'Atiqot 113, 2023

The Pottery Assemblage from the Mount Scopus Chalk-Vessel Production Cave

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The pottery from the Mount Scopus chalk-vessel production cave comprises mostly cooking wares, with some storage and table wares, and knife-pared lamps, dating from the first century BCE to 70 CE. A few types continue up to 132 CE, the period between the First and Second Revolts.

Keywords: Pottery, Roman period, Herodian period, between the Revolts

Introduction

The pottery assemblage retrieved from the Mount Scopus chalk-vessel production cave comprises mostly cooking wares, some storage jars, a table amphora, juglets, a small bowl and lamps (see Seligman, Amit and Zilberbod, this volume). The assemblage dates predominantly to the Early Roman period down to the First Jewish Revolt (the end of the first century BCE to 70 CE), with a few vessels dating from the period between the First and Second Revolts (70–132 CE).

Comparisons to similar pottery forms and their dating ranges are presented from published assemblages from Jerusalem, including the Jewish Quarter (Geva 2003; Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003; Geva and Hershkovitz 2006), the Jerusalem International Convention Center at Binyene Ha-Umma (Berlin 2005; Magness 2005; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2005; Hershkovitz 2005); the Eastern Cardo in the Western Wall Plaza (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019) and Shu'afaṭ and other Jerusalem sites (Terem 2016). The published pottery assemblages from Jericho (Bar-Nathan 2002) and Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006) are also cited where relevant. The discussion on the lamps refers to the Masada report (Barag and Hershkowitz 1994) and to the Schloessinger Collection publication (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978). Additional discussions and comparative data appear in all these reports. The pottery is presented from open to closed vessels, followed by the lamps, and finally a brief note on the small assemblage from the upper level of the cave (L1204) that is dated to the period between the two revolts.

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THE POTTERY

Bowl

Bowl (Fig. 1:1).— A thin-walled bowl with straight ribbed walls was made of pink ware with a gray core and white grits, characteristic of Jerusalem vessels. This bowl form first appeared in the mid-second century BCE, and it was common in the first century CE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:187–188; Bar-Nathan 2006:268; Geva and Hershkovitz 2006:19; B). These bowls were also found in post-Herodian contexts in the Roman villa at Jericho (Bar-Nathan 2006:268), thus extending the chronological range of this bowl down to the beginning of the second century CE.

