'Atiqot 109, 2022

The Pottery from the Hellenistic–Byzantine-Period Rural Settlement at el-Khirba, Shoham

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Introduction

Most of the pottery recovered from the excavations at Shoham (see Sion, this volume) was quite fragmentary; very little was sent to restoration. Most of the vessels were of local manufacture, made of coarse wares. The examples range in date from the early Hellenistic to the Late Roman/early Byzantine periods.

A representative corpus of pottery vessels from a few occupation layers at the site was chosen by the excavator (see Sion, this volume). The loci were selected based on their significance for illustrating the ceramic finds of the site. All the examples were drawn, described and compared with vessels from other sites in the region. The following text, with the accompanying figures and table, aims at offering a general contextual picture of the assemblage. Thus, the examples are presented chronologically (Strata III–I) and, within each stratum, by area and locus. Within each locus, the examples are arranged from open vessels (bowls, cooking pots and casseroles) to closed ones (jars, jugs, juglets and lamps) and miscellanea examples.

The Pottery

Stratum III (The Hellenistic Period)

Area A

The loci in this area belonged for the most part to agricultural terraces dated to the Hellenistic period, preceding the Hasmonean period.

Area A1, L514

Storage Jar (Fig. 1:1).— The sole illustrated example from this locus is a bag-shaped storage jar with a round thickened rim, common before and during the Persian period. The parallel from Gezer is dated to the late Hellenistic period (late second century BCE).

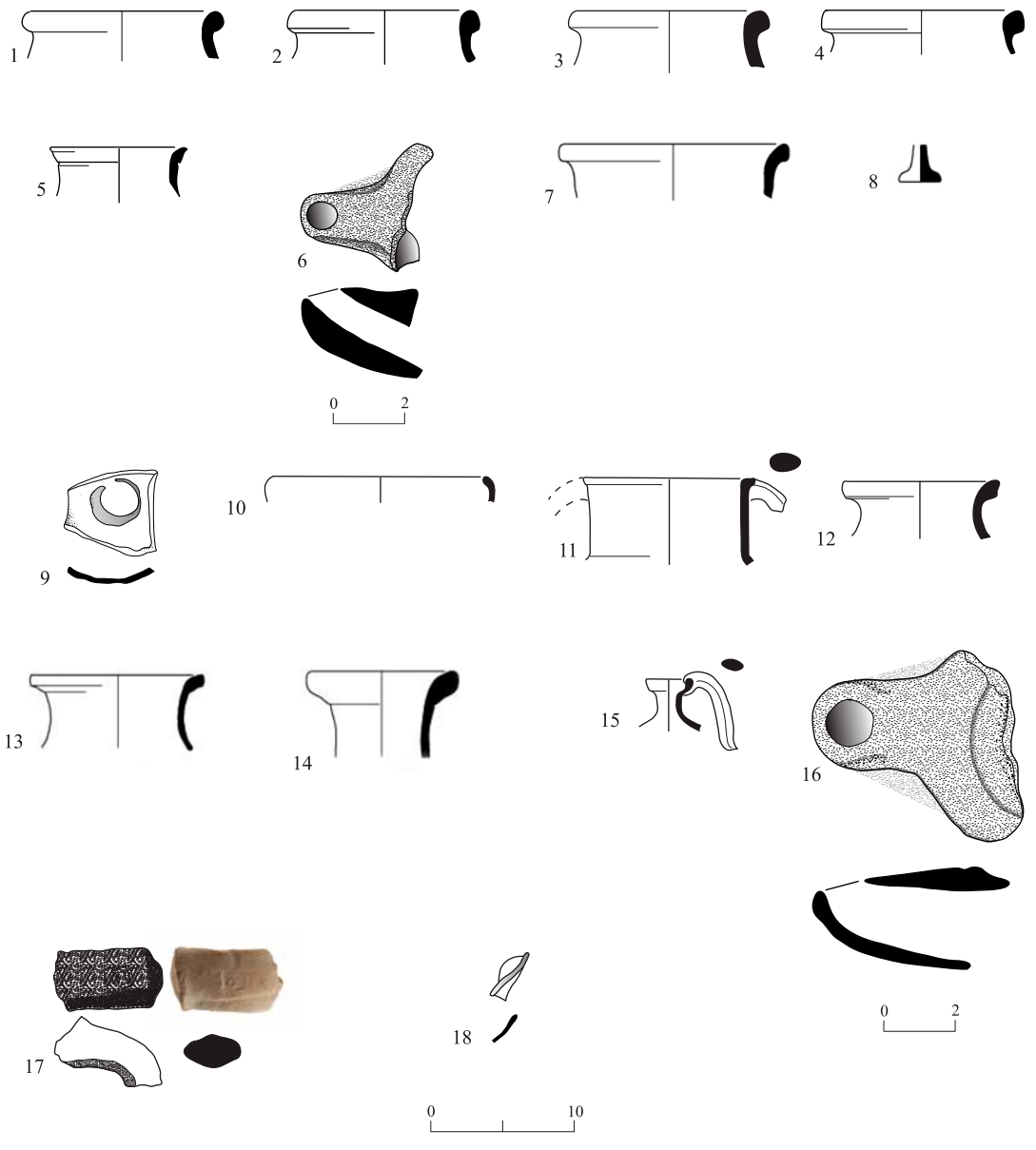

Fig. 1. The pottery from Stratum III.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description[i]	Parallels
1	Storage jar	514	1060/1	Light red (2.5YR 6/6) ware; gray (2.5YR N5) core; many tiny white inclusions	Gezer Str. IIB—Gitin 1990: Pl. 39:1, late Hellenistic (late second c. BCE)
2	Storage jar	526	1119/4	Gray (10YR 5/1) ware; reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) ext.; many medium to tiny white inclusions	Gezer Str. VII—Gitin 1990: Pl. 47:15, late Hellenistic
3	Storage jar	519	1129/1	n.a.	Gezer Str. IIC—Gitin 1990: Pl. 34:3, early Hellenistic (early to mid-2nd c. BCE)
4	Storage jar	526	1156/2	Pink (7.5YR 7/4) ware; no core; few, large to tiny, white, brown, red and black inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period IVA—Lapp 1981: Pl. 74:4, 175–135 BCE

[i] n.a. = not available.

