

## A ROCK-CUT BURIAL CAVE FROM THE EARLY, INTERMEDIATE AND LATE BRONZE AGES NEAR ḤORBAT ZELEF

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### INTRODUCTION

The burial cave (map ref. NIG 23850/73245, OIG 18850/23245; Fig. 1) is located in the modern village of Shibli, on the northeastern slope of Mount Tabor. In the winter of 1996, the cave was damaged as a result of construction work in the village. Subsequently, in the same year, a salvage excavation of the cave was conducted on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority.<sup>1</sup>

The cave, situated on the lower slopes of Mount Tabor, is opposite Ḥorbat Zelef (Kh. el-Mughaiyir; Fig. 1), which is located on a spur overlooking the small stream of Naḥal Ha-Shiv'a. The spring of 'En Zelef is due north of the site, and 'En Tavor is due south. Ḥorbat Zelef is located alongside a local road that extends from Megiddo to Tel Qishyon,

past Ḥannot Taggarim and to Qarne Ḥittim. The site was surveyed by Conder and Kitchener (1881–1883, I:404), Zori (1977:107) and Gal (1998:40), who determined its size as 1.0–1.5 hectares, and found pottery sherds dating to Early Bronze Age IA–B and II, Iron Age II and to the Persian, Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. In a recent survey of the Naḥal Ha-Shiv'a streambed, Getzov (2010) retrieved pottery sherds dating to Early Bronze Age IIIA at the site. Excavations at the settlement site of 'En Zelef exposed an occupation dating to Early Bronze Age IA and Middle Bronze Age II (Covello-Paran, forthcoming [b]).

The cave, of the shaft-tomb type, was hewn into the soft limestone underlying a hard *nari* crust (Fig. 2) on a slope surmounting Naḥal Ha-Shiv'a, east of Shibli and west of Ḥorbat Zelef. Modern construction destroyed the eastern part of the burial chamber, leaving untouched only the western part. The undamaged portion of the tomb is roughly rectangular, measuring 5.5 m long and 4.5 m wide; the maximum height from

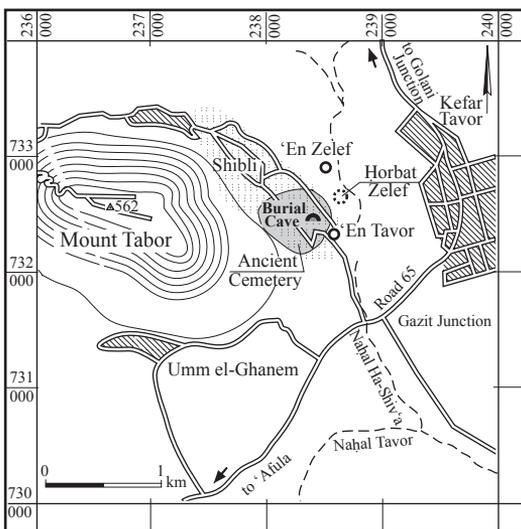
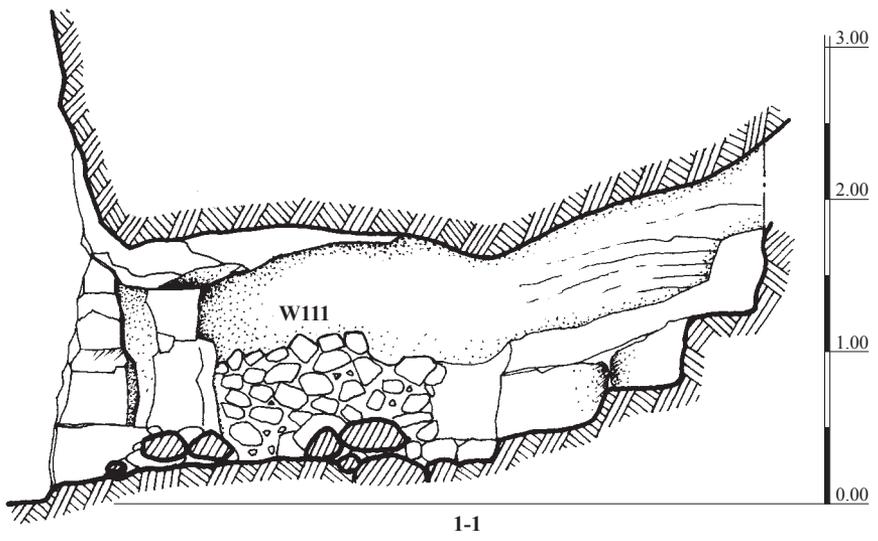
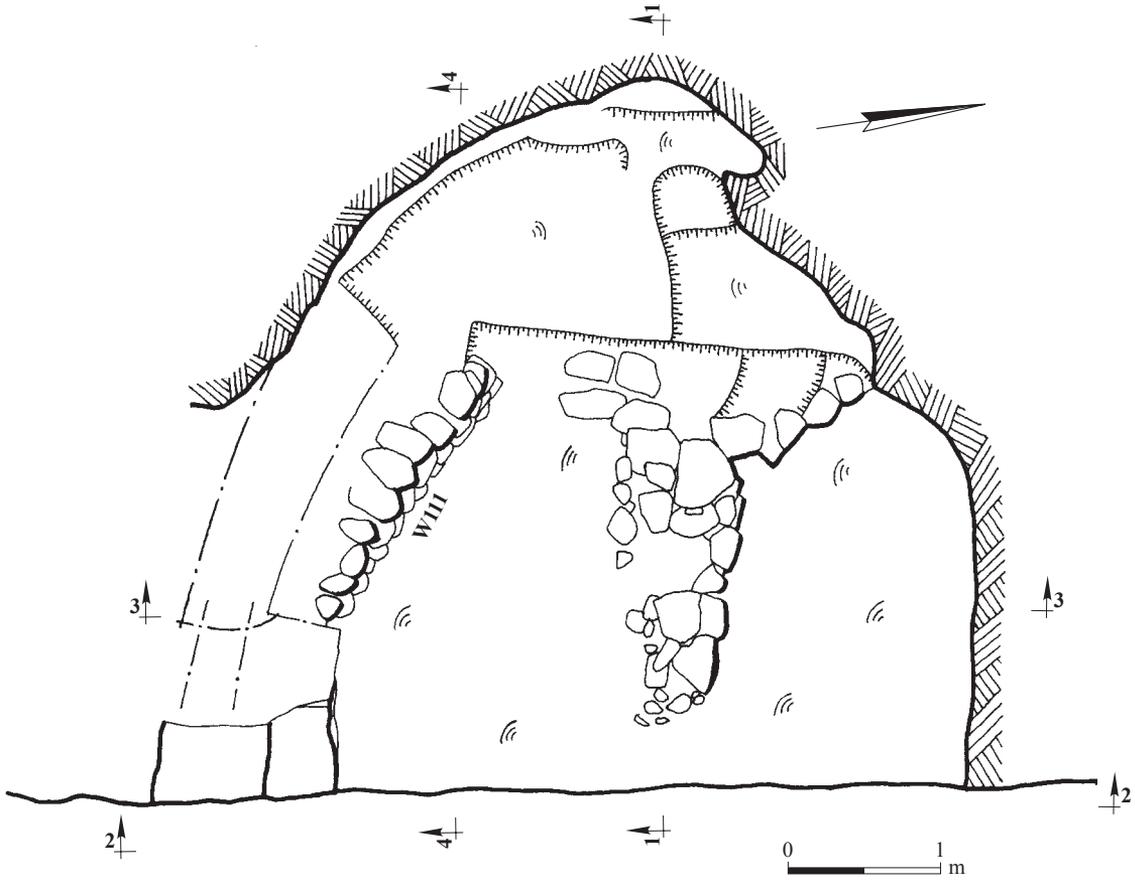


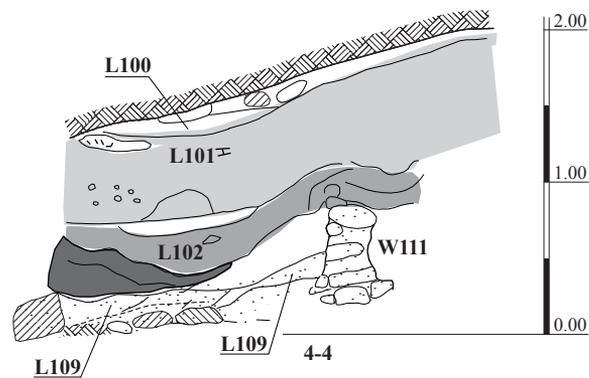
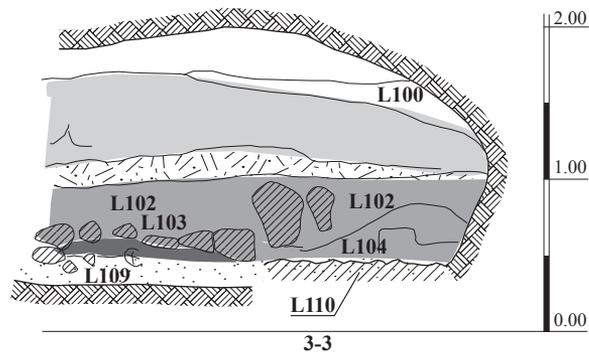
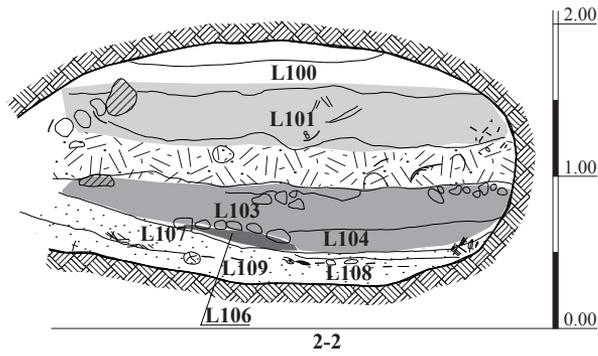
Fig. 1. Location map showing site and environs.



Fig. 2. General view of the excavation.



Plan 1. The cave, general plan and sections (see also opposite page).



-  Layer I (Late Bronze Age II)
-  Layer II (Late Bronze Age I)
-  Layer III (Intermediate Bronze Age)
-  Layer IV (Early Bronze Age III)
-  Layer V (Early Bronze Age I)

floor to ceiling is 1.5 m (Plan 1). The slope of the fill and concentration of fallen stones suggested the shaft entrance to the cave was in the south and would have been c. 2.5 m deep. The vault-shaped ceiling was mostly intact (Fig. 3); however, the modern construction generated a shifting of the bedrock.

Prior to the excavation, a section created by the earthworks, exhibiting the successive burial sequence and stratigraphy of the cave, was observed. Visible in this section were numerous smashed pottery vessels and bones. Notably, an alabaster vase (Fig. 4; Fig. 24:1) protruded from the modern cross-section. The cave was filled almost to the ceiling; only a 0.2–0.3 m gap was visible between the ceiling and burial debris. All the burial debris was sieved through a fine



Fig. 3. General view of the cave: Intermediate Bronze Age floor (L103).



Fig. 4. Initial stages of excavation at the section; worker is pointing to an LB I alabastron (Fig. 24:1).

**Table 1. Stratigraphy of Burial Layers in the Cave**

Layer	Period
I	Late Bronze Age II
II	Late Bronze Age I
III	Intermediate Bronze Age
IV	Early Bronze Age III
V	Early Bronze Age IB

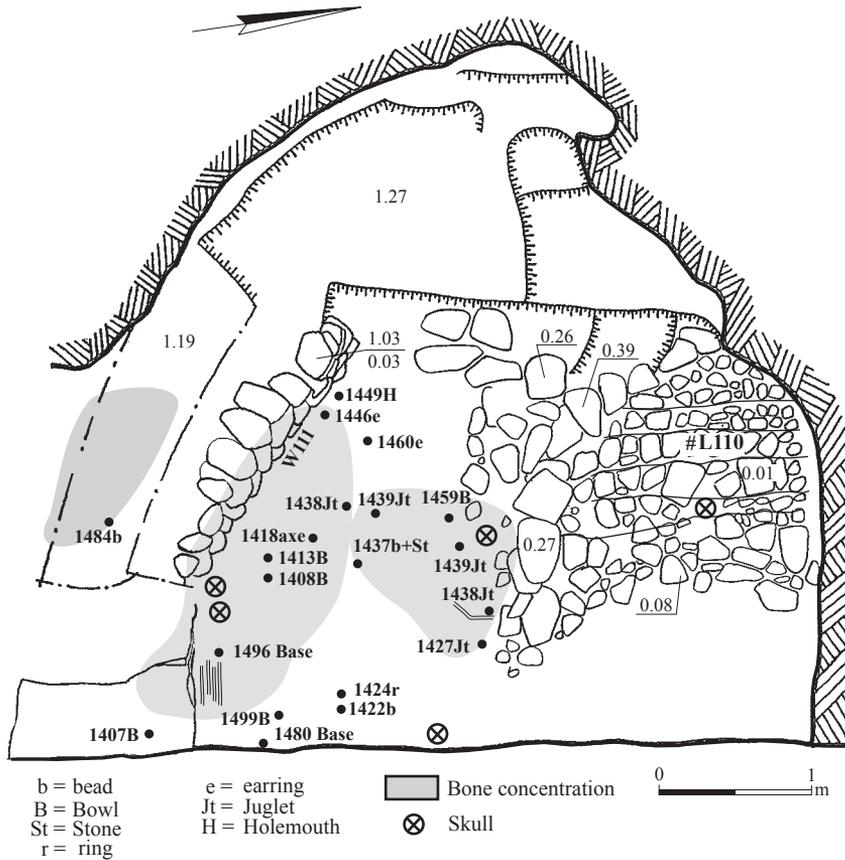
wire-mesh screen. Five distinct layers were observed, each representing a successive burial phase (Table 1; see Plan 1: Sections 2–2, 3–3, 4–4). The following presentation of the burial phases in the cave is arranged chronologically from early to late.<sup>2</sup>

#### LAYER V: EARLY BRONZE AGE I

The cave was initially hewn during EB IB. The entrance to the burial chamber would have been through a vertical shaft (not excavated) that opened into a single chamber.

The tomb from this phase (Plan 2) contained skeletal remains of several individuals. Architectural elements within the cave include a stone wall (W111) and a stone platform (L110). The stone wall is located c. 0.5 m north of the southern wall of the cave on a northwest–southeast axis. This wall (1 m high, 0.4 m wide) was constructed from six courses of medium-sized fieldstones. In the northern end of the cave, Stone Platform 110 was laid directly on the bedrock floor. This platform was constructed from an outer frame of large stones; the center was paved with relatively flat stones laid in rows. The bedrock below this platform was devoid of burial goods (with the exception of a small carnelian bead that probably had fallen through the stones), indicating the platform was constructed directly after the cave was hewn.

Despite post-EB I leveling activities in the cave (Pavement 103 of the Intermediate Bronze Age most likely leveled the earlier burials; see below), the funerary practices and rituals of this period could be reconstructed from the findspots of the skeletal material and the funerary goods.<sup>3</sup>



Plan 2. Layer V, Early Bronze Age I burial phase (see n. 3).

Two possible reconstructions are indicated by the initial position of the interment. The burials were either laid above Platform 110 or were placed in the center of the tomb with accompanying burial goods. Evidence for the former are a skull and other bone fragments above Platform 110. In support of the latter possibility is a concentration of relatively well-preserved, almost intact pottery vessels, beads, a partial skull and a folded, articulated arm. Conclusions are partial due to the modern destruction of the eastern part of the cave.

With each additional interment, the bones and grave goods of the previous burial were pushed to the southern end of the cave against W111. The excavation of this accumulation (max.

0.7 m high) showed that particular attention was paid to piling specific bones together in the initial phase of this period. Close to the bottom of the heap, two skulls were placed next to each other alongside W111. Directly east of these skulls was a pile of long leg bones (femurs), all of which were intentionally placed on an east-west axis (Fig. 5). No articulated skeletons were found in the impacted bone piles. The skeletal material was not well preserved and virtually crumbled when extracted from the soft bedrock in which it was imbedded. According to the cranial material, at least four individuals were buried in the cave. South of W111, small quantities of skeletal remains were found together with a single bead; this



Fig. 5. Early Bronze Age I. Impacted pile of bones and pottery sherds.

space was devoid of pottery. Collapsed above the EB I burial remains were stones that most likely originated from the shaft blockage.

In addition to the pottery, jewelry and metal burial goods, animal offerings, mostly feet or cranial parts of goat/sheep, were found (Ron Kehati, pers. comm.). The relatively small number of animal bones suggests that large quantities of animal offerings or prepared food were not placed with the interments, and the parts chosen to be buried did not have a high meat weight.

### *The Pottery*

The assemblage includes the following vessel types: bowls, holemouths, storage jars, amphoriskoi, juglets, teapots and a lamp. The pottery vessels were poorly preserved and very fragile due to the moist conditions in the cave and were often almost entirely imbedded in the bedrock (Fig. 6). Of the 78 vessels counted, only one was intact and eight were partially restorable; the remainder were fragmentary. The comparative material presented here is limited to regional assemblages, primarily from mortuary contexts from the Jezreel Valley, with occasional reference to neighboring areas.



Fig. 6. Early Bronze Age I. Close-up of the pottery vessels and bones along the section.

### *Bowls (Fig. 7)*

The bowls are the most dominant vessel type, representing 61.5% of the pottery vessels in this layer of the tomb. They are presented according to type, with reference, whenever possible, to parallel types from other burial and settlement sites.

