

## TEXTILE IMPRESSIONS ON MAMLUK POTTERY FROM ṬAMRA (EZ-ZU‘ABIYYA)

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Textile impressions on the inner surface of two body fragments of a Mamluk-period bowl were discovered at Ṭamra (L306, B3001; Fig. 1; see Tepper, this volume). Imprints of the sherds were made on Fimo (for a detailed description of this technique, see Sheffer 1976), and were examined under a  $\times 40$  enlargement.

The impressions are delicate, featuring very thin warp threads, 12 per cm; the weft is somewhat thicker, with 15 threads per cm. The threads are S-spun, tabby weave, of very good quality.

The cloth was probably used to cover the vessel during its production to prevent it from drying quickly and causing the vessel to crack. The material is probably linen, as indicated by the spin direction, which is typical of linen, and by the width of the threads, where the warp threads are thinner than the weft threads.

These impressions resemble other linen textiles from the medieval period, such as those found at Kaṣr al-Yahud (Shamir 2015) and Qurunṭul Cave 38 (Shamir and Baginski 2013).



Fig. 1. Textile impressions on Mamluk potsherds.

The Ṭamra textile exhibits no sewing, edges or borders, torn areas, patches or mending, in contrast with the Early Islamic-period textile impressions from Yotvata (Shamir, forthcoming) and Tel Masos (Sheffer 1976).

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