◂ **Fig. 1**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description[i]	Parallels
5	Jug	526	1119/3	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) core; many medium to tiny, brown, white and glistening (sand) inclusions	Gezer Str. IIC—Gitin 1990: Pl. 34:25, early Hellenistic (early to mid-2nd c. BCE)
6	Lamp	1008	2020/2	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) ware; few, large, white, sand and red inclusions	Gezer Str. VII—Gitin 1990: Pl. 47:14, Persian to early Hellenistic Tel Dor—Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.68:26, 4th–2nd c. BCE
7	Jug	1217	2475	Pale yellow (2.5Y 8/3) ware; few, medium, dark gray and orange inclusions	Gezer Str. III—Gitin 1990: Pl. 33:8, early Hellenistic (late 3rd–early 2nd c. BCE)
8	Unguentarium	1226	2542	Light brown (7.5YR 6/3) ware; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) core; pink (7.5YR 8/4) ext.; few, medium to tiny white and sand inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period IVB—Lapp 1981: Pl. 77:1, 2, 135–100 BCE
9	Lamp	1226	2432/3	Reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/6) ware; gray (5YR 5/1) core; some tiny white and black inclusions	Jewish Quarter Type LP 1a—Geva 2003:139, Fig. 5.7:14, 2nd c. BCE
10	Bowl	1070	2327/3	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) ware; few, tiny, black, brown, red and sand inclusions	Gezer Str. III—Gitin 1990: Pl. 32:18, early Hellenistic (mid-3rd c. BCE)
11	Cooking pot	1070	2330/6	Dark gray (5YR 4/1) ware; red (2.5YR 4/6) int. and ext.; some large to tiny white, light gray and pink inclusions	Gezer Str. IIB—Gitin 1990: Pl. 37:19, late Hellenistic (mid-2nd c. BCE)
12	Jug	1070	2327/2	Pinkish gray (7.5YR 7/2) ware; pinkish white (7.5YR 8/2) int. and ext.; few large to tiny, light gray, reddish brown, and sand inclusions	Gezer Str. III—Gitin 1990: Pl. 33:8, early Hellenistic (late 3rd–early 2nd c. BCE)
13	Jug	1070	2330/5	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) core; few medium to tiny white and dark gray inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period IV B—Lapp 1981: Pl. 75:16, 135–100 BCE
14	Jug	1070	2330/11	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; pink (7.5YR 7/3) core; few large to tiny, white and black inclusions	
15	Juglet	1070	2330/1	Red (10R 5/6) ware; dark gray (2.5YR N4/) core; many tiny white inclusions	Gezer Str. IIA—Gitin 1990: Pl. 44:2, late Hellenistic (mid-1st c. BCE)
16	Lamp	1070	2330	Light brown (7.5YR 6/4) ware; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) core; very few tiny sand inclusions	
17	Amphora	1036	2158	Reddish brown 5YR 5/4 ware; few large to tiny gold mica, gray, black and orange inclusions	See Ariel, this volume
18	Lamp	1057	2263/1	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; pink (5YR 7/3) core; very few tiny white, gray and red inclusions	Jewish Quarter Type LP 1a—Geva 2003:139, Fig. 5.7:14, 2nd c. BCE

Area A1, L519, L526
Storage Jars (Fig. 1:2–4).— Three Hellenistic bag-shaped storage jars, two from L526 (Fig. 1:2, 4) and one from L519 (Fig. 1:3) are illustrated, all three with a round, thickened rim and a slightly conical neck. The rounded, thickened rim of this form, generally preceding the square, thickened one, dates from the third to second centuries BCE. It is interesting, however, that the rim sections of these three vessels already tend toward a square profile (especially the jar in Fig. 1:4).

Jug (Fig. 1:5).— The jug found in L526 has an everted, folded rim with a section resembling a bird's wing in profile. The rim is offset from its cylindrical neck by a narrow groove, and the spring of a handle proceeds from the rim. The parallel for this form from Gezer dates to the early Hellenistic period (early to mid-second century BCE).

All four illustrated forms from Loci 519 and 526 are closed vessels, dating from early to mid-second century BCE.

Area B

L1008
Lamp (Fig. 1:6).— The spout and part of the bowl of a local Hellenistic wheel-made lamp was unearthed in this locus. It dates from the third to the first century BCE.

Building A, L1217 (above the floor)
Jug (Fig. 1:7).— The single illustrated example from this locus is probably a wide-necked, piriform jug with a thickened, everted rounded rim and a tall cylindrical neck, likely dating from the second to the first century BCE.

Building A, L1226
Unguentarium (Fig. 1:8).— A footed base of a fusiform unguentarium, dating from the second to the first century BCE.

Lamp (Fig. 1:9).— This folded saucer lamp with a low disc base fits, morphologically, between the large wide-open lamps of the Persian period and the small closed "Hasmonean lamps." A similar example from the Jewish Quarter was dated to the second century BCE.

The suggested date for L1226 is the second century BCE.

Building B, L1070 (beneath the floor)
Bowl (Fig. 1:10).— This small, incurved-rim bowl probably dates from the second and first centuries BCE.

Cooking Pot (Fig. 1:11).— A globular cooking pot with an everted rim and a tall, cylindrical neck, dates from early to mid-second century BCE.

Jugs (Fig. 1:12–14).— The jugs in Fig. 1:12, 13 are wide-necked with thickened, everted rims and tall, concave-profiled necks. The jug in Fig. 1:12, with a heavy thickened rounded rim, probably dates to the second century BCE. The jug in Fig. 1:13 has a square thickened everted rim, and its parallel from Tell el-Ful Period IVB dates between 135 and 100 BCE. The jug in Fig. 1:14 is narrow-necked and has a heavy, rounded, thickened rim; it dates to the Hellenistic period.

Juglet (Fig. 1:15).— This juglet, with a cupped rim, ranges in date from the mid-second century BCE to the first century CE.

Lamp (Fig. 1:16).— The spout belongs to a local Hellenistic wheel-made lamp dating from the second and first centuries BCE.

All the examples from L1070 can be dated to the mid-second century BCE.

Building B, L1036
Amphora (Fig. 1:17).— The single example illustrated from this locus is a stamped Knidian amphora handle, possibly dating from the mid-third century BCE (see Ariel, this volume).

