

THE POTTERY FROM THE CHURCH OF BISHOP JOHANNES AT ḤORBAT BARQA, GAN YAVNE

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The pottery uncovered from two seasons of excavations in the church at Ḥorbat Barqa, Gan Yavne (see Sion, this volume) formed an assemblage that more-or-less reflects that of other excavations in the area (Avner 2000; Gadot and Tepper 2003; Rand 2000; van den Brink 2000; and Rapuano, forthcoming).

The pottery of the second season served to verify our dating of the pottery of the first season. A most important development for the study of the pottery in the second season was the exposure of the mosaic inscription, dating the floor to the year 511/2 CE. This confirmed the dating suggested by the pottery of the first season (Sion et al. 2010; Sion and Rapuano 2012). The small amount of diagnostic pottery uncovered in the second season is presented typologically.

Fine Ware Bowls (Fig. 1:1, 2)

Two Fine Ware bowls were recovered. The bowl in Fig. 1:1 belongs to Hayes' Late Roman C Form 3E (1972:325–370), dating from the fifth to the early sixth centuries. The other, most significant, is a Late Roman C Form 10A bowl (Fig. 1:2), found in L48, the packed earthen fill that served as the threshold of the entrance to the main hall. Hayes (1972:343–346) suggested the late sixth to early seventh centuries as the date for this form.

Storage Jar (Fig. 1:3)

The vessel in Fig. 1:3 is a bag-shaped storage jar with an incurving, out-folded rim, made of dark brown ware. It is evidently a Judean form that first appeared at the end of the first century and continued throughout the fourth and fifth centuries. The earliest examples have a thin

rim section, which later in the development of the vessel became thicker. On our example, the external fold of the rim is especially thick and the vessel likely dates to the fifth century.

Gaza Jars (Fig. 1:4–8)

The greatest number of vessels represented in the excavations at Barqa has been by far that of Gaza storage jars. Numerous examples of these jars were found. Gadot and Tepper (2003) suggested that the jars were the main vessel produced in the industrial potter's workshop discovered at the site. They classified the jars from their excavations into three types. Their typology relies on Mayerson's (1992) classification, which was based on Killebrew's unpublished typology.

Peacock and Williams (1986:196–199) suggested, based on Zemer (1977:61) and Riley (1979), that the two basic forms of Gaza jars—a short, rounded form (Class 48) and a long, torpedo-shaped form (Class 49)—were the result of morphological development. They assigned a third-to-fourth century date to Class 48 and a fourth-to-sixth century date to Class 49. Mayerson, departing from this approach, suggested that the distinctions between the jars are rather the result of regional considerations. He proposed that the long torpedo form was manufactured in the Gaza region, while the shorter, rounder version was produced in the Ashqelon region. The fact that both types are found at Barqa in large numbers and probably were manufactured there, indicates that the chronological approach of Peacock and Williams, Riley and Zemer more accurately reflects the actual circumstances regarding these jars. Majcherek (1995) refined the

