

THE GLASS FINDS FROM NAḤAL 'ANAVA, MODI'IN

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INTRODUCTION

The salvage excavations carried out above Naḥal 'Anava (Wadi 'Anabeh) at Modi'in Kaizer South (see Tendler and Torge, this volume) yielded some 650 fragmentary glass finds, about half of which were diagnostic. All the finds are free-blown, many are decorated.¹

Some of the glass vessels are typical of the fourth–early fifth centuries CE, particularly those from L125. However, most of the glass finds date from the sixth–seventh centuries CE, with several pieces characteristic of the seventh–eighth centuries CE.

Thirty-nine representative diagnostic fragments were selected for this publication and are presented in chronological and typological order.

THE ASSEMBLAGE

The Fourth–Early Fifth Centuries CE

This period is represented by several bowls or beakers with a rounded flaring rim (Fig. 1:1–3), two of which are adorned with thin wound trails: one (Fig. 1:2) with a turquoise-colored trail fused-in on the rim, and the other (Fig. 1:3) with a dark-blue trail wound several times below the rim. Similarly-decorated bowls were recorded, for example, at Khirbat Ni'ana, in a glass assemblage dated from the fourth to the early fifth centuries CE (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:84–85, Fig. 5:1–4, 6, 8).

Several bases, typical of the period, include the solid base of a beaker (Fig. 1:4), one of the most characteristic glass vessels of the fourth–early fifth centuries CE, as well as tooled-out hollow ring bases in various colors (Fig. 1:5–8). Similar bases were unearthed, for example, in a glass assemblage dated to the fourth–early fifth centuries CE from Khirbat Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:92–93, Fig. 8:4–9, 11–14).

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Fig. 1. Glass vessels from the fourth–early fifth centuries CE.

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	182	1496	Thin-walled bowl or beaker with a slightly flaring, rounded thickened rim (diam. 75 mm); colorless with a bluish tinge; weathering, iridescence
2	182	1467	Bowl with slanting walls and a rounded rim (diam. 85–90 mm) adorned with a turquoise-colored trail fused-in on the rim; colorless with a bluish tinge; iridescence
3	121	1116	Thin-walled bowl with a slightly flaring, rounded thickened rim (diam. 105 mm), adorned with a thin dark-blue trail below the rim; colorless; weathering, iridescence; pitting
4	125	1261	Beaker with a solid base (diam. 42 mm), with glass from the pontil on its underside; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
5	116	1052	Tooled-out hollow ring base (diam. 50–55 mm); green; weathering, iridescence, pitting; mended
6	125	1261	Tooled-out hollow ring base (diam. 55 mm), with a chunk of glass from the pontil on its underside; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
7	125	1261	Tooled-out hollow ring base (diam. 53 mm), with traces of glass from the pontil on its underside; colorless with a greenish tinge; weathering, iridescence
8	142	1216	Tooled-out hollow ring base (diam. 47 mm), with a pontil scar on its underside; green; weathering, iridescence, pitting

The Sixth–Seventh/Eighth Centuries CE

The glass finds from this period include bowls/beakers and bottles (Fig. 2), as well as lamps and windowpanes (Fig. 3).

Bowls/Beakers (Fig. 2:1, 2). Vessels shaped as deep bowls or wide beakers were widespread in Syria-Palestine during the seventh–eighth centuries CE. Variants of bowls/beakers of this type were recovered, for example, in eighth-century CE contexts excavated north of the White Mosque at Ramla (Gorin-Rosen 2010:215–219, Pls. 10.1:1–4; 10.2:1, 2, and see therein references to additional examples from that city and other sites in Israel, Jordan and Syria).