*Small Bowls* (N = 4).— These include small hemispherical bowls (Fig. 7:1), shallow thin-

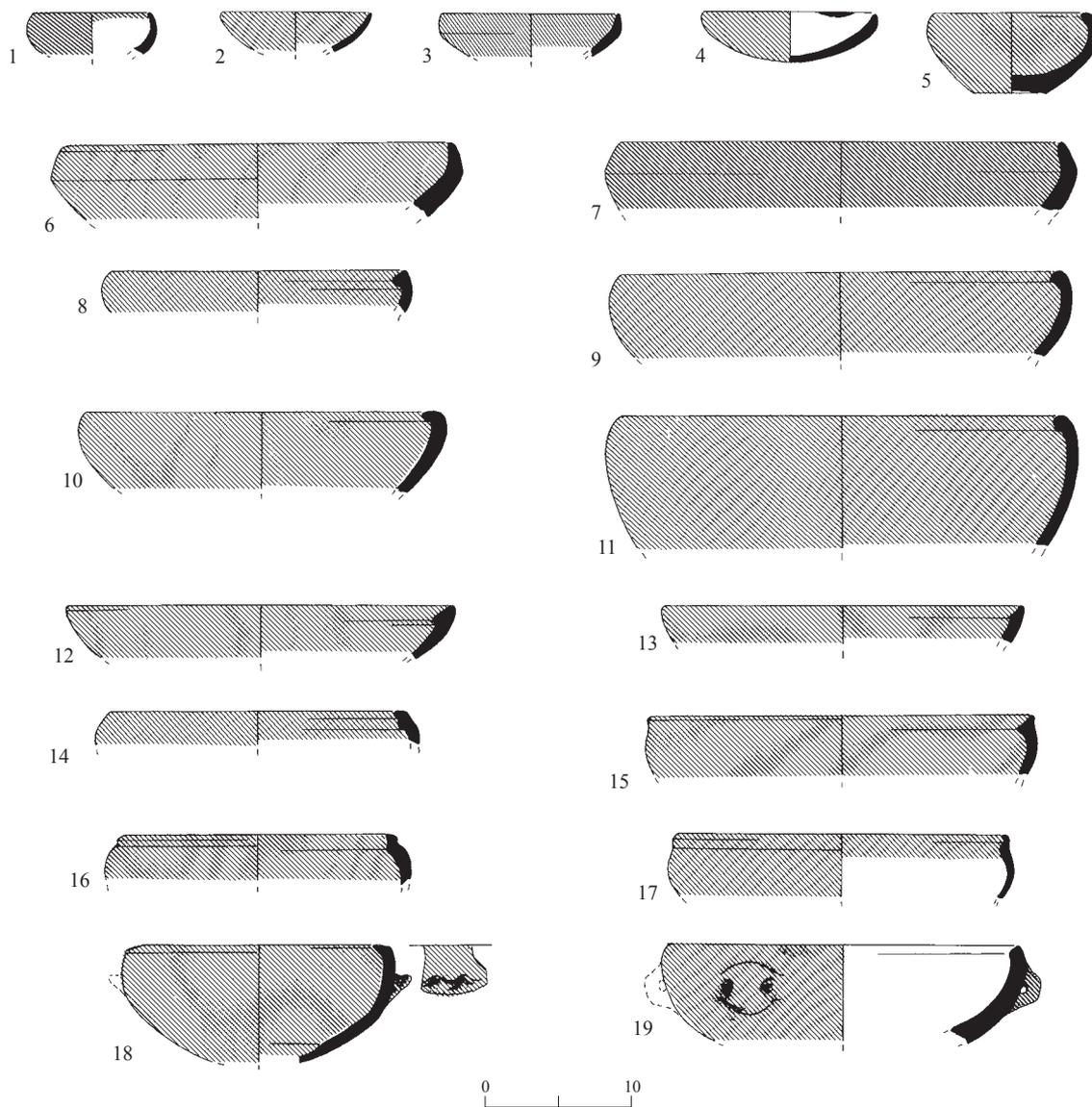


Fig. 7. Early Bronze Age I bowls.

No.	Reg. No.
1	1390
2	1565
3	1407
4	1413/1
5	1499
6	1480/7
7	1412
8	1413/6
9	1413/10
10	1413/2

No.	Reg. No.
11	1399
12	1408/11
13	1408/10
14	1413/5
15	1413/3
16	1459
17	1435
18	1000/12
19	1401/1

walled bowls (Fig. 7:2) and a shallow carinated bowl (Fig. 7:3). The latter bowl is reminiscent of the platter-like bowls (see below).

Included in this group of small bowls is a saucer-like bowl (Fig. 7:4) with soot marks on the rim, indicating its function as a lamp. Similar lamp bowls were found in Megiddo Tomb 903 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:1, 2, 9–11), some of which also had soot marks from burning (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:10, 11).

A restorable small bowl (Fig. 7:5) has a curving profile, a flat base and bears a darker red slip than most of the other bowls. This type was found at 'En Shadud (Braun 1985: Fig. 15:9–11), Asherat Tomb 4 (Smithline 2001: Fig. 23:11, 12) and Tel Esur (Yannai 1996: Fig. 3:11, 13).

*Bowls with Incurved Carinated Rim* (N = 4).— The small platter-like bowls (Fig. 7:6, 7) bear red-burnished slip on the interior and exterior surfaces. They are known in contemporary burial assemblages in Megiddo Tomb 903 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:4) and at Tel Esur (Yannai 1996: Fig. 2:9–15).

*Bowls with Incurved Rounded Rim* (N = 22).— This bowl type (Fig. 7:8–11) is the most dominant type in the assemblage, representing 48% of the bowls. Note that one bowl (Fig. 7:8), with an overhanging lip, has parallels at 'En Shadud (Braun 1985: Fig. 15:1–8, Type 2).

*Shallow Bowls with a Flat Inverted Rim* (N = 8).— These open bowls (Fig. 7:12, 13) have a flat inverted rim with a slight concavity.

*Deep Bowls with Gutter Rims* (N = 6).— This bowl type (Fig. 7:14–17) has many rim variations; however, all have an inner recess or gutter and bear red slip on the exterior and the inner rim. Such bowls are known primarily in the Jezreel Valley in Megiddo Tomb 903 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:12–21), 'En Shadud (Braun 1985: Fig. 16, Type 6), Qashish Str. XIV (Zuckerman 2003: Fig. 17:5, 6, Type B IIb) and at Tel Esur, where they have ledge handles (Yannai 1996: Fig. 3:1–10).

*Bowls with Handles* (N = 4).— Two types bear handles. One is deep with an inverted flat rim and a ledge handle (Fig. 7:18). The other, with a simple squared-off rim (Fig. 7:19), has very thick walls and vertical lug handles below the rim.

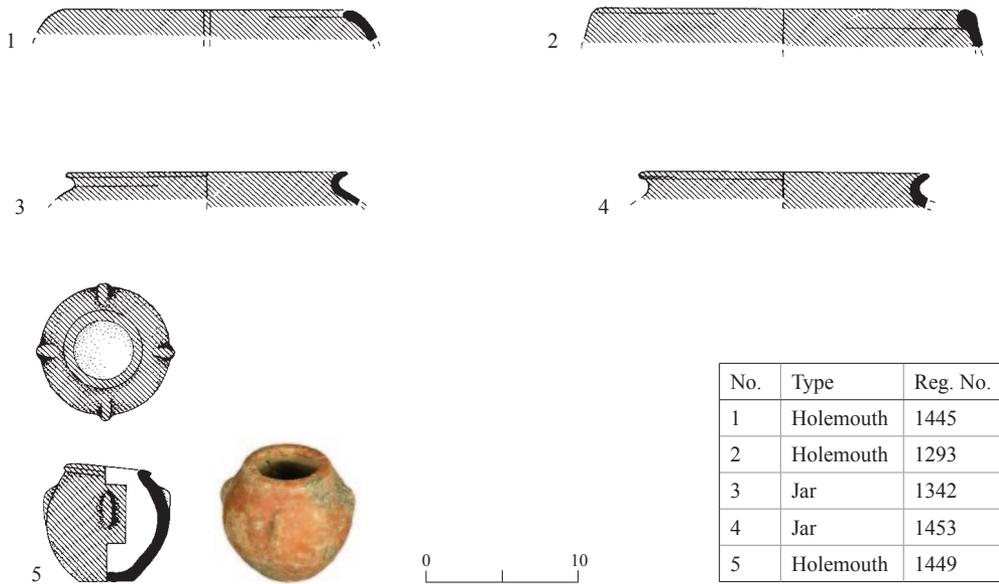
#### *Holemouths* (Fig. 8)

These vessels are divided into two general types according to rim: simple (N = 4; Fig. 8:1) and thickened (N = 2; Fig. 8:2). The rim of the latter type is slightly bulbous toward the interior of the vessel. All the illustrated holemouths exhibit red slip on the exterior surface and inner rim. They are similar to holemouth types from contemporary assemblages at stratified sites, such as Qashish Str. XV–XIII (Zuckerman 2003:37, Fig. 19), and in mortuary contexts, such as Megiddo Tomb 903 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:36).

*Miniature Holemouth Vessel*.— A small holemouth (Fig. 8:5), 7 cm high, was fully restorable. The vessel is red slipped on the exterior and has four vertical elongated knob handles. The small size of this vessel suggests it could be a votive vessel. The placement of four vertical knobs at the shoulder of the vessel is reminiscent of vertically perforated lug handles from forms found in assemblages from southern sites, e.g., Masada (Amiran 1969:54, Photograph 47). In contemporary assemblages there are a variety of knobs that often are placed below the rim of holemouth vessels, e.g., at Bet Yerah (Getzov 2006: Fig. 2.13:10) and Bet She'an (Mazar and Rotem 2009:138).

#### *Storage Jars* (N = 4)

These jars have a wide mouth, a short curving neck and a simple everted rim (Fig. 8:3, 4). Similar medium-sized jars are known from Megiddo Tomb 903 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:42, 44) and 'En Shadud (Braun 1985: Fig. 21:1, 2).



No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Holemouth	1445
2	Holemouth	1293
3	Jar	1342
4	Jar	1453
5	Holemouth	1449

Fig. 8. Early Bronze Age I holemouths and storage jars.

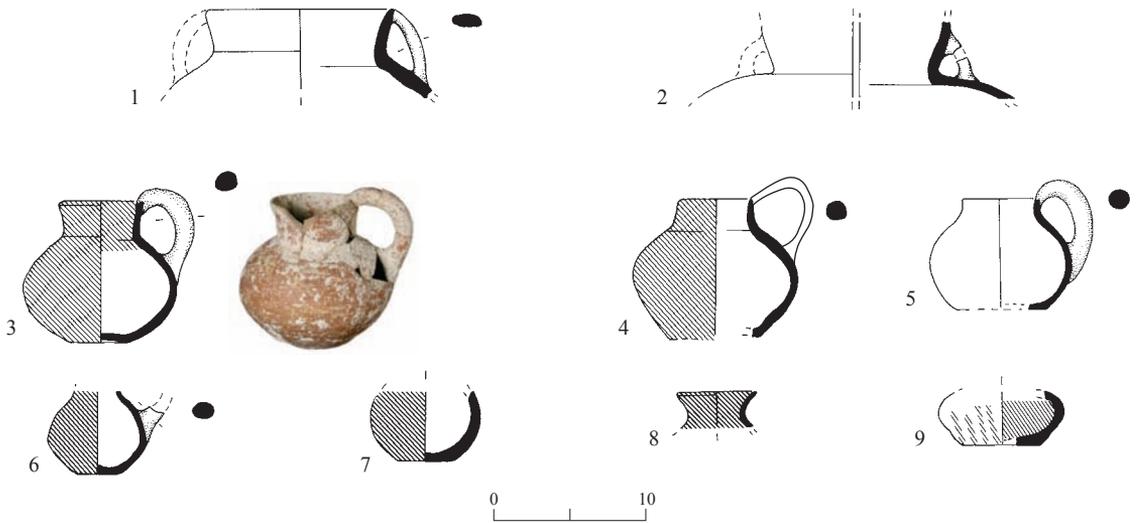


Fig. 9. Early Bronze Age I amphoriskoi and juglets.

No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Amphoriskos	1000/14
2	Amphoriskos	1437
3	Juglet	1438
4	Juglet	1439
5	Juglet	1329

No.	Type	Reg. No.
6	Juglet	1427
7	Juglet	1400
8	Juglet	1441
9	Juglet	1423/2

*Amphoriskoi* (N = 2; Fig. 9:1, 2)

These vessels are wide-mouthed, have a flaring neck and flat strap handles that connect from the rim or slightly below it to the shoulder. It is probable that these vessels were red slipped; however, it was not detectable due to the poor preservation of the vessel surface. Similar vessels are common in mortuary and domestic contexts from the Jezreel Valley, e.g., Megiddo Tomb 903 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 3:7), Ha-Zore'a Tomb 33 (Meyerhof 1989: Pl. 26: 215, 233), 'En Shadud (Braun 1985: Fig. 20: 1–4) and Qashish Str. XIV–XV (Zuckerman 2003: Fig. 20:6, Type GJ).

*Juglets* (N = 7; Fig. 9:3–9)

The juglets vary in size, shape and surface decoration. They have high-looped, circular handles. Most high, loop-handled juglets are red slipped (Fig. 9:3–8); red band painting is distinguishable on a small juglet (Fig. 9:9). In addition to the rim count of seven vessels, a count of high, loop-handled sherds doubles the minimum number of this type (N = 14). Large quantities of these juglets were found at Ha-Zore'a Tomb 33 (Meyerhof 1989: Pls. 27, 28) and Qashish (Zuckerman 2003: Fig. 20:1).

*Teapots* (N = 6)

Due to the absence of restorable vessels of this type, the frequency of the teapots is based on the spouts (e.g., Fig. 10:1). A funnel-necked teapot is evident from a bent spout (not illustrated) and a flattened lug-handle (Fig. 10:2) placed mid-body. Additional teapot spouts were found, some of very small dimensions that might have been attached to juglets.

*Decorated Sherds*

*Band-Painted Ware.*— Vessels bearing red, band-painted decoration are small juglets (Figs. 9:9; 10:3, 4) and medium-sized closed vessels (according to two bases that were retrieved; not illustrated).

*Gray Burnished Ware.*— Two flat, tapered projections (Fig. 10:5, 6) are of the Gray

**Table 2. Layer V Handle-Type Frequencies (including illustrated and non-illustrated)**

Handle Type	N	%
Lug	3	8.3
High loop	10	27.8
Small loop	15	41.7
Large loop	5	13.9
Ledge handle	3	8.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Burnished Ware (GBW) bowl forms. They were fabricated from a very coarse ware and are not highly burnished.

*Crackled Ware.*— Crackled ware, typical of the Jordan Valley at sites such as Bet Yerah (see discussion in Getzov 2006:26), was only evident on a few body sherds of an open bowl (not illustrated).

*Handles*

All handles from the Layer V assemblage were counted (Table 2) with the intent of providing additional information on the vessel-type frequencies, as well as the rate of occurrence of specific handle types during this stage of EB I. The predominant handle type is the loop handle, small and large, indicating a higher frequency of closed vessels containing liquid than is evident in the rim count.

*Pillar Handle.*— A single pillar handle (Fig. 10:7), with a vertical perforation from a small jar, is the only evidence of this vessel type among the burial goods. Small jars with pillar handles are more common south of the Jezreel Valley, e.g., in Tombs 1 and 4 at Azor (Ben-Tor 1975: Fig. 9:5–8).

*Bases*

A number of string-cut bases with swirling patterns attest to manufacture on a tournette (Fig. 10:8). Another base (Fig. 10:9) is from a small, closed vessel.

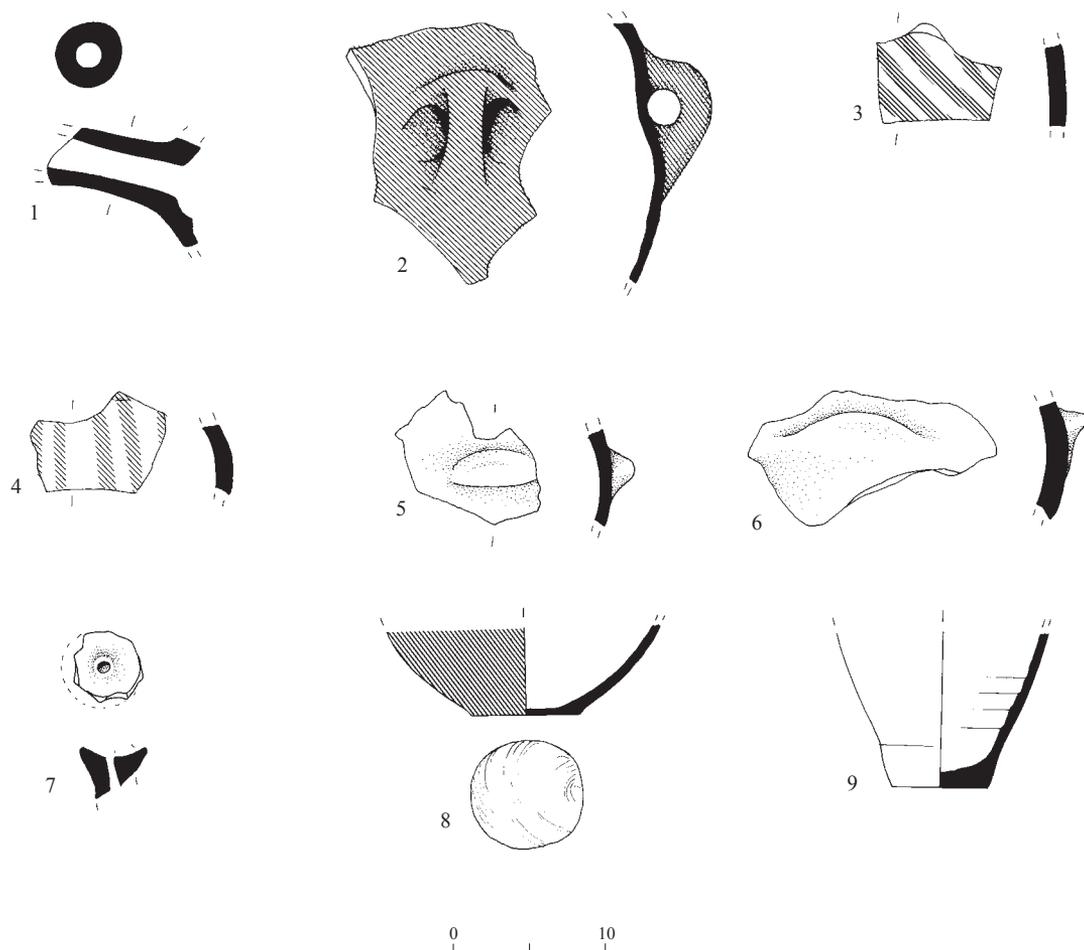


Fig. 10. Early Bronze Age I teapots, decorated sherds, handles and bases.

No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Teapot	1443
2	Lug handle (teapot)	1413/4
3	Decorated sherd	1487
4	Decorated sherd	1477
5	Gray Burnished Ware	1410/2
6	Gray Burnished Ware	1410/1
7	Pillar Handle	1483/1
8	Base	1496
9	Base	1480/11

*Other Finds*

Among the few metal objects associated with this burial phase are a copper axehead and two silver earrings.

*Axe.*— A well-preserved copper axe (Fig. 11) has a wide, flaring cutting edge and a rounded butt. According to Miron (1992:6, 21, 25),

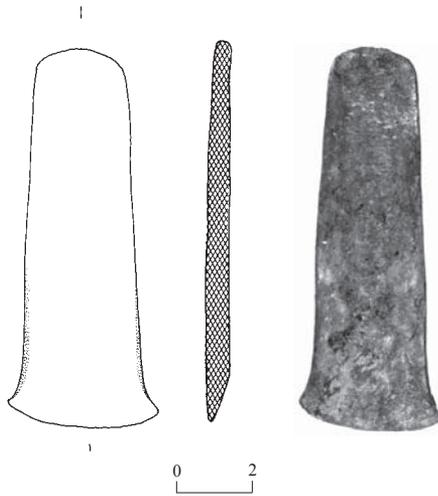


Fig. 11. Early Bronze Age I axehead (Reg. No. 1418).

this axehead-type, which initially appears in EB I, is of the ‘simple blade’ Type VIb used for a myriad of functions. Similar axeheads are known from EB I contexts, where often a few are grouped together, for example, two unalloyed copper axeheads from Yiftah’el Stratum II (dated to EB I; Shalev and Braun 1997:93–96, Fig. 11.3) and three at Bet She’an Stratum M-3 (Mazar and Rotem 2009:144, Fig. 13:1–3). The cultural practice of placing such axes in a funerary context is duplicated at a nearby EB I burial cave at Horbat Mezarot in Nahal Tavor (see Miron 1992:12, No. 38).

*Earrings.*— Two silver earrings (Fig. 12:1, 2) are made from a round, sectioned strand of silver that was looped into a circular shape. The earrings were found together with beads in the center of the tomb. Similar silver earrings were found in contemporary tombs at Azor (Ben-Tor 1975: Fig. 12:11, 12).

