

A MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II SITE WEST OF TELL QASILE

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INTRODUCTION

During December 1997–April 1998 a salvage excavation was carried out in the area of the Ramat Aviv Hotel, west of Tell Qasile (map ref. NIG 1802/6675, OIG 1302/1675; Fig. 1).¹ Five areas (A–E) were excavated (Plan 1). The site was mainly occupied during the Middle Bronze Age II, of which remains of a settlement, a cemetery and two pottery kilns were uncovered. After a long interval, it was reoccupied during the Hellenistic period. In recent years, the site has been severely damaged by earthmoving equipment for the construction of buildings, sewage lines, water and electric networks, and roads. The area was released for building at the end of the salvage excavation. The elevations indicated below are absolute heights above sea level.

The Site

The construction site forms a large rectangular area (max. dimensions: 70 × 140 m) west of the Ramat Aviv Hotel and south of the present 'Lamed' neighborhood of Ramat Aviv. It is situated about 400 m west of Tell Qasile (see Fig. 1); the Yarqon River is at about the same distance to the south. The land slopes moderately downward from north to south. The northern half of the area was leveled in modern times, and the material was probably used to fill the lower, southern part. The bedrock at the site is composed of sand and *kurkar*-sandstone, with a hard *kurkar* layer atop. The archaeological remains were found mainly in the dark brown soil covering the northern and eastern parts of the site to a depth of 1–2 m below the present surface (Areas A, B,

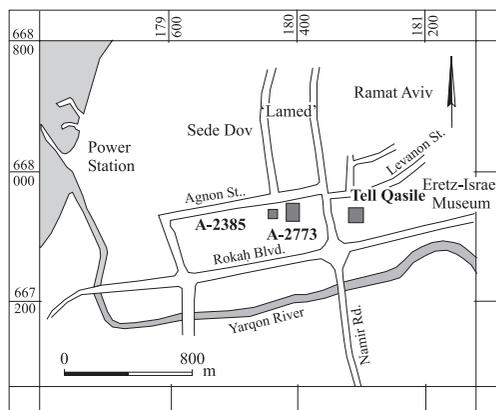


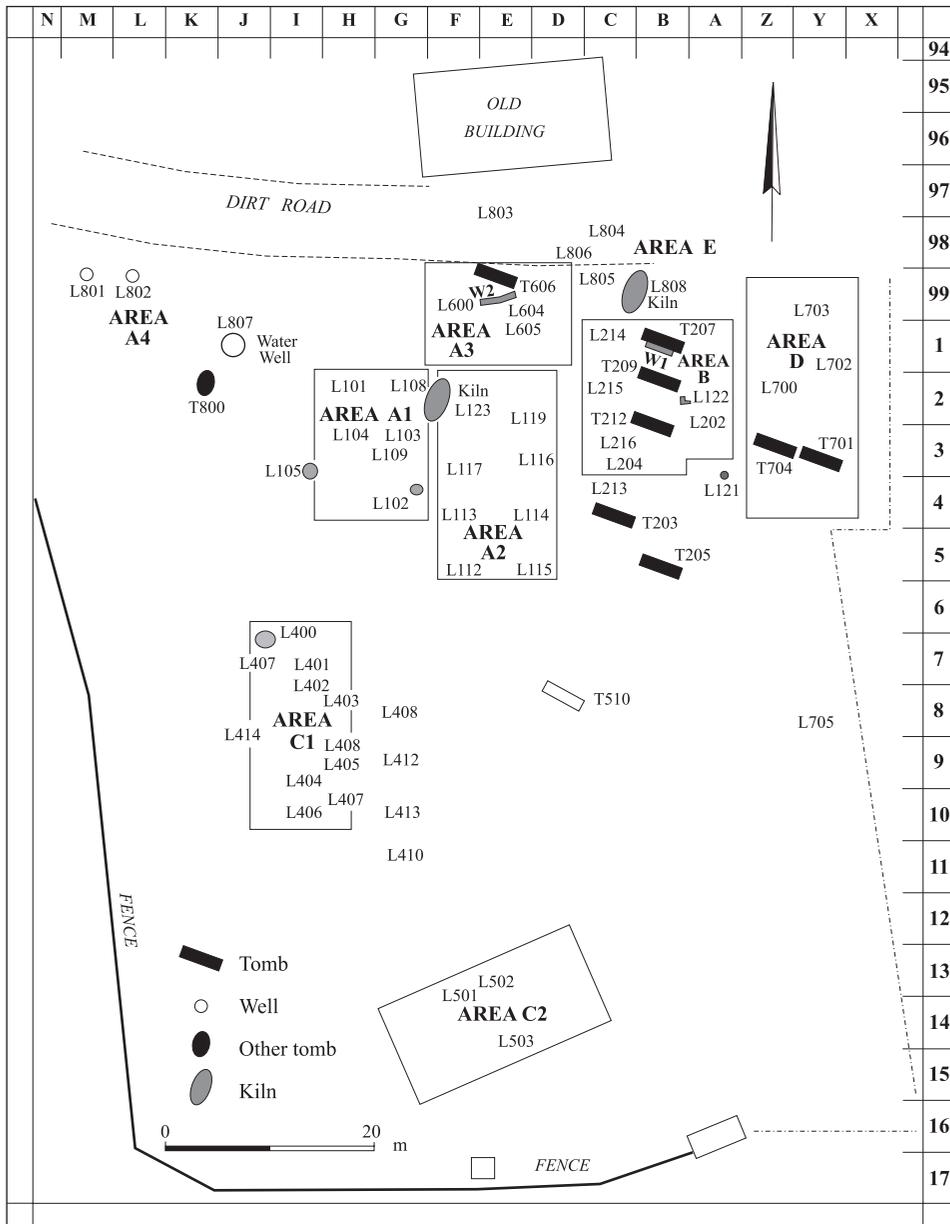
Fig. 1. Location map.

D, E; Plan 1). The southern part (Area C; Plan 1) was almost devoid of finds. Due to the damp environment, almost all the MB II pottery from the site was badly preserved.

Methodology

A limited selection of the ceramic finds was kept from surface loci and from loci of Area C. From all other loci all the rims were collected and a selection of other diagnostic sherds (e.g., decorated artifacts, unusual body sherds, bases and handles). Unless the finds from an entire locus were intended for restoration, body sherds were discarded in the field. Rims were kept, but some rims of the very common bowl- and jar-types were discarded during a later sorting. Whenever possible, very fragile vessels were drawn *in situ* or in the field, on a 1:1 scale. Many of the MB II vessels were crushed and had disintegrated beyond saving.

This report is divided into three distinct sections: the Middle Bronze Age finds, the



Plan 1. Site map.

Hellenistic finds, and lastly, the scant finds from later periods. It is supplemented by presentations of the anthropological finds (Yossi Nagar), the archaeozoological finds (Moshe Sade) and a petrographic analysis (Anat Cohen-Weinberger).

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE

The Middle Bronze Age burials and the kilns were scattered over the same excavation areas that contained what seemed to be settlement deposits (although no architecture

was discerned). Each feature—tombs, kilns, settlement—is presented separately in order to differentiate, if possible, between their assemblages. Unfortunately, the poor state of wear of many of the vessel surfaces was a handicap, since decoration (slip, paint) is an important criterion for dating MB II vessels.

Regarding terminology, I do not embrace the idea of a transitional phase between MB IIA and MB IIB (see e.g., Ward and Dever 1994), but follow Beck and Zevulun (1996). The term MB IIC is not used (see Bienkowski 1989:175–176), unless in quotes from other scholars, so MB IIB represents the whole latter part of the MB II period—roughly, the eighteenth–sixteenth centuries BCE (traditional chronology). For the central coastal plain, the important work on pottery of the MB IIA is found in the preliminary reports of the excavations at Tel Afeq (Beck 1975; 1985), with additions in Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982) and many smaller sites (Gophna and Beck 1981; Kochavi, Beck and Gophna 1981). At the time of writing, the informative Afeq-Antipatris final report (Kochavi 2000) was not yet available. Since it does not change the picture of the MB IIA assemblage and its inner phasing, I have retained here the references to Beck's earlier publications. For the MB IIB period, the Tel Aviv harbor cemetery is useful (Kaplan 1955), but the large body of material from Jericho remains indispensable despite the distance from Tell Qasile (Kenyon 1960; 1965; Kenyon and Holland 1982). New reports include Shekhem (Cole 1984); Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993); and Megiddo (mostly fragments, not from occupational levels; Ilan, Hallote and Cline 2000). Though further afield, the detailed discussion of the Bet She'an pottery by Maier (1997b) is helpful.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE CEMETERY

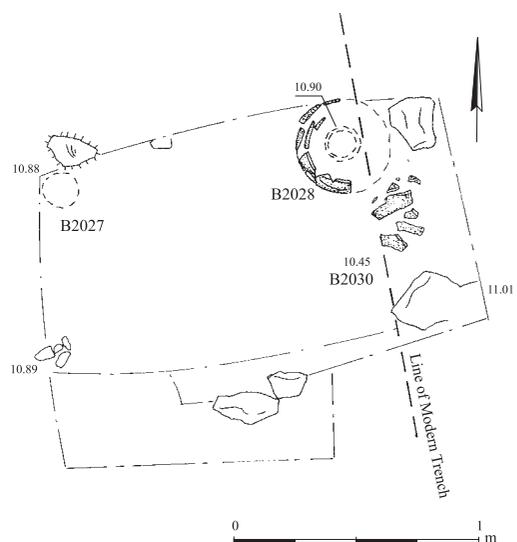
Ten burials were excavated, as well as a few loci that may have been graves. In the following short description of each tomb, reference to the finds is by basket number; the figure number is added when the object is illustrated (e.g., B2027 = Fig.

14:1). In the subsequent sections on the pottery and small finds from the cemetery, items are referred to by figure number alone (e.g., Fig. 14:1) if they appear in the plates, and by basket number (e.g., B2027) if they are unillustrated.

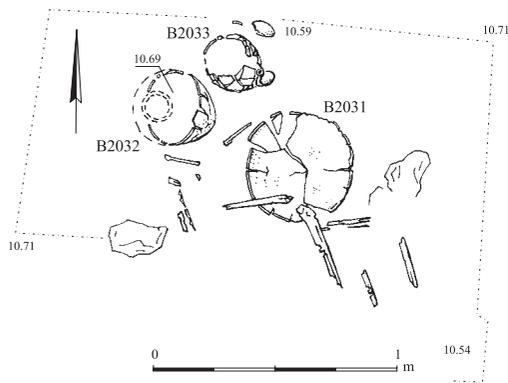
Tomb 203 (Plan 2).— Rectangular pit (c. 1.0 × 1.8 m), its eastern part ruined by a modern trench. The pit contained a fragmentary jar (B2027 = Fig. 14:1), probably with a vessel inside it, and a rounded pottery fragment (base?) in the western side of the pit. There were a few tiny non-diagnostic bone fragments.

Locus 204 (see Plan 1).— Irregular area (c. 1.3 × 1.6 m) cut in the *kurkar*, with two bowls (B2020 = Fig. 14:2, B2022) and a jar (B2024). No bones were found, and there is no certainty that it was a grave.

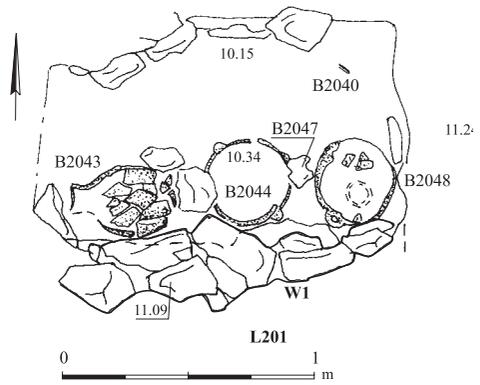
Tomb 205 (Plan 3).— Shallow shaft burial (c. 0.9 × 1.9 m) of a mature adult, probably lying on the side with the legs folded. The bones were in a very bad state of preservation. Near the skeleton were two jars (B2032, B2033) and a bowl (B2031 = Fig. 14:3). Near the skull a few simple beads were found (B2021).



Plan 2. Tomb 203.



Plan 3. Tomb 205.



Plan 4. Tomb 207.



Fig. 2. Tomb 207, looking south; modern sewage system at upper right.

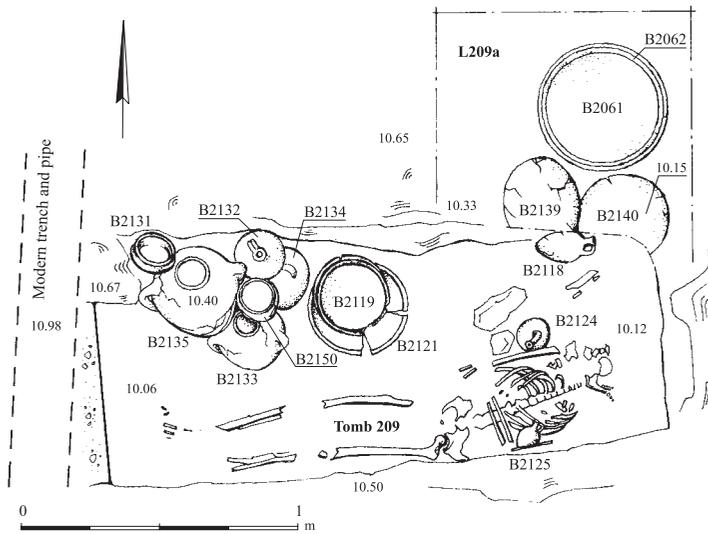


Fig. 3. Tomb 209, the covering stones, looking west.

Tomb 207 (Plan 4; Fig. 2).— An almost intact deep pit (c. 0.8×1.5 m), lined with stone walls along the long sides. A modern sewage pipe cut the western edge of the pit, but did not disturb much of the grave's contents. The pit was narrower near the western edge. There were scattered remains of a child, 2–3 years old, and of an adult. The bones were badly preserved. The pottery in the tomb was arranged in a row along the south wall, including, from east to west: a standing jar (B2048), bowls (B2047/1 = Fig. 15:1, B2044 = Fig. 15:2), a fallen jar (B2043 = Fig. 15:4) and part of a crumbling juglet (B2047/2 = Fig. 15:3). A toggle pin (B2040) and three beads (B2051/1, B2051/2, B2049 = Fig. 15:6–8) were found near the skeleton. Tiny fragments

of a broken bronze ring (B2052) may have held a scarab. South of the grave, above the edge of the pit, was a very poorly built stone wall, 1.5 m long, perhaps to mark the location of the tomb. Near this wall (W1), in L201, a cooking pot was found (B2037 = Fig. 15:5).

Tomb 209 (Plan 5; Figs. 3, 4).— Deep pit grave (c. 0.9×2.0 m) covered with large, well-fitted slabs of *kurkar* stones, with small stones wedged between them (Fig. 3). After their removal, a simple pit, which narrowed in the western part, was discovered (cf. Tomb 207). A large upright slab formed the west side. The grave contained one primary burial of a child, 10 years old, lying on its back with the head to



Plan 5. Tomb 209 and L209a.



Fig. 4. Tomb 209, looking north; L209a at top right.

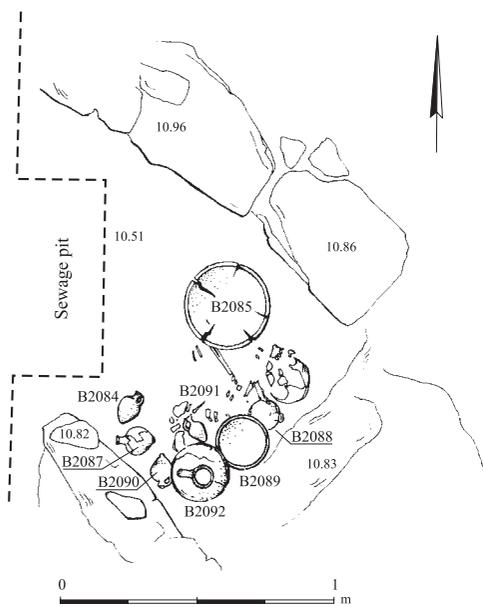
the east. Most of the vessels were situated in the northwestern section of the pit: three jars (B2133–B2135), two carinated bowls (B2131, B2130 = Fig. 16:1), a squat jug (B2132 = Fig. 16:6) placed above the jars, and four large bowls (B2119/2, B2119/1 = Fig. 16:2, B2121 = Fig. 16:3, B2120 = Fig. 16:4) set one inside the other, east of the jars. Inside one jar was a dipper juglet (B2138). Next to the shoulders and head of the deceased were two small juglets (B2106, B2123). One whole juglet (B2118 = Fig. 16:7)

was found in the northeastern corner of Tomb 209 below L209a (see below); it was ascribed to Tomb 209.

Lcous 209a (Plan 5; Fig. 4).— Tomb 209 cuts through an earlier assemblage, which was situated near its northeastern corner. There were two small jars (B2139, B2140) cut by Tomb 209 so that their necks were missing. Small bones and teeth of one individual (less than 15 years old) were found near and below

the broken jars. North of the jars were two large bowls (B2061 = Fig. 16:8, B2062 = Fig. 16:9); there were no signs of a burial pit.

Tomb 212 (Plan 6; Fig. 5).— A deep pit (c. 0.9 × 1.6 m) with its western part completely destroyed by a modern cubical concrete sewage construction. The few remaining stones in the eastern part attest to a stone-lined pit (similar to Tombs 207 and 606). Two bowls (B2085 = Fig. 17:2, B2089 = Fig. 17:1), a group of juglets (B2084, B2087, B2088, B2090 = Fig. 17:4, B2091 = Fig. 17:3, B2096), and one jug (B2092 = Fig. 17:5) survived in the



Plan 6. Tomb 212.



Fig. 5. Tomb 212 looking west; bowl B2085 (Fig. 17:2); modern sewage structure at the back.

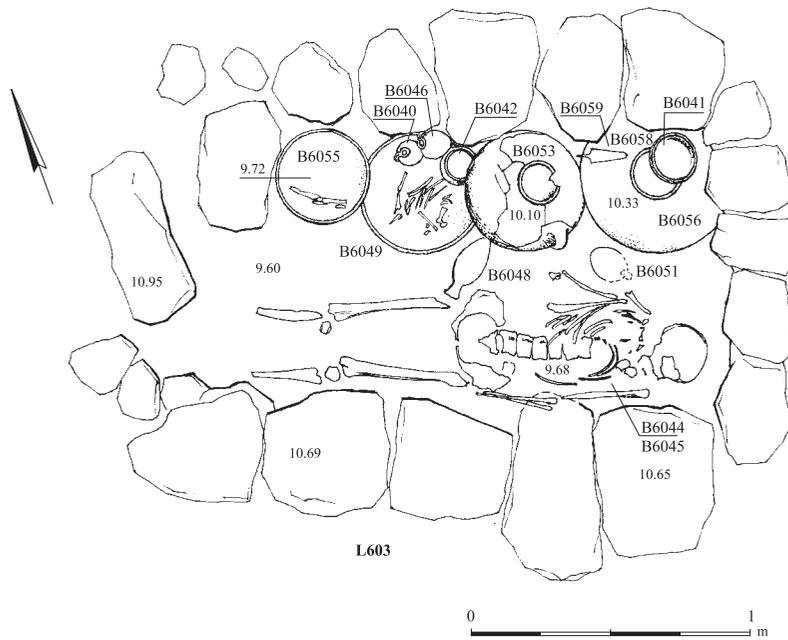
eastern part of the grave. There were meager traces of a primary burial, including teeth of a young individual aged 6–10 years.

Tomb 510 (Fig. 6).— This was the southernmost burial found at the site. The remains were in a shallow shaft (the upper part was razed by bulldozers). Excavation of this tomb was made in haste and under unfavorable weather conditions. There were at least three adults, probably one in a primary and two in secondary burials. The finds included a bowl (B5007 = Fig. 17:6), a jar (B5010), another jar (B5004) with a dipper juglet inside (B5005 = Fig. 17:7), a juglet (B5008) and a bronze dagger (B5011 = Fig. 17:8).

Tomb 606 (Plan 7; Fig. 7).— This tomb (c. 1 × 2 m) was richer than usual, representing a greater investment of work and wealth—perhaps an indication of higher social status. Parallel to the tomb, about one meter to the south, was a curving wall built of rough, irregular stones (W2; see Plan 1). A modern concrete foundation disturbed its western part, and the wall did not extend westward beyond it. Possibly, this wall marked the location of the grave. The tomb was covered with large stones in a gabled-like construction. Removal of the roof structure revealed a rectangular pit with stone walls along the longer sides. Unlike the other tombs, this pit was dug not into the *kurkar*, but into what seemed to be an accumulation of occupation rubble, perhaps an indication that the tomb postdates the settlement (although



Fig. 6. Tomb 510; juglet inside a broken jar.



Plan 7. Tomb 606.

no diagnostic material was found immediately outside the tomb). Many fragments of jars were found further to the south, in L605 (see Plan 1), but their relation to the tomb is not clear. The pit was narrower in the west (cf. Tombs 207, 209), and its edge was marked by a standing slab of stone as in T209.

Tomb 606 contained the skeleton of a male adult, lying on its back, the skull in the east, face turned a little northward. The deceased, about 40 years old, was placed with his left arm extended along the body and the right arm folded across the chest, the hand near the left shoulder. The legs were extended and crossed. On the left shoulder was a bronze toggle pin (B6045 = Fig. 18:10) and a scarab set in a ring (B6044 = Fig. 18:8), probably from a finger of the right hand. The scarab is of a simple floral design, of a type common to MB IIB (see Mizrachi, below). Near the head was a juglet (B6051), and another juglet (B6048 = Fig. 18:4) was placed next to the hip. Many vessels were in a row at the north wall: from east to west, a pithos (B6056 = Fig. 18:7) with a carinated bowl on its shoulder (B6041 = Fig. 18:2) and



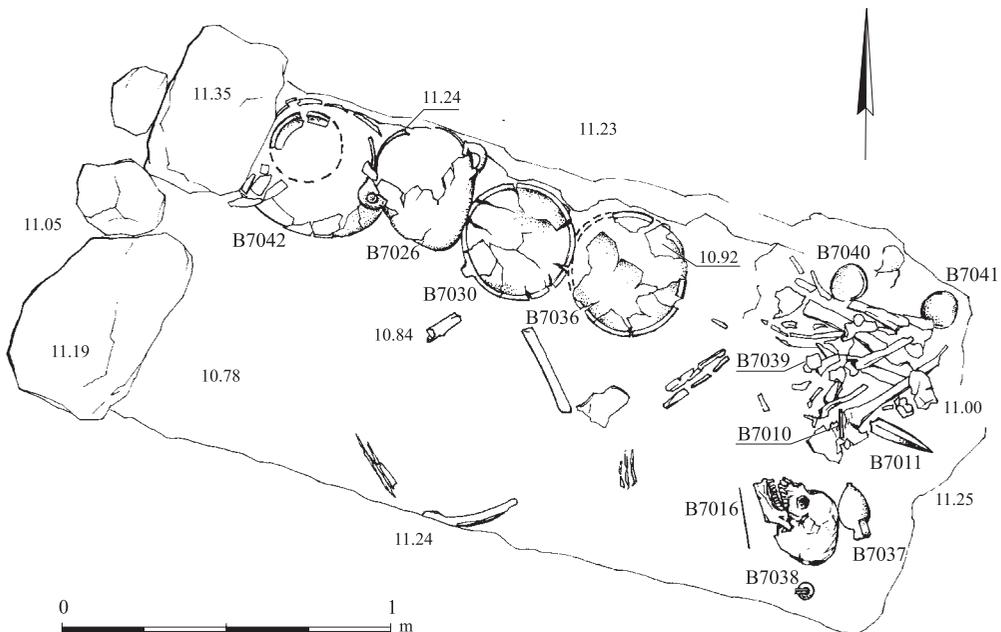
Fig. 7. Tomb 606, looking east; to the left of skeleton, bowl B6049 (Fig. 18.3) and jar B6053 (Fig. 18:8) containing animal bones.

B7029 = Fig. 19:1), and another pair of bowls was opposite them to the north (B7022 = Fig. 19:2 inside B7024; Fig. 9). The head of a sheep or goat was placed in the upper bowl. There were also remains of a crumbling, unrestorable orange-colored juglet (B7032). In the center of the grave was a bronze dagger (B7019 = Fig. 19:5) with the stone pommel nearby (B7018 = Fig. 19:6). Under bowl B7024 was a bronze ax (B7025 = Fig. 19:7).

Tomb 704 (Plan 9; Figs. 10–12).— Pit grave (c. 1.1 × 2.5 m), found uncovered. The burials were in a relatively good state of preservation: along the southern end was a primary burial of an adult, 60 years old, lying with the skull to the east, the face upward and slightly turned to the north (Fig. 10). Near the jaw was a toggle pin (B7016 = Fig. 19:13). This burial can be connected with the entire vessels, lined up along the northern side of the pit: from west to east, a jar (B7042 = Fig. 19:10) with a juglet (B7049) inside, another jar (B7026), and two large bowls (B7030 = Fig. 19:8,



Fig. 10. Tomb 704, general view to the east.



Plan 9. Tomb 704.