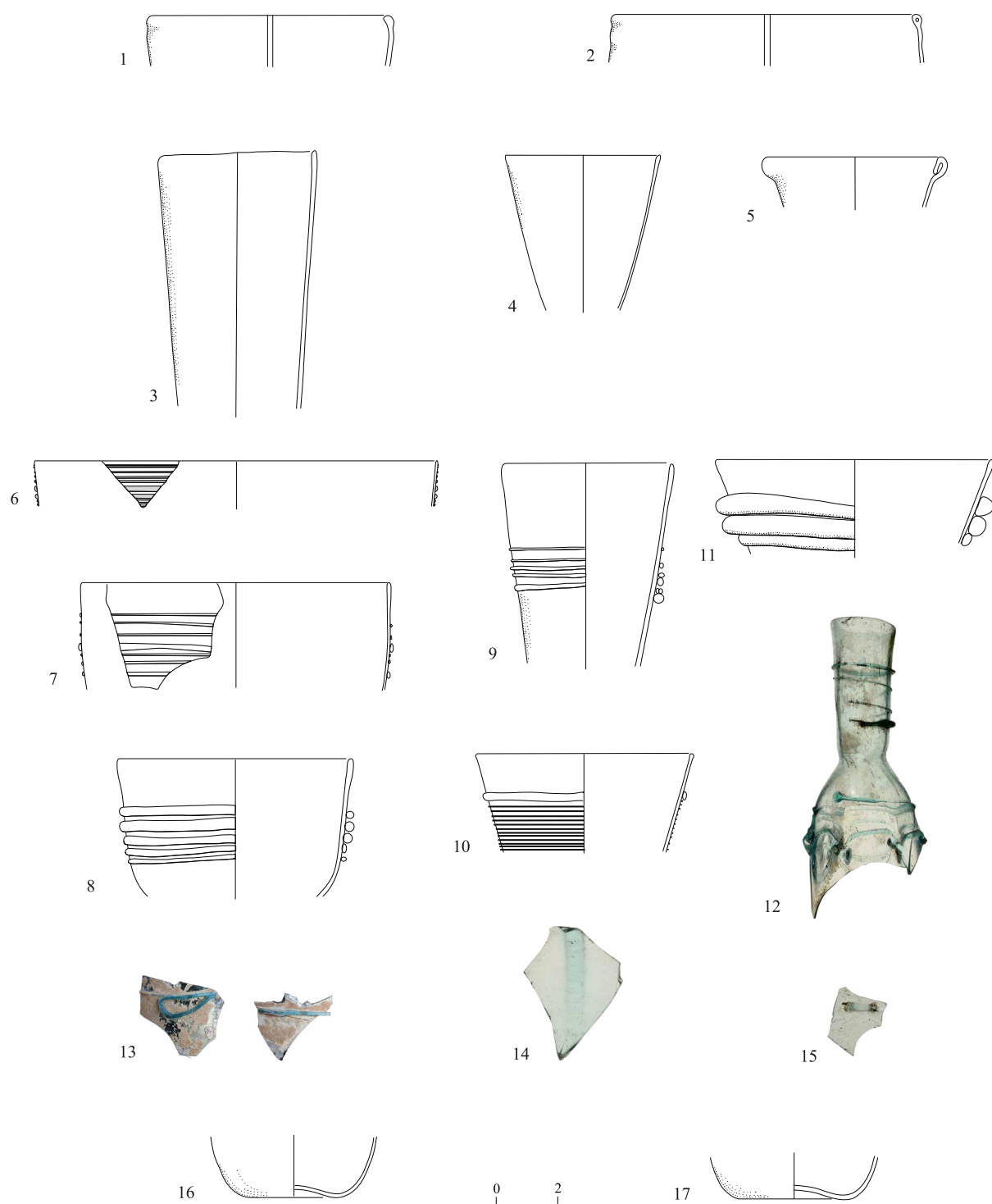


Fig. 2. Glass vessels from the sixth–seventh/eighth centuries CE.