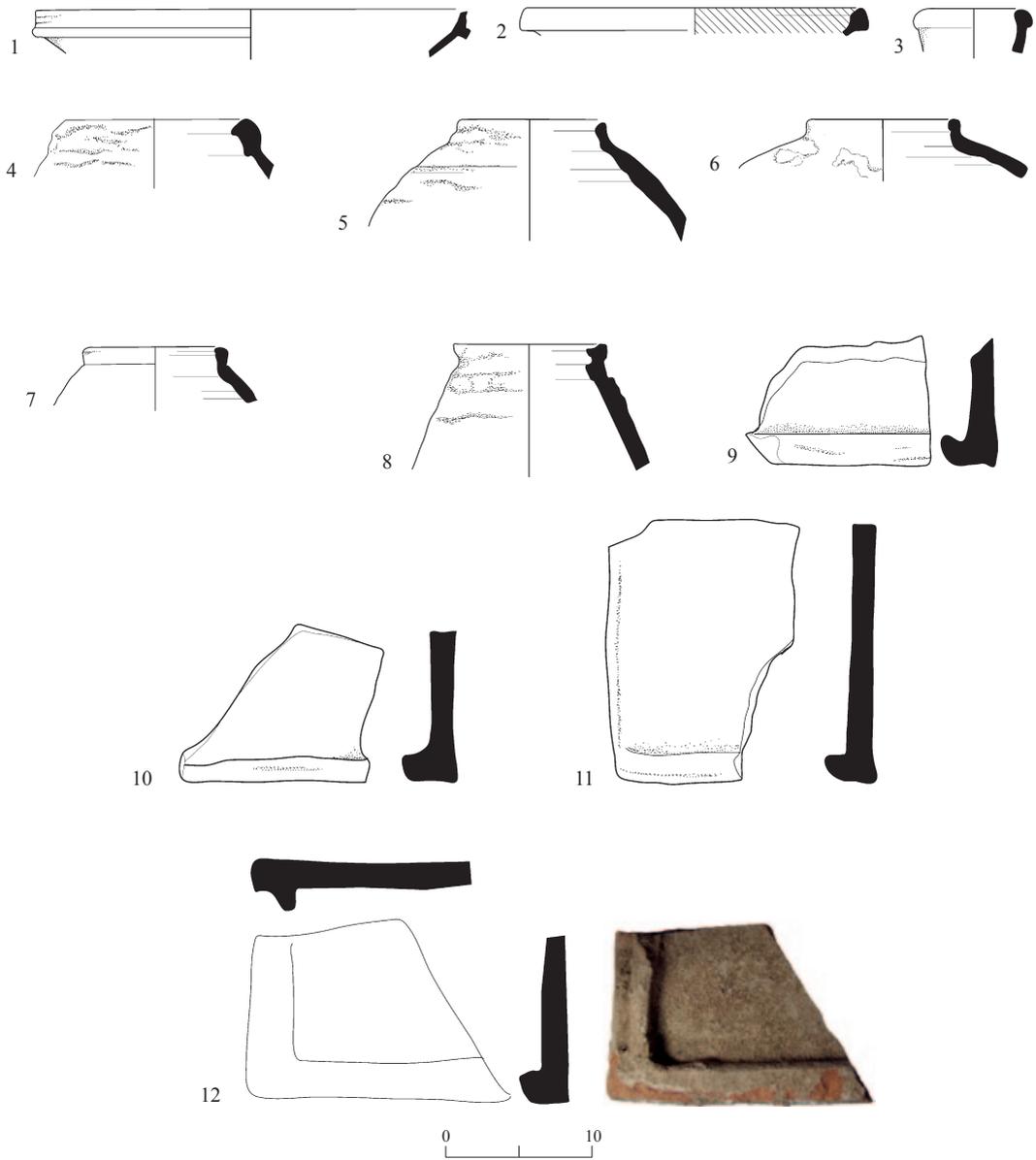


Fig. 1.

morphological classification of Gaza jars, provisionally dividing them into four forms: Form 1, dated from the first to third centuries; Form 2, dated between 300 and 450 CE; Form 3, dated from the late fifth to the late sixth centuries; and Form 4, from the late sixth to the seventh centuries. Here, the parallels for each type rely mainly on Majcherek's scheme; however, the classification according to Tepper

and Gadot and Killebrew/Mayerson are also noted where relevant. All of the jars illustrated from the excavations of the church belong to Majcherek's Forms 3 and 4. Notwithstanding, our jars do not always fit perfectly Majcherek's classification, but features of different forms are sometimes combined in one example. Four jars (Figs. 1:4–7) belong to Majcherek's Form 3, although jar No. 6 has rounded

