

REMAINS FROM THE LATE ROMAN TO THE MAMLUK PERIODS ON DJABSHA STREET, OLD CITY, JERUSALEM: AN EARLY ISLAMIC-PERIOD FULLER'S WORKSHOP?

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INTRODUCTION

A limited salvage excavation was conducted in July 2008 on 16 Djabsha Street in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem (map ref. 221825–6/631887–8; Fig. 1), at 761 m asl, prior to converting the basement of a building into a living space.¹ The main entrance to the building is on Djabsha Street, through a segmented arch portal made of dressed stones with a double-leaved door. On the portal is the number 17, despite it being part of the same building as 16 Djabsha Street (Fig. 2). The opening is flanked by two small columns surmounted with small capitals bearing floral decoration. They support a triangular pediment surrounded by dentils carved into the tympanum of a profiled, semicircular arch. In the center of

the tympanum is an openwork bull's eye. This composition reveals the influence of the Italian Renaissance and Baroque Fine Arts that characterized Ottoman architecture throughout the nineteenth century.

A carved stone located on the facade of the building to the right of this door bears the date "A.D. 1909" (Fig. 3), and above appear two crisscrossed arms and hands: the bare arm of Jesus and the arm of St. Francis of Assisi covered by the sleeve of his robe. Both hands are perforated: Jesus' hand bears the marks of the crucifixion, and St. Francis' hand, the stigmata. Above the two hands is the Cross of Jerusalem—a large cross potent surrounded by four smaller Greek crosses, one in each quadrant. This is the symbol adopted by the Franciscan Order during the fourteenth century CE, when

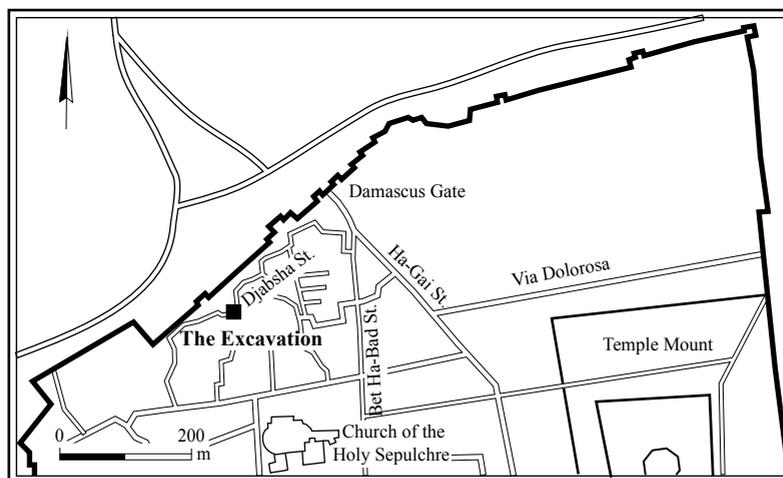


Fig. 1. Location map of the site in the Old City of Jerusalem.



Fig. 2. Main entrance to 16 Djabsha Street.

Pope Clement VI declared the Franciscans the official custodians of the Holy Land (*Custodia Terrae Sanctae*). This symbol also appears on the keystone of the sealed gate of the Monastery of the Flagellation on the *Via Dolorosa*, and on the tympanum of the gate of the St. Francis Convent on Mount Zion.

ARCHITECTURE AND STRATIGRAPHY

(Plan 1; Figs. 4, 5)

The excavation, which was delimited by a rectangular room and a small, elongated room to its north, covered an area of approximately 20 sq m and reached a depth of 1.4 m below the basement floor.

In the northwestern part of the excavation, the southern part of the small room, the



Fig. 3. Franciscan symbol of the *Custodia Terrae Sanctae* on the facade of the building on 16 Djabsha Street.

lowermost layers were fills (L1015, 760.15–760.38 m; L1013, 760.38–760.62 m) that yielded potsherds dating to the Byzantine period (Plan 1: Section 3–3; Fig. 7:1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18). A dry-built channel (L1017; 760.18–760.65 m), made of two rows of stones and covered with small flagstones, cut these fills. The internal face of the channel walls and its base were lined with plaster. This channel was almost entirely filled with earth (L1018; 760.18–760.37 m) that contained two candlestick-type lamps from the Byzantine period (Fig. 7:19, 20). The top edge of L1013 abuts the flagstones covering the channel, and was a very hard surface, possibly the remnants of a stamped earth floor.

A dry-built wall made of free-standing blocks (W103; 761.16–760.51 m), oriented east–west and preserved to a height of two courses, rested on L1013 (Plan 1: Section 3–3). The lower course is made of roughly-dressed blocks and may be interpreted as a shallow foundation course. The second course, whose southern face was carefully dressed with a claw chisel, constituted the base of the wall. Although the northern side of W103 was not excavated, it is at a higher elevation than the southern side; therefore, W103 could not have been a supporting wall, but appears, rather, to have been a partition wall.



Fig. 4. Plastered rectangular Pit 1005 on left and the preserved base of Channel 1016, which flows into it, looking east; on the right is Channel 1012, which was cut in its northeastern part by the pit.

