo were found in the Aegean Sea, demonstrating the volume of production and trade of this type of ware (Armstrong 1997:5–6). The exact origin of the Byzantine Ware has not yet been established, but it appears to have been the area of the Aegean Sea. Recent chemical analysis on these types has shown that vessels with different techniques of decorations, which in the past have been attributed to different production centers, in fact belong to a single,

homogeneous chemical group (Waksman and von Wartburg 2006).

MAMLUK POTTERY

Pottery of this period consists of a domestic assemblage, apparently dating from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (Stern 2009:231–232, Assemblage IV), and used by the inhabitants who lived in the meager ruins from the twelfth century. The assemblage includes handmade wares, storage jars, wheel-made cooking ware, a flask, glazed bowls and oil lamps (Table 2; see n. 6). The following loci were defined by their contents as Mamluk: Loci 16, 24 and 26 in Sq A, and L25 in Sq B.

Similar assemblages dating to the Mamluk period were found at other sites in the western Galilee, such as Lower Ḥorbat Manot, Phase 3 (Stern 2001), Giv'at Yasaf (Stern 1999), Khirbat Din'ila (Stern 2014) and Kisra (Abu-'Uqsa 2006).

The handmade wares (Fig. 11:1, 2) are either plain or painted with geometric designs. The undecorated ones are open-form vessels—bowls and basins (Fig. 11:1; Avissar and Stern 2005: 88, Type II.1.4.1, Fig. 38:1). The decorated wares consist of types of jugs with simple geometric, red-painted designs (Fig. 11:2; Avissar and Stern 2005:113, Type II.4.4.1, Fig. 47).

Table 2. Quantitative Analysis of Mamluk Ceramic Types at Dar el-Gharbiya (No. of Rims)

| Ceramic Group | Mamluk Loci ⁱ | Later Loci | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Handmade wares | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Unglazed wheel-made vessels | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Cooking pot | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Monochrome glazed bowl | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Slip-painted glazed bowl | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>16</i> |

ⁱ Loci 16, 24, 25, 26.

