

LATE ROMAN FUNERARY CUSTOMS IN LIGHT OF THE GRAVE GOODS FROM THE CEMETERY ON ŞALLAḤ ED-DIN STREET, JERUSALEM

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INTRODUCTION

The burial ground excavated on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street was crowded with cist tombs and single-chamber burial caves, and constituted a major part of the dense and extensive northern cemetery of Jerusalem during the Late Roman period (see Avni and Adawi, this volume). Hence, a study of its contents intensifies our knowledge regarding the city's population and burial customs.

The burials yielded many glass vessels and numerous gold, lead, copper/bronze, iron, glass, wood, shell and bone artifacts.¹ Most of the vessels and artifacts were recovered in the tombs in the southern excavation area, while five glass fragments came from the northern excavation area (see Avni and Adawi, this volume).

The glass vessels and the various artifacts from the cemetery resemble finds from other Late Roman burials in Jerusalem and its vicinity (see Avni and Adawi, this volume: Fig. 1), as well as from more distant sites. Many similar examples come from the nearby site of Karm al-Shaikh, some 500 m southeast of the site on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street; most of the graves and burial chambers at Karm al-Shaikh were attributed to the period between the mid-third and the mid-fourth centuries CE (Baramki 1932a; Barag 1970:22–24). The tombs on Nablus Road, some 100 m southwest of the site on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, may be dated to the third or early fourth century CE (Hamilton and Husseini 1935; Barag 1970:21), and those on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street were in use in the early third century CE (Rahmani 1960). Two tombs were excavated in Naḥal Raqafot in western Jerusalem: Tomb I was dated to 220–

240 CE, and Tomb II, to the second half of the third century CE (Rahmani 1976). A tomb at Manaḥat, also in western Jerusalem, was dated to the first third of the third century CE (Gath and Rahmani 1977).

Several burial complexes in Jordan also yielded artifacts similar to those from the cemetery on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street. These include a tomb on Jebel Jofeh in Amman, attributed to the third century CE (Harding 1950), a cemetery excavated at Queen Alia International Airport, 25 km south of Amman, which was in use from the second century to the third quarter of the third century CE (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987), and an imposing tomb at es-Salt, dated from the third–fourth centuries CE (Hadidi 1979).

Other analogous finds were recovered from multiple burial complexes in and around Jerusalem that served during more than one period, and their datings are therefore mentioned when relevant. These include the finds from the caves at Akeldama, south of the city (Winter 1996a; 1996b) and the Dominus Flevit compound on the Mount of Olives (Bagatti and Milik 1958). Similar finds from sites farther away are cited when examples from the vicinity of Jerusalem are scarce or unavailable.

References to all the sites mentioned above recur throughout this article, and therefore their dates may not always be repeated. Analogous examples are cited according to their degree of affinity to the specific type discussed, or to their geographical proximity to the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery: from sites in the nearby vicinity, to western Jerusalem and other locations within the city's environs, and

then to other regions in Israel and finally, to neighboring countries.

The finds are discussed beginning with the glass vessels (Figs. 1–3; Tables 1, 2), and followed by the various artifacts according to their materials and typology (Figs. 4–11). In addition, the complete repertoires of finds from the southern trough in Cave I (L105) in the northern area (Fig. 12; Table 3) and T2200 in the southern area (Fig. 13; Table 4) are presented separately. For the entire contents of all the caves and tombs, see Avni and Adawi, this volume: Tables 1 and 2.

THE FINDS

GLASS VESSELS

Forty glass vessels were identified (Figs. 1–3; Tables 1, 2). Most of them were recovered from the cist tombs in the southern excavation area. Five glass fragments originated in the northern area: two from the northern trough (L103) in Cave I, one from the collapse (L102) on top of the northern trough, and two from T107. All the glass vessels were collected from within the burials, except for three pieces unearthed in the accumulation over the Second Temple-period quarry (one from L6100, see Fig. 3:3, and two from L6000, see Table 2), and a fragment found on the surface (B11070; see Table 2).

About half of the forty identified glass vessels preserved their complete profile, and only a handful of non-diagnostic body fragments could not be associated with a specific vessel type (see Table 2). Most of the vessels bear a silvery, black or brown iridescence, and many are pitted. All the vessels were free-blown, except for a mold-blown jar (Fig. 3:1). The vessels were made of translucent glass, mostly colorless or colorless with a greenish or bluish tinge, and generally contained round or oval bubbles.

The glass-vessel corpus comprises mostly undecorated vessels. A group of vessels recovered from within various burials, including two dozen candlestick-type bottles, a

mold-blown jar, two globular jars and several fragmentary bowls and bottles (Figs. 1; 2; 3:1–3; Tables 1, 2), corresponds well with the third century CE.

The trail-wound base (Fig. 3:4) was recovered in the debris (L102, B1002) on top of the northern trough in Cave I; this debris probably contained later material, which would explain the base's date in the fourth–fifth centuries CE. The miniature vessels (Fig. 3:5–8) unearthed in T2200 are unique, and their date is uncertain. A Byzantine-dated wineglass base and a bottle rim of uncertain date (Table 2) were found in an accumulation over the Second Temple-period quarry (L6000, B11020), which also yielded a first-century CE coin (L6000, B11074; see Bijovsky, this volume: No. 1); the accumulative nature of their provenance indicates the glass vessels were not found *in situ*.

Tall Candlestick-Type Bottles (Figs. 1, 2; Table 1).— At least twenty-four candlestick-type bottles were retrieved from the cemetery on Şallah ed-Din Street, comprising 60% of the identified glass vessels from the site. The candlestick-type bottles were concentrated in four tombs only: Tombs 100, 1500, 2900 and 3700. Eleven candlestick-type bottles were interred in T2900 along with a clay lamp (see Avni and Adawi, this volume: Table 2), and seven, in T100—the only grave goods in the tomb. Five bottles were found in T1500, together with a mold-blown jar and a silver object (see below, Figs. 3:1; 5:14). A receptacle of a candlestick-type bottle was discovered on top of the stone slabs sealing T3700 (see Table 1), together with fragments of a globular glass jar (Fig. 3:2) and a mold-made clay discus lamp dated to the first–third centuries CE (B11064; see Avni and Adawi, this volume: Fig. 23:7).

While candlestick-type bottles occur in various sizes and variations, all the bottles in the Şallah ed-Din Street corpus are of the tall, delicate, very thin-walled type, their height ranging between 147 and 193 mm. All the surviving rims are flared and infolded, often

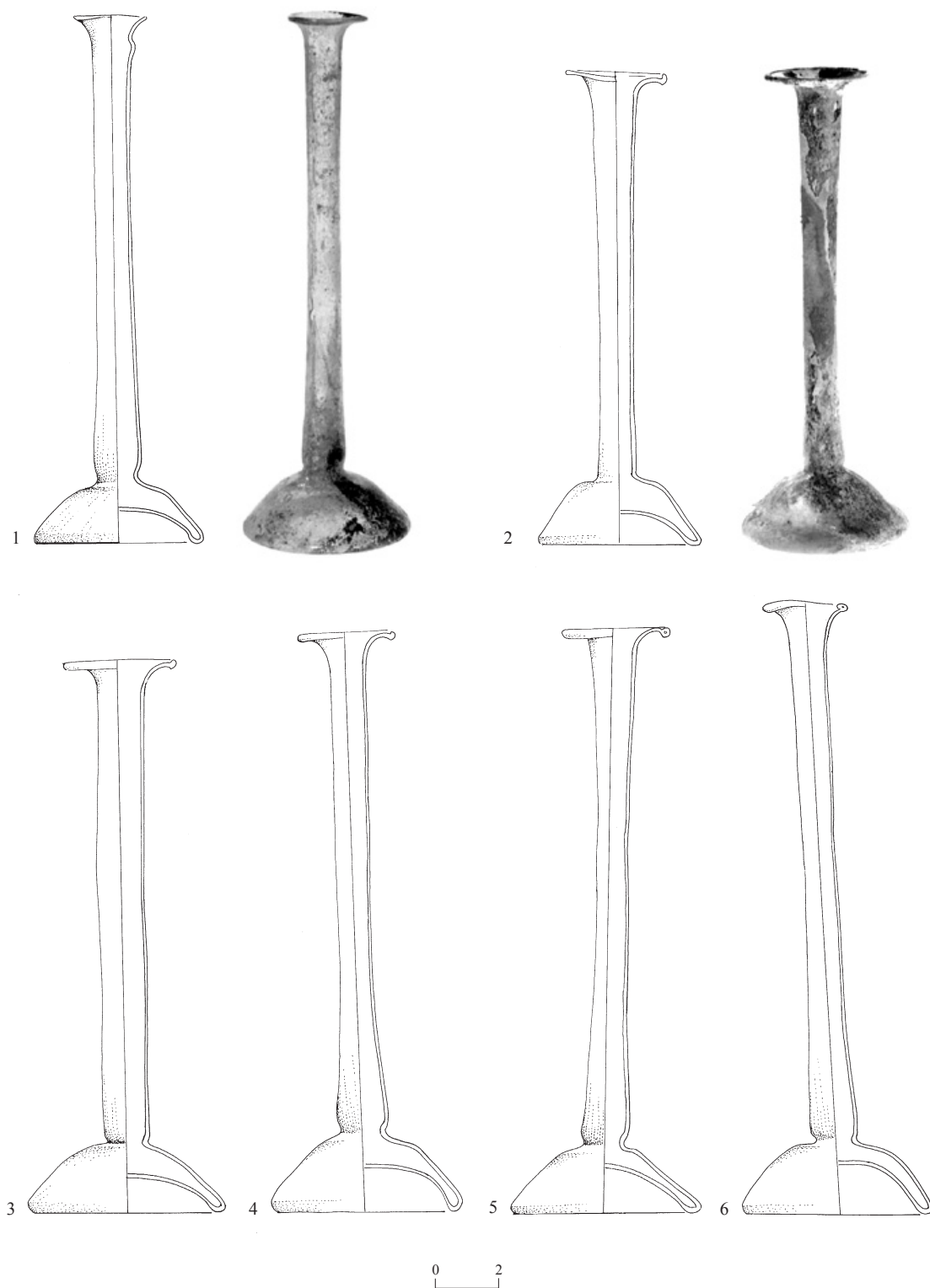


Fig. 1. Glass candlestick-type bottles.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Locus	Basket	Color	H (mm)	Rim D (mm)	Bottom D (mm)	Volume (ml)	Description and Condition
1	2900	11050a	Colorless with greenish tinge	165–166	23–25	53–54		Complete, restored from three parts; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence
2	1500	11052	Colorless	158–159	35–36	59		Complete, bottom broken; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence, brown deposits
3	1500	11055	Colorless with bluish tinge	173–174	35–37	61–62	38	Complete; silver iridescence, white and brown deposits
4	2900	11048a	Colorless with bluish tinge	182–185	31–32	60–61		Complete; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence, slight pitting
5	100	11000	Colorless with bluish tinge	184–185	32–34	60–62	29	Complete; round and oval bubbles, silver iridescence, pitting
6	100	11004	Colorless with bluish tinge	192–193	26–27	60–62	33	Complete, broken at rim; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence, pitting

Fig. 2 ▶

No.	Locus	Basket	Color	H (mm)	Rim D (mm)	Bottom D (mm)	Volume (ml)	Description and Condition
7	100	11003	Colorless with bluish tinge	177–180	30	62		Rim and bottom broken; silver and black iridescence, pitting
8	2900	11050b	Colorless with bluish tinge			56		Neck and bottom fragment; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence
9	1500	11056	Colorless with bluish tinge	147–149	33–35	51–52	25	Complete; silver iridescence, white and brown deposits
10	2900	11022	Colorless with greenish tinge	178–181	29–30	58–59	33	Complete; round and oval bubbles, silver iridescence
11	2900	11023a	Colorless	166–168	26–27	59		Complete, restored from two parts; round and oval bubbles, silver iridescence, brown deposits
12	2900	11024	Colorless with bluish tinge	175–176	32–33	60	23	Complete; round and oval bubbles, silver iridescence, brown deposits
13	2900	11049	Colorless with greenish tinge	172–175	33	58		Complete, bottom broken; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence

only partially infolded; most are irregular or uneven, suggesting they were carelessly made. The rim diameters range between 23 and 37 mm, over half of them measuring 32–37 mm. The cylindrical necks are tall and narrow, and all are constricted at their base.

The receptacles are thin-walled and the shoulders convex. All the bottoms are concave, most of them deeply concave, allowing for very little volume between the base of the neck and the bottom floor, and indeed the complete bottles may have held as little as 23–38 ml of

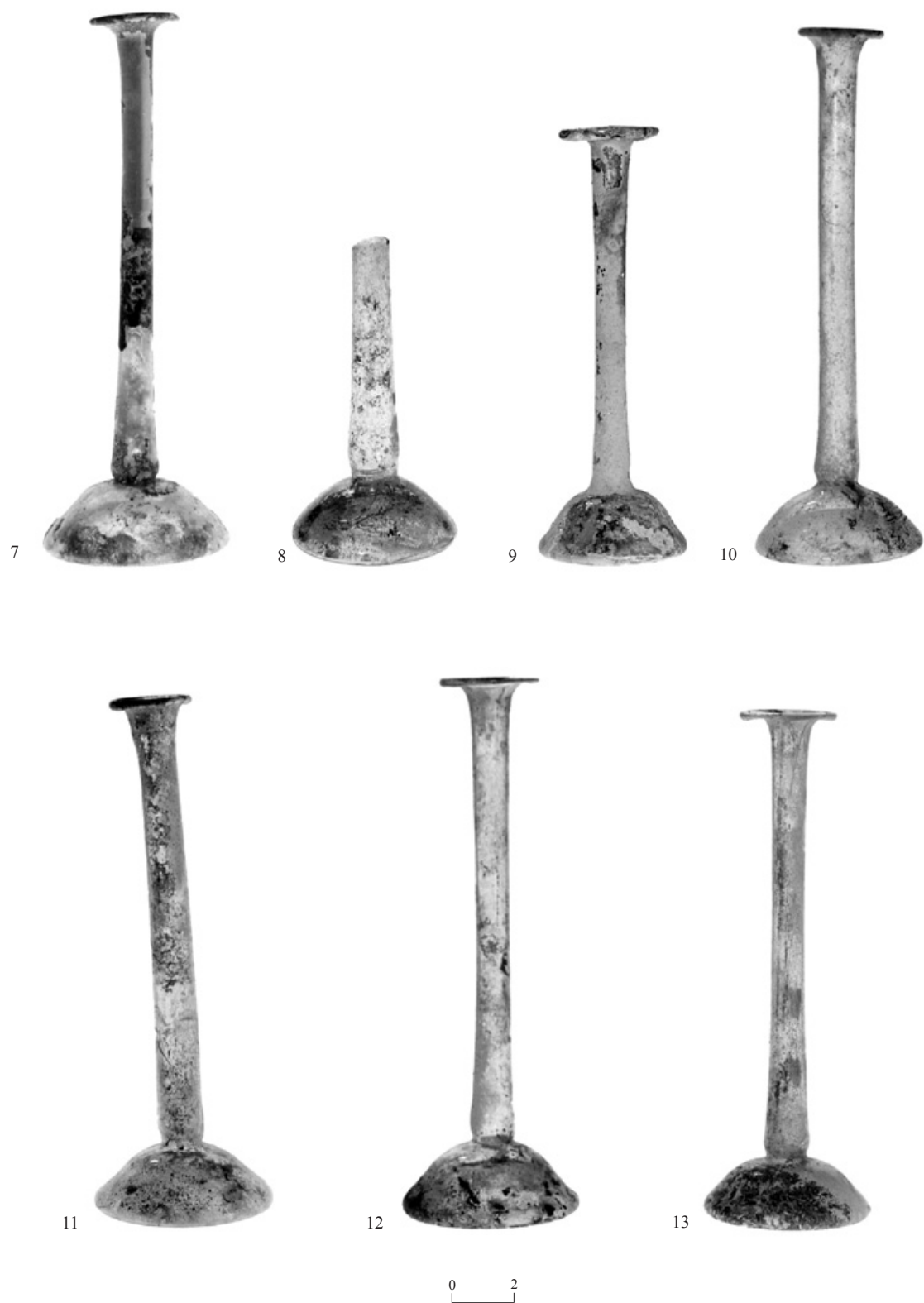


Fig. 2. Glass candlestick-type bottles (cont.).