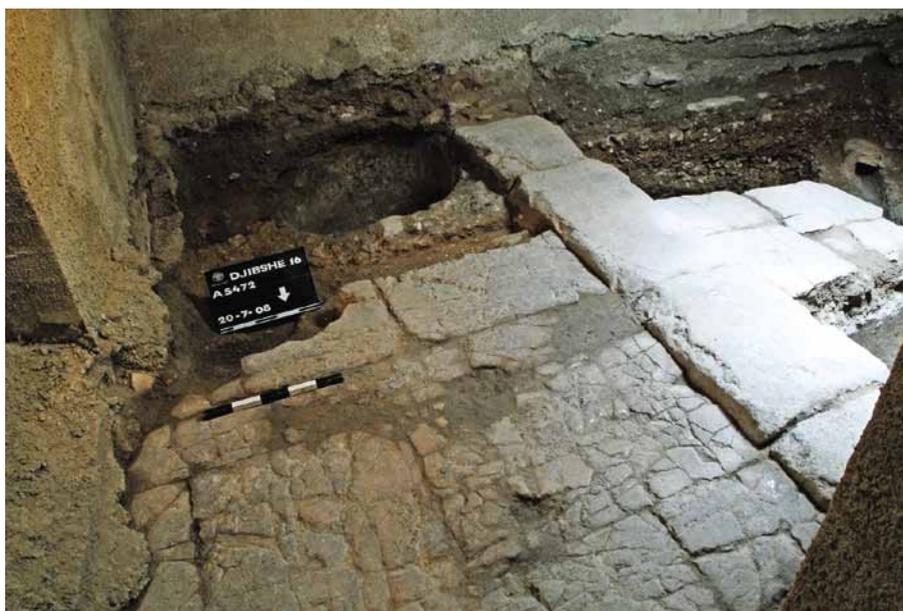
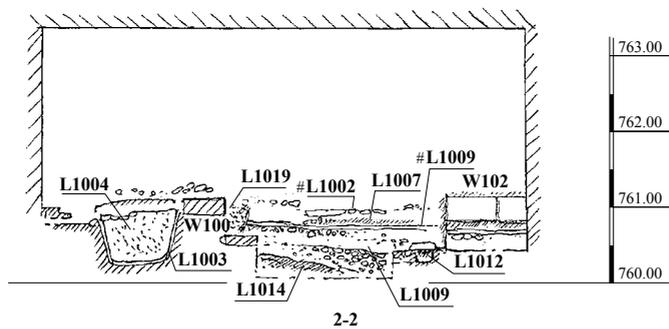
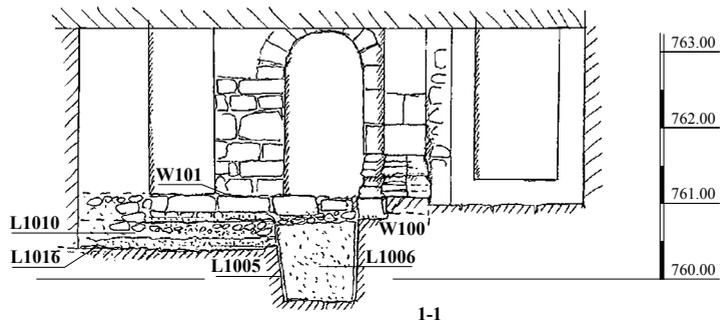
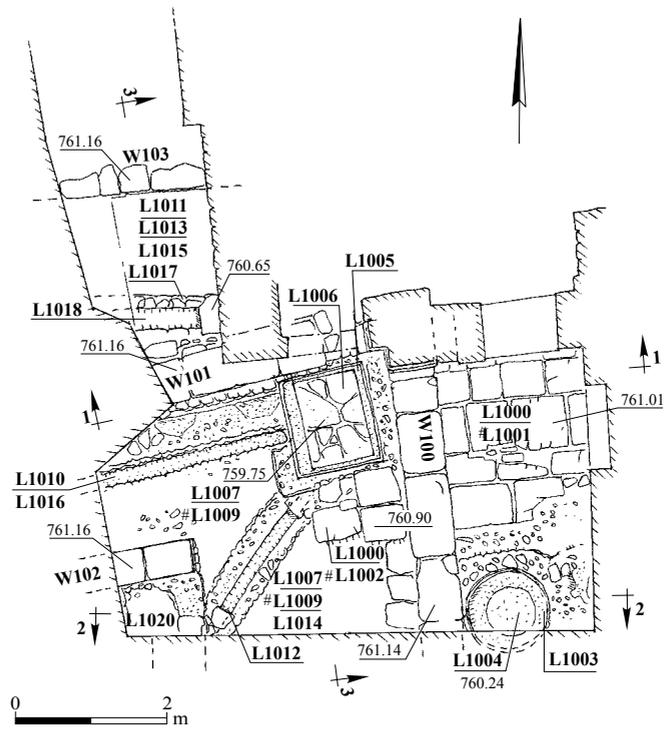
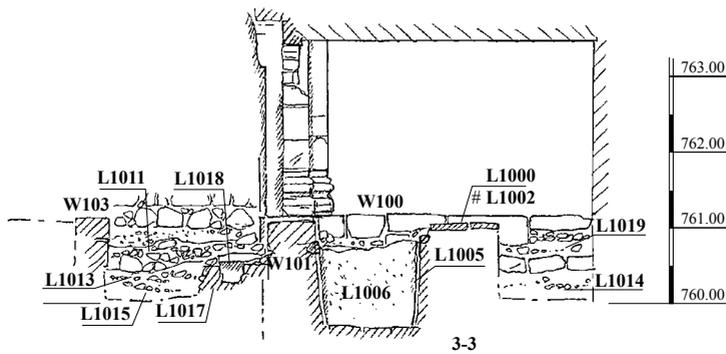


Fig. 5. The paved floor (L1001), looking south; in the background is the plastered circular Pit 1003 that was cut on its western side, near W100.



Plan 1. Archaeological structures uncovered on 16 Djabsha Street.



Plan 1. (cont.).

A fill (L1011; 760.62–761.02 m), containing many stones in its lower part, abuts the southern face of W103 and covers L1013 and the flagstones of Channel 1017. Although this layer still contained some residual Byzantine pottery, it also contained pottery from the Medieval period, and therefore, postdates the channel.

In the rectangular room to the south, a fill layer (L1014; 760.36–760.05 m) containing Byzantine pottery was found at an elevation almost identical to L1015 described above (Plan 1: Section 2–2). This fill was cut by a built channel made of medium-sized stones bound with lime mortar (L1012; 760.50–760.25 m), which ran in a northeast–southwest direction. Even today, flagstones cover Channel 1012 (Plan 1: Section 2–2), fixed in place by means of lime mortar with charcoal aggregates. The channel, which was exposed to a length of over 2 m, slopes northward at approximately 2 cm per meter (2% grade). On the northeast, the channel was cut by a later vat (L1005; 1.10 × 1.12 × 1.30 m; Plan 1: Sections 1–1, 3–3; Fig. 4). The channel leads southwest into a cistern (L1020; 760.83 m), which could not be excavated nor surveyed due to time and safety considerations. It is noteworthy that a modern vertical shaft was integrated within the wall of the extant Ottoman building, leading to this cistern and thus attesting to its continuing use since antiquity. The base of the channel was

covered by only a thin layer of sand devoid of artifacts, indicating that unlike the other channels, this channel was maintained.

Architectural changes, whose details cannot be established, took place during the Byzantine period. These could have been building phases. The first phase comprises a dry-built wall, running roughly east–west (W101; 761.16–760.83 m), of well-bonded dressed blocks, preserved to a height of one course. The northern face of W101 overlies the southern edge of Channel 1017, and therefore, post-dates it (Plan 1: Section 3–3).

The rectangular vat (L1005), made of masonry walls coated with hydraulic mortar, with a floor consisting of small limestone flagstones, cuts Channel 1012, but abuts W101 (Plan 1: Section 3–3). A new channel (L1016; 760.59–760.38 m) coated with lime mortar was used to fill the vat with some kind of liquid. It follows the same orientation as W101, and belongs to the same phase of construction. Channel 1016, coated with hydraulic mortar, was exposed for a length of over 2.5 m, revealing a slope from west (760.43 m) to east (760.41 m), at a grade of 1.25% (Plan 1: Section 1–1). The covering slabs of the channel have not survived. An earth fill, similar in orientation to that of the channel, filled it (L1010; 760.79–760.38 m). The fill is a little wider than the channel and is interpreted as a robber trench, as it was dug

from above, cutting not only the fill within the channel (L1016) but also the original fill above it (L1010).

A plaster floor (L1009; 760.52–760.38 m) abuts the top of Channel 1016, the western and southern walls of the vat (L1005) and the southern face of W101. The dismantling of this floor and, even more so, the excavation of its statumen of reddish earth rich in gravel, yielded pottery attributable to the Byzantine period, as well as two fourth-century CE coins (Fig. 7:3–7, 15, 17; Coin Nos. 1, 2, see below). Overlying Floor 1009 was a fill of earth and stones (L1007; 760.80–760.52 m; Plan 1: Section 2–2), mixed with fragments of pottery dating to the Medieval period alongside Byzantine pottery.

