'Atiqot 106, 2022

The Pottery from Bishop Gobat School, Mount Zion, Jerusalem

Debora Sandhaus

Among the pottery finds from the Mount Zion excavations (see Re'em, this volume) were common types of First and Second Temple period Jerusalem. Presented below is a brief typological description of the pottery finds from Strata IV and IVA, accompanied by contemporary parallels published in the major excavation reports of the Upper City of Jerusalem (Geva 2003; 2010; Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003) and Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006). Among the finds were very few potsherds dated to Iron Age II (Fig. 1), not associated with any architectural remains. The finds from the Second Temple period originated in the bedding of the infrastructure of the stairs, within the infrastructure and from the built stairs (Fig. 2), as well as from the dump accumulation above the stairs (Figs. 3–6). The sherds were sorted and counted in the field, and diagnostic examples were illustrated; undrawn sherds that are important for understanding the assemblage as a whole are also discussed below.

Iron Age II

A small amount of pottery dated to the end of Iron II (Fig. 1) was found in the infrastructure of the steps and on top of them, comprising large bowls with thick rims, most of which were burnished (Fig. 1:1, 2), and a fragment of a holemouth jar with a grooved rim typical of the coast region (Fig. 1:3).

The Second Temple Period

The excavation of Strata IV and IVA yielded vessels typical of the Second Temple period, principally the first century CE until 70 CE.

Bowls.— A few bowl sherds were found in the dump and in the infrastructure of the stairway, including a body sherd of a bowl with a disc base (Fig. 5:1). The shape of the bowl is reminiscent of small bowls with an everted rim, which are characteristic of the first century CE, such as Bar-Nathan's bowl Type M-BL4 (Bar-Nathan 2006:134–135, Pl. 25:22–28).

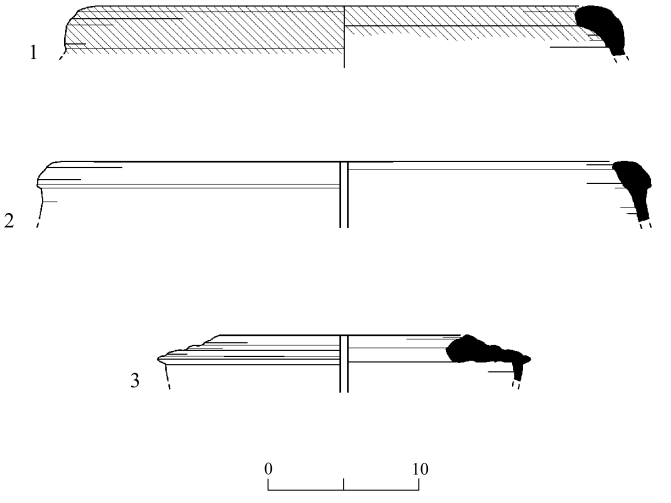

Fig. 1. Iron Age II pottery.

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
1	Large bowl	IV	75	1073/3	Light gray clay, pink paint on ext., burnishing lines	Jerusalem, City of David 12–10: De Groot and Bernick-Greenberg 2012:62–64, Fig. 4.2:1–2, Type B8a Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area A, Stratum 9: De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003:5, Pl. 1.5:22	8th–6th c. BCE 2nd half 8th c. BCE
2	Large bowl	IV	67	1063/4	Gray clay, burnishing lines on rim and int.	As No. 1	
3	Holemouth jar	IV	67	1063/8	Gray clay, many white grits, red paint on ext.	Jerusalem, City of David 12–10: De Groot and Bernick-Greenberg 2012:82–84, Fig. 4.6:3, Type Hm3 Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area A, Stratum 9: De Groot, Geva and Yezerski 2003:12, Pl. 1.8:19	7th c. BCE 8th–7th c. BCE

Kraters.— Some krater sherds were found, including a fragment of a unique krater with a wide body or neck decorated with a row of incised lines and a modeled ledge rim (Fig. 2:1).

Cooking Kraters.— Two types were discovered that are typical of the Second Temple period (Geva 2010:126). One has a rounded body, an out-turned neck and a ledge rim, sometimes with an internal groove (Fig. 2:2), characteristic of the end of the first century BCE—first century CE. The other type has a carination at the join between the shoulder and the body,