Building B, L1057
Lamp (Fig. 1:18).— The single example illustrated from this locus is a small fragment of a pinched saucer lamp. Morphologically, it belongs between the larger and more open saucer lamps of the Persian period and the smaller and more closed ones of the Late Hellenistic "Hasmonean" lamps. The few parallels for this type date from the second century BCE.

Summary: Stratum III

The pottery forms from Stratum III range in date from as early as the third to as late as the first century BCE, dating mainly from the earlier centuries within this range. The assemblage includes globular cooking pots with tall, cylindrical to funnel-shaped necks, storage jars with thickened round rims, jugs with externally folded rims with a bird-wing profile and folded saucer lamps.

STRATUM IIA (The Hasmonean Period)

Area B

Building D, L1065
Cooking Pot (Fig. 2:19).— This globular cooking pot has an everted rim and a tall, more or less cylindrical neck. It dates from the early to mid-second century BCE.

Storage Jar/Jug (Fig. 2:20).— A bag-shaped storage jar or wide-necked jug with a round, thickened rim. Similar examples from Gezer range in date from the late third to mid-second century BCE.

Storage Jar (Fig. 2:21).— A bag-shaped storage jar with a mid-length externally lapped rim. As this form developed, the fold tended to become longer. The fold on this example is relatively short, suggesting a date between the mid-second and mid-first centuries BCE.

Jugs (Fig. 2:22, 23).— Two wide-necked jugs with thickened everted rims from this locus are illustrated. Jug No. 22 has a thickened, rounded everted rim. A similar vessel from Gezer dates from the early to mid-second century BCE. Jug No. 23, dating from the same period, exhibits a square, externally folded everted rim.

The pottery from L1065 consists mainly of jars and jugs of a fairly homogeneous date ranging from the early second to the mid-first century BCE.

Building D, L1095, L1096
Bag-Shaped Storage Jars (Fig. 2:24, 25).— Two bag-shaped storage jars with externally folded square rims were found: Jar No. 24 (L1096), with a short, square, externally folded rim and a short cylindrical neck, dates from the early to mid-second century BCE. Jar No. 25 (L1095) displays a somewhat longer folded rim and clearly dates from the mid-second to the early first century BCE.

The suggested date for Loci 1095 and 1096 is from the mid-second to early first century BCE.

STRATUM II B (The Early Roman/Herodian Period until the Bar-Kokhba Revolt)

Area B

Building D and Wing D1, L1019
Lamp (Fig. 2:26).— The single illustrated example from this locus is a Herodian knife-pared lamp, belonging to Masada Type III (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994:47, Fig. 5), described as "…similar to Types I and II but the rim around the filling hole is rather narrow and on many

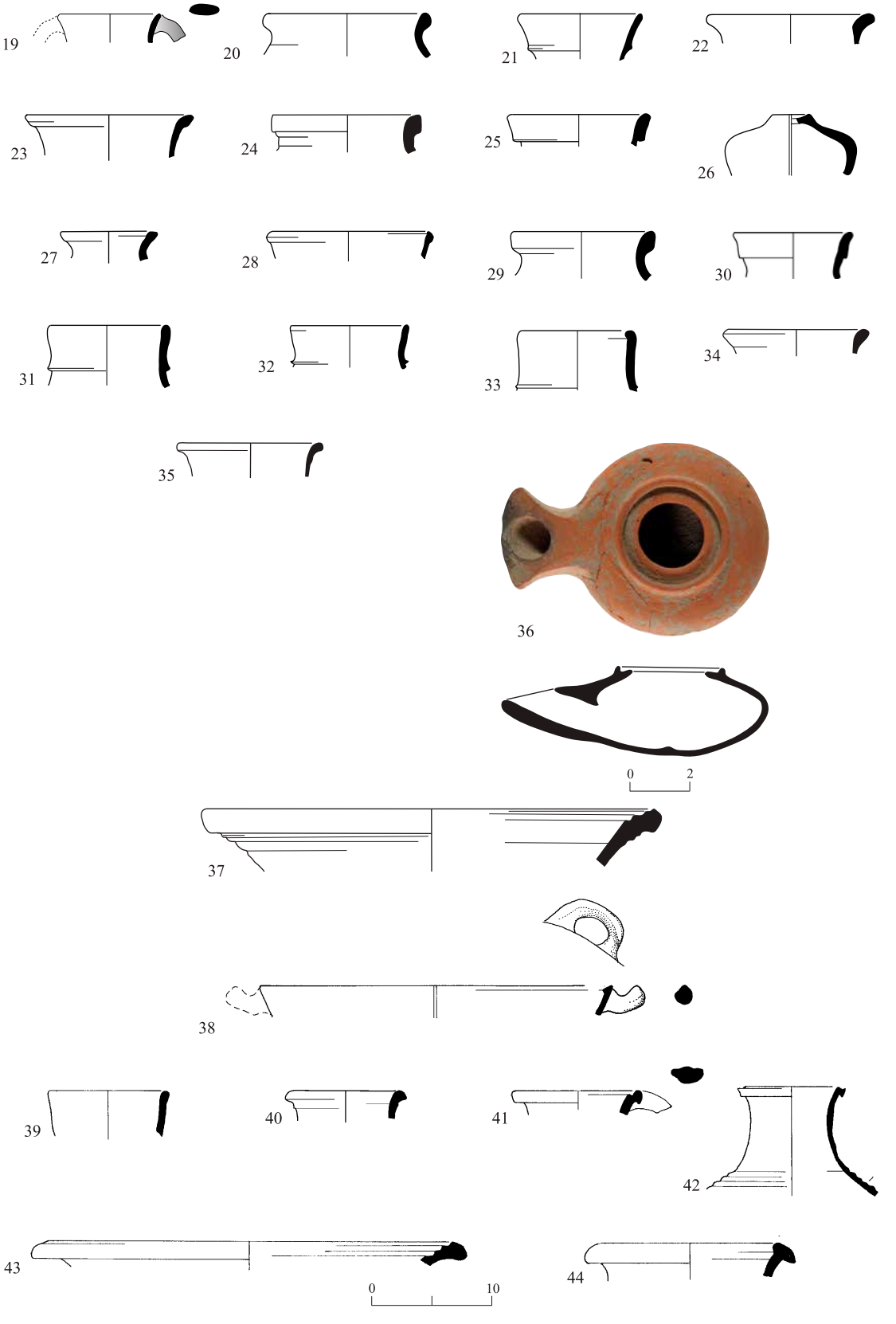

Fig. 2. The pottery from Stratum II.