Another installation, a stone-built circular pit which was plastered on the interior (L1003; 760.99–760.24 m, diam. 1.05 m), was unearthed in the southwestern part of the rectangular room. The fill around this second installation could not be excavated due to time constraints, and thus, it is difficult to date. However, Pit 1003 was clearly anterior to the construction of a newer wall, running north–south (W100; 761.15–760.93), which cut into part of its masonry (Plan 1: Section 2–2; Fig. 5). Wall 100, preserved to a height of one course and made of carefully-dressed bonding blocks, was exposed over a length of 3.37 m. On its western side, its foundation trench (L1019) cut Floor 1009 and its overlying Fill 1007 (Plan 1: Section 2–2). Beneath the foundation trench (L1019), slightly beyond the western face of W100 (Plan 1: Section 2–2), three ashlar blocks were laid in the same alignment. These may possibly be the remains of an earlier stage of the wall. If so, the ashlar wall would have been replaced by W100, which kept the same orientation and most likely continued to have the same function. The area would have then been almost entirely covered by flagstones made of limestone, which was found in two areas—abutting the facings of the median W100 to the east (L1001; 761.01 m) and to the west (L1002; 760.96 m). Although these floors have not fully survived, their remains show that circular Pit 1003 had been

covered by the pavement, while rectangular Vat 1005 had, apparently, not been covered. The fill inside circular Pit 1003 (L1004; 760.99–760.24 m) contained an assemblage of potsherds dating to the eleventh century CE, whereas the fill in Vat 1005 (L1006; 760.87–759.75 m) comprised a ceramic repertoire, including several vessels which could be restored, dated to the Ayyubid or Mamluk period.

Finally, Floors 1001 and 1002 were covered by a thin layer of loose earth (L1000; 761.13–761.06 m; Plan 1: Section 3–3), containing a few artifacts dating to the Medieval period, as well as two coins (Coin No. 3 and another unidentified coin, see below).

THE POTTERY²

A number of pottery fragments found at the site date from periods prior to the studied contexts, and simply testify to occupation of the immediate vicinity during Iron Age II and the Hellenistic period, and possibly, the Roman period.

Concerning the chronology of the remains, the pottery attests to an occupation during the Byzantine period, the beginning of the Early Islamic period, and a small degree of continuity until the medieval era (Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluk).

Pre-Byzantine Periods (Fig. 6)

Jars.— Three jar necks are residual. The first is an Iron Age II jar (Fig. 6:1), similar to a vessel found in the excavations of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem (Yezerki 2010:103, Pl. 3.2:10). The second neck (Fig. 6:2) belongs to a jar which can be dated to the first century CE, before 70 CE, the year of the destruction of Jerusalem, as similar jars were found during the excavation of the Burnt House in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:177–178, Pl. 6.5:1; Geva 2010:122, Pl. 4.2:8). The third neck (Fig. 6:3) belongs to a jar dating to the Hellenistic period, and has parallels from Jerusalem and other sites

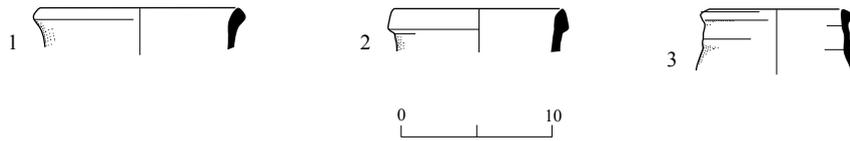


Fig. 6. Pre-Byzantine jars.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	10015-7	1014	Light yellow-brown clay, many white inclusions
2	10013-7	1009	Pinkish brown clay, many white inclusions
3	10015-9	1014	Very light yellow-brown clay, black and white inclusions

dated to the second half of the second century BCE (Geva 2003:123, Type SJ2b).

Byzantine Period (Fig. 7)

Bowls (Fig. 7:1–8).— Several types of bowls were found. There is a fragment of African Red Slip Ware (Fig. 7:1), with a slightly rolled rim and a broad flange on the exterior below the rim. This can be identified as Form 91, A or B, of Hayes' typology (1972:140–144), which was produced between 450 and 530 CE. Another example is a Fine Byzantine Ware (FBW) plain bowl (Fig. 7:2), similar to Form 1B of Magness' typology (1993:193–195), and dates to the mid-sixth–early eighth centuries CE.

Several examples of bowls (Fig. 7:3–7) belong to a type called Jerusalem Rouletted Bowls (JRB). The workshop producing these bowls, located at the site of the Jerusalem Convention Center (Binyane Ha-Uma), underwent several seasons of excavations (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2011:215). One bowl (Fig. 7:3) corresponds to Form 2B and another (Fig. 7:4), to Form 2A of Magness' typology (1993:187–189). Both date to the sixth century CE. One bowl (Fig. 7:5) can only be defined as a base of a Jerusalem Rouletted bowl. Two bowls (Fig. 7:6, 7) correspond to Magness' Form 1 (1993:185–187), dated to the late third–fifth centuries CE. It should be noted, however, that a recent study carried out on a group of vessels discovered in the excavation

of a bakery, near the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount enclosure, suggests that JRB Form 1 was produced during the second century CE (all the finds in the same context were dated to the second–third centuries CE; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2011:215, 225). Currently, it is not possible to narrow the date further, and therefore, JRB Form 1 should be dated from the second to the fifth century CE.

Another bowl (Fig. 7:8) has thick walls, a smooth folded rim, and is decorated with rouletting on its exterior. It is similar to the Rouletted Bowls, Form 2A of the typology of Magness (1993:187–188), who dates their production to the sixth century CE.

Basins (Fig. 7:9, 10).— The thick-walled bowl (Fig. 7:9), decorated with bands of combing, is an Arched Rim Basin, Form 2A of Magness' typology (1993:204–206), dated to the sixth–early eighth centuries CE. Another basin (Fig. 7:10) is an Arched Rim Basin, Form 1 of Magness' typology (1993:204–205), dated to the late third/early fourth–sixth centuries CE.