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	123	1107	Thick-walled bowl/beaker with a rounded incurved rim (diam. c. 80 mm); deep green, some bubbles
2	123	1107	Bowl/beaker with a folded rim (diam. c. 100 mm); light greenish blue
3	182	1453	Bottle with an uneven rounded rim (diam. c. 60 mm) and a conical neck; greenish blue; weathering, iridescence; mended
4	182	1393	Bottle with a rounded rim (diam. 50 mm) and a conical neck; light green; weathering, iridescence
5	121	1116	Bottle with an infolded hollow rim (diam. 55 mm) and a small part of a mouth/neck; colorless with a yellowish-green tinge; weathering, iridescence, pitting
6	125	1261	Thin-walled vessel with a rounded rim (diam. 130 mm), adorned with a thin blue trail wound and fused-in on and below the rim; light greenish blue; iridescence
7	121	1116	Thin-walled vessel with a rounded rim (diam. 100 mm), adorned with a thin wound trail of the same color as the vessel; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
8	182	1453	Bottle with a rounded rim (diam. 75–80 mm) and a convex-walled mouth/neck adorned with a thick trail of the same color as the vessel; light green; iridescence
9	182	1453	Bottle with a rounded rim (diam. 55 mm) and a conical neck adorned with a trail of the same color as the vessel; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence; mended
10	182	1467	Thin-walled bottle with a rounded rim (diam. c. 65 mm) and a funnel-shaped mouth/neck, adorned with a thin wound trail of the same color as the vessel; colorless with a bluish tinge; iridescence
11	121	1116	Large bottle with a rounded rim (diam. 85 mm) and a funnel-shaped mouth/neck adorned with a thick wound trail of the same color as the vessel; bluish greenish; weathering, iridescence; mended
12	123	1065	Bottle with a rounded rim (diam. 23 mm), conical neck and pear-shaped body (broken); neck and body adorned with a thin trail of the same color as the vessel—several winds on the neck, and a pinched (‘bifurcated’) pattern on the body; greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
13	116	1052	Two thin-walled neck(?) fragments of the same vessel, adorned with a thin turquoise-colored trail; colorless; weathering, iridescence
14	123	1089	Thick-walled body fragment adorned with a protruding, probably vertical, rib; light greenish blue
15	123	1089	Small body fragment adorned with a pinch; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
16	182	1453	Bottle bottom (diam. c. 40 mm), slightly concave at its center (with no pontil scar); light green; weathering, iridescence
17	182	1453	Bottle bottom (diam. 35 mm), slightly concave at its center (with no pontil scar); light green; weathering, iridescence

Bottles (Fig. 2:3–17). Some of the bottles recovered from the site were undecorated, as were the specimens with a rounded rim and a conical neck (Fig. 2:3, 4), or with an infolded hollow rim (Fig. 2:5). Nevertheless, many bottles and some open vessels were adorned with trails wound around the mouth or neck, either thin trails (Fig. 2:6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13), or thick ones (Fig. 2:8, 11), of the same color as the vessel (Fig. 2:7–12) or of a darker hue, blue or

turquoise (Fig. 2:6, 13). Slightly concave bottoms (Fig. 2:16, 17) may have supported some of these bottles.

Applying trails was the most widespread method of decorating glass vessels, and it was extremely customary on bottles, particularly during the sixth–seventh centuries CE. Many variants of bottles adorned with trails wound on the mouth or neck were found in excavations throughout the country, for example, in Byzantine-period contexts in Areas CC and KK at Caesarea Maritima (Israeli 2008:388, 415–416, Nos. 229, 236), Tel Tanninim (Pollak 2006:184–187, Fig. 143:175–186) and Ashqelon (e.g., Katsnelson 1999:74*–78*, Fig. 4:1–5, 9; Katsnelson and Jackson-Tal 2004:103–106, Fig. 2:4, 5, 9–11). Similarly-decorated bottles with a convex funnel-shaped mouth (as Fig. 2:8) were less common, and several such bottles were unearthed at Tel Tanninim (Pollak 2006:184–186, Fig. 143:176, 177) and among glass vessels dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE at Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit (Winter 1998:176, Fig. 2:7).