◂ **Fig. 2**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
19	Cooking pot	1065	2307/4	Dark brown (7.5YR 4/2) ware; few tiny white and black (sand) inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period IVA—Lapp1981: Pl. 68:14, 175–135 BCE
20	Storage jar	1065	2307/1	Pale yellow (2.5Y 7/3) ware; some large to tiny dark gray and white inclusions	Gezer Str. IIB—Gitin 1990: Pls. 36:5, late Hellenistic (mid-2nd c. BCE); 33:8 (Jug), early Hellenistic (late 3rd–early 2nd c. BCE)
21	Storage jar	1065	2306/3	Light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) ware; some large to tiny dark gray, white and reddish-brown inclusions	Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit, (winepress 49א)—Greenhut 1998: Fig. 35:3, 2nd–1st c. BCE
22	Jug	1065	1515/1	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) ware; brown (7.5YR 5/2) core; pink (7.5YR 7/3) int. and ext. inclusions	Gezer Str. IIC—Gitin 1990: Pl. 34:26, early Hellenistic (early–mid-2nd c. BCE)
23	Jug	1065	2325/1	Pink (7.5YR 7/3) ware; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) int. and ext.; many large to tiny reddish brown, white and glistening inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces Type J-JG 7; HS 2—Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 9:82, 85/75–31 BCE
24	Storage jar	1096	1516/3	Very pale brown (10YR 7/3) ware; light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) int. and ext.; some light gray, white and red sand inclusions	Gezer Str. IIC—Gitin 1990: Pl. 34:16, early Hellenistic (early–mid-2nd c. BCE)
25	Storage jar	1095	1514	C36 ware; very pale brown (10YR 8/3) ext. (slip?); thick light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) core; few medium to tiny white, dark gray and red inclusions	Gezer Str. IIB—Gitin 1990: Pl. 36:8, late Hellenistic (mid-2nd c. BCE) Jericho Winter Palaces Type J-SJ4A2; HS 2—Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 3:20, 85/75–31 BCE
26	Lamp	1019	2059/1	Yellowish red ware (5YR 5/6); dark gray (7.5YR N4/) very thin core; few small to tiny white and black inclusions	Masada Type C III—Barag and Hershkovitz 1994: Fig. 5 (Zealot occupation)
27	Cooking pot	1287	2643/11	Red (2.5YR 5/8) ware; reddish brown (2.5YR 4/3) core; few small to tiny reddish brown and white inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period III B—Lapp 1981: Pl. 69:4, 587–538 BCE
28	Cooking pot	1287	2650/5	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) ware; yellowish red (5YR 5/6) core; few tiny white and sand inclusions	
29	Storage jar	1287	2650/10	Reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/6) ware; few small to tiny white inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces Type J-SJ3; HS 2—Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 3:16, 85/75–31 BCE Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit *Mikveh* 64—Greenhut 1998: Fig. 38:17, 2nd–1st c. BCE

◂ **Fig. 2** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
30	Storage jar	1287	2650/12	Dark gray (5YR 4/1) ware; reddish gray (5YR 5/2) core (toward int. surface); few small to tiny white and sand inclusions	Gezer Str. IIA—Gitin 1990: Pl. 41:8, late Hellenistic (early 1st c. BCE) Jericho Winter Palaces Type J-SJ4A1; HS 2—Bar-Nathan 002: Pl. 3:18, 85/75–31 BCE Tell el-Ful Period IV C—Lapp1981: Pl. 72:4, 100–75 BCE
31	Storage jar	1287	2643/3	Pink (5YR 7/4) ware; c64 core; many medium to tiny white inclusions	
32	Storage jar	1287	2643/5	Pink (7.5YR 8/4) ware; some large to tiny white, light brown inclusions	Ras Abu Ma‘aruf—Rapuano 1999: Fig. 1:12, late 1st c. BCE
33	Storage jar	1287	2650/13	Pink (7.5YR 7/4) ware; few medium to tiny white, gray and red inclusions	Jewish Quarter, Jerusalem—Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:177, Pl. 6.5:3, late 1st c. BCE – 1–30 CE
34	Jug	1274	2618/4	Very pale brown (10YR 8/4) ware; few large to tiny, yellow-brown, brown and red inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period IV B—Lapp 1981: Pl. 75:11, 135–100 BCE
35	Jug	1274	2618/1	Pink (7.5YR 7/4) ware; many tiny sand and red inclusions	Tell el-Ful Period IV B—Lapp 1981: Pl. 75:15, 135–100 BCE
36	Lamp	1274	2598/4	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; very few small to tiny red and white inclusions; soot. marks surrounding wick hole	Masada Type I—Barag and Hershkovitz 1994: Fig. 5–27, end of Herod’s reign or soon after
37	Basin	1014	2040	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; gray (10YR 5/1) core; white (10YR 8/2) int. and ext.; few medium to tiny white inclusions	Jerusalem Convention Center—Magness 2005:95, 97, Fig. 27:6, 70–early/mid-3rd c. CE
38	Casserole	1014	2302/2	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; few sand inclusions	Jerusalem—Magness 1993:211–213, Casserole Form 1, 3rd/4th–8th/9th c. CE
39	Storage jar	1014	2310/1	Light brown (7.5YR 6/4) ware; few tiny dark gray and white inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces, Type J-SJ7B3; HR3—Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 24:408, 6–48 CE
40	Storage jar/Jug	1014	2302/4	Very pale brown (10YR 7/3) ware; few, large to tiny red and dark gray inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces—Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 22:365 Gezer Str. IIA—Gitin 1990: Pl. 41:1, late Hellenistic (early 1st c. BCE) Rapuano 2013:82–83, Fig. 10:193–196

◂ **Fig. 2** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels
41	Jug	1014	2310/2	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; some large to tiny white and sand inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces Type J-JG1C; HR 1—Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 8:58, 30–15 BCE Masada Type M-JG5B2—Bar-Nathan 2006:103–104, Pl. 18:15, 18/16 BCE–73/74 CE
42	Jug	1014	2310/3	As No. 41	Sela‘ Cave— Amit and Eshel 1998: Fig. 2:27
43	Basin	1031	1501/11	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; faint reddish brown (5YR 5/3) core; few medium to tiny white and brown inclusions	Jerusalem Convention Center—Magness 2005:95, 97, Fig. 27:6, 70–early/mid-3rd c. CE Rapuano 2013:63–65, Rilled-rim Basin Form 1, late 1st–3rd c. CE
44	Amphora	1031	1501/18	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) core; large to tiny white and brown inclusions	

specimens the raised ridge is low and thin. Single lines or groups of two or three incised lines across nozzle are frequent as well as stamped double circlets on the nozzles (not on their pointed ends). The nozzle is longer and slightly narrower at their ends than those of Type I.” The authors noted that this was the most common type at Masada and seems to be associated with the Zealot occupation of the site in the first century CE. Therefore, the suggested date for L1019 is the first century CE.