Lids (Fig. 7:11, 12).— One casserole lid (Fig. 7:11) belongs to a type whose shape does not seem to have changed from the late third or early fourth century to the ninth or tenth century CE (Magness 1993:215). In addition, this type of lid also appears in Early Islamic contexts at Ramla (Cytryn-Silverman 2010:157). No exact parallels were found for the other lid

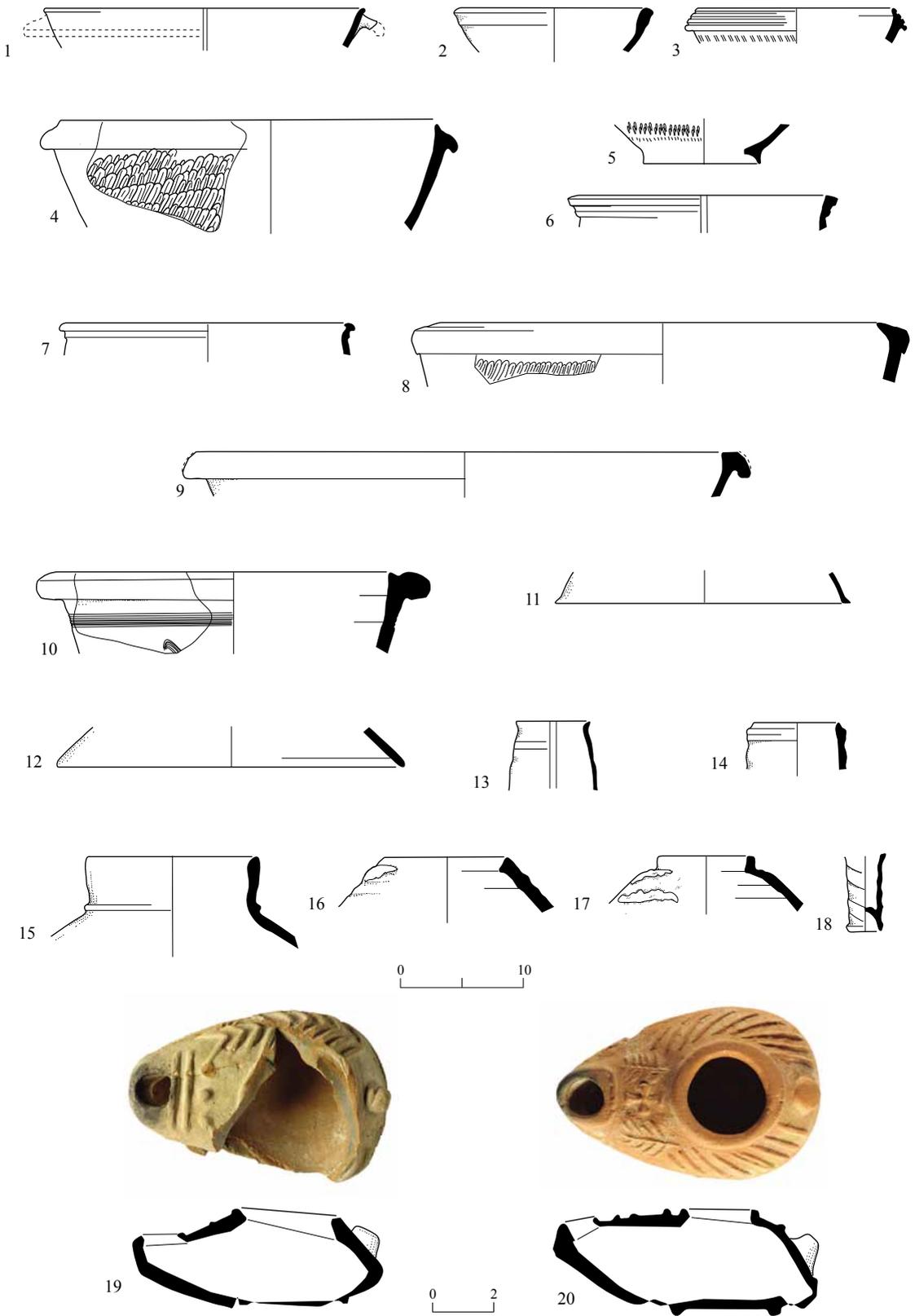


Fig. 7. Byzantine pottery.

◀ Fig. 7

No.	Object	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	10014-15	1013	Red-brown clay with black and white inclusions, red lustrous slip on int. and ext., under the flange	Hayes 1972: Fig. 26:1-3 Avisar 1996: Fig. XII.1:2
2	Bowl	10014-7	1013	Light brown clay, light gray core, limestone inclusions, burnished inside	Magness 1993:195, Form 1B, No. 1 Vincenz 2011: Fig. 3.8:4, 5
3	Bowl	10013-10	1009	Very light orange-brown clay, white inclusions, dark reddish brown slip on int. and ext.	Vincenz 2011: Fig. 3.4:9
4	Bowl	10013-2	1009	Light orange-brown clay, gray core, limestone and black inclusions	Magness 2003: Fig. 18.2:7
5	Bowl	10013-9	1009	Dark brown clay, gray core, limestone inclusions	Magness 2006: Fig. 7.1:7, 8
6	Bowl	10010-2	1009	Very light brown clay, black and white inclusions, dark brown slip on rim, smoothed ext.	Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2011: Fig. 9.5:66
7	Bowl	10013-8	1009	Light orange-brown clay, limestone inclusion, reddish brown slip on rim	Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2011: Fig. 9.5:64, 65
8	Bowl	10014-10	1013	Light orange-brown clay, gray core, limestone inclusions	Magness 1993:188, Form 2A, Nos. 1, 2
9	Basin	10015-3	1014	Light orange-brown clay, gray core, many limestone inclusions	
10	Basin	10016-1	1015	Light orange-brown clay, gray core, black and white inclusions, bands of combing on ext.	Magness 1993:206, Form 2A, Nos. 2, 5
11	Lid	10016-3	1015	Red-brown gritty clay, limestone and black inclusions	Magness 1993:21, Nos. 1, 2 Cytryn-Silverman 2010: Pl. 9.6, Nos. 5-7
12	Lid	10015-2	1014	Brown clay, many white inclusions, burnished band on int. and ext.	
13	Jug	10014-6	1013	Brown clay with many grits, metallic	
14	Jar	10016-6	1015	Light orange-brown gritty clay, limestone inclusions, self slip on ext.	
15	Jar	10013-3	1009	Orange-brown clay, gray core, well fired, white inclusions	Magness 2003: Pl. 18.1:20; Pl. 18.2:16
16	Jar	10014-2	1013	Dark brown clay, limestone and black inclusions	Vincenz 2007: Fig. 3:3, 4; 2011: Fig. 3.8:28
17	Jar	10010-9	1009	Orange-brown clay, greenish core, many white inclusions	Avisar 2007: Fig. 4:7 Vincenz 2011: Fig. 3.8:28
18	Jar	10014-14	1013	Red-brown clay, mica	Vitto 1996:134 Haddad 1999:36, 37, Fig. 15:8-10; 2009:84
19	Oil lamp	10018-1	1018	Light orange-brown clay, limestone and black inclusions	Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:112-113, Nos. 452-459
20	Oil lamp	10018-2	1018	Brown clay, limestone and black inclusions, gray core, whitish self slip on ext.	See No. 19

(Fig. 7:12). It somewhat resembles Form 2 of Magness' typology (1993:248–249), dated to the mid-sixth–eighth centuries CE. Although quite thick, its wall has burnished bands, inside and out, which are reminiscent of Fine Byzantine Ware (Magness 1993:193).

Jug (Fig. 7:13).— No parallel has been found for this jug neck. It was classified as a jug due to its thin wall. The metallic sound of the vessel is reminiscent of that of the Fine Byzantine Ware (FBW).