The bottle in Fig. 2:12 is adorned with a trail around its neck, but also with a pinched-trail decoration, comprising trails tooled to create a ‘bifurcated’ or ‘spectacles’ pattern. This decoration was widespread in Syria-Palestine in the seventh–eighth centuries CE, particularly on bottles. Two complete bottles adorned with a pinched-trail decoration were unearthed in a burial chamber at Gush Ḥalav (el-Jish) in northern Israel (Makhoully 1939:48, Pls. 32:2f; 33:1a; Barag 1970:63–64); a similar decoration adorned a piece from a Byzantine-period tomb fill at Ashqelon (Katsnelson 1999:75*–77*, Fig. 4:6).

Vessels Adorned with Various Decorations (Fig. 2:14, 15). One fragment (Fig. 2:14) is adorned with a protruding rib, probably one of several vertical ribs, created either by tooling or mold-blowing; this piece may have belonged to a bowl or a large bottle.

Another fragment of the same provenance is adorned with a small pinch (Fig. 2:15), probably one of several in a row. Vessels adorned with rows of pinches were widespread in Syria-Palestine, particularly in the seventh–eighth centuries CE. This decoration was mostly applied to bowls/beakers, jars, and various types of bottles and jugs, as, for example, on specimens from Ḥammāt Gader (Cohen 1997: Pls. IV:5, 6; IX:12).

Lamps (Fig. 3:1–11). The glass lamps unearthed at the site are two of the most widespread types that appeared in the Byzantine period and continued, with various modifications, into the Early Islamic period.

Bowl-shaped lamps with three handles are represented by a specimen with a hollow out-folded rim, of which two handles survived (Fig. 3:1), several wick tubes (Fig. 3:7–10), and a bottom with a small part of a wick tube in its center (Fig. 3:11). Specimens with a wick tube were recovered, for example, from the Church of St. John the Baptist at Samaria-Sebaste (Crowfoot 1957:418–419, Fig. 99:2, 3), the cemetery church at Ḥorbat Karkur ‘Illit (Katsnelson 2004:268–271, Fig. 59:13–15) and the northern church at Rehovot-in-the-Negev (Patrich 1988:134–136, Pl. XII:1, 8–13).