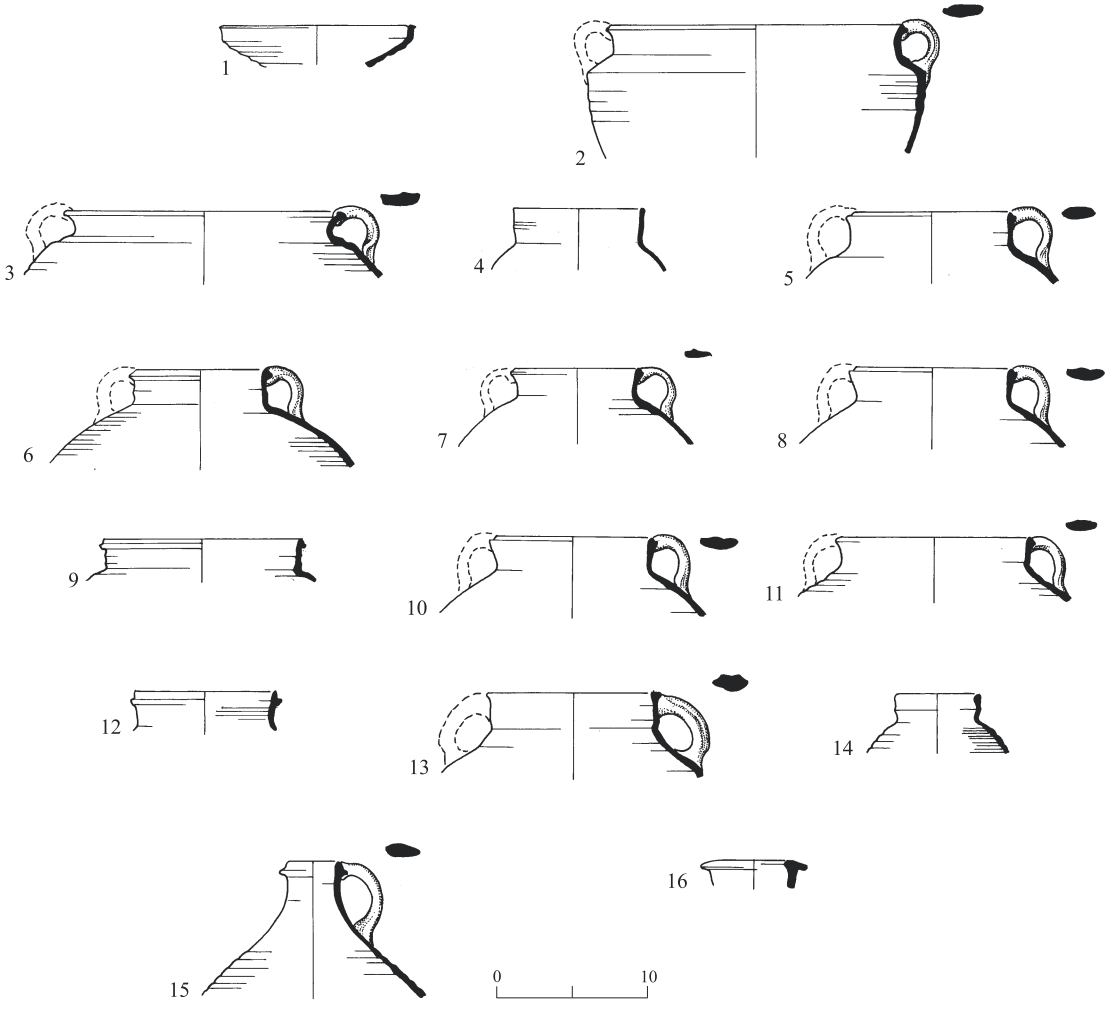

Fig. 1. Bowl and cooking wares.

◂ **Fig. 1.** (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cave Unit	Ware	Parallels and Dating
1	Bowl	108	1086/1	U1	Pink, gray core, white grits	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, Str. 5–4, mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pl. 6.6:25); Area E, Str. 4, mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE (Geva and Hershkovitz 2006: Pl. 4.5:10) Masada: Type M-BL7A, 66–73/4 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 25:42)
2	Casserole	103	1003/1	U1	Dark red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180, Pls. 6.2:30; 6.5:43; 6.9:20); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phases 3–4, early 1st c. CE to 70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 7) Jericho: Type J-CS3, 31 BCE–115 CE (Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 13:164, 165; Pls. VIII:13; IX:19–23; Bar-Nathan and Gitler-Kamil 2002: Pl. 27:495–499) Masada: Type M-CS1A, 66–73/74 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 30:51–56)
3	Casserole	1202	12017/1	U12	Red	Masada: Type M-CS2A, 66–73/74 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 30:57)
4	Cooking pot	112	1125	U1	Yellowish red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, end 2nd c. BCE–end Second Temple period (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pl. 6.2:26); Binyene Ha-Umma end 1st–2nd c. CE (Hershkovitz 2005: Fig. 1:9)
5	Cooking pot	109	1038	U1	Red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, end 2nd BCE–end Second Temple period (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180, Pls. 6.1:12; 6.2:26; 6.10:12); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phases 2–4, late 1st c. BCE–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 4); Shuʻafaṭ, Type 1, 70–135 CE (Terem 2016: Pl. 10:150–158) Jericho: Type J-CP2C2, Herodian 1–3 pottery phases, 31 BCE–48 CE (Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 12:150; Bar-Nathan and Gitler-Kamil 2002: Pl. 26:476–483); Roman Villa, 48/70–115 CE (Bar-Nathan, unpublished) Masada: Type M-CP1B, 66–80/87 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pls. 27, 28, Nos. 6–25)
6	Cooking pot	108	1086/1	U1	Light red, reddish brown core	As No. 5
7	Cooking pot	109	1041/1	U1	Light red, reddish brown core	As No. 5
8	Cooking pot	901	9001/2	U9	Red	As No. 5