B7036). Small juglets were placed near the skull (B7037, B7038 = Fig. 19:9). A secondary burial of an adult (35–50 years old, perhaps a female) with remains of the lower jaw and a jumble of leg bones mixed with small, broken



Fig. 11. Tomb 704 looking north: vessels lined along the northern side of the tomb (from left): jar B7042 (Fig. 19:10), jar B7026, bowl B7030 (Fig. 19:8).



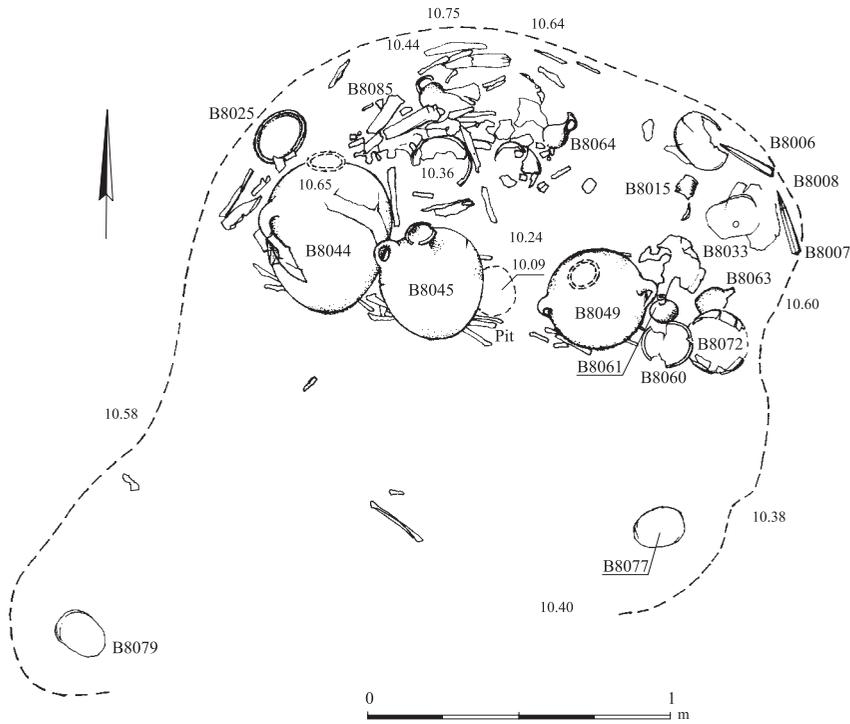
Fig. 12. Tomb 704, looking east: primary burial on the right; secondary pile of bones and crushed vessels on the left, B7030 (Fig. 19:8) and B7036.

juglets (B7039–7041, B7048), a bronze dagger (B7011 = Fig. 19:11) and a toggle pin (B7010 = Fig. 19:12) were found near the northeastern corner of the grave (Fig. 12).

Tomb 800 (Plan 10; Fig. 13).— This grave is exceptional in that it is a rounded, shallow depression in the *kurkar* bedrock, 1.9 m wide east to west. The northern half of this grave was filled with unstratified secondary burials and vessels, though some vessels and bones were situated above earlier ones. Entire vessels may indicate the latest burials (see further discussion below). The entire vessels included two bowls (B8025 = Fig. 20:2, B8060 = Fig. 20:1), two juglets (B8064 = Fig. 20:3, B8085 = Fig. 20:4) and three jars standing in the middle of the grave (B8044 = Fig. 20:7, B8045 = Fig. 20:6, B8049). However, unlike in the other tombs, no primary burial could be related specifically to these vessels: non-articulated bones and skulls were mingled with the vessels. At the eastern edge, stuck between the *kurkar* and two skulls, were



Fig. 13. Tomb 800, looking northeast: three jars at center, crania and bronze daggers on top.



Plan 10. Tomb 800.

two daggers (B8006 = Fig. 20:9, B8007 = Fig. 20:8), with a small fragment of another dagger (B8033) nearby. A toggle pin was stuck into one skull (B8008 = Fig. 20:10), and a crumbling, tiny cylindrical juglet was found west of the skulls (B8015). Among the crushed bones in the graves were fragments and parts of broken juglets (B8061, B8063 = Fig. 20:5), and a jug (B8072).

The grave contained remains of at least seven adults (according to the skulls), two of them young (18–20 years old; the ages of the others could not be determined). There were at least one female and three males. A few animal bones were found scattered in the grave.

Pottery from the MB II Burials (Figs. 14–20)

The pottery and small finds are arranged by tombs, but discussed in the text according to types. Comparisons from nearby sites are preferred.

Bowls.— The small bowl (Fig. 20:2) with almost vertical sides and a simple rim is the

only one of its type from the tombs. This type of bowl is not common, but it is found in MB IIB contexts, see Ashdod (Dothan and Porath 1993: Fig. 2:6), Tell Far'ah (South) (Williams 1977: Fig. 106:3), and Jericho (Tombs G1, H22, D9—Kenyon 1960: Figs. 189:8; 218:4 [with ring base]; Kenyon 1965: Fig. 133:12; and especially Tomb B51—Kenyon 1965: Fig. 165:9).

Carinated bowls (Figs. 15:1; 16:1; 17:1; 18:1, 2; 20:1) are common. Figures 17:1, 20:1 have a slight carination, the rim extends outward, and the bowl is open. These bowls are found in MB IIB contexts, but were not very common in our area. See Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:7), Tell Jerishe Level IV (Geva 1982: Fig. 25:2, MB IIB) and Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 158:3). It seems that these bowls are more common further south, at Tell Far'ah (South) (Williams 1977: Figs. 4:1, 8:1, 13:3) and Tell el-'Ajjul (Tufnell 1962: Figs. 12:39, 40; 13:50; 14:59).

The Bowl in Fig. 18:2 has sharper carination and a closed form, with extended rim and

convex disk base; the carination is close to the middle height of the vessel. Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:5, 8); Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 158:1); Tell Jerishe IV (Geva 1982: Fig. 25:2).

Figures 15:1, 16:1 have flaring sides and sharp carination, and the base is either convex disk or pronounced ring. This form is common. Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:12, 14); Jericho (Kenyon 1960: Figs. 140:16; 148:12, 15; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 159:14, 19); Hazor Tomb 1181 (Maier 1997a: Fig. IV.2:2, 3); Bet She'an (Maier 1997b:93, Pl. 4:6) and Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pls. 12:11a, 18: e). The high pedestal base of bowl Fig. 18:1 is common in MB IIB, e.g., at Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 18:e, f), Bet She'an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 4:16) and Jericho (Tombs G37, P23, Groups II–IV—Kenyon 1960: Figs. 120:11, 136:9; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 159:3).

The large shallow bowl (Fig. 16:2) with rounded sides, thickened triangular rim, and low ring base manifests the usual features of MB II bowls, only it is shallower. Cf. Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 154:10) and Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 3a, f). Another shallow bowl has the usual features, but an unusual everted rim (Fig. 16:3). Vague comparisons to this bowl are from Bet She'an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 3:14, 18) and Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 5d).

A common type of bowl is large and handleless (Figs. 14:2; 16:8, 9; 19:1). This category includes many variants. Some bowls have rounded sides, thickened inverted rims, and disk or convex bases. At least one of these is red-slipped. The variations within this group do not have a clear chronological phasing, and the group appears in both MB IIA and MB IIB (cf. Maier 1997b:90), so I do not treat each bowl separately. Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Figs. 3:11, 4:9); Jericho, e.g., G37, G46 and A34 (Kenyon 1960: Figs. 120:2, 130:1, 2, 140:3, 5; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 153, 154); Hazor Tomb 1181 (Maier 1997a: Fig. IV.1:2–15). Similar, but with a low ring base, are bowls Fig. 16:4 (with rim extended outside) and Fig. 16:5 (very thick rim), and Fig. 17.2 (red-slipped, with a slightly extended rim).

Another major group of bowls consists of large bowls with loop handles, sometimes defined as kraters (Figs. 15:2, 17:6, 18:3, 19:2, 8). The shape is close to the bowls detailed above, with the addition of two large loop handles from the rim. The surface of many vessels is worn, so that details of decoration or slip are not clear. The rims are cut (Fig. 17:6) or thickened (Fig. 18:3), the bases range from disk (Fig. 19:8) to convex disk (Figs. 17:6, 18:3), to ring (Fig. 15:2). Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 3:12, 13, Fig. 4:11). These bowls with handles are missing from the Jericho tombs, but a few are found on the tell (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 106:21, 121:4, 5, 13).

Large bowls with ledge handles (Fig. 14:3) are similar in shape to the former bowls, with the addition of small handles and a ridge connecting them. Such bowls, red-slipped and often burnished, are common in MB IIA assemblages, e.g., Afeq (Beck 1985: Fig. 5:1). However, a wooden bowl of exactly this type was found in an MB IIB tomb (B3) at Jericho (Group III; Kenyon 1960:404, Fig. 164: right).

Cooking Ware.— No cooking vessels were found in the tombs, but one cooking pot (Fig. 15:5) was found outside Tomb 207, though its relation to the cemetery is not clear (see discussion above). The pot, with a globular body, is large and deformed. These pots show little distinction between MB IIA and MB IIB forms. At Afeq, Beck (1975: Fig. 8:17, 18; 1985:184) considered the deep-gutter rim of the cooking pots as typical of the MB IIA and early MB IIB. See also Nahshonim and Bat Yam (Gophna and Beck 1981:50, Figs. 4:3, 8; 8:21). However, slight gutter rims continue well into MB IIB, e.g., Ashdod (Dothan and Porath 1993: Fig. 2:16); Tell Jerishe Level V (Geva 1982: Fig. 23:22, 18); and Bet She'an (Maier 1997b:103, Pl. 15:4).

Jugs.— The small, squat, sharply carinated jug (Fig. 16:6) was the only one of its type in the whole site. It is red-slipped, with double handle and guttered rim. It is not a common vessel.

The best comparison is an MB IIA jug from Afeq Tomb 468 (Beck 1975: Fig. 9:5), which Beck compares to a jug from Megiddo Tomb 5178, Level XIV (Loud 1948: Pl. 10:11). She suggests that such carinated jugs are developed from the squat, globular jugs of Megiddo Levels XIV–XIII (Beck 1975:68). There is a parallel in Megiddo Tomb 3085 of Level XI (Loud 1948: Pl. 31:5). The ring-base is also more characteristic of later jugs, while most of Megiddo Level XIV–XIII jugs have flat disk bases (Loud 1948: Pls. 10:1–10, 13). Most of the features (handle on the shoulder, ring-base) appear in MB IIB jugs, but they lack the sharp carination (e.g., Cole 1984: Pl. 29:a, b; Maeir 1997b: Pl. 28:1, 2). Yet, carinated vessels, such as bowls, are very common in MB IIB. The possibilities are that this jug from Tomb 209 is an MB IIA ‘heirloom’, or that such jugs continue into early MB IIB.

Figure 17:5 is a large, rounded jug with thick handle from rim to shoulder. It was very worn and restored from fragments. Vague parallels to the shape are found at Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 30d, but with a different base); Megiddo Level XI (Loud 1948: Pl. 32:3) and the early MB IIA Tomb 990 of Kabri (Kempinski 1989: Fig. 14:5). A better comparison is a jug from Dan (Ilan 1996: Fig. 4.95:4, dated MB IIB).

Juglets.— Most of the juglets (Figs. 15:3; 16:7; 17:3, 4; 18:5; 20:3–5) are worn and the surface treatment is not clear. In general, the rims of our juglets are thickened and extended, and we lack the earlier MB IIA juglets with stepped-rims or ridges on the neck, e.g., Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 11:4; 12:4); Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pls. 10:15–20; 11:3); and Bet She’an (Maeir 1997b:114, Pl. 30:1–3).

Piriform juglets with thickened, extended rims and disk/button bases were dominant (Figs. 15:3, 16:7?, 18:5; 19:9; 20:3, 4). The juglets in Figs. 18:5, 20:3 (and 15:3?) have distinct shoulders, ring base, double handle and extended rim. Figure 20:3 is red-slipped, see Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 177:9, 17). Figures 19:9 and 20:4 are quite similar to

the above, but with a button base. Compare Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 177:32, 35); Bet She’an (Maeir 1997b: Pl. 29:11); and Ginosar Tomb 2/3 (Epstein 1974: Fig. 8:13, 14). Figures 16:7 and 20:5 are slightly larger juglets, currently deformed, probably originally red-slipped. The shoulders are more rounded. The handles are either double or regular in section, see Bet She’an (Maeir 1997b: Pl. 29:12) and Zefat (Damati and Stepanski 1996: Fig. 9:4, dated MB IIB). Petrographic analysis of Juglet 16:7 indicated that it is made of Moza marl, of the central highlands (see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume). Figure 17:3 is a small juglet, with piriform body and small, rounded button base. Cf. Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 178:10; 179:2). Figure 17:4 is similar in the rounded body. It has a button base and the neck is wider.

There were remains of only one, completely crushed cylindrical juglet in Tomb 800 (B8015). It could not be saved. It was small and made of red ware. Such juglets become dominant in MB IIB in the south and center of the country, e.g., Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:2), Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 180). In the north, piriform juglets remain common till the end of MB II (see Maeir 1997b:114–115, with references). However, cylindrical juglets start to appear already in the MB IIA period, e.g., at Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 10:8, 12:12).

Tell el-Yehudiye ware is lacking from the tombs, and, indeed, from the whole site. This is not related to chronological factors: the same phenomenon was observed at Hāzor Tomb 1181 (Maeir 1997a:315). However, there was one black juglet in Tomb 209 (B2123), too crushed for restoration. It was drawn at a scale of 1:1 in the field, before trying to remove it. The drawing (kept in the IAA excavation file) shows that this might be a Tell el-Yehudiye juglet, of the piriform-variant. This type is considered to be common in MB IIB assemblages (cf. Bietak 1988: Piriform 3–4; Beck and Zevulun 1996:69, with more references). Unfortunately, the surface is completely worn and there are no traces of the incised decoration, so that exact

identification as a Tell el-Yehudiye ware item remains questionable.

Dipper juglets (Figs. 17:7; 18:4; 19:3) were often found inside jars, having fallen inside from the mouths of the jars (cf. Jericho Tomb G73; Kenyon 1965: Fig. 237:1). They are elongated with pointed bottom, and with large loop handles and pinched rims. This type has a long usage span, though MB IIA juglets tend to be smaller, and are often red-slipped and burnished (e.g., Hāzor Tomb 1181; Maeir 1997a: Fig. IV.6:7, 8). Comparisons to our juglets include Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Figs. 3:14–17; 4:5, 16); Jericho (Kenyon 1960: Figs. 161:31–33, 180:10–17; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 182–184); Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 27:b, c, h), and many other sites.

Jars.— Small jars with one handle (Figs. 15:4; 20:6), flattened base, and extended rims are a common type, not very useful for exact dating. Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 2:10). In the Jericho burials, this type is very rare, and the dominant type has wide ring bases (e.g., Kenyon 1965: Figs. 167:1, 2; 185:12; 216:1; cf. Hāzor, Maeir 1997a: Fig. IV.7). However, see Jericho G73 (Kenyon 1965: Fig. 237:1) and Bet She'an (Maeir 1997b: Pls. 8:10, 19:4).

Large handleless jars (Figs. 14:1; 18:7; 19:4, 10) are common in the graves. They have an elongated body, rounded shoulder, and short, wide neck. The rims are thickened, triangular or 'square', well made, with many variations of shape, often with ridges outside and/or inside the rim. The jars are usually 60–80 cm high, but sometimes higher. This type is one of the most common MB II jar types. It is more common in MB IIB than in MB IIA assemblages, but there is no clear-cut separation. The MB IIA jars are well fired, metallic, and their rims are executed with precision, whereas MB IIB jars are rougher and cruder; based on this criterion our jars belong to the MB IIB. Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 1:1, 3, 7, 8); Tell Jerishe (MB IIA and MB IIB; Geva 1982: Figs. 24:1, 2, 4, 5; 26:10–15; 30:8–10, 14, 15); Tell Qasile (Ayalon 1988: Figs. 15:1; 17:5, 6,

dated late MB IIA); Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 7:2–5; 10:10; 12:6; 13:11); Bet She'an (Maeir 1997b: Pls. 25, 26). At Jericho, handleless jars are rare (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 193:2), whereas similar jars with handles are common.

Large jars with two handles on the shoulders (Figs. 18:6; 20:7), elongated body, and rounded shoulders are the second-most common type of jars. The necks are short (Fig. 20:7) or long (Fig. 18:6). The rim is very elegant and diagnostic of MB II, though some variations occur within the group. As a whole, rims are flaring, thin, and rounded at the top. Development of rims with and without outside ridges was noted for MB IIA, but the jars continue into MB IIB, and exact dating is difficult, or nearly impossible if the jar is not entire. These jars are usually smaller than the thickened 'squared'-rim jars (50–60 cm in height). Comparisons: Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 1:4–6); Jericho (Kenyon 1960: Fig. 137:1–3; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 189–191); Tell Qasile (Ayalon 1988: Fig. 17:7, dated late MB IIA); Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 1:3, 14, 15; 15:9, etc.); Tell Jerishe Levels III–IV (Geva 1982: Figs. 26:8, 9; 30:1–4).

Small Finds from the Cemetery

Daggers (Figs. 17:8; 18:9; 19:5, 11; 20:8, 9).— All the daggers are made of copper alloy, and they are quite common in the tombs, usually one or two per tomb. They are long-tanged daggers, with slight variations in the shape of the edge (pointed or rounded) and without rivets. Such daggers are dated by Philip to MB IIB (1989, I:113–114, II:414); cf. Zefat (Damati and Stepansky 1996:14*–15*); and Shiloh (Brandl 1993:242–243, Fig. 9.11:6).

Pommel (Fig. 19:6).— A dome-shaped stone pommel was found in Tomb 701, and may have belonged to the dagger found in this tomb (Fig. 26:5), although they were not attached. See Philip 1989, I:169–170; Ziffer 1990:94, Fig. 104; Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 226:9); and Shiloh (Brandl 1993: Fig. 9.14:2, of a biconical type, found out of context in

an Iron Age I level). Although daggers were common in the tombs, this was the only pommel to be retrieved. It is possible that pommels were separated from blades prior to burial. Stone pommels have much less value than metal blades, so their removal may be related to funerary belief rather than to economic motivation. On the other hand, daggers could have had wooden pommels, which did not survive in the tombs.

Ax (Fig. 19:7).— The ax was found in Tomb 701 beneath a bowl, in a bad state of preservation. This type of ax (“lugged chisel axe”; Ziffer 1990:92–93, Fig. 101) is common in MB IIB tombs in Cisjordan (Philip 1989, I:40–41, Fig. 2). Miron (1988:71–72, 75, Fig. 3) counted ten examples in the Levant spanning the period from late MB IIA to the early part of MB IIB. At Tell ed-Daba’ two axes were found in tombs of Levels F and E1 (see also the ax from Manaḥat; Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998:90–91, Fig. 7.6).

Toggle Pins (Figs. 18:10; 19:12, 13; 20:10).— Four metal toggle pins were found in the tombs. They are all of the same type: long and thin,

with large rounded holes close to the middle or to the head. Two have simple, cut heads (Figs. 18:10; 19:13) and two have small, nail-shaped heads (Figs. 19:12; 20:10). None of these toggle pins display incised decoration, such as has been found at Zefat (Damati and Stepansky 1996: Figs. 18, 19). Comparisons to the present toggle pins are found at Manaḥat (Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998:90, Fig. 7.1.1); Tel Aviv Harbor (Kaplan 1955: Fig. 5:3, 4, 6); Jericho (Kenyon 1960: Figs. 128:6, 7, 10; 177:1, 12, 14, 15; 207:1, 3, 6, Groups II–V). Toggle pins were used to secure the dress near the shoulder (Ziffer 1990:71–72).

Beads (Fig. 15:6–8).— These beads were in Tomb 207. Presumably, they belonged to a necklace. The reason for finding beads only in this one burial is not clear. The individuals buried there were a child and a young adult, badly preserved and without evidence of the gender. Bead types usually have a very long usage span, so I will limit the comparisons. The bead in Fig. 15:6 has apt comparison in Kabri (Avidar 1991: Fig. 17:1–3). The biconical bead (Fig. 15:8) has a parallel at Dan (Ilan 1996: Fig. 9, top left).

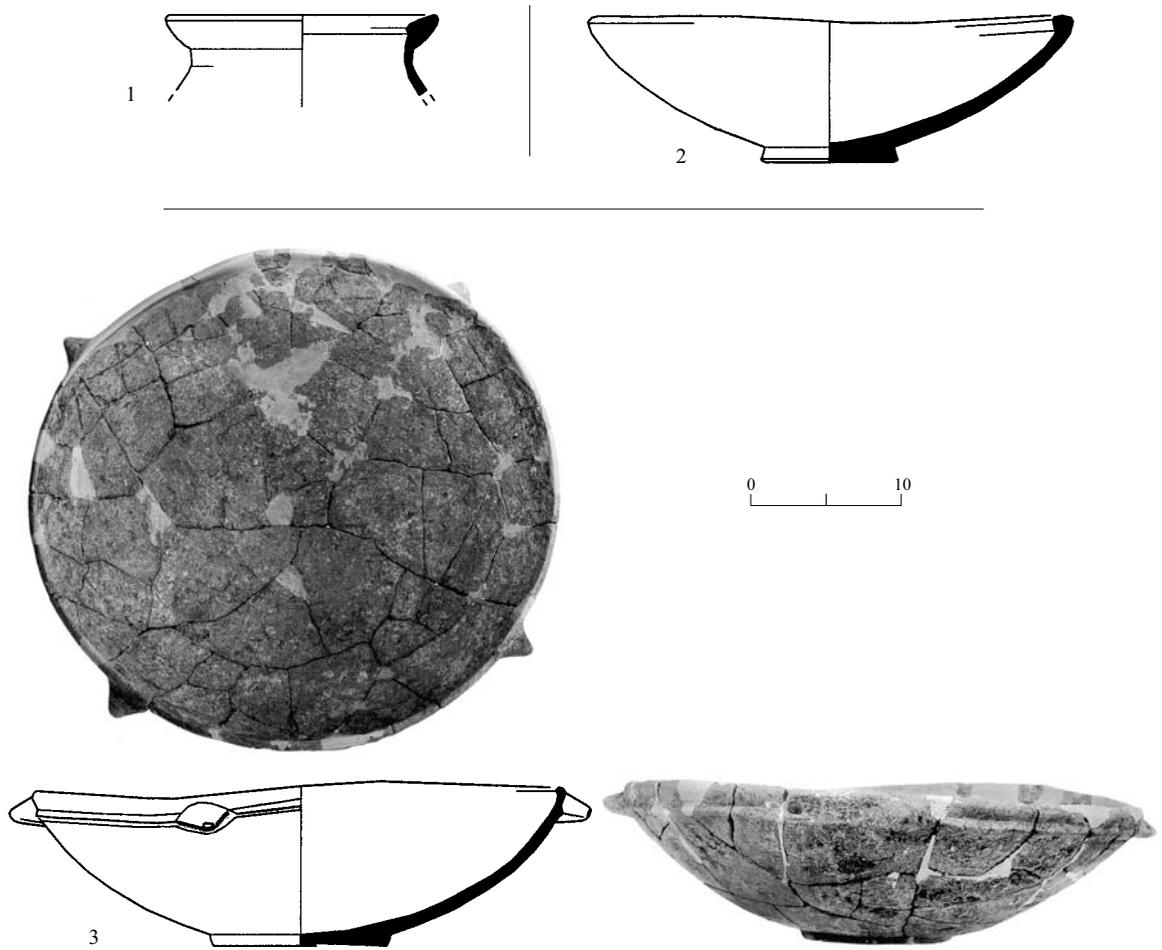


Fig. 14. Finds from Tombs 203–205.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	2027	203	Jar rim, brown ware and core, very worn	P-504241
2	2020	204	Bowl, brown ware, red slip inside and outside(?), worn	2001-905
3	2031	205	Bowl, brown ware, remains of red slip(?), worn	2001-914