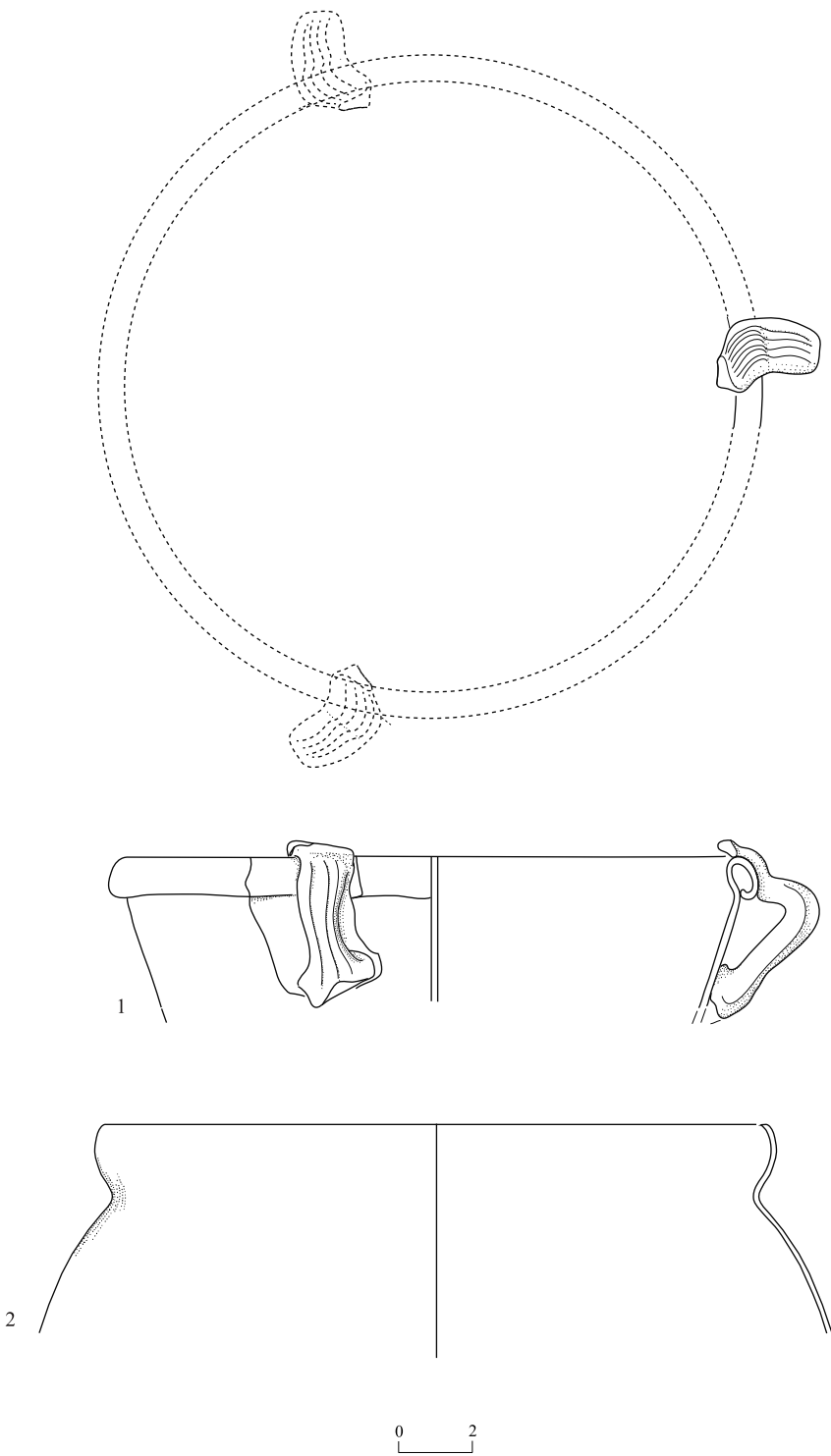


Fig. 3. Glass lamps and windowpanes from the sixth–seventh/eighth centuries CE.