Fig. 1. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cave Unit	Ware	Parallels and Dating
9	Cooking pot	1204	12014/1	U12	Dark red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, end 2nd c. BCE–end Second Temple period (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180, Pls. 6.1:12; 6.2:26; 6.10:12); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phase 4, mid-1st c. CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 9); Shuʻafaṭ, 70–135 CE (Terem 2016: Pl. 10:157)
10	Cooking pot	1203	12016/1	U12	Red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, Str. 5 (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180, Pl. 6.5:38); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phases 2–4, late 1st c. BCE–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 4) Shephelah: 1st–3rd c. CE (Rapuano 2013: Nos. 60–62)
11	Cooking pot	1204	12014/2	U12	Light red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, Str. 5 (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180, Pl. 6.5:38); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phase 4, mid-1st c. CE–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 10)
12	Cooking pot	1104	11051/2	U11	Red	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area A, Str. 5 (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180, Pl. 6.5:38); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phase 4, mid-1st c.–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 10); Eastern Cardo, 70–120 CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019:611–613)
13	Cooking pot	111	1124	U1	Brownish red	Jerusalem: Binyene Ha-Umma, 1st–early 3rd c. CE (Magness 2005: Fig. 20:3, 4); mid-1st c.–70 CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2005:242, No. 17); Givʻat Ram, post-72 CE–2nd c. CE (Hershkovitz 1987: Fig. 1:9); Eastern Cardo, 70–120 CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019: No. 627) Masada: Type CP2, 1st –first third 2nd c. CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 29:30–32) ʻAroer: 132–135 CE (Hershkovitz 1992: Pl. 13:9, 10)
14	Cooking pot	901	9001/1	U9	Yellowish red	Jerusalem: Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phase 4, mid-1st c. CE to 70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 9) Jericho: Type JCP2d (Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 26:484, 485)
15	Cooking jug	1207	12052	U12	Red, dark gray core	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:181, Pls. 6.2:32; 6.5:42; 6.9:19); Binyene Ha-Umma ceramic phases 2–4, late 1st c. BCE–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 9) Jericho: Type J-CJG1A, 31 BCE–6 CE (Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 13:168, 169; Bar-Nathan and Gitler-Kamil 2002: Pl. 27:504) Masada: Type M-JG1A, Herodian (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 31:85)
16	Cooking jug	1209	12036/2	U12	Dark red	Masada: Type M-CP9, 66–73/4 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 29:49)

Cooking Wares

The cooking-ware vessels constitute the bulk of the pottery sherds in the assemblage. The ware is characterized by its coarse red fabric, ranging from light to dark red, sometimes with a pale brown or gray core, and including many white grits. The vessels include casseroles, closed cooking pots and cooking jugs.

Casseroles (Fig. 1:2, 3).— A casserole with a triangular-profiled rim and sharply carinated shoulders (Fig. 1:2) is common in the Mount Scopus assemblage. It is the typical Herodian casserole, dating from the end of the first century BCE down to 70 CE. A casserole with a short neck ending in an everted gutter rim and a carinated shoulder (Fig. 1:3) is a less common form that may belong to a Greek tradition. A similar vessel comes from a 66–73/4 CE context at Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006:166).

Closed Cooking Pots (Fig. 1:4–14).— Cooking pots with high thin necks (Fig. 1:4) are common from the end of the second and the beginning of the first century BCE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180). Globular cooking pots with a wheel-ridged body, a medium–high vertical or slightly everted neck, a triangular-profiled rim, sometimes with a groove on top, and two oval strap handles with a ridge in the center (Fig. 1:5–8) are the most common cooking pot type here. This triangular-rimmed cooking pot with a relatively short vertical or slightly everted neck is the continuation of the cooking pot form with a long, everted neck and a triangular rim, the earlier variant appearing from the last decades of the second to the first centuries BCE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180). In the last decades of the first century BCE, this type was replaced by a squatter variant with a shorter neck and a pronounced triangular rim, sometimes with a groove; the Mount Scopus cooking pots belong to the later variant. Similar cooking pots were produced in Binyene Ha-Umma in the second ceramic phase, in the late first century BCE, continuing until 70 CE (Berlin 2005:36–37, Fig. 4). They are common in Early Roman period (late first century to 70 CE) contexts in Jerusalem and other Judean sites (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:180; Bar-Nathan 2006:153–156). Recent research from sites post-dating 70 CE, as, for example, the Binyene Ha-Umma workshop, have shown that these cooking pots continued to be produced without change, at the beginning of the second century CE (Levi, forthcoming; Rosenthal-Heginbottom, forthcoming). At Shu‘afaṭ, they also continued to appear with minor changes (Terem 2016:110–112, Pl. 48).