*Beads.*— Beads were found in groups, notably in the center of the tomb rather than in the pottery and bone piles. It is probable that when the previous interments were pushed

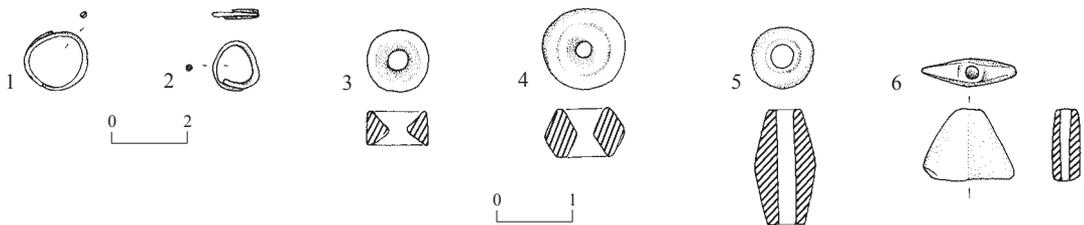


Fig. 12. Early Bronze Age I small finds.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Material
1	Earring	1446	Silver
2	Earring	1460	Silver
3	Bead	1422/1	Flint
4	Bead	1422/2	Flint
5	Bead	1484	Flint
6	Pendant	1437	Flint

toward W111, the beaded necklaces on the skeletons fell apart close to their original spot. An exception is the single bead found south of W111 along with numerous bones. The beads are of the following forms: flat disc with biconical perforation (cf. Fig. 12:3), biconical in form and perforation (cf. Fig. 12:4) and a biconical barrel bead with a straight perforation (Fig. 12:5). The beads are made from carnelian and flint (see n. 3). Similar beads are known from contemporary tombs, e.g., at Ha-Zore'a (Meyerhof 1989:57).

*Pendant.*— A triangular pendant (Fig. 12:6) is fabricated from gray-white colored flint and has a straight perforation. The pendant was found close to the proposed location of the last interment from this burial level (see above).

### *Summary*

The study of the grave goods indicates that the tomb was initially hewn during EB IB. The tomb was designed for long-term reuse and was re-accessed with each new interment. The finding of partially articulated limbs upholds the hypothesis of primary burial in the cave. In order to make room for subsequent interments, previous burials were moved to the side of the cave. The handling and movement of the skulls and their alignment along the side of the cave, specifically, suggests veneration of the ancestral remains. The findspots of the small objects, such as the beads and the earrings, may suggest the original location of the interments prior to their having been pushed aside toward W111. The presence of a stone-platform feature in the tomb is documented in EB I burial caves from the northern part of the country, e.g., Tel Esur (Yannai 1996:1\*), Asherat Tomb 4 (Smithline 2001:55, Fig. 19) and Gadot (Greenberg 2001:81), and at Azor in the south (Ben-Tor 1975:6). This suggests the existence of related funerary rituals throughout the country.

The number of animal bones retrieved during this initial burial phase is very small

in contrast to the Late Bronze burial phase (below) and suggests fewer animal or meat offerings. A preference for liquids, perhaps oil, as an offering among the burial goods is upheld by the relative frequency of rims and handles, which shows a large quantity of small and large closed vessels. The copper axehead is a prestige item, as was possibly the well-fabricated miniature holemouth vessel (Fig. 8:5).

The presence of specific vessel types, such as the gutter-rim deep bowls, the amphoriskoi and the juglets, together with the poor representation of Gray Burnished Ware and the absence of EB II Metallic Ware in the pottery assemblage, enables us to chronologically secure this initial burial phase within the parameters of EB IB.

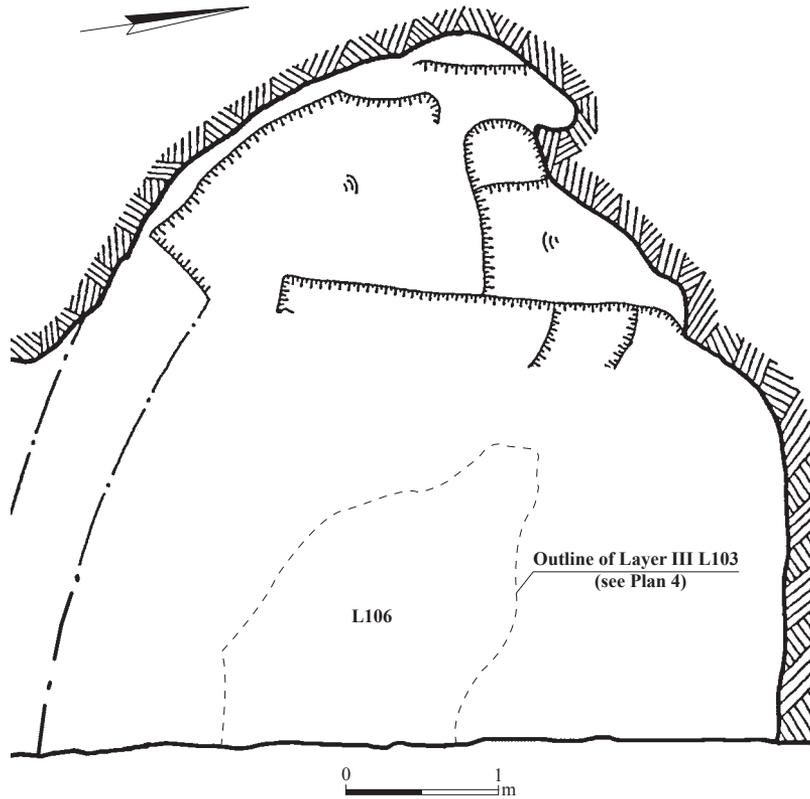
### LAYER IV: EARLY BRONZE AGE III

The burial level (L106) of EB III was found sealed beneath the Intermediate Bronze Age Stone Pavement 103 (Plan 3; see Plan 1: Section 2–2). This phase is characterized by brown debris that contrasts with the lighter debris of the Intermediate Bronze Age. It is conceivable that the Layer V stone platform (L110) in the northern part of the tomb was also used during the EB III burial phase; however, this is not conclusive.

The sole remains from this burial phase are pottery burial goods. Neither skeletal material nor animal offerings could be securely attributed to this burial phase, yet they were no doubt originally placed there with the pottery.

### *The Pottery* (Fig. 13)

The burial goods associated with the EB III interments are not numerous; all diagnostic sherds are illustrated in Fig. 13. Khirbet Kerak Ware (KKW) is dominant in this small assemblage (Fig. 13:1–5), along with a minimal presence of common wares (Fig. 13:6, 7). The KKW sherds were studied petrographically to



Plan 3. Layer IV, Early Bronze Age III burial phase.

determine their provenance of manufacture (Cohen-Weinberger, this volume). All the vessels were attributed to a single petrographic group (B) of local provenance, most likely in a workshop at Tel Qishyon (Zuckerman, Ziv and Cohen-Weinberger 2009:149–150).

#### *Khirbet Kerak Ware*

*Small S-Shaped Bowls.*— A typical S-profile bowl (Fig. 13:1) has a long flaring rim and thin walls. This bowl has a highly burnished red-slipped interior and exterior, with the typical blackened lower exterior as a result of the firing process. This bowl type is well documented at contemporary sites in the region, such as at nearby Tel Qishyon (Zuckerman, Ziv and Cohen-Weinberger 2009: Fig. 3:1).

*Small High-Walled Bowls.*— Two bowls (Fig. 13:2, 3) are small and shallow with straight

sides, slightly everted, with a slight carination toward the base. These thin-walled bowls show a monochrome, red-burnished slip and were not blackened during firing. Similar bowls are known from ‘Afula Burial Pit F (Sukenik 1948: Pl. X:16), Bet Yerah (Getzov 2006: Fig. 3.50:5–15) and Bet She’an (Mazar, Ziv-Esudri and Cohen-Weinberger 2000: Fig. 14.3:3).

An additional bowl of this type (Fig. 13:4), of slightly larger dimensions, has a notable thinning and inverting of the rim, cf. Bet She’an (Mazar, Ziv-Esudri and Cohen-Weinberger 2000: Fig. 14.3:2)

*Krater.*— The everted-rim krater (Fig. 13:5) has a single handle and is large, similar to vessels found in ‘Afula Burial Pit E (Sukenik 1948: Pl. X:1–3).

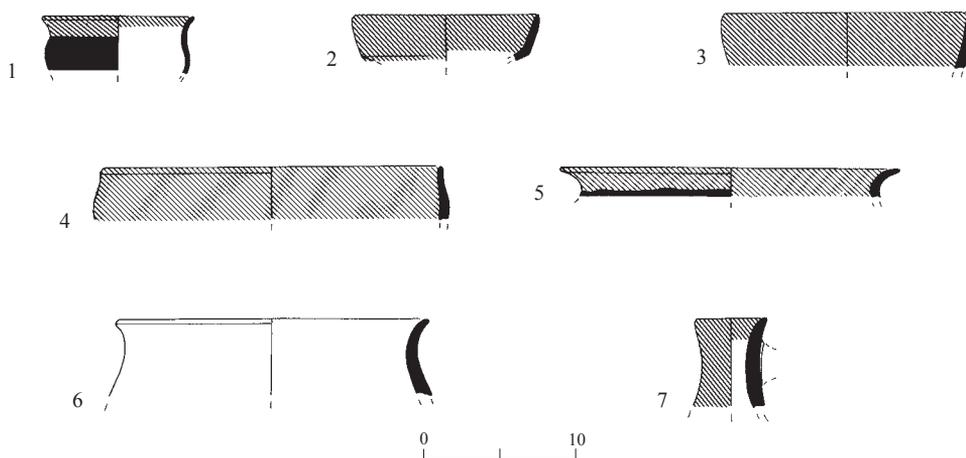


Fig. 13. Early Bronze Age III pottery.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description	Petrographic Group <sup>1</sup>
1	Bowl	1339	KKW	B
2	Bowl	1391/1	KKW	B
3	Bowl	1379	KKW	B
4	Bowl	1373	KKW	B
5	Krater	1410	KKW	
6	Jar	1403		
7	Jug	1399	Red slip ext. and int. rim	

<sup>1</sup>See Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

*Stand.*— Sherds of a typical Khirbet Kerak Ware stand were found, but were not restorable or illustrated. The stand appears to be plain; however, this is inconclusive due to the fragmentary nature of the vessel. An analogous stand was retrieved from nearby Tel Qishyon (Cohen-Arnon and Amiran 1981: Fig. 6:1).

#### *Common Ware*

*Jar.*— This jar (Fig. 13:6), with a simple everted rim, has a wide neck and is fabricated from a common coarse ware without surface treatment.

*Jug.*— This narrow-necked jug (Fig. 13:7), with a red-burnished slip, has a handle extending from mid-neck to shoulder. A similar jug was found at Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 5:1).

#### *Summary*

The Layer IV burial phase is very fragmentary and not well preserved. In the extant part of the burial cave, only a small quantity of pottery was recovered. It is conceivable that additional skeletal material and burial goods were placed in the now-destroyed eastern part of the cave.

There is limited data for burial caves with Khirbet Kerak Ware vessels as burial goods; however, Sukenik's excavations in 'Afula Pit E revealed two separate burials (Burials 15, 16) with a wide range of KKW vessels (Sukenik 1948:11–12, Pls. X, XI). Evidence of Khirbet Kerak Ware among the burial goods is also known from a multiple-interment burial cave, Tomb D12, at Jericho (Kenyon 1960: Fig. 38:27–35) and from two caves at Tel Mezarot in

Nahal Tavor (see Zuckerman, Ziv and Cohen-Weinberger 2009:151).

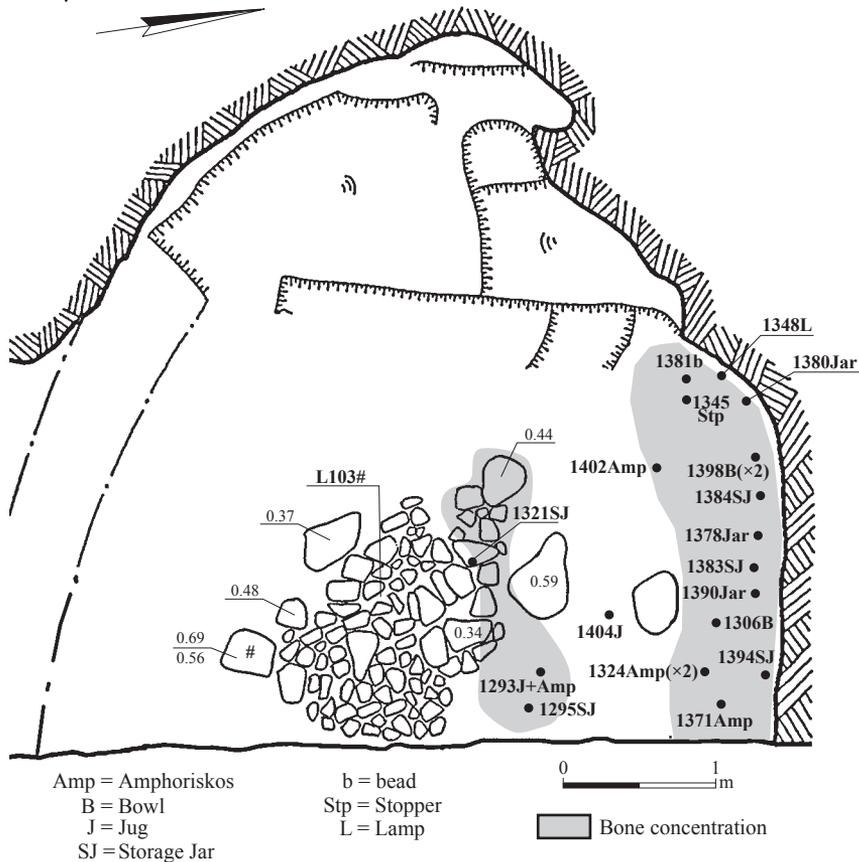
LAYER III: THE INTERMEDIATE BRONZE AGE

The Intermediate Bronze Age burial phase is defined by the sealing of the earlier burial levels with an irregularly constructed Stone Pavement 103 (Plan 4). This floor, built from various-sized limestone and basalt stones, is bordered by a line of large stones in the north (Figs. 3, 14). No binding agent was distinguished, and all the stones were flat on their lower side. Presumably, this floor was laid above the leveled-off pre-Intermediate Bronze Age burials, an assumption validated by the excavation, which exposed EB III

burial goods directly beneath and sealed by Pavement 103. These leveling activities no doubt disturbed the original location of the previous burial goods.

The plotting of the Intermediate Bronze Age burial goods revealed that the interments of this period were confined to the northern, central and eastern parts of the cave. The westernmost part of the cave was found devoid of Intermediate Bronze Age pottery.

The Intermediate Bronze Age burials begin 0.6 m above the cave floor. In general, the stones scattered in the cave are smaller at this level. The debris is a lighter color and distinguishable whenever reached. Piles of collapsed stones were observed in the northern half of the tomb. The debris in the tomb slopes



Plan 4. Layer III, Intermediate Bronze Age burial phase (see n. 3).



Fig. 14. Intermediate Bronze Age. Stone Pavement 103.

distinctly downward from south to north. This is most likely due to the EB I stone wall and accumulations in the southern part of the tomb, on top of which the Intermediate Bronze Age people constructed the pavement. In the northernmost part of the cave, Intermediate Bronze Age burial goods and associated skeletal material were found down to bedrock, often imbedded into a hard-packed light-colored matrix overlying the bedrock.

The skeletal remains from this phase are very fragmentary; however, they indicate multiple burials during this period. There was no evidence of articulated bones, possibly due to post-Intermediate Bronze Age burial activities and the infiltration of debris into the tomb. A small concentration of skeletal material was found above Pavement 103; however, most of the bone concentrations were found north of this floor, close to the wall of the cave. There are two alternative reconstructions of the burials during this period: (a) the deceased was laid on the stone pavement along with burial goods and when a new interment was brought into the tomb, the previous remains were pushed north of the pavement; (b) the interments were originally laid along the northern wall of the

cave, which would suggest that the burial goods were excavated close to their original location.

Burial offerings accompanying the deceased included pottery vessels, conceivably some containing edible offerings, and cranial and lower limbs of goat/sheep (Ron Kehati, pers. comm.).

### *The Pottery*

The pottery vessels placed in the tomb as burial goods constitute a repertoire of bowls, amphoriskoi, storage jars, jugs and a lamp. Although the assemblage is not complete due to the destruction of the cave, the minimum number of pottery vessels, based on a count of the rims, is 40. An additional nine storage-jar bases and ten amphoriskos bases, which were counted from vessels that are not represented by rims, increase the minimum number of vessels to 59.

The most common vessel types are the jugs and amphoriskoi, often impossible to differentiate from small rim sherds; the total percentage of these types together, according to the rim count, is 37.5%. These vessels were used for short-term storage and serving of liquids. The handleless small jars, constituting

12.5% of the vessels, had a similar function. The storage jars constitute 30% of the rims. The small and large bowls make up a mere 7.5% of the assemblage. This pattern of relative frequency of the types, with a large percentage of pouring vessels and a small percentage of bowls, is a noted phenomenon of Intermediate Bronze Age mortuary contents and is in contrast to the domestic assemblages found in settlement sites.

### *Bowls*

The bowls were divided into two types: small deep bowls and large open bowls.

*Small Bowls* (N = 2).— The small bowls (Fig. 15:1, 2) are straight sided and deep (7–8 cm). The joint of the bowls' wall to the wide base is pinched and slightly protruding. Similar bowls are found in Megiddo Tomb 1102 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 6:23; 22:11).

*Large Bowl* (N = 1).— The single open bowl (Fig. 15:3) is thick walled with a gutter rim. The upper 1.5–2.0 cm of the interior and exterior exhibit signs of wheel-smoothing.

### *Amphoriskoi* (N = 4)

The amphoriskoi (Fig. 15:4–7) are wide-necked with a plain, everted rim and bear handles that connect the neck and the shoulder. The vessels are globular to squat and probably had a flat base. The handles range from a flat lug to a pierced lug; often, the handles on a single vessel are not symmetrical. The interiors of most of the amphoriskoi are poorly smoothed. A single vessel has oblique incisions at the join between neck and shoulder (Fig. 15:7). Similar vessels are found in contemporary Tomb 1102 at Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 7:15; 22:15).

A small lug handle (Fig. 15:8) from an amphoriskos has incisions placed on the join of the handle with the body of the vessel; this decoration is typical of pinched-mouth amphoriskoi originating in the Hula Valley, found in burial caves at Ma'ayan Barukh (Amiran 1961: Fig. 7:10, 13, 15, 18).