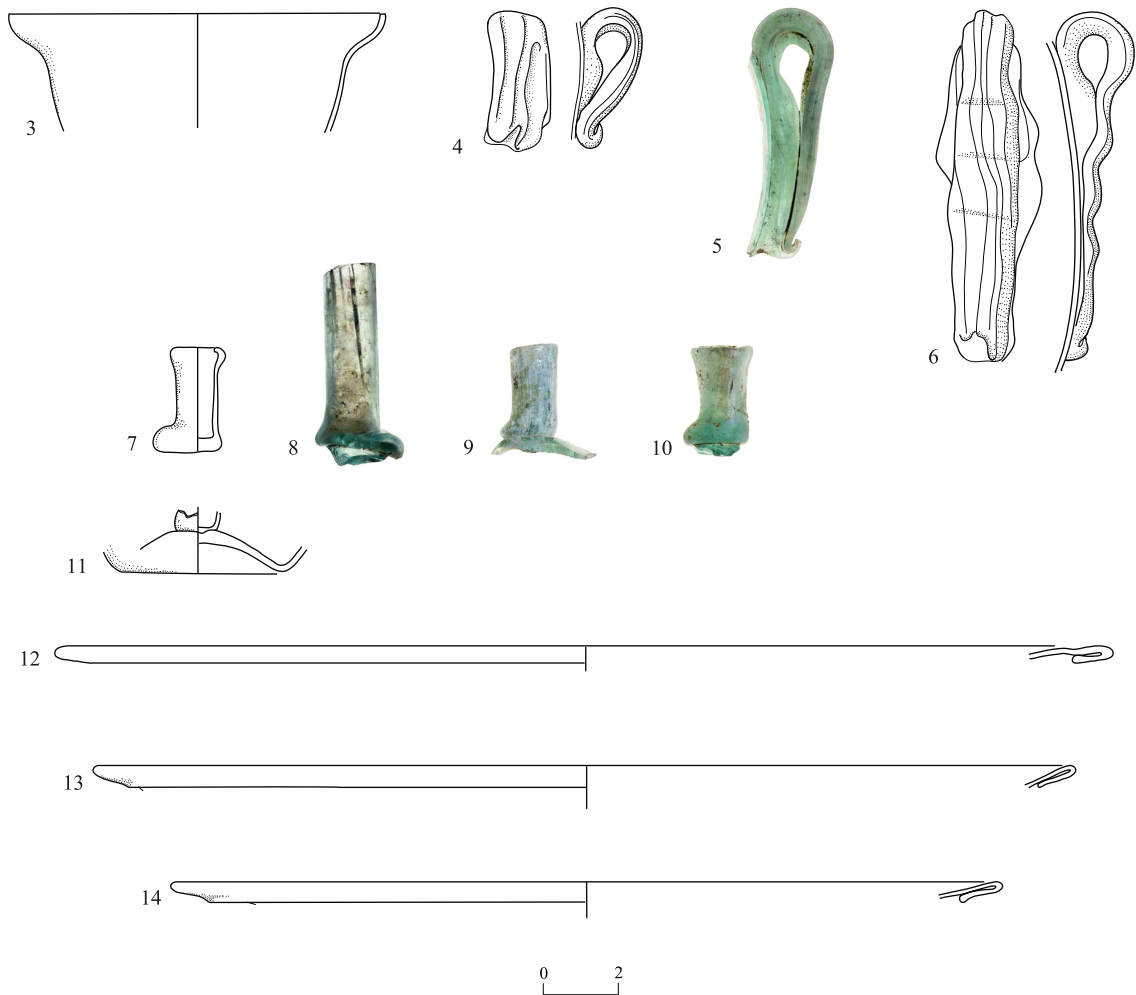


Fig. 3. (cont.).

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
1	182	1393 1412	Lamp with an outfolded hollow rim (diam. c. 180 mm) with one twisted handle intact and another partly preserved; green; weathering, iridescence; mended
2	125	1261 1293	Large lamp with an incurved cut-off rim (diam. c. 180 mm) and convex walls; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence; mended
3	142	1216	Lamp with a cut-off rim (diam. 100 mm) and convex walls, outplayed at their upper end; colorless; weathering, iridescence; slight pitting
4	121	1101	Lamp; loop handle (length c. 35 mm); light green; weathering, iridescence
5	125	1261	Body fragment with a large, thick, folded handle attached to it; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
6	121	1101	Lamp; large loop handle with a trail extension (length c. 100 mm); light bluish green, green handle with some bubbles; weathering, iridescence
7	121	1101	Wick tube (height 26 mm), with an irregular infolded rim (diam. 13–15 mm); bulging to one side at its bottom; bluish green; weathering, iridescence

◀ Fig. 3

No.	Locus	Basket	Description
8	123	1065	Wick tube (length c. 55 mm) with a broken or diagonally-cut rim (diam. c. 13) and an uneven tube, bulging to one side at its bottom; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence
9	167	1300	Wick tube (length c. 27 mm) with a cut-off rim (diam. c. 13) and an uneven tube, bulging to one side at its bottom; light greenish blue; colorless; weathering, iridescence
10	182	1453	Wick tube (length c. 27 mm) with a rounded rim (diam. c. 15) and an uneven tube, bulging to one side at its bottom; light greenish blue; weathering, iridescence.
11	125	1261	Lamp with a concave bottom (diam. 40 mm), with a fragment of a wick tube; green; weathering, iridescence, pitting
12	123	1065	Circular windowpane with an outfolded hollow rim (diam. 280–300 mm); light greenish blue, some bubbles; iridescence
13	182	1393	Circular windowpane an outfolded hollow rim (diam. 260–270 mm); light greenish blue, black impurities; weathering, iridescence
14	121	1088	Circular windowpane with an outfolded hollow rim (diam. 220 mm); greenish blue; weathering, iridescence

The other type of glass lamp recovered at the site is the globular lamp with a cut-off rim and three handles attached to the wall. This lamp type is represented in the assemblage by a large example (Fig. 3:2) and a small one (Fig. 3:3), as well as by loop-shaped handles (Fig. 3:4, 5), and a loop handle with an extended trail attached along the body (Fig. 3:6).