Table 1. Non-Illustrated Glass Candlestick-Type Bottles

Locus	Basket	Color	H (mm)	Rim D (mm)	Bottom D (mm)	Condition
100	11001	Colorless with bluish tinge		29–30		Bottom missing; round and oval bubbles, silver and white iridescence, pitting
100	11002	Colorless with bluish tinge		30–31		Receptacle and bottom missing; round and oval bubbles, silver and black iridescence, pitting
100	11005	Colorless				Neck and receptacle fragments; silver and black iridescence, pitting
100	11006	Colorless			60	Neck and receptacle fragment; silver and black iridescence, pitting
2900	11023b	Colorless				Fragments of at least two bottles: four neck fragments, and a neck and receptacle fragment; silver and black iridescence
2900	11047	Colorless				Rim and bottom fragments; silver and black iridescence
2900	11048b	Colorless with bluish tinge		c. 35		Rim fragment; silver iridescence, slight pitting
1500	11053	Colorless	180–185	30–32	65	Complete, bottom broken; silver and black iridescence, brown deposits, pitting
1500	11054	Colorless	180–185	32–33	64–65	Complete, broken in two; silver iridescence, brown deposits
3700	11063	Colorless with bluish tinge				Receptacle fragments; silver and black iridescence, pitting

Table 2. Non-Illustrated Fragments of Glass Vessels

Type	Date	Locus	Basket	Description and Condition
Bowl	Late Roman to Byzantine	103	1005	Hollow outfolded rim (D 100–110 mm) and thin wall; light blue; small round bubbles, silver iridescence
Bowl	Roman or Byzantine	107	1019	Thickened rounded rim (D 100 mm); light blue; small round bubbles, silver iridescence
Bowl		4600	11072	Small rim fragment
Bottle	Late Roman or Byzantine	103	1005	Thin-walled neck fragment; colorless; medium oval bubbles, silver iridescence, brown deposits
Bottle		6000	11020	Rim fragment
Bottle		107	1019	Thick concave bottom (D at least 60 mm) with scar and traces of glass from pontil; light blue; small and medium round bubbles, silver iridescence
Wineglass	Byzantine	6000	11020	Hollow tubular base
Non-diagnostic body fragments		1100 2200 3600 Surface	11018 11031 11058 11070	

fluid. The bottoms range in diameter between 51 and 65 mm: about two-thirds of them measure 58–62 mm, two 51–54 mm, and two others measure 65 mm in diameter.

The similarities in the treatment of the rims and necks, the fashioning of the bodies and bottoms, and the similar dimensions of most of the candlestick-type bottles, all suggest that

these bottles from the cemetery on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street were made in the same workshop, possibly by the same artisan.

Candlestick-type bottles of various subtypes were very popular throughout the Roman Empire, particularly in Syria-Palestine, from the late first to the mid-third centuries CE (Barag 1970:209–212, Fig. 46, Type 21, and see therein discussion and examples; Winter 1996a:96–98, Figs. 5.3–5.5, and see therein discussion and additional examples from Jerusalem, Jericho, Samaria-Sebaste and Ben Shemen).

Candlestick-type bottles with a small-volume receptacle of the variant found in the cemetery on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street occurred, though not frequently, in the second and early third centuries CE in Palestine and the Phoenician coast (e.g., at Tyre: Chéhab 1986:202, Pl. 4:2). A specimen with a similar small-volume receptacle and a concave bottom was discovered, for example, in a rock-cut tomb at Ketef Hinnom, together with other subtypes of candlestick-type bottles (see Katsnelson, this volume: Fig. 2:11).

Candlestick-type bottles of the tall subtype with various kinds of receptacles are common finds at Roman-period sites, particularly in funerary contexts. In Jerusalem and its vicinity, assemblages of such bottles were unearthed in burial caves, for example, at the YMCA (Iliffe 1935:72, Fig. 2a), at Akeldama (Winter 1996a:96–98, Figs. 5.3, 5.4) and at Moza 'Illit, west of the city (Gudovitch 1996: Fig. 2:1).

Mold-Blown Jar (Fig. 3:1).— This complete, mold-blown, thick-walled jar has an irregular, partially folded rim, a funnel-shaped mouth and a short, swollen neck. The globular body bears a lozenge-grid pattern. The body and concave base were made of two mold-blown halves joined together, as attested by the two 'seams' running vertically along either side of the vessel. The lower part of one of the halves is irregular, possibly damaged in production.

The mold-blown, lozenge-grid pattern places this jar in the third century CE. The specific shape of the rim, neck and body, and the

careless workmanship, as well as the absence of published, similarly-shaped vessels (see below), all suggest it was produced locally.

A globular jar with an infolded rim, its mold-blown body adorned with a lozenge-grid pattern, was discovered in a burial cave ('pit cave') dated to the second–third centuries CE in the Rafidiya Quarter in Shekhem, together with a small-volume receptacle of a tall candlestick-type bottle, resembling vessels from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street (Hizmi 1997:128–129, Fig. 8:3, 5).

Two sprinklers in the collections of the Israel Museum, dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Israeli 2003:222–223, Cat. Nos. 273, 274), are different in shape yet bear a mold-blown, lozenge-grid pattern similar to that on the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street jar. The mold-blown, lozenge-grid pattern also adorns other third-century CE sprinklers from Syria; these, like the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street specimen, were carelessly made and their seam protrudes along the sides and the base, occasionally hindering the vessel's stability (Stern 2001:244–246, Cat. Nos. 130–132; Rütli 1981:86, No. 302, and see therein examples of more regularly patterned and variously shaped sprinklers from other collections).

Jar (Fig. 3:2).— This rim is wide, hollow and irregularly infolded, and probably belonged to a jar. It was discovered on top of the stone slabs sealing T3700, together with a receptacle of a candlestick-type bottle and a fragment of a mold-made, clay discus lamp dated to the first–third centuries CE (see above). As this type of jar rim is characteristic of the third–fourth centuries CE, these accompanying finds may narrow the date of the jar to the third century CE.

Globular Jar Adorned with a Zigzag Trail (Fig. 3:3).— A colorless zigzag trail was drawn from the shoulder to the rim of a globular jar. Pieces of the colorless vessel wall were still attached to it. It was recovered in the accumulation (L6100) over the Second Temple-period quarry.

Globular jars of this type were commonplace in burial complexes in the region, mostly from

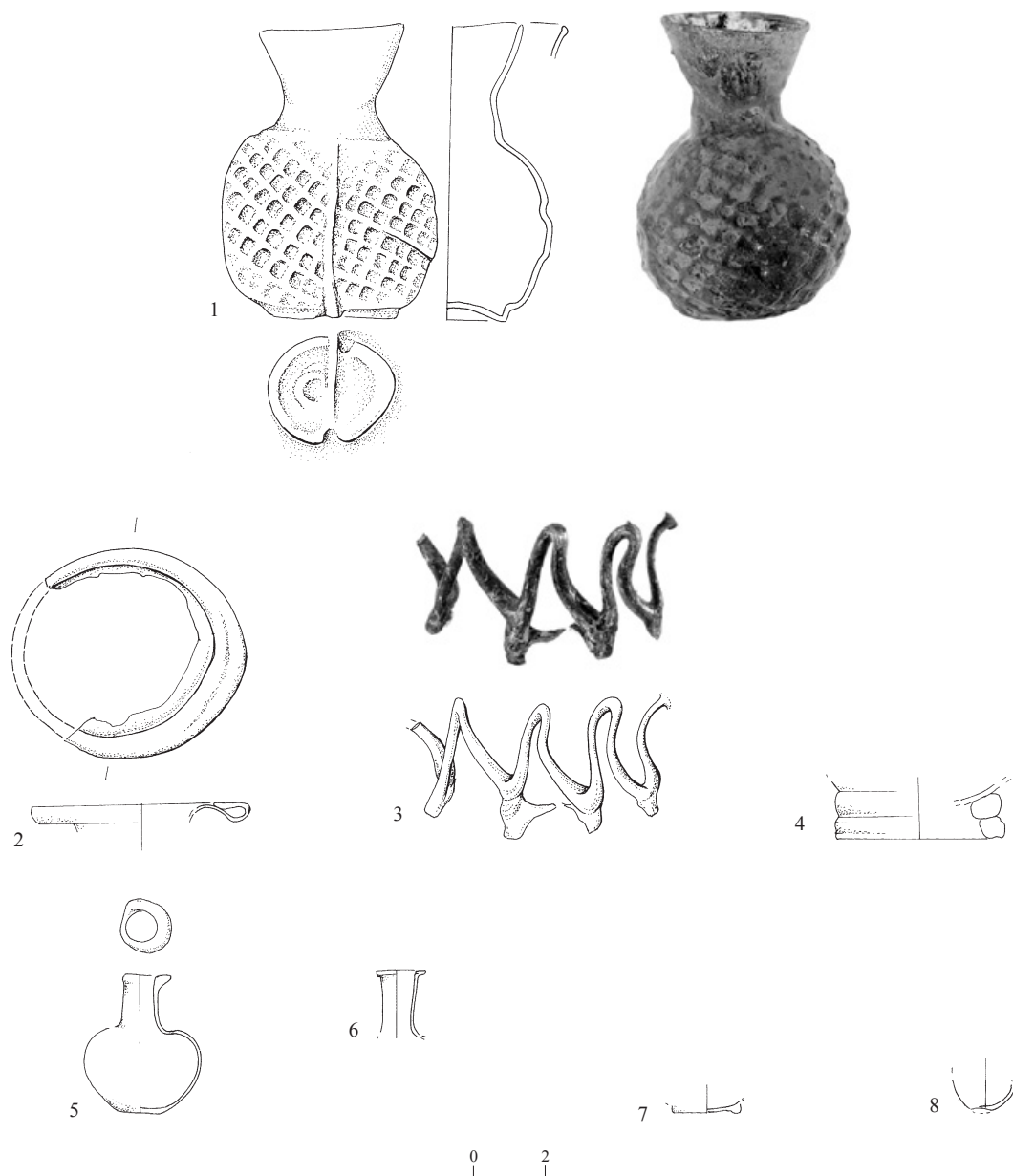


Fig. 3. Various glass vessels.

the third–fourth centuries CE (Barag 1970:152, Types 6:9, 6:10; Pl. 34:9, 10, and see therein discussion and examples from Jerusalem, Bet She‘arim and Amman). Globular jars adorned with a zigzag trail were documented in the vicinity of Jerusalem, for example, in Tombs 230 and 391 in the Dominus Flevit compound

on the Mount of Olives (Bagatti and Milik 1958:148, Fig. 35:7, 8), dated from the late third century CE or the first half of the fourth century CE, and from the second half of the fourth century CE, respectively (Barag 1970:29–31, 152). A similar jar from Tomb 71 at Bethany was dated to the late third century CE or the first

◀ Fig. 3

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Color	Dimensions (mm)	Description and Condition
1	Mold-blown jar	1500	11051	Light blue	H 79–83, rim D 39–42, bottom D 32–35	Complete; round and oval bubbles, silver iridescence, light brown deposits
2	Jar	3700	11063	Light blue	Rim D 59–61	Two fragments of same rim; silver and black iridescence, pitting
3	Jar	6100	11077	Colorless		Fragment of zigzag trail; silver and black iridescence
4	Bowl or jug	102	1002	Light blue	Base D 45	Base with tiny part of wall; small bubbles, silver iridescence, brown deposits
5	Miniature bottle	2200	11033	Colorless	H 38–39, rim D 14–15, bottom D 11–12	Complete, reconstructed of two fragments; round bubbles, silver and black iridescence.
6	Miniature bottle	2200	11032	Colorless	Rim D 14–15	Rim and neck fragment; silver and brown iridescence
7	Miniature-vessel base or disc	2200	11032	Colorless	D 18–19	Base fragment or round disc; silver and gold iridescence
8	Miniature vessel	2200	11032			Bottom fragment with pontil scar; white crust

half of the fourth century CE (Barag 1970:152; Saller 1957:327–328, Fig. 34:20, and see therein an example from Amman). Additional jars adorned with a zigzag trail were unearthed in a tomb at Batn el-Hawa, east of Jerusalem (Abel 1923: Fig. 2: second from right), in Tomb 1 in the northern cemetery at Samaria-Sebaste (Crowfoot 1957a:413, Fig. 95:17, Pl. XXV:1), and in the imposing tomb of the third–fourth centuries CE at es-Salt in Jordan (Hadidi 1979: Pl. LIII:9).

Trail-Wound Base (Fig. 3:4).— The trail-wound base with two thick winds belonged to a bowl or jug of the fourth–fifth centuries CE. It was recovered from the collapse (L102) on top of the northern trough in Cave I in the northern area.

Trail-wound bases were widespread throughout the Roman Empire during the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:58–59, Fig. 4-21, and see therein for discussion and additional examples). Two complete jugs with this type of base are kept in the Israel Museum (Israeli 2003:191, Nos. 225, 226). Trail-wound bases from the Jerusalem environs were unearthed, for example, in a

dwelling cave at eṭ-Tur on the Mount of Olives (Winter 2000: Fig. 10:4, Cave A) and in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City (Gorin-Rosen 2003:387–388, Pl. 15.9:G104). Several dozens of these bases excavated at Khirbat el-Niʿana, in the Shephelah region, were produced in a local glass workshop (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:88–90, 134–135, Figs. 7, 31, and see therein for examples from many sites in Israel and Jordan).

Miniature Glass Vessels (Fig. 3:5–8).— Several tiny, colorless glass vessels were recovered from T2200, together with numerous other artifacts (see Fig. 13; Table 4). The tiny bottle (Fig. 3:5), reconstructed from two fragments, has an irregular, partly infolded rim, a cylindrical neck, a thin-walled, globular body and a slightly concave bottom. Another tiny bottle (Fig. 3:6), only partly preserved, has an infolded rim and a thin-walled cylindrical neck. Two round discs (e.g., Fig. 3:7) may have served as ring bases of tiny vessels, as inlays or gaming pieces, or as applications on a glass vessel. A thin-walled, concave fragment (Fig. 3:8) may have been the bottom of a tiny bottle such as that in Fig. 3:5.

The fabric of the colorless glass and its gold-like crust, as well as the thin-walled shapes of the tiny vessels, all suggest an Early Roman milieu. No similar miniature vessels have been published from the region, although small bottles and flasks, larger and different in shape, color and fabric than those from Şallah ed-Din Street, have been occasionally discovered in Roman burials in Palestine, Syria and Cyprus (e.g., the City of David spur: Ariel 1990: Fig. 30:29; Ramat Raḥel: Stekelis 1934–1935: Pl. 7:5; Syria: Abdul-Hak 1965:28, Fig. 4: left; Cyprus: Oliver 1992:102, Fig. 1:12, 13; Vessberg 1952:132, Pl. VII:7–9).

GLASS ARTIFACTS

The glass artifacts were discovered in the southern trough (L105) of Cave I and in T2200, and include bracelets, beads, insets and an amulet (Fig. 4; for a discussion of the amulet, see Mazor, this volume).

Monochrome Glass Bracelets

Five complete glass bracelets were recovered from the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, together with 18 skeletons and numerous grave goods (see Fig. 12; Table 3). The bracelets are covered with a brown deposit and their color appears to be opaque black. Their diameters vary, and the smaller ones could only have fit children.

Monochrome glass bracelets were widespread in the eastern Mediterranean region from the third to the seventh centuries CE (Spaer 1988). They are abundant in tombs excavated in and around Jerusalem, and were probably produced in a workshop in or near the city (Spaer 1988:60). The glass bracelets from the Şallah ed-Din Street cemetery resemble those unearthed in various nearby burials sites, such as at Karm al-Shaikh, Naḥal Raqafot, Akeldama, and the Dominus Flevit compound on the Mount of Olives, as well as at sites in Jordan, such as the tombs on Jebel Jofeh and at es-Salt, and in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport (see below for references).

The absence of other types of glass bracelets characteristic of later centuries (Spaer 1988:60) further confirms the dating of the glass bracelets from the Şallah ed-Din Street cemetery to the third–early fourth centuries CE.