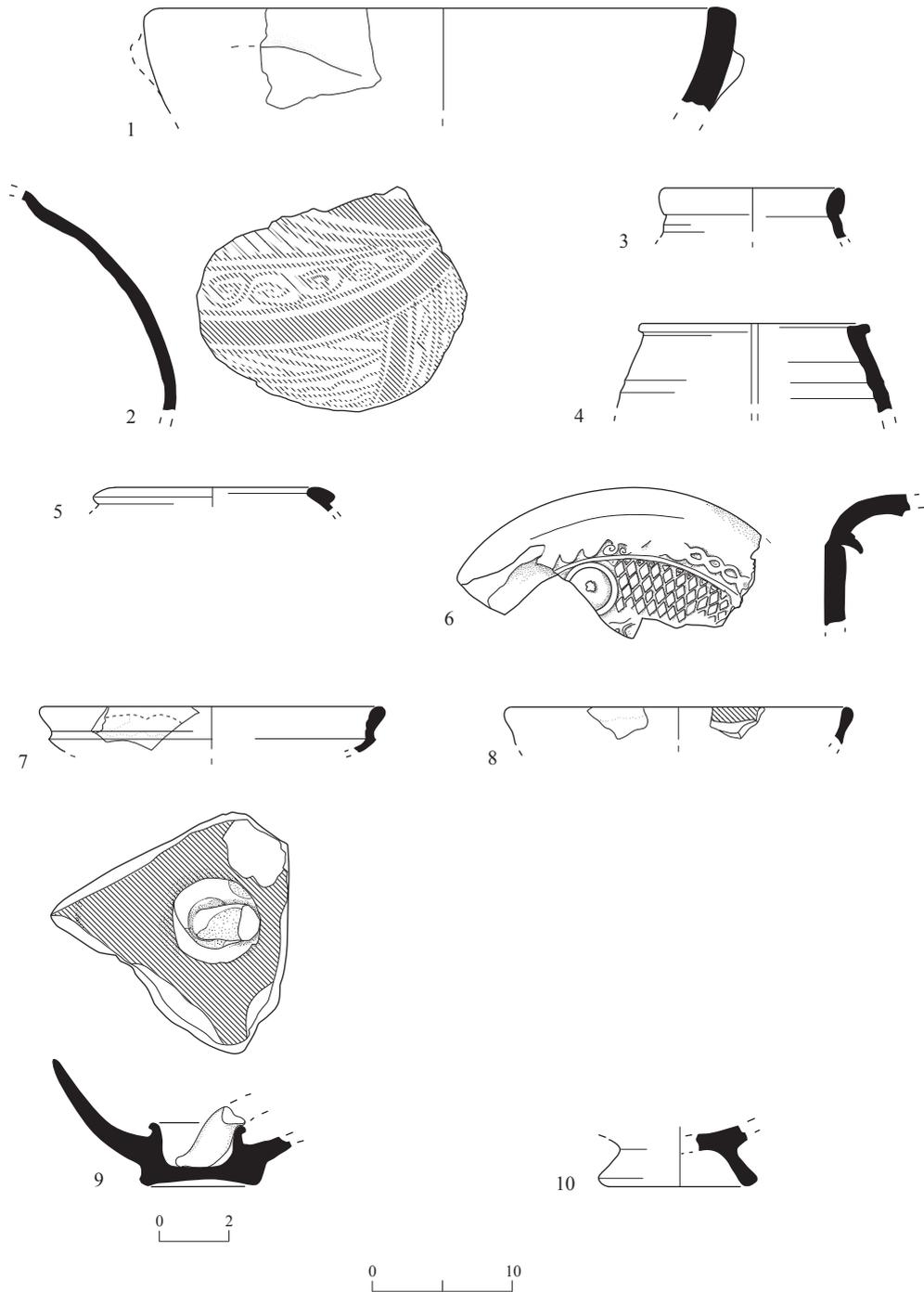


Fig. 11. Pottery from the Mamluk (1–9) and early Ottoman (10) periods.

◀ Fig. 11

| No. | Vessel | Square | Locus | Basket | Description |
|-----|---------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--|
| 1 | Handmade bowl with handle | B | 25 | 133/2 | Reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 surface, and very dark gray 10 YR 3/1 core; straw negatives |
| 2 | Handmade jug | A | 26 | 136 | Dark gray 5 Y 4/1 fabric, brown 7.5 YR 5/4 ext.; ext. has a white slip and a red-painted design; some lime grits and straw negatives; negative of fabric on int. |
| 3 | Storage jar | B | 25 | 133/4 | Red 2.5 YR 5/6 fabric; some white grits |
| 4 | Molasses jar | B | 25 | 133/5 | Red 2.5 YR 5/6 coarse fabric; many white grits and some white inclusions |
| 5 | Cooking pot | B | 25 | 133/6 | Red 2.5 YR 5/6 fabric; some white grits |
| 6 | Mold-made flask | B | 18 | 126/2 | Very pale brown 10 YR 7/3 fabric; some white grits, many voids |
| 7 | Glazed bowl | A | 24 | 132 | Carinated shoulder; red 2.5 YR 4/8 fabric; some white grits; white slip under yellow glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim |
| 8 | Glazed bowl | B | 25 | 133/3 | Light red 2.5 YR 6/8 fabric; some white grits; white slip-painted design on the int. under a yellowish glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim |
| 9 | Glazed oil lamp | B | 25 | 133/1 | Red 2.5 YR 4/8 fabric; some white grits; white slip-painted design on int. under a yellowish glaze |
| 10 | Glazed bowl | B | 23 | 122 | High, trumpet-shaped base; pink 7.5 YR 8/4 fabric; some white and dark grits; white slip under yellow glaze on int. |

Among the unglazed wheel-made vessels is a storage jar (Fig. 11:3) made of a red fabric, with a high ribbed neck and a folded rim (Avisar and Stern 2005:102, Type II.3.1.4, Fig. 42:5–10). Another jar (Fig. 11:4) is ovoid, with a narrow opening, an outward folded rim and ribbings on the exterior. It is of a type known as a molasses jar (Avisar and Stern 2005:104, Type II.3.1.6, Fig. 43:8). Such jars were also found in the Crusader phase (see above) and as is the case there, their presence may indicate close proximity to a sugar-production site, as for example, at Ḥorbat Manot (Stern 2001), which continued in use during this period.