Globular lamps probably first appeared no later than the mid-fourth century CE and were in use particularly during the fifth–seventh centuries CE. Among the few complete examples unearthed in the country are a specimen from Dominus Flevit Tomb 231 (Bagatti and Milik 1958:147–148, Fig. 35:12, Photograph 125:14; Barag 1970:29–30, 183–184, Type 13:10). Another example, with short loop-shaped handles, was found concealed in a chamber of a Nestorian hermitage east of Jericho, probably founded in the seventh century CE² (Baramki and Stephan 1935: Pl. LIII:2:b). A globular lamp with handles bearing a tooled extension was recovered from a church unearthed at Kiryat Nordau in Netanya.³

² The monastery was originally dated to the ninth century CE (Baramki and Stephan 1935); however, the identification of two of the monks mentioned in the Syriac mosaic inscription indicates that the hermitage was founded in the seventh century CE (Fiey 1983; Brock 2001:203). The glazed lidded ceramic bowl, discovered together with other artifacts in the niche, was reexamined and dated to the late seventh–eighth centuries CE (Taxel 2014). These observations suggest dating the glass lamp to the seventh–eighth centuries CE as well.

³ The lamp was discovered in L843, B4172. The site within the Kiryat Nordau neighborhood in Netanya (unpublished; Permit No. A-4093) was headed by Marwan Masarwa, and the glass finds were studied by the author.

Windowpanes (Fig. 3:12–14). The windowpanes from the site (Fig. 3:12–14) are circular and have a folded hollow rim (diam. 220–300 mm). Glass panes of both the circular and quadrangular types, were widely employed in Syria-Palestine, installed in both public and private buildings during the Byzantine and Umayyad periods.

Circular windowpanes with a folded rim (210–300 mm in diameter) were discovered at several locations in Modi'in, for example, in Building 9, dated to the sixth–eighth centuries CE, at Khirbat Umm el-'Umdan (Weksler-Bdolah 2014: Fig. 20:2) and in as yet-unpublished excavations.⁴ Circular glass panes were also unearthed in a rural complex, possibly a monastery, which functioned during the Byzantine and Early Islamic periods at Khirbat el-Thahiriya in the Shephelah (Jackson-Tal 2012:69*, Fig. 4:54–59), and in churches and chapels in southern Sinai (Gorin-Rosen 2000:238–242, Figs. 3, 4).

SUMMARY

The glass finds unearthed in Modi'in, Kaizer neighborhood, are characteristic of the Byzantine–Umayyad periods, i.e., the fourth–eighth centuries CE. They include bowls, bowls/beakers, bottles, lamps and windowpanes, enhancing our knowledge of the glass products used in this region during those times. Similar glass vessels and windowpanes were discovered in contemporaneous glass assemblages from various sites in Modi'in and its vicinity, for example, Khirbat Umm el-'Umdan (Weksler-Bdolah 2014: Fig. 20) and as yet-unpublished excavations in the city,⁵ as well as Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit (Winter 1998), Khirbat el-Thahiriya (Jackson-Tal 2012), and an as yet-unpublished excavation at 'En Hila, near Latrun.⁶

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⁴ The excavation in Modi'in Compound L (Permit No. A-7516) was directed by Elie Haddad; the excavation at the Ligad Center (Permit No. A-7765) was directed by Durar Masarwa. The glass finds from both excavations were studied by the author.

⁵ See n. 4.

⁶ The excavation at 'En Hila (Permit No. A-7069) was headed by Benjamin Storchan, and the glass finds were studied by the author.

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