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A Glass Bottle from the Days of the British Mandate from the Harbor Area, Yafo (Jaffa)

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A total of 434 glass vessels fragments were retrieved from the excavation at the Yafo (Jaffa) Harbor (See Hadad and Glick, this volume), of which 320 were non-diagnostic body fragments. All the glass dates to the period of the British Mandate. The finds comprise mainly mass-produced, brown and green glass bottles, as well as about 100 colorless glass windowpane fragments. Two incomplete, colorless glass salt and pepper sets, and two colored glass bracelet fragments (opaque green with applied decoration; blue twisted) were also found.

One bottle deserves special attention. It is an incomplete vessel, with part of the neck and the rim missing, made of very light bluish glass, covered by a white weathering layer and iridescence (Fig. 1; L740, B7103).[1] The preserved height of the bottle is 16.5 cm, the glass

Fig. 1. Glass bottle with manufacturer's mark.

[1] I thank Adrienne Ganor (glass restoration), Carmen Hersch (drawing) and Clara Amit (photography), and Yael Gorin-Rosen, for her help in the preparation of this paper.

is thick (5–9 mm) and the bottle is relatively heavy. It was made of a two-part mold with the seam clearly visible along the wall.

An interesting, molded manufacturer's mark adorns the bottle's body. In the central circle there is a heart motif and below it, the Hebrew inscription לב שמח (joyful heart). A circular band surrounding the circle, divided into two parts, bears the Hebrew wording אליהו ערב-תל אביב, and similarly in Latin letters E. AROV-TEL AVIV.

Whilst I did not succeed in tracing this name and design, its significance lies in its being evidence for local production, possibly a personal order for a special event. Another bottle by this manufacturer was discovered in the excavations in the Magen Avraham Compound in Yafo (Ouahnouna 2020).

REFERENCES

Hadad E. and Glick A. This volume. The Yafo (Jaffa) Harbor: The Course of the Wall during the Crusader and Ottoman Periods and Remains of a Wharf from the Days of the British Mandate.

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