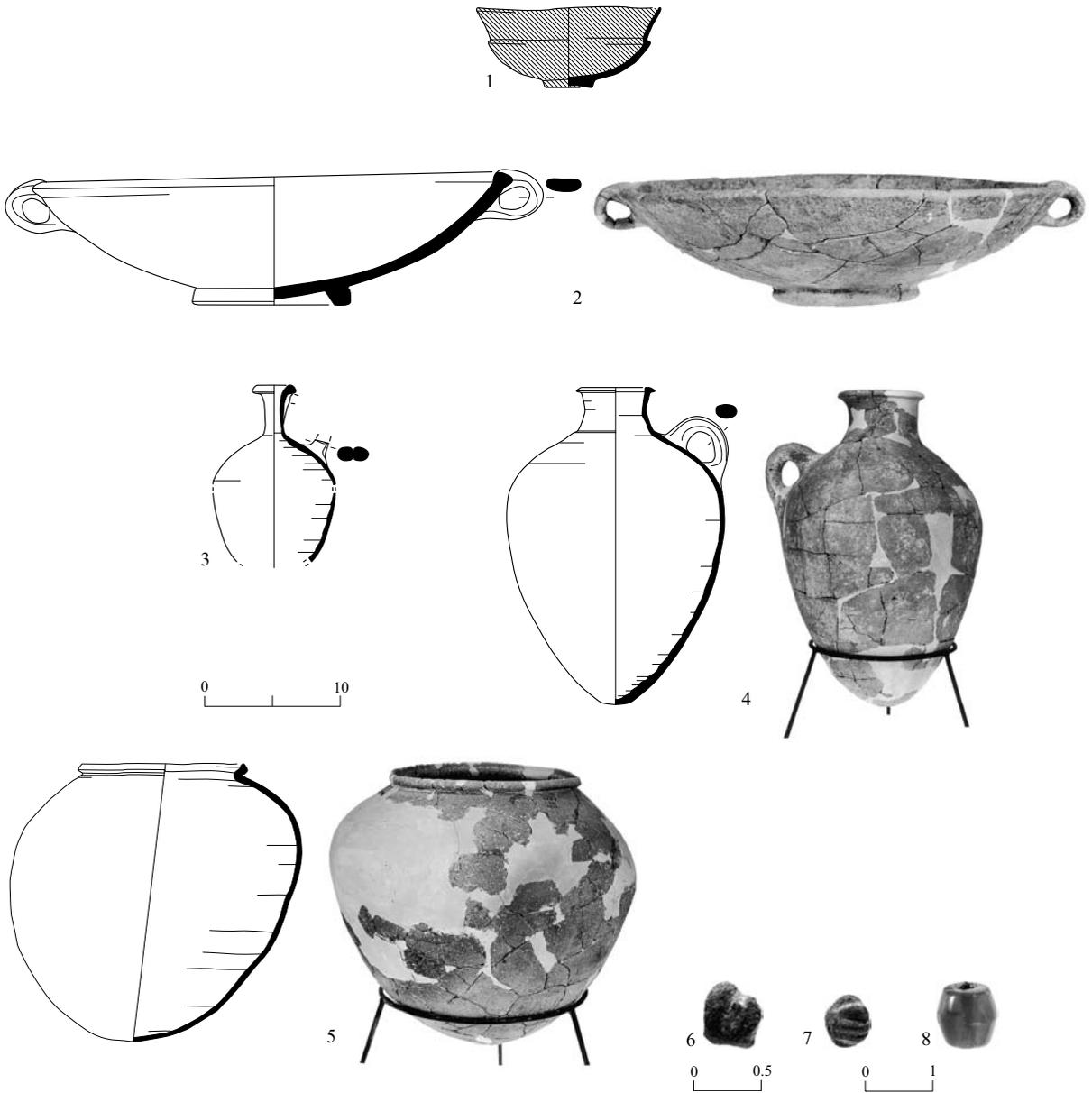


Fig. 15. Finds from Tomb 207.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	2047/1	207	Carinated bowl, brown ware, burnt outside, traces of red slip(?), worn	2001-929
2	2044	207	Bowl, brown ware and core, traces of red slip(?), worn	P-504270
3	2047/2	207	Juglet, brown ware, traces of red slip outside, double handle (broken)	P-504271
4	2043	207	One-handed jar, brown ware, gray core, traces of red slip outside(?)	2001-930
5	2037	201	Cooking pot, red-brown ware, gray core, white and gray grits, deformed	2001-908
6	2051/1	207	Bead, round, glittering white quartz(?), length 11 mm	P-504592
7	2051/2	207	Bead, small and round, brown-orange, worn	2001-1021
8	2049	207	Bead, conical, orange-red carnelian(?), length 8.5 mm; other beads yellow-brown, very worn	2001-1017

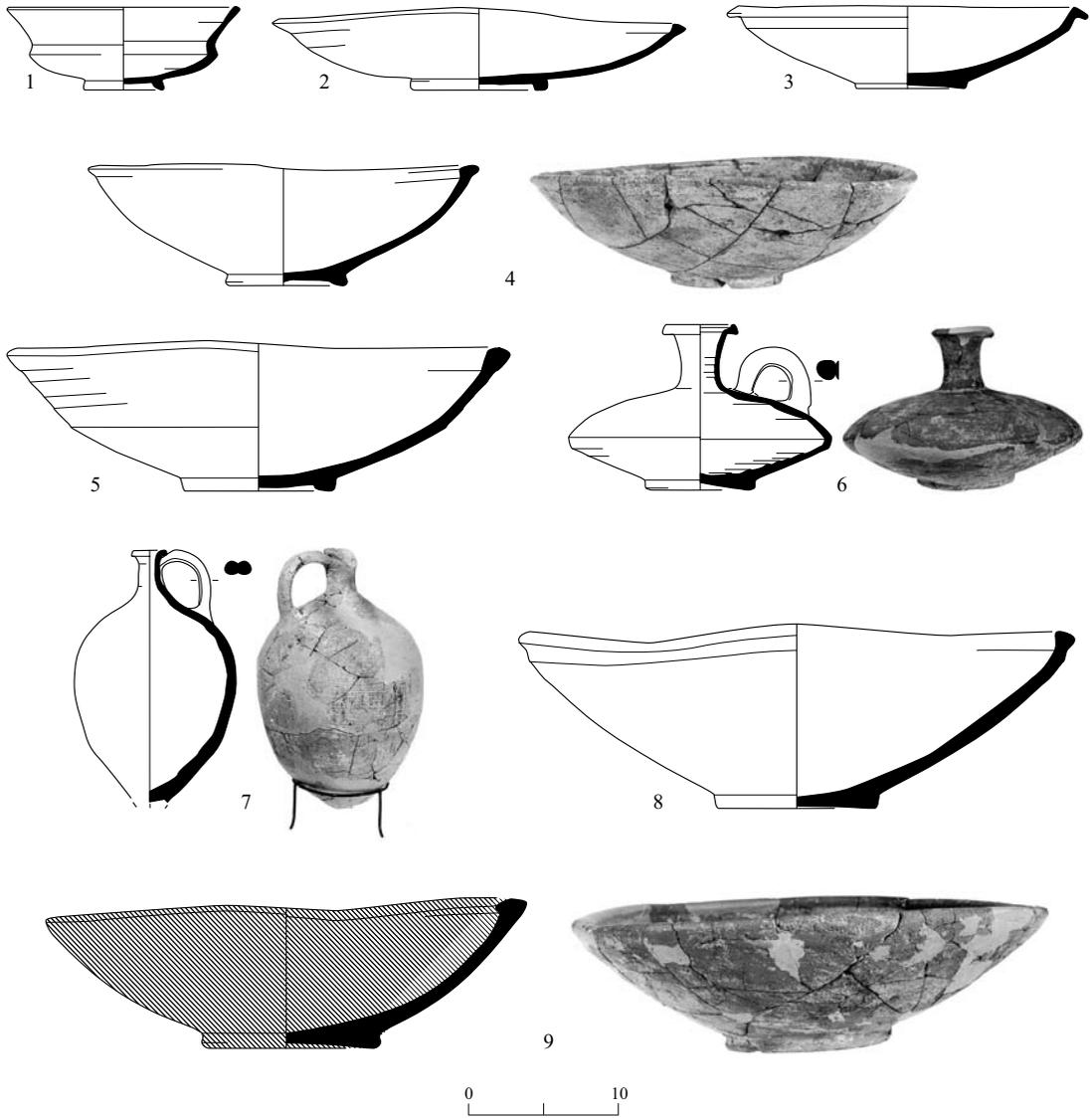


Fig. 16. Finds from Tomb 209 and L209a.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	2130	209	Carinated bowl, brown-black ware, red slip outside(?)	P-504250
2	2119/1	209	Bowl, brown ware, worn and deformed, red slip(?)	2001-909
3	2121	209	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, worn	2001-910
4	2120	209	Bowl, brown ware, delicate combing outside, worn, traces of red slip(?)	2001-911
5	2122	209	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, deformed and worn	2001-912
6	2132	209	Squat jug, brown-gray ware, worn, traces of red slip outside; part of body missing—location of handle is a restoration	2001-913
7	2118	209	Juglet, light brown ware, few gray grits, combed on the shoulder, perhaps red slipped outside, worn	2001-914
8	2061	209a	Bowl, brown ware, combed outside, worn and deformed, red slip(?)	2001-915
9	2062	209a	Bowl, brown ware and core, few white grits, red slip, worn	2001-916

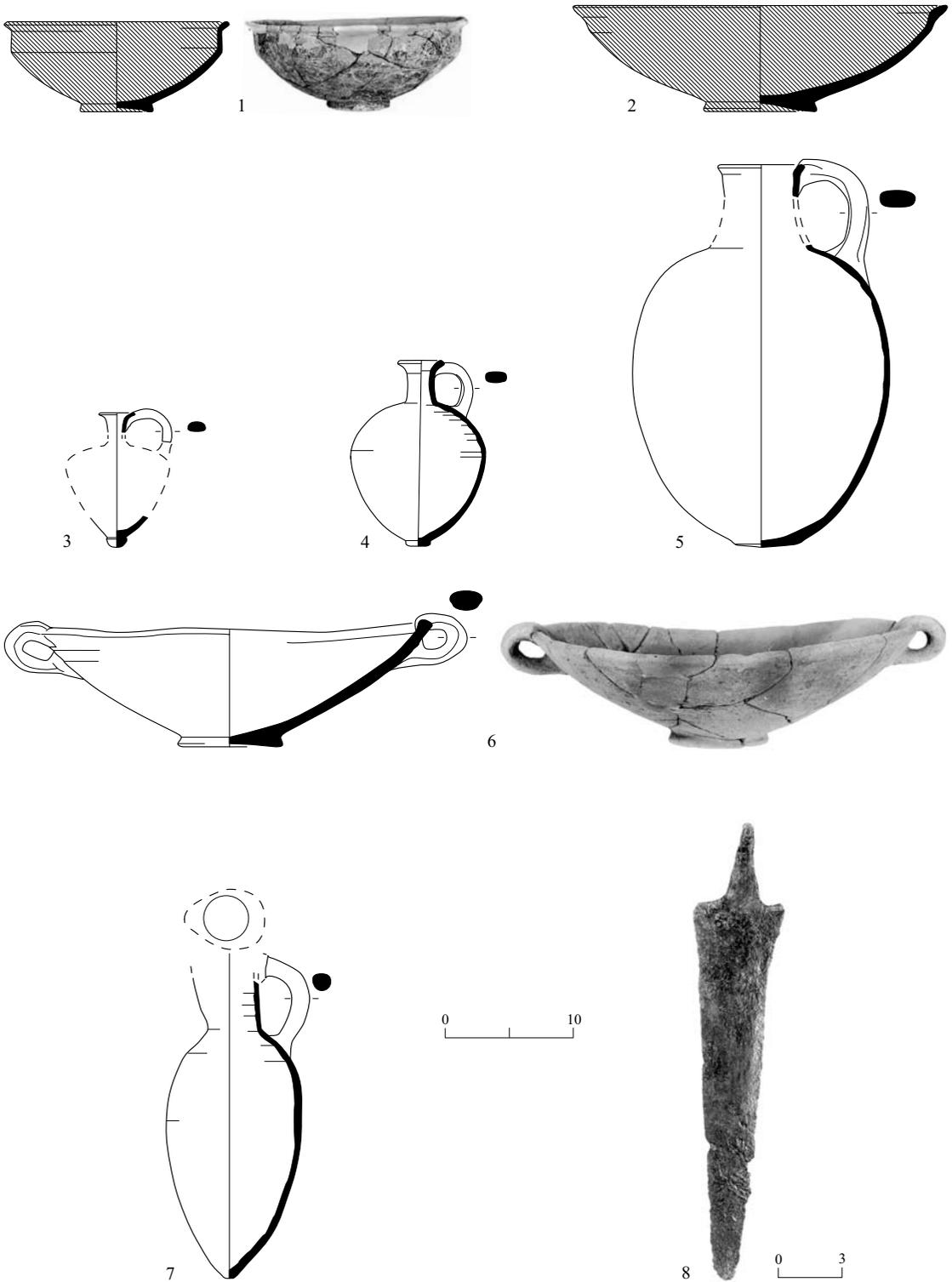


Fig. 17. Finds from Tombs 212 and 510.

◀ Fig. 17

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	2089	212	Carinated bowl, brown ware, white grits, traces of red slip all over	P-504273
2	2085	212	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, few white grits, red slip all over(?)	P-504274
3	2091	212	Piriform juglet, light brown ware, very worn, body lines restored according to an earth-lump that was inside	P-504275
4	2090	212	Juglet, brown-yellow ware, very worn.	P-504276
5	2092	212	Jug, brown ware, few white grits, worn, red slip outside(?)	
6	5007	510	Bowl, light-brown ware, white grits, worn and deformed, red slip(?)	2001-906
7	5005	510	Dipper juglet, brown ware, traces of red slip outside, worn	2001-907
8	5011	510	Dagger	

Fig. 18 ▶

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	6042	606	Carinated bowl, light brown ware, very worn	2001-917
2	6041	606	Carinated bowl, light brown ware, worn, red slip(?)	2001-918
3	6049	606	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, very worn	
4	6048	606	Dipper juglet, brown ware, gray core, white grits	2001-919
5	6046	606	Juglet, dark brown ware, red slip(?)	2001-920
6	6053	606	Jar, red-brown ware, brown core, white grits, red slip outside and on rim(?)	2001-921
7	6056	606	Jar, brown ware, gray core, white grits, worn	2001-922
8	6044	606	Scarab, white frit, with broken bronze ring	2001-923
9	6059	606	Dagger	2001-971
10	6045	606	Toggle pin	2001-982

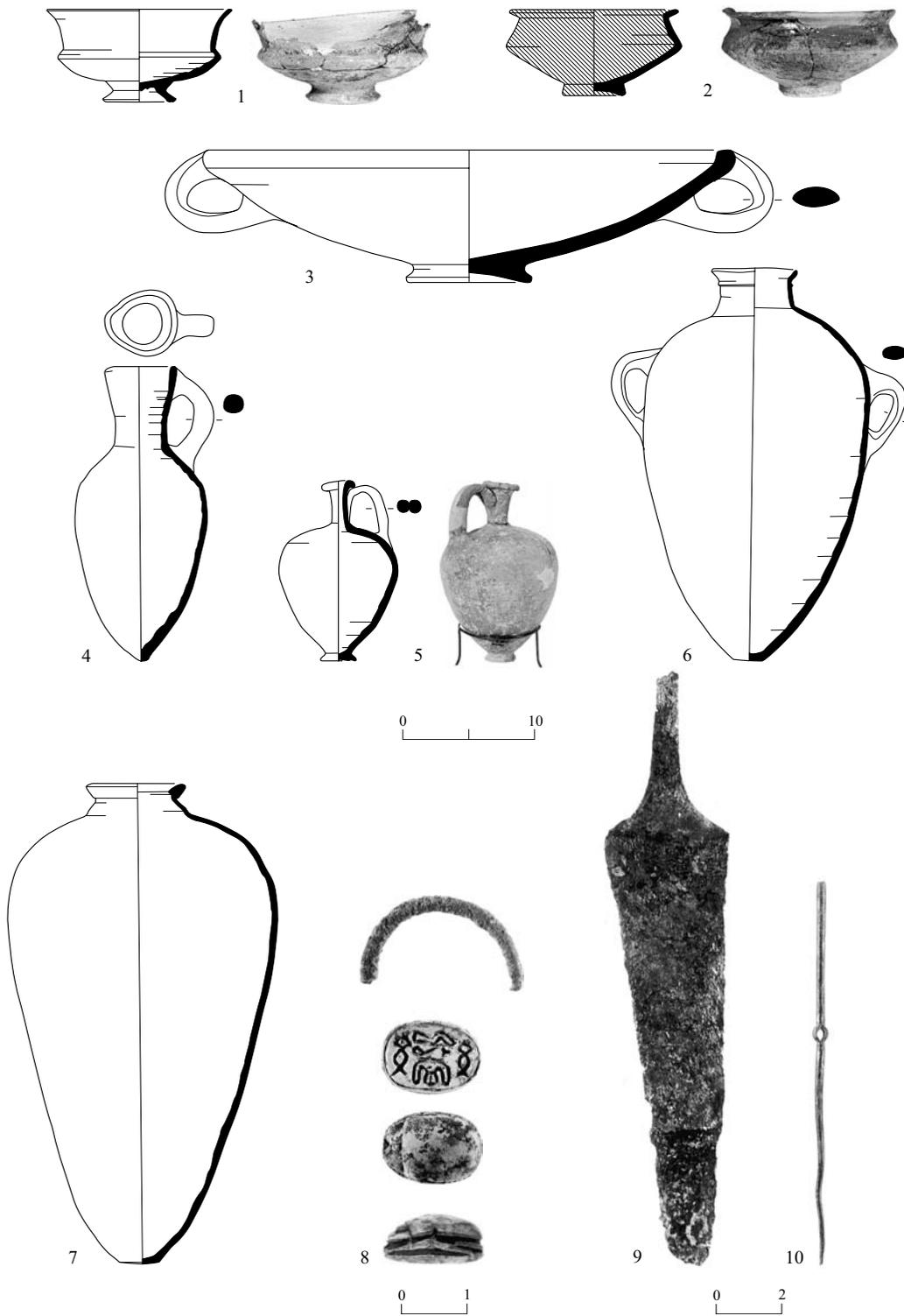


Fig. 18. Finds from Tomb 606.

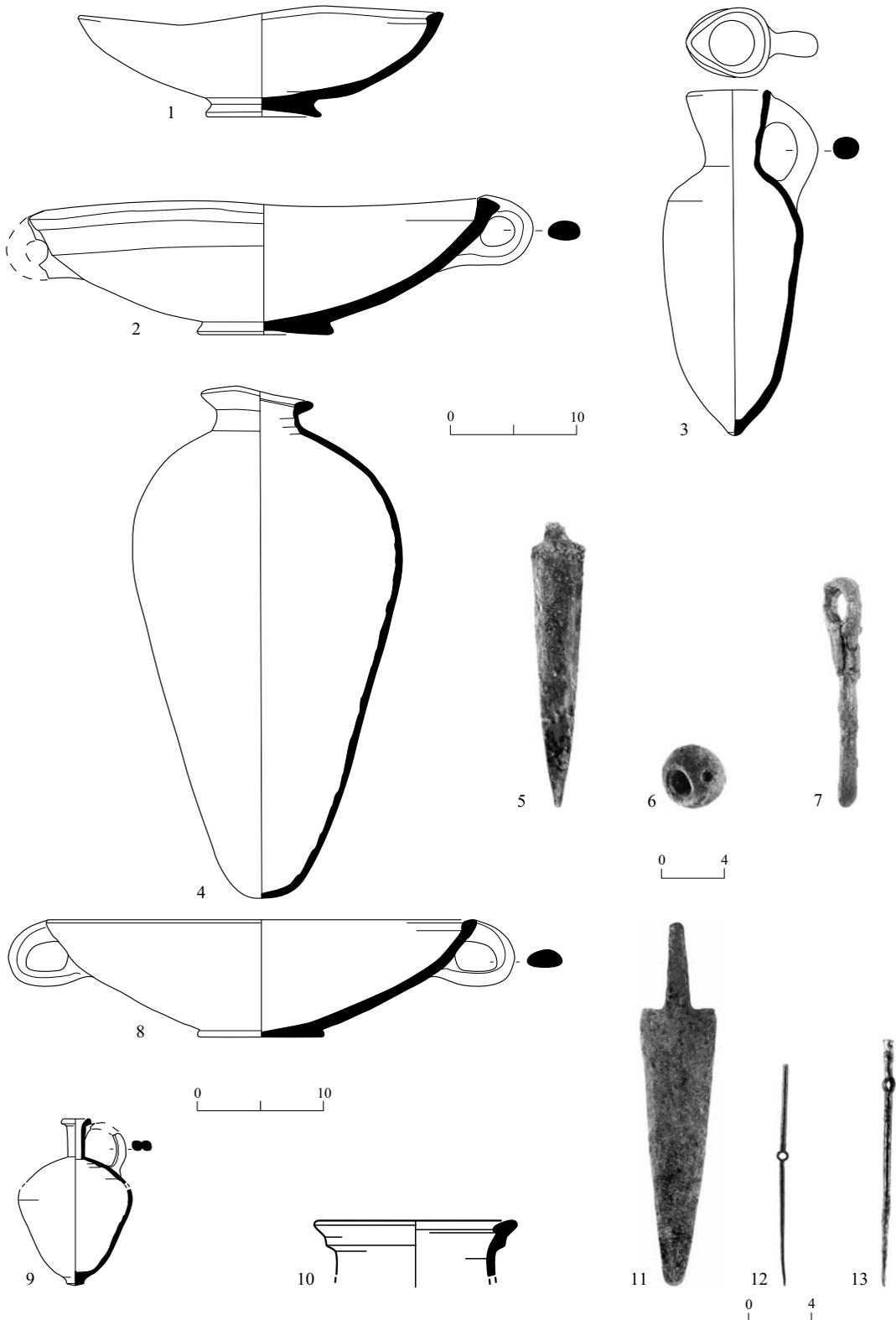


Fig. 19. Finds from Tombs 701 and 704.

◀ Fig. 19

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	7029	701	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, red slip(?), worn and deformed	2001-924
2	7022	701	Bowl, brown ware, traces of red slip inside and on rim(?)	2001-925
3	7051	701	Dipper juglet, brown ware, dark brown core, white grits, deformed	2001-926
4	7034	701	Jar, brown ware, gray core, white grits, combed on shoulder, worn	2001-927
5	7019	701	Dagger	2001-973
6	7018	701	Pommel, white stone	2001-1016
7	7025	701	Ax, very worn	2001-976
8	7030	704	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, combed outside, very worn	P-504267
9	7038	704	Juglet, brown ware, worn, red slip(?)	P-506159
10	7042	704	Jar (body not restorable), brown ware and core, very worn	P-504265
11	7011	704	Dagger	2001-974
12	7010	704	Toggle pin	2001-983
13	7016	704	Toggle pin	

Fig. 20 ▶

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	8060	800	Carinated bowl, brown ware, traces of red slip(?), worn	2001-949
2	8025	800	Bowl, brown ware, worn, traces of red slip(?), deformed	2001-951
3	8064	800	Juglet, brown ware, red slip outside and on rim	2001-952
4	8085	800	Juglet, brown ware, worn, perhaps dark-red slip outside	2001-953
5	8063	800	Juglet, red-brown ware, very worn	
6	8045	800	One-handed jar, brown ware, gray core, white grits, white encrustation or coating outside	2001-964
7	8044	800	Jar, brown ware, white encrustation outside, traces of red slip(?)	2001-965
8	8007	800	Dagger	2001-977
9	8006	800	Dagger	2001-975
10	8008	800	Toggle pin	2001-985

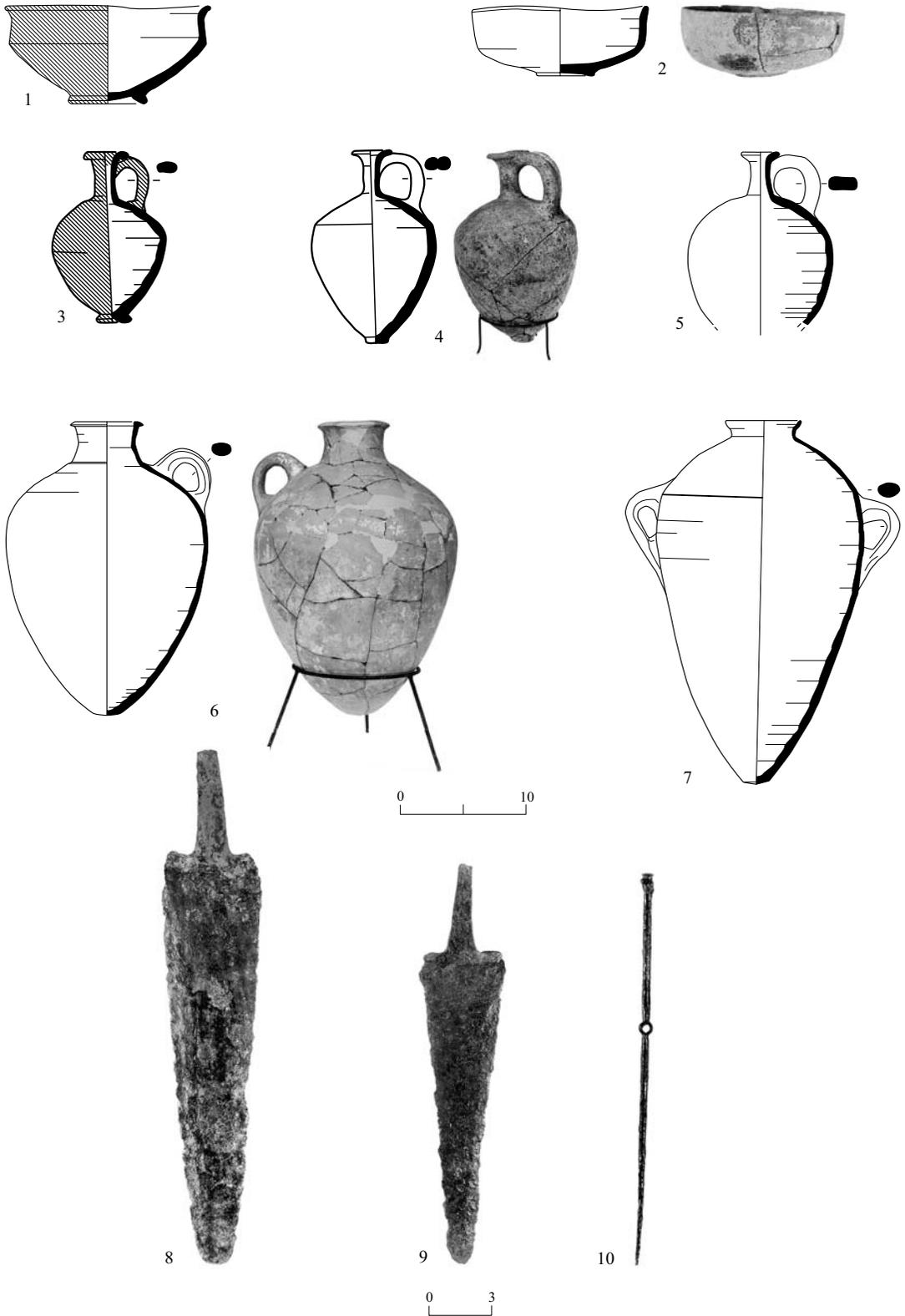


Fig. 20. Finds from Tomb 800.