Cooking pots with flanged triangular rims (Fig. 1:9–12) are also common, differing from the triangular-rim cooking pots in the rim finish which has a small, sharp protruding flange rather than a smooth triangular rim (Berlin 2005:42). Although the distinction is minor, this variant is common at the Binyene Ha-Umma workshop only in the fourth ceramic phase, dated to the mid-first century CE (Berlin 2005:42–43, Fig. 10). The use of this long-lived form in the period between 70–120 CE is discussed in the recently published Western Wall excavation (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019:85, Nos. 611–613). According to Rapuano, this form is especially common in the period between 70–135

CE in the Shephelah, and it continues to appear down to the third century CE (Rapuano 2013:68, Nos. 60–62).

A cooking pot with a concave neck and a thickened flattened rim (Fig. 1:13) has a close parallel in form, although in a different ware, in the Roman Army cooking pots (Magness 2005:91–91, Fig. 20:2, 3; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2019:86, No. 627).

Small cooking pots (Fig. 1:14) were very popular in first century CE assemblages in Jerusalem and Judean sites (Berlin 2005:42, Fig. 9; Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 26:484, 485, including parallels).

Cooking Jugs (Fig. 1:15, 16).— Cooking jugs with triangular ridged rims (Fig. 1:15) correspond to the typical Herodian jug in Jerusalem and Judean sites in the first third of the first century BCE to the first century CE, for example, at Masada (Bar-Nathan 2006:176). Another sherd of a cooking jug has a ledge rim (Fig. 1:16), but the sherd is too small to definitively identify it as a cooking jug. A similar sherd from Masada, designated a cooking pot, is found in contexts dated to 66–73/4 CE, and a Nabatean origin is suggested since the only parallels came from the Nabatean realm (Bar-Nathan 2006:162–163).

Storage Containers

Juglets (Fig. 2:1–3).— Juglets with cup-shaped rims, slightly ribbed rounded bodies, flat bases, and twisted strap handles appeared in a range of colors including pinkish-brown, pale brown and light red. These juglets, identified by Bar-Nathan as balsam or oil containers (2002:51), are common in Second Temple period Judean sites, for example at Masada and Jerusalem, where they are dated from the first century BCE to the first third of the second century CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:190–191; Geva and Hershkovitz 2006:105–106).

Table Amphora or Flask (Fig. 2:4).— An almost complete large vessel with a wide neck and an everted thickened rim is not common, but some examples found in the Jewish Quarter excavations were dated to the Herodian period (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pls. 6.5:12).

Storage Jars (Fig. 2:5–8).— The storage jars are of a thin, well-fired fabric with colors ranging from brown, dark brown and sometimes reddish brown with a grayish red core; the clay includes various-sized white grits. The jar is similar to storage jars with a ridge at the base of the neck, typical of the Herodian period (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003:177; Bar-Nathan 2006:52–57). Two variants were identified, one with a vertical neck and a triangular rim (Fig. 2:5), the other with a slightly everted neck and a plain rounded or beveled rim (Fig. 2:6, 7)

Less common in the Mount Scopus assemblage is a storage jar type with a vertical, relatively wide neck with a bold-squared profiled rim and a groove (Fig. 2:8). It probably had a ridge at the base of the neck. A similar storage jar was found in the Binyene Ha-Umma excavations, in Kiln 3, dated between 70 CE and the second century CE (Magness 2005: Fig. 51:1), and in contexts dated between the two revolts in the Ben Shemen excavations (Yehiel Zelinger, pers. comm.).