Globular cooking pots (Fig. 11:5) are typical of this region in the Mamluk period. Such wheel-made vessels feature a flat-folded ledge rim and no neck (Avisar and Stern 2005:92, Type II.2.1.5, Fig. 39:10; Stern and Tatcher 2009:140–141, Fig. 3.23:11–16).

A shoulder fragment of a mold-made, flat-body flask (Fig. 11:6) was made of a buff fabric. Flasks of this type are common in thirteenth-

and fourteenth-century contexts and may have been produced in Syria, perhaps Damascus, where a workshop was found (Avisar and Stern 2005:117, Type II.4.5.2, Fig. 49:4, and see references there).

The glazed bowls (Fig. 11:7, 8) are either monochrome or decorated with a slip-painted design. Of the monochrome bowls, the one described here has a yellow glaze (Fig. 11:7), although also green-glazed bowls were also retrieved. The example here has a carinated shoulder and simple rim (Avisar and Stern 2005:12, Type I.1.4.1, Fig. 4). The slip-painted bowls are decorated with the typical geometric designs of this period, and have a similar profile to the monochrome glazed bowls (Fig. 11:8; Avisar and Stern 2005:19, Type I.1.6.1-2, Fig. 7:1–3).

A glazed lamp (Fig. 11:9) is also decorated with a slip-painted design. It is of the saucer form typical of the Mamluk period and has a very small oil container (Avisar and Stern 2005:124, Type III.1.1.2, Fig. 52:4).

EARLY OTTOMAN POTTERY (Fig. 11:10)

Mamluk (fourteenth–fifteenth centuries) and early Ottoman (sixteenth–seventeenth centuries) pottery could not be definitively separated at Dar el-Gharbiya, because of a lack of well-defined stratigraphic evidence. However, the absence of clay tobacco pipes at the site can assist in defining the early Ottoman phase: the fact that such pipes appeared in the seventeenth century may suggest that by that century the site was no longer settled. We therefore date the early Ottoman sherd found here to no later than the sixteenth century.

Local pottery of the sixteenth century is not well-researched; it seems, however, that it is generally a continuation of Mamluk-period pottery, with slight innovations. This assumption is based on the finds from an excavation at ez-Zuq el-Fauqani, where a stratigraphic sequence consisting of four different phases, from the Mamluk to early Ottoman periods, was clearly discerned (Hartal 2008).⁷ It is important to note that some of the vessels in the Mamluk assemblage described above may in fact also date as late as the sixteenth century (see Stern 2014:72, 73).

Figure 11:10 shows a fragment of a high, trumpet-shaped base with an internal yellow glaze. An almost complete bowl with a similar base was found at Kh. Din'ila (Stern 2014:84, Fig. 7:13). It was dated to the early Ottoman period due to its similarity to bowls produced in the Troad area and circulated to other sites in Turkey, to Cyprus and perhaps also to the southwestern Levant (Istanbul: Hayes 1992:274, Ware E, 283, b10.1 74.14, Fig. 111: b10.1 74.14; Cyprus: von Wartburg 2001:370–372, Fig. 5:27; Jerusalem: Johns 1950:189, Pl. LXIII:6). The bowl from Kh. Din'ila was of local production, as attested by petrographic analysis, and it seems most likely that this local production was imitating the current fashion of Ottoman glazed wares.

THE COINS

Ten coins were found in the excavation, ranging from the Late Roman to the Crusader period. Most were found in mixed contexts, so their main value is in identifying periods of occupation at the site. All coins are common, and are not of further numismatic interest.