A Scarab from Tomb 606

Yosef Mizrachi

A scarab (Fig. 18:8) was found in Tomb 606 and dated by the excavator to early MB IIB. The scarab was found near part of a bronze ring, and was probably originally attached to it.

Dimensions: L 15 mm; W 11 mm; H 7 mm.

Design Classification: Back—O, Head—B1, Side—D10 (Tufnell 1984,1:32–37, Figs. 12–14).

Motif Classification: 3B6 (Tufnell 1984,1:120).

Surface Decoration: The composition decorating the plinth consists of four engraved hieroglyphs, arranged laterally. At both ends of the decoration field are engraved two upright signs, designed as the hieroglyph *h* (Gardiner 1979:525, Sign V28; Keel 1995:170, §453), or, alternatively, as a schematically shaped hieroglyph *w3h* (Gardiner 1979: Sign V29; Keel 1995:173, §463). The above-mentioned signs bound two more signs, which occupy the center of the composition. Above, is a ‘Horus eye’ hieroglyph—*w3dt* (Gardiner 1979:451, Sign D10; Keel 1995:173, §464), which presides over the hieroglyph *nbw* (Gardiner 1979:505, Sign S12; Keel 1995:172, §458).

Commentary: A group of hieroglyphs bearing symbolic traits. The decoration on the present scarab is a locally-manufactured Canaanite version of a well-known theme derived from an Egyptian prototype that first appeared in Egypt during the Middle Kingdom, and is categorized as ‘*Neferzeichen*’ (Ben-Tor 1998:154–157).

Parallels: Tufnell 1984,2: Pl. XV:1662–1688 (esp. 1670, 1671, 1682, 1685).

Date: Late MB IIA–B/Dynasties XIII–XV. It is now generally agreed that this Egyptian glyptic tradition moved into and established itself in Canaan during the late MB IIA–early MB IIB period. It continued to serve as a popular design throughout the MB IIB period to its end, about 1750–1550 BCE (Ben-Tor 1994:11; 1998:154–162).

General Discussion of the Cemetery

Except for Tomb 800, all the burials were in rectangular pit-graves dug into the *kurkar*. Two main variations in form were detected: simple pits (Tombs 209, 510, 701, 704) and stone-lined pits (Tombs 606, 207, 212). The depths of the simple pits vary, but only a few graves were found intact; the shallower pits were those whose upper parts and covering stones were destroyed by the bulldozers (e.g., Tomb 510). Rectangular pit graves are common throughout the MB II in the country (cf. a typology of ‘cut’ and ‘constructed’ tombs, Hallote 1994:51, Figs. 2, 3). The better-preserved graves were roofed with stones—either heaped boulders (Tomb 606, perhaps also Tomb 704) or well-laid slabs (Tomb 209). A curving row of stones forming a low wall or fence (1.5–2.0 m length) was found outside Tombs 207 and 606, on their southern side. The stones may have served as markers for these tombs.

All the rectangular graves are oriented roughly east–southeast, each grave containing one to three individuals. The typical mode of burial was a single primary burial, as is common in the MB II (Hallote 1994:61–62, Fig. 6). The deceased usually lay on the back (Tombs 207, 606) with the skull in the east and the head turned to the north (Tombs 209 and 704). In Tomb 205 the deceased appears to be on its side with the legs folded. In addition, evidence of secondary burial was found in the corners of Tombs 207, 704, and 510. The better-preserved cases showed that these remains were carelessly moved (vessels broken and bones entangled) and heaped in a corner of the grave, presumably when later interments were added (cf. Hallote 1994:63). Thus, it was sometimes possible to separate the finds of the primary and secondary burials within the grave. The round Tomb 800 is an exception, with at least seven individuals, all apparently in secondary deposition. Group burials, together with individual burials in the same cemetery, are known from other MB II sites, such as Jericho. These should not be considered mass-graves; rather, they apparently

represent family tombs in use over a long period of time (after Hallote 1994:71, with more references there).

Generally, the skeletal remains were fragile and decayed (see Nagar, this volume). The sample was too small for determining kinship. However, many of the deceased were rather tall, 170 cm or more. Although the relationship between the individuals in the same grave could not be determined, they may well have been members of the same family. As Hallote (1994:72) noted, MB II burials indicate interment of all the population—males, females and children. Children were often buried with

adults, for example, at various tombs in Jericho (P23, J14, A46, P17, H18, H22—Kenyon 1960; 1965) and at Kabri Tomb 902 (Kempinski 1989), indicating nuclear family burials.

Based on the more or less intact burials (Tombs 207, 209, 606, 704), the average assemblage of a tomb comprised about ten pottery vessels (Table 1), including 1–3 jars, 1–4 large and medium bowls, 1 or 2 carinated bowls, 1 or 2 large dipper juglets, 1–6 small juglets, and other occasional vessels. A similar average of 12.37 vessels per burial was calculated for Hāzor Tomb 1181 of the same period (Maier 1997a:325). Maier defines this as a burial kit,

Table 1: Contents of the Tombs

Contents \ Tomb	L203 (A?)	L204 (A?)	T205 (A)	T207* (B)	T209* (B)	L209 (A?)	T212 (B)	T510 (A)	T606* (B)	T701* (A)	T704* (B)	T800* (C)
<i>Pottery</i>												
Bowls, small/carinated		1		1	2		1		2		2	2
Bowls, large		1			4	2	1	1	1?	1?		
Bowls, large + handles			1	1						1?		
Jugs					1		1				1	1?
Juglets, cylindrical				1							1	1
Juglets, piriform			1?				6		3		4	4
Juglets, other				+	2			2				
Dipper juglets	1	1			2				2	2+		
Jars, small				1			1				2	2
Jars, medium, 2 handles				1	1?				1		1	1
Jars, large, handleless	1			1	2				1	1		
Other jars	1	1	2			2		2				
<i>Total</i>	3	4	4	6+	14	4	10	5	10	5+	11	11
<i>Other Finds</i>												
Beads	1?		2	3+								
Bronze daggers								1	1	1	1	2+
Bronze pins				1					1		2	1+
Bronze axes										1	1	
Pommel										1		
Bronze ring				+			+		1			
Scarab									1			
Animal offering								+	+	+		?
<i>Total</i>	4	4	6	10+	14	4	10	6	14	8+	15	14+
Individuals buried	+		1	2	1	?	1	3	1	1	2	7

Note: L203 and L204 are not certain graves.

Legend: + indicates small fragments of artifacts; ? indicates uncertain identification; * indicates undamaged;

Types of graves are: A—simple, rectangular pit; B—stone-lined, rectangular pit; C—multiple interment in a round depression

and believes that it varied according to the social status of the deceased. However, pattern and amount of artifacts deposited in tombs can be related to many different factors, not necessarily an indication of social status (for a recent treatment of the problems involved, with extensive bibliography, see McHugh 1999). As in Tomb 1181 in Hāzor (Maier 1997a:327), the burials lacked lamps—perhaps because the burials at Ramat Aviv were shallow and open to daylight during burial ceremonies.

Usually, the vessels were placed in a row next to one long side of the burial (Tombs 207, 209, 606, 704), and small juglets were placed near the head and/or shoulders of the primary burial. Dipper juglets were placed at the mouth of some jars, from where they fell inside (cf. Jericho—Kenyon 1965: Fig. 237:1; cf. Hallote 1994:83).

There was some evidence of construction and other activity outside graves in their immediate vicinity. The construction is poorly preserved, but includes the stone walls or fences (W1, W2) near Tombs 207 and 606. Some jar groups found in the area of the settlement (below) may have been child burials, perhaps of the MB IIA settlement, but no bones were found in these jars. It is tempting to associate the cooking pot (Fig. 19:5) found in L201 (see Plan 4) with a funerary meal after a burial in nearby Tomb 207. There are many references to funerary repasts in the literature of the ancient Near East.² However, there is no solid evidence to prove that this vessel relates to such a ceremony. It is possible that this

gutter-rimmed cooking pot antedates the tomb and belongs to the settlement phase. In the same vein, Ilan's (1996:257) claim that vessels above/near MB II graves at Tel Dan were offerings for the dead remains speculative. No stratigraphic evidence was adduced to prove their relation to the tombs, nor evidence that they were offerings to the dead.

Sheep/goat bones (see Sade, this volume) were found in four graves (Table 2). It seems that the animal parts found in the bowls are only of sheep/goat. This contrasts with the much larger variety of animal species in the settlement (see Sade, this volume). Most of the bones are from the meat-rich parts of the animals, but the head, as well as the phalanx, are parts with little flesh. Phalanxes of sheep/goat are not eaten and are usually discarded, so their occurrence here may indicate that the animals were slaughtered in funerary rites near the graves, and not for human consumption. The cranial fragments in jar B6053 from Tomb 606 may indicate either that the brain was eaten, or that the entire head was put into the jar. Kolska Horwitz (1997; 1999) offers a clear and thorough summary of similar archaeozoological evidence from other MB II burials. Her suggestion (Kolska Horwitz 1999:36–37) that the animals were offered to the deceased, rather than to the gods, is plausible. Finally, a jar (B8007 = Fig. 20:7) in Tomb 800 contained fragments of a Palestine mole (*Spalax ehrenbergi*) that may have died naturally inside the tomb (cf. Kolska Horwitz 1999:35).

Table 2. Sheep/Goat Bones from the Tombs

Tomb	Context	Sheep/Goat Remains	Illustrations
510	Bowl B5007 (Fig. 17:6)	1 metapod, 1 molar fragment	
606	Bowl B6055	2 metapods, 1 pelvis left fragment, 1 femur fragment	Fig. 7; Plan 7
	Bowl B6049 (Fig. 18:3)	7 metapods, 6 costa fragments, 3 vertebrae, 1 pelvis, 2 phalanx I fragments	
	Jar B6053 (Fig. 18:6)	Fragments of 1 mandibula right, 1 maxilla right, 8 crushed crania parts	
701	Bowl 7022 (Fig. 19:2)	Skull fragments, 1 metapod, 3 molar fragments	Figs. 8, 9; Plan 8
	Bowl B7024	Fragments of 2 metapods, 1 phalanx I	
800	Scattered	Few fragments of animal bones, including 2 phalanx I	

The graves were poor in metal finds: a toggle pin and/or a bronze dagger may be designated as the typical burial 'kit'. In graves that included secondary burials, metal items were also removed and put together with the secondary pile of bones and vessels (Tombs 704, 800). Young persons and perhaps women (e.g., Tomb 209) lacked weapons, but the evidence is inconclusive. Luxury items are rare: one bronze ax from Tomb 701 (Fig. 19:7), one scarab from Tomb 606 (Fig. 18:8; see Mizrahi, above), and a few beads from Tomb 207 (Fig. 19:6–8). Hallote (1994:74–79, Fig. 8) shows that in the late MB II distribution of grave goods increases, mainly of 'luxury' items, such as scarabs, pins, and inlays, whereas the distribution of weapons decreases sharply. This distribution pattern fits the suggested dating for the Ramat Aviv cemetery.

An interesting observation concerns the jars. Since they contained no evidence of solid foods (e.g., grains, olives, stones, pips), it is likely that they held liquids (oil or wine?). A study of residues in such jars, based on new techniques of identification available today, is greatly needed but was not possible for the present site (see McGovern, Fleming and Katz 1995:57–66, 79–88; Murray, Boulton and Heron 2000:599–602). Small vessels and metal artifacts were pushed aside carelessly, together with bones, during later burials (e.g., in Tomb 704), but apparently jars were not treated in this way. We found no fragments of jars (or whole jars) in such secondary heaps. Earlier burials may have lacked large vessels, but this is not very likely. A second, tenuous, possibility is that jars of an earlier burial were taken out and replaced with new jars. Or, perhaps, large storage vessels, once placed inside a tomb, were left in place during reburial and were refilled on such occasions. All these speculations cast doubts on our ability to separate 'early' and 'later' pottery groups in a given tomb according to their location and relationship to the different burials in the tomb.

Presumably, the tombs were part of a larger dense burial ground occupying the northeastern

area of the site, perhaps extending further to the north. Cemeteries of the MB II are well known from the Tel Aviv region. A large, but later, MB IIB cemetery was found in the Tel Aviv Harbor area (Kaplan 1955). Seven MB II graves were reported from the Exhibition Gardens north of the Yarqon, and solitary graves were found in the Hadar Yosef and Ramat Ha-Hayal neighborhoods of north Tel Aviv (Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993:1454). There were also MB IIB burials at the more distant Afeq (Kochavi 1989:41, 44, 52–53). Certainly, the most impressive cemetery is the one in the Rishon Le-Ziyyon sands, as yet unpublished (for a preliminary report, see Levi 1993).

Hallote (1994:72–74, 103–106, Fig. 19) believes that MB II tombs served as territorial markers, with groups of tombs placed between plots of land to mark ownership. She adduces the Tel Aviv region as the best example for this hypothesis, and suggests that all the tombs belonged to three major towns. One is Tell Jerishe: ". . . during the MB IIB Tell Jerishe claimed all the land on the banks of the Yarqon to its west, and placed burials on this land to legitimize this claim. . ." (Hallote 1994:103). The second site is Jaffa, related to all the tombs along Naḥal Ayyalon; and the third, perhaps Yavne-Yam (with tombs along Naḥal Soreq). Although this theory is plausible, there is no substantiating evidence. We know very little about land tenure systems and territorial borders of these three MB II towns. Hallote (1994:103) also explains the large number of MB II burials in the Tel Aviv region on grounds of reliable supplies of water, irrigation possibilities, and emerging maritime trade. Yet, our present knowledge of the distribution pattern of MBII burials in the Tel Aviv region and elsewhere may be biased due to extensive development projects and building activities in Israel's central conurbation (Kletter and Gorzalcany 2001). Moreover, there existed in the Tel Aviv region many smaller and rural sites, especially during MB IIA (Gophna and Beck 1981), so that not every burial can be ascribed to a large town. While some special burials may have

functioned as territorial markers or pilgrimage centers for a whole community (for example, a sheikh’s tomb), most burials would not have been used in this way; at most, they may have indicated a much smaller social demarcation, such as family ownership (cf. Biblical evidence of burials on family land: Barkay 1994:102–109; 1999:97).

It has become fashionable in studies of even small groups of burials to discuss ideologies and beliefs about death and afterlife. Thus, Ilan (1996:256–257) suggests that one MB II infant jar burial from Dan containing a large quantity of lentils “must be emblematic of the connection between fertility and death” (If lentils are indeed such a clear fertility symbol, we all have a fertility cult in our kitchens). Where heads of the deceased are directed toward the opening of their jar/shaft burial, Ilan interprets this as a “simulation of womb and birth in mortuary practice”. Yet, there may well be other explanations for this, e.g., that it indicates respect for the dead (not wanting to push the body head-first into a jar); or that it related to a common belief in antiquity that the soul leaves/enters the body through the mouth/nose. Further, Ilan (1996:256) suggests that the “configurations of chamber tombs, jar-burials and rock-cut tombs (the latter not yet found at Tel Dan)” reflect the female reproductive organs: “burial chambers/jar = womb; entry = cervix; corridor, shaft or dromos = birth canal”. No exact configurations are detailed and the three types of tombs hardly match the three organs mentioned there. It does not seem likely that MB II people of Dan constructed their tombs with minute concern for anatomic details.

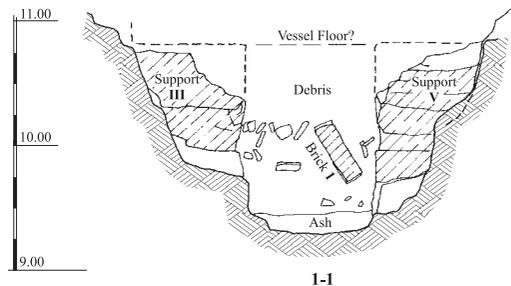
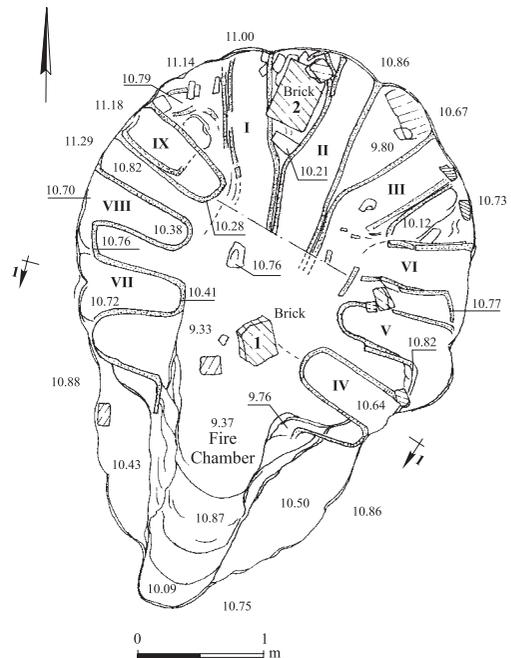
In her very useful Ph.D. work, Hallote calls attention to the story of Sinuhe (cf. Barkay 1994:107, n. 34; for the story see Baines 1982; Redford 1996). The story mentions the possibility that if Sinuhe dies he will be buried in a sheepskin by Asians in Asia. Hallote (1994:39–40) concludes: “Sinuhe is our only indication that funerals in the [MB] Levant entailed processions, and that bodies were shrouded in this manner”. Still, this story does

not offer a historical description of an MB II burial in the Levant, but rather, indicates the Egyptians’ abhorrence of foreign funeral rites.³ MB II Palestine was a sophisticated urban society, certainly during the MB IIB period, so the details in Sinuhe’s story cannot be taken literally at present.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE KILNS

Kiln 808 (Plan 11; Figs. 21, 22)

This kiln was first seen as a dark area in the *kurkar*, at a maximal elevation of 11.29 m and its bottom at 9.33 m. Thus, the kiln survived to a height of almost 2 m, but its roof structure (not



Plan 11. Kiln 808: plan and section (supports are indicated in Roman numerals).



Fig. 21. Kiln 808, looking east.



Fig. 22. Kiln 808, looking west; detail of radial supports.

preserved) would have been much higher. The kiln is elliptical, max. dimensions 3.1×4.5 m, cut in the *kurkar*, its long axis directed northeast–southwest, and with a steep entrance from the southwest. The kiln is of the vertical type, with two main superimposed parts. At the bottom is the combustion chamber, where a 20 cm thick layer of gray ashes and the blackened *kurkar* attest the high temperatures inside the kiln (700° – 1000° C and more). The pottery for firing was placed in the upper part of the kiln, on a platform (not preserved) resting on clay supports (Plan 11: Section 1–1). The supports measured 30 cm wide, 75 cm long and 6.5 cm high on the average, and terminated in rounded edges. Six supports were uncovered in opposite pairs in the central part of the kiln (supports V–VII against VII–IX). The supports show the effects of the intense heat inside the kiln with colors ranging from dark red (outside) to dark brown (inside). Between the supports were flues that enabled entrance of cold air (with oxygen) from outside, and exit of hot air that fired the vessels as it swirled around them. The air flow could be regulated by means of clay stoppers to increase

or decrease the temperature in the kiln (found in Afeq—Kochavi 1989:52–53; Esther Yadin, pers. comm.; cf. Shiloh—Brandl 1993:230, Fig. 9.5). More supports (I–III) were at the rounded, northern part of the kiln. Some flues were found clogged with debris, mainly fragments of bricks. How the firing platform was constructed could not be determined.

The exact relation between the supports and the central lower part of the kiln was not clear. Possibly, the kiln was reused or repaired many times. During the excavation, sections were studied inside the kiln. The main section (see Plan 11; Fig. 22) shows the supports protruding from the sides. The flues and the center of the kiln were full of earth and brick debris. Two fairly complete bricks were found in the kiln: one fallen in the center (Plan 11:1), the second fallen into one of the northern flues (Plan 11:2; Fig. 21: left). The bricks are large, 50 cm long; perhaps they were part of the floor of the kiln (cf. the large bricks in an MB II kiln at Tell el-‘Ajjul; Petrie 1931:6, 11, Pl. LIII). A few crushed pieces of limestone were found in the flues.⁴

Kiln 123 (Plan 12).— This kiln was found in Area A (see Plan 1). It is almost identical to Kiln 808 in size (max. 3.00 × 4.25 m), direction and structure, but we could only excavate a small part of it. We found a few lumps of fired clay with ‘holes’ in this kiln (Fig. 24:6), not *in situ*—perhaps from a perforated platform.

Pottery from the MB II Kilns

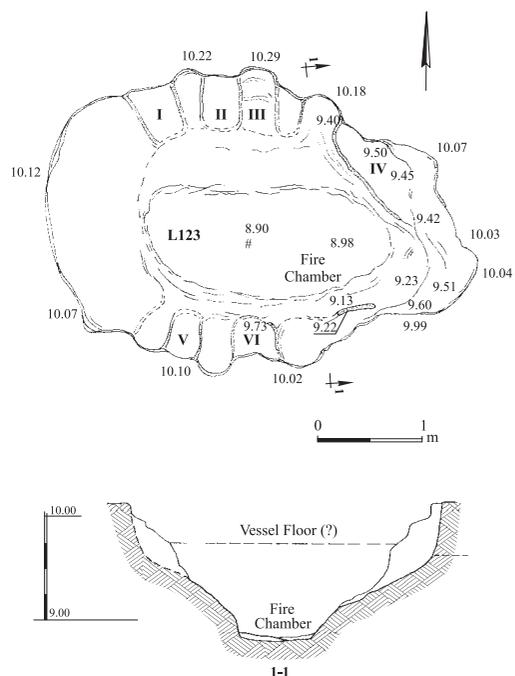
In presenting the pottery from the kilns, types already encountered in the tombs are not discussed here in detail.

Kiln 808 (Fig. 23).— Among the pottery found in Kiln 808 were a number of wasters (e.g., Fig. 23:2, 7, 9), including large pieces and one complete bowl which was heat-cracked (Fig. 23:1). These are important, for they show that this kiln functioned during MB II, and that the material was not a later intrusion.

The small bowls with disk or convex-disk bases (Fig. 23:1, 2) are common. Disk bases are

considered earlier than concave-disk and ring bases, but continue into MB IIB as well (Maier 1997b:139, Pl. 36). Comparisons are found in Jericho Tomb J3 (though larger, Kenyon 1960: Fig. 115:1, 2); and Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 24:16, 20). For bowl Fig. 23:3 see also Fig. 20:2 from Tomb 800. Bowl Fig. 23:4 is similar to bowls from the tombs (Figs. 17:1, 20:1); cf. Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 34:20, though much deeper). Bowl Fig. 23:5 is similar but not identical to S-shaped bowls at MB IIA Afeq (Beck 1975: Fig. 6:6), but cf. also Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 11:16).

Waster rim Fig. 23:7 (if correctly drawn, because the fragment is small) has parallels at MB IIB Jericho, in vessels defined as jars (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 138:3–5). A similar rim is called a pithos in Bet She’an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 23:1; a rare form there). The cooking pot (Fig. 23:8) has parallels at Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 26:2) and many other places (cf. discussion for Fig. 30:6–12, below).



Plan 12. Kiln 123, plan and section (supports are indicated in Roman numerals).

Jars with extended rims (Fig. 23:10–12) are found in Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 139). For rims Fig. 23:10, 11, cf. Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.9:14; 6.11:5; 6.16:5). Jar-rim Fig. 23:14 is a variation of the elongated, rounded jar-rims, with good parallels in MB IIB Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 189:2; 133:26, 28) and Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 14:11, 12, dated MB IIB). The vessel in Fig. 23:13 is a large jar or pithos, see Bet She'an (Maier 1997b:109, Pl. 23:3); Tel

Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 14:21, but the neck is higher), and, more vaguely, Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 32:b). MB II pithoi were discussed by Bonfil (1992), but the classification by body and handles cannot be applied readily when only rims survive. Figure 23:9 is either a krater or a jar, cf. Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 45:i) and Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 14:4, a krater).

Kiln 123 (Fig. 24).— The pottery from this kiln is limited in quantity. The carinated bowl (Fig.