Building C, L1287 (floor)
Cooking Pots (Fig. 2:27, 28).— Two globular cooking pots are illustrated from this locus: one with a folded, flaring rim and funnel-shaped neck (Fig. 2:27) and another (Fig. 2:28) with a narrow, externally folded, rounded rim and slightly funnel-shaped neck. Vessel No. 28 exhibits a small groove on the interior of the rim ending in a sharp point, and the trace of a handle spring is seen on the rim. These vessels date to the late first century BCE.

Storage Jars (Fig. 2:29–33).— Figure 2:29 is a bag-shaped storage jar with a short, externally folded, squared-off rim and a conical neck. This form was defined as Type J-SJ3 at the Jericho Winter Palaces. It dates from the early second to about the mid-first century BCE.

The jars in Fig. 2:30, 31 are cylindrical to bag-shaped, with externally folded rims. There was a general trend in this type of storage jar for the folded rim to become increasingly longer over the period. Storage jar No. 30, with a relatively short folded rim, dates from the early to the mid-first century BCE; jar No. 31, with a mid-length rim, also dates from the

early to about the mid-first century BCE. Jar Nos. 32, 33 have long externally lapped rims, so long that the fold turns up at its lower end. They date to the end of the first century BCE.

The suggested date for L1287 is the late first century BCE.

Stratum II C (between the First and Second Jewish Revolts)

Area B

Building C, L1274 (on the floor in Building C)
Jugs (Fig. 2:34, 35).— Two jugs with wide necks are illustrated from this locus. Jug No. 34 has a thickened, everted rounded rim; No. 35 has a rounded, thickened, everted rim and a tall funnel-shaped neck. Both vessels date from the mid-second to the early first century BCE.

Lamp (Fig. 2:36).— An intact Herodian knife-pared lamp (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994: Fig. 5-27, Masada Type C I) dated toward the end of Herod's reign or soon after.

Locus 1274, dates from the late first century BCE to the first century CE.

Buildings B, E, and Part of Building C, L1014
Basin (Fig. 2:37).— The rilled-rim basin (Rapuano 2013:63–65, Form 1) is typical of the late first to early second century CE. It has a shelf-rim with four ridges and three rills on top. In the Jerusalem Convention Center report (Magness 2005:95, 97, Fig. 27:6), this form was included within the rilled-rim type; however, the number of rills and their pattern differ somewhat from the classic rilled-rim form previously presented by Magness (1993:203–204).

Casserole (Fig. 2:38).— An example of a Casserole Form I (Magness 1993:211–213) with an internally beveled rim and outward flaring walls. The horizontal handles were turned-up and situated high up on the walls. It probably dates from the end of the first century through the fourth or fifth century CE.

Storage Jar (Fig. 2:39).— This bag-shaped storage jar has a slightly everted simple rim and a collar-ridge at the base of its tall, cylindrical neck. It is a form typical of the first century CE, which continued until the early second century CE.

Jugs (Fig. 2:40–42).— Jug. No. 40 has a wide mouth with a thickened, everted rounded rim and a slightly funnel-shaped neck. The ridge on its neck may have facilitated securely tying a cord around it beneath the rim for drawing water. Its light-colored ware may indicate that

it belongs to the Hellenistic period, but its form is similar to vessels from the period between the Jewish Revolts.

Two variants of a wide-mouth piriform jug, with an axe-shaped rim and a tall, more or less cylindrical neck and ring base, are illustrated (Fig. 2:41, 42). The grooved loop handle was drawn from the rim to the shoulder. This typical Early Roman form first appeared at the end of the first century BCE and continued into the early second century CE. Jug No. 42 evidently belongs to the end of this period, that is, from the late first to the early second century CE.

The date suggested for L1014 is the late first to early second century CE. The casserole (Fig. 2:38), the storage jar (Fig. 2:39) and the two jugs (Fig. 2:41, 42) are all Roman forms. The rilled-rim basin (Fig. 2:37) and the jug (Fig. 2:41) can be dated more specifically to the period between the Jewish Revolts, from the late first century to the early second century CE. The other examples could also possibly date to this period as well, for example, the casserole (Fig. 2:38), which begins to appear within the same time range.

Buildings B, E and Part of C, L1031

Basin (Fig. 2:43).— A rilled-rim basin (Rapuano 2013:63–65, Form 1) bearing four ridges and three rills on the upper surface of its rim. It dates from the late first to the early second century CE (see above, Fig. 2:37).

Amphora (Fig. 2:44).— The amphora is possibly of Peacock and Williams (1986:120–121) Class 17, originating in the southern Spanish coast, dated from the late first century BCE to the second century CE.

The suggested date for L1031 is from the late first to the early second century CE.

Summary: Stratum II

The pottery from Stratum IIA, dating from the mid-second to the early first century BCE, consists of cooking pots with tall necks, bag-shaped storage jars with shorter folded rims and jugs with thickened, everted rims.

Stratum IIB, dating from the late first century BCE to c. 70 CE, features globular cooking pots, bag-shaped storage jars with longer externally folded rims and a knife-pared lamp.

The pottery from Stratum IIC contained a considerable amount of residual material from the late Hellenistic period. The latest pottery dates from the period between the Jewish Revolts, from the late first and early second centuries CE. This assemblage includes Form 1 rilled-rim basins; possibly an Iberian amphora; piriform jugs with everted and axe-profile rims; a shallow casserole with horizontal handles; and a knife-pared lamp.

Stratum I (Fourth– Sixth Centuries CE)

Area B

Building E, L1018 (at floor level)
Basins (Fig. 3:45).— This is a Jerusalem arched-rim basin Form 1 dating from the late third to the sixth century CE (Magness 1993:204–206).