1. Reg. No. 110, Sq C, L13, IAA 106056.

Arcadius, Cyzicus, 383–392 CE.

Obv.: DN ARCADIVS PF AVG Bust r., wearing cuirass and paludamentum; pearl diadem.

Rev.: VIRTVS E–XERCITI Emperor stg. r., holding labarum and globe, stepping on captive.

In exergue: SMKA

Æ, ↑, 5.54 g, 23 mm.

LRBC II: No. 2566.

2. Reg. No. 164, Sq A, L26, IAA 106058.

Justin I or Justinian I, Constantinople, 518–538 CE.

Obv.: ---]VSTI[--- bust r.

Rev.: **M** below ε; In exergue: CON

Æ *follis*, ↓, 8.03 g, 24 mm.

3. Reg. No. 145, Sq D, L29, IAA 106062.

Justinian I or Heraclius, 556–565 or 631–641 CE.

Obv.: [---] bust r.(?)

Rev.: **I** above cross; to l.: A/N/N/O; to r. X/XX (perhaps more numerals below).

Æ *decanummium*, →, 2.30 g, 13 mm.

4. Reg. No. 105, Sq C, L13, IAA 106057.

Justin II, 565–578 CE.

Obv.: [---] Justin and Sophia on thrones.

Rev.: **K** Above, cross; other details oblit.

Æ half-*follis*, ↑, 5.69 g, 21 mm.

5. Reg. No. 131, Sq A, L24, IAA 106059.

Heraclius or Constans II, Constantinople, 613–658 CE.

Obv.: Two figures(?)

Rev.: Obliterated.

Æ follis, 4.49 g, 22 mm.

6. Reg. No. 130, Sq A, L24, IAA 106063.

Constans II(?), Constantinople, 655–663 CE.

Obv.: [---] Emperor facing(?)

Rev.: **M**? (Very obscure).

Æ follis(?), 2.73 g, 18 mm. Irregular flan.

7. Reg. No. 120, Sq B L22, IAA 106055.

Arab-Byzantine, Damascus, c. 693–697 CE.

Obv.: [---] Standing Caliph.

Rev.: [---] Φ on steps.

Æ fals, 4, 2.35 g, 18 mm.

Qedar 1988–1989: Series G; Walker 1956: No. 90.

8. Reg. No. 103, Sq B, L12 (surface), IAA 106064.

Post-reform Umayyad, Damascus, eighth century CE.

Obv.: [---]

Rev.: Branch. Below: [دمشق / جائز].

Æ fals, 3.04 g, 17 mm.

Walker 1956: No. 816.

9. Reg. No. 165, Sq F, L30, IAA 106060.

Amalricus, Jerusalem(?), 1164–1235 CE.

Obv.: [---] Obliterated.

Rev.: [---] The rotunda of the Holy Sepulchre.

Billon denier, 0.47 g, 17 mm. Broken.

10. Reg. No. 171, Sq F, L30, IAA 106061.

Crusader, twelfth–thirteenth century CE.

Obv.: Cross in two concentric circles.

Rev.: **T** in two concentric circles.

Lead token, 2.94 g, 18 mm. Broken in two.

THE GLASS FINDS Yael Gorin-Rosen

The glass finds retrieved during this excavation were very meager.⁸ Only 30 diagnostic fragments were identified, of which half were debris from glass production activities. Although remains of glass production have been unearthed in most of the salvage

excavations and surveys at Kafr Yasif, the location of the workshop is uncertain, and the period of its operation can only be conjectured on the basis of the dating of glass vessels found together with the debris (see below). The glass vessels found in this excavation were primarily dated to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods. A few small non-diagnostic fragments might belong to later periods (medieval).

