

## GLASS FINDS FROM THE MAGEN AVRAHAM COMPOUND, YAFO (JAFFA)

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### INTRODUCTION

The excavation in the Magen Avraham Compound (see Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume) yielded a small number of glass finds, including mainly bottles and bracelets from the late Ottoman–British Mandate periods, between the end of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>1</sup> These finds were retrieved from several contexts in almost all excavation areas, including the well-house complex in Areas X and XW and the adjacent agricultural field in Areas A and B (Strata II–I; see Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume). Also found were a few very small fragments from the late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods, and six blue-colored beads of an unknown date, which are not discussed in this report.

### THE FINDS

#### *Bottles* (Fig. 1)

Bottle No. 1 is complete, with an elongated oval shape and a thick wall. It bears the inscription “SPINNEY’S” on the body, a label of a convenience store chain that imported goods from Britain to Palestine during the days of the British Mandate; nowadays, it is a Middle Eastern supermarket chain (*Spinneys: History*).

1. L99, B999D. Complete bottle. Light greenish glass. Patches of thick, silvery weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Made in a two-part mold, the seam clearly visible. Elongated body with flat bottom. Thick wall. Height 21 cm.

Bottle No. 2 is an incomplete vessel, part of the neck and the rim missing. A molded manufacturer’s mark on the body of the bottle displays a heart at the center of a circle below a Hebrew inscription לב שמח (joyful heart). The central circle is surrounded by a band

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Fig. 1. Bottles from the late Ottoman–British Mandate periods.

divided into two parts, one with the Hebrew inscription אליהו ערב-תל אביב, and the other with its English translation E. AROV-TEL AVIV. The manufacturer of this bottle could not be identified. A bottle with a similar Hebrew inscription, although of a different name and city, was found on Yehuda Ha-Yammit Street, Yafa (Ouahouna 2019: No. 3). That bottle, of which other identical examples are known from private collections, may have been a

container for carbonated beverages. The present example, for which no parallels have been found, may have been produced for a one-time event.

2. L350, B3502. Incomplete bottle. Very light bluish glass, covered by a layer of white weathering and iridescence. The glass is thick (0.5–0.9 cm) and the bottle is somewhat heavy. Made in a two-part mold, the seam clearly visible on the wall. Preserved height 16.5 cm.

Bottle Nos. 3 and 4 are nearly complete, only the rims are missing. They bear the label of the well-known producer of mineral water “PERRIER” on their bottom.

3. L99, B999B/1. Incomplete bottle. Green glass. Thick wall. Made in a two-part mold, the seam clearly visible on the wall. Oval body and flat base with inscription. Preserved height 15 cm.

4. L99, B999B/2. Incomplete bottle. Green glass. Thick wall. Made in a two-part mold, the seam clearly visible on the wall. Oval body and flat base with inscription. Preserved height 19 cm.

Bottle No. 5 (not illustrated) is most probably a perfume bottle, with the remains of an illegible pasted label on the body.

5. L22 B65. Complete bottle. Colorless glass, covered by weathering and pitting. Made in a two-part mold, the seam clearly visible on the wall up to the rim’s edge. Grooved rim. Rounded body, decorated with horizontal grooves. A label, of which only a bluish-yellowish fragment remains, is pasted on the center of the body. Height 8.5 cm.

It is noteworthy that bottle Nos. 1, 3 and 4 were found together in a lime pit(?) that was part of the late Ottoman–British Mandate-period well-house complex (see Arbel and Rauchberger, this volume).

### *Bracelets* (Fig. 2)

Fourteen small fragments of glass bracelets were found, belonging to either plain or twisted, monochrome or polychrome varieties; some of the twisted bracelets exhibit applications and others are faceted on their exterior surface. The plain (Nos. 1, 2 ) and twisted (Nos. 4–9) bracelet types were very common from the Mamluk through the Ottoman period, continuing until modern times (Shindo 2001). Polychrome bracelet No. 10 is noteworthy for its hollow rounded section. The faceted group of bracelets, of which examples from four different subtypes were found (Fig. 2:11–14), is less known, and appears to be of a late date, possibly the twentieth century. The largest local production center of glass bracelets during the Ottoman period was Hebron; however, other workshops existed at that time as well (Spaer 2001:198).