### *Small Jars* (N = 5)

Included in this category are jars that resemble the amphoriskoi in form, but do not have handles (Fig. 15:9–11). These vessels are squat

**Fig. 15 ▶**

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Petrographic Group <sup>i</sup>
1	Bowl	1306/1	
2	Bowl	1398/2	C
3	Bowl	1398/1	C
4	Amphoriskos	1402	C
5	Amphoriskos	1371	A
6	Amphoriskos	1324/1	
7	Amphoriskos	1324/2	
8	Handle (amphoriskos)	1293/1	
9	Small jar	1390	
10	Small jar	1378	C
11	Small jar	1380	C
12	Jug	1404	
13	Jug	1293	C

<sup>i</sup> See Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

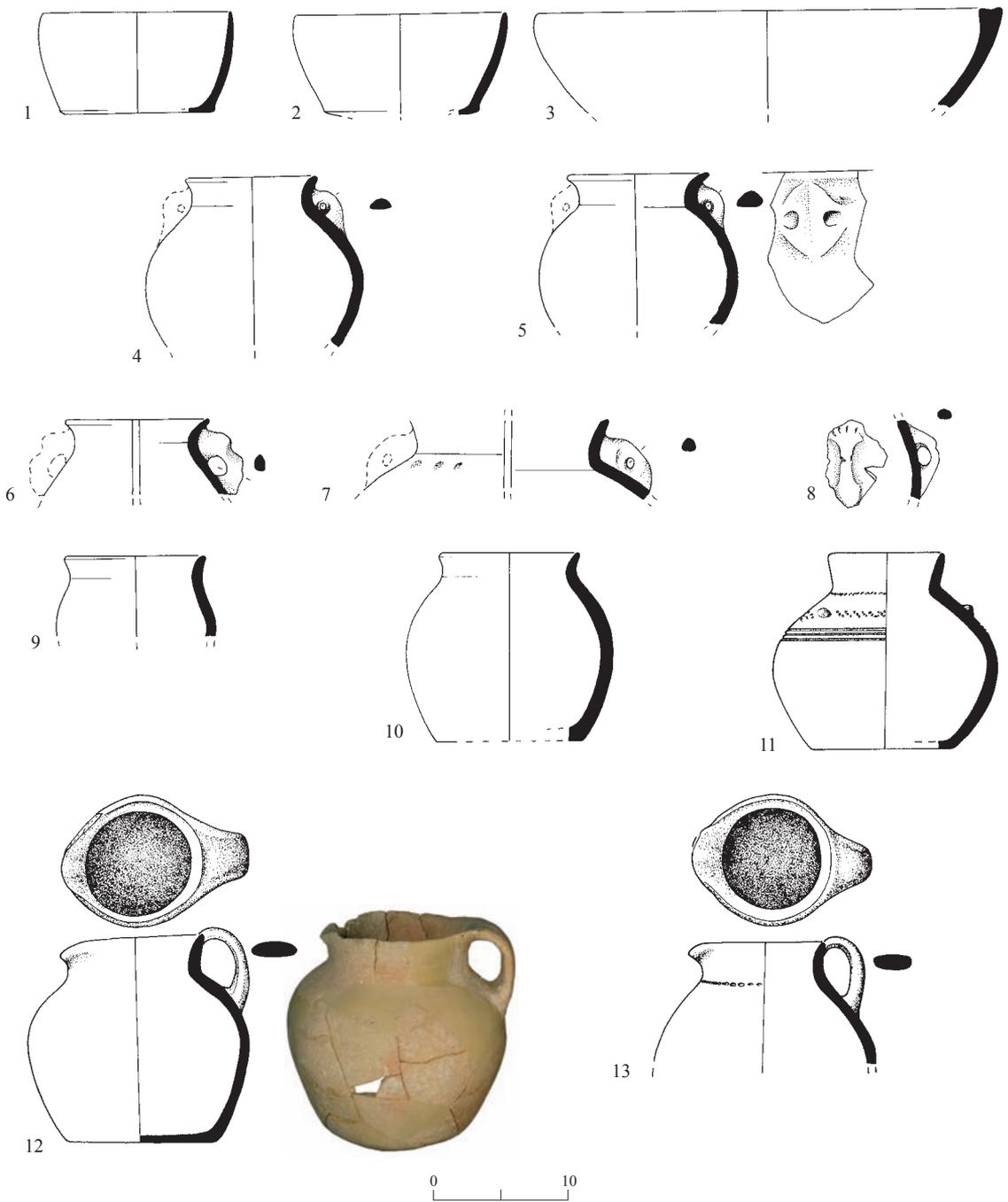


Fig. 15. Intermediate Bronze Age bowls, amphoriskoi, jars and jugs.

shaped and often thick walled (e.g., Fig. 15:9). Notable is a single jar that is very squat, thick walled and fabricated from an orange clay (Fig. 15:11). This jar is decorated with incised points at the joint between neck and shoulder, three protruding knobs at the shoulder with three-pronged combed oblique incisions between each handle and a combed band (three-pronged comb) below the line of knobs.

#### *Jugs* (N = 5)

The jugs (Fig. 15:12, 13), with a short wide neck and a pinched mouth, are very common among the burial goods. The body is squat with a wide flat base and a flat loop handle extending from rim to shoulder. Often there are oblique incisions at the join between the neck and the body (Fig. 15:13). The jugs are plain and bear no additional surface treatment. A jug of almost identical shape with a series of four vertical sets of comb incisions was found in a tomb at nearby Kafr Kama (Covello-Paran 2008: Fig. 8). That these jugs are a dominant pottery type among Intermediate Bronze Age burial goods in the region has been documented at Ha-Zore'a where they are called 'trefoil' jugs (see table in Meyerhof 1989:49).

#### *Storage Jars* (N = 12)

The storage jar is the second most frequent vessel type among the burial goods. The jars

are divided into four subtypes based on the rim, neck and body shape. The jars in Fig. 16 exhibit the full repertoire of handles: flat loop, folded ledge and lug. Beyond the rim count, nine large flat bases of additional storage jars were found. The only preserved surface decorations are incised lines, comb-prong and combed bands.

*Storage Jar with a Short Neck and Everted Rim.*— This jar type has a simple everted rim with a short neck (Fig. 16:1, 2). This is the most common storage-jar type. The better preserved jar (Fig. 16:1) has flat loop handles at the widest part of the body; it probably had a large, flat base.

*Storage Jar with a Thickened Short Neck and Everted Rim.*— This jar has a simple everted rim and a short thick neck (Fig. 16:3). Two folded ledge handles are located at mid-body. In Tomb 1101 at Megiddo a similar jar has a flat base (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 7:2).

*Storage Jar with a Medium Neck and Everted Rim.*— This vessel has a simple everted rim and a medium-sized neck (Fig. 16:4). This jar has a squat shape with a flat base, oblique incisions and pierced lug handles at the join between neck and shoulder and combed decoration made with a four-pronged comb.

Fig. 16 ▶

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Petrographic Group <sup>i</sup>
1	Storage Jar	1394	C
2	Storage Jar	1426	C
3	Storage Jar	1321	C
4	Storage Jar	1384	A
5	Storage Jar	1295/1	C
6	Storage Jar	1415	
7	Storage Jar	1371/1	
8	Handle (storage jar)	1333	A?
9	Handle (storage jar)	1389	C

<sup>i</sup> See Cohen-Weinberger, this volume.

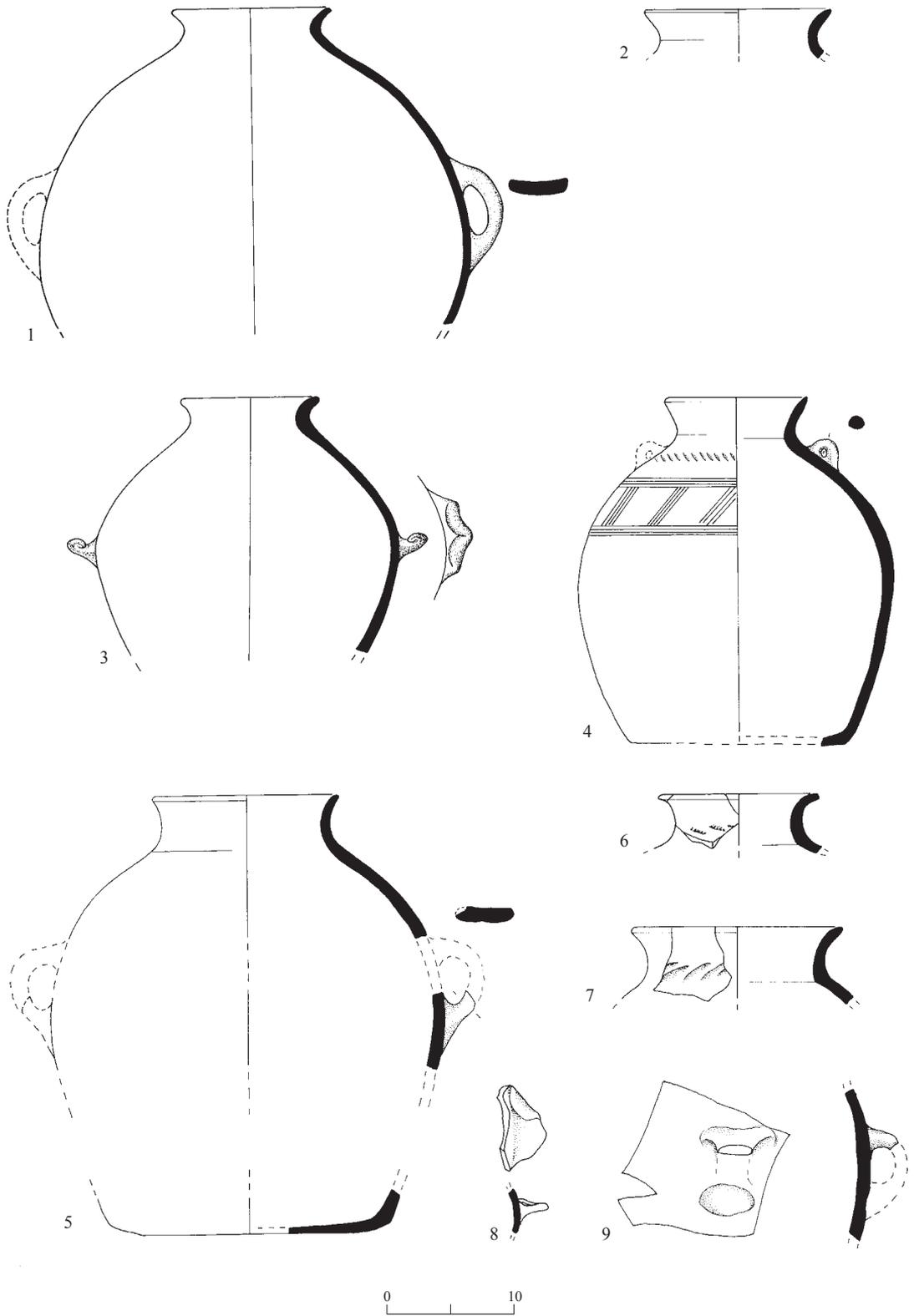


Fig. 16. Intermediate Bronze Age storage jars and handles.

*Storage Jar with a High Neck and Everted Rim.*— This jar has a simple everted rim and a straight high neck (Fig. 16:5–7). There is often oblique-incised or comb-prong decoration at the join between neck and shoulder. An almost restorable profile of one of these jars (Fig. 16:5) has a globular shape with flat loop handles mid-body and a flat base. Similar jars were found in the burial caves at Kh. Naṣr ed-Din (Alexandre 1999: Fig. 4:1) and Tiberias (Tzaferis 1968: Fig. 5:10).

Also illustrated are two handles from unrestorable storage jars (Fig. 16:8, 9). Aside from the ledge handle (Fig. 16:8), an additional flat loop handle (Fig. 16:9) was fabricated from local ware and was fired at high temperatures resulting in a metallic ring—this Intermediate Bronze Age Metallic Ware<sup>4</sup> is well known from the Jezreel Valley site 'En el-Ḥilu, where it is employed predominately for storage jars. The thin, but strong, walls are advantageous for transportation of the contents.

#### *Lamp* (N = 1)

A single example of a lamp was found in the tomb (Fig. 17:1). Faint signs of burning were found on the thick-walled sherd.

#### *Stopper* (N = 1)

A single stopper (Fig. 17:2), fabricated from secondary use of a cooking-pot sherd, is also associated with the Intermediate Bronze Age burial. The size of the stopper suggests that this artifact most likely plugged a narrow-necked amphoriskos, although no vessels of this type were found in the tomb.

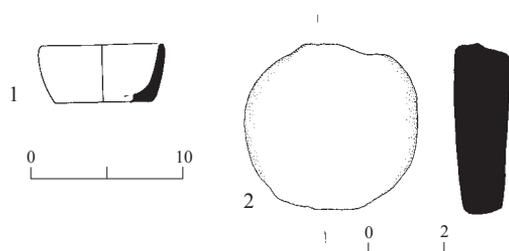


Fig. 17. Intermediate Bronze Age lamp (Reg. No. 1348) and stopper (Reg. No. 1345).

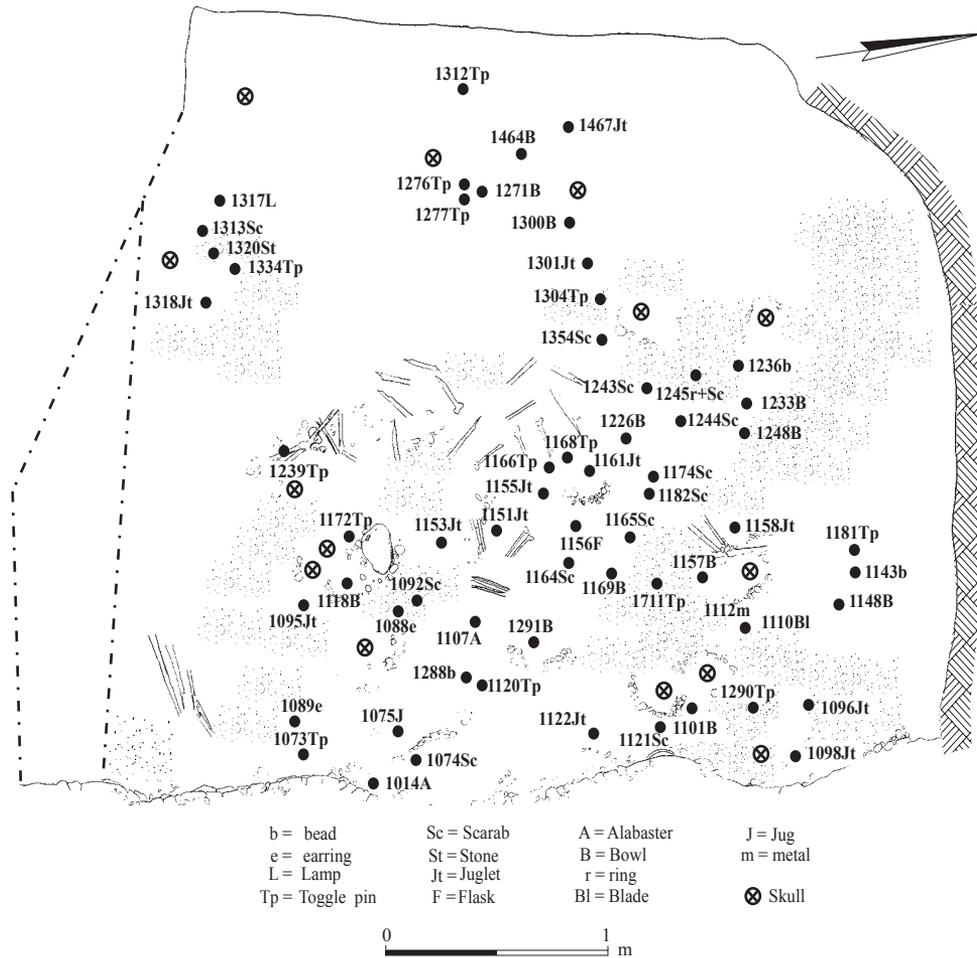
#### *Summary*

The ceramic burial goods from this layer of the Zelef cave have close affinities with those found in mortuary contexts in both the Jezreel Valley and the Lower Galilee. The pottery assemblage was studied petrographically and revealed two petrographic groups of local manufacture (see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume). The most dominant group is Petrographic Group C, which includes a wide range of vessels, such as bowls, amphoriskoi, small jars, jugs, and storage jars. The firing temperatures of all the vessels produced in this workshop were not uniformly evident, as shown by the highly fired storage-jar handle (Fig. 16:9) with a metallic ring. Petrographic Group A included an amphoriskos and storage jars. The petrographic study indicates the presence of two potters' workshops in the vicinity of the site.

#### LAYER II: LATE BRONZE AGE I

The tomb was used during both LB I (Layer II) and LB II (Layer I). These two phases were distinguished stratigraphically (Plan 1: Section 2–2) prior to the excavation by the dissimilar matrix in each phase; later, this distinction was upheld by the excavation, the plotting of the burial finds and the typological considerations of the pottery vessels. These observations notwithstanding, the dynamics of the successive interments in the tomb may have resulted in the disturbance of the early phase by burials of the late phase. The study of the skeletal remains from both Late Bronze Age burial phases, discussed in a separate report (see Nagar, this volume), revealed that at least 27 individuals were interred within the tomb, including both juveniles and adults.

The LB I burial phase (Plan 5) directly overlies the earlier Intermediate Bronze Age level, without any attempt to seal off these previous burials. The lack of Late Bronze Age pottery directly next to that of the Intermediate Bronze Age indicates that in the time between these burial phases, debris accumulated in the



Plan 5. Layer II, Late Bronze Age I burial phase (see n. 3).

tomb and covered the earlier skeletal material and burial goods. The burial remains from this phase were found in hard-packed brown debris dotted by very small broken limestones. A great deal of skeletal material—mostly in friable condition—was amassed in piles along the center and in the southern part of the cave. Skulls were separated and found along the perimeter of the pile of pottery vessels. A pile of long-limbed bones was found near the southern end of the tomb; these bones were intentionally placed together, parallel to each other. Additional bones were found in fragmentary condition wherever the burial goods were found, indicating that all the finds

had been moved from their original place. On the northern edge of the amassed pile was a concentration of pottery vessels without skeletal material, indicating the intentional careful relocating of these goods (Figs. 18, 19).

The pottery vessels placed with the buried individuals includes bowls, jugs and juglets, as well as two alabaster vases. At least one of the pottery vessels, an imported Cypriot juglet (Fig. 23:4), was intentionally punctured, most likely to prevent its being looted or reused post-interment. The deceased were adorned with jewelry and cloaks, evident from the bronze earring and bracelet fragments (not illustrated) and toggle pins. Additional bronze objects



Fig. 18. Late Bronze Age I. Concentration of pottery vessels alongside the northern wall of the cave (Figs. 22:2, 4; 23:5).



Fig. 19. Late Bronze Age I. A Syrian juglet (Fig. 23:3), a Cypriot (BR I) flask (Fig. 23:7) and a local cylindrical juglet (Fig. 22:7).

include an intact blade (Fig. 20). Numerous scarabs (see Keel and Münger, this volume) were found associated with the burials of the LB I phase only. Animal offerings, accompanying the deceased and probably placed in pottery vessels such as bowls, included goat/sheep, horse, pig and single offerings of birds, crabs and canine elements (Ron Kehati, pers. comm.).

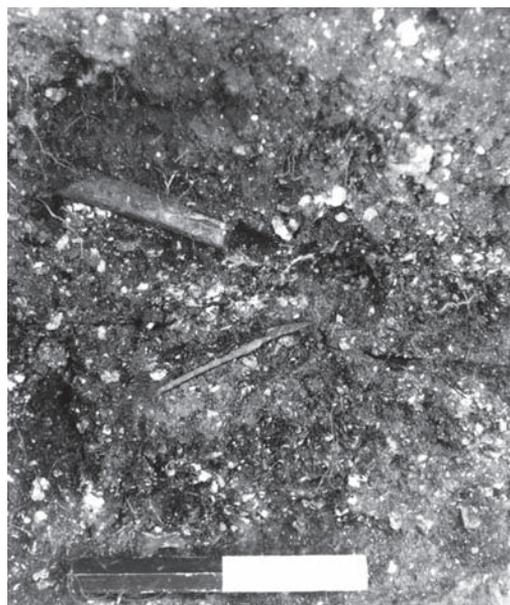


Fig. 20. An intact bronze blade (Fig. 27:1) near skeletal remains.