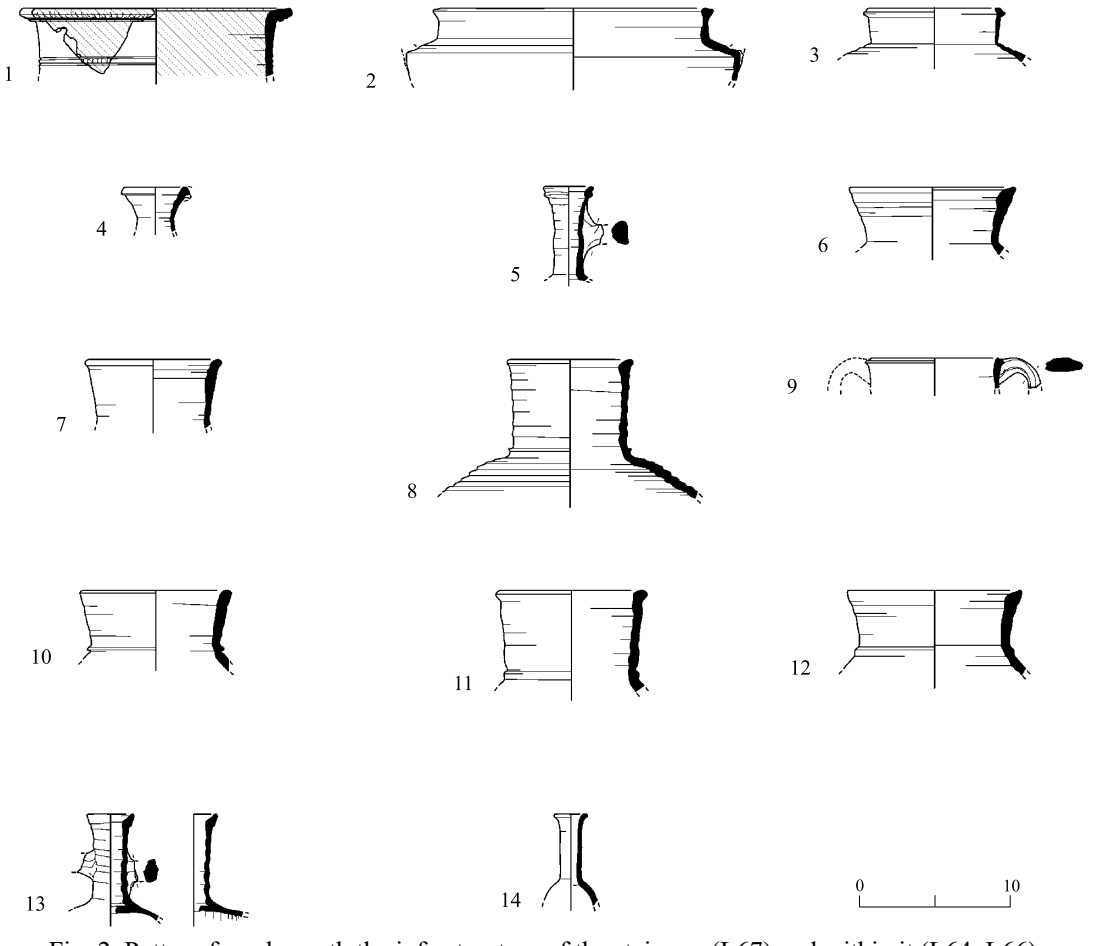

Fig. 2. Pottery from beneath the infrastructure of the stairway (L67) and within it (L64, L66)

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
1	Krater, Terra Sigillata?	IV	67	1071/6	Light red clay, well-levigated, buff color, red slip	Hayes 1985:30, Pl. 5:9, Type 35	40–70 CE
2	Cooking krater	IV	67	1071/7	Red clay, gray core, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Strata 3–2: Geva 2010:126, Pls. 4.1:7; 4.5:13 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:164–166, Pl. 30:51–53, Type M-CS1A	70 CE assemblage; end 1st century BCE–1st century CE Last third 1st c. BCE–first third 2nd c. CE

◂ **Fig. 2** (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
3	Cooking pot	IV	67	1071/4	Red clay, gray core, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Strata 3–2: Geva 2010: 126, Pl. 4.5:5 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:154–158, Pls. 27–28:6–25, Type M-CP1B	70 CE; 1st century CE Last third 1st c. BCE–first third 2nd c. CE
4	Cooking jug	IV	67	1071/9	Red clay, gray core, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area A, Stratum 4: Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:181, Pl. 6.10:13 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:174, Pl. 31:85, Type M-CJG1A	Mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE Herodian period
5	Pilgrim flask	IV	67	1071/12	Buff clay, gray core, buff ext., white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010: 124, Pl. 4.3:12, 13 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:174, Pl. 116–118, Pl. 22–28:70, Type M-FL1	70 CE
6	Jar	IV	67	1063/1	Pink clay, white buff ext., white and gray grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area A, Strata 5–4: Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:178, Pl. 6.9:4 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:60, Pl. 9:48, Type M-SJ9	1st c. BCE–1st c. CE 28/26 BCE–73/74 CE
7	Jar	IV	67	1063/9	Light red clay, very light red ext., white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010: 122, Pl. 4.2:1–4 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:54–56, Pl. 6:28–30, Type M-SJ7B	70 CE 1st c. CE–first third 2nd c. CE
8	Jar	IV	67	1071/5	Light red clay, very light red ext., white grits	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:56–57, Pl. 8:37, Type M-SJ7C	1st c. CE
9	Cooking pot	IV	64	1060/2	Red clay	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:126, Pl. 4.5:3	70 CE
10	Jar	IV	66	1062/3	Red clay, gray core, buff ext., white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010: 130, Pl. 4.8:3	1st c. CE