Late Byzantine–Early Umayyad Vessels

A few small fragments of very characteristic vessels were found (not illustrated). They represent the most common vessels of the late sixth to eighth centuries CE. Similar vessels were found in salvage excavations in the region, in assemblages assigned to local manufacture, e.g., at two salvage excavations at Aḥīhud, where large quantities of vessels and debris were collected (Cohen 2007; Porat and Getzov 2010).

Wineglasses.— Three bases of wineglasses were unearthed. One fragment is of the tubular, ring-base type (L29, B144), usually attributed to the Byzantine period; see the example from Shave Zīyyon (Barag 1967:67–68, Fig. 16:15, 17). The other two fragments belong to the solid-base type (L13, B109; L18, B117), which dates to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods. Examples of such bases were found in two burial caves at Khirbat el-Shubeika (Gorin-Rosen 2002:300–301, Fig. 7:55 [Burial Cave 1]; 314, 316, Fig. 7:36 [Burial Cave 2], and see there for further references to Bet Yerah, Kursi, Bet She'an, Qaṣṣra, Jerash and Bosra). The beaded foot of an additional wineglass was also found (L18).

Bottle.— A fragment of an infolded, flattened rim (L12, B108) belongs to the most characteristic-typed bottle, with a short cylindrical neck and globular or squat body; see the examples from Burial Cave 2 at Kh. el-Shubeika (Gorin-Rosen 2002:315–316, Fig. 8:37, 38, and further references to Kursi, Capernaum, Jerash and Amman). This type is dated to the late Byzantine and Umayyad

periods, mainly the seventh and eighth centuries CE.

Oil Lamps.— Two types of stemmed oil lamps were found. The lamp with the hollow, conical stem (L27, B142) was very common during the Byzantine period (see the example from Shave Ziyyon: Barag 1967:68–69, Fig. 16:25) and continues into the Umayyad period with slight differences. The second type, with a solid, beaded stem (L19, B134), is typical of the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods, e.g., at Kursi (Barag 1983:38, Fig. 9:10, and see there references to Capernaum, Bet She’an and Jerash). Both were too small to be drawn.

Evidence of Glass Production

The first evidence of glass production consisted of two blocks of debris collected on the surface. The larger block is approximately 0.2 m wide. It looks like a mixture of limestone and small chunks of glass.

Other remains were found in the following loci: 12 (surface), 19, 22, 24, 25, 29 and 31. These remains include several pieces of dismantled glass furnaces, such as those found in L19 (B138) and L29 (B144; Fig. 12), where part of the furnace floor was found. The pieces show two layers: an upper layer consisting of clear glass (Fig. 12), and a thick bottom layer



Fig. 12. Piece of dismantled glass furnace.

made of stone that had been heated so intensely that it cracked and veins of partially liquefied glass penetrated it. Similar remains were found at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana, where a glass production center operated at the Late Roman and early Byzantine industrial area (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:125–128, Fig. 25:21, 22).

In addition, there were small chunks of raw glass which, after having been melted in the glass-working furnaces, had cooled and solidified. Similar raw glass chunks have been found in several excavations, e.g., at Kh. el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:125–127, Fig. 25:9–20, with further references there; for a general discussion, see Gorin-Rosen 2000:56–61).

During salvage excavations at Kafr Yasif conducted in 2004 by Abu-Raya (2010) remains of three small raw glass chunks, as well as two fragments of glass-blowing debris, were retrieved (Gorin-Rosen 2010).

All the glass finds from the present excavation were examined and were dated to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad period. If the production debris is contemporary with the vessels, we may assign the debris to the same period.