Jars (Fig. 7:14–18).— Two types of jars were dated to the Byzantine period. The first type (Fig. 7:14, 15) is the bag-shaped jar. One of these jars (Fig. 7:15) is characterized by a thickening on the inside of the rim and a ridge or collar at the base of a rather short neck. It belongs to Form 4B of Magness' typology (1993:223–225), the most common form of bag-shaped storage jars associated with sites in Jerusalem, and is dated to the fifth–sixth centuries CE.

The other jars (Fig. 7:16, 17) belong to a type known as Gaza jars. This type of Byzantine jar was used to export Gaza wine throughout the Mediterranean basin. Workshops producing this type of jar were found in the region of Gaza, Ashqelon and more recently, at Yavne (Vincenz and Sion 2007:25). This type of jar has been found in Jerusalem, in Byzantine contexts dated to the fifth–seventh centuries CE (Vincenz 2011:111). The production of the late type of Gaza jars has been dated to the sixth–eighth centuries CE. However, its presence in Layer III at Khirbat Deiran (Rehovot) indicates that it continued to be used later, into the ninth century CE (Avissar 2007:99). This vessel has a large age range, from the fifth to the ninth centuries CE, and cannot be narrowed further.

A jar foot (Fig. 7:18), made of a ware containing mica, is part of a fusiform jar, imported either from the Aegean Sea or from Asia Minor. Its date ranges from the fifth to the seventh century CE.

Oil Lamps (Fig. 7:19, 20).— The two oil lamps, discovered in the fill of Channel 1018, belong to the same “Candlestick” type. They belong to Form 2 of Magness' typology (1993:250–251), called “Small Candlestick Lamp”. This type of lamp is dated to the second half of the fourth century–mid-sixth centuries CE. These two examples are decorated with a palm branch-like motif and have a knob in place of a handle. The main difference between them is in the decoration of the nozzle. Lamp No. 19 has a row of three dots, while Lamp No. 20 has a cross pattée flanked by two palm-branches. According to Lofredda (1993:50), most Byzantine lamps convey a religious message, “by means of symbols, such as the cross, the palm-branch and the ladder, or through letters or inscriptions.” Among these symbols, the palm-branch would represent the tree of life. The decoration of Lamp No. 19, i.e., three dots located at the same place as the cross and apparently replacing it, might represent the Trinity. A lamp with a simple decor of a palm-branch was found in a channel of a latrine of the bathhouse uncovered near the southwestern corner of the Temple Mount enclosure. The stratigraphic context is dated to the mid-sixth–late seventh centuries CE (Vincenz 2011:91, Fig. 3.7:8). A lamp very similar to the lamp with the cross is in the Adler Collection where it is dated (though without stratigraphic context) to the second half of the fourth–fifth centuries CE (Adler 2004:147, No. 907). Finally, lamps of this type were discovered in Tomb I.12 of the Bet Guvrin cemetery, which was used for burial from the third to the eighth centuries CE (Avni, Dahari and Kloner 2008:18; Magness 2008:127, Fig. 5.10:12–5).

Fatamid Period (Fig. 8)

The Fill of the Circular Pit (L1004)

Glazed Bowls (Fig. 8:1–3).— A bowl with a ledge rim, decorated with radial stripes in polychrome glaze (Fig. 8:1), belongs to the so-called ‘Fayyumi’ Ware, which begins to appear in Egypt during the second half of the eighth

century CE. It is present in Yoqne‘am Stratum IV, dated to the second half of the ninth–early eleventh centuries (Avisar 1996:82), and in Caesarea Stratum V, dated to the mid-tenth–early eleventh centuries (Arnon 2008:42).

Another bowl (Fig. 8:2) has a plain rim and is decorated with a thin sgraffito. It belongs to a type of glazed monochrome bowl with a double slip. This type first appears in Palestinian sites at the beginning of the eleventh century CE, and continues to be in use until the mid-twelfth century CE. It is particularly popular in contexts dating to the beginning of the Crusader period, in the first half of the twelfth century (Avisar 1996:89, Type 28; Avisar and Stern 2005:6, Type I.1.1.1; Arnon 2008:44: Type 252).

A base fragment of a bowl (Fig. 8:3) belongs to Late Fatimid Luster Ware, which was produced in Fustāṭ, Egypt. This center produced bowls with luster decoration on opaque white glaze, apparently until 1171 CE, the fall of Fatimid rule. This type of pottery is dated to the end of the eleventh–twelfth centuries CE (Avisar and Stern 2005:34–35, Type I.3.1.1). In excavations at Tiberias, Luster Ware of Egyptian origin was found in Strata I (1033–1100 CE) and II (980–1033 CE), which is to say, primarily in the eleventh century CE (Stacey 2004:113–116).

Large Plain Bowls (Fig. 8:4–6).— The three large plain bowls are characteristic of the Early Islamic period. One (Fig. 8:4) corresponds to Type 27 at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:127) and Type 462 at Caesarea (Arnon 2008:48), dated to the late ninth–early twelfth centuries CE. The second (Fig. 8:5) corresponds to Type 28 at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:127) and Type 432 at Caesarea (Arnon 2008:40), where it is dated to the end of the ninth–early eleventh centuries CE. The third (Fig. 8:6) is an Incurved Rim Basin of Magness typology, dated to the eighth–tenth centuries CE, with parallels in Early Islamic contexts in the excavations of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem and in Tiberias Stratum I where it is dated to 1033–1100 CE (Magness 1993:210–211; Avisar 2003: Fig. 19.1:9; Stacey 2004: Fig. 15.5:7).

Cooking Pots (Fig. 8:7–9).— Three cooking pots are typologically similar. They have a very low neck, an upright rim, slightly thickened outward and triangular in section, a slight ridge at the base of the neck, and a globular body. These cooking pots resemble Type 5 at Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:132–133) and Type 752 at Caesarea (Arnon 2008:46), dated to the second half of the ninth–first half of the eleventh centuries CE.

Jars (Fig. 8:10–12).— Three jars belong to the same type, characterized by a low neck and a ridge below the rim, which is generally pinched. This type of jar was found in rural sites, e.g., at Khirbat ‘Adasa, located to the north of Jerusalem, where it was dated to the sixth–ninth centuries CE (Khalaily and Avisar 2008:105, Fig. 11:5, 6) and at Ḥorbat ‘Illin, east of Bet Shemesh, dated to the seventh–tenth centuries (Greenhut 2004:30*–32*, Fig. 9:14). A similar jar was found in Ramla, in an area settled from the Umayyad period until the eleventh century (Kletter 2005:94–96, Fig. 19:8).

Jug (Fig. 8:13).— This neck fragment belongs to a jug made of buff fabric, with a strainer at the base of the neck and a knob attached to the uppermost part of the handle that served as a thumb rest. It is part of a group of vessels called “à pâte blanche ou à engobe blanc” (buff ware) from Abu Ghosh, dated to the tenth–eleventh centuries CE (de Vaux and Stève 1950:127–130) and to Type 551 at Caesarea, dated to the first half of the eleventh century (Arnon 2008:45).