Plain Bracelets (Fig. 4:1, 2).— These bracelets comprise a circular hoop with a semicircular cross-section of uneven thickness. Such bracelets are classified by Spaer as Type A2a (Spaer 1988:54–55).

Similar plain bracelets were unearthed, for example, in Graves 6, 15 and 19, and in Chambers F and H (floor) at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pls. 5:16; 6:10, 14; 11:4; 14:5; 15:2, 3), and in Cave 2 at Akeldama (Winter 1996b:110, Fig. 7.2:1, and see therein examples from Naḥal Raqafot, Ramat Raḥel and the Dominus Flevit compound). Plain glass bracelets that appear black were also discovered at Moza 'Illit, in a burial cave that was in use from the late first or the early second centuries CE until the late fourth or the early fifth centuries CE (Gudovitz 1996:66*–67*, Fig. 3:1). Several examples are also known from burials in Jordan, for example, at Jebel Jofeh (Harding 1950:91–92, Pl. XXIX, Nos. 346–348, 360, 367, 374) and in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987: Pl. LI:2).

Angular Bracelet (Fig. 4:3).— This bracelet has a circular hoop with a flat oval cross-section of uneven thickness. The interior is smooth, while the exterior is tooled to form nine flattened segments between raised peaks.

Angular bracelets were discovered, for example, in Graves 15 and 19 at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. VI:8, 9, 13). These were defined by Spaer as Type B1 (Spaer 1988:55–56, Fig. 2, n. 17, and see therein for additional examples from Jerusalem).

Diagonally Ribbed Bracelets (Fig. 4:4, 5).— These bracelets have a circular hoop with a semicircular cross-section. The interior is smooth, and the exterior is diagonally ribbed;

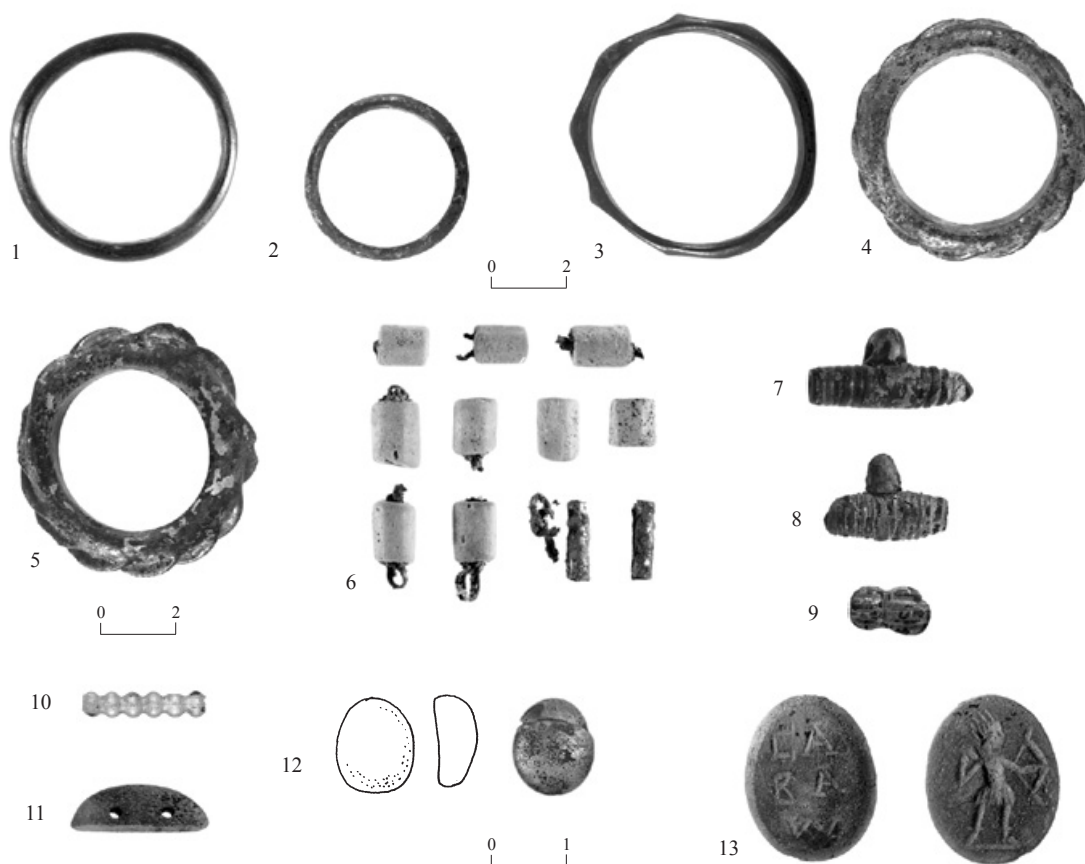


Fig. 4. Glass artifacts.

No.	Item	IAA Reg. No.	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)	Condition
1	Plain monochrome bracelet	99-1536	105	1026	Outer D 59–60, inner D 50–51, hoop D 5–7	Complete
2	Plain monochrome bracelet	99-1544	105	1032	Outer D 43–44, inner D 36, hoop D 5–6	Complete, brown iridescence
3	Angular monochrome bracelet	99-1539	105	1026	Outer D 59–60, inner D 50–51, hoop W 5–7	Complete
4	Diagonally ribbed monochrome bracelet	99-1538	105	1026	Outer D 58–59, inner D 41–43, hoop D 10–11	Complete, brown iridescence
5	Diagonally ribbed monochrome bracelet	99-1537	105	1026	Outer D 57–60, inner D 36–38, hoop D 11–12	Complete, brown iridescence
6	Nine hexagon-sectioned beads		2200	11029	L 6–8, D 5–6	Weathering
7	Complex trail-decorated bead	99-1545	105	1021	Cylindrical: L 22, D 3–5; barrel-shaped: L 4–5, D 6	Broken, brown deposits
8	Complex trail-decorated bead	99-1548	105	1033	Cylindrical: L 16, D 4–5; barrel-shaped: L 3–4, D 6	Brown deposits
9	Ribbed bead	99-1550	105	1034	Total L 10, D 5	Brown iridescence
10	Segmented bead	99-1547	105	1034	L 16–17, D 3	Silver iridescence
11	Semicircular spacer bead	99-1549	105	1034/2 or 1033/2	L/D 18, Th 3–4	Broken, silver iridescence
12	Gem/inset		2200	11030	L 13	Mended, silver iridescence
13	Glass amulet	99-1546	105	1025	L 22, W 17.5, Th 2.5	Complete (see Mazor, this volume)

the ribs on Fig. 4:5 are rather sharp (some are broken). Spaer classified four subtypes of diagonally ribbed bracelets: Fig. 4:4 coincides with her Type 3a, and Fig. 4:5 with her Type 3b (Spaer 1988:56–57).

Diagonally ribbed bracelets were uncovered in Jerusalem, for example, in Cave B at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. XII:3), and in Jordan, e.g., on Jebel Jofeh (Harding 1950:91, Pl. XXIX:345) and in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:24, Pl. XXI:3).

Glass Beads

Twenty-four varied glass beads were recovered from the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, and nine beads from T2200 (see Figs. 12, 13; Tables 3, 4).

Varied glass beads, of types both present and absent from the corpus at the Şallah ed-Din Street cemetery, were unearthed in burials in and around Jerusalem, as at the nearby sites of Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pls. IV:10–12; V:4–6; VI:5; VII:6, 18, 20; X:10; XI:2, 5; XII:2; XIV:1) and Nablus Road (Hamilton and Hussein 1935: Pl. LXXXI:9, 14–17, 19, 21, 22), in a tomb at Manaḥat (Gath and Rahmani 1977: Pl. 28:B), in Chamber A of Cave 1 at Akeldama (Winter 1996b: Fig. 7.2:7–15) and in a burial cave at Moza ‘Illit (Gudovitz 1996:67*–68*, No. 10, Fig. 3:4–6). Glass beads were also recovered from various contexts at Samaria-Sebaste (Beck and Crowfoot 1957: Fig. 92) and from the tomb on Jebel Jofeh, Amman (Harding 1950:92, Pl. XXX). However, beads in general are often published in small-scale photographs, preventing detailed examination. Therefore, the examples cited below are only those that could be securely identified.

Hexagon-Sectioned Glass Beads (Fig. 4:6).— Nine hexagon-sectioned beads made of opaque, yellow-green glass, strung on a copper/bronze wire, were preserved intact, with loops at either end. The beads were recovered together with gold-plated copper/bronze cylinders (not

illustrated; see below) that were probably strung on the same necklace.

Several hexagon-sectioned glass beads were discovered in various contexts at Samaria-Sebaste (Beck and Crowfoot 1957:395, Fig. 92:34). A necklace comprising glass beads and bronze links was excavated near Tel Qedesh, in Cave 2 dated from the first century BCE to the second century CE (Edelstein 2002b:102*, Fig. 4:9).

Complex Trail-Decorated Glass Beads (Fig. 4:7, 8).— These complex beads comprise two elements: a cylindrical bead and a barrel-shaped bead. The cylindrical bead, appearing opaque black (but possibly of a different dark color) is wound perpendicularly to its perforated axis by an opaque glass trail of a different color: yellow (Fig. 4:7) or greenish blue (Fig. 4:8). The barrel-shaped bead, with its perforation in the same direction, is attached to the cylindrical bead.

A complex example, comprising a blue cylindrical bead with a yellow wound trail and an attached, blue barrel-shaped bead, was excavated in Chamber A of Cave 1 at Akeldama, together with other artifacts associated with either the Late Roman or the Byzantine phases in the cave (Winter 1996b:114, Fig. 7.2:15). Similar beads were recovered from Tombs 16 and 27 at Ḥorbat Qastra (Spaer 2001: Fig. 47), and two others are kept in the collections of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem (Spaer 2001:113, Nos. 173, 174; Pl. 13:173).

Ribbed Glass Beads (Fig. 4:9).— Twenty fragments of dark-colored glass beads, one of which is illustrated, were recovered from the southern trough (L105) in Cave I. They consist of one, two or three barrel-shaped units that are ribbed either parallel or perpendicular to the perforated axis.

Similar ribbed beads were discovered, for example, in Tomb 16 at Ḥorbat Qastra² and at Kisra in the western Galilee, in Cave 3, which was probably in use in the fourth and early fifth centuries CE (Stern 1997:126, Fig. 14:70).

Segmented Glass Bead (Fig. 4:10).— This colorless glass bead was tooled to form six segments.

A similar, colorless seven-segmented bead was recovered from Tomb 16 at Ḥorbat Qaşra.³ Some similarly-shaped segmented beads, possibly from the eastern Mediterranean basin, are made of two layers—the interior of gold or silver and the exterior of glass (Spaer 2001:130–135, 138; No. 238, Pl. 20:238, and see therein many examples). However, the bead from the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery is too worn to determine if it had an interior gold/silver layer.

Semicircular Glass Spacer Bead (Fig. 4:11).— This semicircular clear-green glass bead may have served as a spacer. It has two perforations perpendicular to its length, unlike most beads that are generally perforated parallel to their length.

A similarly-shaped bead, its material not recorded, was discovered in the Late Roman–early Byzantine phase of a burial cave at ‘Ar‘ara (Lipkowsky 2008: Fig. 10: second from right in row second from bottom).

Glass Gem or Inset (Fig. 4:12).— This dome-shaped object, made of colorless glass with a greenish tinge, has a flat oval bottom. It probably served as an inset in a ring or pendant.

Similarly shaped glass insets were discovered, for example, in various contexts at Samaria-Sebaste (Beck and Crowfoot 1957:398, Fig. 92:86, 87).

Glass Amulet (Fig. 4:13)

An engraved glass artifact bearing a figurative scene and an inscription was probably used as a magical amulet (see Mazar, this volume). It was recovered in the southern trough (L105) of Cave I, together with 18 skeletons and numerous vessels and artifacts (see Fig. 12; Table 3). Based on some of these finds (e.g., the gold earrings and bone pins), the burial may be dated from the second half of the second century to the third century CE, consequently establishing a date for the amulet as well.

GOLD, GOLD-PLATED AND SILVER ARTIFACTS

The gold artifacts retrieved from the cemetery on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street include a diadem, several earrings, a ring with an inset, discs and a cylinder. Several gold-plated and silver objects were also recovered (Fig. 5).

Gold Diadem (Fig. 5:1).— A gold diadem, preserved in two parts, was made of a long and narrow, thin strip of gold foil, tooled to form a pattern of parallel ribs that are perpendicular to the band length. At each end, the head band narrows to form a truncated triangle, perforated with a small hole in the middle. The diadem was discovered in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, together with many other artifacts (see Fig. 12; Table 3).

Gold diadems or head bands have been found in Late Roman burials in the region; they occasionally bear inscriptions and/or medallions depicting Roman emperors. Similar diadems, fastened to a female’s headband or turban, appear on Palmyrene funerary steles from the second–third centuries CE (Rahmani 1976:84). They may have represented city walls, and in the context of Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, perhaps those of Jerusalem (Rahmani 1976:84, n. 31).

An identically tooled gold band of the same width was unearthed in the nearby burial complex on Nablus Road, in Grave C in Tomb 10, dated from the third–early fourth centuries CE (Hamilton and Hussein 1935: Pl. LXXXII:1; Barag 1970:21). The 14 pieces of gold sheet retrieved from Grave 36 in the nearby cemetery of Karm al-Shaikh may also have been part of a gold diadem (Baramki 1932a: Pl. VII:1). Gold-foil frames and bands perforated at their ends, most likely fragments of gold diadems, were discovered in the third-century CE tombs at Naḥal Raqafot in western Jerusalem. Among these pieces are a diadem with vertical folds resembling that from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, found outside Coffin I, several bands at the foot-end of Coffin I, probably washed down from the head-end, and a piece



Fig. 5. Gold, gold-plated and silver artifacts.

No.	Item	IAA Reg. No.	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)
1	Gold diadem	99-1540	105	1022	Preserved L 160, W at least 13–15
2	Pair of gold earrings with pendant	99-1542	105	1024/1	Hoop D 12–14, W 9–10
3	Pair of gold earrings with pendant	99-1541	105	1024/2	Hoop D 15
4	Gold earring with pendant		3600	11061	Hoop D 9–11
5	Gold earring with oval disc		3900	11067	Hoop D 13–14
6	Gold earring with flat hoop		2400	11045	Outer hoop D 14
7	Gold crescent earring with suspensions		2400	11044	Crescent D 17–18
8	Gold crescent earring with suspensions		3600	11061	Crescent D 12–13
9	Gold finger ring with inset		3600	11062	Ring: exterior D max. 23, interior D max. 15; depression/inset L 9, W 7
10	Gold disc (one of the twenty-one below)		3600	11061	D 5–6
11	Twenty-one gold discs		3600	11061	D 5–6
12	Gold-plated crescent		3500	11046	L 12 (between edges), W max. 5
13	Gold-plated spacer/fastener		3500	11046	L 16, W 9
14	Silver object		1500	11053	D c. 16

in the corner of Coffin II (Rahmani 1976:82–84, Pl. XXII:6–8). A similar gold band in the Louvre Museum collections was unearthed in 1899 in Jerusalem together with other jewelry (de Ridder 1920).

A more elaborate gold diadem, composed of medallions, round frames and spacers, was discovered in Tomb I on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street in Jerusalem, inside a lead coffin containing the remains of a young female. Although the finds in the coffin had been moved from their original position, most of them, including the diadem, came from the upper part of the skeleton. The images on the medallions portray Roman rulers of the first half of the third century CE (Rahmani 1960:143–144, Pl. 20:A). Another intricate head band from Jerusalem, “bearing the impression of a Constantinian medal”, was discovered in a lead coffin dated from the mid-fourth century CE, which was placed in a tomb near the former Syrian Orphanage (Avi-Yonah 1934:99, Pl. LX: center). Three gold bands bearing Greek inscriptions, kept in collections in Geneva and Cologne, were discovered at Bet Guvrin (Michon 1922; Deonna 1923).