◂ **Fig. 2** (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
11	Jar	IV	64	1060/11	Red clay, gray core, buff ext., white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:124, Pl. 4.2:1–4; 130, Pl. 4.8:2 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 7:34, Type M-SJ7B4	70 CE, 1st c. CE 1st c. CE
12	Jar	IV	66	1062/2	Pink clay, pink ext., gray and white grits, bubble	As No. 6	
13	Pilgrim flask	IV	66	1062/6	Red clay, gray core, very light red ext.	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:124, Pl. 4.3:1 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:116–118, Pl. 22:71, Type M-FL1	70 CE End 1st c. BCE–1st c. CE
14	Unguentarium	IV	66	1062/5	Pink clay, light gray core, buff ext.	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:124, Pl. 4.4:3 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:201–203, Pl. 34:5, Type M-UN2	70 CE 31 BCE–73/74 CE

ridged shoulders, a short everted neck and a ridged rim with a triangular section (Fig. 3:3–5), which begins to appear in the second half of the first century CE and is characteristic of the first to second centuries CE.

Cooking Pots.— Many cooking pots of the Herodian type were found, with a short, straight or slightly everted neck, and a grooved rim with a triangular section (Figs. 2:3, 9; 3:5; 5:5). Such pots began to appear at the end of the second century BCE and became the prevalent type from the mid-first century BCE (Geva 2010:126). This type was recently discovered in assemblages of the Roman legion in the excavations at Binyene Ha-Umma (Rosenthal-Heginbottom, pers. comm.).

Cooking Jugs.— The cooking jugs were found in the dump. They have a ridged rim with a triangular section (Figs. 2:4; 5:6) typical of the Herodian period, mid-first century BCE–first century CE. Like the "Herodian" cooking pots, the jugs were also found in assemblages dated to the beginning of the second century CE (Rosenthal-Heiginbottom, pers. comm.).

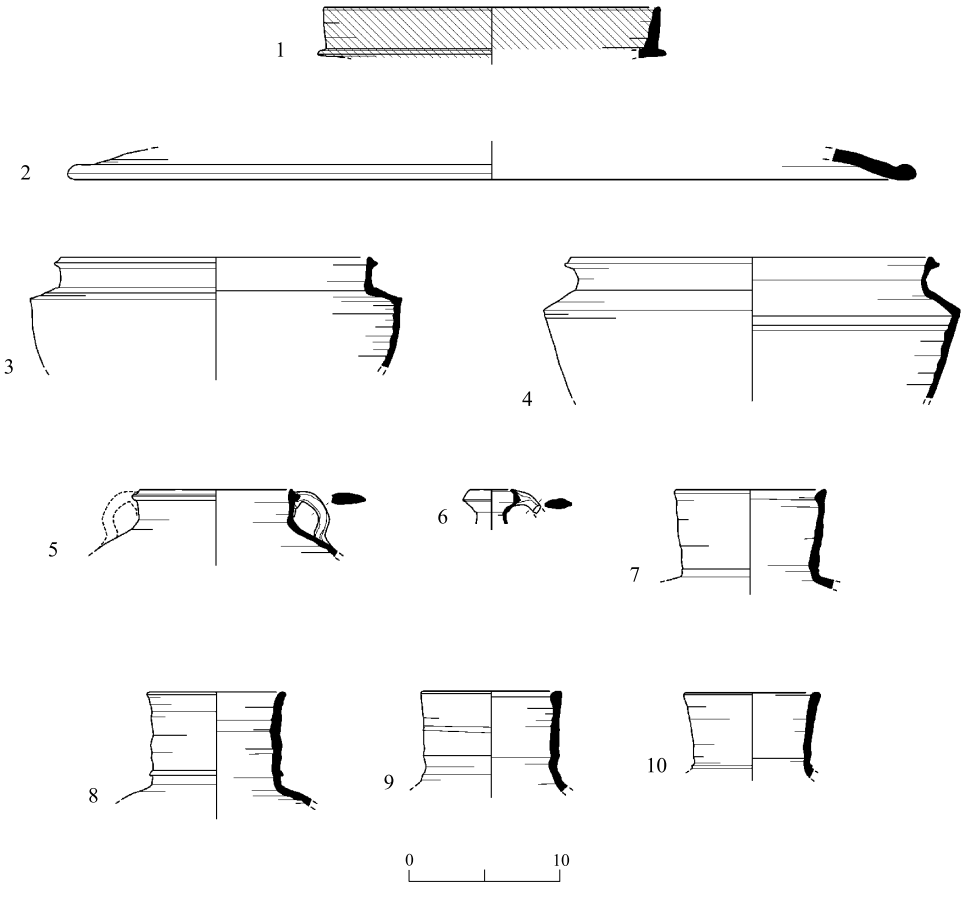

Fig. 3. Pottery from the dump upon the steps (L63 and L76).