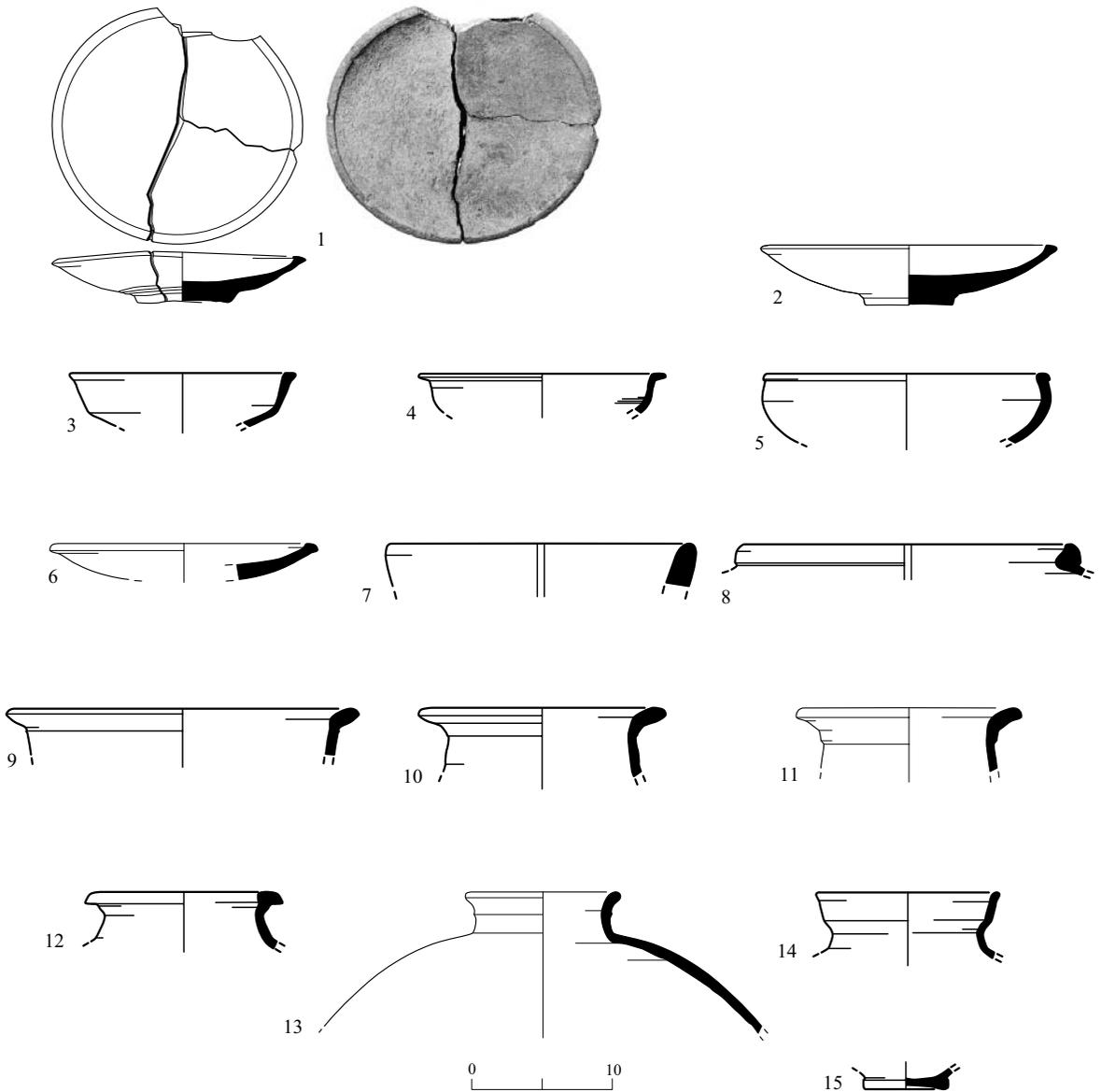


Fig. 23. Pottery from Kiln 808.

◀ Fig. 23

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	8095	808	Bowl (waster), brown ware, dark-gray core, worn surfaces, tiny white grits, cracked during firing	P-504915
2	8094	808	Bowl, brown ware and core	
3	8099	808	Bowl, brown ware, gray core	
4	8100	808	Bowl, brown ware, brown slip, horizontal burnish inside and on rim	
5	8097	808	Bowl, brown ware, white and gray grits, worn	
6	8096	808	Bowl, brown ware, dark gray core, few tiny white grits	
7	8076	808	Waster, gray ware, porous, white grits, deformed	
8	8092	808	Cooking pot, brown ware, gray core, large gray grits	
9	8087	808	Waster, jar or krater(?), brown-gray ware, porous	
10	8089	808	Jar, brown ware, white grits, gray core	
11	8056	808	Jar, brown ware and core, few white grits	
12	8103	808	Jar, brown ware, white grits	
13	8100/1	808	Jar, dark brown ware, gray core, worn	
14	8054	808	Jar, brown ware	

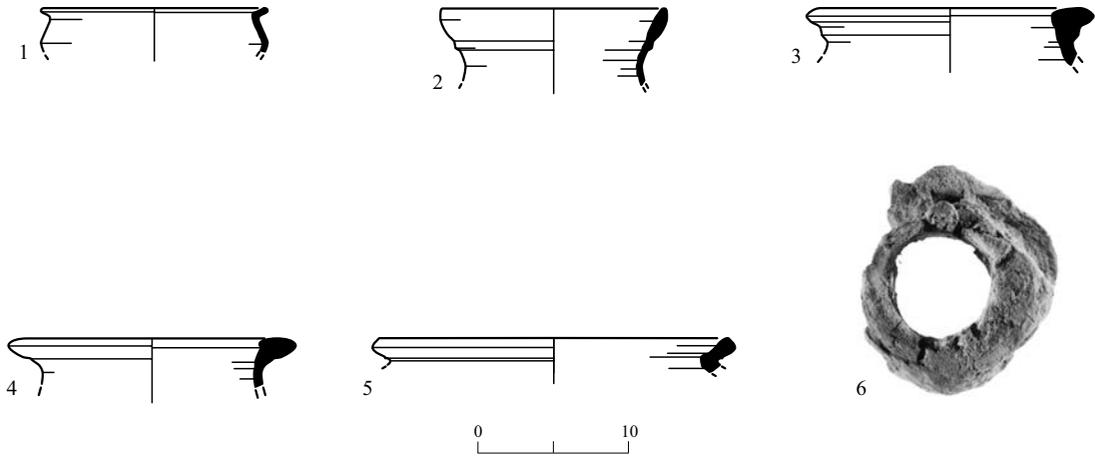


Fig. 24. Pottery from Kiln 123.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1367/1	123	Bowl, brown ware, combed outside, worn
2	1367/4	123	Jar, light brown ware, gray core
3	1367/2	123	Jar, brown ware, light gray core
4	1367/5	123	Jar, brown ware, dark gray core
5	1367/3	123	Cooking pot, gray-brown ware, white grits
6	1369	123	Clay 'hole', crude, fired, brown clay

24:1) seems more in line with MB IIA material; see Tell Jerishe Level III (Geva 1982: Fig. 28:1, 9); but MB IIB examples are found in Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.5:11, 12); cf. Tel Mevorach (Stern 1984: Fig. 15:13, 2a). In the kilns (as in the tombs) the two most common varieties of MB II jar-rims appear: the elongated, rounded rim of Fig. 24:2 (cf. Fig. 18:6; Tell Jerishe—Geva 1982: Fig. 26:8); and the ‘square’, thickened rim of Figure 24:3, 4 (cf. Figs. 18:7; 19:4, 10). Figure 24:2 with its ridge is perhaps close to MB IIA jars. For the rim of the cooking pot or krater (Fig. 24:5) see Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.6:13); Tel Mevorach (Stern 1984: Fig. 13:4, 5); and Bet She’an (Maeir 1997b: Pl. 10:7). It cannot provide an exact date (see discussion below, Fig. 30:6–12). In Kiln 123 were found ‘holes’ of baked clay, perhaps from the floor of the kiln (Fig. 24:6). Similar ‘holes’ were found in loci near the kilns (e.g., L109, L112, L115–118).

Discussion of the Kilns

The pottery from Kilns 808 and 123 seems to indicate an early MB IIB date. Pottery from the upper part of the kiln may include sherds that

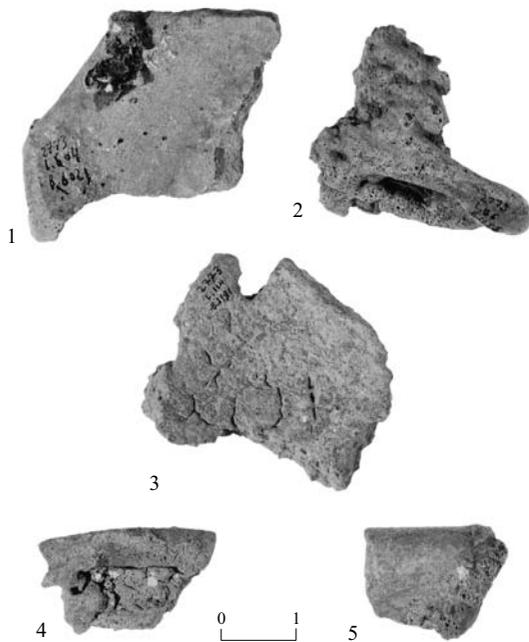


Fig. 25. Wasters found near the kilns.

fell there after the kiln went out of use, but we found MB II pottery also at the bottom of the combustion chamber of Kiln 808, and an almost complete, deformed MB II bowl: a waster that was fired inside the kiln when it functioned (Fig. 23:1). Other indications for an MB II date of the kilns are the lack of any diagnostic pottery of another period, and the comparisons to these kilns (see below). A large quantity of slag (almost certainly a by-product of these kilns) was found in the surrounding area. The slag was found together with MB II pottery, and, at least in one case, MB II vessels were found above the slag, but in a disturbed area (L214). A few wasters were also found nearby, in L114, L115, L116, L604, L605 (Fig. 25).

A whole series of similar MB II kilns is known from the coastal plain of Israel, most of them concentrated in the central coastal plain. They include: (1) two kilns from Tel Mikhal, L466 and L481 (Gorzalczy 2006); (2) a structure excavated by Sukenik at Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982:10, Pl. 11:1, 2) and identified as a kiln by Kaplan (1972:77); (3) two kilns at “Hill Square” (also called “Abattoir Hill” in the literature) in northern Tel Aviv, at 3 Ben Nun Street (Kaplan 1957:39–40; 1972:77; Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993:1454), one of them with a well-preserved lower part and flues; (4) an additional kiln found in an excavation in 1998 at the same site on Ben Nun Street (Sari 2000); (5) two MB II kilns in Jaffa, published without plans (1971: Fig. 9h; Kaplan 1972:76–77); (6) two kilns from Afeq with flues and stoppers (Kochavi 1989:52–53; Esther Yadin, pers. comm.); (7) A kiln from Tell el-‘Ajjul (Petrie 1931:6, 11, Pls. LII, LIII). Other MB II kilns, of a different type, are known from Tell Qasile (rounded kiln; Ayalon 1988:12–15, Fig. 12) and Naḥal Soreq (MB IIA; Singer-Avitz and Levi 1992). The large number of kilns discovered in the Tel Aviv region partly reflects the high density of settlement in this area during MB II. In addition, it is the result of the numerous salvage excavations conducted in this urban area, many of which take place in open spaces and on the slopes of tells, uncovering kilns that were usually situated outside the inhabited settlements. Though there is no linear, simple

evolution of types of kilns, the type described here is an MB II type, mainly found in the MB IIB phase, and clearly distinguished from later Late Bronze and Early Iron Age types of kilns (Killebrew 1996; Kletter and Gorzalczany 2001; recently, another kiln of this type was discovered at Tel Maloṭ by G. Parnos, pers. comm.).

How do the kilns relate to the rest of the site? To judge by the pottery within them, and by the fact that kilns are not located within settlements since they generate so much heat, smoke, and dirt, the kilns post-date the MB IIA settlement. Were the kilns contemporaneous with the MB IIB cemetery and even used to manufacture pottery for it? Unfortunately, we lack stratigraphy, and the pottery evidence cannot give an exact date. A petrographic analysis carried by Cohen-Weinberger (this volume) shows that almost all the MB II pottery from the site was local and homogeneous. This analysis offers a database for local, MB II coastal wares, and enables comparison of wares from the kilns with other MB II kilns in the future. But there are no clear distinctions in wares between the settlement, the cemetery, and the kilns.

THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE II SETTLEMENT

Remains of an unwalled settlement were found in Areas A, B, D and E. Although about 20 squares were excavated in these areas, no architecture was found. There was, however, a large quantity of pottery (see Figs. 26–33) mixed with whole and broken bricks, animal bones (see Sade, this volume) and few small finds (see Figs. 34, 35). Many finds were domestic in nature, such as cooking pots, which are not common in burials (Fig. 30:6–11); small fragments of ovens (*tabuns*); a few miniature chariot-wheels (Fig. 34:4–6); clay loom weights (Fig. 34:7–10); one spindle whorl (Fig. 34:11); a fragment of an alabastron (Fig. 35:4); and about 15 fragments of basalt grinding stones (Fig. 35:7, 8). These objects are discussed below. The largest concentration of finds was found directly on the *kurkar*, but without indication of stratigraphic phases.



Fig. 26. Locus 102: jar and pottery, looking north.

In some loci (e.g., L101–L103, L114, L115) small fragments of human bones were found, but without clear indication of burial pits or cists. There were also entire pottery vessels. In a few cases, we found a jar lying on its side, or standing on the *kurkar* bedrock, with fragments of smaller vessels nearby (L102, L115, L700, L806); these jars may have been burials, although they contained no bone fragments. Jar-burial of babies and small children beneath floors is a well-known phenomenon in MB II (Hallote 1994:67, Appendix B). Following is a list arranged by locus numbers (for the location see Plan 1):

L102: A jar lying on the side (Figs. 26; 32:1) and parts of other vessels. There were a few bone fragments of a child in this locus, but not within the jar.

L114: Parts of a bowl (Fig. 29:4) and a juglet (B1263). Remains of one femur bone of an adult was found here.

L115: Parts of three jars (Fig. 32:2, B1255, B1247), a bowl (Fig. 28:8) found beneath one of the jars (Fig. 32:2), a whole dipper juglet (Fig. 31:1) found inside jar B1255, and a few human bones. The pottery includes one clear MB IIA example (Fig. 32:2).

L214: In the northwest corner of a square, two jar fragments (B2142) sheltering a dipper juglet

(B2144) were above a level of slag connected to the kilns, but near a modern concrete foundation. The area was probably disturbed prior to the excavation.

L700: Close to the surface east of Tomb 701, a jar was lying on the side (Fig. 32:3) with a dagger (Fig. 34:3) beside it. At *L703*, a little to the east, were a few crushed small vessels that could not be saved. The jar and the dagger are of the MB IIA period.

L805: Fragments of a cooking pot (B8052), a jar lying on the side (B8051) and a large dipper juglet (B8053).

L806: An irregular pocket of earth with badly preserved vessels, including one MB IIA type of jar (Fig. 32:4), a bowl (Fig. 28:3) and two fragmentary juglets (B8041, B8042).

L121: A shallow, elliptic depression in the *kurkar*, inside it a base of a jar with dipper juglet (B1360)

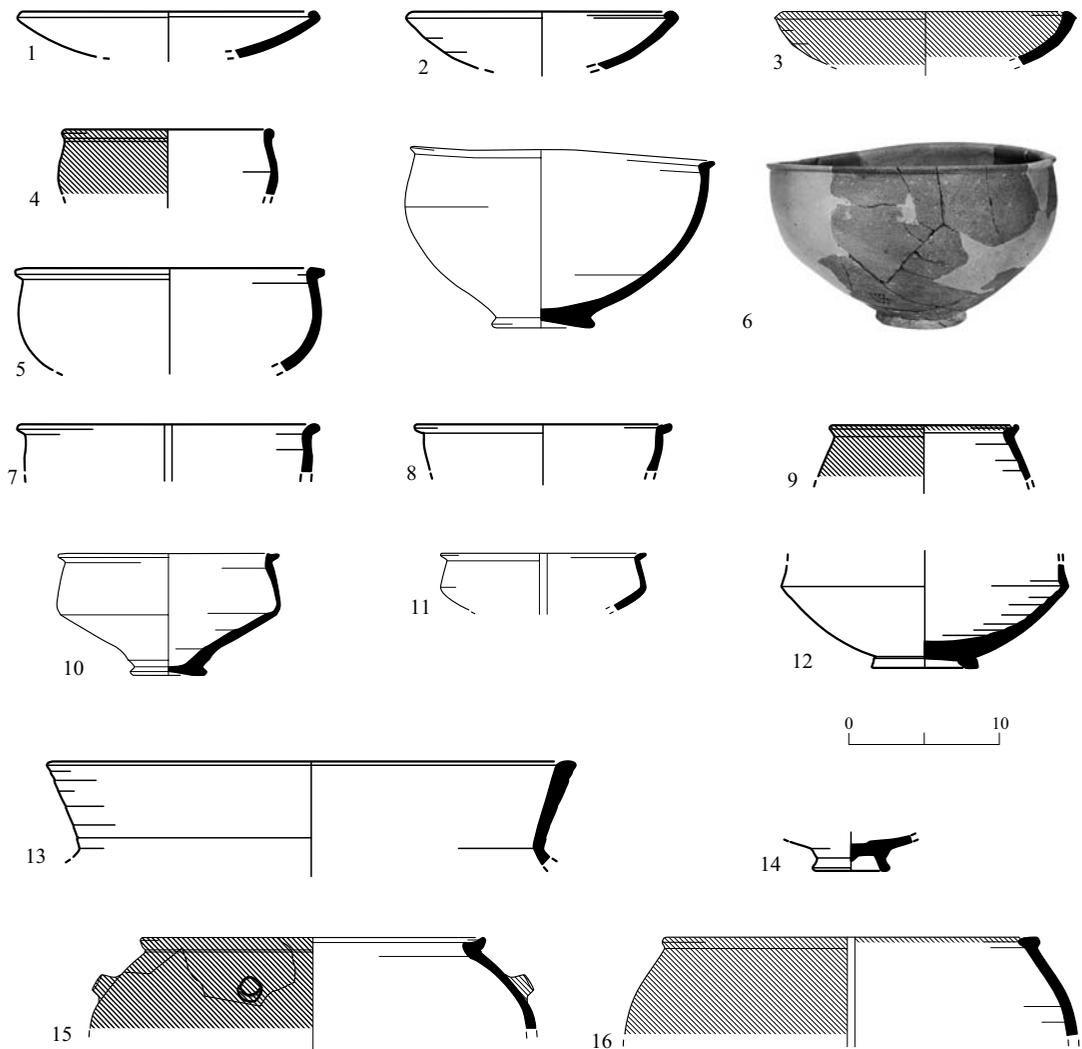


Fig. 27. The settlement: small/medium bowls and round kraters.

◀ Fig. 27

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	1293	117	Bowl, brown ware, white grits, very worn	
2	1293/2	117	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, white grits, worn	
3	1113	101	Bowl, brown ware, dark gray core, red slip	
4	1228	115	Bowl, brown ware, red slip outside, worn	
5	1271	116	Bowl, brown ware, gray encrustation, very worn	
6	1060	102	Bowl, brown ware and core, combed outside, few white grits, worn	2001-1041
7	1114	103	Bowl, brown ware, light gray core	
8	1313	119	Bowl, brown ware, very worn	
9	1082	101	Carinated bowl, red-brown ware, few grits, red slip	
10	1252	114	Carinated bowl, brown-orange ware, white grits	P-504691
11	1340	117	Carinated bowl, brown ware, gray core, worn, red slip outside(?)	
12	1002	102	Carinated bowl, red-brown ware, white grits, dark gray core, worn	
13	1228	115	Carinated bowl/krater, brown ware, dark brown core, gray grits, worn	
14	1345	113	Base of bowl, brown ware, light gray core, worn	
15	1287	109	Krater, brown ware, gray core, few gray grits, red slip	
16	1055/1	101	Krater, brown ware, light-gray core, white grits, red slip	

Fig. 28 ▶

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	1229	113	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, red slip	
2	1194	115	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, white grits, worn	
3	8037	806	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, deformed, worn	P-504712
4	1157	101	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, red slip all over, worn	
5	1214	115	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, gray and white grits, worn	
6	120	1356	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, few gray grits, red slip, burnished	
7	1011	102	Bowl, brown-gray ware, very worn	
8	1261	115	Bowl, brown-orange ware, gray core, white and gray grits, worn	2001-1039

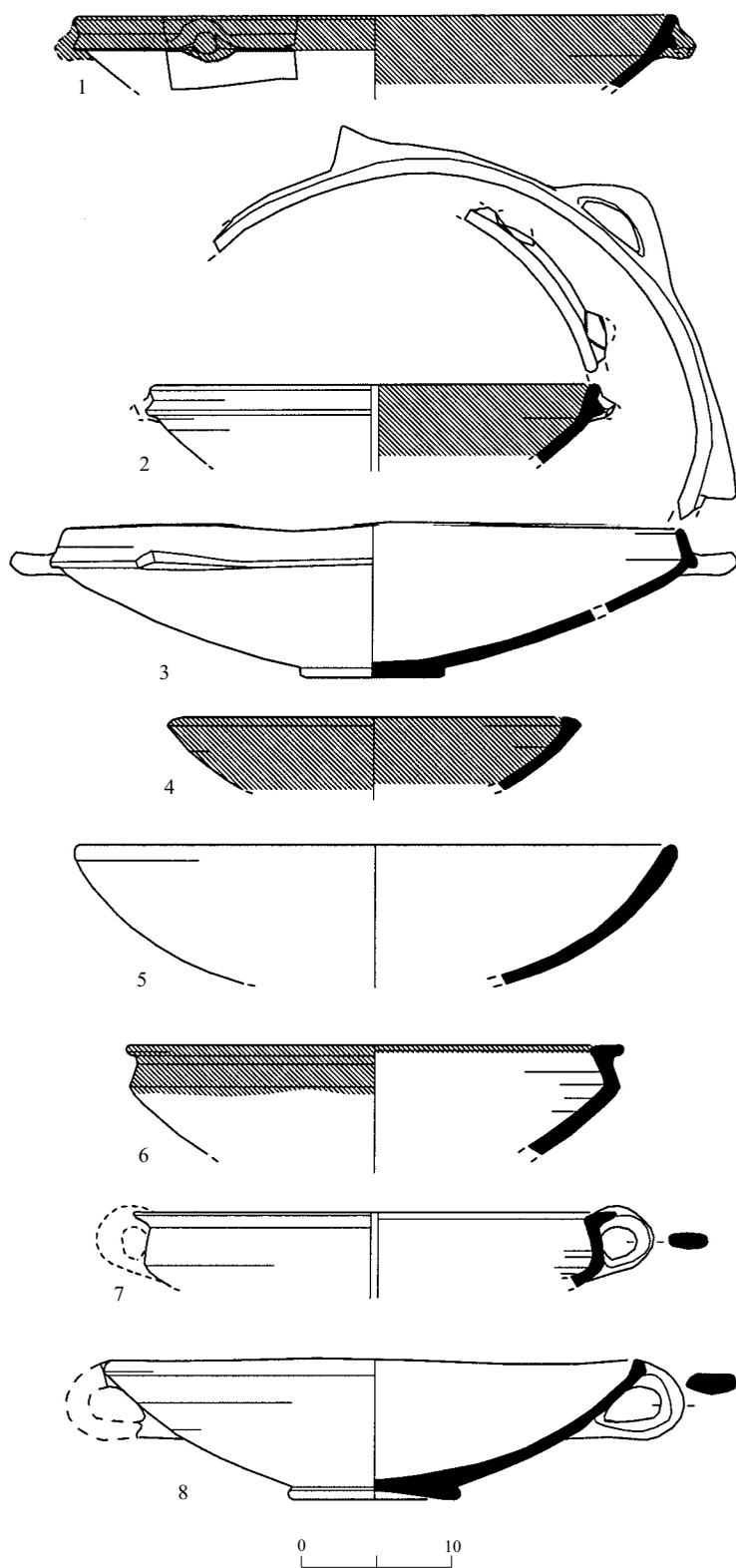


Fig. 28. The settlement: large bowls.