Gold Earrings

Nine gold earrings were collected in various tombs in the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery, including two pairs (Fig. 5:2, 3) from the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, a single earring (Fig. 5:5) from T3900, two single earrings (Fig. 5:6, 7) from T2400, and two single earrings from T3600 (Fig. 5:4, 8). The earrings were made of thin, hammered gold foil (Fig. 5:6–8), rolled into a hollow wire (Fig. 5:1–5). They share the same fastening method, whereby one end of the wire terminated in a loop, into which the other end was inserted and twisted.

Gold earrings have been found in many Roman burial complexes in Syria-Palestine. The gold earrings from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street resemble those discovered in Late Roman burials at nearby sites, such as Karm al-Shaikh, Nablus Road, Akeldama, Manaḥat,

and the Dominus Flevit compound. Similar gold earrings were also discovered at sites farther away, such as Samaria-Sebaste, as well as Jebel Jofeh and the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport, both in the vicinity of Amman (see below for references).

Gold Earrings with a Single Pendant (Fig. 5:2–4).— Five gold earrings with a pendant were recorded; four of them comprise two pairs, yet the earrings of one of the pairs (Fig. 5:2) are similar but not identical. A twisted loop (Fig. 5:2) or a pendant rod (Fig. 5:3, 4) is suspended from the hoop. Attached to the main hoop of the earring in Fig. 5:4 is a small hoop, found open, which may have carried another pendant.

Gold earrings with various pendants have been discovered in many Late Roman burials in Jerusalem, as at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pls. V:11, 20; VIII:3; X:2; XIV:7, second row), Nablus Road (Hamilton and Hussein 1935: Pl. LXXXI:2, 11), the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958: Fig. 36:4, 5; Photo 127:42, 43), Akeldama (Winter 1996b:109–110, Fig. 7.1:3), Manaḥat (Gath and Rahmani 1977: Pl. 28:E), and Grave 1 at the former Syrian Orphanage (Baramki 1932b:101, Pl. XXXVIII:2, right).

Gold Earring with a Pendant and an Oval Disc (Fig. 5:5).— The convex oval disc on the earring was made separately and joined to the hoop. The pendant resembles the one suspended on the earring in Fig. 5:4.

A pair of earrings with an oval disc and a pendant were found in a sarcophagus at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. XVIII:3, right). A similar pair, referred to as ‘boss’ earrings, was excavated in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:26, Pl. X:4), and another example from Jordan originated in Tomb 64 at Pella (McNicol 1992:137, Pl. 95:a). Earrings with an oval disc, although without a pendant rod, were discovered in tombs on Nablus Road (Hamilton and Hussein 1935: Pl. LXXXI:3) and at Akeldama (Winter 1996b:109–110,

Fig. 7.1:1, and see therein for additional Late Roman examples from Samaria-Sebaste and Jebel Jofeh).

Gold Earring with a Flat Hoop (Fig. 5:6).— The hoop is wide and crescent-shaped. Flat crescent-shaped gold earrings were widespread from the third to the mid-fourth centuries CE, occurring at many sites in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the country. Three similar specimens were unearthed in the same burial chamber at Akeldama (Winter 1996b:109–110, Fig. 7.1:4–6, and see therein for many examples from Jerusalem, including those from the nearby sites of Karm al-Shaikh and Nablus Road, and others from Samaria-Sebaste and Jebel Jofeh, Amman).

Gold Crescent Earrings with Suspensions (Fig. 5:7, 8).— These two earrings have a wide, crescent-shaped hoop, one of its sides adorned with three applied, drop-shaped gold wires. Three loops were attached to the lower side of the crescent, and from each of these loops was suspended a thin gold chain with a pendant at its end: a spiral gold pendant on one (Fig. 5:7) and a thin spiral gold chain with a square-sectioned, bluish green glass bead on the other (Fig. 5:8). The former earring is also surrounded by gold wires applied to its upper and lower perimeters.

Gold crescent earrings with suspensions have been discovered, for example, at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pls. V:10; XVIII:3 on left with suspensions missing). A similar gold earring adorned with a vine and grape-shaped gold wire and a glass pendant on the surviving suspension was unearthed at Samaria-Sebaste, in Chamber II of Tomb E220 dated from the late second to mid-third centuries CE (Crowfoot 1957b:428, Fig. 100:1).

Gold Finger Ring with an Inset (Fig. 5:9).— A gold finger ring was unearthed in T3600, in which two individuals were interred, one of them a male. The finger ring was made of

gold foil rolled into a hollow hoop and tooled to conceal the seam. On the flattened bezel is an oval depression with traces of a paste-like filling, into which was set a black stone, found separately.

Gold rings with insets were commonplace in the Roman period and have been recovered from many Late Roman burial complexes in the region. Two gold finger rings were unearthed at Naḥal Raqafot (Rahmani 1976:88): one has an oval onyx inset, depicting a cuirassed elephant, and was dated, by coins depicting a similar representation, to the late second century CE (Rahmani 1976:83, Pl. XXII:5), and the other has an inset depicting a goatherd milking a goat (Rahmani 1976:83, Pl. XXII:4). A gold ring with an oval sardonyx inlay depicting a shrimp was recovered at Manaḥat (Gath and Rahmani 1977:211–213, Pl. 28:F, G), and another, with a glass inset, was excavated in Tomb 181 at the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958: Fig. 36:7, Photograph 127:45). Two gold finger rings were discovered at Ḥorbat Qaṣṣra: one with a stone inset, dated from the third–fourth centuries CE, the other with a carnelian inset depicting the goddess Tyche, attributed to the first–third centuries CE (Castru 1999:43).

Silver and bronze finger rings adorned with insets of various materials have been discovered in burials of the third–early fourth centuries CE, for example, a silver finger ring with a glass gem from Tomb XV at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:43, Fig. 18:103), a bronze ring with a red carnelian gem depicting a winged Victoria crowning a trophy, from a burial cave east of Giv'at Yasaf (Abu-'Uqsa 1997:40, Fig. 2), and a bronze ring with a glass inset, probably depicting a crab, from Cave 1 at Asherat (Smithline 1997:52–53, Fig. 8:6). A bronze ring with a carnelian gem depicting an owl flanked by deities was recovered from a tomb at es-Salt, Jordan (Hadidi 1979: Pl. LIV). Also in Jordan, metal rings with engraved stone seals set in them, were excavated in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:26, Pl. XXXVIII).

Gold Discs (Fig. 5:10, 11).— Twenty-one gold discs, recovered from T3600, resemble tiny shields with a pointed center. Two tiny holes were pierced on each side of the discs, allowing their attachment to fabric, to one another, or onto a necklace.

Gold Cylinder (not illustrated).— A thin-walled, hollow cylinder made of a gold leaf (L 7 mm, D 2 mm), discovered in T3500, may have served as a bead or necklace spacer. Cylindrical and globular gold beads were found, for example, at Manaḥat, in a tomb dated from the first third of the third century CE (Gath and Rahmani 1977: Pl. 28:A).

Small Gold-Plated Objects (Fig. 5:12, 13).— These items include a gold-plated copper/bronze crescent (Fig. 5:12) and a gold-plated copper/bronze rectangular spacer or fastener with two large perforations and two tiny holes on each of its shorter sides (Fig. 5:13), both from T3500.

In addition, small, thin-walled, copper/bronze cylinders plated with gold (L 10–11 mm, D 2.0–2.5 mm; not illustrated) were recovered, two in T2200, and one in T2400. The two from T2200 were found together with nine hexagon-sectioned glass beads (B11029, see Fig. 4:6), and were possibly strung on the same necklace.

Silver Object (Fig. 5:14).— The only silver artifact is a small broken plate with a protruding broken knob. It may have served as an inlay, although it is too small and fragmentary to enable reconstruction.

LEAD AND LEAD-BASED ARTIFACTS

Several miniature, lead and lead-based artifacts, recovered from T2200, included a juglet, a vessel (shaped as a marine creature?), a table, a mirror frame or pendant (Fig. 6), and several fragments, including one with the remnants of a small handle. Miniature lead artifacts are not common finds in the region, and are rarely found *in situ*. Hence, the significance of this

exceptional assemblage of lead-based artifacts, interred with a single skeleton and numerous other artifacts, among them several unique miniature glass vessels (see Fig. 13; Table 4).

To determine the composition and provenance of the lead artifacts, six tiny pieces, which had crumbled off the artifacts or accompanied them, underwent chemical analysis, and four of these samples were also examined for lead isotopes at the Institute of Geological Survey of Israel. The chemical analysis indicates that one of the pieces was made of pure lead, whereas the other sampled pieces contained lead and various concentrations of tin (see Segal, this volume: Table 1).

The isotope ratios of lead in these artifacts indicate different ore sources. While the source for one of the pieces could not be determined, the other three samples probably originated in the mining districts of West Cumbria and Durham in central Britain (see Segal, this volume: Table 2). This may indicate that the individual interred in T2200 was either a foreigner carrying objects from afar, or a local person in possession of objects brought to the region by merchants or Roman legionaries from the western provinces of the empire.

Miniature Lead Juglet (Fig. 6:1).— This hollow, miniature lead juglet is nearly intact, yet broken and crushed below the handle. The two halves of the vessel were made in a mold and soldered together, as attested by the two opposing seams. The juglet has a spouted mouth, a wide cylindrical neck, a pear-shaped body, a short narrow stem and a flat round foot. A handle is drawn between the rim and the shoulder, and the body is decorated on both sides with a herringbone pattern bordered on top by two horizontal ridges.

Miniature footed juglets resembling the one from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street have not been located. However, dozens of miniature lead amphorae have reached the antiquities market, many of which originated from dealers in or near Jerusalem. Several of these artifacts were recorded as surface finds from Israel,

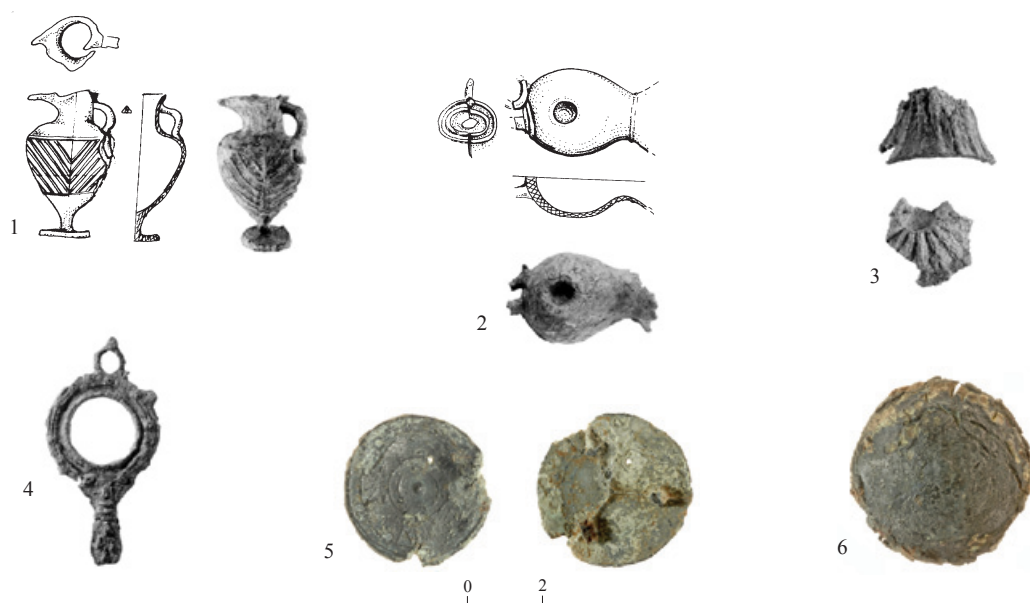


Fig. 6. Lead and lead-based artifacts from T2200.

No.	Item	Basket	Dimensions (mm)
1	Miniature juglet	11037	H 38, max. W c. 25
2	Miniature vessel/marine object	11036	Preserved H/L 38, max. W c. 23
3	Miniature vessel/bell	11038	
4	Mirror frame	11038	Total L 60, outer D 30, inner D 16–17
5	Miniature table	11039	D 40, Th 1–2
6	Circular object	11038	D 45–50

Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus and Italy. Additional lead amphorae were unearthed in controlled excavations in Israel, Greece and France (Rahmani 2003:33, 38).

The miniature amphorae bear several types of decorations, one of which is the herringbone pattern like that adorning the juglet from Şallah ed-Din Street, and the dated specimens range from the second to the eighth centuries CE. An amphora from northern France was discovered in a burial dated from the late first to the early second centuries CE, examples from Delos and Rhenea in Greece may be placed in the fourth–fifth centuries CE, and a specimen from Bet She'an was dated to pre-749 CE (Rahmani 2003:39).

These miniature lead vessels probably served as containers for liquids, such as perfumes, and lead was preferred for their manufacture

as it preserved the perfume's odor and did not absorb others (Rahmani 2003:35, 38, and see discussion therein).

The miniature amphorae were made in the same technique as the juglet from Şallah ed-Din Street, and were similarly decorated with geometric designs; however, unlike the one-handled juglet presented here, they had two handles and were probably worn on a string around the neck (Rahmani 2003:33–38).

Miniature Lead Vessel or Marine Object (Fig. 6:2).— This hollow, miniature lead object, broken at both ends, was cast in two parts, as attested by the seam running along its length. It may have been a miniature vessel, resembling the miniature lead juglet (Fig. 6:1), in which case it had a spouted mouth with a horizontal ridge below the rim, a short wide neck, and a

pear-shaped body with a circular recess on one side and two circular concentric ridges on its bottom. The mouth is broken where a handle may have been attached, although there is no trace of a handle on the shoulders, which are intact.

Another possibility is that this object was used as an amulet or pendant in the shape of a fish or dolphin, in which case the pear-shaped part would be the head and body, the circular recess an eye, and the spouted section the tail. Pendants of various materials depicting marine creatures occurred in the region during the Late Roman and early Byzantine periods, for example, two ebony fish-shaped pendants from Tombs 81 and 134 in the Dominus Flevit compound on the Mount of Olives (Bagatti and Milik 1958:158, Fig. 37:21, 22, Photographs 126:8; 128:1, 2), a glass dolphin-shaped pendant and a bone fish-shaped pendant from complexes of the third/fourth–fifth centuries CE at Ḥorbat Qaṣṭra (*Castra* 1999:6, 71), and three gold dolphin-shaped pendants, interpreted as amulets, from tombs in the Nabataean city of Mamshit (Mampsis; Rosenthal 1975; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2002:37*, Fig. 7).

Miniature Lead Vessel or Bell (Fig. 6:3).—Two fragments of a curved object adorned with a ribbed pattern may have been parts of a miniature vessel resembling Fig. 6:1, or part of a bell.

Miniature Lead Mirror Frame (Fig. 6:4).—The circular lead frame, cast in a mold, widens to create a handle. The central circular opening probably contained a glass mirror. The circular band is decorated in relief with raised dots, and the triangular area between the frame and the handle is designed as a human face, with eyes, a nose and a mouth. At the top of the frame, opposite the handle, is a small oval loop that probably served for hanging.

Mirror frames occurred in various shapes and materials, such as clay, plaster and stone. Their suspension loops and small dimensions, as those of the lead frame from Şallaḥ ed-

Din Street, indicate that they functioned as pendants. Rahmani suggested that such mirrors served as “charms against the evil eye, which had served their owners in life and were placed into their tombs...” (Rahmani 1964:55–60, and see discussion therein).

A similar, cast-lead mirror frame was discovered at Ḥorbat Sugar, associated with the fourth-century CE phase of use in Cave 2 (Aviam and Stern 1997:99, Fig. 6:8, and see therein examples from a dwelling at Meron and a late fourth-century CE burial cave at Tarshiḥa). A lead disc, possibly a mirror frame, was excavated in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport in Jordan (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987: Pl. XX:2).

Four mirrors in lead frames, in the collections of the Corning Museum of Glass, allegedly originated in a tomb in Bethlehem and were dated to the fifth–seventh centuries CE (Whitehouse 2003:72–74, Nos. 1014–1017, and see discussion therein). One of the frames (No. 1014) had a handle, and at least two had a suspension loop (Nos. 1015, 1016). In the frames were preserved all, or parts of, a colorless glass mirror, which was supported by four or five bent prongs.

