

## THE LATE OTTOMAN-PERIOD POTTERY FROM KAFR 'ANA, OR YEHUDA

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### INTRODUCTION

The Ottoman-period pottery from the Neue Rabin excavations in Or Yehuda originated from buildings that were dated to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (see Arbel and Volynsky, this volume). The material is characteristic of a rural site and includes household vessels for storage, cooking and serving. Very few imported vessels were found, supporting the rural character of the site. Roof tiles—both locally made and imported—a fragment of a smoking pipe and a fragment of a glazed imported plate were also found.

The presentation of the material follows the typology of Ottoman forms that was devised for the Qishle excavations in Jaffa.<sup>1</sup> The type designations appear in the descriptive tables accompanying the pottery plates. The ware and surface colors are described according to the Munsell Color Charts (1998).

### THE FINDS

#### *Bowls* (Fig. 1:1–9)

During the Ottoman period, bowls were a standard household vessel for serving and eating. They were made of different types of clay, and often of black clay typical of vessels produced in Gaza and its vicinity. These so-called Gaza Ware vessels are found across the country and were produced well into the twentieth century. The same forms that appear in Black Gaza Ware were made also from other local clays. The dating of the Black Gaza Ware, as well as of vessels of similar forms, is problematic, since until now very few stratigraphic excavations of Ottoman sites have been undertaken and published. Yigal Israel was the first to present a typology for this ware group. His comprehensive study (Israel 2006) is consulted for typological parallels in the discussion that follows. There have since been

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<sup>1</sup> A typology of Ottoman-period pottery has been established for several forthcoming reports by the author on the material from the *Qishle* excavations and from various other excavations in Yafo.