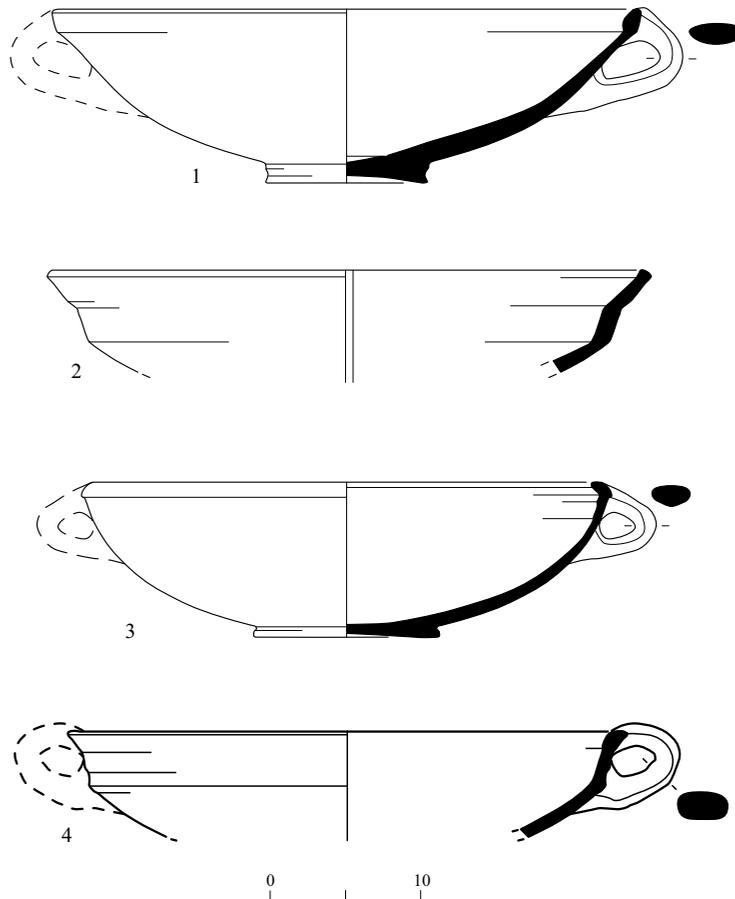


Fig. 29. The settlement: large bowls (cont.).

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	2111	215	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, combed outside, red slip(?), worn	P-504718
2	1252	114	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, very worn	
3	1254	115	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, white grits, red slip inside(?)	2001-1041
4	1264	114	Bowl, brown ware, gray core, very worn	

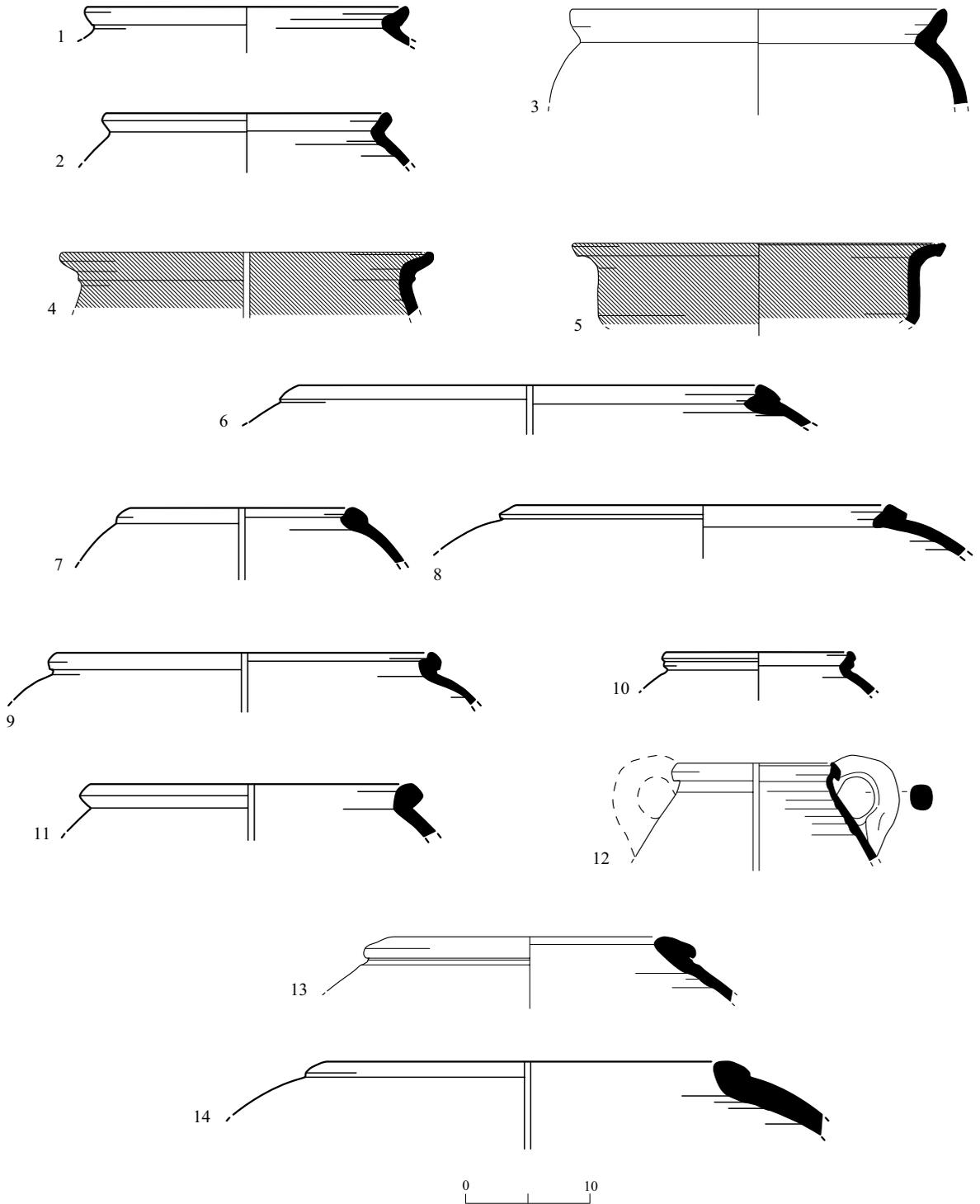


Fig. 30. The settlement: cooking wares and kraters.

◄ Fig. 30

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1244	109	Krater, brown-gray ware, gray core
2	1285	109	Krater, brown ware, gray core, white and gray grits
3	8040	805	Krater, brown ware, gray core
4	1326	108	Krater(?), brown ware, gray core, traces of red slip all over
5	1216	113	Krater(?), brown ware, gray core, red slip all over
6	1343/2	117	Cooking pot, red-brown ware, gray core, many white grits
7	1352	119	Cooking pot, gray-brown ware, gray core, many white and gray grits
8	1343	117	Cooking pot, dark-brown ware, gray core, many white and gray grits
9	1055	104	Cooking pot, dark-brown ware, gray core, white and gray grits
10	1067	101	Cooking pot, dark-brown ware, gray core, many white and gray grits
11	1047/1	102	Cooking pot, dark-brown ware, gray core, many white and gray grits
12	1194	115	Cooking pot(?), brown ware, gray core, white and gray grits
13	1151	113	Krater, brown ware, gray core, large white grits, very worn
14	1252	114	Krater, brown ware and core, encrustation on surface

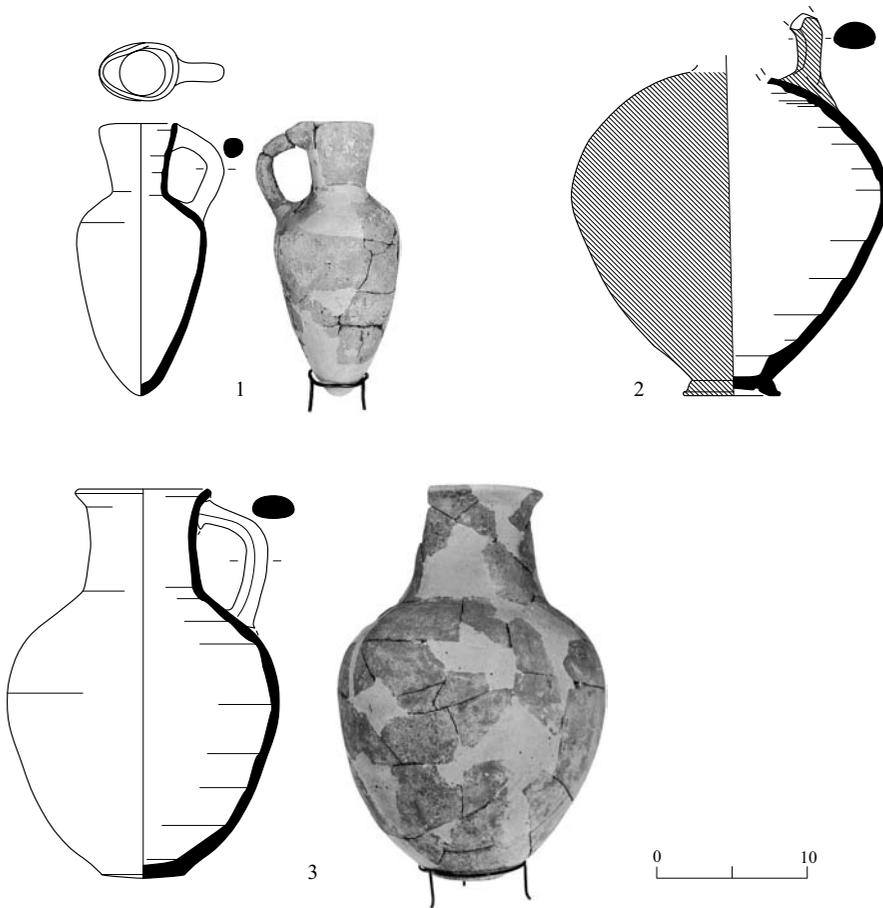


Fig. 31. The settlement: juglet and jugs.

◀ Fig. 31

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	1266	115	Dipper juglet, brown ware, light-gray core, worn	2001-1024
2	1363	122	Jug, brown ware, light-gray core, deformed, red slip outside	P-504609
3	1047/2	102	Jug, brown ware, light-gray core, white grits, worn	P-504610

Fig. 32 ▶

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	1047/1	102	Jar, brown ware, gray core, combed outside, worn	2001-1025
2	1253	115	Jar, brown ware, brown core, combed	2001-1026
3	7003	700	Jar, brown ware, white grits, worn, perhaps red slip outside and on rim	2001-928
4	8018	806	Handleless jar, brown ware, white grits, red slip outside(?)	2001-954
5	1123	114	Jar, brown ware, gray core, white grits	
6	1101	101	Jar, brown ware and core, many white grits	
7	1352	119	Jar, brown ware, gray core, worn	
8	1197	118	Jar, brown ware, gray core, many white grits	
9	1356/2	120	Jar, brown-buff ware, large white grits	
10	1101/2	101	Jar, dark-brown ware, large gray grits	
11	1297	108	Jar, buff-brown ware, light gray core, white grits, worn	
12	1055	101	Jar, dark brown ware, dark gray core, white and gray grits	
13	1303	118	Jar, brown ware, gray core, red slip outside and on rim(?)	
14	1150	109	Jar, light brown ware, buff surface	
15	6008	601	Jar, dark brown ware, gray core, white grits	

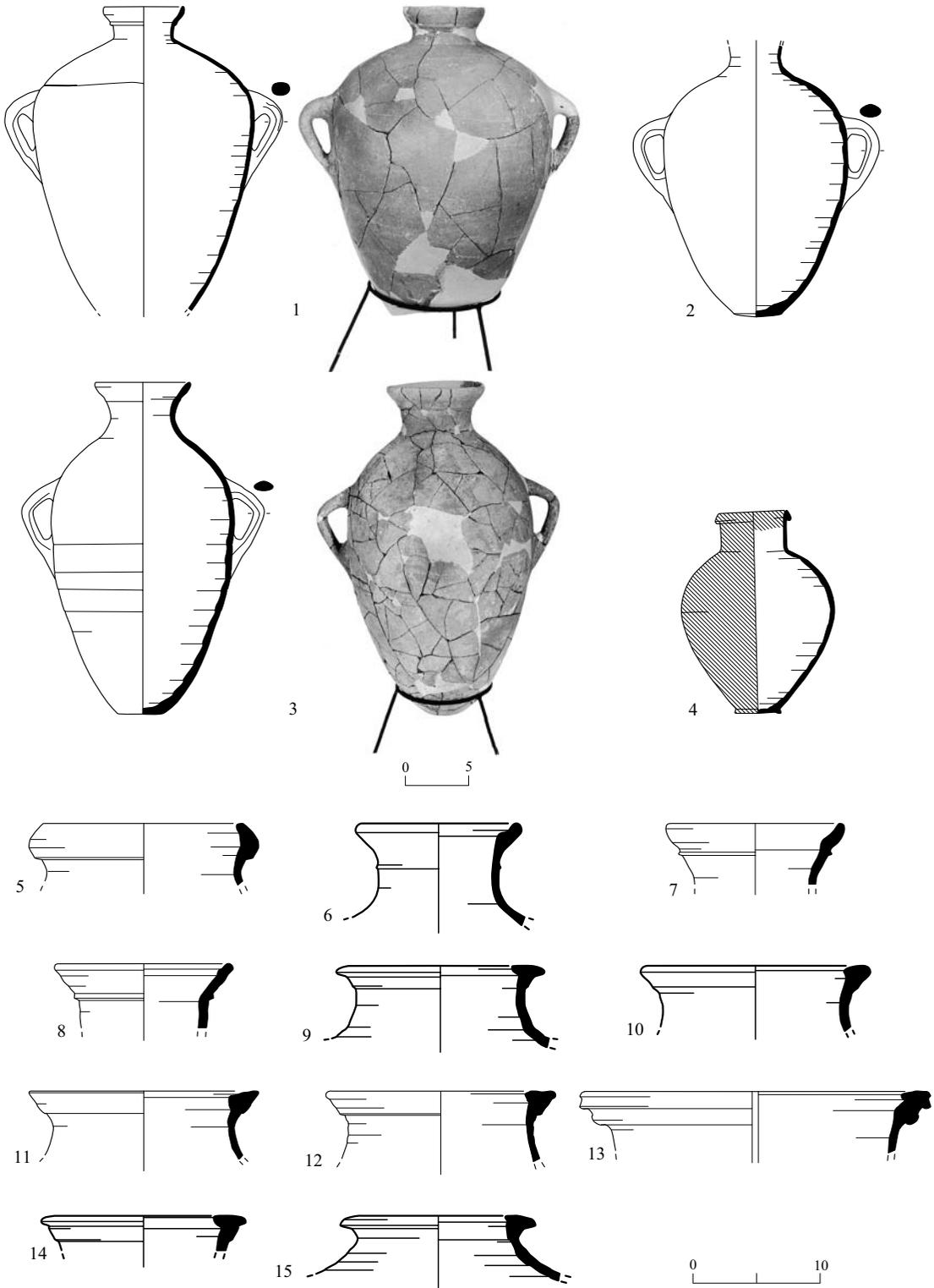


Fig. 32. The settlement: jars and pithoi.

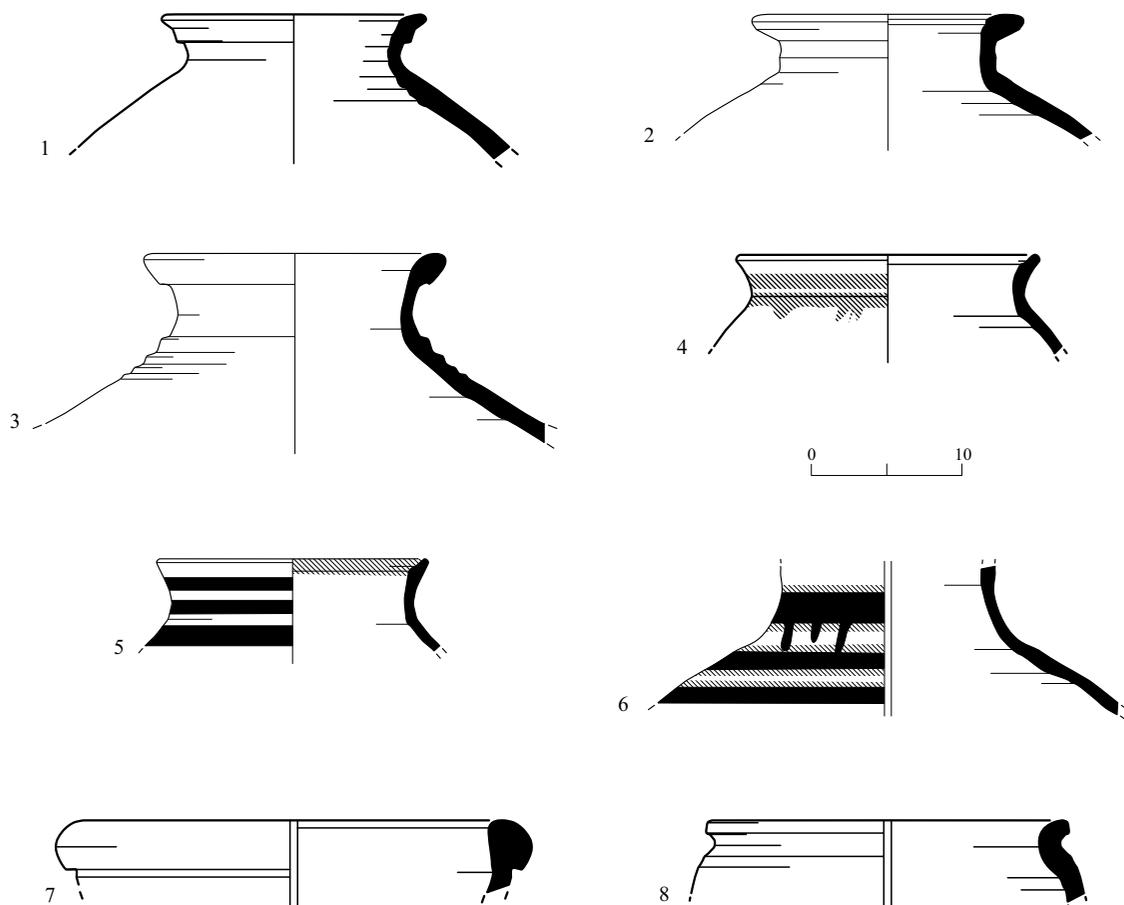


Fig. 33. The settlement: decorated jars and varia.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description
1	1220	114	Pithos(?), gray ware and core, white grits
2	1283	116	Pithos, brown ware, light gray core
3	1194/1	115	Pithos, brown ware, dark gray core, traces of red slip(?)
4	1331	116	Jar, brown ware and core, bands of red slip outside
5	1250	114	Jar, light brown-cream ware, brown core, black paint outside, red on the rim
6	1228	115	Jar, brown ware, dark brown core, white grits, white slip outside, covered by red and black bands of paint
7	1280	109	Bowl(?), brown-gray ware, light gray core
8	1055/2	101	Jar(?), brown ware, gray core, white grits

and a large juglet (B1359). The pottery was crumbling and could not be restored. There were also two MB IIA types of weapons: a dagger (Fig. 34:1) and an ax (Fig. 34:3).

L122: Large bowl (B1361), juglet (B1362), carinated juglet (B1364) and a red-slipped jug (Fig. 31:2), possibly of MB IIA date.

Pottery of the MB II Settlement (Figs. 27–33)

Much of the pottery from the settlement area is similar to types found in the tombs and kilns, and there is no need to rediscuss it. I therefore focus on MB IIA pottery, or on types that have not yet been discussed. It is difficult to define sherds and rims, as compared with whole vessels, so that an exact identification of the type often eludes us. Maier (1997b:95–96, 106–107) discussed similar problems of type-definition for central Jordan Valley pottery. Rather than following a rigid, arbitrary division by exact size measurements, I have sorted the pottery according to rims. Hence, a ‘jar’ here can be called elsewhere a ‘pithos’, and a ‘krater’—a ‘bowl’. Such semantics should not dominate the archaeological discussion.

Bowls.— The flat bowls (Fig. 27:1–3) with slightly rounded or straight sides cannot serve for exact dating. Comparisons: Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 25:15, MB IIB); Manahat (Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998: Fig. 4.2:9–13, MB IIB); Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 13:5, 6; 15:1, 4, MB IIA).

The rounded bowl (Fig. 27:4) is a clear MB IIA type, see Afeq (Beck 1975: Fig. 6:5, 6); Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Figs. 11:1, 2; 12:2); and Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 28:13).

Two deep, rounded bowls (Fig. 27:5, 6) are noteworthy. This type is seldom found in Jericho, e.g., Tombs P17 and J10 (Kenyon 1965: Figs. 176:5 [with ring base]; 212:13; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 162:7–9; cf. also Figs. 157:2; 170:13). Bowl 27:5 has a close parallel from Kiln 808 (Fig. 23:5 above); and Yavne-Yam (Gophna and Beck 1981: Fig. 8:17). A smaller but similar bowl is found at Tell el-Far‘ah (South) (Williams 1977: Fig. 57:5, dated MB IIB); cf. Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 11:16).

Another clear MB IIA form is the bowl in Fig. 27:7. Comparisons: Tell Jerishe Level II and the glacis material (Geva 1982: Fig. 32:1, cf. Fig. 34:13); Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 12:4, date uncertain). Bowl Fig. 27:8 cannot be dated exactly, see Bet She’an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 2:2).

The carinated bowl (Fig. 27:9) is red-slipped, thin-walled, with an extended gutter-rim. This type

of bowl is associated with MB IIA assemblages (see Amiran 1969:94). Comparisons: Tell Qasile (Ayalon 1988: Figs. 16:4, 17:2, dated late MB IIA); Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 8:1, 2; 9:6; 13:3, 15); Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 28:1–4, 7); Tel Poleg (Kochavi, Beck and Gophna 1981: Fig. 8:4); Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 11:14; 12:7); and Bet She’an (Maier 1997b:94). For the carinated bowls (Fig. 27:10–12) cf. Figs. 18.2; 20:1 from the cemetery. Figure 27:13 is a large carinated bowl, or deep bowl, of the MB IIB, found until the end of the period. Comparisons: Tel Mikhal (‘MB IIC’; Negbi 1989: Fig. 5.2:143); Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pls. 14:a, d; 12: b–d); Bet She’an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 9: 1, 3, 9). Figure 27:14 is a pedestal base (cf. discussion for Fig. 18:1 above).

The bowl or krater with small knobs and red slip, gutter rim, and thin, rounded walls (Fig. 27:15) is certainly an MB IIA type which does not continue into MB IIB. Comparisons: Afeq (Beck 1975:66, Figs. 10:1; 13:14); Megiddo Level XIII (Loud 1948: Pl. 16:7, but with handles); and Tel Poleg (Kochavi, Beck and Gophna 1981: Fig. 7:5). The second deep, rounded bowl (Fig. 27:16) is also an MB IIA type. See Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 28:14); and Tel Burga (Kochavi, Beck and Gophna 1981: Fig. 10:19).

The large bowls (Figs. 28, 29) are mostly common both in MB IIA and MB IIB. Bowl Fig. 28:1, with red slip, ridge and knob handles, seems to be an MB IIA bowl. Cf. Afeq (Beck 1975: Figs. 1:12; 4:16, 17; 1985: Fig. 5:1); Tel Poleg and Tel Burga (Kochavi, Beck and Gophna 1981: Figs. 7:10; 10:13). For Fig. 28:2, see Fig. 14:3 from the cemetery. The bowl in Fig. 28:3 is interesting, with both horizontal loop handles and small knobs. It is similar to the MB IIA bowls with elongated ledge handles (e.g., Megiddo; Loud 1948: Pl. 15:5), which appear rarely in MB IIB (Maier 1997b:92, Pl. 4:3), but the ledge handles are hollowed to create the horizontal ‘loop’ handles. An exact comparison was found in Kabri Tomb 498. It was dated to MB IIA, but the tomb continued into MB IIB (Kempinski 1989:32, Fig. 16:1). The bowls in Figs. 28:4–8, 29:1–4 have parallels in the cemetery and are discussed there (see above).

Kraters.— A common type of krater has the same form as cooking pots, only the ware is different (Fig. 30:1–3). See Tell Jerishe (not exactly similar, MB IIB; Geva 1982: Fig. 23:15); Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.10:12–14); and Bet She'an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 12:3, 4). They exist also in an MB IIA context at Afeq (Beck 1985: Fig. 4:8).

A second type of krater is Fig. 30:13, 14. See Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 125: 1, 2 [called jars]); Shekhem (called bowls; Cole 1984: Pl. 9:f, h); and Bet She'an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 12:8–11). The same form appears in MB IIA as well, e.g., at Afeq (Beck 1975: Fig. 16:2–4; Beck 1985: Figs. 2:9; 4:7; 5:9).

The two vessels in Fig. 30:4, 5 are peculiar. They are quite large, so they do not seem to be jar-stands (e.g., Shekhem; Cole 1984: Pl. 22:a). Jars occasionally have similar rims, but the position of the rim is completely different (Tell Jerishe; Geva 1982: Fig. 30:12; perhaps Jericho; Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 121:9, 10). They may be a type of krater, cf. Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 45: i) and Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.6.2).

Cooking Pots.— Handmade cooking pots with vertical sides, flat bases and holes of a type common throughout Israel (cf. Beck 1975:52, Fig. 1:2) and Egypt (e.g., Redmount 1995: Fig. 5) are almost completely missing from our site, except for a few sherds (not drawn; for discussion of this type see Maier 1997b:100–102, Pls. 13:10–14:6). The dominant type of cooking pot (Fig. 30:6–12) is a closed, globular, wheel-made vessel. This was noted also by Ayalon (1988:13) in his excavations at Tell Qasile.

One variant of cooking pots has gutter rims (Fig. 30:6, 9). These are typical of the MB IIA, but appear in MB IIB as well. For comparisons see Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 149:16) and Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 25:k). See further discussion in relation to Fig. 18:5 (above).