Similar circular lead frames with a hanging loop, in the collections of the Benaki Museum in Athens, are allegedly from Nubia (Egypt) and dated to the fifth–sixth centuries CE (Clairmont 1977:34, Cat. Nos. 101a–c, Pl. VI:101a–c). A clear, colorless glass mirror survived in one of the frames (No. 101a), held in position by four nails folded backward.

Miniature Lead Table (Fig. 6:5).—This round disc is decorated in relief on one side with concentric circles: a pair on the perimeter and a pair in the center. At the center and at several other spots are raised dots. On the underside of the disc are four broken protrusions, three of them arranged in a triangle and one at the center, resembling the legs of a round, three-legged table. The fragmentary and poorly preserved remains discovered with the disc are probably parts of these legs.

Round, three-legged tables of various materials were customary during the Hellenistic and Roman periods, and were depicted in various media, as on a wall painting in Burial Cave A (the 'Sidonian Cave') at Maresha and in a relief from Roman Italy (see Avigad 1983: Figs. 189, 191). Of the stone tables excavated in the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, only the round tops survived; on their undersides were three sockets into which wooden legs, which did not survive, were installed (Avigad 1983:167–171, Fig. 188).

Circular Lead Object (Fig. 6:6).— This circular object may have been part of a miniature table resembling that in Fig. 6:5.

COPPER/BRONZE ARTIFACTS

The copper/bronze artifacts from the cemetery on Şallah ed-Din Street include two circular mirrors, two bracelets and a ring, a pierced coin, a fastening device and a pin. Several small gold-plated copper/bronze artifacts were discussed above (Fig. 5:12, 13).

Bronze Mirrors (Fig. 7:1, 2).— These two thin, bronze discs probably served as mirrors. Bronze mirrors were usually plated with either silver or tin to achieve the desired reflection.

Circular bronze mirrors, some much larger, were discovered in burials in Jerusalem, for example, on Nablus Road (Hamilton and Hussein 1935: Pl. LXXXIII:11), in the northwestern part of the city (Sukenik 1930: Pl. C:2) and in Tomb 81 in the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958:163, Photograph 126:1). Four fragmentary bronze mirrors, one larger and the others smaller than those from Şallah ed-Din Street, were uncovered in the Early Roman Tomb of Jason in Jerusalem (Rahmani 1967:91, Pl. 24C). Other examples, slightly smaller than those from Şallah ed-Din Street, were retrieved, for example, from the northern cemetery of Bet Guvrin, in Tomb N.III, which probably served until the mid-second century CE (Oren and Rappaport 1984:125,

Fig. 13:22, Pl. 15:C) and from tombs at Queen Alia International Airport (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987: Pls. XVII:2; XLIX:4).

Copper/Bronze Bracelets and a Ring (Fig. 7:3–5).— One bracelet (Fig. 7:3) was hammered into a flat circular hoop, adorned on the exterior with a dotted pattern. The other bracelet (Fig. 7:4) and the ring (Fig. 7:5) were each made of a hoop with a circular cross-section of uneven thickness; the ring bears three grooves.

Copper, bronze and iron bracelets and rings—plain, twisted or elaborate—were commonplace in many Late Roman and Byzantine burials in Syria-Palestine. Bracelets and rings resembling those from Şallah ed-Din Street were discovered in burials in Jerusalem and its vicinity, for example, graves at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pls. VII:3; IX:10, 11), Cave C at Wadi el-Halaf (Shurkin 2004: Fig. 17:5–10), burial caves at Ramat Raḥel (Aharoni 1964:79–80, Pl. 15:3, 4) and several tombs in the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958:159, Fig. 36:8–17). Numerous copper/bronze hoops, some of them twisted, were recovered from tombs in sites in Jordan, such as Jebel Jofeh (Harding 1950: Pl. XXVIII), es-Salt (Hadidi 1979: Pls. LVI: bottom; LVII), and the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:24–25, Pls. XII:2, XIII:2, XIV, XV).

Bracelets comprising a flat decorated hoop resembling that in Fig. 7:4 were recovered, for example, in Tomb 231 in the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958: Fig. 36:13) and in a burial cave in the Naḥalat Aḥim Quarter in Jerusalem (Kogan-Zehavi 2006: Fig. 5:17).

Copper/Bronze Perforated Coin (Fig. 7:6).— A worn copper/bronze coin had been perforated to serve as a pendant or other type of jewelry. The wire strung through the hole was intact when excavated, and was removed in the restoration process.

The pierced coin was discovered in T3500, which had a unique plan—unknown in Late Roman burial complexes in Jerusalem—

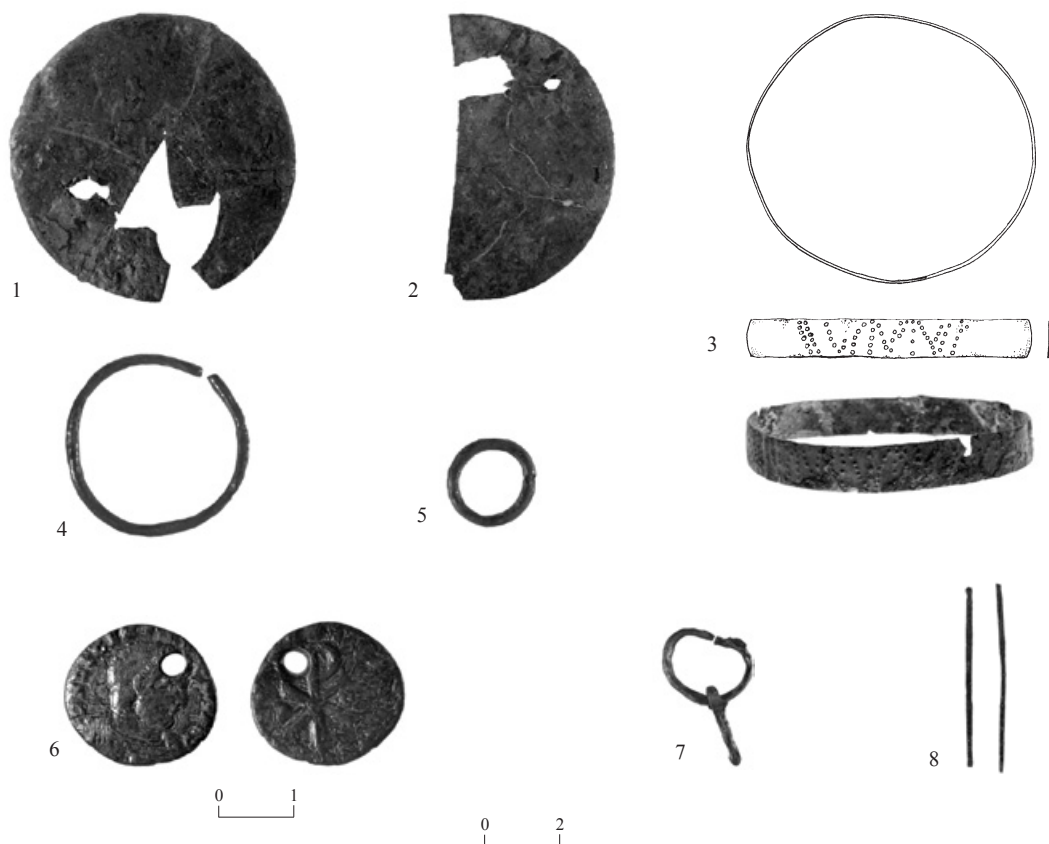


Fig. 7. Copper/bronze artifacts.

No.	Item	IAA Reg. No.	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)	Condition
1	Circular mirror		2200	11035	D 73, Th 1–1.5	Broken, severely corroded
2	Circular mirror		2200	11035	D 74, Th 0.5	Broken, severely corroded, partly preserved
3	Bracelet		2200	11035	D 70–74	Nearly complete, restored
4	Bracelet	99-1543	105	1033	Outer D 43–44, inner D 38, hoop D 3–4	
5	Finger ring	99-1552	105	1023	Outer D 20–21, inner D 15, hoop D 3	
6	Perforated coin	99-1553	3500	11082	D 19–20, Th 1	
7	Buckle/ fastening device	99-1551	2400	11042	Oval D 17–20, Th 1–2	
8	Pin		3600	11060	Preserved L 98, D 1	Two fragments

comprising two adjacent troughs hewn into its floor (see Avni and Adawi, this volume: Fig. 16). The coin was minted in Trier in 352 CE, during the reign of Decentius, and as it is worn and pierced, it presumably reached the tomb later than its minting date (see Bijovsky, this

volume: No. 3). The geographical origin of the coin, together with the unusual shape of the tomb, may indicate that the interred were foreigners.

Pierced coins that were worn as pendants or earrings are not uncommon finds. Pierced coins

from the fourth century CE were unearthed in burial caves west of Jerusalem, for example, at Moza 'Illit (Gudovitz 1996:69*, No. 2) and at Giv'at Sharet in Bet Shemesh (Seligman, Zias and Stark 1996:55, Fig. 20:1). A pierced coin dated 527–565 CE was excavated in the rural settlement of Khirbat Ibreica in the southern Sharon plain (Taxel and Feldstein 2006:59, Fig. 17, and see therein for examples from the sixth and seventh centuries CE from Khirbat al-Karak, Caesarea Maritima and Yoqne'am).

Copper/Bronze Buckle or Fastening Device (Fig. 7:7).— This oval hoop with a short rod attached may have served as a buckle or fastening device.

Similar metal rings are sporadic finds in Roman-period burials, as in the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958:160–161, Fig. 36:21–23) and a 'pit cave' dated from the second–third centuries CE in the Rafidiya Quarter of Shekhem (Hizmi 1997:129, Fig. 8:17). Similar, but slightly larger bronze rings, were discovered in Grave 14 at Berit Aḥim, north of 'Akko, associated with a wooden box (Edelstein 2002a: Fig. 25:8).

Copper Pin (Fig. 7:8).— Two fragments of a thin pin were probably made of copper.

Metal pins, mostly of bronze or iron, were discovered in nearby Late Roman burials, such as at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. X:13) and the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958:158, Photograph 126:12–14), and in Cave C in Wadi el-Ḥalaf (Shurkin 2004:42*, Fig. 17:11).

Copper/Bronze Stars (not illustrated).— Several tiny three-point stars were recovered from Tombs 2100 and 2300.

IRON ARTIFACTS

The iron artifacts discovered in the southern trough (L105) of Cave I comprise mostly tools (Fig. 8:1–8, 10–12), while those from T2400

include chain links (Fig. 8:13), small nails and other objects that were probably associated with wooden boxes (Fig. 8:14, 15).

Iron Shafts (Fig. 8:1–7).— The iron shafts with a flat quadrangular head may have served as pins or spatulae.

Metal spatulae were recovered from various nearby Late Roman burials, as at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pls. IX:9; XI:11) and Tomb 200 in the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958:162, Fig. 36:42, Photograph 129:16).

Iron Tools (Fig. 8:8, 9).— The artifact in Fig. 8:8, from the southern trough (L105) of Cave I, was probably a chisel, while that in Fig. 8:9, recovered from the accumulation over the Second Temple-period quarry (L6300), may have been a nail or a tool used in the quarrying process.

Iron Nails (Fig. 8:10, 11).— Two fragmentary, medium-sized nails were recovered from the southern trough (L105) in Cave I. Nineteen small corroded nails from T2400 (not illustrated) may have been associated with wooden boxes.

Nails are occasionally discovered in Roman-dated burials, and "indicate the presence of wooden objects that were not preserved" (Stern and Getzov 2006:94, Fig. 3). Several large and medium-sized iron nails were unearthed in various tombs in the Dominus Flevit compound (Bagatti and Milik 1958: Fig. 36:34–36), and in burial caves at Ramat Raḥel (Aharoni 1964: Pl. 15:7) and Naḥal Raqafot (Rahmani 1976: Pl. XXII:3). Small nails related to a wooden box were discovered in Grave 14 at Berit Aḥim, north of 'Akko (Edelstein 2002a: Fig. 25:9).

Iron Implement (Fig. 8:12).— A broken, very corroded shaft, unearthed in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, may have served as a locking device on a wooden chest.



Fig. 8. Iron artifacts.

No.	Item	IAA Reg. No.	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)	Condition
1	Shaft with widened head	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 73, head W max. 9	Broken, corroded
2	Shaft with widened head		105	1034	Preserved L 33, shaft W max. 6	Broken, corroded
3	Shaft with widened head	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 34, shaft W max. 9	Broken, corroded
4	Shaft with widened head	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 30, shaft W max. 8	Broken, corroded
5	Shaft	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 78, D max. 6	Broken, corroded
6	Shaft	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 60, D max. 7	Broken, corroded
7	Shaft	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 52, D max. 10	Broken, corroded
8	Chisel	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 60	Broken, corroded
9	Tool/nail		6300	11071	L 185, head D 45–50	Corroded
10	Nail	99-1555	105	1027	Head D 12	Broken, corroded
11	Nail	99-1555	105	1027		Broken, corroded
12	Implement	99-1555	105	1027	Preserved L 155	Broken, corroded
13	Chain links		2400	11042	Average outer D 7–8	Very corroded
14	Rod/pin		2400	11042	Preserved L 17	Broken, corroded
15	Object with nail		2400	11042	Preserved L 16, W 6	Broken, corroded

Iron Chain Links (Fig. 8:13).— The small circular links of an iron chain were alternately set perpendicular to one another, with larger hoops at the ends, one of which has survived. An iron cylinder (not illustrated) may have served as a link in such a chain, or a link in a bracelet or necklace.

Iron and Copper/Bronze Rod or Pin (Fig. 8:14).— This iron rod or pin with two protruding copper/bronze parts bore small traces of wood, suggesting it may have been attached to a wooden box or functioned as a hinge.

Iron and Copper/Bronze Object with a Nail (Fig. 8:15).— This copper/bronze piece may also have been attached to a wooden box with the tiny iron nail that is intact.

A bronze angle reinforcement with some of the small iron nails still in place, was recovered together with remnants of a wooden box above the coffin in Tomb I on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street (Rahmani 1960: Fig. 3).

Iron Fragments (not illustrated).— Forty-four various iron pieces were discovered in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I; their fragmentary and corroded state prevents their identification.

WOODEN ARTIFACTS

Three wooden objects were discovered in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, together with 18 skeletons and numerous artifacts (see Fig. 12; Table 3). Wooden items are a rare find as they do not withstand the humid climate in most parts of the country.

Wooden Bracelet (Fig. 9:1).— This bracelet has a pentagonal cross-section, and the outer circumference is carved with rhomboids and triangles, creating a zigzag pattern.

Fragments of a wooden bracelet were recovered from Grave 14 at the Queen Alia

International Airport, south of Amman, dated from the second century to the third quarter of the third century CE (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:24).

Wooden Amulet Case (Fig. 9:2).— The hollow shaft, missing a small piece, has a rounded rectangular cross-section, and concentric circles are carved on its length and sides. It is impossible to discern if the shaft had previously been sealed at the ends. Three barrel-shaped loops adorned with grooves project perpendicular to the shaft axis (the central loop is missing a small piece). These loops enabled the fastening or suspension of the object.

Tube-like objects made of various materials (glass, silver, bronze, copper, bone or wood) may have served as elongated beads when open on both sides; yet when the object was sealed at both ends and had suspension loops, it probably served as an amulet case (rather than a bead), in which a rolled ritual parchment was stored (Ayalon and Sorek 1999:65, Fig. 95).

A bronze tube, possibly an amulet case, was discovered in Grave 6 at nearby Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. V:15). A cylindrical, copper amulet case was excavated at Moza 'Illit, west of Jerusalem, in a burial cave that was in use from the late first or the early second century CE until the late fourth or the early fifth century CE (Gudovitz 1996:68*–70*, Fig. 3:9). A cylindrical bone amulet case was discovered at Caesarea Maritima in an undated context (Ayalon 2005:86, No. 331, and see therein for examples made of metal). The third-century CE tomb on Jebel Jofeh, Amman, yielded two amulet cases: a silver case with an octagonal cross-section, two suspension loops on top, two globules below, and a white, paste-like filling, and a cylindrical bronze case with two suspension loops (Harding 1950: Pls. XXVII:244, silver; XXVIII:310, bronze).

Wooden Bead (Fig. 9:3).— This is an irregularly shaped, elongated, hexagonal-sectioned bead.