The animal bones were found interspersed with the human bones and non-edible offerings.

### *Pottery*

Of the 49 complete or near-complete pottery vessels found among the funerary goods of the early burial phase, 27 are presented and illustrated here. All pottery types found in the tomb are represented by illustrations. The majority of the vessels were locally produced, while others were imported from Cyprus and the Syrian coast. Ceramic parallels to the finds from H. Zelef are based primarily on the vessels from the region or adjacent regions.

On the majority of the LB I and II vessels the surface treatment has deteriorated or peeled off. Thus, there are no observations regarding the frequencies of vessel decoration for the different types.

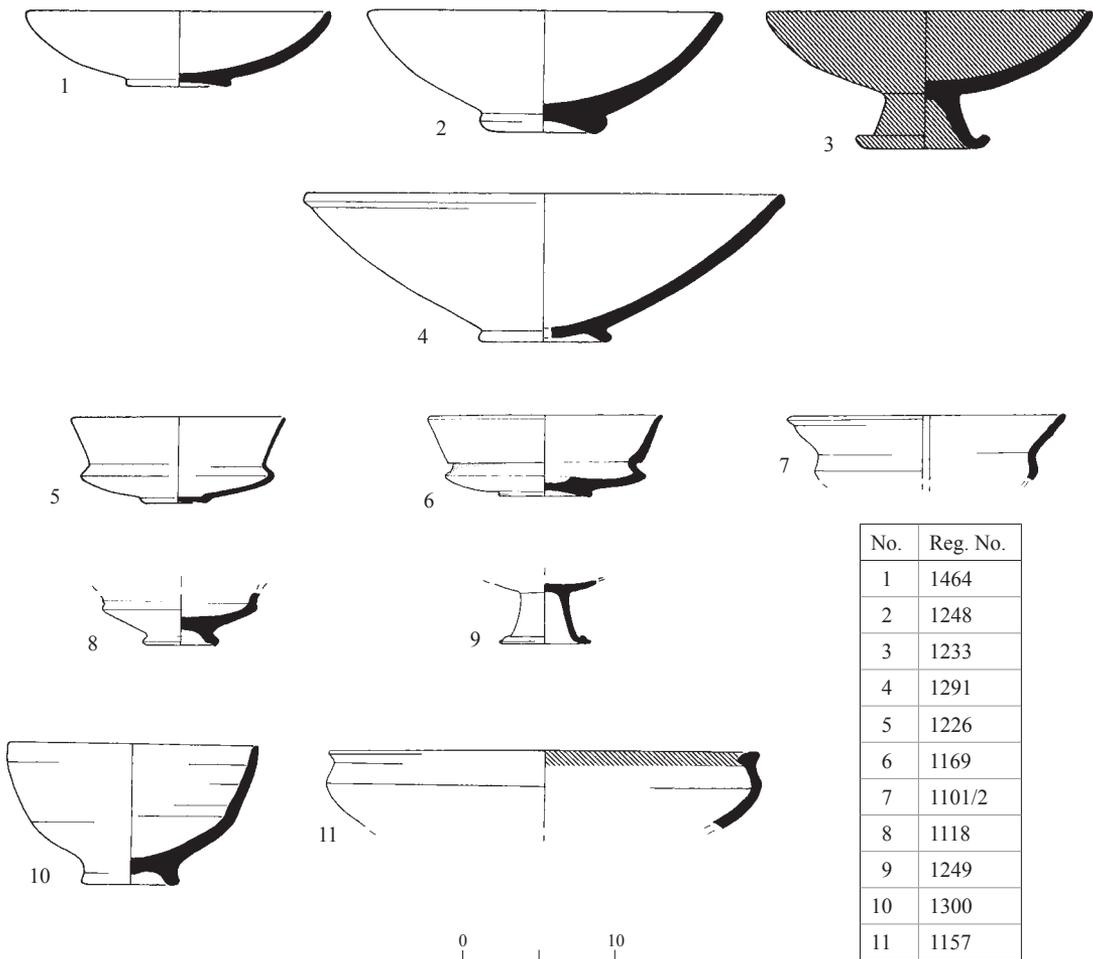
### *Local Bowls*

The bowls are the most common type of the locally produced vessels.

*Open Bowls* (N = 10).— Large open bowls with rounded or straight sides (Fig. 21:1–4) are subdivided according to the base types, including a flat disc base (Fig. 21:1), a concave disc base (Fig. 21:2), a high-splayed pedestal base (Fig. 21:3) and a ring base (Fig. 21:4). The bowl with the pedestal base (Fig. 21:3) bears red slip on its entire surface. It is probable that additional bowls had red slip or other surface treatment; however, the surface of most bowls had deteriorated due to the moist conditions in the burial cave. All the illustrated bowls have parallels in contemporary burial assemblages from Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pls. 38:5; 45:1–7, 9–14), Bet She’an Tombs

27, 303 (Oren 1973: Figs. 25:1, 2; 27:1–18) and Str. R2-R1b (Mullins 2007:413–414, Fig. 57:16, 17).

*Open Carinated Bowls* (N = 5; Fig. 21: 5–8).— This bowl type, fabricated from fine well-levigated clay, is characterized by long flaring walls above a pronounced sharp carination in the lower part of the vessel. It is very similar in form to MB IIB–C bowls. These bowls have either a flat disc base (Fig. 21:5), a concave disc base (Fig. 21:6) or a low pedestal base (Fig. 21:8). Similar bowls with a sharp low carination are found at Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 36:17–19).



No.	Reg. No.
1	1464
2	1248
3	1233
4	1291
5	1226
6	1169
7	1101/2
8	1118
9	1249
10	1300
11	1157

Fig. 21. Late Bronze Age I bowls and a krater.

The illustrated high pedestal base in Fig. 21:9 is fabricated from thin and well-fired 'Eggshell Ware' (ES; see Fischer 1999 for discussion). Similar bases are found in late MB II–LB I contexts at Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 23:2–4; Loud 1948: Pl. 44:24–26) and in Qashish VIII (Bonfil 2003:280). Additional bowls of this type date to LB I in Megiddo Tomb 856 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 44:11) and Bet She'an Tomb 303 (Oren 1973: Fig. 25:3).

*Vestigial Carinated Bowl* (N = 1; Fig. 21:10).— This bowl has a straight rim and a very slight or degenerate carination. This type first appears during LB I and is noted in Megiddo Tomb 855 (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 43:20, 21), Jatt Tomb 7 (Yannai 2000: Fig. 2:30) and Bet She'an Tomb 27 (Oren 1973:9–12).

*Krater* (N = 1; Fig. 21:11).— A single open krater was found in Layer II. It has a rounded carination and an inverted ledge rim bearing red slip.

#### *Local Jugs* (N = 4)

There are only two restorable jugs (Fig. 22:1, 2) and two additional, non-restorable ones (not illustrated). The larger, a dipper jug (Fig. 22:1), has a pinched mouth and is similar in form to the smaller dipper juglets. Large jugs of this type were found in Bet She'an Tomb 27 (Oren 1973: Fig. 35:28, 29). A smaller jug (Fig. 22:2) has a long neck, a globular body and a ring base. This jug may have had a pinched mouth similar to a jug from Bet She'an Tomb 42 (Oren 1973: Fig. 31:6).

#### *Local Juglets*

Juglets are the most common vessel type during this burial phase. The bulk of the jugs found in this burial level were locally produced.<sup>5</sup>

*Piriform Juglets* (N = 1).— A single piriform juglet base (Fig. 22:3) was found in the back

of the tomb. The surface of the juglet is almost totally deteriorated. This juglet and the shallow bowl (Fig. 21:1) found next to it may be associated either with the initial LB I interments or a late MB II burial. At Megiddo and Qashish this type continues from MB II until LB I (Loud 1948: Pl. 41:1–4; Bonfil 2003:286).

*Dipper Juglets* (N = 3).— None of the dipper juglets (Fig. 22:4, 5) were completely restorable. One of the juglets (Fig. 22:4) has a bag-shaped body and a slightly pointed base. These juglets are commonly found in MB II–Late Bronze Age assemblages.

*Cylindrical Juglets* (N = 10).— The cylindrical juglets (Fig. 22:6, 7) represent more than 50% of the juglet types. All have a double-coiled handle and either squared or slightly rounded shoulders. Cylindrical juglets are common in LB I graves at Bet She'an (Tombs 303, 42—Oren 1973: Figs. 25:7–9; 30:1–6) and Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 38:19, 20; 42:16; 45:15–17). Only a single sherd of a cylindrical juglet was found in the later LB II burial phase; it probably originated from the LB I phase.

#### *Lamps* (N = 2)

Only two lamps were associated with the LB I burial phase. The restorable lamp (Fig. 22:8) is thick and lopsided and has soot marks on the rim. The small quantity of lamps in the LB I

Fig. 22 ▶

No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Jug	1075
2	Jug	1095
3	Juglet	1467
4	Juglet	1098
5	Juglet	1318
6	Juglet	1158
7	Juglet	1161
8	Lamp	1241

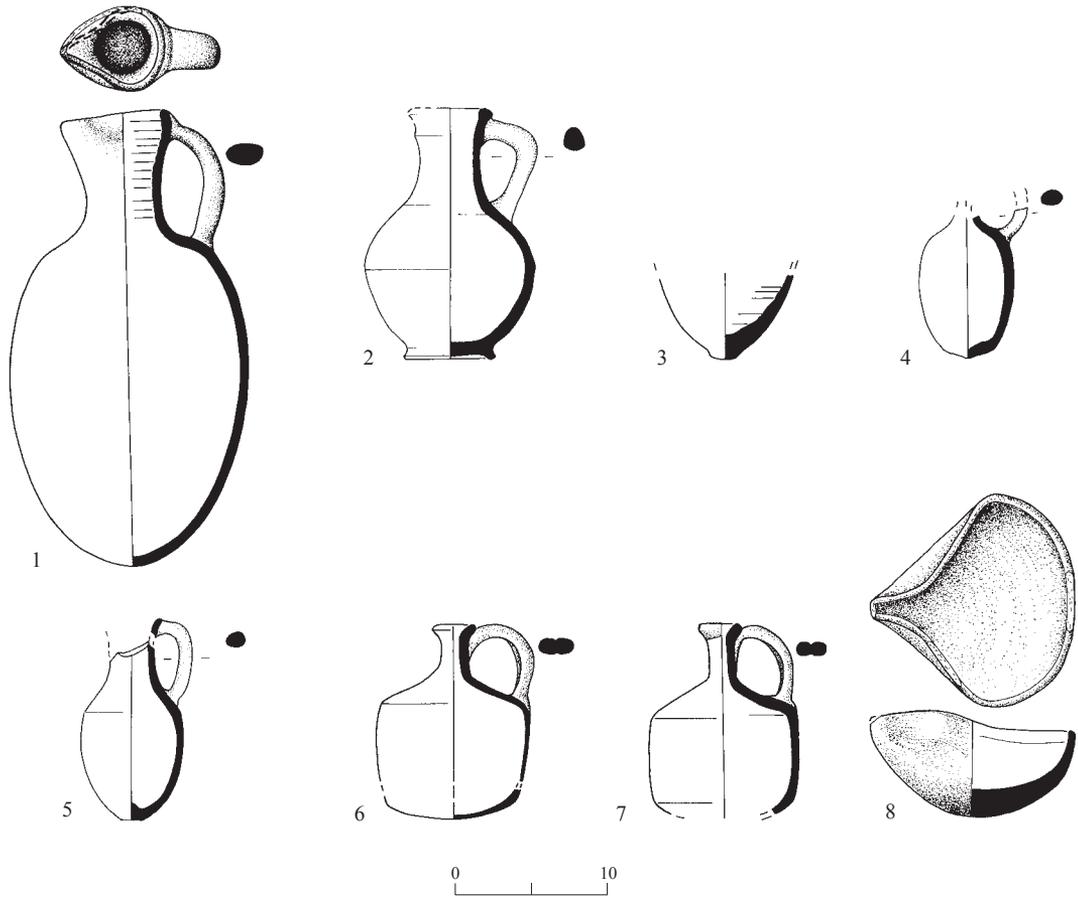


Fig. 22. Late Bronze Age I jugs, juglets and a lamp.

Layer II burial phase is striking in comparison to the preference for a greater number of lamps during LB II (see below).

*Vessels of Cypriot or North Syrian Origin*

*Monochrome I Bowl* (N = 2).— The monochrome bowls (Fig. 23:1, 2) are fragmentary and their surfaces are extremely eroded. One of the bowls has a preserved high wishbone handle (Fig. 23:2). A number of comparable bowls were found in the LB I phase of Yiftah'el Tomb 1 (Barda and Braun 2003: Fig. 8), Tomb 42 at Bet She'an (Oren 1973: Fig. 30:19, 20) and the early phase of Tomb 7 at Jatt (Yannai 2000: Fig. 8:87–88).

*Narrow Base Dipper Juglet (NBDJ)* (N = 2).— This juglet (Fig. 23:3) has a pinched mouth, a long neck and an ovoid body with sides that taper to a small flat base. Recent petrographic and typological studies of this juglet type indicate their manufacture on the Syrian-Lebanese coast (Yannai, Gorzalczany and Peilstöcker, forthcoming). The juglet from Zelef, undoubtedly of this type,<sup>6</sup> is similar to those found at Jatt (Yannai 2000: Fig. 5:54, 55) and in Megiddo Tomb 3028 Stratum IX (Loud 1948: Pl. 50:8).

*Black Lustrous Wheel-Made Ware (BLWM)* (N = 1).— This globular juglet (Fig. 23:4),

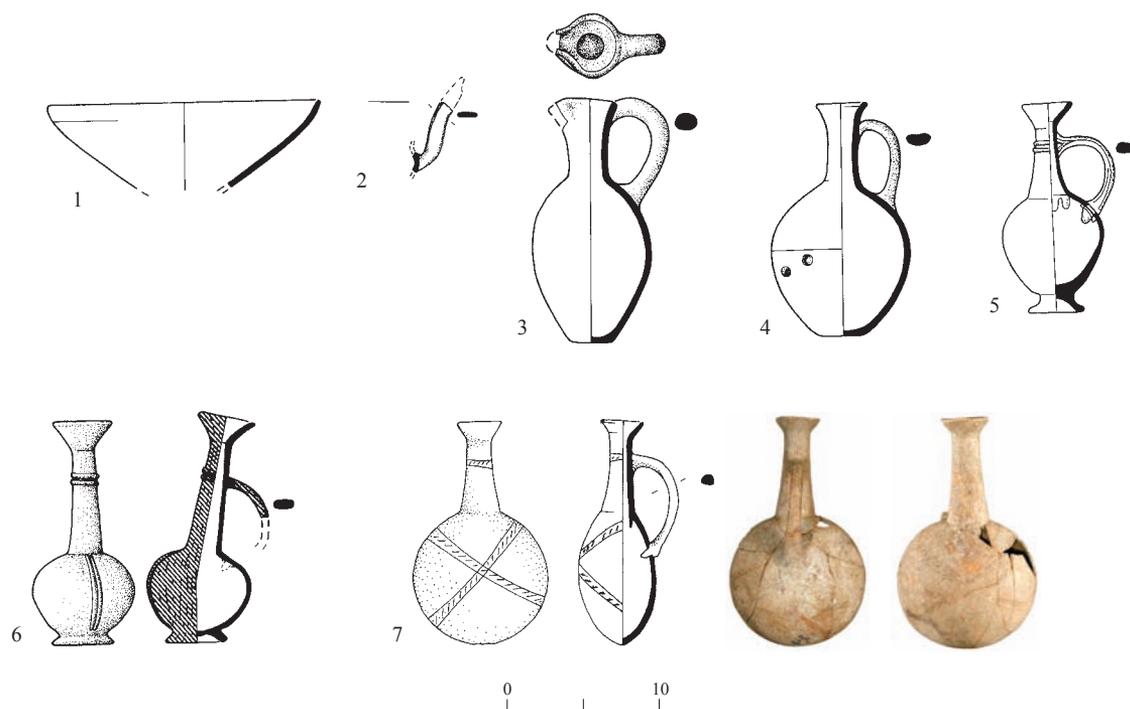


Fig. 23. Late Bronze Age I imported vessels from Cyprus or Syria.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Bowl	1148/1	Monochrome
2	Bowl	1149	Monochrome
3	Juglet	1155	NBDJ
4	Juglet	1153	BLWM
5	Juglet	1096	BR I
6	Juglet	1131	BR I
7	Flask	1156	BR II

with a high narrow neck, is of gray fabric, is burnished and has two intentional perforations through the wall. This juglet type is an important chronological anchor for the association of the earlier Late Bronze burial phase to the LB I period. It is very common in funerary contexts, e.g., in Bet She'an Tomb 42 (Oren 1973:77, Fig. 30:11–13) and Megiddo Tombs 1100A and 5040A (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 45:21; Loud 1948: Pl. 51:3). Two juglets of this type were also retrieved from a burial

cave (Tomb 1) at Yiftah'el (Barda and Braun 2003: Fig. 4:23, 24). A group of this juglet type was petrographically analyzed as Cypriot made (Yannai 2000:55), and according to the well-levigated clay, slightly carinated body and knife-paring on the handle, the Zelef juglet is also of Cypriot manufacture.<sup>7</sup>

*Base Ring I (BR I) Jugs* (N = 2).— Two unrestorable large BR I jugs (not illustrated) were associated with the early burial phase.<sup>8</sup>

*Base Ring I (BR I) Juglets* (N = 2).— Of the two smaller restorable BR I juglets, one has a trumpet-like base (Fig. 23:5) and an eroded surface. Another juglet (Fig. 23:6) has a ring base. It bears a red-burnished slip and is adorned with additional vertical plastic decoration on the globular body.<sup>9</sup> A similar juglet was found in Megiddo Tomb 217c (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 11:12) and associated with the LB I phase of Yiftah'el Tomb 1 (Barda and Braun 2003: Fig. 9:4).

*Base Ring II (BR II) Flask* (N = 1).— A lentoid flask (Fig. 23:7) with an off-side handle has an incised band around the neck and an incised × on the flat bowl part of the vessel opposite the handle. Similar flasks have been found in LB I Tomb 855 at Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 30:5; 43:13).

#### Other Finds

*Alabaster Vessels* (Fig. 24).— Two bag-shaped, calcite vessels were placed with the interments of the LB I phase. The smaller of the two vessels (Fig. 24:1), which was found undamaged and protruding from the modern section of the destroyed tomb (see Fig. 4), has a small flaring rim. The larger vessel (Fig. 24:2) was found almost entirely intact, with only the extended flaring rim partially broken. Similar vessels are well documented in Middle Bronze and Late Bronze Age burials. Vessels of the same size and rim types were found in LB I burials at Bet She'an (Oren 1973: Fig. 33:1–4) and Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 141:31; Loud 1948: Pl. 258:7, 10).

*Beads*.— Several beads were retrieved from this burial layer and their findspots are recorded on Plan 5. The beads were fabricated from different materials, such as carnelian, and were of various shapes and sizes. Unfortunately, the beads were destroyed post-excavation (see n. 3) and therefore, their documentation is partial. The beads attest that the deceased were adorned with beaded necklaces.