The earliest remains of glass production activities at Kafr Yasif were found by the joint expedition of the Corning Museum of Glass and the University of Missouri during two seasons of excavations (*Notes and News* 1964; 1966). Two trenches were dug to the west of the village, yielding debris of a glass factory comprising quantities of fragments of furnace walls, fired bricks, glass vessels (some misshapen), glass drops, threads, etc. The pottery and a coin found on the surface (of Anastasius I, 491–518 CE) suggest that the site was in use from the fifth–sixth centuries (for the preliminary report, see *Notes and News* 1964:288). The excavators postulated that the area tested lies outside the glass factory but probably not far from it, and further probing should locate it (*Notes and News* 1966:284). Our excavation also identified the production debris; but the location of the furnaces eludes us.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Crusader-Period Pottery

The Crusader pottery assemblage (see Table 1) includes mainly locally produced household wares that were in use during the twelfth century. Moreover, most of the vessels retrieved seem to have been produced in the same workshops as in the preceding period (the late Fatimid and early Crusader periods; see Stern and Stacey 2000; Stern 2009:227–228, Assemblage I). Imported wares from the Mediterranean now also appear (5 vessels; for similar assemblages, see Stern 2009:228–229, Assemblage II; 2012a:24, 25, Table 3.1, early assemblage), apparently due to a change in maritime trading patterns after the establishment of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem (Stern 2012a). The ceramic assemblage of Dar el-Gharbiya is similar to the excavated pottery assemblage from Mi'ilya, a rural site in the western Galilee dated to the same period, and quantified the same way (Stern 2012b). At 'Akko, the main harbor of the region, the contemporaneous assemblage is also similar to that of Dar el-Gharbiya and Mi'ilya. There too, the imported pottery comprised Byzantine wares only, but in higher percentages than at the rural sites (Stern 2012a).

The pottery unearthed at Dar el-Gharbiya provides a comprehensive picture of a ceramic assemblage dating to the first Latin Kingdom (twelfth century) in the rural hinterland of the major port city of 'Akko. It is quite rare to find an assemblage dating exclusively to this time-period in northern Israel, particularly in the western Galilee. Usually assemblages dating to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are found together and differences between the earlier and later Crusader-period assemblages are difficult to detect. Such was the case, for example, at Ḥ. 'Uza (Stern and Tatcher 2009:129–167).

However, recently, with the advance in the study of pottery of this period and the use of more precise excavation methods in Crusader-period excavation, it has become possible to identify and differentiate between three specific

ceramic assemblages (Stern 2009), which can be assigned to the following periods: (1) The period just preceding the Crusader conquest and the first decades thereafter (late eleventh to early twelfth century); (2) The second half of the first- and the beginning of the second Latin Kingdom (mid-twelfth to early thirteenth centuries); (3) The major part of the second Latin Kingdom (thirteenth century).

Although, as noted, similar assemblages that can be pinpointed to the mid-twelfth to early thirteenth century are rare, they have recently been identified at other excavations in 'Akko (Stern 2012a:24–25, Table 3.1, 'early assemblage'), Tiberias (Stern 2013, Phase 4), Mi'ilya (Stern 2012b) and Yafo (Strange-Burke and Stern, forthcoming).

Historical Overview

The results of the excavations show that apart from scattered pottery and coins from the Persian, Hellenistic and Late Roman periods, the first major phase of occupation at the site was in the late Byzantine–early Umayyad periods, with some presence in the Abbasid period, i.e., in the sixth–ninth centuries CE. The pottery, glass and coins from the Byzantine period, and the small Greek cross carved in the threshold in secondary use found in Sq B, may suggest the presence of a religious building.

The most intensive building phase was during the Crusader period, specifically in the twelfth century. A large compound, fenced off by a thick wall (W15), of which only the northern part survived, seems to have occupied the southern two-thirds of the plot. The wall exhibits the hallmarks of Crusader architecture and construction methods (Boas 1999:218–220; Ellenblum 1992). Within the compound were several solidly built structures aligned more-or-less with the cardinal directions. The nature of these buildings could not be unequivocally determined through the archaeological data. However, they were probably related to one of the forms of rural settlement known from the period, such as a village (*casale*), a fortified estate or a

monastery (see below, *Identification of the Site*).