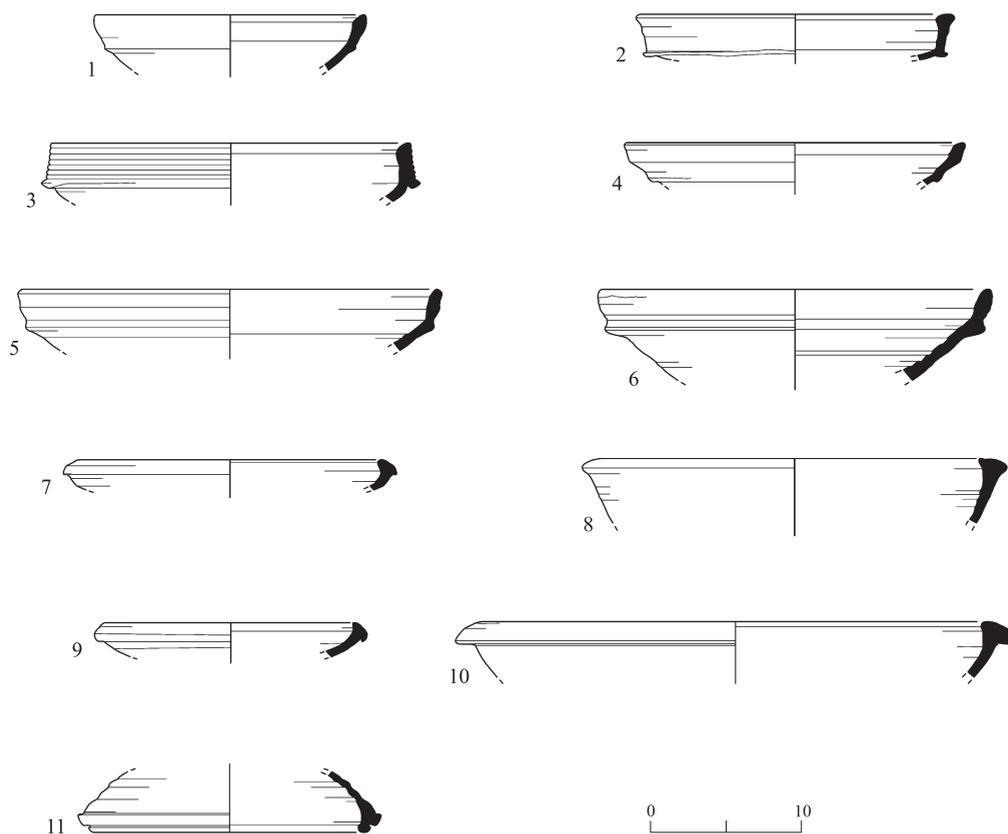


Fig. 1. Gaza Ware: bowls, basins and a lid.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (cm)	Description
1	Bowl (J-GAZA-BL-1C)	211	2060/1	Diam. 24 Rim 7.5%	Ware (close to the rim): brown (7.5YR 5/3) with few large angular white inclusions Ware: gray (2.5Y 5/1) with few large angular white inclusions Surface: dark gray to dark grayish brown (10YR 4/1–4/2)
2	Bowl (J-GAZA-BL-1D)	200	2006	Diam. 16 Rim 7.5%	Ware (close to rim): pale brown (10YR 6/3) with few large angular white inclusions Ware: gray (2.5Y 5/1) with few large angular white inclusions Surface: black
3	Bowl (J-GAZA-BL-1H)	119	1032	Diam. 22 Rim 12%	Ware: dark gray (2.5YR 4/1) with few small round white and large round white inclusions Surface: black
4	Bowl (J-GAZA-BL-1J)	112	1064	Diam. 22 Rim 8%	Ware: black with few large round white inclusions Surface: gray to grayish brown (10YR 5/1–5/2)
5	Bowl (J-BL-4)	205	2009	Diam. 24 Rim 11%	Ware: yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) with few small angular white inclusions Surface: light reddish brown (5YR 6/4)

Fig. 1. (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (cm)	Description
6	Bowl (J-BL-4)	205	2009/2	Diam. 24 Rim 9%	Ware: yellowish brown (10YR 5/4), with few large angular white inclusions Surface: light reddish brown (2.5YR 6/4) to reddish brown (5YR 5/4)
7	Bowl (J-BL-8)	205	2009/3	Diam. 16 Rim 7%	Ware: light red (2.5YR 6/8), thick core brown (7.5YR 5/3), with few small angular white inclusions Surface: fired to buff pink (7.5YR 7/3)
8	Bowl (J-BL-8)	211	2060/2	Diam. 16 Rim 8%	Ware: light red (2.5YR 6/8), thick core grayish brown (10YR 5/2), with few small angular white and black inclusions Surface: light reddish brown (5YR 6/4)
9	Bowl (J-BL-9)	208	2050	Diam. 20 Rim 10%	Ware: yellowish red (5YR 5/6), thick core reddish gray (5YR 5/2), with few small round white inclusions Surface: fired to buff pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2)
10	Basin (J-GAZA-BAS-1A)	200	2004	Diam. 32 Rim 6%	Ware: gray to dark gray (10YR 5/1–4/1), with medium amount of small round white and few small mica inclusions Surface: dark gray (10YR 4/1)
11	Lid (J-LID-6)	205	2042	Diam. 16 Rim 7%	Ware: brown (7.5YR 5/2), with few small angular white inclusions Surface: fired to buff pale yellow (2.5Y 7/3)

several attempts by the author to refine the dating of these Black Gaza Wares and other coarse wares.<sup>2</sup>

*Gaza Ware Bowls* (Fig. 1:1–4).— The bowls presented here date to the eighteenth–mid-twentieth centuries. The most common medium-sized bowl is probably the one represented in Fig. 1:1. It has flaring walls and a straight rim that is folded over, forming a short flange. It is the equivalent to Israel's *zebdiye* Subtype 8 (Israel 2006:210, Fig. 212).

The two bowls shown in Fig. 1:2, 3 have a rounded body with a straight upper wall, a rounded or beveled rim and an exterior flange at the junction with the rounded body. The first bowl corresponds to Israel's *zebdiye* Subtype 4 (Israel 2006:207–208, Fig. 208).

<sup>2</sup> The material from the Qishle excavations, as well as from other sites in Yafo, sheds some light on the dating of some types of coarse ware that were found together with other, well-dated finds, such as porcelain or glazed imported vessels.

The upper part of the wall of the second bowl is externally ribbed; its rim is beveled and inverted. It corresponds to Israel's *zebdiye* Subtype 6 (Israel 2006:208–209, Fig. 210).

The bowl in Fig. 1:4 has flaring walls, with wide shallow grooves on the outside, and a rounded rim. It is similar to Israel's *zebdiye* Subtype 7 (Israel 2006:209, Fig. 211).

*Coarse Ware Bowls* (Fig. 1:5–9).— It is not always possible to find close parallels for coarse ware bowls that are not Black Gaza Ware—not included in Israel's (2006) typology—possibly because they were produced by different local workshops. Consequently, dating these bowls is even more difficult than dating Gaza Ware vessels; however, it is assumed that they too were produced from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

Figure 1:5, 6 presents the coarse ware counterparts of the bowl in Fig. 1:1. Bowls of this form that are not Black Gaza Ware were used already in the Mamluk period (Avisar and Stern 2005:82–83, Fig. 35:8–10).