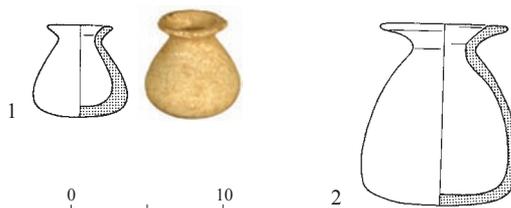


Fig. 24. Late Bronze Age I alabaster vessels: (1) Reg. No. 1014; (2) Reg. No. 1107.

Table 3. Layer II and I Toggle Pins

Reg. No.	Period	Type	Fig. No.
1239	LB I	Nail	25:1
1172	LB I	Nail	25:2
1276	LB I	Nail	25:3
1210	LB II	Nail	25:4
1277	LB I	Thickened	25:5
1334	LB I	Thickened	25:6
1166	LB I	Thickened	25:7
1073	LB I	Thickened	25:8
1304	LB I	Twisted	26:1
1120	LB I	Twisted	26:2
1091	LB I	Twisted	26:3
1168	LB I	Twisted	26:4

*Bronze Toggle Pins* (Figs. 25, 26).— Twelve bronze toggle pins were found in the tomb. All but one of the toggle pins were associated with the LB I burials (Table 3). The toggle pins were most likely used to fasten the cloth or animal skin shroud covering the deceased's body. The toggle pins are divided into three types: long, thin nail-head with horizontal ribbing (N = 4; Fig. 25:1–4); thickened head with deep parallel grooves (N = 4; Fig. 25:5–8); or a thin head with twisted, fluted ribbing (N = 4; Fig. 26). According to Henschel-Simon (1938: Pls. LXVIII–LXIX), these types are common during the Middle Bronze Age and the beginning of the Late Bronze Age (e.g., Bet She'an Tomb 42—Oren 1973: Fig. 34: 9; Yiftah'el Tomb 1—Barda and Braun 2003: Fig. 10).

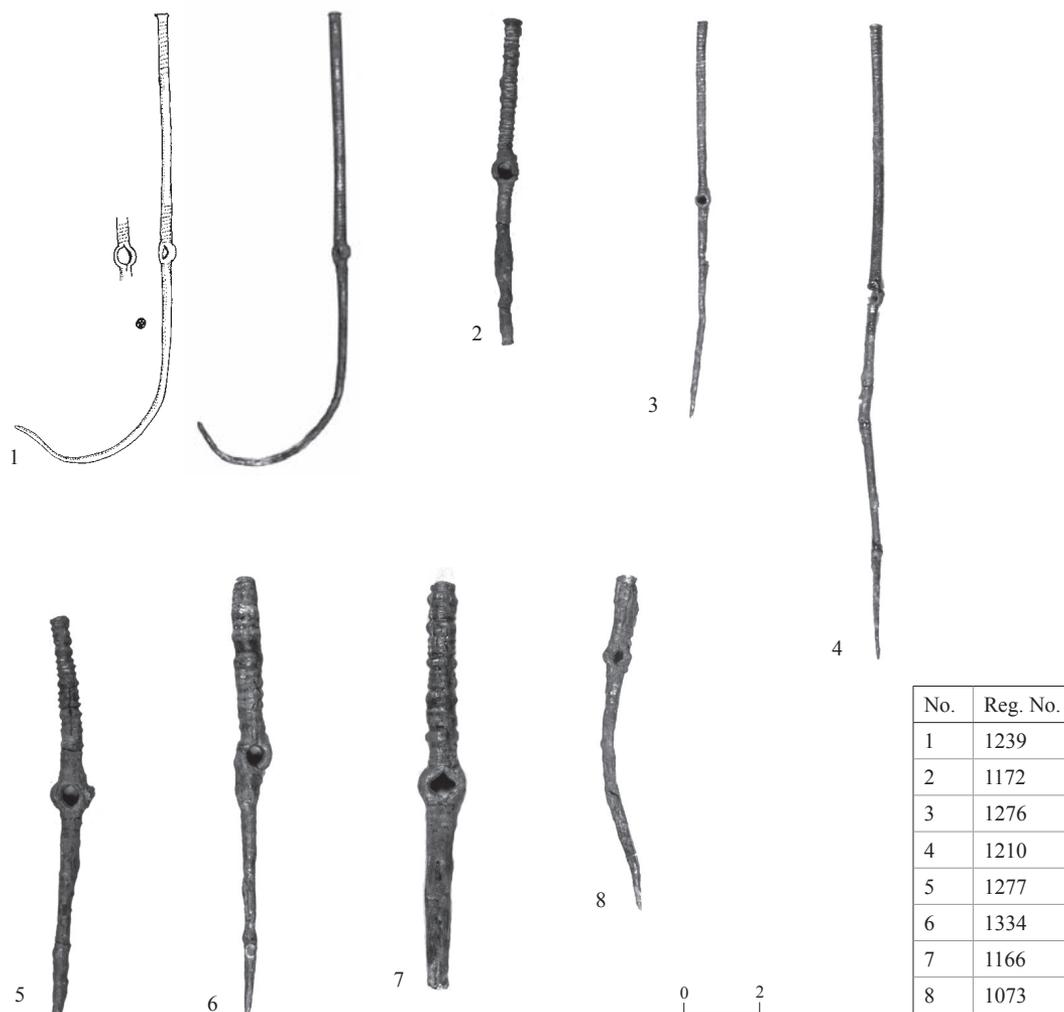


Fig. 25. Late Bronze Age I toggle pins—nail head (1–4), thickened (5–8).

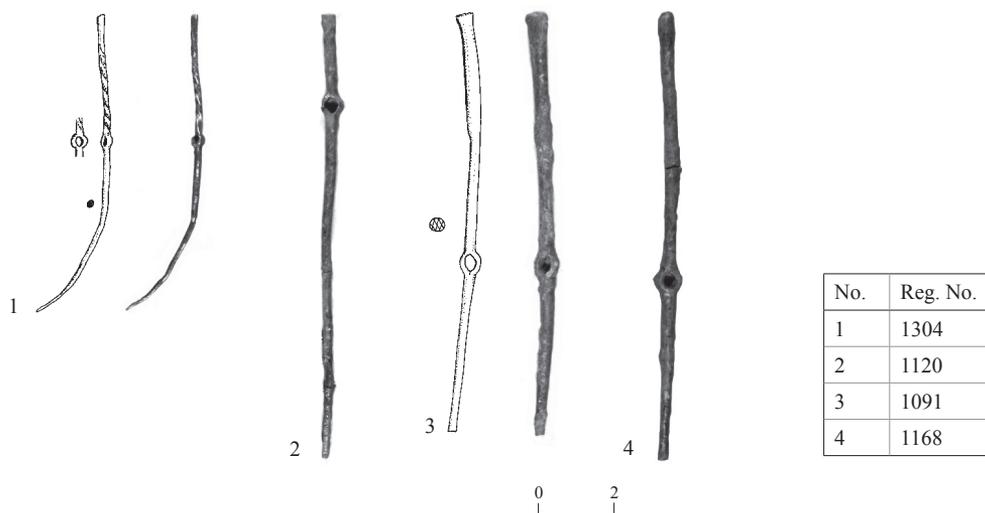


Fig. 26. Late Bronze Age I toggle pins—twisted.

*Bronze Blade.*— An intact bronze blade (Fig. 27:1) was found in the LB I burial phase. This implement is 12.5 cm long, has a circular-sectioned handle and a short flat blade measuring 18 mm at its widest point. An identical blade was found ‘undated’ in Megiddo Tomb 217A (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 90:2); note that this phase of Tomb 217A is dated to LB I.

*Bronze Earring.*— One bronze earring (Fig. 27:2) was found in the cave. It was fabricated from over-lapping, round-sectioned wires.

*Scarabs.*— Twelve engraved scarabs and two scarabs without engravings on the base were found associated with the LB I pottery vessels, indicating their deposition during the initial Late Bronze burial phase. One of the scarabs was found set in a bronze ring (Fig. 27:3). The scarabs, discussed separately (see Keel and Münger, this volume), are dated mostly to the Middle Kingdom, some are imported from Egypt and some are local products. Their placement within a well-dated LB I funerary

context upholds that these scarabs most likely had magical or religious significance. They were preserved for several generations as heirlooms, and finally used as a funerary deposit. Their placement in an LB I burial context indicates a continuation of MB IIB and MB IIC burial practices, as they are found in 40% of the tombs dated to these periods (see discussion in Hallote 1995:113).

### Summary

The pottery and other finds from this burial phase suggest a date early in LB I, i.e., the sixteenth–fifteenth centuries BCE. The pottery assemblage included well-dated local and imported vessels. The local vessels have parallels from very late MB IIB and early LB I contexts, such as Megiddo Strata X and IX and Tomb 855, Bet She’an Tombs 27, 29 and 42 and Jatt Tomb 7. Of prime chronological significance is the finding of the Black Lustrous Wheel-Made Ware juglet together with the BR I juglets and monochrome bowl. Black lustrous juglets overlapped Base Ring ware in

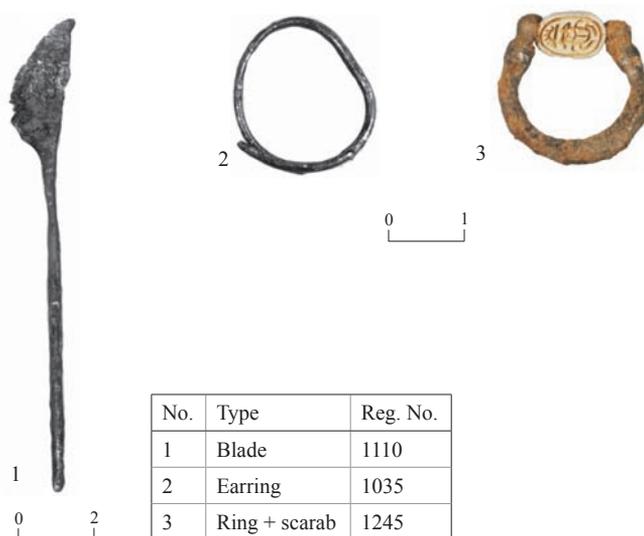


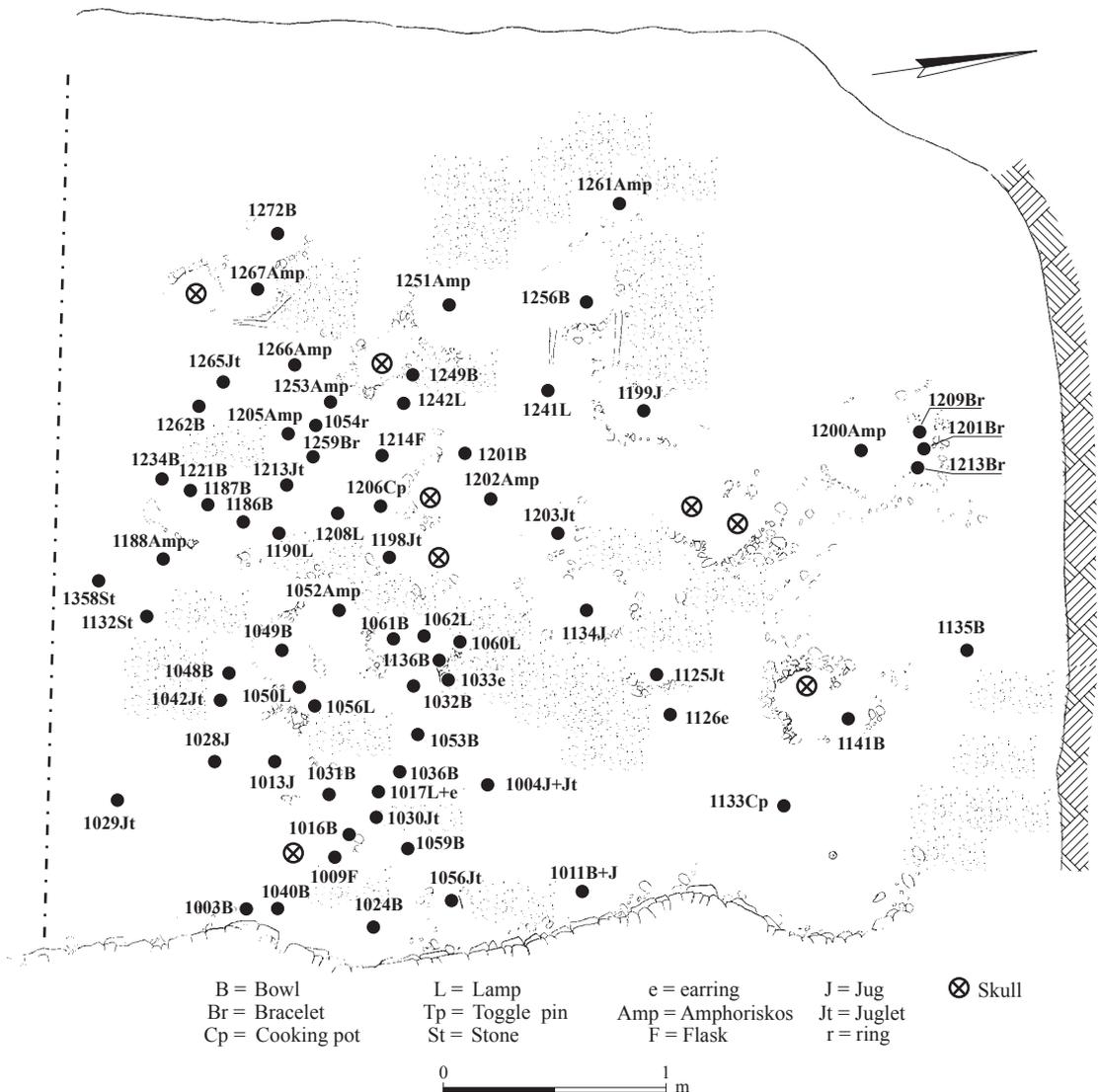
Fig. 27. Late Bronze Age I metal finds.

funerary contexts no earlier than the reign of Thutmose III, explicitly not later than the first half of the fifteenth century BCE (see discussion in Oren 1973:77). The local cylindrical juglet reinforces the LB I date of this burial phase.

The practice of puncturing pottery vessels, such as the BLWM juglet, is connected either to rendering such a vessel useless to grave robbers or to the funerary ritual of ‘killing’ an object to serve the deceased in the tomb.

LAYER I: LATE BRONZE AGE II

The earlier LB I burials were leveled at a height of 0.65 m below the tomb ceiling, where brown-colored soil was found. During the excavation, strewn and scattered bones were distinguished; however, the pottery vessels had been carefully laid to the side and subsequently stacked together (Fig. 28; Plan 6). Plant roots that had infiltrated into



Plan 6. Layer I, LB II burial phase (see n. 3).

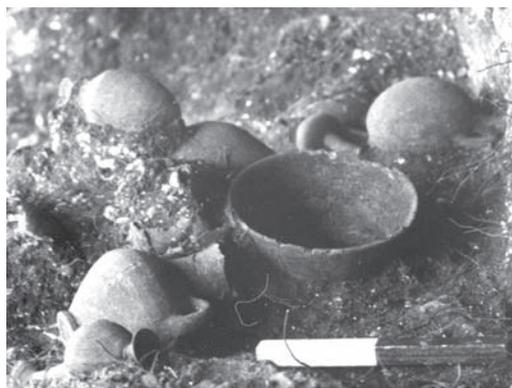


Fig. 28. Late Bronze Age II pottery vessels piled in the middle of the cave.



Fig. 29. Late Bronze Age II pottery vessels *in situ* (Figs. 30:12; 31:9).

the cave destroyed many of the skulls that otherwise might have been intact. Seven poorly preserved skulls were found mostly in the western part of the cave. Many stones and rocks were found atop the uppermost burial finds, presumably originating from the shaft-entrance blockage.

As this is the final burial phase of the tomb, an attempt was made to identify an articulated skeleton representing the last interment; however, no such skeleton was detected. Possibly associated with the last interment is a flask (Fig. 33:2) placed face up in a complete bowl (Fig. 30:2) next to a skull. It appears that the skull was intentionally placed inside the bowl. Two bowls (Fig. 30:1, 15), a biconical jug (Fig. 32:3) and a lamp (Fig. 33:7) were found alongside the bowl. Close to this group of bones and pottery vessels, beads and earrings (Figs. 36:1, 3) lay together, suggesting that plant roots had not pushed this interment far from its original place.

The pottery vessels were often nested inside one another, with smaller bowls and juglets in larger bowls. Lamps were also commonly stacked together. Some vessels were found standing upright, turned upside down or laid on their side (Fig. 29).

Scattered among the human remains and other burial goods were animal remains, mostly of goat/sheep, but also horse and pig

(Ron Kehati, pers. comm.). The choice body parts of the goat/sheep were cranial leg/foot parts that were low in meat weight.

### *The Pottery*

The pottery from this burial level includes both locally produced and imported vessels. There is an increase in the quantity of imported vessels compared with the earlier LB I burial phase. The ceramic repertoire includes forms such as cooking pots and flasks that were not deposited as burial goods in the Layer II phase.

#### *Local Bowls*

During the final burial level of the tomb, bowls were the most common pottery burial goods. The bowls are divided according to form: deep, open or carinated.

*Deep Hemispherical Bowl* (N = 1).— A single deep hemispherical bowl (Fig. 30:1) has a simple rim, rounded walls and a flat disc base. Similar bowls were dated to LB II in Megiddo Stratum VII (Loud 1948: Pl. 65:16) and in the late burial phase at Jatt (Yannai 2000: Fig. 9:93–97).