Jug(?) (Fig. 3:46).— A small rim fragment, possibly of a jug or a storage jar, made of thick and rather coarse pink ware. It has an incurving rim with two parallel incised grooves forming a band below the rim decorated with a row of circlet impressions, each with a dot in its center. Below the band, the fragment is decorated with reed-like circlet impressions forming a rosette. The interior and exterior surfaces bear traces of a pale red slip. Red-slipped pink ware is characteristic of the third and fourth centuries CE.

Storage Jars (Fig. 3:47, 48).— These are two bag-shaped storage jars with a short, externally folded rim, and a tall more or less cylindrical neck with a sleeve-like collar at its base. This form first appears toward the end of the Second Temple period and is the typical storage jar in Judea in the period between the First and Second Jewish Revolts, continuing in use until at least the fourth century CE.

Lamp (Fig. 3:49).— This is an intact example of Rosenthal and Sivan's (1978:99–103) ovoid lamp with a large filling hole, dated from the third to the fourth century CE. It has a pyramidal handle and is decorated on its rim with radial lines. Its exterior surface is covered with an uneven red external slip; no soot marks are visible around the wick hole.

The suggested date for L1018 is based on the latest pottery recovered, which includes the lamp (Fig. 3:49) and the jug/jar (Fig. 3:46), dated to the third–fourth centuries CE. Considering that the lamp was intact and that there is a second example evidently dated to the same period, it seems that L1018 should probably be dated according to these latest forms.

Building F, L1072 (floor level in Building F)
Krater/Jar (Fig. 3:50).— This krater-like jar is a unique form at the site. It is a Jerusalem Wide-Necked Jar Form 1, the suggested date for which is the third to fifth centuries CE (Magness 1993).

Cooking Pot (Fig. 3:51).— One cooking pot is illustrated from this locus. This is a squat, globular cooking pot with an inturned carinated rim and a funnel-shaped neck, dating from the second to the fourth century CE.

A considerable number of examples of this cooking pot were found at the site in contexts postdating 70 CE. However, none of the loci from which this type was recovered yielded

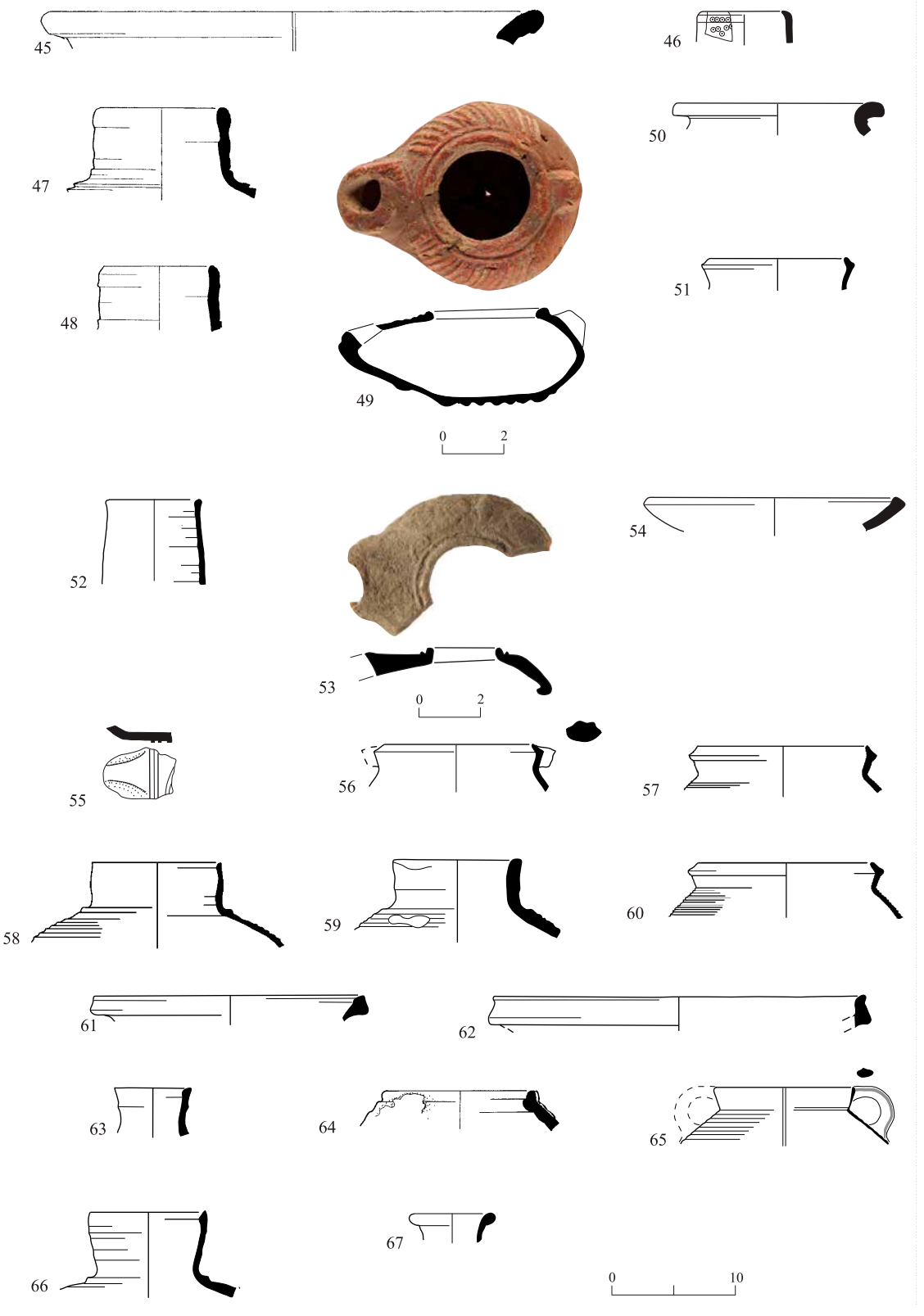

Fig. 3. The pottery from Stratum I.