The three simple bowls in Fig. 1:7–9 find no parallels. The first two bowls are shallow with a flanged rim, while the third one has a rounded rim with a groove that may have supported a lid.

#### *Basin* (Fig. 1:10)

Though basins are usually a common vessel in Ottoman-period sites, only few examples were found here. The version illustrated in Fig. 1:10, with a rounded arched rim, has no exact parallel in Israel's typology; however, it is possibly a variant of the common arched-rim basin. Alternatively, it might be part of a mortar (Israel 2006:195–196), of which the characteristic vertical handles were not preserved.

#### *Lid* (Fig. 1:11)

No parallels were found for the fragment shown here, which seems to have been part of a lid. While it is bowl-shaped, it was probably used upside down, as suggested by the deep, wide groove on the edge of the vessel, which would have allowed to secure it to the rim of the vessel. Ottoman lids are typically shaped like a small saucer with a knob.<sup>3</sup>

#### *Cooking Pots* (Fig. 2:1, 2)

The cooking pots found at the site have an ovoid, bag-shaped body and an everted neck ending in a simple, rounded rim. Wide band handles are drawn from the joining point between the neck and the body. The pots are externally black-slipped and wheel-burnished; their interior is also slipped, but left coarse. They are nearly identical in form to cooking pots from Vallauris in southeastern France, which were produced during the second half of the eighteenth century. But, as opposed to the externally black-slipped pots from Or Yehuda, those from Vallauris have a transparent glaze on the inside, and their exterior

<sup>3</sup> Lids have been found in various excavations in Yafo, but as of now remain unpublished.

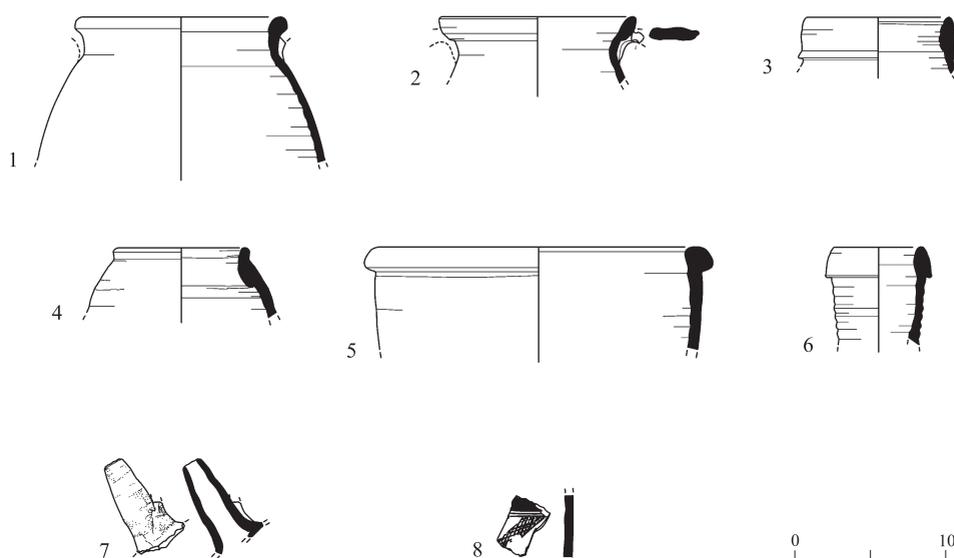


Fig. 2. Cooking pots, jars, zirs, Gaza Ware jug and a handmade jug.

No.	Vessel Type	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (cm)	Description
1	Cooking pot (J-CP-2)	200	2006/1	Diam. 14 Rim 17%	Ware: reddish brown (5YR 4/4), thick core (10YR 4/2), with few small round white inclusions Surface: black-slipped and burnished, int. burned
2	Cooking pot (J-CP-2)	200	2006/2	Diam. 12 Rim 18%	Ware: yellowish red (5YR 5/6), thick brown core (7.5YR 5/3), with medium amount of small round and large round white inclusions Surface: black-slipped and burnished
3	Jar (J-JR-6A)	208	2050	Diam. 9 Rim 17%	Ware: yellowish red (5YR 5/6), thick pale brown core (10YR 6/3), with few small round black and white inclusions
4	Jar (J-JR-13)	122	1067/1	Diam. 8 Rim 16%	Ware: brown (7.5YR 5/4), with few medium-sized angular white inclusions Surface: light brown (7.5YR 6/4) to very pale brown (10YR 7/3)
5	Zir (J-ZIR-1)	112	1064	Diam. 16 Rim 11%	Ware: yellowish red (5YR 5/6), with few large round white and small mica inclusions Surface: thick brown slip (10YR 5/3)
6	Jug (J-GAZA-JUG-7B)	200	2006	Diam. 5 Rim 45%	Ware: grayish brown (10YR 5/2), with few small angular white inclusions Surface: gray (10YR 5/1)
7	Jug (J-GAZA-JUG-SPOUT)	112	1064		Ware: dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2), with few small round white and black inclusions Surface: dark gray to gray (10YR 4/1–5/1)
8	Jug (J-HM-JUG)	122	1067/2		Ware: very pale brown (10YR 7/4), with few small round white inclusions Surface: slipped very pale brown (10YR 8/3), with a reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3) painted decoration