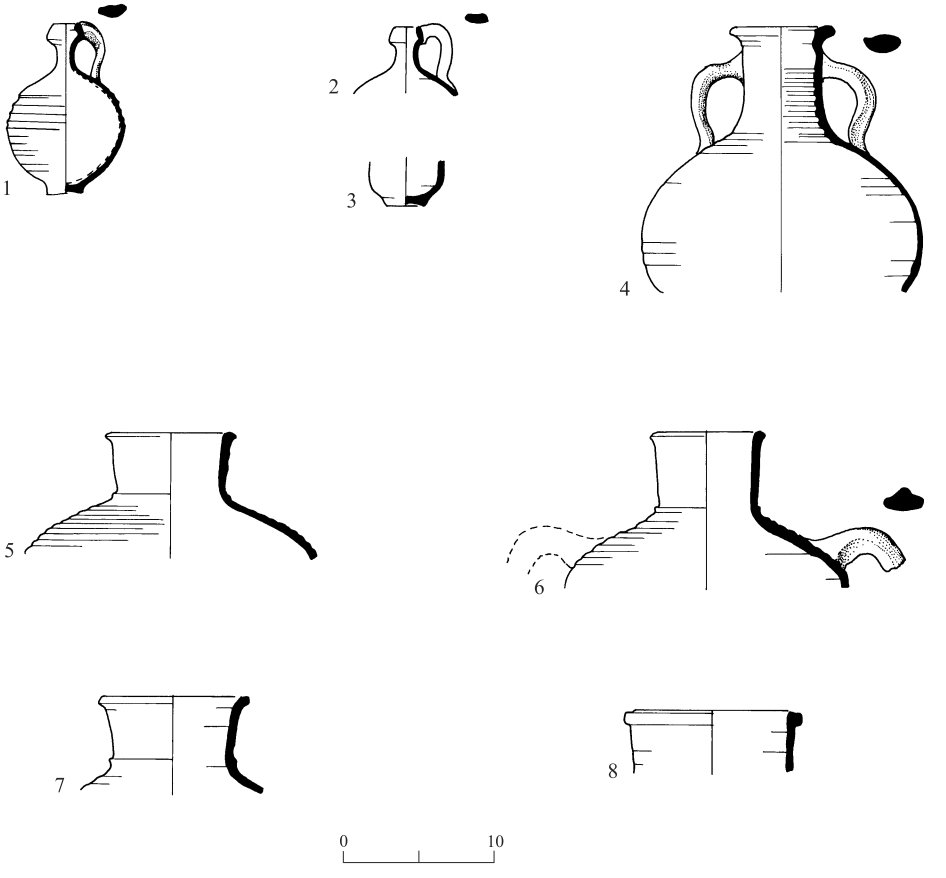

Fig. 2. Juglets, table amphora and storage jars.

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cave Unit	Ware	Parallels and dating
1	Juglet	1201	12061	U12	Pale brown	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter, Area E, Str. 3, third quarter 1st c. BCE–first quarter 1st c. CE (Geva and Hershkovitz 2006: Pl. 4.7:12); Binyene Ha-Umma, ceramic phases 3–4, early 1st c. CE–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 15); phase 2, end 1st c. BCE–70 CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2005:246, Nos. 42, 43, 45, 46) Masada: Type M-JT1A3, 28/26 BCE–80/87 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Fig. 63:13, 14; Pl. 33:13, 14)
2	Juglet	404	4008	U4	Pinkish brown	As No. 1
3	Juglet	108	1034	U1	Light red	As No. 1
4	Table amphora or flask	1202	12003/1	U12	Red, ext. fired to light brown	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter Area A, Str. 5–4, mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pls. 6.5:12)

Fig. 2. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Locus	Basket	Cave Unit	Ware	Parallels and dating
5	Storage jar	1103	11044/1	U11	Light red, gray core, white grits	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter Area A, Str. 5–4, mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pls. 6.5:7–9; 6.10:6–8) Masada: Types M-SJ7, M-SJ8, 66–73/4 CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 8:39, 40)
6	Storage jar	1103	11044/2	U11	Light brown, exterior fired to pink, white grits	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter Area A, Str. 5–4, mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pls. 6.5:10; 6.9:1–4; 6.10:4, 5). Binyene Ha-Umma, 1st c. CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2005:242, No. 7) Masada: Type M-SJ7C, 1st–first half 2nd c. CE (Bar-Nathan 2006:Pl. 8:37)
7	Storage jar	1103	11044/4	U11	Light brown, exterior fired to pink, white grits	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter Area A, Str. 5–4, mid-1st c. BCE–1st c. CE (Geva and Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pls. 6.5:10; 6.9:1–4; 6.10:4, 5). Binyene Ha-Umma, 1st–2nd c. CE (Hershkowitz 2005: Fig. 1:2) Masada: Type M-SJ7C, 1st–first half 2nd c. CE (Bar-Nathan 2006: Pl. 8:37)
8	Storage jar	1104	11051/1	U11	Light brown core, yellowish pink surface	Jerusalem: Binyene Ha-Umma (Magness 2005: Figs. 33:5; 51:1); Shuʻafaṭ 70–135 CE (Terem 2016: Pl. 262) Ben Shemen: 77–132 CE (Yehiel Zelinger, pers. comm.)