*Horizontal-Handled Bowl* (N = 1).— A single bowl-fragment (Fig. 30:3) of this type was noted

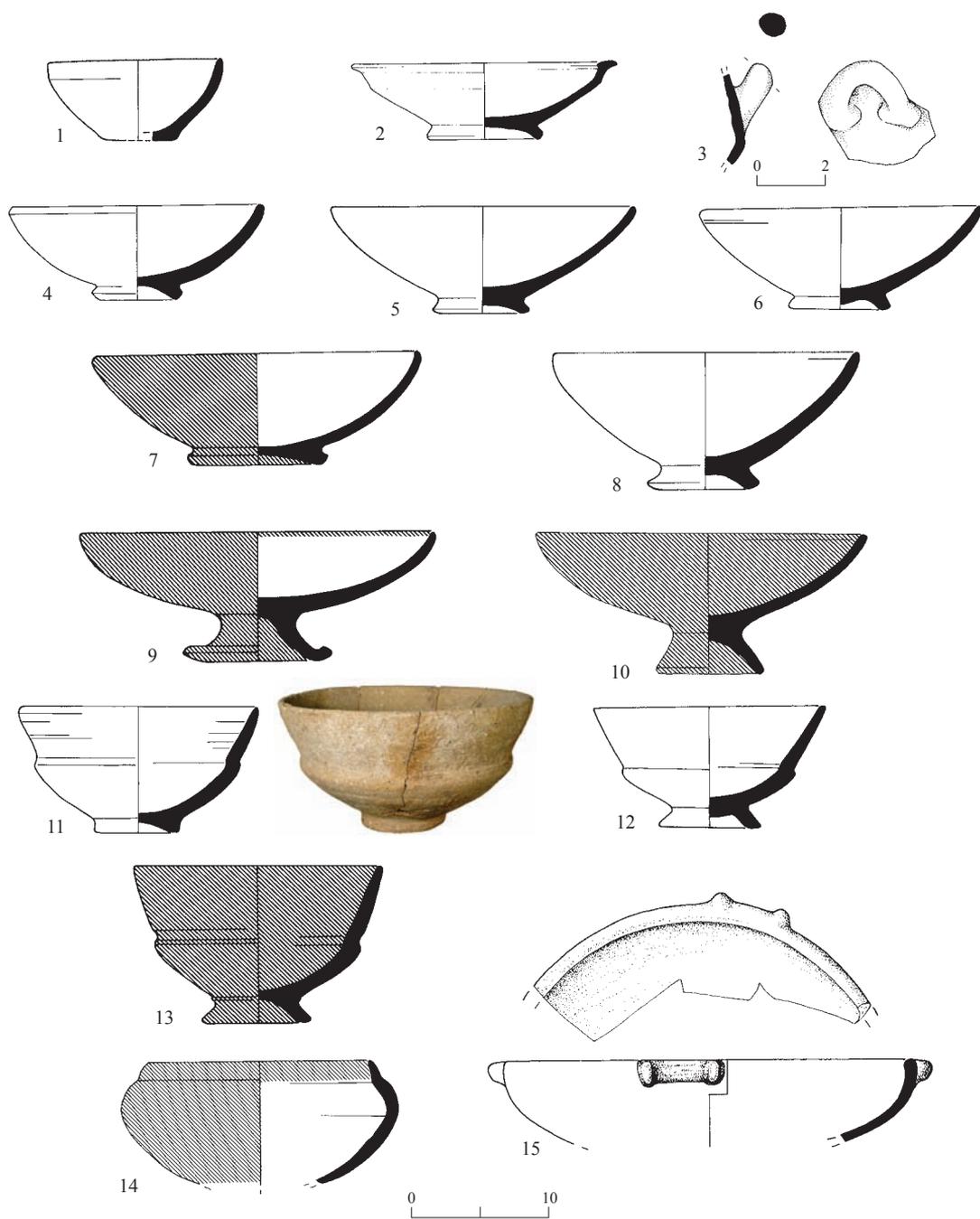


Fig. 30. Late Bronze Age II bowls.

No.	Reg. No.
1	1040
2	1016
3	1024
4	1011
5	1032
6	1272
7	1186
8	1136

No.	Reg. No.
9	1048
10	1187
11	1031
12	1256
13	1201
14	1141
15	1003

at Ḥ. Zelef. The horizontal-handled bowls are found during LB II in Megiddo Str. VIIA (Loud 1948: Pl. 70:2) and in Ḥazor Str. 1B, Tombs 8144, 8145 (Yadin et al. 1960: Pl. CXXX:1, 2).

*Open Bowls* (N = 21).— The large open bowls are similar in form to the LB I bowls. They have been subdivided according to base type, ranging from a thick, concave disc-base (Fig. 30:4, 5, 7) to a ring base (Fig. 30:6, 8) and a pedestal base (Fig. 30:9, 10).

*Vestigial Carinated Bowl* (N = 6).— This bowl type initially appears during LB I and increases in frequency during LB II. One of the illustrated bowls has a concave disc-base (Fig. 30:11) and two bowls have a higher ring base (Fig. 30:12, 13). The surface of most of the bowls had eroded; however, red slip covers the interior and exterior surfaces of a well-preserved bowl (Fig. 30:13). This type is found in Megiddo Str. VIII–VII (Loud 1948: Pl. 65:14) and is known in increasing numbers at Ḥazor in Tombs 8144 and 8145 (Yadin et al. 1960: Pl. CXXIX:1–15).

*Closed Carinated Bowls* (N = 2).— The closed carinated bowl (Fig. 30:14) bears red slip on the interior rim and the exterior.

*Bar-Handled Bowl* (N = 1).— A fragmentarily preserved bowl has rounded walls and a bar-handle attached at the rim (Fig. 30:15). This bowl type is common during late LB II in Megiddo Tombs 912B and 63E and Stratum VIIA (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 34:6; 62:7; Loud 1948: Pl. 69:6) and in the late burial phase at Jatt (Yannai 2000: Fig. 10:111).

#### *Cooking Pots* (N = 2)

Two well-preserved cooking pots (Fig. 31:1, 2) were found intact. The size of both pots is smaller than that of cooking pots found at settlement sites, indicating that they might have been produced specifically for placement with the dead. Soot marks were noted on one of the vessels (Fig. 31:2). Cooking pots do not usually

occur in high frequency relative to other types found in Bronze Age burials, and the number of these vessels at Ḥ. Zelef upholds this tradition. Similar cooking pots were interred in graves dating to LB II at Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 43:12; 54:2, 11; 64:37).

#### *Biconical Amphoriskoi* (N = 8)

These high-necked vessels have a biconical body with two loop handles placed at the shoulder. Three of the vessels have a straight-sided neck with an outturned rim (Fig. 31:3–5) and three more vessels have a more narrow, almost concave neck with a similar rim (Fig. 31:6–8). The high-necked amphoriskoi were well preserved, almost intact; however, the surface treatment had eroded on all but two vessels (Fig. 31:3, 4) with red slip on the exterior and upper interior surfaces. These vessels, termed biconical amphorae-kraters by Amiran (1969:147), are usually decorated with painted band and metope patterns on the upper part of the biconical body and on the neck. They are well documented in Bet She'an Tomb 27 (Oren 1973:79, Fig. 36:3–13) and according to Oren, they are a hybrid of an Anatolian vessel shape combined with a local Canaanite decoration (Oren 1973:79–81, and see references therein). Parallel vessels from stratified settlements are known from LB II Str. VI at Tel Qashish (Ben-Tor and Bonfil 2003:272, 275; Fig. 111:15) and LB I Areas R2, R1b at Bet She'an (Mullins 2007:436–438). An additional large amphoriskos has a more rounded carination (Fig. 31:9).

#### *Jugs* (N = 4)

Four jugs were placed in the tomb during the Layer I burial phase. There are three jug types, all of which are illustrated in the accompanying figure. One very fragmentary jug (Fig. 32:1) bears red slip and has incised bands on the shoulder.

The well-preserved dipper jug (Fig. 32:2) has a wide neck, a piriform body and a round base. Traces of red slip were found on the exterior. This jug type is known from the LB II burials in Ḥazor Tombs 8144 and 8145 (Yadin et al. 1960:

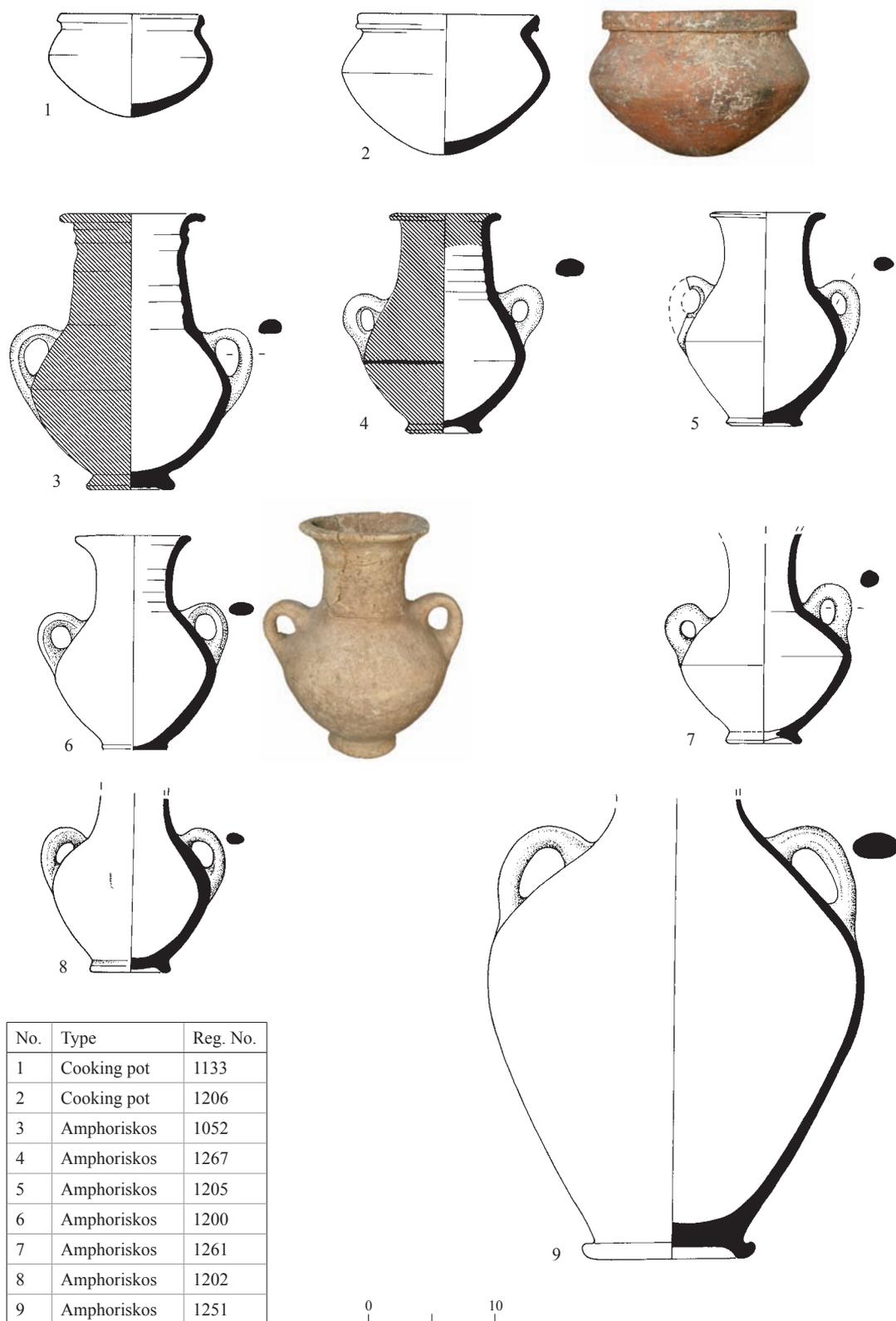


Fig. 31. Late Bronze Age II cooking pots and amphoriskoi.

Pl. CXXXII:9–14) and in Qashish Str. VI (Ben-Tor and Bonfil 2003: Fig. 109:1).

The biconical jug (Fig. 32:3), possibly related to one of the last interments, has a very eroded surface and it is not determinable if it was decorated. The biconical jug, a common Late Bronze Age form, has an everted molded rim, a carination slightly below mid-body and a small ring base. This vessel type is frequently found with painted decoration on the upper body. Additional jugs from mortuary contexts in the region include Bet She'an Tombs 27 and 29

(Oren 1973: Figs. 37:15; 39:20) and Megiddo Tombs 877A, 1145B (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pls. 12:21; 51:1).

*Juglets* (N = 4)

The dipper juglets (Fig. 32:4–6) have a squat or ovoid form, a round or pointed base and a circular loop handle emanating from rim to shoulder. One juglet (Fig. 32:6) was intact; it has a pinched mouth. The ceramic stopper (Fig. 32:7; see below) fits snugly into this juglet as shown in the photograph in Fig. 32:6.

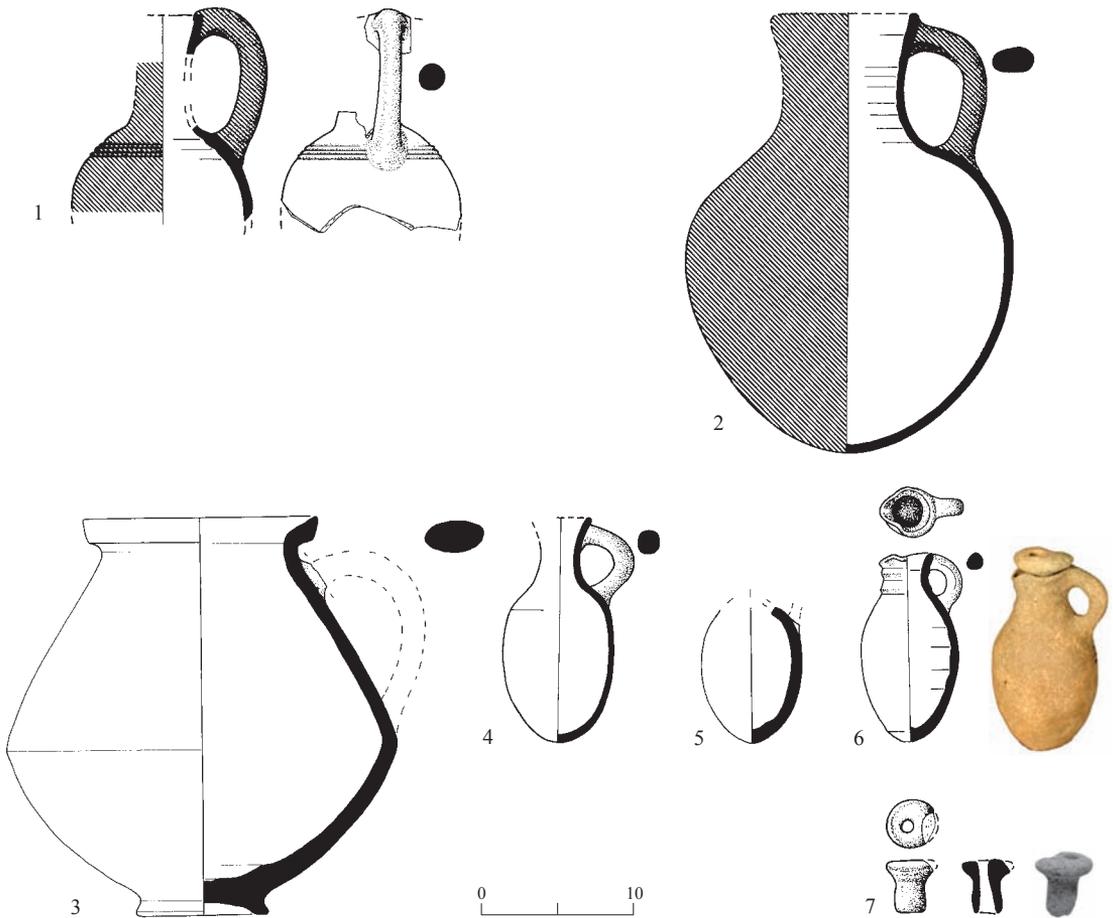


Fig. 32. Late Bronze Age II jugs and juglets.

No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Jug	1011
2	Jug	1028
3	Biconical jug	1013
4	Juglet	1198

No.	Type	Reg. No.
5	Juglet	1125
6	Juglet	1030
7	Stopper	1023

*Stopper.*— A fired clay object (Fig. 32:7) is cylindrical with a vertical perforation. It is apparently a stopper and, as noted, fits snugly into the neck of a dipper juglet (Fig. 32:6) found close by.

*Flasks (N = 2)*

Two flasks were found: a large one, with round-sectioned handles (Fig. 33:1), which continues the earlier, LB I flask type, and a smaller, more lentoid-shaped flask with flat handles (Fig. 33:2), comparable to vessels of the later Late Bronze Age. Similar flasks of both dimensions, often bearing painted decoration, are known

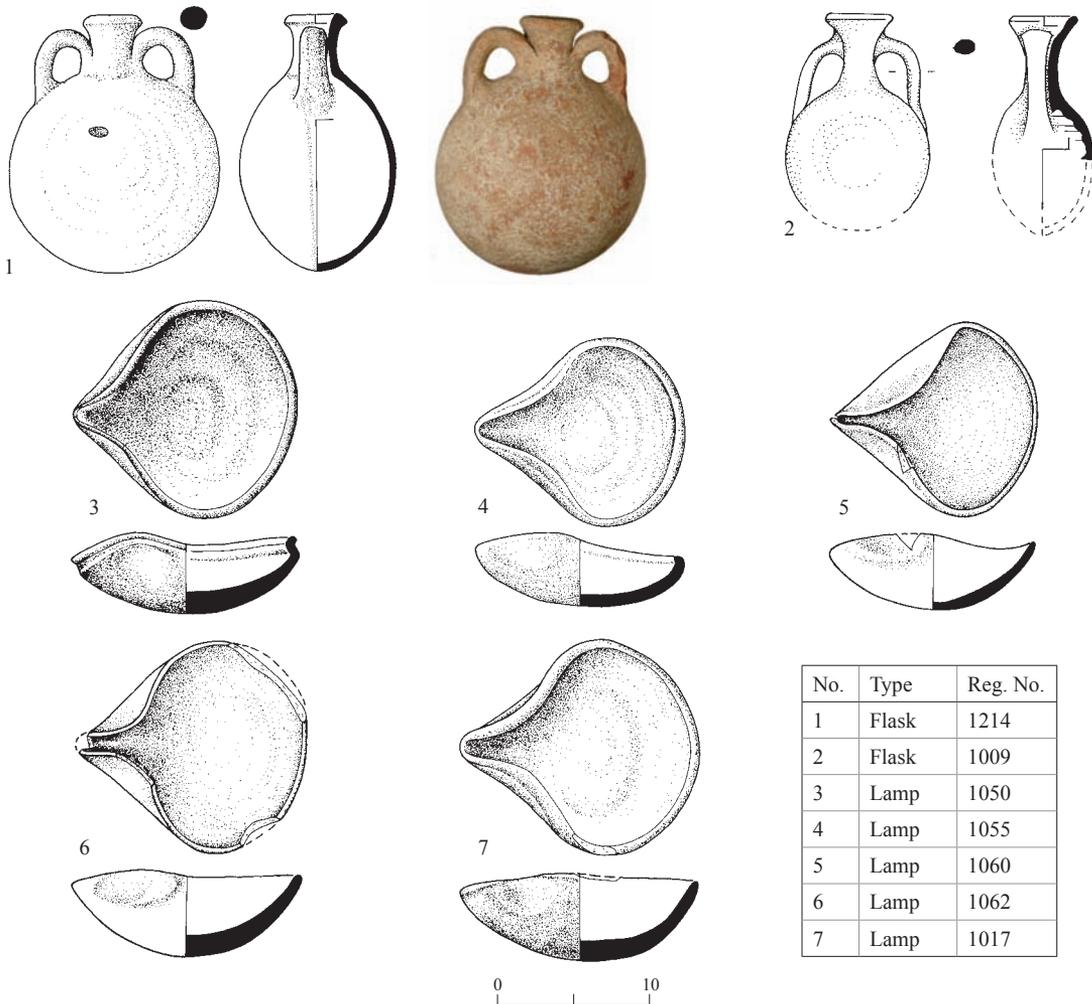
from burial contexts at Jatt (late burial phase—Yannai 2000: Fig. 11:123–127).

*Lamps (N = 8)*

A total of eight lamps (Fig. 33:3–7) were found, either whole or restorable. The pinched nozzles of the lamps all bear signs of soot from burning oil. One of the lamps (Fig. 33:3) has a distinct everted rim as opposed to the simple rim of the other lamps.

*Imported Cypriot Vessels*

*White Slip Ware Milk Bowl (N = 1).*— This complete hemispherical bowl (Fig. 34:1) was



No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Flask	1214
2	Flask	1009
3	Lamp	1050
4	Lamp	1055
5	Lamp	1060
6	Lamp	1062
7	Lamp	1017

Fig. 33. Late Bronze Age II flasks and lamps.