Some isolated Frankish fortified estates—defined as farmhouses or manor houses—have been excavated or surveyed in the vicinity of Jerusalem (Ellenblum 1998:179–191; Boas 1999:68–74). The Jerusalem area was no longer in Crusader hands in the thirteenth century and therefore, these fortified estates exhibit only the twelfth-century phase, e.g., Har Ḥoḏevim (May 2000; Kletter and Boas 2002) and Khirbat al-Lawza (Ellenblum, Rubin and Solar 1996). In the western Galilee, however, after the fall of the first Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem in 1187, Crusader occupation was renewed in 1191 for an additional century. Archaeological finds in this region show Frankish occupation through 1291, most notably in the capital ‘Akko. Consequently, it is rare to find fortified estates dating only to the twelfth century in the western Galilee. For example, a building complex excavated at Ḥ. ‘Uḏa (*La Hadia*), about 5 km south of Dar el-Gharbiya, although erected in the mid-twelfth century like those in the Jerusalem area, continued until the end of Crusader rule, together with a small village that had developed alongside it (Getzov, Stern and Tatcher 2009).

The pottery that was found in the main phase of the building at Dar el-Gharbiya dates from the mid-twelfth century and possibly also to the first decades of the thirteenth century, thus dating the first use of this building to that period. Unfortunately, the two Crusader-period coins do not help in dating, as the ubiquitous *Amalricus* deniers, though originally minted in the twelfth century, may well have also been minted in the thirteenth century as an immobilized type, and lead tokens in general cannot be dated with any accuracy.

Dar el-Gharbiya is so far unique in the western Galilee: Crusader occupation seems to have ended there with the end of the first Kingdom of Jerusalem, unlike other settlements in the western Galilee, which continued until the thirteenth century without an obvious break in habitation. Despite two

thirteenth-century Crusader sherds found on the surface (not illustrated),⁹ the historical sources, as well as the majority of the finds, lead us to conclude that the site was indeed abandoned in 1187.

This conclusion is based on historical logic, distilled from the presence of a pottery assemblage that begins in the mid-twelfth century but does not continue beyond the first decades of the thirteenth century.

Following a gap of about a hundred years, the site was resettled in the Mamluk period (fourteenth–fifteenth centuries), but apparently much of the area was converted to agricultural use, including animal husbandry. The evidence of the water channel passing through the massive wall (W15) suggests that it was no longer used for defense. Given the above-mentioned stratigraphic difficulties in dating the post-Crusader structures and the scant pottery remains, the duration and continuity of this phase cannot be determined with certainty. It would seem, however, that the site continued in use no later than into the early Ottoman period, in the sixteenth century.

Identification of the Site

The site at Dar el-Gharbiya offers the intriguing possibility of identification with Mimas, a village and church mentioned in Crusader documents from the twelfth century, but not later. The documents are the following:

1. In December 1138, King Fulk, Queen Melisande and their son Baldwin confirm a land grant made some time earlier to the prior of the order of the Holy Sepulchre in the village of Mimas by one Lambert Hals (or Als) (de Rozière 1849:57, No. 31). This grant was ratified twice more by King Baldwin III in 1155 and 1160, and again by King Amaury in 1164 (de Rozière 1849:97, No. 53; 102, No. 54; 262, No. 144).
2. Still in 1138, in a document written by the bishop of ‘Akko, Iohannes, a church (or the right to build one) is mentioned in *casalis Amimas*, three miles from ‘Akko (de Rozière 1849:145, No. 72).

3. On June 21, 1141 Pope Innocent II confirmed the above-mentioned grant to the prior of the order of the Holy Sepulchre (de Rozière 1849:24, No. 18). Pope Alexander III ratified this grant in 1167 (de Rozière 1849:278, No. 156).

4. The only mention of Mimas in the thirteenth century is in the Crusader-Mamluk treaty of 1283 (Barag 1979:202, No. 51, 206).

5. Mimas appears for the last time in an Ottoman tax-list from the sixteenth century (Rhode 1979:88).

In modern research, Mimas has been identified at Tel 'Emeq (Fig. 1), whose name in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century maps is Tell Mimas. However, an archaeological survey at this site has shown that it was inhabited from the Late Bronze Age to the Byzantine period only (Frankel and Getzov 2012: Site No. 178).