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
1	Bowl, Terra Sigillata	IVA	63	1061/3	Buff clay, well-levigated, red slip	Hayes 1985:30–31, Pl. 5:10, 13, Type 36 or 37b	60–100 CE
2	Lid? Pompeian Red Ware	IVA	76	1077/7	Light red clay, black and white grits, mica	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area E, Strata 4–2: Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2006:154–155, Pl. 5.4:12, 13	Herodian period, end 1st c. BCE
3	Cooking krater	IVA	63	1061/1	Red clay, thick gray core, white grits	See Fig. 2:2	
4	Cooking krater	IVA	76	1077/3	Red clay, thick gray core, white grits, signs of burning on ext.	See Fig. 2:2	

◂ **Fig. 3** (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
5	Cooking pot	IVA	63	1061/2	Red clay, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:125, Pl. 4.5:1–3, 6 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:154–158, Pls. 27, 28, Nos. 6–25, Type M-CP1	70 CE Last third 1st c.–first third 2nd c. CE
6	Juglet	IVA	63	1061/12	Red clay, cooking ware	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:154–158, Pls. 27, 28, Nos. 6–25, Type M-CP1	1st c. CE
7	Jar	IVA	76	1077/1	Red clay, gray core, buff ext., white grits	See Fig. 2:8	
8	Jar	IVA	63	1061/4	Light red clay, pinkish ext., white grits	See Fig. 2:8	
9	Jar	IVA	76	1077/5	Light red clay, pinkish ext., white grits	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:47–50, Pl. 4:19–20, Type M-SJ5	28/26 BCE–74/73 CE
10	Jar	IVA	76	1077/4	Red clay, gray core, buff ext., white grits	As No. 9	

Cooking Juglet.— Among the cooking vessels was a juglet made of cooking-ware material. It has a cup-like rim and a strap handle that extends from the rim to the shoulder (Fig. 3:6).

Jars.— The jars belong to a type commonly found in first-century CE assemblages. The type is characterized by a ridge at the base of the neck and a variety of rim types (Figs. 2:6–8; 3:7–10; 5:9–12). This jar type is typical of Jerusalem, particularly in assemblages associated with the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. Some jars of this type continued in use even at the beginning of the second century CE.

Jugs.— Two types of jugs were found. One type (Fig. 4:2) has a rim with a triangular section and an internal groove, and a thick neck that widens toward the bottom. Such jugs first appeared in the second century BCE, continuing to exist with slight changes, primarily in the narrowing of the neck, until the first century CE (Geva 2003:127–128, Type JG2). The other type has a conical neck with a ridge in the middle, from which a handle emerges. This jug has a variety of rim types, the most characteristic being a slightly everted cup-like rim

(Fig. 4:3). Another rim is thick and everted with an internal ridge (Fig. 4:1). The ridged jug appears in assemblages dated to the first–beginning of the second centuries CE.

Pilgrim Flasks.— Many pilgrim flasks were found, exhibiting twisted and deformed handles, characteristic of assemblages from the end of the second century BCE to 70 CE (Geva 2010:124). These pilgrim flasks differ from one another in their rims, which might be either thickened (Fig. 2:5; 4:4), or simple with an internal ridge (Figs. 2:13; 6:1). All the rim types of the flasks from this assemblage are typical of the first century BCE–first century CE.

Unguentaria.— Two types of unguentaria were found. One has a piriform body, a long and thin neck, and a thickened or simple rim (Figs. 2:14; 4:7–9). Sometimes these vessels were partly painted. This type is widespread in assemblages from the last third of the first century BCE to the first century CE. The other type is somewhat larger, with a convex neck and a small ledge rim (Fig. 4:6). This type is rare in local assemblages although it is made of material characteristic of vessels from Jerusalem. Apart from similar vessels that were retrieved from Jericho and Masada, most of the parallels come from the Aegean world and