Ayyubid/Mamluk Period (Fig. 9)

The Fill of the Rectangular Vat (L1006)

Plain Bowl (Fig. 9:1).— A plain bowl from L1006 was made of a well-fired, pink fabric and has a flat, slightly everted rim. It corresponds to a type of vessel common during the twelfth and the first half of the thirteenth centuries CE. It resembles, both in fabric and shape, bowls found at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti

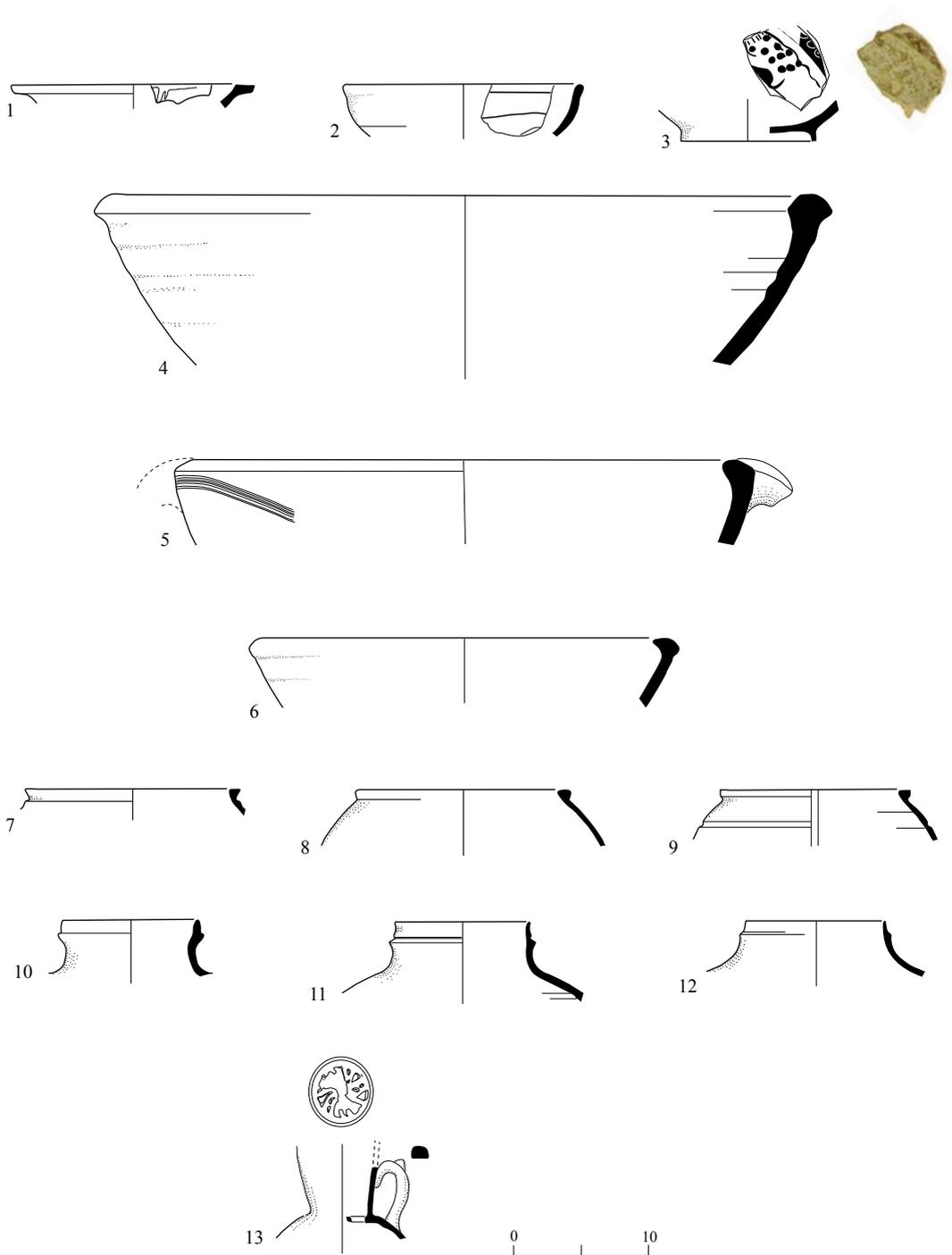


Fig. 8. Fatimid pottery from the fill of the circular pit (L1004).

◀ Fig. 8

No.	Object	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Glazed bowl	10001-26	Light pinkish brown clay, glazed on int. and rim and decorated with vertical streaks in dark brown and light green	Avissar 1993: Fig. XIII.10:2
2	Glazed bowl	10001-16	Reddish brown gritty clay, white inclusions, white slip on int. and buff slip on ext., sgraffito decoration under yellow glazed int. and rim	Avissar 1993: Fig. XIII.13:28 Stern and Tatcher 2009: Fig. 3.17:1
3	Glazed bowl	10001-15	Pinkish brown clay, creamy slip on the base, yellow-brown luster decoration on opaque white glazed int., splashes of yellow brown on ext.	Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.23:3, Pl. 3:10 Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 13:1, Pl. 12:3
4	Bowl	10001-9	Light yellowish clay, gray core, black and white grits, metallic	Avissar 1993: Fig. XIII.80:1, 2
5	Bowl	10001-12	Very light brown clay, gray core, white inclusions, combing decoration band of ext.	Arnon 2008:201, Type 432
6	Bowl	10001-19	Reddish brown clay, gray core, black and white inclusions	Avissar 2003: Fig. 19.1:9 Stacey 2004: Fig. 15.5:7
7	Cooking pot	10001-8	Reddish brown clay, very small splashes of dark brown glaze on rim	
8	Cooking pot	10001-6	Reddish brown clay, very small splashes of dark brown glaze on rim	
9	Cooking pot	10001-7	Reddish brown clay	
10	Jar	10001-2	Light buff clay	Stacey 2004: Fig. 5.60:6 Kletter 2005: Fig. 16:11
11	Jar	10001-22	Light buff clay, gray core, black and white grits, smoothed ext.	Greenhut 2004: Fig. 9:14 Kletter 2005: Fig. 19:8 Khalaily and Avissar 2008: Fig. 11:5, 6
12	Jar	10001-11	Buff clay, gray core, white grits, smoothed ext.	As No. 11
13	Jug	10001-18	Orange-brown clay, limestone inclusions	As No. 11

1993:127; Avissar and Stern 2005:82, Type II.1.1.1).

Handmade Bowls (Fig. 9:2, 3).— Two types of bowls were handmade, with slightly incurved walls and a flattened rim. One type is plain (Fig. 9:2), while the second (Fig. 9:3) has, inside and on the rim, a geometric decoration painted in purple; its burnishing has disappeared. This

type of vessel first appeared in Palestinian sites in the twelfth century and became very popular during the Mamluk period. It continued to be used in the Ottoman period. Therefore, it does not constitute a good chronological marker (Avissar and Stern 2005:88, Type II.1.4).