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Vessel	Reg. No.	Description	Parallels and Date (CE)
1	Bowl	L34, B166/1	Reddish yellow ware (9YR 6/6), no core; traces of light red slip (2.5YR 6/6) on both surfaces; discoloration from stacking on the rim; few tiny white and micaeous inclusions	Hayes 1972:329–338, Late Roman C, Form 3, possibly E Suggested date: 5th–early 6th c.
2	Bowl	L48, B196	Red ware (2.5YR 5/6), no core; some tiny white inclusions	Hayes 1972:343–346, Late Roman C, Form 10A Suggested date: late 6th to early 7th c.
3	Storage jar	L34, B166/3	Reddish yellow ware (5YR 6/6), no core; few small to tiny sand, white and red inclusions	Similar to Jerusalem, North Wall—Hamilton 1940: Fig. 6:6, from Sounding A Late 3rd–early 4th–5th c.
4	storage jar	L27, B147/4	Yellowish red ware (5YR 5/6), no core; many large to tiny sand and white inclusions	Majcherek 1995: Pl. 6:3, Form 3 Gadot and Tepper 2003: Fig. 17:6, Type B
5	storage jar	L27, B147/3	Yellowish red ware (5YR 4/6); some large to tiny sand and white inclusions	Majcherek 1995: Pl.6:2, Form 3 Gadot and Tepper 2003: Fig.17:7, Type B
6	Storage jar	L44, B191	Red ware (2.5YR 5/6); reddish brown core (2.5YR 5/4); many tiny sand and red inclusions	Majcherek 1995:168–169, Pl. 6:1, Form 3 Late 5th to end of 6th c.
7	Storage jar	L47, B193	Yellowish red ware (5YR 5/6), light red core (2.5YR 6/6); many tiny sand inclusions	Majcherek 1995:168–169, Pl. 6:2, Form 3 Late 5th to end of 6th c.
8	storage jar	L29, B157/4	Yellowish red ware (5YR 5/8), dark grayish brown core (10YR 4/2); few, small to tiny sand inclusions	Probably Majcherek 1995: Form 4
9	Tegula roof tile	L27, B147	Reddish yellow ware (7.5YR 6/6), no core; very few sand and white inclusions	
10	Tegula roof tile	L21, B111/3	Light brown ware (7.5YR 6/4), no core; few small to tiny sand white and red inclusions	
11	Tegula roof tile	L36, B163/4	Reddish yellow ware (7.5YR 6/6), no core; white surfaces (10YR 8/2); many small to tiny sand red and white inclusions	
12	Tegula roof tile	L44, B181	Reddish yellow ware (7.5YR 7/6), no core; some large to tiny red, reddish brown and white inclusions	

shoulders and a barrel-shaped profile, closer to that of earlier Form 2, and No. 7 has the narrow shoulders and an elongated profile, more similar to the later Form 4. The jar in Fig. 1:8 is classified as Majcherek's Form 4.

Roof Tiles (Fig. 1:9–12)

A number of roof tile fragments were discovered among the ceramic material. None of the roof

tiles was found intact. The fragments in Fig. 1:9–12 are all examples of *tegulae*, the flat tiles laid on the roof so that the raised edge of one tile abutted that of the next. On the underside of each *tegula*, the imprint of the wooden mold in which it was formed is visible. Not a single *imbrex*, the arched covering tile usually laid over the edges of the *tegulae*, was recovered. The same phenomena was observed in Yehuda

Dagan's nearby excavations of the tombs (Rapuano, forthcoming), where over 130 roof tile fragments were discovered, but not a single *imbrex* was found.

CONCLUSIONS

The dark, rich alluvial soil of the *Marzeva* trough (Gadot and Tepper 2003:130), upon which Barqa is situated and where the church was discovered, provided an excellent source of raw material for pottery vessels. This was undoubtedly a major factor in choosing the location for the establishment of the nearby pottery workshop discovered by Gadot and Tepper. The investigated kilns were specially constructed for the production of Gaza storage jars, and were quite surely the source of the numerous vessels of this type found.

The pottery can be generally dated within the range of the fifth and the early seventh centuries. The sherds recovered from above the floor of the church include a Late Roman C Form 3E bowl of the fifth to the early sixth centuries (Fig. 1:1) and a *tegula* (Fig. 1:11). Unfortunately the *tegulae* cannot be closely dated. The most significant sherd for the latest date of the church is the Late Roman C, Form 10A bowl (Fig. 1:2). It was found in the packed earthen fill that served as a threshold of the entrance to the main hall, dated to the late sixth–early seventh centuries. Although it is difficult to base extensive conclusions on such a scanty number of ceramic finds, it might be suggested that the church was founded in the late fifth–early sixth centuries and continued in use until the late sixth, or even the seventh century.

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