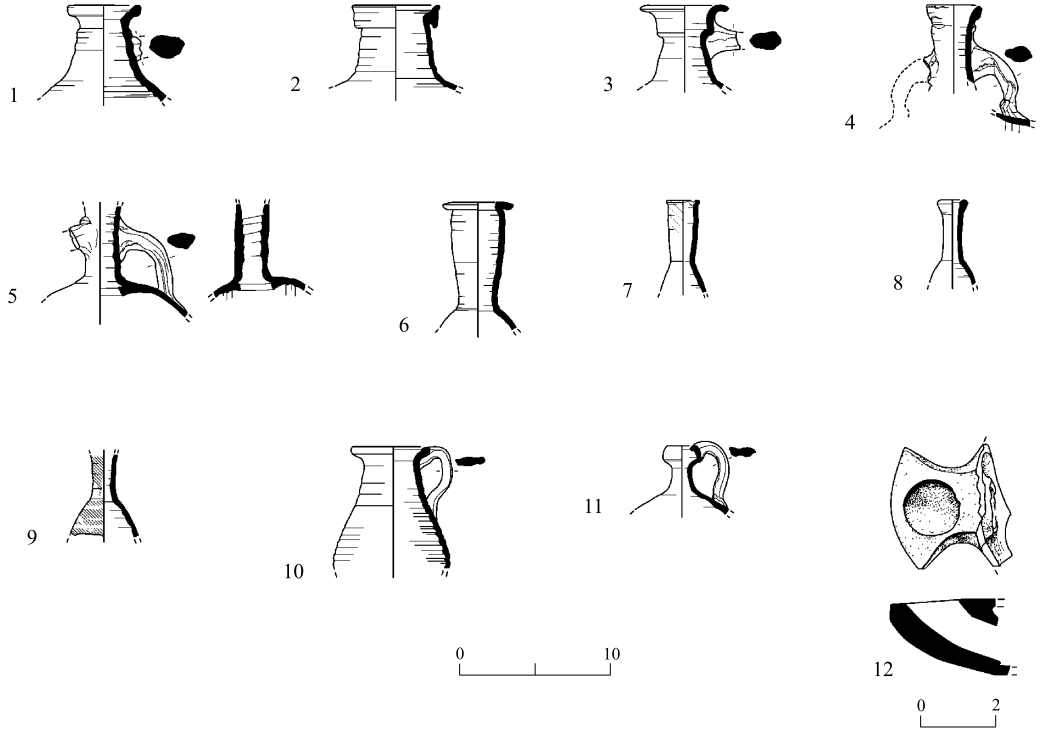

Fig. 4. The pottery from the dump accumulation on the steps (L57, L59, L63, L75, L76).

◂ **Fig. 4**

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
1	Jug	IVA	76	1077/5	Red clay, white grits	Cf. Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:109, Pl. 20:38, 39, Type M-JG12	1st c –first third 2nd c. CE
2	Jug	IVA	63	1061/7	Pinkish-gray clay, white ext.	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Areas W and X2: Geva 2003:127–128, JG2, Fig. 5.2:36 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:103–104, Pl. 18:11–16, Type M-JG5B 2	End of 2nd–1st c. BCE 18/16 BCE–73/74 CE
3	Jug	IVA	63	1061/10	Pink clay, gray core, white ext., white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area A, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:123, Pl. 4.3:1 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:108, Pl. 20:34, Type M-JG11	70 CE 1st c.–first third 2nd c. CE
4	Pilgrim flask	IVA	63	1061/14	Pink clay, gray core, white ext., white grits	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:116–118, Pl. 22:73, Type M-FL1	End 2nd c. BCE–1st c. CE
5	Pilgrim flask	IVA	76	1077/12	Pink clay, gray core, white ext., white grits	See Fig. 2:5	
6	Unguentarium	IV	75	1073/6	Pink clay, gray core, white ext., white grits, stripes of brown paint	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:201–203, Pl. 34:2, Type M-UN2A	1st c. CE
7	Unguentarium	IV	75	1073/5	Light red clay, red paint on rim, flowing	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area A, Stratum 5: Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:185, Pl. 6.5:26 Burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:124–125, Pl. 4.4:4–7 (similar form but undecorated) Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:201–203, Pl. 34:4, Type M-UN2, from 31	
8	Unguentarium	IV	59	1054/27	Pink clay, white ext.	See Fig. 2:14	
9	Unguentarium	IVA	76	1077/11	Light red clay, red stripes, burnish on body	See Fig. to 4:7	

◂ **Fig. 4** (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
10	Juglet	IV	57	1041/8	Pink clay, gray core, remains of red wavy line under neck and a line at height of handle attachment	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:113–114, Pl. 21:58–60, Type M-JG12 CE (though it appears just in Zealots and garrison's contexts)	1st c.–73/74 CE
11	Juglet	IV	63	1061/15	Red clay, yellowish white ext.	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:123–124, Pl. 4.3:7–9 (similar form but undecorated) Masada: Type M-JT1 Bar-Nathan 2006:191–194, Pl. 33:3–5	70 CE Last third 1st c. BCE–first third 2nd c. CE
12	Lamp	IV	63	1061/17	Light red clay, small white grits, signs of soot on eye of lamp	Jerusalem, Area A, Strata 5–4: Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:219, Pls. 6.8:4, 5; 6.9:43, 44 Burnt house, Area, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:124–125, Pl. 4.7:3 (similar form but undecorated) Masada: Barag and Hershkovitz 1994:24–58, Nos. 27–66, Types CI–CIII	End 1st c. BCE–mid-2nd c. CE 70 CE End 1st c. BCE–mid-2nd c. CE