is well-smoothed (Petrucci 1999:9). It is possible, therefore, that our finds originated in another site—in southeastern France, Italy or Cyprus—which are known to have been sources of cooking and kitchen vessels for export. Most of the cooking pots found in Ottoman Palestine were imported from Vallauris in the nineteenth–twentieth centuries and are easily recognizable in the local assemblages. Many other cooking pots from this period were crude, locally handmade vessels. It thus seems that the examples from Or Yehuda have been imported from elsewhere, and it is suggested that they date from the second half of the eighteenth century onward.

### *Jars* (Fig. 2:3–5)

Jars were made from a variety of clays and were used for storing and transporting liquids and dry foods. The dating of the jars presented here is hindered by their long term of use; some of these types are still used today.

Figure 2:3 represents the most common type of jar used to this day for carrying water from the well. It is bag-shaped, with a short, bulging neck and a folded rim exhibiting a short external flange. The necks of similar vessels are sometimes decorated with a thumb-impressed band and they usually have band handles. This jar corresponds to Israel's *jarra* Subtype 5 (Israel 2006:96, Fig. 56).

Figure 2:4 is the fragment of a holemouth jar, resembling a *sabil*, used for carrying water. A *sabil* has an elongated body and its rim narrows at the top; loop handles are drawn from the rim. It is possible that this type of jar was carried with ropes that were strung through the handles, and a groove under the rim was used to secure the rope around the neck (Israel 2006:114, Fig. 79).

The rim of a large storage jar (*zir*) is presented in Fig. 2:5. *Zirs* came in different shapes and were either wheel-made or handmade. This example was probably wheel-made and has an externally thickened, rounded rim. There is a parallel from Yoqne'am, where it was called a pithos (Avisar 2005b: Fig. 2.26:3); however, it is glazed on both sides and thus, possibly an import. Our example is not glazed, but has a thick brown slip inside and out.

### *Jugs* (Fig. 2:6–8)

*Drinking Jugs (Ibriks; Fig. 2:6, 7).*— The *ibrik* is a two-handled jug with a flaring neck to facilitate pouring. *Ibriks* have an ovoid body and a ring or a flat base. They usually have two handles connecting the base of the neck with the body. A long spout is attached to the neck, which often has a fitted filter to keep insects away from the contents. Some *ibriks* were decorated with painted patterns. Figure 2:6 has a ribbed neck and an externally folded rim. It corresponds to Israel's *ibrik* Subtype 3 (Israel 2006:153, Fig. 133), dated to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Figure 2:7 presents a spout that belonged to an *ibrik*.

*Handmade Painted Jug* (Fig. 2:8).— Geometric painted vessels are abundant in Mamluk sites. They first appeared toward the end of the twelfth century and were produced well into the Ottoman period (Avisar 2005b:73–74). At the Ottoman site of Ta'anakh, this ware was

found in large quantities and is dated to the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (Ziadeh 1995:213). The jug fragment here is decorated with a reddish brown crisscross pattern. Since late examples of this type are coarser, with sloppier decoration, this fragment is presumed to be earlier in the Ottoman period.

*Various Imported Finds (Fig. 3)*

*Glazed Imported Plate (Fig. 3:1).*— This plate is made of hard paste and has a ledge rim, whose edge is decorated with a blue band using the ‘flow blue’ technique, first used by potters in England in the 1820s. The blurred effect of the painted decoration was achieved