As Crusader and Mamluk ceramic evidence is absent at Tel 'Emeq, the discovery of Crusader remains at nearby Dar el-Gharbiya makes it a strong candidate for identification as the twelfth-century *casalis Mimas*. Likewise, the sixteenth-century ceramic evidence at Dar el-Gharbiya, albeit meager, may, together with the sixteenth-century Ottoman tax-list, assist in its identification as Mimas.

Apart from the archaeological evidence, there may be a collective memory that the name of the neighborhood was once *deir el-Gharbiya*, i.e., 'the western monastery' (personal communication from a resident to one of the authors).¹⁰ Although only a church and no monastery are mentioned in the documents, this is still a possibility. The eventual drifting of the name to Tel 'Emeq, about 1500 m to the north, is a known phenomenon.

NOTES

¹ The excavation (Permit No. A-3272), carried out on the plot of Na'ameh Farah, was directed by Danny Syon on behalf of the IAA, which also financed the excavation. Idan Shaked and Hanaa Abu 'Uqsa assisted as field directors. Further assistance was provided by Yossi Ya'akoby (administration), Vadim Essman and Viacheslav Pirskey (surveying), Lena Kuperschmidt (cleaning of coins), Hagit Tahan (pottery drawing), and Ariel Berman (identification of coin No. 8). Edna J. Stern studied the pottery and Yael Gorin-Rosen researched the glass. Special thanks are due to Rafael Frankel for the stimulating discussions on the historical implications of the finds.

² The sculpted head (IAA 1980-5046) was found by the late Shmuel Baer. Our thanks to Rafael Frankel and Nimrod Getzov for allowing us to publish photographs of it (photography: Howard Smithline; for a drawing, see Frankel and Getzov 2012: Site No. 208.6). Prof. Nurith Kenaan-Kedar kindly looked at the figurine and suggested dating it to the late twelfth–early thirteenth centuries. For a somewhat similar head, see Rozenberg 1999:190, No. 12.

³ The bones were sent for analysis but were unfortunately lost.

⁴ We thank the anonymous reviewer for this suggestion.

⁵ In an excavation conducted in 2010 on the same plot by Haim Barbé (Permit No. A-6013), the remains in Sq F were more fully exposed and will be the subject of a forthcoming report.

⁶ The pottery types were counted according to rim sherds. Although the number of the rims does not represent the absolute number of vessels, since certain types may have been eliminated from the statistics because no rims were found, a quantitative analysis of rims offers a convenient, quick counting method (see also Stern and Tatcher 2009:167–172; Stern 2012a:24–31). Rim sherds found in secure loci within the excavation were counted, as well as those from mixed contexts. Unfortunately, the small number of sherds found and their fragmentary nature limit the conclusions that may be drawn from their occurrence.

⁷ The site of Ez-Zuq el-Fauqani lies near Qiryat Shemona and was excavated by Moshe Hartal,

(Permit No. A-4002). I would like to thank Moshe for inviting me to study the ceramic finds from this excavation. Thus far, only a preliminary study of the pottery was conducted. Four well-defined strata were excavated, ranging from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Pottery from Strata II and III, while typologically identical, could be separated on the strength of the tobacco pipes, which appear only in the seventeenth century, thus dating stratum II to the seventeenth and stratum III, to the sixteenth century. Stratum IV, which is Mamluk, is very similar to Stratum III.

⁸ I extend my thanks to the excavator, Danny Syon, for inviting me to study the glass finds and to Howard Smithline, for photographing them.

⁹ A sherd of a thick-walled cooking pot (Avisar and Stern 2005:92, Type II.2.1.4, Fig. 39:7) and a sherd of a Port St. Symeon glazed bowl (Avisar and Stern 2005:54–55, Type I.7.4, Fig. 22:7).

¹⁰ With the caveat that he heard this from one of the workmen in the excavation who may have wanted to help ‘reinforce’ our conclusions.

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