Lamps (Fig. 3)

Knife-Pared Lamps (Fig. 3:1–4).— Several wheel-made, 'Herodian' knife-pared lamps were found inside the caves, some plain, others decorated with two incised bands across the nozzle, and some had two stamped circles on the nozzle. These lamps correspond to Type C in the Masada lamp typology, dated from the last days of Herod's reign, and continuing in use until the mid-second century CE (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994:24–27, 44–47). For a recent discussion of these lamps with additional parallels, see Terem (2016:148–149, 201–202).

Discus Lamps (Fig. 3:5, 6).— This lamp type is a mold-made lamp with a round body and a sunken, usually decorated discus and a small, rounded nozzle (Fig. 3:5, 6). One lamp has an ivy leaf decoration on the shoulder (Fig. 3:5), the other is a small fragment. The two discus lamps were found on a stone ledge (L1204) in the upper cave (see Seligman, Amit and Zilberbod, this volume). These lamps correspond to Broneer Type XXV (1930:85, Fig.

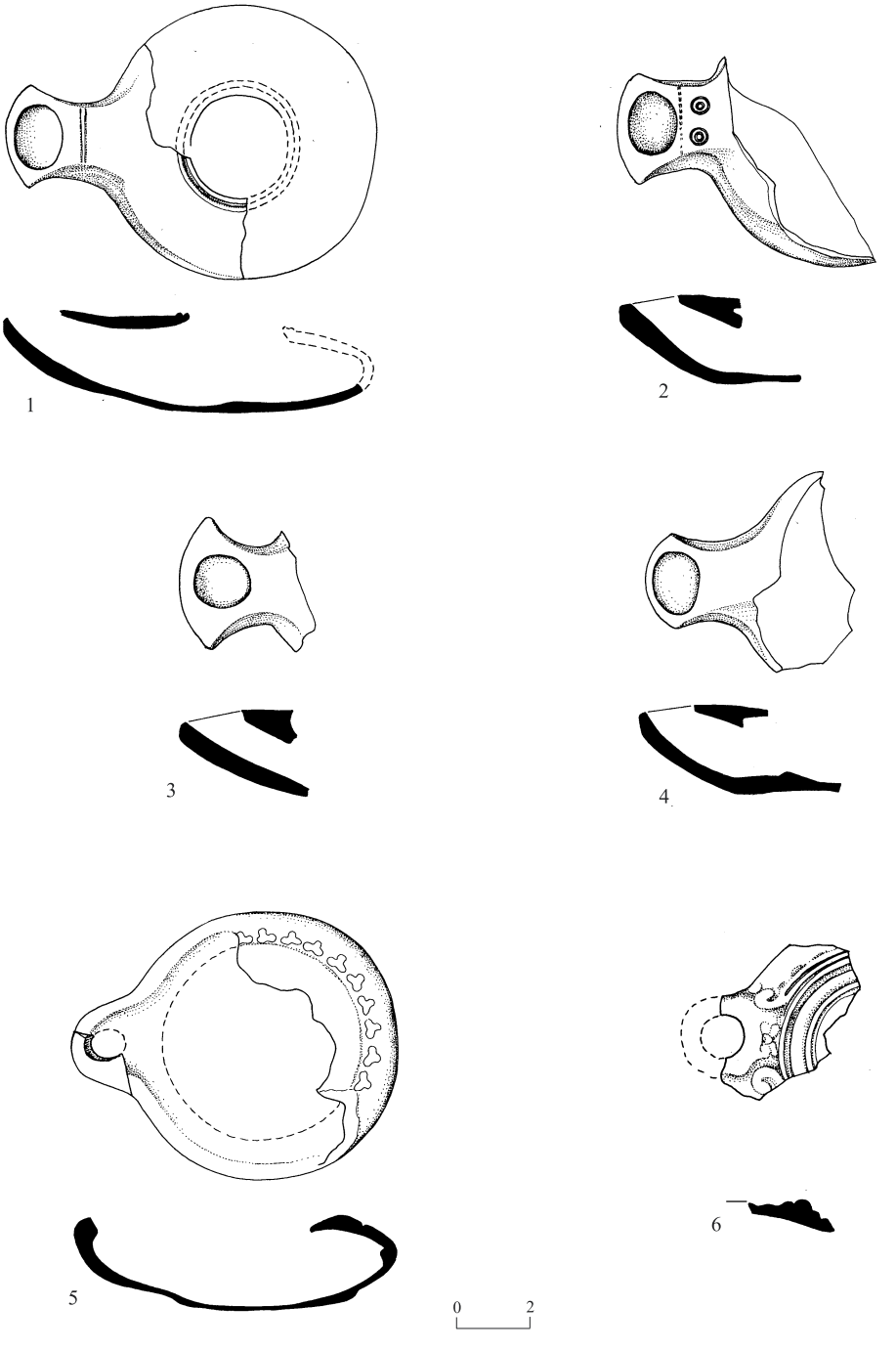

Fig. 3. Lamps.

◂ **Fig. 3**

No.	Locus	Basket	Cave Unit	Ware	Parallels and dating
1	302	3001	U3	Pink	Jerusalem: Jewish Quarter Area A, Str. 5–4, late 1st c. BCE–70 CE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2003: Pls. 6.9:44; 6.12:18); Binyene Ha-Umma, 1st–2nd c. CE (Hershkovitz 2005: Fig. 11:1–4); Robinson's Arch and Shu'afaṭ, 70–135 CE (Terem 2016: Fig. 75:601–610) Masada: Type C III, 66–74 CE and later (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994: Figs. 7, 8; for decoration see Fig. 7:51, 7.52, nn. 3, 4)
2	701	7010	U7	Pink/ light red	As No. 1 Masada (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994: Fig. 8:58, 60 for decoration)
3	1209	12058	U12	Pink	As No. 1
4	1204	12017	U12	Reddish yellow, red grits, red slip traces	Jerusalem: Binyene Ha-Umma, ceramic phases 3–4, early 1st c. CE–70 CE (Berlin 2005: Fig. 17:15) Masada: Type C I or III, around end Herod's reign–74 CE (Barag and Hershkovitz 1994: Figs. 7, 8)
5	1204	12049	U12	Light red, red slip traces	Jerusalem: Binyene Ha-Umma, second third 1st c.–3rd c. CE (Magness 2005: Fig. 32:9); end 1st c.–3rd c. CE (Hershkovitz 2005: Fig. 11:5, 6)