◂ **Fig. 3**

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description[i]	Parallels
45	Basin	1018	2074/4	Light brown (7.5YR 6/4) ware; few medium to tiny red and white inclusions	Jerusalem Convention Center—Magness 2005:95, 97, Fig. 27:6, 70–early to mid-3rd c. CE Rapuano 2013:63–65, Rilled-rim Basin Form 1, 1st–3rd c. CE
46	Jar (?)	1018	2074	Thick, rather coarse pink (7.5YR 7/4) ware; traces of pale red (10R 4/4) slip on int. and ext.; some tiny gray, white and red inclusions	
47	Storage jar	1018	2058/3	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; few tiny glistening (sand?) inclusions	Naḥal Ḥever Caves 5–6—Aharoni 1961: Fig. 7:20, 1st–2nd c. CE
48	Storage jar	1018	2058/1	Red (2.5YR 5/6) ware; light yellowish brown (10YR 6/2) core; few small to tiny white and glistening (sand) inclusions	Makukh Cave—Eshel 1998: Pl. 6:2, Bar-Kokhba Revolt Caesarea—Blakely 1987: Fig. 20:45, end of 1st/beginning of 2nd c.–mid-late 3rd c. CE
49	Lamp	1018	2056	Pink (7.5YR 7/4) ware; uneven red (2.5YR 5/6) ext. slip; few tiny light gray inclusions	Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:99–103, 3rd–4th c. CE
50	Krater /Jar	1072	2329/3	Very pale brown (10YR 7/3) ware; white (10YR 8/1) int. and ext. surfaces; some large to tiny dark gray and white inclusions	Jerusalem(?)—Magness 1993:235: No. 1, Wide-Necked Jar Form 1, 3rd–5th c. CE
51	Cooking pot	1072	2399/4	Dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) ware; few small sand white and dark brown inclusions	‘Ein Ez–Zara/Callirrhoe—Clamer 1997: Pl. 2:7
52	Water pipe	1067	2344/1	Reddish brown (5YR 5/4) ware; thick, dark gray (5YR 4/1) core; few small to tiny dark gray and white inclusions	‘Opher Park Ramla—Kletter 2005: Fig. 19:8, Early Islamic
53	Lamp	1067	2368	Soft reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; no core; few tiny white inclusions	Schloessinger Collection, ovoid lamp with large filling hole (No. 411)—Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:99–103, 3rd–4th c. CE
54	Bowl	1091	1501/7	Light red (2.5YR 6/6) ware; traces of red (10R 5/6) int. and ext. slip; few tiny white inclusions	Hayes 1972:372–374, Fig. 80:2, late 4th c. (or earlier)–third quarter of 5th c. CE
55	Lamp	1268	2575	Very pale brown (10YR 7/3) ware; few medium to tiny white, gray and red inclusions; soot marks under wick hole	Rosenthal and Sivan 1978: 99–103, No. 411, 3rd–4th c. CE
56	Cooking pot	1290	2615/1	n.a.	Judean Shephela—Kloner and Tepper 1987: Pl. 1:16, Bar-Kokhba period

[i] n.a. = not available.

◂ **Fig. 3** (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description[i]	Parallels
57	Cooking pot	1261	2654/4	Reddish brown (2.5YR 4/4) ware; some small to tiny sand inclusions	Judean Shephela—Kloner and Tepper 1987: Pl. 1:16, Bar-Kokhba period
58	Storage Jar	1261	2612/1	Light reddish brown (5YR 6/4) ware; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) core; few large to tiny white and light gray inclusions	
59	Storage jar	1261	2663	Yellowish red (5YR 5/8) ware; many medium to tiny sand and white inclusions	
60	Cooking pot	1280	2615/2	n.a.	Judean Shephela—Kloner and Tepper 1987: Pl. 1:16, Bar-Kokhba period
61	Bowl	1232	2445/2	Red (2.5YR 5/6) ware; very few tiny sand inclusions	Hayes 1972:329–338, Late Roman C Form 3 E, 5th–early 6th c. CE
62	Bowl	1232	2445/2	Light red (2.5YR 6/6) ware; few small to tiny white and dark gray inclusions	Hayes 1972: 329–338, Late Roman C Form 3F or H, 6th c. CE
63	Storage jar/Jug	1232	2523/3	Red (2.5YR 5/6) ware; some large to tiny white inclusions, gritty	
64	Storage jar	536	1190/3	Yellowish red (5YR 5/6) ware; brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) core; few medium to tiny white, gray and glistening (sand?) inclusions	Majcherek 1995: Form 2, 300–450
65	Cooking pot	542	1210/3	Red (2.5YR 5/6) ware; few small to tiny black and sand inclusions	Díez Fernández 1983: Fig. 329, T10.6c, 275–360 CE or 260–360 CE
66	Storage jar	542	1216/1	Reddish yellow (5YR 6/6) ware; some medium to tiny white inclusions	Magness 1993:224–226, Form 4A
67	Jug	542	1215/3	Light gray (10YR 7/2) ware; few tiny to small dark gray, white and glistening inclusions	

coins, and the dating could not be clearly determined from the rest of the pottery in these loci. In L1280, for example, a cooking pot of this form (see below, Fig. 3:60) was found with other examples dating from the end of the first to the early second century CE. Similar examples were found at Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 29:49, Type M-CP9) dated 66–73/74 CE, and in the Judean Shephela (Kloner and Tepper 1987: Pl. 1:16), where they were dated to the Bar-Kokhba period. Magness' (1993:219) cooking pot Form 4A, dating from the fifth/sixth to the late seventh/early eighth century CE, may be a successor of our form.

This specific form was entirely absent from the considerable amount of pottery recovered from the oil press found at the site and dated to the period between the Jewish Revolts (Rapuano, forthcoming). Thus, it seems best to date this cooking pot from between the end of the first/beginning of the second century to the fourth century CE.

The date suggested for L1072 is based on the dates of the wide-mouth jar (Fig. 3:50) and the cooking pot (Fig. 3:51) to the second–fourth centuries CE.

Building G, L1067
Water Pipe(?) (Fig. 3:52).— Possibly an Early-Islamic period water-pipe fragment.

Lamp (Fig. 3:53).— This oval lamp dates from the third–fourth centuries CE. It has a large filling hole, decorated on its shoulder with antithetic fish flanking an oval with pointed ends and volutes on either side above the nozzle.

Building G, L1091
Bowl (Fig. 3:54).— An example of Hayes' Cypriot Red Slip Form 1 bowl, which he suggested dating from the late fourth century (or earlier) to about the third quarter of the fifth century CE.