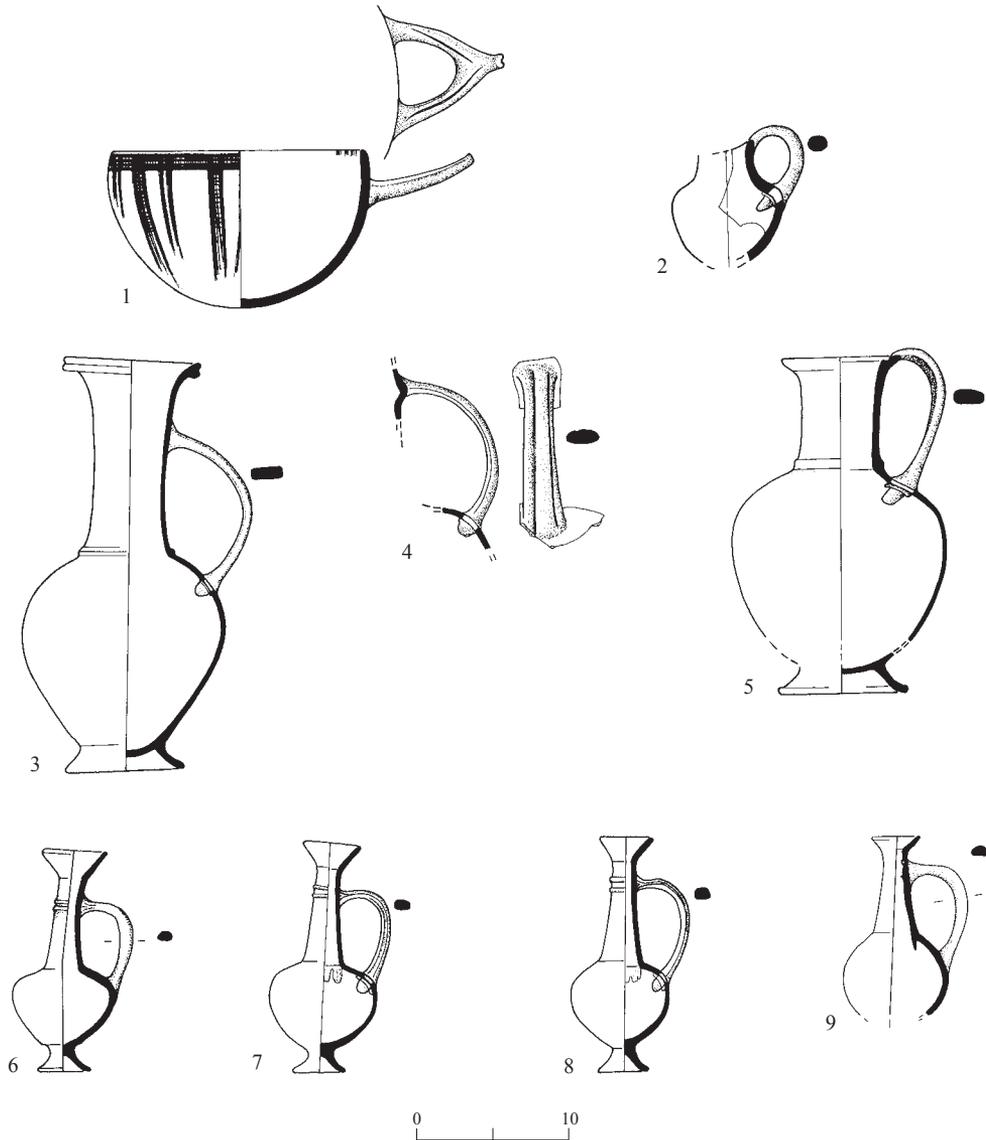


Fig. 34. Late Bronze Age II imported bowl, jugs and juglets.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Bowl	1135	WS II
2	Juglet	1004	WS
3	Jug	1199	BR II
4	Jug	1004/2	BR II
5	Jug	1134	BR?
6	Juglet	1203	BR I
7	Juglet	1265	BR I
8	Juglet	1213	BR I
9	Juglet	1042	BR I

found overturned alongside the northern wall of the tomb. It has a complete wishbone handle and a horizontal lattice pattern band on the rim with a vertical alternating ladder pattern and plain bands below, typical of White Slip II Type, e.g., in Bet She'an Tomb 27 (Oren 1973: Fig. 37:11).

*White Slip Juglet* (N = 1).— A single, wide-necked White Slip Ware juglet (Fig. 34:2) was found near a large Base Ring jug handle (Fig. 34:4). This partially preserved juglet has a high loop handle from rim to shoulder.

*Base Ring Jugs (BR I or BR II) Jugs* (N = 5).— Four large BR jugs are similar in form to the jug illustrated in Fig. 34:3. These large jugs are fabricated from a grayish clay; the surface of the jugs is mostly deteriorated. Some have vertical incised lines on the handle (cf. Fig. 34:4). One jug (Fig. 34:5) is unique and has a shorter neck and a wider body similar in form to the Bucchero jugs.

*Base Ring II Juglets* (N = 7).— All of the complete or restorable juglets (Fig. 34:6–8) of this type have a trumpet-like base. One juglet (Fig. 34:9) has a more globular body than the others.

### Other Finds

Non-ceramic burial goods include domestic stone objects and metal objects, some of which were used for personal adornment.

*Whorl*.— Stone spindle whorls, similar to the one (Fig. 35:1) found in the LB II burial phase, are known from other Late Bronze Age tombs, e.g., at 'Akko (Ben-Arieh and Edelstein 1977: Fig. 14:16–18). Bone whorls were found in Bet She'an Tomb 42 (LB I; Oren 1973: Fig. 34:6, 7).

*Rubbing Stone*.— An intact basalt (pumice) rubbing stone (Fig. 35:2) lay close to the southern section of the cave, in close proximity to the spindle whorl (see above).

*Earrings*.— One of the bronze<sup>10</sup> earrings (Fig. 36:1) has a pendant formed by a number of small granules. Two additional earrings (Fig. 36:2, 3) are fabricated from overlapping round-sectioned wires.

*Bronze Rings*.— A single bronze ring (Fig. 36:4) was restorable; fragments of additional rings were also found. Similar bronze rings

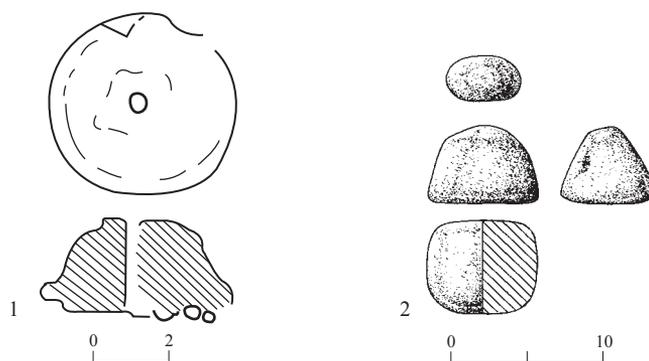


Fig. 35. Late Bronze Age II miscellaneous small finds.

No.	Type	Reg. No.	Description
1	Whorl	1358	Stone
2	Pumice rubbing stone	1132	Stone

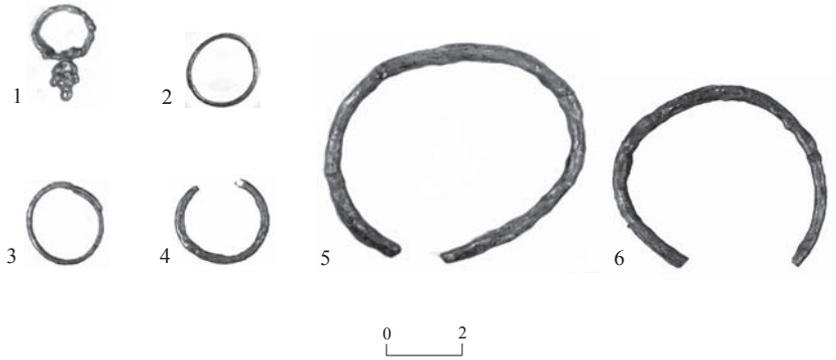


Fig. 36. Late Bronze Age II earrings, ring and bracelets.

No.	Type	Reg. No.
1	Earring	1017
2	Earring	1126
3	Earring	1033
4	Ring	1254
5	Bracelet	1259
6	Bracelet	1209

came from LB II Tomb 877 at Megiddo (Guy and Engberg 1938: Pl. 95:37–39).

*Bracelets.*— Two bracelets (Fig. 36:5, 6), probably of bronze,<sup>11</sup> are plain, open-ended and round in section, with tapering at the ends.

*Bronze Object.*— A unique bronze object (Fig. 37) is cylindrical with a capped end and is apparently some type of cap or dagger pommel.

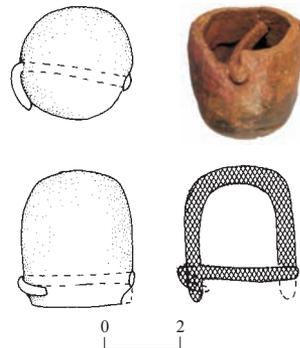


Fig. 37. Late Bronze Age metal object (Reg. No. 1252).

*fibula(?)*.— A single unstratified find, probably a bronze fibula (Fig. 38), was found associated with the soil that infiltrated into the cave post-burial usage. The possibility that this fibula is associated with the Layer I, LB II burial phase is based on a similar fibula from Megiddo Str. VIIA (Loud 1948: Pl. 223:75).

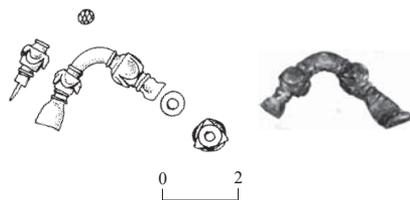


Fig. 38. Bronze fibula(?) (Reg. No. 1002).

### *Summary*

The latest burial phase in the H. Zelef cave, Layer I, is dated to the fourteenth–thirteenth centuries BCE. During this phase, the most dominant pottery vessel is the bowl that was often stacked together with lamps. Both the local and non-local types are dated firmly to LB II and comparanda are known from Tomb 877 and Str. VII at Megiddo, the later Late Bronze Age burial phase at Jatt, and Tombs 27 and 29 at Bet She'an.

### CONCLUSIONS

The present report has attempted to study the burial practices relating to the treatment of human remains and the significance of the accompanying grave goods for each burial phase represented at the tomb. The periodic use of the cave for burial suggests that the inhabitants of the adjacent site at Ḥorbat Zelef knew of its existence throughout the years. It is conceivable that during the various burial phases this cave functioned as a family tomb; however, there was no physical evidence to support this theory.

#### *Early Bronze Age I*

The hewing of the burial cave during EB IB corresponds to the initial settlement at Ḥorbat Zelef. The acquiring of prestige items, such as the axehead placed in the cave, is indicative of the wealth and access to exchange networks of at least some of the inhabitants of the site during this period. The pottery assemblage is most similar to and contemporary with mortuary assemblages in the Jezreel Valley, such as Megiddo and Ha-Zore'a, as well as with Tel Esur in the Menashe area; however, there are also parallels to the EB I assemblages in areas further to the north, such as Asherat (Smithline 2001) and Gadot (Greenberg 2001), which bear significance for the study of the cultural affinities or identity of the inhabitants of Ḥorbat Zelef during the late fourth millennium BCE.

#### *Early Bronze Age IIIB*

To date, only common ware of EB IIIA has been found in the surface survey of Ḥorbat Zelef (Getzov 2010). The absence of retrieved EB IIIB pottery sherds at Ḥorbat Zelef does not rule out the occupation of the site during this period. It is conceivable, however, that despite the 3 km distance from the excavated tomb, the EB III settlement at Tel Qishyon, with large quantities of Khirbet Kerak Ware, buried its inhabitants on the slopes of Mt. Tabor. In a recent study, it has been determined petrographically that Tel Qishyon was a major production center for KKW (Zuckerman, Ziv and Cohen-Weinberger 2009); therefore, we can expect to find vessels of this ware placed as burial goods at contemporary tombs in the surrounding area.

#### *Intermediate Bronze Age*

It is more common to find tombs newly hewn during the Intermediate Bronze Age than a tomb dating to this period that reused an earlier cave. The superposition of the earlier burials with a stone pavement is both symbolic and also conforms to funerary architecture known from contemporary tombs (see below) where pavements also overlay bedrock.

The reuse of the tomb during the Intermediate Bronze Age indicates the presence of a site dated to this period in the immediate vicinity of the tomb. The survey at Ḥorbat Zelef did not reveal pottery sherds dating to this period. It is possible that a contemporary settlement is located closer to the valley floor, at the juncture between the slopes and the valley, perhaps at the bottom of the spur upon which Ḥorbat Zelef rests. A similar pattern of Intermediate Bronze Age settlements positioned close to the valley floor and their associated cemeteries on the hillside has been noted at nearby Ḥorbat Qishron (Smithline 2002:45\*) in the western Galilee (Getzov 1995:16\*–17\*) and at 'En el-Ḥilu in the Jezreel Valley (Covello-Paran, forthcoming[a]).

Additional Intermediate Bronze Age rock-hewn tombs have been excavated in the vicinity, e.g., at the village of Kafr Kama,

where a double-chambered shaft tomb contained multiple interments accompanied by burial goods, such as jugs (some red slipped), spouted vessels, storage jars and a bottle (Haya Ben-Nahum, pers. comm.). An additional rock-hewn tomb, part of a cemetery dating to the Intermediate Bronze Age and Iron I, was exposed in the southern part of the village (Covello-Paran 2008).

The construction of architectural elements, such as a stone pavement or a stone partition, is a common feature of contemporaneous nearby burial caves, e.g., Kafr Kama Tomb III (Covello-Paran 2008:85, Plan 5), Khirbat Naṣr ed-Din Tomb 1 (Alexandre 1999: Plan 1) and Ha-Zore'a (Meyerhof 1989:141). The absence of metal tools or weapons in the Ḥ. Zelef tomb is in contrast to contemporary tombs in the region, e.g., Tiberias (Tzaferis 1968; Alexandre 1999), yet could be the result of the modern disturbance and destruction of almost half the tomb.

The break in the use of the tomb between the Intermediate Bronze Age and LB I probably reflects an occupation gap at the nearby settlement. Alternatively, the inhabitants may have preferred other burial grounds.

#### *Late Bronze Ages I and II*

During Late Bronze Ages I and II at least 27 individuals, juveniles and adults, were interred in the tomb (see Nagar, this volume), suggesting that the cave was used as a family tomb during these periods.

The dating of the first burial phase of the cave during the Late Bronze Age is securely attributed to early LB I; following this phase there was a gap. There are a number of Late Bronze Age settlements in the region, such as Tel Qishyon (Cohen-Arnon and Amiran 1981; Gal 1998:53\*), identified by Zori (1977) as Kishion on Thutmose III's list of conquered cities and in the Bible's rendering of the inheritance of Issachar.

Comparative observations of the LB II burial with the earlier LB I burial may shed light on the development of burial practices at Ḥorbat

Zelef. The orientation of the bodies in either phase could not be determined due to the bone heaps and poor state of preservation. In both Late Bronze Age phases, animal offerings were mostly goat/sheep heads and legs; however, these offerings were much more common during the earlier LB I phase.

Several items uncovered among the LB I burials reveal personal affluence, such as the bronze, carnelian and alabaster objects, as well as the scarab seals. Notable also is the large quantity of imported Cypriot pottery vessels that are symbolic of wealth, especially during the LB II phase. There is a remarkable difference in the interment of specific items of adornment between the LB I and II burial phases. Whether the almost total absence of toggle pins during the later LB II phase is indicative of changing burial practices in terms of the way the deceased was shrouded is not conclusive due to the fragmentary nature of the evidence. It could suggest, however, that these shrouds were no longer fastened with a toggle pin. All the other jewelry, such as earrings and bracelets, was found in association with the LB II burial goods; the only ring found in the LB I burial phase had a scarab attached to it. Do these observations indicate that LB I burial practices are closer to those practiced in the earlier MB II period? Moreover, what might the absence of scarabs in the later LB II period suggest?

The location of the burial cave in relation to Ḥorbat Zelef, opposite it and within direct view of it, suggests that the cave is part of a burial site for inhabitants of Ḥorbat Zelef or of an additional site in the immediate vicinity. The continuous use of the tomb is evidence that this slope functioned as the traditional burial grounds for this settlement. The reuse of older tombs is a way of claiming territory through ancestral ties. Reinterment following each settlement gap conceivably underscores this practice. Notably, each period during which the tomb was in use followed a gap: between EB IB and EB III; between the Intermediate Bronze Age and LB I; and between LB I and

LB II.<sup>12</sup> This pattern of use of the cave might mirror the gap in settlement at Ḥorbat Zelef;

however, this can only be upheld by further study of the settlement site.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The salvage excavation (Permit No. A-2555) was directed by the author on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority. Assistance was provided by Haim Lavi and Yossi Yaakoby (administration), Israel Vatkin and Dov Perotsky (surveying), Gila Midbari, Hagit Tahan and Carmen Hersch (drawing of finds), Yossi Nagar (physical anthropology), Ron Kehati (archaeozoology), Leea Porat (pottery restoration), Othmar Keel and Stefan Mürger (scarabs), Anat Cohen-Weinberger (petrography), Anastasia Shapiro (identification of minerals), Lena Kuperschmidt (metal restoration), Howard Smithline (photography) and Clara Amit (photography of finds). The author thanks Eli Yannai for assistance with the imported pottery finds.

<sup>2</sup> The locus numbers represent the order of the excavation; they do not always correspond with the defined burial layers discussed. The reader should thus refer to the five distinct burial layers and disregard locus numbers, unless they refer to an architectural feature. As a result of this distinction, the finds from the different burial layers are presented according to Reg. No. and burial layer, while the locus numbers are omitted.

<sup>3</sup> In 1997, an arson attack was carried out on the IAA northern region offices, where the finds from the excavation and their documentation were stored. As a result, there are instances in this report in which the documentation is partial. The destruction of many small finds, such as metal objects and beads, prevented full research thereof. For this reason, some of the finds, whose location is marked by Reg. No. on the plans, are not discussed in the text, and

vice versa, some of the finds that are presented in the text are missing from the plans.

<sup>4</sup> These jars are not to be confused with the Early Bronze Age Metallic Ware of northern provenience.

<sup>5</sup> The juglet count includes juglet rims not typologically definable.

<sup>6</sup> The author thanks Eli Yannai and Amir Gorzalczy for examining the Zelef juglet and attributing it to the NBDJ type. The Ḥ. Zelef juglet was not studied petrographically; however, the light pink clay with many minute red and white inclusions is characteristic of these imported vessels.

<sup>7</sup> The author thanks Eli Yannai and Amir Gorzalczy for these observations on the Ḥ. Zelef BLWM juglet.

<sup>8</sup> The present study adheres to the traditional division of Base Ring Ware as defined by Sjoqvist. The deteriorated, peeled-off surface of most Ḥ. Zelef vessels does not permit classification according to Vaughan's technological division (Vaughan 1991).

<sup>9</sup> This juglet is classified by Vaughan (1991) as Red-Polished Base Ring Ware and is contemporary with BR I.

<sup>10</sup> The metal artifacts were not subject to metallurgical analysis. Metal types are based on observation during the cleaning and preservation process of the metal finds.

<sup>11</sup> The bronze artifacts were examined in the laboratory.

<sup>12</sup> The dating of the pottery finds does not indicate continuous use of the tomb throughout the Late Bronze Age.

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