Thickened-rim cooking pots (Fig. 30:7, 8, 11) have many variants and are not appropriate for dating. Cf. Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 148:1, 3, 7, 18; 149:1, 2, 7); Tel Mevorach

(Stern 1984: Fig. 13:9–11); Bet She'an (Maier 1997b: Pls. 16:7, 9; 17:3); Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 25: i–f, h–i); and Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.6:14; 6.8:15, 16, 21). For MB IIA comparisons see Afeq (Beck 1975:51–52, Fig. 2:11). The closed pot (30:12) is peculiar and not in the tradition of the other MB II cooking pots. A tenuous comparison is from Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 152:3, much larger).

Jugs and Juglets.— Dipper juglets (Fig. 31:1) were already discussed above (Figs. 17:7; 18:4; 19:3). Figure 31:2 is a large, piriform jug, red-slipped. It has a ring base. Cf. a jug from Zefat (Damati and Stepanski 1996:6*, Fig. 7:3); Ginosar Tomb 4 (Epstein 1974: Fig. 15:7); and the general form of an MB IIA jug from Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 10:12). The other jug (Fig. 31:3) has a very wide neck, handle from rim to shoulder, and a flattened base. Compare jugs from Zefat (Damati and Stepanski 1996: Fig. 7:4); and Ginosar Tomb 4 (Epstein 1974: Fig. 15:5), though not exactly similar.

Jars and Pithoi.— The three jars from L102, L115 and L700 (Fig. 32:1–3 respectively) can be dated clearly to MB IIA. It is not so much the rim, but other features that dictate this conclusion: the flat base, the different proportions of the body with the handles placed lower down the sides, and the wide neck. Comparisons: Bet She'an (Maier 1997b:108, Pls. 18:6; 19:5) and a jar from Tell ed-Daba' (McGovern and Harbottle 1997:151, 152, Fig. 5:1, trace the origins of most of these jars to southern Cisjordan).

The small, handleless jar from L806 (32:4) is peculiar. It has rounded shoulders and a triangular rim, but the disk base is unusual. Similar jars have a flat-convex base, and are found in MB IIA at Afeq (Stratum X17, Beck 1985: Fig. 5:2; cf. a rim in Beck 1975: Fig. 15:13) and Hadar Yosef (Gophna and Beck 1981: Fig. 3:4). I have not found this type in Jericho tombs or Hazor Tomb 1181; a vague comparison is Shiloh (MB IIB; Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.20:3).

The jar rim with concave neck (Fig. 32:5) is probably from a small, handleless jar of a rare type

in the present excavation. A tenuous comparison is from Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 138:1). Much better comparisons are known from the MB IIA at Afeq (Beck 1985: Figs. 2:16; 5:16); Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 38:16); Ramla (Gophna and Beck 1981: Fig. 7:10); and Hadar Yosef (Gophna and Beck 1981: Fig. 3: 4, 5).

Rims Fig. 32:6–8 are of the elongated, rounded type of jar, which continue from MB IIA to MB IIB. Rims Fig. 32:7, 8 with the small ridge at the base are probably MB IIA. See the discussion for Figs. 18:6; 22:7 (above). Also very common are the ‘squared’, thickened jar rims (Fig. 32: 9–15). The metallic ware and shape of rims Fig. 32:11–13 are MB IIA in date (cf. discussion above for jars from the tombs, Figs. 18:7; 19:4, 14:1; 10). For Fig. 32:13 see Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Fig. 6.16:2).

The larger rims (Fig. 33:1–3) are of pithoi, rather than jars, but with the same type of rim. A general treatment of MB II pithoi is offered by Bonfil (1992); for Fig. 33:3 see Bonfil 1992:30, Fig. 5.2, and Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.17:1; 6.19:2). Rims Fig. 33:1, 2 have comparisons at MB IIB Manaḥat (Edelstein, Milevski and Aurant 1998: Fig. 4.8:1); Shiloh (Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993: Figs. 6.18:1; 6.19:3); and Bet She’an (Maier 1997b: Pls. 25, 26).

Decorated Jars.— Decorated Jars (Fig. 33: 4–6) were rare at the site, and none was found in the tombs. Unfortunately, we have only fragments of these vessels. Figure 33:4 has red bands outside, a common MB II decoration on jars, e.g., Tell Jerishe (Geva 1982: Fig. 34:8, 9). Figure 33:5, 6 are Red, White and Blue (RWB) jars, with an outside decoration of black/blue and red bands over white slip. Such jars are common in the southern and central coastal region, at Tel Mikhal, Tell Jerishe, Tell el-Far’ah (South) and Tell Beit Mirsim. Maier (1997b:127–128, Pl. 35:1–4; 2002:228–235) has offered a thorough discussion of this ware, where further references can be found.

Varia.— Figure 33:7 may be a deep, rounded krater. I have found only one comparison so far, at MB IIA Afeq (Beck 1985:192, Fig. 4:6), but perhaps see also Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982: Fig. 117:2, 16).

Figure 33:8 may be a jar, cf. Jericho Tomb D22 (Kenyon 1965: Fig. 121:10) and Bet She’an (Maier 1997b: Pl. 10:5). A similar rim shape appears in smaller bowls of the MB II (e.g., Afeq; Beck 1975: Fig. 4:6; cf. also Jericho—Kenyon and Holland 1982: Figs. 118:25, 26; 123:19).

Small Finds from the Settlement (Figs. 34, 35)

Daggers (Fig. 34:1, 2).— The bronze dagger (Fig. 34:1), found in a fair state of presentation in L121 (where also an ax [(Fig. 34:3)] was found) predates all the other daggers found at the site. The blade is long, narrow and rounded at the tip. The top end is triangular and has many rivets. This variation of the narrow dagger is considered by Philip (1989:108–109, Type 4, Fig. 30) to be the latest of its type, which is dated mainly to the Intermediate Bronze Age; but it may have been used somewhat later.

Another bronze dagger (Fig. 34:2) from L700 differs from those found in the tombs (see above Figs. 17:8; 18:9; 23:5, 11; 20:8, 9). It has a rounded end with two holes for rivets, and belongs to a type earlier than MB IIB, dated by Philip mainly to the Intermediate Bronze Age (Philip 1989: Figs. 32:1046; 38:983, Type 26). An earlier dating fits also the date of the jar from this locus. See also Ziffer 1990:94, Fig. 104, right, and perhaps Dan (Ilan 1992:10, Fig. 5, bottom right).

Ax (Fig. 34:3).— This narrow-bladed bronze ax with an undecorated socket was the only one of this type found in the excavation. The state of preservation is good. Elsewhere, this type of ax is fairly common. Miron (1988:65, Fig. 1; 68–71; 75) counted 21 such axes from Palestine, mainly found in MB IIA tombs; cf. Ziffer (1990:92, Fig. 100, “notched chisel axe”). Similar axes are common also in southern Lebanon and at Tell ed-Daba’ Level F. Philip (1989, I:37–40, Fig. 1) dates this type to late MB IIA; cf. also the axes

from Zefat (Damati and Stepansky 1996:10*, Fig. 11) and from the MB IIA cemetery at Gesher (Garfinkel and Bonfil 1990:144, Fig. 5:10).

Clay Wheels (Fig. 34:4–6).— Three pottery models of wheels were found, two of them (Fig. 34:4, 5) in L116. Such miniature wheels belonged to models of carts or chariots. A recent treatment of third–second millennium BCE clay

chariot models from the ancient Near East was published by Bollweg (1999); for comparable MB II clay wheels from Palestine see Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pl. 257:3–8) and Jericho (Kenyon and Holland 1982:561, Fig. 227:8).

Loom Weights (Fig. 34:7–10).— Single loom weights were found in various loci. They are heavy, elongated weights with the perforation

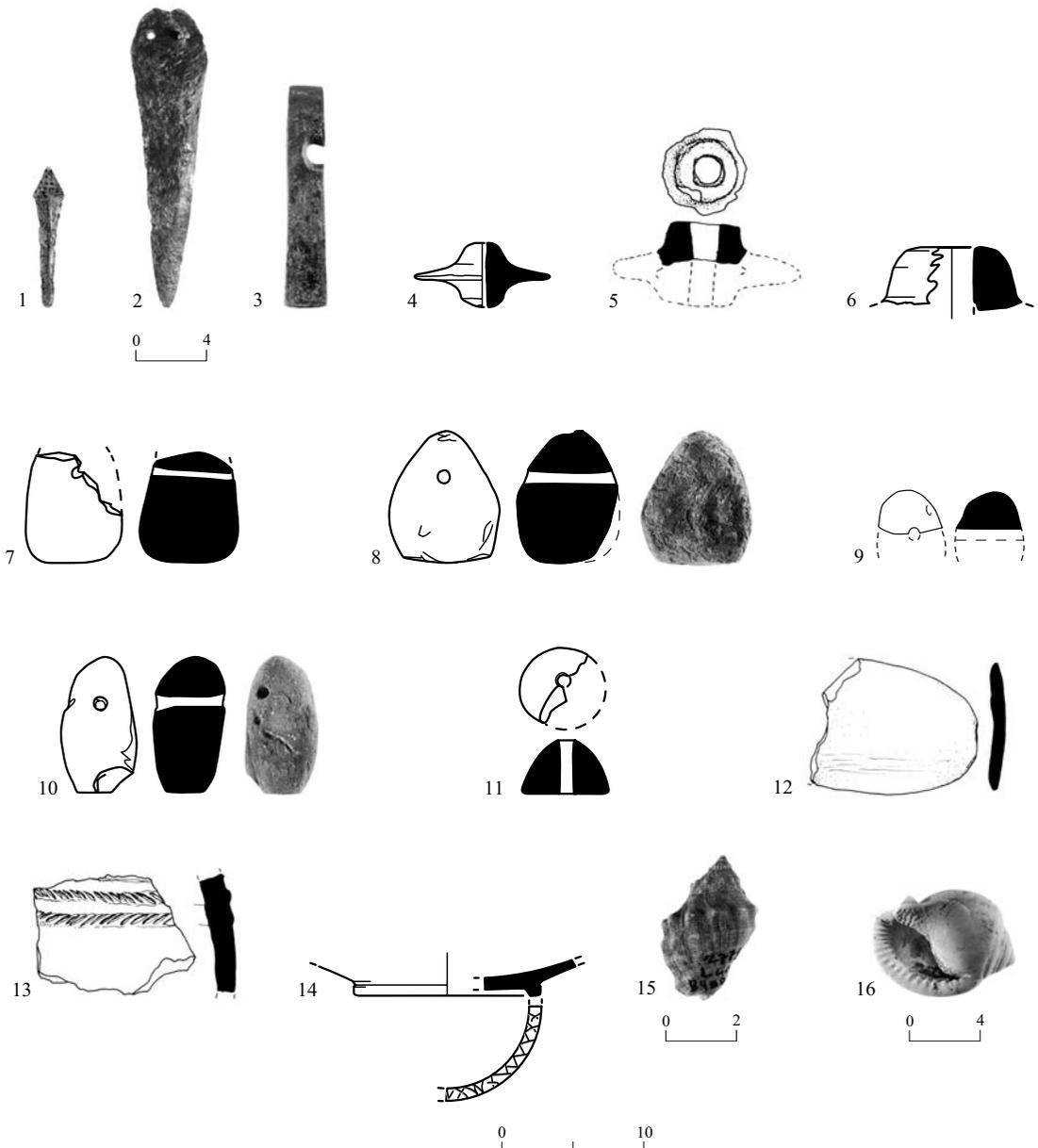


Fig. 34. The settlement: small finds.

◀ Fig. 34

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	1358	121	Bronze dagger	2001-967
2	7000	700	Bronze dagger	2001-970
3	1357	121	Bronze ax	2001-968
4	1181	116	Clay wheel, dark brown ware, gray core, white grits, red slip(?)	2001-986
5	1379	116	Clay wheel, brown ware, dark gray core, many white grits, worn	2001-987
6	1095	101	Clay wheel, red-brown ware, dark gray core, white grits, white wash outside(?)	2001-988
7	1365	123	Loom weight, brown-gray ware, gray core (346 g, height 76 mm)	P-504435
8	4010	400	Loom weight, brown ware, gray core, white grits (366 g, height 91 mm)	2001-990
9	1096	108	Loom weight, brown ware, gray core, white grits, very worn, broken (height 29 mm)	P-504426
10	4087	402	Loom weight, brown-orange, white grits, very worn (238 g, height 94 mm)	2001-989
11	1339	116	Spindle whorl, brown clay, gray core, worn	P-504436
12	1331	116	Sherd, brown ware, gray core, very worn, polished	2001-991
13	1162	112	Sherd, dark brown-gray ware, tiny white grits, rope decoration	P-504438
14	1153	113	Base of bowl, brown ware, dark brown core, white and black grits, traces of red slip, incised decorated, worn	P-504439
15	4002	403	Shell	2001-993
16	1367	113	Shell	2001-992

closer to the upper end and with a rounded top. The ware is similar to that of the MB II pottery from the site and it appears that all the loom weights belong to the MB II period. This includes two loom weights (Fig. 34:8, 10) that were found in Loci 400, 402, where the pottery was predominantly Hellenistic (both loci reached bedrock, and the area had a considerable quantity of MB II pottery spread on the rock).⁵ Comparisons: Ziffer 1990:18, Fig. 12; Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Pl. 45:9); Kabri (Rosenberger 1991:19–21, Fig. 14:3–5); Megiddo (Loud 1948: Pls. 169, 170); Jericho (Wheeler 1982:623–624, Fig. 254:1, 2); and Tel Mikhal (Singer-Avitz 1989:359, Fig. 31:7). No truncated loom weights, such as are typical of the Hellenistic period, were found (Brandl 1993:235; Shamir 1990–1993:37; Shamir 1996:146–147).

Varia (Fig. 34:11–14).— The few other MB II small finds include a spindle whorl (Fig. 34:11; cf. Singer-Avitz 1989: Fig. 31.7; Wheeler 1982:635–637, Fig. 259:15). One pottery sherd (Fig. 34:12) was used as a tool, perhaps

a polisher, cf. Shiloh (Brandl 1993:231, Fig. 9.6.1–4). Two pottery fragments, one has a rope decoration (Fig. 34:13)—which is known from MB II vessels, such as kraters and pithoi, cf. Afeq (Beck 1985: Figs. 2:7; 3:1, 2), Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 38:c) and Dan (Bonfil 1992: Fig. 1)—and the other (Fig. 34:14) has an incised pattern on the ring-base of a bowl or a krater. A similar incised pattern is found on the lower body of MB II cooking pots (Kempinski 1983: Pl. 3, bottom); see also a baking tray from Shekhem (Cole 1984: Pl. 45:i).

Shells (Fig. 34:15, 16).— Shells were occasionally found in various loci of the settlement, but not in the tombs (cf. Bar Yosef 1999). For similar shells see Jericho (Kenyon 1960:351, Fig. 138; 406, Fig. 166; 418, Fig. 173).

Stone Finds (Fig. 35).— Stone finds of the MB II period were few in number (one or two items were found in the kilns, but I assume that they originated from the settlement). Figure 35:1 is an unworked stone, perhaps used as a tool, though there are no obvious signs for this. Figure

35:2 is a small, gray-white limestone, similar in shape to the loom weights of the period (Fig. 34:7–10 above). An incision around the middle suggests that it was tied by a rope. The stone could have been used as a loom weight, but other functions are also possible.

Few vessels made of stone were found. One is a fragment of a bowl, very crude and broken (Fig. 35:3). For a similar bowl, but of

basalt and probably used as mortar, see Shiloh (Brandl 1993: Pl. 9.15.1). The base of a small vessel (Fig. 35:4) belonged to an alabastron, commonly found in MB II burials, e.g., at Jericho Tombs J3, J1 (Kenyon 1960: Figs. 118:2; 171:13–14).

Basalt objects were not found in the burials. Those found in the settlement loci include a bowl (Fig. 35:5) and a fragment of indeterminate

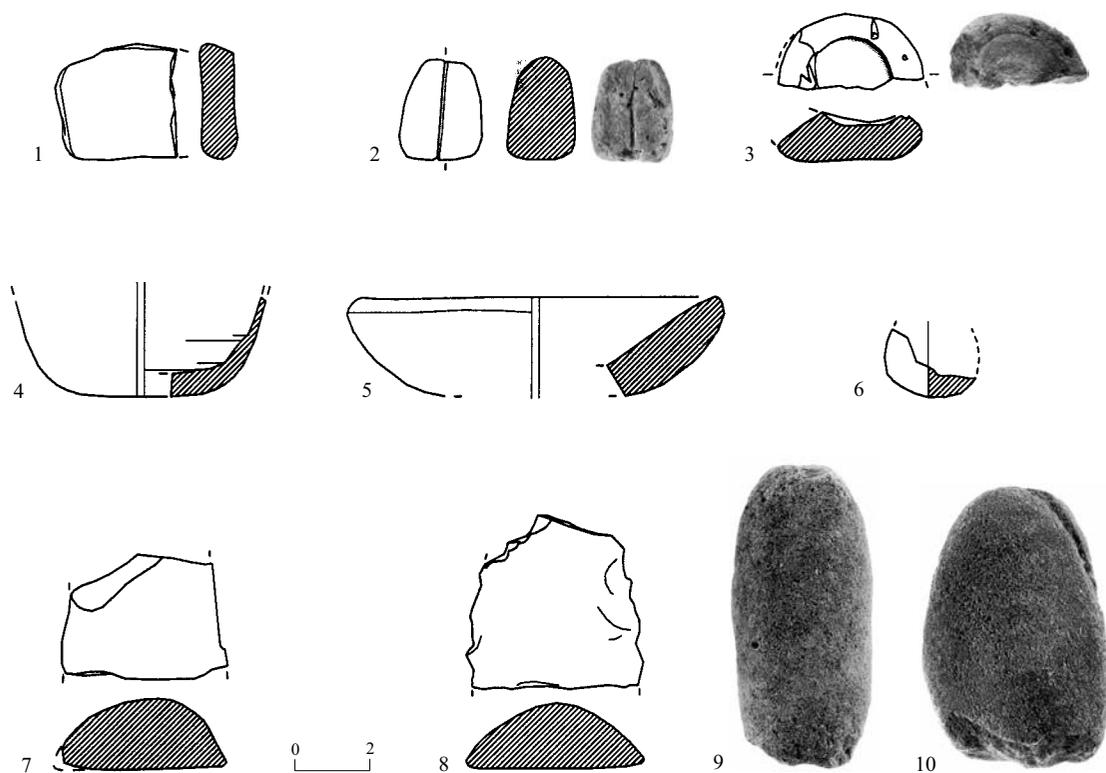


Fig. 35. The settlement: stone finds.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	4023	103	Gray limestone	
2	1204	109	Gray-white limestone, incised	2001-1022
3	1063	101	Bowl, gray limestone	
4	1313	119	Base of alabastron	
5	1321	108	Basalt bowl	
6	1074	108	Basalt, base(?)	P-504593
7	1369	123	Basalt grinding stone	P-504604
8	1227	115	Basalt grinding stone	P-504603
9	6007	601	Pestle, brown, hard limestone	
10	1365/1	120	Pestle, dark brown-red stone	2001-1131

nature (35:6). For footed basalt mortars/bowls see Tel Mevorakh (Stern 1984: Fig. 11:9). Most of the basalt finds are fragments of grinding stones (Fig. 35:7, 8). Finally, the two stones (Fig. 35:9, 10) are perhaps pestles, though pestles are more often made of basalt. See Shiloh (Brandl 1993: Figs. 9.13:8; 9.14:1).

Discussion

Based on the distribution of the finds, the settlement was apparently small in area. There may have been an extension northward, but not a large one, since no remains of the MB II were found during the widening of 'Agnon Street, only a little north of our site.

To sum up, a small, unwallled village, probably lacking in massive architecture (at least, none was found), was established in a late phase of the MB IIA (contemporaneous with the Afeq palace levels; Beck 1975; 1985). The jar groups of L102, L115, L121 and L700 were related to this settlement. Some of the pottery found in the settlement area is very similar to that of the cemetery, dating to the early MB IIB (e.g., jar fragments found in L601–605, south of T606). Perhaps, in the course of time, some MB IIB burials were destroyed, and thus their pottery was mixed with that of the earlier settlement. Alternatively, the MB IIA settlement may have continued into the beginning of the MB IIB. The latter scenario seems more likely, but without architecture and sealed loci from the settlement, one cannot be certain.

Rural sites or camps are abundant in the central coastal plain during MB IIA. In some cases, such sites continue into MB IIB (Gophna and Beck 1981, with references therein). The site west of Tell Qasile is perhaps related to an unwallled MB II site, reported at Sedē Dov airport, immediately north of our area. Sedē Dov was excavated during the 1950s, but not published (Kaplan 1972:75–76; Kaplan and Ritter-Kaplan 1993:1454). The absence of any indication of violent destruction at our site suggests that it was probably abandoned. The population could have moved to one of the larger towns, such as Tell Qasile or Tell Jerishe.

Summary of Middle Bronze Age Occupation

All the MBII finds from our site range between the late MB IIA and the early MB IIB. We lack the early MB IIA material as exemplified at the early phases of Afeq, Tel Ifshar, or at northern sites such as Gesher and Kabri (e.g., cutaway necks, predominance of flat bases, juglets with stepped rims, and ridge on the neck: Beck 1975; 1985; Gerstenblith 1983; Garfinkel and Bonfil 1990; Paley and Porat 1997; Kempinski 1988; 1989). On the other hand, missing are also forms of the late MB IIB period (e.g., high trumpet or pedestal bases, white, eggshell wares, chocolate-on-white and bichrome wares: Kempinski 1983; Negbi 1989; Cole 1984; Maeir 1997b).

The 'fine tuning' within the range of the pottery of the site is more difficult, and we lack the help of stratigraphic layers. Based on pottery and small finds comparisons, the Tell Qasile tombs are dated to the early MB IIB period. The settlement has comparable MB IIB material, with some earlier, late MB IIA period wares and weapons. The MB IIA material includes weapons (Fig. 34:1, 3); bowls (Fig. 29:3); carinated bowls (Fig. 28:4, 11); rounded kraters or bowls (Fig. 28:14–15); and jars (Fig. 32:1–4, 5?). Possibly, bowls (Fig. 29:1–2) and jugs (Fig. 31:2, 3) are also MB IIA in date. As for the kilns, the assemblage is small, and comprises mostly sherds, not whole vessels. It is difficult to determine a precise date, but most likely, the kilns are later than the settlement phase, since in most cases kilns were not situated within settlements. They could be contemporary with the MB IIB tombs.

THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD

Pit 400 (Fig. 36)

A shallow pit found in Area C was full of pottery. The pit is 2.5 m in diameter with a maximal depth of 0.4 m. The upper edge was disturbed by a modern dirt road that crushed vessels at the top, by a modern telephone cable that cut the pit through the middle, and its entire western half was completely ruined by modern pipes.

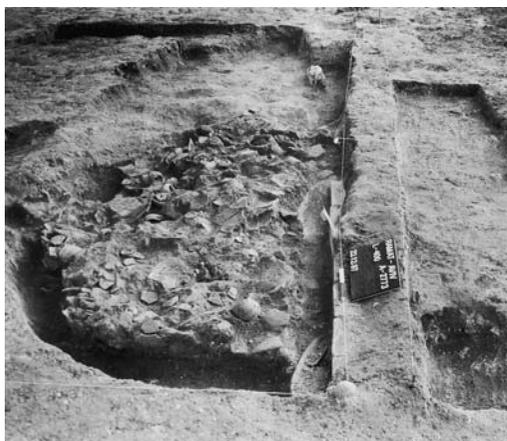


Fig. 36. Pit 400, looking south.

This precluded restoration of large vessels, such as jars. There were, however, many restorable small vessels, mainly bowls, but also jugs and a flask (Fig. 37:1, 3, 5, 9, 15). For comparison, see the Hellenistic-period refuse pit found at nearby Tel Mikhal (Fischer and Tal 1999:235, L412, Figs. 5.4, 5.5).

Some MB II pottery and loomweights were mixed with the content of L400 (Fig. 34:8, 10). An examination of the petrography of two Hellenistic bowls from L400 showed the ware to differ from the earlier MB II ware of the site (see Cohen-Weinberger, this volume).

A Hellenistic-Period Well (L807)

An interesting find was a round well, 1.7 m in diameter, whose upper part was damaged by bulldozers (the highest point that survived was at elevation 11.7 m). During the excavation, temporary sections were left at each stage, but the shaft was full of earth, small stones, bones, and sherds, without distinguishable stratigraphy. After the first hard layer of rock, the well cut through soft, crumbling *kurkar*, in a large irregular cavity. At the bottom, it became irregular and wide, ending in a layer of pure yellow sand. The well was excavated to a depth of 5.6 m (6.1 m elevation), using mechanical equipment in the lower part due to danger of collapse.

There were few archaeological finds inside the well; it was mostly filled with earth and stones. Except for a few MB II sherds that fell inside, almost all the sherds were Hellenistic. Two Rhodian jar-handle stamps were dated to the second century BCE (see Ariel, below). The date is further corroborated by four fragments of relief bowls (Fig. 39:1–4). The remains reflect a period when the well ceased to function as a well and became a refuse pit. This is evident from the many animal bones inside (see Sade, this volume), and types of domestic pottery that have no relation to storage or carrying of water.