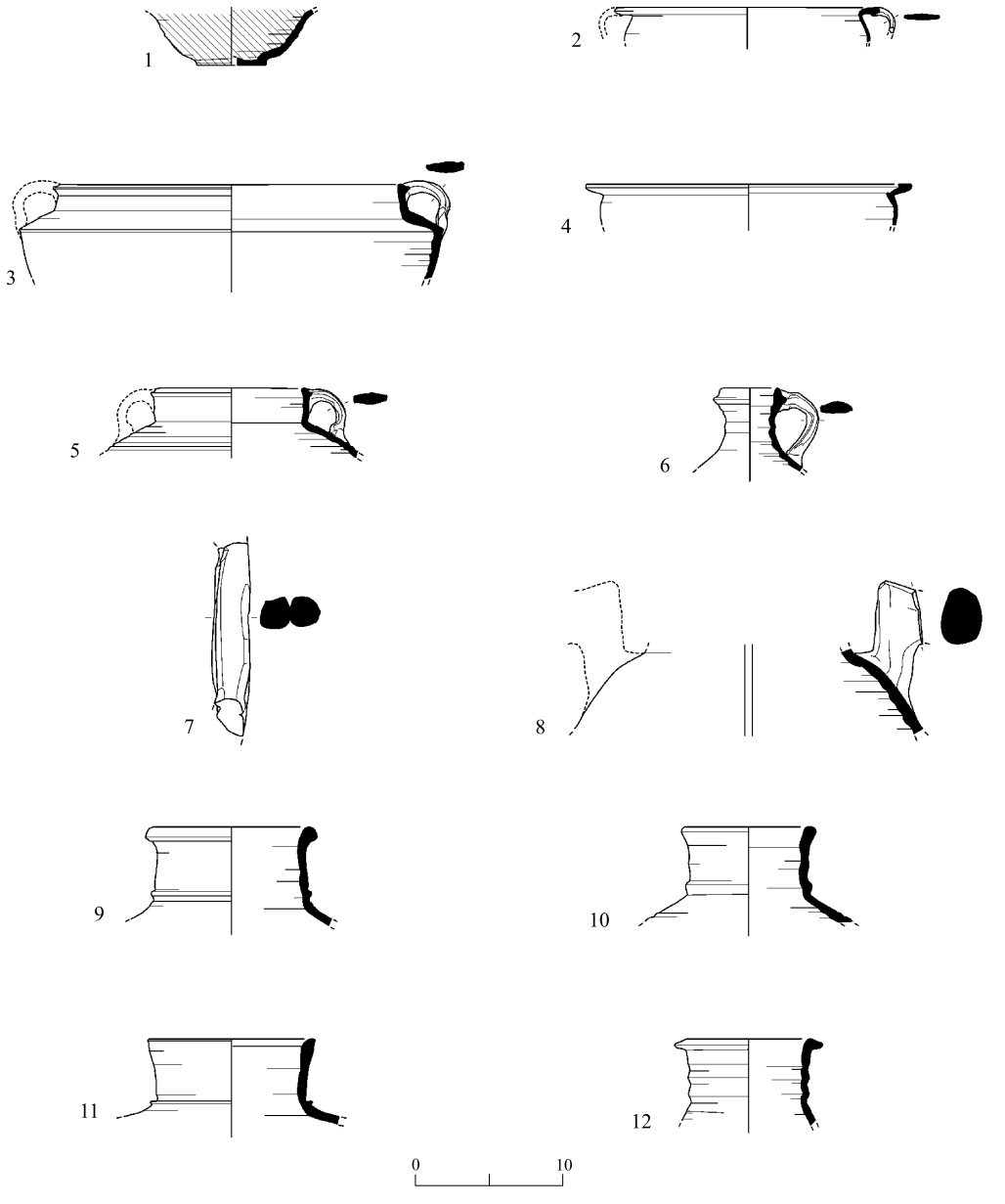

Fig. 5. Pottery from the dump accumulation on the steps (L61).