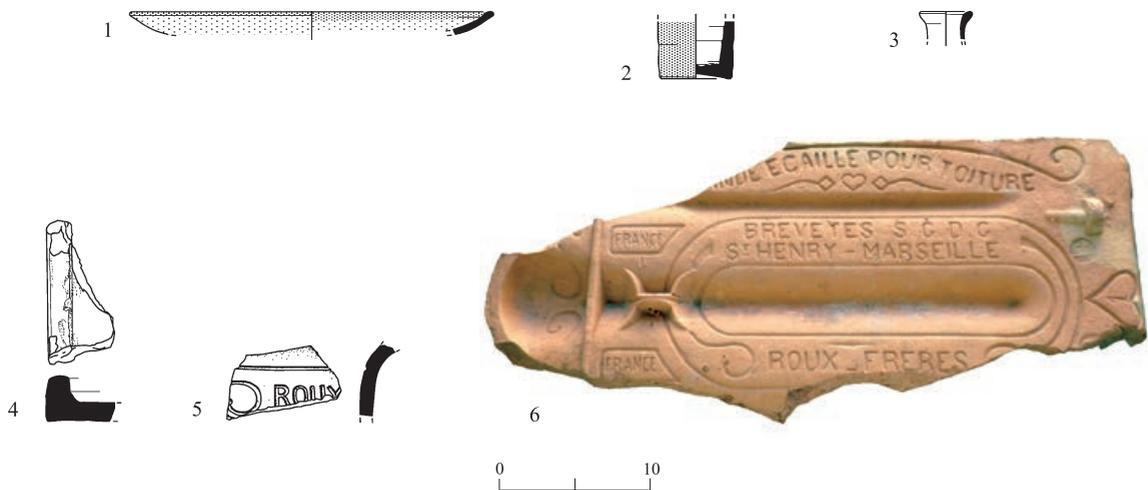


Fig. 3. Miscellaneous.

No.	Vessel Type	Locus	Basket	Dimensions (cm)	Description
1	Plate (J-TW-FB-PL-1)	123	1038	Diam. 20 Rim 5%	Ware: white hard paste Surface: blue line on rim under transparent glaze
2	Bottle (J-STONE-BTL-1D)	208	2059	Diam. of base 5	Ware: gray (7.5YR 5/1) Surface: brown-slipped and salt-glazed
3	Bowl (J-PIPE-19V)	208	2050	Diam. 4 Rim 20%	Ware: brown (7.5YR 5/2), with few small round white inclusions Surface: slipped dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) and burnished
4	Roof Tile	120	1027		Ware: pink (7.5YR 7/4), with medium amount of small round white and angular black inclusions Surface: whitish wash
5	Marseille roof tile	119	1032		Ware: light red (2.5YR 6/6), with medium amount of large angular white inclusions Surface: light red (2.5YR 6/6–6/8)
6	Marseille roof tile	Surface		Length 44 Width 19	

by adding a cup of lime or ammonia to the kiln during the firing process (Neale 2005:135). Later, 'flow blue' was produced also by other European manufactures. A date in the nineteenth or early twentieth century is suggested.

*Stoneware Bottle* (Fig. 3:2).— This rather small stoneware bottle has a slightly concave base and a brown slip that was salt-glazed. Stoneware was first introduced in England in the late seventeenth century by the ceramic manufacturer John Dwight. It is obtained by firing a mixture of clay and silica at circa 1200°C so that it vitrifies partially, becoming impervious to liquids. Unlike porcelain, stoneware is usually opaque and needs no glazing, although sometimes the vessel is glazed for decorative purposes (Savage and Newman 2000:275–276). Stoneware bottles are found abundantly in Ottoman-period sites. They contained a variety of liquids, including whiskey, mineral water, seltzer, vinegar and even ink. These bottles were in use from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century, which applies also to our example (*Society for Historical Archaeology* 2017).

*Smoking Pipe* (Fig. 3:3).— This small smoking-pipe fragment probably belonged to a nineteenth-century pipe with a tulip-shaped bowl (Avisar 2005a:89, Fig. 4.3:71).

*Roof Tiles* (Fig. 3:4–6).— Two types of roof tiles were found. Figure 3:4 is a simple, undecorated tile made of coarse ware, continuing earlier traditions (see Magen 2015:377–382). Figure 3:5, 6 are "Marseille tiles," characteristic of the late nineteenth–twentieth centuries. They are stamped with the name "ROUX", as they were manufactured by the Roux Brothers, whose factory was in Séon Saint-Henry, Marseille.

## CONCLUSIONS

Although the Ottoman assemblage from the Newe Rabin excavations is not very rich, it conforms with the rural nature of the settlement in that period. The assemblage contains very few imported vessels in comparison to other Late Ottoman sites in the area, and mainly locally made household vessels for daily use, e.g., bowls, basins, jugs and jars. The scarcity of luxury items, demonstrated by the near absence of smoking pipes, commonly found even in rural Ottoman sites, suggests that this was a particularly poor village.

Most of the ceramic assemblage can be dated to the eighteenth–early twentieth centuries. Despite the still disputable date of the Black Gaza Ware, the stoneware bottle and the imported roof tiles support this dating.

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