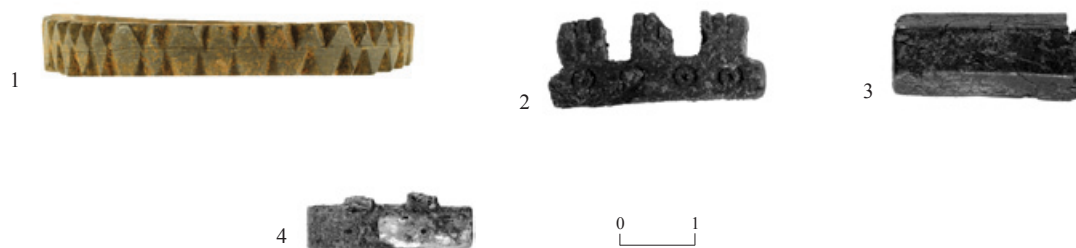


Fig. 9. Wooden and shell artifacts.

No.	Item	IAA Reg. No.	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)
1	Wooden bracelet	99-9021	105	1031	Outer D 50, inner D 40
2	Wooden amulet case	99-9022	105	1034	L 27
3	Wooden bead	99-9023	105	1034	L 23–24, D 1.0–1.2
4	Shell pendant	99-1554	105	1034	L 21–22, W 5–6, Th 1–2

SHELL ARTIFACT

Shell Pendant (Fig. 9:4).— This small, flaky, rectangular object had two broken protrusions, which may have formed a loop, and two small depressions below them. It was probably suspended on a necklace.

BONE ARTIFACTS

The bone artifacts, discovered mostly in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I, as well as in Tombs 2200 and 2400, included a female figurine, a needle and pins.

Needle and Pins

Ten bone pins and one needle were collected in the cemetery, most of them broken, and some are missing both ends. The needle and seven of the pins (Fig. 10:1–3, 6–10) were found in the southern trough (L105) of Cave I, together with 18 skeletons and numerous artifacts (see Fig. 12; Table 3). The pin with a gold-plated head (Fig. 10:4) was recovered in T2200, together with a single skeleton and numerous artifacts (see Fig. 13; Table 4), and the pin with a knob head (Fig. 10:5) in T2400, together with a female skeleton, gold earrings and various metal objects. The needle and pins comprise a

round (occasionally oval) cross-sectioned shaft, tapering toward a pointed end. The thicker end of the pins is usually adorned with parallel incisions (Fig. 10:2, 3) and various ‘heads’ (Fig. 10:3–5).

Pins of various materials were in use at least since the Neolithic period onward. They served as hair accessories, cosmetic applicators and garment fasteners. It is noteworthy that most of the pins from the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery, and many pins uncovered in graves at other sites, are fragmentary, suggesting they were broken as part of a burial ritual (Ayalon 2005:51–52, and see extensive discussion therein). The Roman-period bone objects that are labeled ‘needles’ due to their ‘eye’ and assumed sewing function, probably served as pins as well, while metal needles were used for sewing (Ayalon 2005:24).

Needles and pins made of bone (occasionally made of, or referred to as, ivory) were very common throughout the Roman Empire, and have been unearthed in many burials complexes in Syria-Palestine. The needle and pins from the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery resemble those discovered in Late Roman tombs at nearby sites, such as Karm al-Shaikh and Shemu’el Ha-Navi Street, as well as at more distant sites, for example, Samaria-Sebaste and Jebel Jofeh,

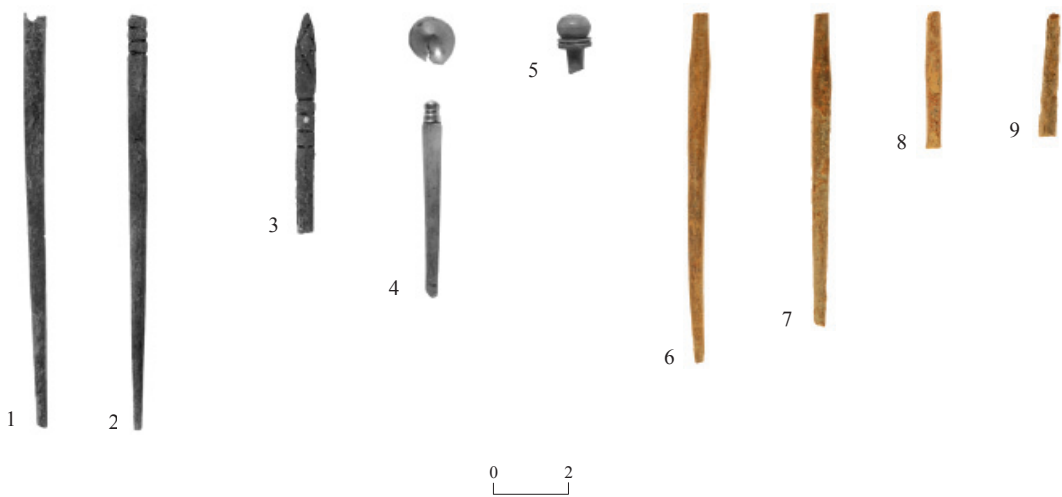


Fig. 10. Bone artifacts.

No.	Item	IAA Reg. No.	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)	Condition
1	Needle	99-1556	105	1028	The two fragments together: preserved L 109, D 3–6	Broken, two fragments
2	Pin	99-1557	105	1028	Preserved L 110, D 2–4	Broken at both ends
3	Pin	99-1558	105	1028	Preserved L 60, D 5–6	Broken
4	Pin with gold-plated head		2200	11028	Preserved L 51, D 3–5, head D c. 12	Broken at both ends
5	Pin with knob head		2400	11043	Preserved L 16, shaft D max. 5, head D 9	Broken
6	Pin		105	1028	Preserved L 90, D 2–5	Broken
7	Pin		105	1028	Preserved L 82, D 3–5	Broken
8	Pin		105	1028	Preserved L 36, D 2–4	Broken
9	Pin		105	1028	Preserved L 32, D 2–4	Broken

Amman (see below for references). These burials date predominantly to the third century CE. Moreover, the absence from these burials, and from the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street assemblage, of certain types of bone pins, such as those with a poppy-shaped head, which are characteristic of the fourth–fifth centuries CE (e.g., from the double-arcosolia tombs on the fringes of Ḥorbat Zikhrin; see Haddad 2007:55, Fig. 11), further reinforces a date in the third century CE for the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street variants of bone pins.

Bone Needle (Fig. 10:1).— The needle shaft

end, and tapering with a round cross-section toward the pointed end. Only part of the eye was preserved at the wider end.

Bone (and occasionally ivory) needles were discovered in burials dated from the third–fourth centuries CE, for example, in the nearby tombs at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. V:18) and Nablus Road (Hamilton and Hussein 1935: Pl. LXXXI:25), and in Jordan, for example, in the tomb on Jebel Jofeh (Harding 1950:93–94, Pl. XXXI:435, 440, 441) and Tomb 64 at Pella (McNicol 1992:137, Pl. 95:j). The needles from Samaria-Sebaste came from Chamber II of Tomb E220, dated from the late second to the mid-third centuries CE (Crowfoot 1957b:430,

Fig. 100:19; Barag 1970:46–47). Most of the bone needles recovered from Caesarea Maritima were attributed to the Roman period (Ayalon 2005: Nos. 100–111).

Bone Pin with Incisions (Fig. 10:2).— Some bone pins bear parallel horizontal incisions or grooves on their thicker end. Pin No. 2 has three incisions, while another (Fig. 10:3; see below) has four.

Simple pins of this type were commonplace in burials in the region (e.g., Baramki 1932a: Pls. IV:6, 8; VI:17, IX:3–5; X:11).

Bone Pin with Incisions and a Pinecone-Shaped Head (Fig. 10:3).— The thicker end of the oval cross-sectioned shaft is adorned with four parallel horizontal incisions and a pointed, pinecone-shaped head with incised rhomboids.

Bone pins with a pinecone-shaped head and horizontal incisions were unearthed, for example, in Grave 44 at Karm al-Shaikh (Baramki 1932a: Pl. IX:4), at Samaria-Sebaste (Crowfoot 1957b:430, Fig. 100:17, 18), in a Roman-dated context at Caesarea Maritima (Ayalon 2005:61–62, No. 232, and see additional examples therein) and in the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport, south of Amman (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:29, Pl. XXIX:8). A gold-leaf pin-head coating, designed in the shape of a pinecone with diagonal engravings, was retrieved from a coffin in Tomb I on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street in Jerusalem (Rahmani 1960:144–145, Pl. 20:E, center).

Gold-Plated Bone Pin with a Gold-Plated Head (Fig. 10:4).— The shaft and head of this pin were made separately. The upper part of the bone shaft was encased with a gold leaf, and the horizontal grooves on the bone shaft are detectable through the thin gold coating (for a discussion on this technique, see Ayalon 2005:59). The shaft was topped by a 'head' made of a gold leaf tooled to create a hollow sphere with a hole.

The tombs on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street yielded four bone pins with gilded heads and ten additional gold-leaf coatings of such pins (Rahmani 1960:144–145, Pl. 20:E, both sides). A similarly gold-plated shaft was discovered in an undated context at Caesarea Maritima (Ayalon 2005:52, No. 173).

Bone Pin with a Knob Head (Fig. 10:5).— This pin is adorned at the thick end with two protruding discs, surmounted by a spherical knob bearing a small recess on the top.

Two fragments of a similar bone pin were discovered in the third-century CE tomb on Jebel Jofeh, Amman (Harding 1950:93, Pl. XXXI:432). A 'globular pin head on collar', resembling the example from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, was recorded in an early Byzantine context at Caesarea Maritima (Ayalon 2005:58, No. 209).

Miscellaneous Bone Pins (Fig. 10:6–9).— Five fragments of bone pins (four of which are illustrated), broken at both ends, were discovered in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I.

BONE FEMALE FIGURINE

A carved-bone female figurine (Fig. 11) was discovered in T2200, interred together with a youth and an abundance of glass, gold, lead, iron and bone artifacts (see Fig. 13; Table 4).

Description of the Figurine

The body (Fig. 11:1) and the arms (Fig. 11:2) of the bone figurine were discovered separately in the same location (B11027). The cylindrical body⁴ is hollow in the upper part, with a peg inserted from the top. The back is flat and polished. The face and head are very smooth, and the hair and headdress are carved in high relief. Carving marks are evident on the lower part of the body, and the porous nature of the bone is evident at the lower end, where the feet are carved. No traces of paint were detected.

The figurine bears a greenish-blue patina, particularly on the central part.

The figurine (155–157 mm long) portrays a female dressed in a full-length tunic that accentuates the columnar impression. The elongated, rectangular head is topped by a crown with eight protrusions, of which six have survived, each one incised with two horizontal grooves. The hair is fashioned in an irregular grid pattern, perhaps depicting braids, and is parted in the middle, falling diagonally over the ears. The face is elongated, with a high forehead and a long protruding nose. The eyes are not outlined, but represented by

uneven depressions, and the mouth is a small horizontal groove. The neck is thick, most likely to prevent breakage, and adorned with three deep horizontal grooves. The torso is cube shaped, and the breasts protrude through the dress. The lower body widens toward the bottom, presumably depicting a long dress, adorned with a V-shaped incision and two deep horizontal grooves at the bottom. The feet are wide, with deep incisions marking the uneven toes.

The arms (Fig. 11:2), bent at a right angle at the elbow, are similar but not identical. They are carved and smoothed on both sides, suggesting

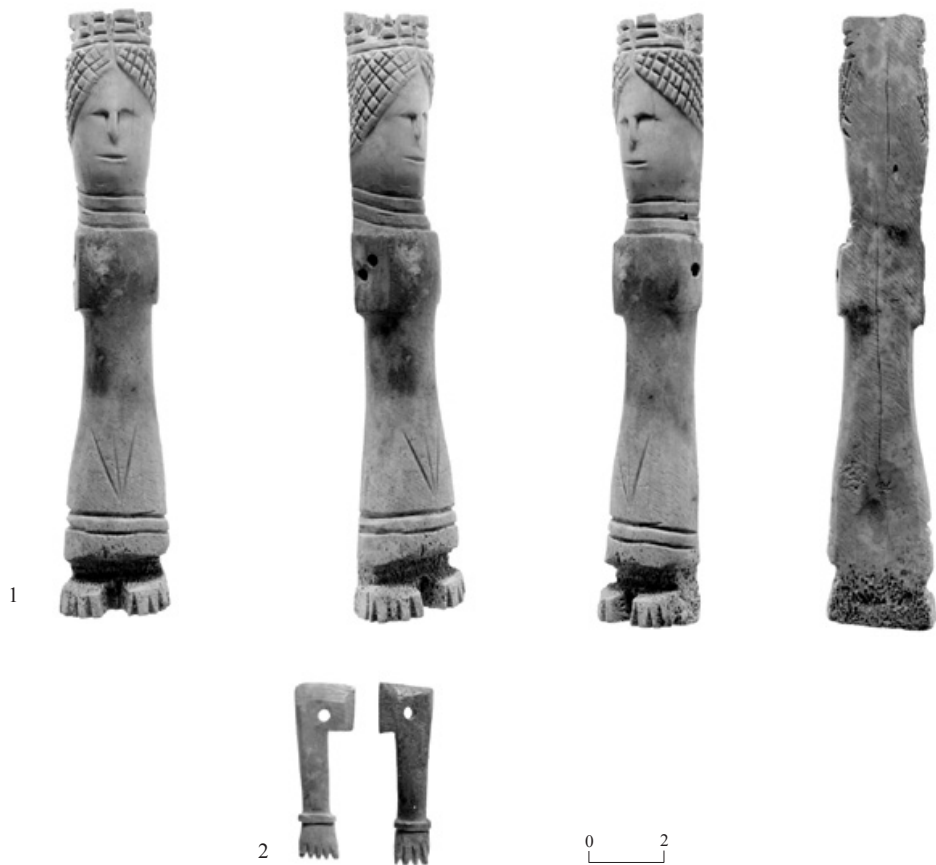


Fig. 11. Bone female figurine.

No.	Item	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (mm)
1	Figurine body	2200	11040	H 155–157, W 17–30
2	Figurine arms	2200	11027	Each arm L 46, each wrist W 10

they extended forward at chest level exposing both their sides. The outer side is convex and the inner side flat to facilitate attachment to the body.

The wrists are marked by a protruding band, perhaps depicting a bracelet or the edge of a long sleeve. The open palms are schematic, displaying five fingers each. The fingers on one hand, probably the figurine's left, are deeply carved and extend over halfway toward the wrist, whereas the fingers on the other hand are more even, less deeply carved, and shorter, extending only about a third of that distance.

The arms could have been joined to the body with metal pins or hinges through neatly carved perforations: a single perforation in each arm, two perforations in the figurine's right side and one in its left. One of the two perforations on the right may have rectified the other's erroneous location, and positioned to fit opposite the perforation on the arm. As there is only a single perforation on each arm, the arms would have been mobile once attached.

Bone Female Figurines with Separate Limbs from Excavations in Israel⁵

The specimen most closely resembling the figurine from the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery was unearthed in a burial on nearby Nablus Road. It was described by the excavators as "a bone handle carved to represent a female figure". The figurine was discovered "between the thigh bones of the uppermost skeleton" in Tomb 6, which contained two adult skulls and one infant skull (Hamilton and Hussein 1935:172, Pl. LXXXII:3). This tomb was dated from the third to the early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1970:21). This bone figurine, like the one from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, also portrays a cylindrical (c. 200 mm long), alas armless, dressed female, with her hair drawn up and backward and topped by a headdress. The figurine has a long protruding nose, a small mouth and a thick neck adorned with horizontal grooves. The breasts are discernible through a long dress extending down to the feet and adorned with linear incisions on its

lower part. Holes for attachment of the arms could not be discerned in the photograph. The close resemblance in size and modeling of this figurine and the one from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, as well as the proximity of the two sites, suggest that both figurines may have been made in the same local workshop.