◂ **Fig. 5**

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
1	Bowl	IV	61	1060/27	Light red clay, white grits, localized red slip, string cutting signs on base		
2	Cooking krater	IV	61	1053/28	Red clay, gray core, white ext., very thin	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area E, Stratum 3: Geva and Hershkovitz 2006: Pl. 4.8:13 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:167–169, Pls. 30, 31:62–70, Type M-CS3	Second half 1st c. BCE Last third 1st c. BCE–1st c. CE
3	Cooking krater	IV	61	1060/18	Red clay, white grits	See Fig. 2:2	
4	Cooking krater	IV	61	1049/2	Red clay, red core, ovoid, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Areas W and X2: Geva 2003:135–136, Fig. 5.2, Type CA1	3rd–1st c. BCE
5	Cooking pot	IV	61	1053/7	Red clay, white grits	See Fig. 2:5	
6	Cooking jug	IV	61	1060/23	Red clay, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:126, Pl. 4.5:15	70 CE
7	Amphora handle from Kos	IV	61	1060/8	Red clay, greenish ext., white grits, mica	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, Area E: Finkielsztejn 2006:170–171, Kos Amphora, Type Dressel 2-4, Peacock and Williams Class 10	1st c. BCE
8	Amphora	IV	61	1052/2	Orange clay		
9	Jar	IV	61	1052/9	White clay, gray core	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:122, Pl. 4.2:5, 9	70 CE
10	Jar	IV	61	1053/9	Red clay, gray core, buff ext.	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:122, Pl. 4.2:7	70 CE

◂ **Fig. 5** (cont.)

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
11	Jar	IV	61	1060/2	Red clay, gray core, buff ext.	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area A, Stratum 4: Geva and Rosenhal-Heginbottom 2003: Pl. 6.9:4 Area E, Stratum 1: Geva and Hershkovitz 2006:114, Pl. 4.13:3 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006: 55, Pl. 5:22, Type M-SJ7B1	1st c. –2nd c. CE 1st c. CE–70 CE 28/26 BCE–73/74 CE
12	Jar	IV	61	1053/10	Greenish clay, gray core	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:122, Pl. 4.2:8 Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:62–63, Pl. 12:62, Type M-SJ13	70 CE Last third 1st c. BCE–first third of 2nd c. CE

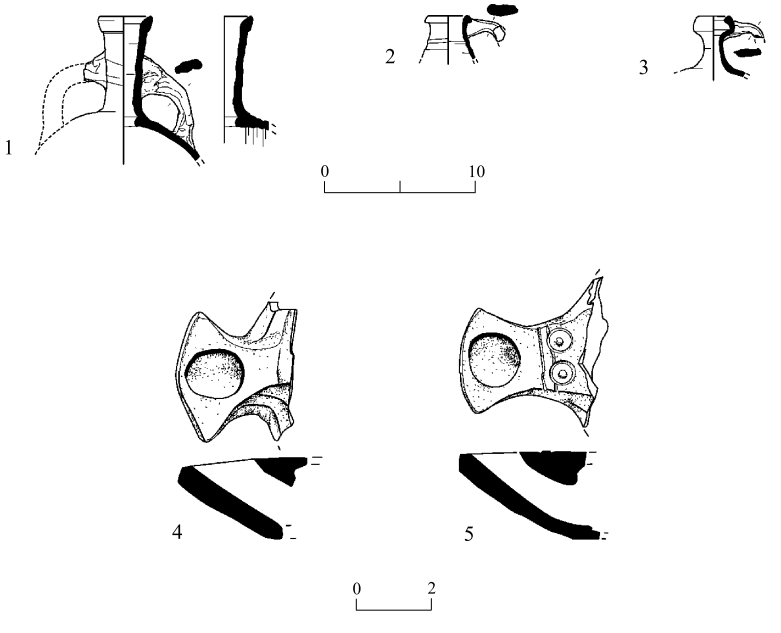

Fig. 6. Pottery from the dump accumulation on the steps (L61) (cont.).

◂ **Fig. 6**

No.	Vessel	Stratum	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels	Date
1	Pilgrim flask	IV	61	1053/5	Red clay, white grits	Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter, burnt house, Area B, Stratum 2: Geva 2010:124, Pl. 4.3:12	70 CE
2	Juglet	IV	61	1052/18	Red clay, buff ext.		
3	Juglet	IV	61	1052/17	Red clay, buff ext.	Masada: Bar-Nathan 2006:194–195, Pl. 33:18, Type M-JT3	1st c.–first third of 2nd c. CE
4	Lamp	IV	61	1060/31	Red clay, small grits, pared, soot	As Fig. 4:12	
5	Lamp	IV	61	1052/23	Pink clay, pared, incised with circles and lines	As Fig. 4:12	

Italy (Bar-Nathan 2006:202). These bottles appear in assemblages dated to the first century CE.

Juglets.— Many juglet sherds were found in the dump on the stairway. Most of them belong to a type that is characterized by a slightly ridged spherical, or slightly squat body, a rounded or disc base, a short and narrow neck, and a cup-like rim from which a strap handle extends to the shoulder (Figs. 4:11; 6:3). These juglets probably contained perfume (Bar-Nathan 2006:190). They begin to appear at the end of the first century BCE and are common in assemblages of the first century CE, continuing, albeit in smaller amounts, into the second century CE. An additional type of juglet has a ridged piriform body, an everted rim and a strap handle that extends from the rim to the shoulder (Figs. 4:10; 6:2). This type is less common and apparently should be dated from the first to the beginning of the second century CE.