Handmade Lid (Fig. 9:4).— The lid is also handmade. It has a curved profile and a grip



Fig. 9. Ayyubid/Mamluk pottery from the fill of the rectangular vat (L1006).

knob in the middle. Noteworthy is the white slip that covers its exterior, on which a geometric decoration was painted. Handmade lids with a curved profile and a grip knob are known at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh without decoration, and with painted geometrical decoration at Abu

Ghosh. These two sites suggest a date from the twelfth to fifteenth centuries CE (de Vaux and Stève 1950:140–142; Bagatti 1993:133–135).

Chalice (Fig. 9:5).— No parallel was found for this very special vessel. Above the pedestal-

◀ Fig. 9

No.	Object	Basket	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	10003-7	Light pinkish clay, black and white grits	Bagatti 1993: Fig. 31:2, 3
2	Bowl	10003-4	Orange-brown clay, mixed with straw, limestone inclusions, gray core, handmade, poorly fired	Avissar 1996: Fig. XIII.86:1
3	Bowl	10003-2	Orange-brown clay, mixed with straw, limestone inclusions, gray core, handmade, poorly fired, decorated on int. and rim with geometric patterns painted in purple	de Vaux and Stève 1950:Pl. F:14 Bagatti 1993: Fig. 32:9
4	Lid	10003-9	Light orange-brown clay, mixed with straw, limestone, black and red inclusions, gray core, handmade, whitish slip on the upper part under geometric-pattern decoration painted in dark and pale brown	de Vaux and Stève 1950: Pl. F:4 Bagatti 1993: Fig. 32:1, 2
5	Chalice	10005-1	Light orange-brown clay, pale buff slip on ext.	
6	Jug	10003-10	Buff clay, greenish core, limestone inclusions	Avissar and Stern 2005: Fig. 45:7
7	Jug	10005-2	Buff clay, black and white grits	Boas 2006: Fig. 10:57, 58
8	Jug	10003-12	Buff clay, limestone inclusions, black grits	Khalaily and Avissar 2008: Fig. 16:4
9	Jug	10003-5	Light orange-brown clay, straw, black and white inclusions, beige slip on int. and ext., dark brown decoration painted over burnish ext., remains of strainer on int. neck	Barbé 2010: Fig. 95:4

like base, the walls widen up until the drum-shaped central part; then they narrow again toward a neck that was not preserved. There is a double ridge between the top and the base of the drum, as well as between the lower part of the body and the pedestal-like base. Both the drum and the preserved upper part of the body have incised and combed decoration. While the incised decor on the drum consists of straight parallel lines, those on the upper part of the body are curved, reminiscent of calligraphic script.

Jugs (Fig. 9:6–9).— Four types of jugs were found in this context. The first (Fig. 9:6) is a jug with a straight neck, dated to the thirteenth–fifteenth centuries CE (Avissar and Stern 2005:111, Type II.4.2.3). The second (Fig.

9:7) is a fragment of a neck stamped with a net patterns within circles. There are seven stamps in total, located at the base of the neck in two groups, one group with four stamps and the other with three. This type of jug with stamps, which are sometimes in the shape of stars, are common in Jerusalem where they seem to have been produced (Tushingham 1985:150, Fig. 35:35; Avissar 2003: Pl. 19.2:18; Reich and Shukron 2006:134, Fig. 21:12) and in several sites surrounding Jerusalem, such as Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1993:115–116, Fig. 28:6–9), Abu Ghosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950:141–142, Pl. G: 27–30), Khirbat Ka‘kul (Boas 2006:86, Fig. 9:57–60) and Khirbat ‘Adasa (Khalaily and Avissar 2008:116, Fig. 16:7–9). The contexts are generally Ayyubid or Mamluk, and the production of this type

of jug does not seem to have lasted beyond the thirteenth century CE (Avisar and Stern 2005:111). This type of stamped jug is well-represented in Jerusalem, in the fill below the floor of a large cistern whose water was used for the Hammams of the Suq al-Qattanin, which was built between the years 1326–1327 CE (Barbé and Deadle 2011:155–156).³

The peculiarity of the third jug (Fig. 9:8) is in the swelling of the neck. This type of neck, with a plain, slightly everted rim, appears on jugs, stamped or not, in Ayyubid or Mamluk contexts. Examples of these jugs were found in Jerusalem (Tushingham 1985:145, 150, Figs. 40:26, 28; 41:37; 42:13), as well as in several other sites, such as Emmaus el-Qubeibeh (Bagatti 1993: Fig. 28:15), Abu Ghosh (de Vaux and Stève 1950:141–142, Pl. G:24, 26, 33), Burj al-Aḥmar (Pringle 1986:142, Fig. 43:13), Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996:167, Fig. XIII.151, Type 25), Ḥorbat Burin (Kletter and Stern 2006:185, Fig. 15: 5, 6), Khirbat Ka‘kul (Boas 2006:86, Fig. 9:57) and Khirbat ‘Adasa (Khalaily and Avisar 2008, Fig. 16:4).

The last jug from this context (Fig. 9:9) is a handmade jug with a painted geometric decoration. The upper part of the neck contains a strainer. This type of small jug, apparently with a single handle, was found in a Crusader context at Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (Getzov 2000:87*, Fig. 21:8, 9), in a Crusader or Mamluk context at Ḥorbat ‘Uza (Stern and Tatcher 2009:130–132, Fig. 3.20:5) and in a Mamluk context at Ḥorbat Burin (Kletter and Stern 2006:184, Fig. 14:7, 8). The size of this jug is similar to that of a jug discovered in the remains of a domestic quarter at Zefat (Safed), dated to the second half of the twelfth–first half of the thirteenth centuries CE (Barbé 2010:280–281, Fig. 95:4).

All the parallels for the vessels of this assemblage suggest a date between the Ayyubid and the Mamluk ceramic traditions, i.e., in the thirteenth or early fourteenth century CE.

Crusader and Mamluk Periods (Fig. 10)

Surface Layers (L1000 and L1011)

Glazed Bowl (Fig. 10:1).— The fabric and decoration of this bowl, sgraffito under a polychrome glaze, strongly suggest that it was manufactured in the workshops of the port of Saint-Symeon, the Crusader name for the harbor of Antioch (al-Mina), located at the mouth of the Orontes River (today Samandağ, Turkey). The profile corresponds to thirteenth-century Form F of Arthur Lane’s classification, based on his research at al-Mina (Lane 1937:47, Fig. 8). The shape of this vessel resembles that of a bowl discovered at Ḥorbat ‘Uza (Stern and Tatcher 2009:162–163, Fig. 3.31:2).

Plain Bowl (Fig. 10:2).— Unglazed bowls with a carinated profile are characteristic of ceramic assemblages dating to the Crusader period at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh, Yoqne‘am and Zefat (Bagatti 1993:127–128, Fig. 31:2, 3; Avisar 1996:123–124, Fig. XIII.77: 4; Barbé 2010; 2015:282, Fig. 96:5 respectively).