6	1204	12057/2	U12	Light red, black(?) slip traces	Jerusalem: Binyene Ha-Umma, second third 1st c.–3rd c. CE (Magness 2005: Fig. 32:8); end 1st c.–3rd c. CE (Hershkovitz 2005: Fig. 11:7)

41.1), a type discussed in the Schloessinger Collection catalogue (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:85–90), and recently by Terem (2016:156–157, 202, including updated parallels and summary). The discus lamp shoulders are often decorated with ovolo, volutes, double-axes, geometric and schematic floral patterns, and they are usually red-slipped, or sometimes black-slipped; plain lamps are also known. Lamps with sunken decorated discs appeared in the Roman Empire from the end of the first century CE, and they were widespread in the second and third centuries CE (Rosenthal and Sivan 1978:85–90). In Judea, the discus lamps appeared together with Herodian knife-pared lamps during the Second Revolt and between the two revolts (Hershkovitz 2005:293, including parallels; Terem 2016:156–157, 167, Pl. 76:657).

The Pottery from L1204

A small stone ledge carved in the northwestern corner of the upper cave (L1204 in Unit 12, see Seligman, Amit and Zilberbod, this volume: Plan 1) yielded a small assemblage

of pottery vessels, including a cooking pot with a flanged rim, a knife-pared lamp and two discus lamps. The appearance of these vessels indicates a dating for the small assemblage to the period between the two revolts (70–132 CE), since the two different lamp types only appear together during this time span.

Summary

The pottery assemblage from the Mount Scopus cave, includes cooking pots and casseroles with triangular rims, storage jars with a ridge at the base of the neck, juglets with a cup-shaped rim, wheel-made knife-pared lamps and a few other vessels; all the vessels characteristic of the end of the first century BCE to 70 CE. The presence of a few other vessels, such as the storage jar with the squared, grooved rim and the cooking pot with the flattened rim, together with the discus lamps, point to some presence or activity in the cave in the period between the two revolts (70–132 CE; see Seligman, Amit and Zilberbod, this volume).

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