Among the finds from this locus is a coin (IAA No. 646796) dated to the fourth century CE. The date of the CRS bowl (Fig. 3:54) and that of the coin suggests a date for L1091 in the fourth–fifth centuries CE.

Building H, L1268 (on floor of Building H, above Stratum III Building C)
Lamp (Fig. 3:55).— A fragment of the lower part of an ovoid lamp with a large filling hole, dating from the third to the fourth century CE.

Building H, L1290
Cooking Pot (Fig. 3:56).— A squat globular cooking pot with an inturned, carinated rim, a funnel-shaped neck and long grooved loop handles extending from the rim to the shoulder (see above, Fig. 3:51). This vessel dates from the second to the fourth century CE.

Building H, L1261
Cooking Pot (Fig. 3:57).— This cooking pot is another example of a squat globular cooking pot with an inturned carinated rim, a slightly rounded funnel-shaped neck and long grooved loop handles extending from rim to shoulder (see above, Fig. 3:51, 56). It dates from the end of the first or the beginning of the second century to the fourth CE.

Storage Jars (Fig. 3:58, 59).— Two bag-shaped storage jars were illustrated from this locus. Jar No. 58 shows the upper part of a storage jar with a short internally folded rim, a tall

swollen neck, and a collar ridge at the junction between the neck and the shoulder. This form dates from the end of the first to the early second century CE. The collar-ridge rides on top of the shoulder rather than on the neck. It is folded back, with a well-defined groove on its lower end. This feature is characteristic of storage jars of the Byzantine and Umayyad periods. Despite this, the rim does not seem to have quite developed into the type defined by Magness as Form 4A (1993:224–226), provisionally dated from the third to the fourth century CE. The southern coastal bag-shaped storage jar with a long-folded rim and a cylindrical neck (Fig. 3:59) has ceramic accretions on its shoulder characteristic of this type of jar. It probably dates to the fifth, and perhaps also to the beginning of the sixth, century CE.

The suggested date for L1261 is based on the latest form from this locus—the southern coastal, bag-shaped jar—probably dating from the fifth century and perhaps also the beginning of the sixth century CE. Unless this last jar is intrusive, the locus should be dated to not earlier than the fifth century CE, and possibly also to the beginning of the sixth century CE.

Building H, L1280
Cooking Pot (Fig. 3:60).— A squat globular cooking pot with an inturned carinated rim, a slightly rounded funnel-shaped neck and long grooved loop handles extending from the rim to shoulder (see above Fig. 3:51, 56, 57), dating from the end of the first or beginning of the second century to the fourth century CE.

Building H, L1232 (Wing B, above stone floor)
Fine Ware Bowls (Fig. 3:61, 62).— Two bowls of Hayes' (1972) Late Roman C Form 3 (LRC3) are illustrated from this locus. Bowl No. 61 is Form 3E, with a suggested date of the fifth to early sixth centuries CE; while Bowl No. 62 is Form 3F or 3H, whose suggested date is the sixth century CE.

Storage Jar/Jug (Fig. 3:63).— This is a southern coastal bag-shaped jar with an externally-folded rim and a tall concave neck, perhaps dating from the second to the fourth century CE (see above, Fig. 3:59).

The suggested date for L1232 is the sixth century CE, based on the latest examples from this locus.

Area C1

L536 (northeast of W1, W2; southeast of the Winepress)
Storage Jar (Fig. 3:64).— This is a Gaza storage jar. Among the forms in Majcherek's provisional typology (1995), it best fits Form 2 dated between 300 and 450 CE. Its rather narrow shoulders suggest that it may be a transitional form toward Form 3, which dates from the turn of the sixth to the end of the seventh century CE.

L542 (south of Winepress treading floor)
Cooking Pot (Fig. 3:65).— A squat cooking pot with a rather tall funnel-shaped neck, sharp ribbing on its shoulder and grooved strap handles. The rim probably had a deep groove on top that was not visible, perhaps because it was obscured by the handle's attachment. This vessel is typical of the Middle and Late Roman periods in the region, from the second to the fourth century CE.

Storage Jar (Fig. 3:66).— This bag-shaped storage jar has an internally thickened and beveled rim, a tall funnel-shaped neck, and a collar ridge at the neck's junction with the vessel's shoulder. This could be the prototype of Magness (1993:224–226) storage jar Form 4. The vessel probably dates from the second to the fourth century CE. The collar ridge on such vessels of the first to the early second century is situated higher up the neck.

Jug (Fig. 3:67).— A narrow-necked jug with a round, thickened, everted rim and a more or less cylindrical neck. Since both the cooking pot (Fig. 3:65) and the storage jar (Fig. 3:66) from this locus date from the second to the fourth centuries CE, it seems likely that the jug (Fig. 3:67) belongs to this same period.

The suggested date for L542 is the third–fourth centuries CE.

Summary: Stratum I

The selected loci of Stratum I contained a great deal of residual pottery dating to earlier periods. However, most of the latest forms can be dated from the third to the fifth century CE, including a Late Roman C3 Form E bowl, a Cypriot Red Slip bowl, an Arched-Rim Basin, inverted-rim cooking pots, bag-shaped storage jars with a rather long external fold and collar ridges at the base of the neck, a Majcherek Form 2 Gaza jar, the krater-like wide-mouth jar with an everted rim, and ovoid lamps with a large filling hole. The latest vessel is the Late Roman C3 Form F bowl (L1232, Fig. 3:62) dating from the sixth century CE.

Summary and Conclusions

The pottery forms found at el-Khirba, Shoham, are typical of the Judean region and reflect the rise and decline of the activity at the site. The large amounts of pottery from Stratum III, dated to the Hellenistic period (third–second centuries BCE), suggest robust settlement at this time. Likewise, the finds from the following Stratum II, dating from the Hasmonean period (mid-second to late first centuries BCE), also represent a strong settlement. Based on the ceramic finds, the settlement's high point was in Stratum IIB of the Herodian period, between around the second half of the first century BCE to 70 CE. In Stratum IIC, between the First and the Second Jewish Revolts against the Romans, the settlement continued albeit on a more modest scale. In Stratum I, settlement was

intensive once again, beginning in the Late Roman (Stratum IA; late second to early fourth centuries CE) and continuing through the Byzantine period (Stratum IB–C). The ceramic evidence indicates that the occupation of the site came to an end probably in the fifth century or even as late as the sixth century CE.

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