Geometric Painted Handmade Bowls (Fig. 10:3, 4).— The two examples of handmade bowls with a geometric painted decoration date to the early Crusader–Ottoman periods (Avisar and Stern 2005:88).

Jars (Fig. 10:5).— Although jars with a thickened rim and a ridge at the base of the neck are found in contexts dating to the Crusader period, e.g., at Emmaus el-Qubeibeh or Yoqne‘am, this storage jar is mainly characteristic of contexts dating to the Mamluk period. During this period, this type of jar, made of a buff fabric, is particularly common in Jerusalem and its surroundings, and is often called the ‘Jerusalem Ridge-Neck Jar’ (Bagatti 1993:108–110, Fig. 25:1–8; Avisar 1996:153, Fig. XIII.120:1–3; 2003:437, Fig. 19.2:16; Boas 2006:83–85, Fig. 8:55, 56).

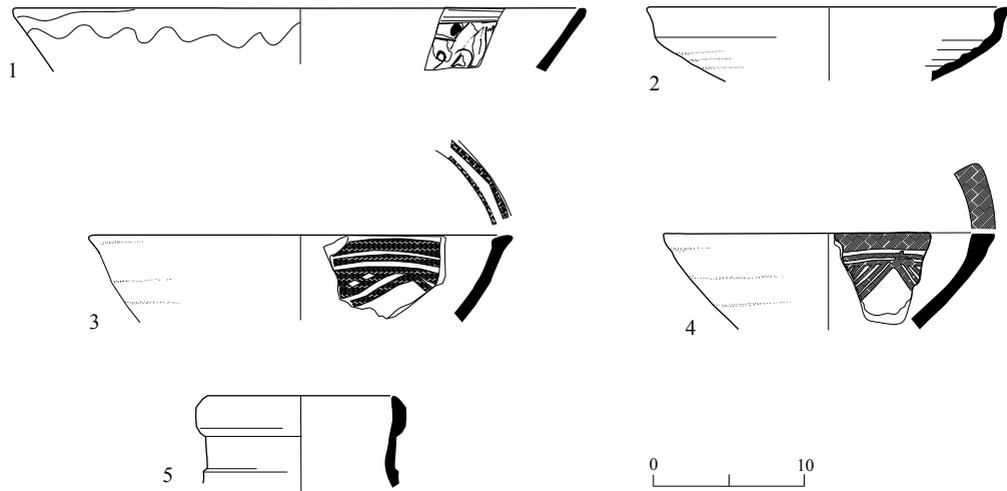


Fig. 10. Crusader and Mamluk pottery from L1000 and L1011.

No.	Object	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Glazed bowl	10004-1	1000	Very pale brown glaze, white slip on int. and over rim, sgraffito decoration on int. under pale yellow glaze, splashes of green and darker yellow brown glaze
2	Bowl	10004-4	1000	Reddish brown clay, limestone, black inclusions
3	Bowl	100004-16	1000	Light brown clay, gray core, straw imprints, limestone inclusions, burnished int. and rim, decorated int. with geometric patterns painted in red over burnish
4	Bowl	10012-1	1011	Light orange-brown clay, gray core, straw imprints, limestone inclusions, burnished int. and rim, decorated int. with geometric patterns painted in red over burnish
5	Jar	10004-3	1000	Buff clay, limestone and black inclusions

THE COINS

Four coins were found in the Djabsha Street excavation, one unidentified. The details of Nos. 1 and 2 from L1009 are unclear, but they both were issued in the fourth century CE. Coin No. 3, a *fals* of Al-‘Ādil I, was uncovered in L1000.

1. Reg. No. 10010.1, L1009, IAA 135767.

4th c. CE.

Obv.: [- - -] Bust r.

Rev.: Illegible.

Æ, 1.06 g, 11 mm.

2. Reg. No. 10010.2, L1009, IAA 135768.

4th c. CE.

Obv.: Illegible.

Rev.: [- - -] Figure stg.

Æ, 0.70 g, 10 mm.

3. Reg. No. 10000.1, L1000, IAA 135766.

Al-‘Ādil I Muḥammad Abū Bakr Sayf al-Dīn, Dimashq, AH 608/1211 CE.

Obv.: الدين \ الملك العادل \ سيف

Margin.: [ضرب هذا بدمشق سنة غان] وسمانة

Rev.: ابو بكر بن ايو \ ب

Margin.: [ضرب هذا] بدمشق سنة [غان وسمانة]

Æ *fals*, 4.72 g, 23 mm.

Cf. Balog 1980:136, No. 322.

CONCLUSION

The small-scale excavation on 16 Djabsha Street provided evidence for the occupation of the

site from the end of the Roman period through the Mamluk period, in particular revealing its craft function. Possibly as early as the second century CE, but more likely sometime between the third and the fifth centuries CE, a cistern (L1020), a water channel (L1016), and another channel of unclear function (L1017) were constructed. These went out of use during the Byzantine period, and subsequently, a small workshop was established toward the end of that period, or perhaps at the beginning of the Early Islamic period, depending on the chronology of the Gaza jars.

What was the function of this workshop? The interconnecting channel (L1012) and the rectangular vat (L1005), as well as the presence of hydraulic mortar on the walls of both elements, indicate that they contained liquid. An activity linked with the processing of skins or cloth (tannery, laundry, dyer, etc.) appears most likely. All the above industries may have functioned within close vicinity of one another, but I propose that the remains uncovered in the current excavation should be interpreted as a fuller's workshop for the processing of woven fabric. The small circular installation with a

flat bottom (L1003) would have served as a trampling stall, while the large vat (L1005), where the water-supply poured forth, would have served as a rinsing basin. After it had been woven, cloth needed to be cleaned from the oils introduced during spinning and from the various accumulated impurities. For this purpose, the cloth was trodden by foot, a detergent was added, such as kaolinitic clay or bentonite, commonly known as fuller's earth, or even stale human urine because of its ammonia content. The cloth was then rinsed in clean water. Excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum have uncovered several *fullonicae* (Adam 2005:324–326, Fig. 742; Monteix 2006:192–205; Flohr 2011:89–93). The installations on Djabsha Street went out of use in the eleventh century at different times: Pit 1003, in the eleventh century (Fatimid period), and the vat (L1005), in the thirteenth or fourteenth century (Ayyubid or Mamluk period). This fuller's workshop was thus used mainly during the Early Islamic period. No doubt the builders of the Ottoman building were aware of the Late Antiquity–Medieval remains, since the walls they erected over them maintained the same alignment.

NOTES

¹ The excavation was conducted during July 8–21, 2008, on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority, under the direction of the author, with the assistance of Yossi Ohayon (administration), Avraham Hajian and Tania Kornfeld (surveying and field drafting), Natalia Zak and Elizabeth Belashov (drafting), Tsila Sagiv and Assaf Peretz (field photography), Clara Amit (studio photography), Roni Gat (pottery restoration), Carmen Hersch (pottery drawing), Hila

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³ Barbé and Deadle 2011 gives the chronology of the site, but does not describe the pottery. The pottery will appear in a forthcoming article.

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