A bone figurine with removable arms was uncovered at Ḥorbat Ḥanut (Zur Yig'al) in the western Samarian foothills, in a burial cave dated to the Roman period (Ayalon and Sorek 1999:62–63, Fig. 89; Beck 1999:35*–36*).⁶ Only the upper part is preserved (to a height of c. 100 mm), bearing traces of red paint. Like the figurines from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street and Nablus Road, it has a well-executed, tall, parted hairdo or wig topped by a headdress, a protruding forehead, no carved outline of the eyes, prominent lips and nose, a thick neck and protruding breasts. The arms, bent at the elbows, bear two perforations each, and are adorned with a bracelet and six fingers.

Two additional bone female figurines with removable arms were uncovered at Ḥofit on the coastal plain, in a wooden coffin together with the skeletons of an adult and a youth aged 11–12, probably a girl and her mother. The burial was dated by a clay cooking pot to the third–fourth centuries CE (Porath, Dar and Applebaum 1985:143–144, Fig. 37:1, 2). One of the figurines (on the right in both photographs in Fig. 37), preserved to its full length, is missing its arms. It is carved in relatively high relief and has a tall hairdo or wig, a protruding forehead, and deeply carved facial features. The neck is thick and adorned with two sets of horizontal grooves. The long dress is decorated with a herringbone pattern on the torso and multiple horizontal grooves on the lower part. Perforations for the attachment of arms are evident, probably two on each side, indicating that the arms were not meant to be moved (Ayalon 2005:81, No. 309).

The other figurine from Ḥofit is poorly preserved (the lower part of the face was damaged) and missing its lower part (Porath, Dar and Applebaum 1985: Fig. 37:1, 2, on

left in both photographs). Both arms are intact and attached to the body with metal hinges. The eyes and the tall hairdo or wig are deeply carved, the neck is thick and the breasts are protruding.

The left arm of a bone figurine of this type was discovered at Caesarea Maritima, in an undated context. It is bent at a right angle and has a groove on the wrist, probably symbolizing a sleeve or bracelet, as on the figurines from Şallah ed-Din Street and Ḥorbat Ḥanut. Two perforations indicate it was not meant to be moved (Ayalon 2005:81, No. 309).

The upper part of a bone figurine was discovered in Tiberias, at the foot of Mount Berenike, sealed beneath the mosaic floor of a Roman-period building, together with pottery of the second–third centuries CE (Singer 2004:69–71, Fig. 6.1). Like the figurine from Şallah ed-Din Street, this piece has an elongated, rectangular face, uncarved eyes represented by depressions, a long nose, a small mouth, a thick neck adorned with horizontal grooves, and two perforations on each side of the cylindrical body for the attachment of the now-missing arms. The example from Tiberias nevertheless differs in the fashioning of the hair around the head like a wreath, the modeling of the back of the head, and the depiction of the chest as two diagonal grooves, rather than protruding breasts.

Two bone female figurines from Jerusalem had attachable legs. A broken figurine, excavated on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street in a tomb dated from the early third century CE, is missing its head and limbs, and had probably been broken when interred (Rahmani 1960:146–148, Pl. 21:C).⁷ The figure is dressed, and the breasts are apparent beneath the garment. The arms had been attached to the shoulders by a bronze wire, and the legs had been fitted onto pegs located in the lower end of the body. This figurine was discovered inside a lead coffin containing the bones of a 20–25 year old female. Rahmani believed it accompanied the burial of a married woman (Rahmani 1960:147, nn. 28, 29), although in

the Graeco-Roman world, girls dedicated their figurines/dolls to the gods at an early age upon marrying (Elderkin 1930:455–456), hence the occurrence of a figurine/doll in the tomb of an adult woman in this period is rare.

A female figurine very similar to the one from Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street was discovered in the Tyropoeon Valley in Jerusalem, in a context attributed to the third or fourth century CE (Crowfoot and Fitzgerald 1929:99–100, Pl. XXI:34). This figurine, identified as made of ivory although most likely made of bone, was also missing its head, arms and legs, which had been fitted onto pegs.

Eight female bone statuettes from Asia Minor were acquired as part of a group of bone artifacts by the Museum of Art and Archaeology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. They are allegedly from northern Syria, from the third–fifth centuries CE (Weinberg 1975). They were later dated to c. 200 CE, based mainly on their hairstyles. Despite the variety of the figurines, some of them naked, all specimens are frontal in pose and retain traces of paint on the face, hair and garment. All but one bear two perforations for the attachment of each arm (St. Clair 1995–1996). Three of the figurines (Acc. Nos. 74.132, 74.134, 74.137), especially No. 74.137, best resemble the figurine from Şallah ed-Din Street in the stylized rendering of the facial features and neck, the headdress and the long dress.

Discussion

The figurine from the Şallah ed-Din Street cemetery is one of a series of 'articulated' bone figurines having limbs attached to the body with pins, hinges or wire. These specimens, often painted, portrayed dressed or naked females, with stylized, well-executed hairdos and headdresses, and occasionally a wreath or diadem (Ayalon and Sorek 1999:62). Their eyes were generally not carved but painted (Singer 2004:70). The fashioning of these figurines may have been inspired by similar figurines made in Mesopotamia during the late first and second centuries CE (Singer 2004:70–71, and see

discussion therein; St. Clair 1995–1996:36–37, Fig. 9, example from Dura-Europus).

Most of these articulated bone figurines share a “columnar form that flares slightly at top and bottom” (St. Clair 1995–1996:32–33); St. Clair argued that this form derives not from a common aesthetic, but rather from the shape of the bones (i.e., cattle or sheep metapodial bones) from which these figurines were carved.

Bone figurines were common from the Neolithic age onward, at least until medieval times, and were used in domestic rituals, in religious vows and dedications, as dolls, and as burial offerings. The earliest jointed figurines, made of pottery and wood, were attributed to the third millennium BCE (Elderkin 1930:455–456; Ayalon and Sorek 1999:62), while examples in bone and ivory were more typical of the Roman world, and were particularly popular in the Roman East in the first centuries CE (St. Clair 1995–1996:36–37).

The figurines with attachable limbs were identified as dolls based primarily on their articulated arms, a feature often, but not exclusively, associated with dolls (St. Clair 1995–1996:32). Furthermore, their presence in burials, mostly of children, has led various scholars to identify them as toys (Singer 2004:70 and see references therein). The figurine from the cemetery on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street may support this identification, as it was discovered in T2200, which contained the burial of a young individual, 15–18/19 years old, possibly a female (see below).⁸ The figurines from Nablus Road and Ḥofit (see above) were also discovered in burials containing children.

However, following the study of the figurines in the University of Missouri collections, St. Clair demonstrates that the jointed arms may also have been a practical-functional solution called for by the shape of the metapodial bone and the limited amount of compact tissue in it, and therefore may not serve as a reliable indicator of function (St. Clair 1995–1996:34–35). Moreover, many of these figurines, including the ones from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street and Nablus Road, as well as the

Missouri specimens, do not have articulated legs. Additionally, many of the figurines, including the ones from Caesarea Maritima and the Missouri collection, have two holes for the attachment of each arm to the body, rendering the arms immobile. These and other considerations led St. Clair to suggest that the jointed figurines should be classified “within a broader category of small-scale figures that might have served ritual or cult purposes as well...” (St. Clair 1995–1996:35–36, 42–43).

Several bone figurines with separate limbs from excavations in Israel have been published so far, and were dated by accompanying pottery and other finds mostly to the third and fourth centuries CE (see above). These bone figurines were produced in Palestine during the Roman period, particularly in the second–fourth centuries CE. The close resemblance in size and modeling of these figurines allows for their classification into two groups—those from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street, Nablus Road and Ḥorbat Ḥanut on the one hand, and those from Ḥofit and Tiberias on the other—which may have been produced in two local workshops, respectively.

Furthermore, some of the female figurines in the University of Missouri collections bear a close resemblance to the one from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street. As their date and provenance are uncertain, and Palestine and Lebanon have also been suggested as their source (St. Clair 1995–1996:32, 44, n. 4), these specimens may also have been the products of a local workshop in Palestine.

FUNERARY CUSTOMS IN THE LATE ROMAN CEMETERY ON ŞALLAḤ ED-DIN STREET AS REFLECTED BY THE GRAVE GOODS

The burial ground excavated on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street constituted a major part of the dense and extensive northern cemetery of Jerusalem during the Late Roman period. Grave goods were discovered in only 17 of the 57 cist tombs, and in one of the four burial caves. The rest of the burials either contained no artifacts,

or had been plundered sometime in the past. Nevertheless, the grave goods retrieved from the cemetery are numerous and display great variety, and their study contributes to our understanding of the city's population and burial customs.

The Grave Goods and Their Provenance within the Cemetery

The glass candlestick-type bottles were concentrated in Tombs 100, 1500, 2900 and 3700, while the rest of the glass vessels and the various other artifacts discussed in this article were recovered in the northern (L103) and southern (L105, see below) troughs of Cave I and in the collapse (L102) on top of it, in Tombs 107, 1100, 1500, 2100, 2200 (see below), 2300, 2400, 3500, 3600, 3700, 3900 and 4600, in accumulations over the Second Temple-period quarry (L6000, L6100), and on the surface (B11070). Additionally, a clay jug and clay lamps discussed elsewhere (see Avni and Adawi, this volume), were discovered in the northern trough (L103) of Cave I and in Tombs 2900, 3300, 3700 and 4300. Unfortunately, the specific location of the finds inside the tombs was not recorded by the excavators, except for one candlestick-type bottle (see Fig. 2:9), which had been placed near the adult female skull in T1500, and a coin inside a skull was recorded in T5000 (see Bijovsky, this volume: No. 2).

The Correlation between the Grave Goods and the Interred

In the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport south of Amman, Jordan, which was in use from the second century CE to the third quarter of the third century CE, the excavators observed that "where age and sex of the wearer could be determined, these [earrings, bracelets, finger rings, armlets and anklets] belonged to women and children, rarely and in doubtful cases to men" (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:18). Regrettably, it is difficult to reach such definitive conclusions regarding the cemetery on Şallah ed-Din Street, as the skeletal remains

were generally sparse and in poor condition. Furthermore, most of the tombs contained no artifacts, and in many of the tombs that did yield grave goods, the age and gender of the interred could not be determined (see Nagar, this volume).

All the cist tombs mentioned above, except T3600, contained a single skeleton, its gender mostly undetermined, or no skeletal remains at all, as in Tombs 107 and 2900 (see Nagar, this volume). Tombs 1500 and 2400 each contained a single skeleton identified as an adult female, yet varied in their content: T1500 yielded six glass vessels and a silver object, whereas T2400 contained artifacts traditionally associated with females: two single gold earrings (see below), a gold cylinder, an iron chain, metal objects possibly associated with a wooden box, and a bone pin with a knob head. Tomb 3600 held two skeletons, at least one of them a male, accompanied by two single gold earrings (see below), a gold finger ring (see below), gold discs, a copper/bronze pin and a glass vessel fragment.

The southern trough (L105) in Cave I contained 18 interred, 13 of them adults; at least 3 were identified as male and 4 as female (see Nagar, this volume). With them were deposited numerous artifacts (Fig. 12; Table 3), including glass bracelets and beads, an engraved glass amulet (see Mazor, this volume), a gold diadem, two pairs of gold earrings, a copper/bronze bracelet and a finger ring, various iron implements, a wooden bracelet, an amulet case and a bead, a shell pendant and bone pins. While most of these artifacts are traditionally attributed to females, they were discovered in the disarray of finds and bones in the trough, which was also filled with debris that collapsed into the cave after it had gone out of use (see Avni and Adawi, this volume). Furthermore, the large number of interred in the small space of the trough and the fragmentary condition of the bones (see Nagar, this volume) prevented the matching of specific items to specific skeletons.

Another burial holding an exceptionally large amount of grave goods is T2200 (Fig. 13; Table 4), located in the southern area. The plentiful and extraordinary content is intriguing, as this tomb does not stand out among others in the cemetery, neither in its shape and dimensions, nor in its single interment (see Avni and Adawi, this volume). The many exceptional artifacts included miniature glass vessels, glass beads and an inset, miniature lead objects, copper/bronze mirrors and a bracelet, a bone pin with a gold-plated head and a bone female figurine. Especially noteworthy are the miniature glass

vessels and the lead objects, the likes of which have not been published from this region to date. Therefore, it is all the more regrettable that the gender of the deceased, a young individual, could not be securely determined.⁹

It is noteworthy that the choice of artifacts in T2200 roughly resembles that discovered in the lead coffin in Tomb I on Shemu'el Ha-Navi Street in Jerusalem, which contained the remains of a 20–25 year-old female, accompanied by a glass bottle, a gold diadem, two pairs of gold earrings, a necklace, a bracelet, bone pins with a gold-plated head and a bone female figurine (Rahmani 1960). The similar selection of grave

Table 3. Finds from the Southern Trough (L105) of Cave I in the Northern Area (arranged by materials)

No.	Item	Basket	Fig.
<i>Glass</i>			
1	Plain monochrome bracelet	1026	4:1; 12:1
2	Plain monochrome bracelet	1032	4:2; 12:2
3	Angular monochrome bracelet	1026	4:3; 12:3
4	Diagonally ribbed monochrome bracelet	1026	4:4; 12:4
5	Diagonally ribbed monochrome bracelet	1026	4:5; 12:5
6	Complex trail-decorated bead	1021	4:7; 12:6
7	Complex trail-decorated bead	1033	4:8; 12:7
8	Ribbed bead	1034	4:9; 12:8
9	Segmented bead	1034	4:10; 12:9
10	Semicircular spacer bead	1034/2	4:11; 12:10
11	Gem/amulet ⁱ	1025	12:11
12	Eighteen ribbed beads	1021	
13	Ribbed bead	1034	
<i>Gold</i>			
14	Diadem	1022	5:1; 12:12
15	Pair of earrings with pendant	1024/1	5:2; 12:13
16	Pair of earrings with pendant	1024/2	5:3; 12:14
<i>Copper/Bronze</i>			
17	Bracelet	1033	7:4; 12:15
18	Finger ring	1023	7:5; 12:16
<i>Iron</i>			
19	Shaft with widened head	1027	8:1; 12:17
20	Shaft with widened head	1034	8:2; 12:18
21	Shaft with widened head	1027	8:3; 12:19

No.	Item	Basket	Fig.
22	Shaft with widened head	1027	8:4; 12:20
23	Shaft	1027	8:5; 12:21
24	Shaft	1027	8:6; 12:22
25	Shaft	1027	8:7; 12:23
26	Chisel	1027	8:8; 12:24
27	Nail	1027	8:10; 12:25
28	Nail	1027	8:11; 12:26
29	Implement	1027	8:12; 12:27
30	Forty-four fragments	1027	
31	Cylinder	1034	
<i>Wood</i>			
32	Bracelet	1031	9:1; 12:28
33	Amulet case	1034	9:2; 12:29
34	Bead	1034	9:3; 12:30
<i>Shell</i>			
35	Pendant	1034	9:4; 12:31
<i>Bone</i>			
36	Needle	1028	10:1; 12:32
37	Pin	1028	10:2; 12:33
38	Pin	1028	10:3; 12:34
39	Pin	1028	10:6; 12:35
40	Pin	1028	10:7; 12:36
41	Pin	1028	10:8; 12:37
42	Pin	1028	10:9; 12:38
43	Pin	1028	

ⁱ see Mazor, this volume.





Fig. 12. Finds from the southern trough (L105) of Cave I in the northern area; arranged by materials.