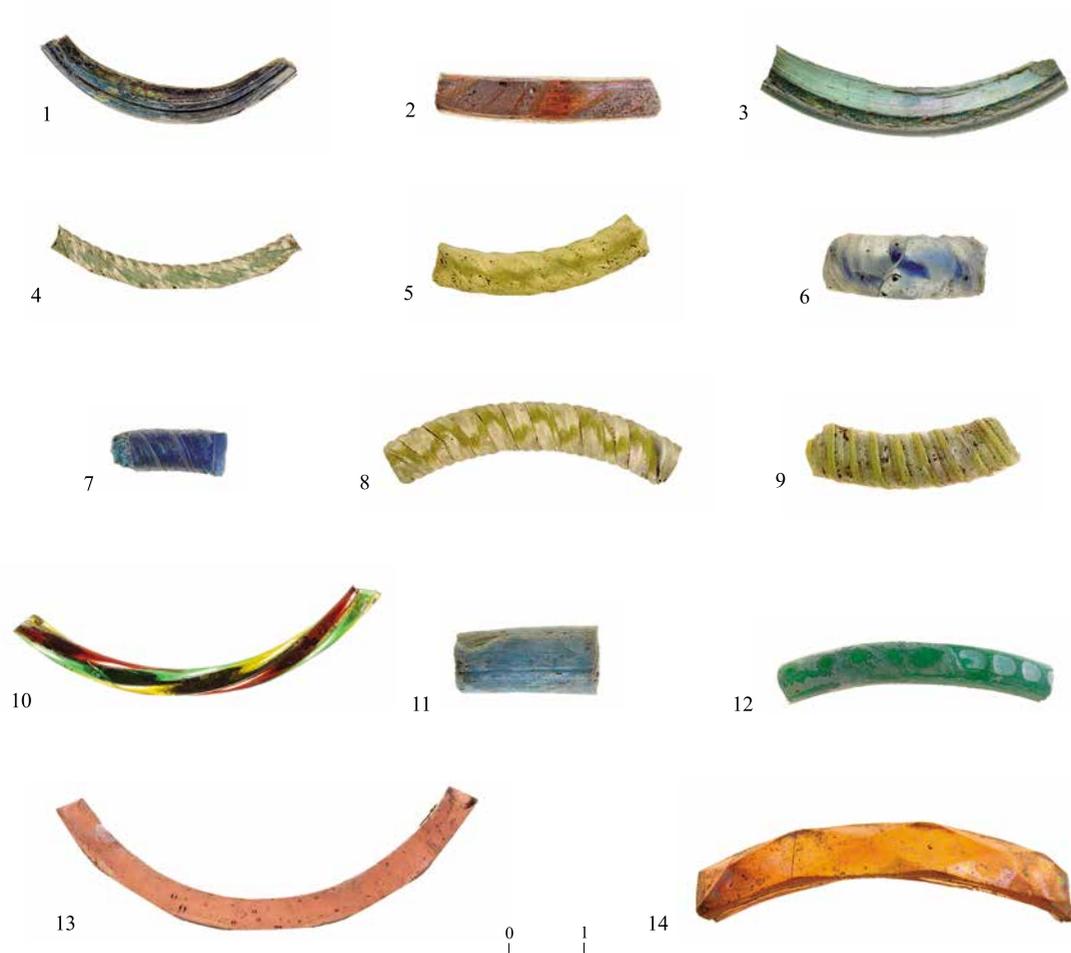


Fig 2. Bracelets from the late Ottoman–British Mandate periods.

No.	Locus	Basket	Color	Description
1	669	6568	Dark	Plain with D-section
2	540	5238	Brownish	Plain with D-section
3	831	8050	Light blue	Triangular section with greenish trail applied on the pointed edge
4	669	6567	Light green	Monochrome and twisted; rounded section
5	200	2501	Yellow	Monochrome and twisted; rounded section
6	202	2039	Bluish	Monochrome and twisted; rounded section
7	381	3559	Blue	Twisted with white trail; rounded section
8	382	3575	Colorless	Twisted with yellow trail; rounded section
9	125	1073	Colorless	Twisted with yellow trail; rounded section
10	609	6038	Green	The rounded section is hollow; combination of green, yellow and red spirals, separated by a thin white trail
11	21	59	Light blue	Monochrome; oval cut facets on ext. surface; D-section
12	21	61	Light blue	Monochrome; small circular facets on ext. surface; D-section
13	388	3618	Dark red	Monochrome; elongated hexagonal facets on the external surface; D-section
14	200	2008	Light brown	Monochrome; large lozenge facets on the external surface; rectangular section

## CONCLUSIONS

The presence of both imported and locally produced glass vessels in late Ottoman-period contexts of the Magen Avraham Compound accords with the findings of previous excavations in Yafo (Ouahnouna 2017; 2019; forthcoming; Gorin-Rosen, in press).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> The author has examined material from excavations on Ha-Zorfim Street (Permit Nos. A-5378, A-5577), Ruslan and Mifraz Shelomo Streets (Permit Nos. A-5883, A-6115) and in the Postal Compound (Permit Nos. A-5715; A-5818) in Yafo, pending publication.