Lamps.— All the Stratum IV lamp sherds are of the knife-pared lamp type, also known as the 'Herodian lamp' (Figs. 4:12; 6:4, 5). These lamps are made of pink or gray well-levigated clay, and are knife-pared. Some of the lamps are decorated with incised bands or geometric pattern on the nozzle. This type first appeared at the end of the first century BCE or the beginning of the first century CE, the end of Herod's days or a little later, and continued in use until the first half of the second century CE (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994:44–47).

Terra Sigillata Bowls.— Some sherds of Terra Sigillata bowls were found in the excavation. They belong to bowls with a simple or slightly thickened rim that has a triangular section. The vessels' walls are straight and slightly everted, and have a pronounced carination at the

lower third of the body (Fig. 3:1). This bowl is of Hayes' Type 35 (Hayes 1985:30), which is dated to 40–70 CE.

Pompeian Red Ware.— A few lid sherds of the Pompeian Red Ware family were found in the dump (Fig. 3:2). These belong to cooking vessels and are made of a coarse clay mixed with sand grains. The typical shapes are frying pans and lids; the pans are slipped with a thick red slip. These vessels were manufactured in Italy, but they were probably also produced elsewhere. They appear in the Mediterranean basin and Europe at sites where the Roman army was present, but also in private homes. The zenith of their appearance is in the first century BCE–first century CE, and they are known also in the third century CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:215–216).

Amphorae.— Very few amphora sherds were found, including amphora handles from Kos (Fig. 5:7) and an unidentified amphora handle fragment (Fig. 5:8), which rose above the vessel's shoulder and extended to the body. The amphora from Kos first appeared in the second century BCE and is common in the country in the first century BCE, continuing until the first century CE.

Discussion and Conclusions

The pottery sherds from the earthen bedding under the infrastructure of the stairway (L67) included jars, pilgrim flasks, kraters, cooking pots, cooking jugs and cooking kraters, which are common in assemblages dated to the end of the first century BCE–first century CE. Although some of the types continue to appear at the beginning of the second century CE, the entire assemblage is similar to other Herodian assemblages unearthed in excavations throughout Jerusalem.

Among the vessels that were retrieved from the infrastructure of the stairway (L64, L66) were jars, pilgrim flasks, unguentaria, cooking pots and an amphora handle from Kos. This assemblage is typical of assemblages dated from the first century CE from other sites in Jerusalem.

The dump accumulation above the stairway contained a large quantity of pottery (Figs. 3, 4: L57, L59, L63, L75, L76; Figs. 5 and 6: L61), including many vessels typical of Herodian Jerusalem in the first century CE. Based on a sherd count (Fig. 7), 41% of the sherds from the dump belong to cooking vessels, mostly closed cooking pots; 18% were jars, mostly Herodian types with a ridge beneath the neck; 12% were pilgrim flasks and other vessels known from the ceramic repertoire of Herodian Jerusalem. It should be noted that imports are rare in this assemblage and include amphorae, vessels of the Pompeian Red Ware family and some sherds of Terra Sigillata.

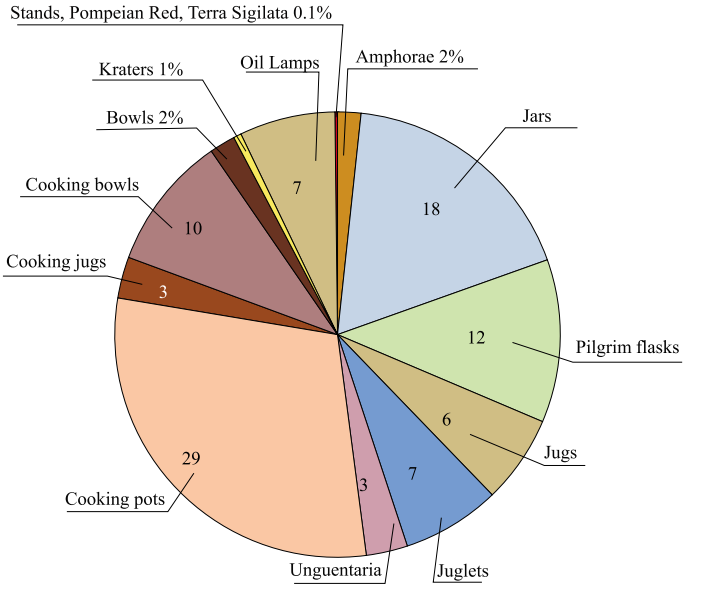

Fig. 7. Sherd count from the dump accumulation.

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