No.	Item	Basket	Appears also in
1	Plain monochrome glass bracelet	1026	Fig. 4:1
2	Plain monochrome glass bracelet	1032	Fig. 4:2
3	Angular monochrome glass bracelet	1026	Fig. 4:3
4	Diagonally ribbed monochrome glass bracelet	1026	Fig. 4:4
5	Diagonally ribbed monochrome glass bracelet	1026	Fig. 4:5
6	Complex trail-decorated glass bead	1021	Fig. 4:7
7	Complex trail-decorated glass bead	1033	Fig. 4:8
8	Ribbed glass bead	1034	Fig. 4:9
9	Segmented glass bead	1034	Fig. 4:10
10	Semicircular glass spacer bead	1034/2	Fig. 4:11
11	Glass gem/amulet ¹	1025	Fig. 4:13
12	Gold diadem	1022	Fig. 5:1
13	Pair of gold earrings with pendant	1024/1	Fig. 5:2
14	Pair of gold earrings with pendant	1024/2	Fig. 5:3
15	Copper/bronze bracelet	1033	Fig. 7:4
16	Copper/bronze finger ring	1023	Fig. 7:5

No.	Item	Basket	Appears also in
17	Iron shaft with widened head	1027	Fig. 8:1
18	Iron shaft with widened head	1034	Fig. 8:2
19	Iron shaft with widened head	1027	Fig. 8:3
20	Iron shaft with widened head	1027	Fig. 8:4
21	Iron shaft	1027	Fig. 8:5
22	Iron shaft	1027	Fig. 8:6
23	Iron shaft	1027	Fig. 8:7
24	Iron chisel	1027	Fig. 8:8
25	Iron nail	1027	Fig. 8:10
26	Iron nail	1027	Fig. 8:11
27	Iron implement	1027	Fig. 8:12
28	Wooden bracelet	1031	Fig. 9:1
29	Wooden amulet case	1034	Fig. 9:2
30	Wooden bead	1034	Fig. 9:3
31	Shell pendant	1034	Fig. 9:4
32	Bone needle	1028	Fig. 10:1
33	Bone pin	1028	Fig. 10:2
34	Bone pin	1028	Fig. 10:3
35	Bone pin	1028	Fig. 10:6
36	Bone pin	1028	Fig. 10:7
37	Bone pin	1028	Fig. 10:8
38	Bone pin	1028	Fig. 10:9

¹See Mazor, this volume

Table 4. Glass Vessels and Various Artifacts from T2200 in the Southern Area (arranged by materials)

No.	Item	Basket	Fig.
<i>Glass</i>			
1	Miniature bottle	11033	3:5; 13:1
2	Miniature bottle	11032	3:6; 13:2
3	Miniature vessel base or disc	11032	3:7; 13:3
4	Miniature vessel	11032	3:8; 13:4
5	Non-diagnostic body fragments	11031	
6	Nine hexagon-sectioned beads with two gold-plated cylinders	11029	4:6; 13:5
7	Gem/inset	11030	4:12; 13:6
<i>Lead</i>			
8	Miniature juglet	11037	6:1; 13:7
9	Miniature vessel/marine object	11036	6:2; 13:8
10	Mirror frame	11038	6:3; 13:9
11	Miniature vessel/bell	11038	6:4; 13:10
12	Miniature table	11039	6:5; 13:11
13	Circular object	11038	6:6; 13:12
<i>Copper/Bronze</i>			
14	Circular mirror	11035	7:1; 13:13
15	Circular mirror	11035	7:2; 13:14
16	Bracelet	11035	7:3; 13:15
<i>Bone</i>			
17	Pin with gold-plated head	11028	10:4; 13:16
18	Female figurine	11040	11; 13:17

goods may indicate that the deceased in T2200 on Şallah ed-Din Street was a female.

The gold diadem, discovered in the southern trough (L105) of Cave I along with many other artifacts and the bones of 18 individuals of both sexes, cannot be linked to a specific deceased. Rahmani (1976:84, n. 31) pointed out that although diadems appear only on female representations in the Palmyrene funerary steles from the second–third centuries CE, local finds indicate they were also used by men. And indeed, gold diadems have been discovered in Jerusalem in various coffins holding the skeletons of children and adult men (Rahmani 1976), and an adult female (Rahmani 1960).

Diadems made of thin gold foil were designed to be interred with the deceased;

Fig. 13 ▶

No.	Item	Basket	Appears also in
1	Miniature glass bottle	11033	Fig. 3:5
2	Miniature glass bottle	11032	Fig. 3:6
3	Miniature glass vessel base or disc	11032	Fig. 3:7
4	Miniature glass vessel	11032	Fig. 3:8
5	Nine hexagon-sectioned glass beads with two gold-plated cylinders	11029	Fig. 4:6
6	Glass gem/inset	11030	Fig. 4:12
7	Miniature lead juglet	11037	Fig. 6:1
8	Miniature lead vessel/marine object	11036	Fig. 6:2
9	Lead mirror frame	11038	Fig. 6:3
10	Miniature lead vessel/bell	11038	Fig. 6:4
11	Miniature lead table	11039	Fig. 6:5
12	Lead circular object	11038	Fig. 6:6
13	Copper/bronze circular mirror	11035	Fig. 7:1
14	Copper/bronze circular mirror	11035	Fig. 7:2
15	Copper/bronze bracelet	11035	Fig. 7:3
16	Bone pin with gold-plated head	11028	Fig. 10:4
17	Bone female figurine	11040	Fig. 11

however, diadems may also have been worn by mourners, in which case they would have been much sturdier. Interestingly, it has been suggested that the strong gold sheet and the thick reinforced loops at both ends of an Early Roman gold diadem of uncertain provenance,¹⁰ embossed with a figurative scene of the cult of Kybele, indicate that this diadem had been worn by its owner in her/his lifetime (Jonas 1962).

Diadems worn by mourners may have been bestowed on the deceased. Rahmani proposed that the incomplete diadem, found outside Coffin I at Nahal Raqafot, may have been “torn from the headdress of a mourner during the funerary rites”, and deposited, together with a gold and onyx brooch and gold earring, on the closed coffin (Rahmani 1976:83–84). This custom is also evident in Tomb I on Shemu’el Ha-Navi Street, where remnants of a wooden box were discovered on a lead coffin containing the remains of a female 20–25 years old. The box was possibly a “gift to the deceased, which



Fig. 13. Glass vessels and various artifacts from T2200 in the southern area; arranged by materials.

was added after the coffin had been sealed, but before the actual closing of the tomb” (Rahmani 1960:143).

The gold earrings from Şallah ed-Din Street were collected from various graves singly or in pairs. Two pairs were found in the southern trough (L105) in Cave I. Two single earrings were excavated in each of Tombs 2400 and 3600, and a single one in T3900. Tombs 2400 and 3900 each contained one skeleton: that in T2400 is of an adult female, while the gender of the deceased in T3900 could not be determined. Tomb 3600 held two skeletons, one a male, the other uncertain (see Nagar, this volume). Consequently, the gold earrings from Şallah ed-Din Street cannot be securely associated with the gender of the deceased, except the single earring from T2400 that accompanied a woman.

Earrings often accompanied female skeletons and were traditionally associated with women and girls. Two pairs of gold earrings from Shemu’el Ha-Navi Street (see above) accompanied a female burial (Rahmani 1960:145). In the burial ground at Gesher Ha-Ziv in northern Israel, dated from the second–third centuries CE, where the age and sex of the deceased were determined, gold earrings were associated with women and children (Mazar 1994:78, Burials 1002, 1005, 1007). In the cemetery at Queen Alia International Airport gold earrings were excavated in pairs or singly, yet never more than one pair per grave; a single gold earring was associated with each of two children buried in Grave 111 (Ibrahim and Gordon 1987:26).

Nevertheless, earrings were occasionally discovered in male burials as well. An elaborate gold earring from Naḥal Raqafot, and a pair from Manaḥat, both sites in western Jerusalem and attributed to the early third century CE, were discovered in lead coffins, each containing two skeletons of foreign males, possibly Roman legionaries (Rahmani 1976; Gath and Rahmani 1977).

The male burials at Naḥal Raqafot and Manaḥat also yielded gold finger rings, which,

like earrings, were often associated with females. The gold ring from Şallah ed-Din Street was unearthed in T3600, which contained two interred, one of them a male. A copper/bronze ring was recovered in the southern trough (L105) of Cave I, which contained the bones of 18 skeletons, adults and children, males and females. Thus, the finger rings from Şallah ed-Din Street cannot be definitely associated with the gender of the interred.

The bone female figurine discovered in T2200, accompanied the burial of a teenager, perhaps a female (see above). Similar bone figurines from Nablus Road and Ḥofit (see above) were discovered in burials containing both adults and children. The bone figurine from Shemu’el Ha-Navi Street, deposited inside the lead coffin of a 20–25 year-old female, suggests that the deceased in T2200 was most probably a female.

The Occurrence of Glass Vessels and Artifact Types in Syria-Palestine

The glass assemblage from the burials on Şallah ed-Din Street comprises mostly closed vessels, almost exclusively bottles and jars. The burial complexes of the Late Roman period in Galilee, on the other hand, included numerous bowls and beakers (e.g., Gorin-Rosen 2002).

Candlestick-type bottles were very popular throughout the Roman Empire from the late first to the mid-third centuries CE. They were particularly widespread in Syria-Palestine and are common finds in funerary contexts of the period throughout the region. However, the specific variants of the candlestick-type bottles from Şallah ed-Din Street, with their deeply concave bottoms that allow for very little volume, are quite rare.

The mold-blown, lozenge-grid pattern on the jar from T1500 appears on other Late Roman vessels, particularly sprinklers, yet the combination of the jar’s fabric, shape and decoration is uncommon. Globular jars like those from Şallah ed-Din Street were commonplace in the region, and occur in burial complexes mostly from the third–fourth

centuries CE. The miniature glass vessels, on the other hand, are exceptional in their fabric and shapes, and no analogous examples from the region have been published so far.

Apart from the glass vessels, most of the other artifacts from the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street corpus, i.e., glass bracelets, glass beads, gold earrings, finger rings of gold and other metals with insets, bronze pins and spatulae, iron and bronze chains, iron nails and bone pins, are well-known in burials of the Roman period throughout the country.

Bronze mirrors are less common, and gold diadems occur almost exclusively in burials in the Jerusalem environs.¹¹ Lead artifacts resembling those from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street have not been published to date, and miniature lead vessels have rarely been found *in situ*. Very few wooden artifacts are preserved in this region due to the climate, and specimens analogous to those from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street are scarce. Similar bone female figurines with separate limbs were excavated in burials and settlements, particularly in Jerusalem and in the north of the country, and some examples in museum collections may also have originated in this region.

Dating the Tombs by the Grave Goods

Most of the identified glass vessels discovered *in situ* in the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery may be associated with the second–third centuries CE. The candlestick-type bottles, which comprise 60% of the glass vessel assemblage, are all of the same variant, suggesting they were made in the same workshop. They are characteristic of the second and early third centuries CE, and accordingly date the tombs from which they were recovered, i.e., Tombs 100, 1500, 2900 and 3700. The mold-blown jar from T1500 and the globular jar from T3700 may be placed in the third century CE, and accordingly narrow down the date of these tombs.

The miniature glass vessels from T2200 are unique, and their fabric and thin-walled shapes place them in an Early Roman milieu; however,

other grave goods in the tomb (i.e., the handled lead frame, the copper/bronze mirrors, the bone female figurine) suggest a date in the Late Roman period.

Jewelry of the Roman and Byzantine periods in Syria-Palestine displays continuity in materials, techniques, motifs and styles, and therefore cannot aid in narrowing down the chronological range. Moreover, precious items were passed on as heirlooms, thus remaining in use for long stretches of time, and older pieces, such as gems and seals, were incorporated into new settings.

In a similar manner, a pierced coin, particularly a worn one such as that from T3500, would certainly have been used as a pendant later than its minting date in the mid-fourth century CE, suggesting that this tomb, with its unusual plan, was used in a period later than the rest of the Şallaḥ ed-Din Street cemetery.

Most of the grave goods from the burials on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street are characteristic of Roman, particularly Late Roman contexts, as are the glass beads, the gold finger ring and the circular copper/bronze mirrors. Yet, some specimens, particularly the glass bracelets, the gold earrings and the bone pins, enable a narrowing of the timespan of burial in these tombs. The absence of certain later types of glass bracelets from the corpus of Şallaḥ ed-Din Street further affirms the dating of the glass bracelets from the site to the third through the mid-fourth centuries CE. Additionally, the gold earrings from the cemetery on Şallaḥ ed-Din Street resemble similar earrings discovered in nearby tombs, which are mostly dated to the third century CE. Finally, the bone pins from Şallaḥ ed-Din Street correspond with bone pins from burials predominantly of the third century CE, and the absence from these assemblages of certain fourth–fifth centuries CE types of bone pins, reinforces a date in the third century CE for the Şallaḥ ed-din Street burials from which the bone pins were recovered. Furthermore, the absence of iron bracelets and rings, which are characteristic of funerary contexts of the

fourth century CE (Vitto 2008:113), reinforces the dating of the burials at the Şallah ed-Din Street cemetery to an earlier period.

Accordingly, the burials containing the glass candlestick-type bottles and mold-blown jar, and the above-mentioned artifacts, i.e., Trough 105 in Cave I, and Tombs 100, 1500, 2200, 2400, 2900, 3600, 3700, and most probably other tombs that are stratigraphically contemporaneous, were in use during the second half of the second century CE and the third century CE.

Several of the finds from the northern trough (L103) in Cave I, however, date slightly later, including fragments of a glass bowl and a glass bottle from the Late Roman or Byzantine periods (see Table 2), and a clay jug (B1010; see Avni and Adawi, this volume: Fig. 23:2) dated from the third–fourth centuries CE. Additionally, the collapse (L102) on top of the northern trough (L103) yielded the base of a glass bowl or jug typical of the fourth–fifth centuries CE (see Fig. 3:4).

The Identity of the Interred

The identity of the interred in the Şallah ed-Din Street cemetery remains unclear. The

anthropological analysis indicates a standard, heterogeneous civilian population (see Nagar, this volume). It has been established that the population of Aelia Capitolina, founded in the second century CE, was largely pagan (e.g., Isaac 1999), and while there is no indication of cremation in any of the burials, no Jewish or Christian traits are discerned on any of the objects. Furthermore, the engraved glass amulet bearing a mythological scene, discovered in the cemetery, may be associated with a pagan deceased (see Mazor, this volume).

Interestingly, artifacts from some of the burials on Şallah ed-Din Street resemble those from the tombs at Naḥal Raqafot and Manaḥat, where the interred were identified as foreign males, possibly Roman legionaries (Rahmani 1976; Gath and Rahmani 1977). It may therefore be suggested that some of the interred in the cemetery on Şallah ed-Din Street were foreigners, perhaps soldiers in the Roman army and their families. Further support for this proposal is seen in some of the lead-based objects, which probably originated in central Britain, and may have been brought to Jerusalem by a Roman soldier or veteran, who had previously resided or served in Britain.

NOTES

¹ I wish to thank Gideon Avni and Zubeir Adawi, directors of the excavation, for the opportunity to study the finds. Thanks are also due to Yael Gorin-Rosen for her learned advice and comments on the manuscript, and to Levi Y. Rahmani for referring me to his article on lead amphorae. The finds were restored by Olga Shorr (glass) and Helena Kupersmidt (metal), drawn by Carmen Hersch, and photographed by Clara Amit and Mariana Salzberger.

² The glass finds from the IAA excavation at this site, as yet mostly unpublished, have been preliminarily studied by Yael Gorin-Rosen and Natalya Katsnelson; I wish to thank them, as well as Ze'ev Yeivin and Gerald Finkielsztejn, directors of

the Horbat Qaṣṣra excavations, for permission to cite these unpublished finds.

³ L6699, B63234/1, see n. 2.

⁴ The bone has not been analyzed; however, figurines were usually carved from mammal metapodial (lower leg) bones (St. Clair 1995–1996:32–33; Ayalon and Sorek 1999:62).

⁵ Most of the publications referred to here, except that of the head from Tiberias, do not enable an examination of the figurines' backs.

⁶ IAA Reg. No. 1998-2805 (the head and body) and 1998-2805/1, 2 (the arms).

⁷ IAA Reg. No. 1956-1185.

⁸ In the original anthropological report (IAA archives, 1999) the skull was described as manifesting

distinctive feminine morphology. However, as these age-dependent morphological features may reflect this individual's young age (15–18/9 years old), the sex is noted in the final report as unknown (see Nagar, this volume).

⁹ See n. 8.

¹⁰ The diadem was acquired in Jerusalem in 1940; it allegedly came from the area of Shekhem (Nablus)

and was dated by analogous examples to the Early Roman period (Jonas 1962).

¹¹ An isolated example of an extraordinary gold diadem inlaid with precious stones originated in a Roman mausoleum discovered at Kefar Gil'adi. The diadem was found inside a lead coffin dated from the late third or early fourth century CE (Kaplan 1967: Fig. 7, Pl. 16:3).

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