Water wells of different periods have been excavated in Israel's coastal plain.⁶ A Hellenistic-period well was excavated in Yavne-Yam (Nir and Eldar-Nir 1991:106–110). The present well is situated 1.2 km from the sea shore. Assuming that there were no tectonic movements in the last two millennia, and that the one promil for the underground run-off slope was the standard one promille, the Ramat Aviv well had to have been much deeper than its present bottom in order to reach ground water. Or, perhaps, the well was never finished.

Hellenistic-period pottery was also found near Pit 400, in a small depression in the *kurkar* in L402 (mixed with MB II sherds, which were found all over the area). There was one complete fish plate (B4025) and one bar-handled bowl (B4066). Sporadic Hellenistic sherds were found in a few other loci in this area, such as L409 and L410, but without any architectural remains.

Finally, a ptolemaic coin found in L101 (where there were mainly MB II sherds) dates to the third century BCE (see Kool, below).

Hellenistic-Period Pottery and Finds (Figs. 37–39)

The pottery figures are arranged by loci—Pit 400 and nearby loci (Figs. 37, 38), Well 807 (Fig. 39)—but discussed by types. Apart from restored vessels, 189 handles of storage jars were counted in Pit 400, as well as 39 handles of cooking pots. This indicates that a considerable amount of pottery was dumped at the pit, much more than that shown in the drawings and photographs.

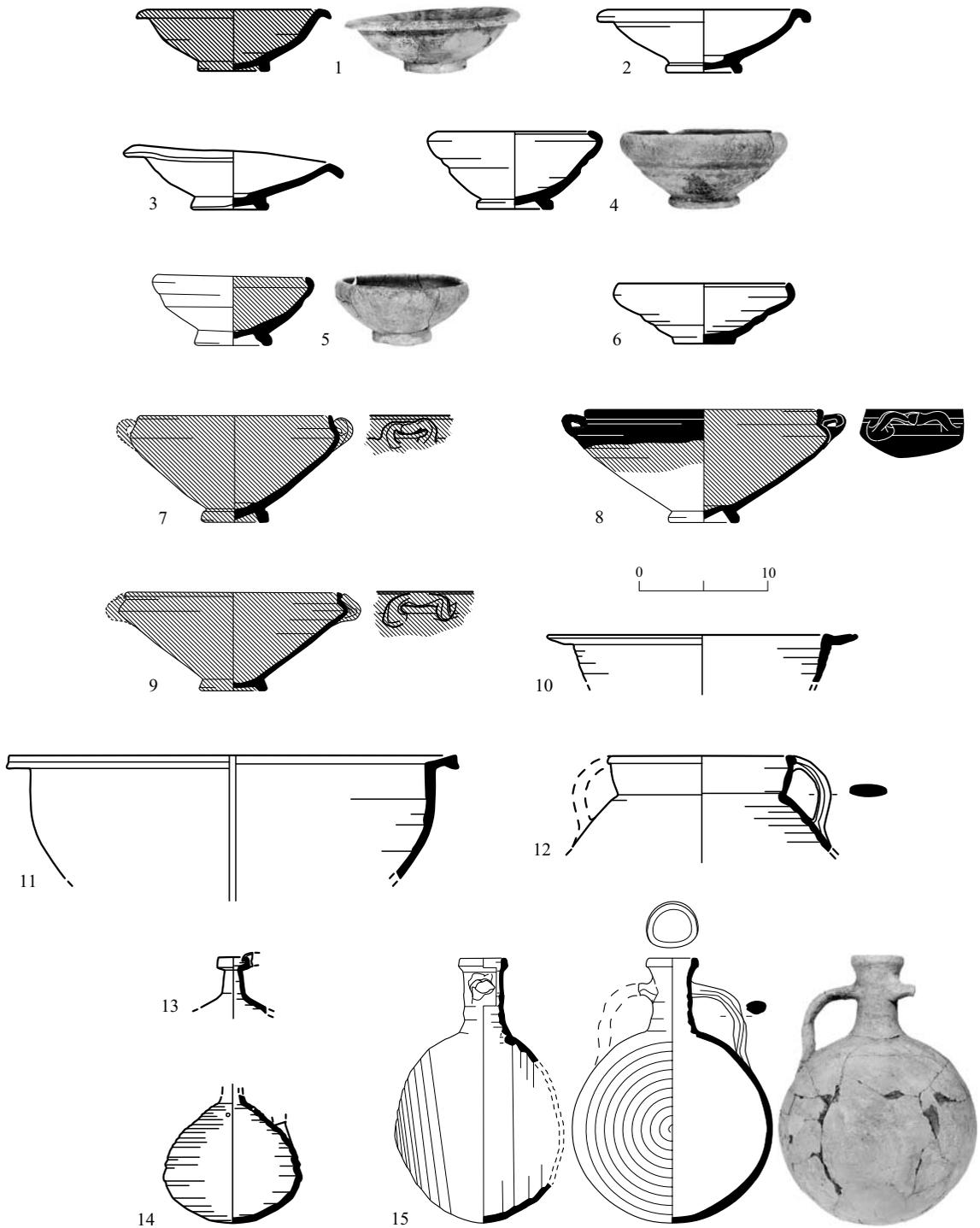


Fig. 37. Hellenistic period: finds from Pit 400 and nearby loci.

◀ Fig. 37

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	4000	400	Fish plate, brown-orange ware, levigated, red slip	2005-1173
2	4025	400	Fish plate, brown ware, few white grits, traces of red slip inside and on rim	P-599323
3	4143	400	Fish plate, brown ware, light gray core, surface worn and covered by encrustation	P-599297
4	4135	400	Inverted rim bowl, brown ware, perhaps red-slipped but worn	2005-1171
5	4076	400	Inverted rim bowl, red-brown ware, white grits, dark red slip	P-599296
6	4143	400	Inverted rim bowl, brown-pink ware, perhaps red-slipped but worn	2005-1172
7	4066	400	Bowl with handles, brown ware, traces of red slip all over	P-599294
8	4127	400	Bowl with handles, light-brown ware, levigated, red slip all over, black slip upper outside	P-599295
9	4075	400	Bowl with handles, orange ware, levigated, traces of dark slip, worn	P-599299
10	4145/3	400	Krater, red ware, gray core, white grits	
11	4100	410	Krater, brown ware, white encrustation, worn	P-599307
12	4151	409	Cooking pot, dark red ware, gray core, white grits	P-599306
13	4032	400	Juglet, light brown ware, worn	
14	4074	400	Juglet, brown ware, orange core	
15	4080	400	Flask, brown ware, gray core, white grits, worn	2005-1174

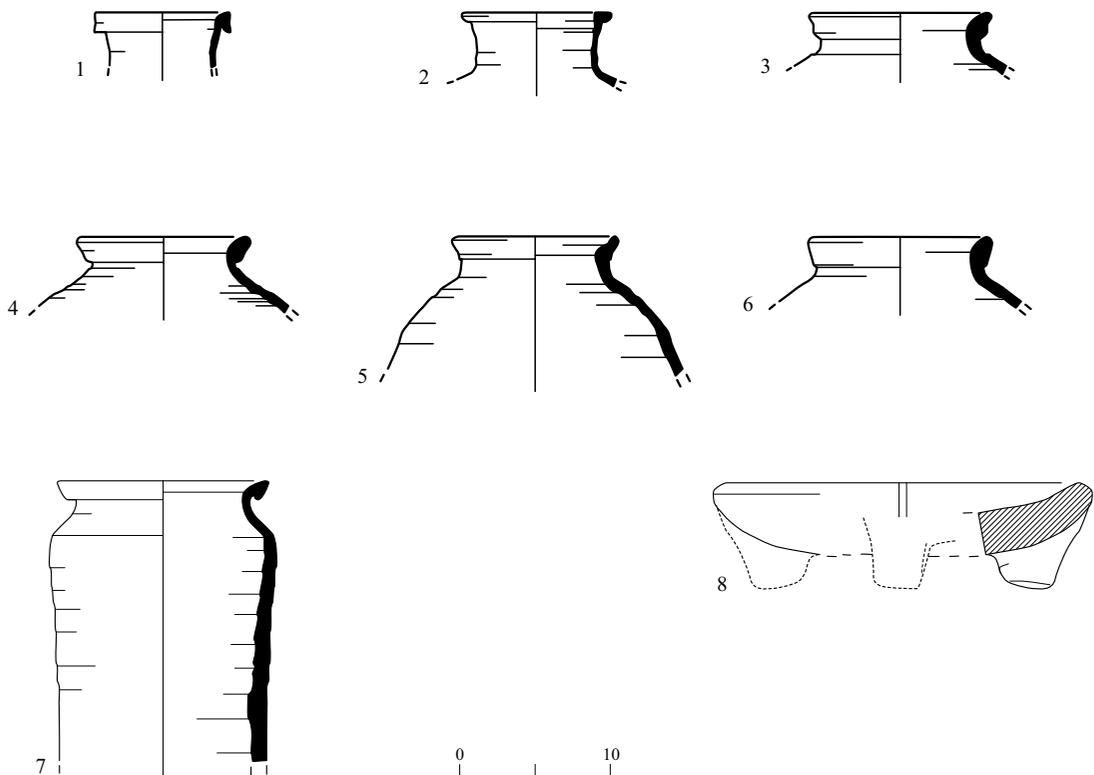


Fig. 38. Hellenistic period: finds from Pit 400 (cont.).

◀ Fig. 38

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	4132	400	Jug(?), buff ware, levigated, brown encrustation	P-599328
2	4106	400	Jug(?), dark red-brown ware, white grits	P-599327
3	4154/2	400	Jar, brown-buff ware, very worn	P-599325
4	4013	400	Jar, brown-buff ware, worn	
5	4154	400	Jar, buff ware, dark red slip(?) outside	P-599326
6	4153	400	Jar, light brown-buff ware, very worn	P-599329
7	4180	400	Pipe(?), brown-buff ware, very worn	P-599324
8	4035	400	Basalt bowl	P-599323

Fig. 39 ▶

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	8009	807	Relief bowl, pink-brown clay, levigated, black slip, relief outside	
2	8016	807	Relief bowl, pink-brown clay, levigated, black slip outside, red inside, relief outside	P-599309
3	8030	807	Relief bowl, pink-brown clay, levigated, black slip, relief outside	
4	8021	807	Relief bowl, light brown ware, black slip outside and inside	
5	8022	807	Bowl, light brown ware, levigated, red slip inside, orange band outside	
6	8016	807	Fishbowl, light brown ware, levigated, red slip outside	P-599313
7	8020/2	807	Casserole, dark brown-red ware, white grits, burnt outside	
8	8005	807	Casserole(?), dark brown ware, white grits, burnt inside	
9	8031	807	Cooking pot, dark brown ware, gray outside	
10	8016	807	Spindle bottle, brown-buff ware, tiny brown grits	P-599312
11	8020/1	807	Spindle bottle, brown-pink ware, levigated	
12	8000	807	Jar(?), brown-orange ware, buff slip outside, levigated	
13	8031	807	Jar, light brown-gray ware	
14	8001	807	Large vessel or stand(?), brown-buff ware, gray core, white grits	
15	8088	807	Amphora base, pink ware, buff outside, well levigated	
16	8019	807	Basalt bowl	

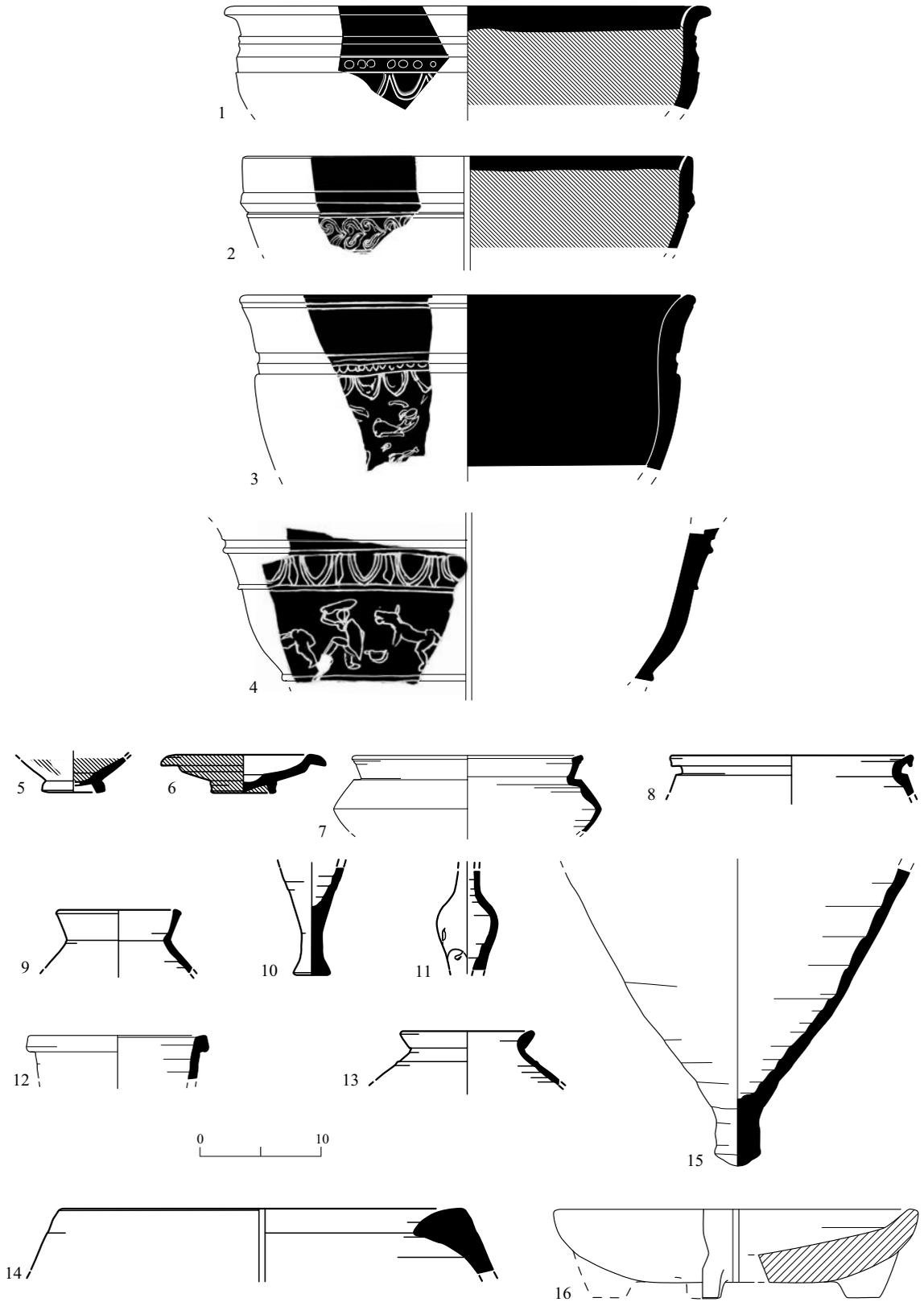


Fig. 39. Hellenistic period: finds from Well 807.

Relief Bowls.— Pottery from Well 807 included four fragments of black-slipped relief bowls made in a mold (Fig. 39:1–4). A complete bowl of this type was found in the excavations of Gorzalczy (1998: Fig. 98; 1999:27*–28*). For this pottery see Rotroff 1982; Fisher 1991:54. At Apollonia see Fischer and Tal 1999:229, Fig. 5.7:3, 4. For the term ‘relief bowls’ see Dor (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:209–216). The floral decoration of our bowls is termed ‘ovolo’ by Cornell (1997: Pl. 1:6–9). The motif on Fig. 39:4 is not very clear, but seems to be a man fighting an animal, cf. Tel Anafa (Cornell 1997:411, Pl. 3: Nos. 48–51). Figure 39:3 has a register of figures—probably leaping goats, for which see Tel Anafa (Cornell 1997:411, Pl. 3: No. 44).

Inverted-Rim Bowls.— These common small bowls are deep and rounded, with rims turning inside, and high ring bases (Figs. 37:4, 5; 39:5). Comparisons: Ramat Aviv (Gorzalczy 1999: Fig. 4:1–5); Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 15:20, 21, 23, 24); Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Figs. 13.1:3–5; 13.2:8, 9); Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pl. 16: BW133–140); Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5:11, 12; Roll and Ayalon 1989:35, Fig. 9:4–6) and Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:289–290, Fig. 6:1:1–24). A slightly different variation of inverted-rim bowls has a disk base (Fig. 37:6), cf. Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.12:15), Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.1:34), and Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Figs. 13.1:1; 13.2:1–5).

Fish Plates and Related Forms (Figs. 37:1–3; 39:6).— This is a very common vessel of the Hellenistic period; e.g., at Ramat Aviv itself (Gorzalczy 1999: Fig. 4:6); Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997:77–78, Pl. 17); Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 14:22, 26, 27); Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:291, Fig. 6.3); Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999:237, Fig. 5:3, 4); and Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989:179, 181, 183, Figs. 13.1:7, 9; 13.2:15, 16; 13.3:4–6).

Bowls with Handles (Fig. 37:7–9).— This type of bowl has an S-shaped profile near the rims,

with straight, flaring sides below, and high ring bases. These bowls have small, twisted or pinched handles. They are thin and well-made. Comparisons: Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 16:1); Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294, Fig. 6.7:1–7); Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989:189, Fig. 13.2:14); Shiqmona (Elgavish 1974: Pl. XX:243); and Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.11:10).

Deep Rounded Vessels (Fig. 37:10, 11).— To judge by its ware, Fig. 37:10 is probably a casserole, cf. Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pls. 28–31). We did not find an exact parallel for Fig. 37:11, but see Shiqmona (Elgavish 1974: Pl. XIII, called a bowl). It may be one of the many sub-variations of rounded kraters, cf. Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.12:1, 2, 4, 5, with references).

Cooking Wares (Fig. 39:7–9).— Figure 39:7 is probably a cooking pot with wide neck and sharply carinated body. Similar rims are termed “Judean Type B” at Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pl. 27: esp. PW22). Compare also Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 24:5) and Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Figs. 6.20:1, 5, 9; 6.21:7). The rim having a triangular section (Fig. 39:8) belongs to a cooking pot, with the nearest comparison at Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Fig. 13.3:20; but note the somewhat similar rim of ‘overhanging’ rim kraters of Tel Anafa, Berlin 1997:135, Pl. 42). Figures 37:12, 39:9 are a common type—closed, globular cooking pots with necks, cf. Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Fig. 13.3:18–20); Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.13:8, 9); Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.19:3, 5, 11); Ramat Aviv (Gorzalczy 1999: Fig. 4:9); Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pls. 22: PW195; 23: PW201); and Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Figs. 10:7, 24:1).

Spindle Bottles or Unguentaria (Fig. 39:10, 11).— These are diagnostic vessels of the Hellenistic period (Thompson, Thompson and Rotroff 1987:472), found at many sites, e.g., Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Figs. 13.1:11,

12; 13.3:25); Shiqmona (Elgavish 1974: Pl. XVI:233); Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 18:4–10); and Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.26). At Tel Anafa, compare to the fusiform group (Berlin 1997: Pls. 13, 14).

Jugs(?) (Fig. 38:1, 2).— These rims are probably from wide-neck jugs, see Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 17:1, 2); Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Figs. 6.31, 6.32). Similar forms of rims appear among jars (and amphoras) as well, e.g., Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pl. 55: PW468, 469) and Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.15: 12–14).

Juglets (Fig. 37:13, 14).— The body of a crude juglet, ribbed, and resembling cooking pots (Fig. 37:14), is perforated near the neck. Comparisons: Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 17:11, 12); Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Fig. 13.2:17).

Flask (Fig. 37:15).— The flask has good comparisons at Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Figs. 11:11; 18:1, 2); Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.34:1); Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Fig. 13.2:19); and Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pls. 47: PW424; 48).

Jars.— The common form of jar has a rim extended outside, rounded or triangular in section and thickened (Figs. 38:3–6; 39:13). See Ramat Aviv (Gorzalczy 1999: Fig. 4: 14–20); Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 22:4); Tel Mikhal (Fischer 1989: Figs. 13.2:21; 13.3:14); Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pl. 58: PW484, 485); Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.15:5, 6, 8–10); and Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Figs. 6.35:4, 6, 10; 6.37:1, 2). Figure 39:12 can also be a large jug (cf. Dor—Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.30:4, 5), but seems too large for jug-rims of this type, and similar shapes appear among jars; cf. Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Figs. 6.36:10, 11; 6.37:5, 8) and Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Figs. 5.7.20 [base]; 5.13:3 [jar]).

Large Vessel or Stand (Fig. 39:14).— I found no comparisons for this piece.

Base of Amphora (Fig. 39:15).— It is probably of Rhodian type. See Gorzalczy 1999:30*, Fig. 4:21, with references. Figure 38:1, although listed under jugs, is perhaps another amphora, cf. Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pl. 1:1, 3).

Pipe(?) (Fig. 38:7).— I have not found exact comparisons to this vessel. It lacks handles and is not an amphora, and the material is typical of jars or jugs. The rim is similar to rims of jars (Fig. 38:4; 39:13 above).

Basalt Mortars (Figs. 38:8; 39:16).— Though they resemble MB II basalt bowls, they are not out of place. Similar bowls were used in the Hellenistic period as well, cf. Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 28:8, 9) and Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.61:15).

Stamped Amphora Handles

Donald T. Ariel

Two stamped amphora handles were found in the excavation of the Hellenistic well (L807). Both handles belong to the Rhodian class. Conventions regarding the readings follow Finkielsztejn 2001:213–216. Dates follow the lower chronology (in Finkielsztejn 2001).

1. Reg. No. 8016, L807, IAA 2001-2241.
Circular stamp

Ἐπ' ἱερῶς Ἀρ [- -]δάμος
rose

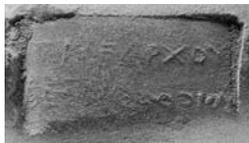


The profile of the handle is angular, and the handle should therefore be dated sometime in the second century BCE. Two alternative restorations, Ἀρχίδαμος or Ἀριστόδαμος, name eponyms of the first quarter of the

second century BCE. Ἀρχίδαμος officiated c. 180/178 BCE (Finkielsztejn 2001:192), while the term of Ἀριστόδαμος (2nd) is dated roughly fourteen years later, c. 166/164 BCE (Finkielsztejn 2001:192). Considering the spacing of the letters and the room available on the stamp, it is highly probable that the stamp names Ἀριστόδαμος 2nd.

2. Reg. No. 8002, L807, IAA 2001-2242.
Rectangular stamp

[Ἐπί] Κλέαρχου
[Θ]εσ[μο]φορίου



The stamp is double impressed. This eponym's general date has been Period II (Ariel 1990:36, S38). Finkielsztejn (2000:144, CRh 8) refined the date to c. 202–199 BCE. In Finkielsztejn 2001:191 this was adjusted slightly upward to c. 203–200 BCE. Roughly the same period was independently discussed by Lungu (1990) in the publication of forty handles from a pair of tumuli excavated at Independența in Romania. Κλέαρχος was not included in Lungu's discussion, indicating that he viewed Κλέαρχος as officiating slightly before the period beginning with Θεοφάνης 2nd. In terms of the lower chronology this means that, in Lungu's view, the term of Κλέαρχος was earlier than that of Θεοφάνης 2nd (also found in c. 203–200 BCE, according to Finkielsztejn 2001).

A Ptolemaic Coin from L101

Robert Kool

Reg. No. 1033, L101, IAA 74675.

Ptolemy III Euergetes, Alexandria, 246–221 BCE.

Obv.: Head of Zeus Ammon r., with diadem and floral ornament.

Rev.: [- -] Eagle l., on thunderbolt, at shoulder cornucopiae.

Æ, ↑, 5.07 gm, 16 mm.

SNG Ptolemies: Pl. VII, No. 182.



Summary of the Hellenistic Finds

The Hellenistic finds at the site are dated to the second century BCE, based particularly on the Rhodian stamps (see Ariel, above), and on the relief bowls. A longer time-range is probable (see Kool, above) since we have only a refuse pit and a well, where material could have been deposited over a long period of time.

LATER PERIODS

Remains of later periods are meager: one glazed sherd (B1028) and fragments of Ottoman-period glass bracelets in L101. Cuttings in the rock were found in L705 and L500–503, south and east of the site, but these were devoid of antiquities and seem to be modern. In the late Ottoman and modern periods the site was criss-crossed by foundations, sewage pipes and water pipes. At some places, we noticed a stratigraphy of pipes, intersecting each other. From this phase we found few pottery fragments (Fig. 40), modern roof tiles, and common 'plastic age' finds.

Ottoman-Period Gaza Ware (Fig. 40)

Very few sherds of gray Gaza ware were found at the site. Drawn are a rim and a spout of a jar. Gaza ware is dated usually to the nineteenth–early twentieth century CE, but it was suggested that it spans the whole Ottoman period, starting as early as the sixteenth century CE. Comparisons: Ramat Ha-Nadiv (Boas 2000:547–548, Pls. I:6–8, 14–15; II:1–5); Ramot Nof (Ustinova and Nahshoni 1994: Fig. 14:8–14); and Ta'anach (Ziadeh 1995: Fig. 13:5–7).

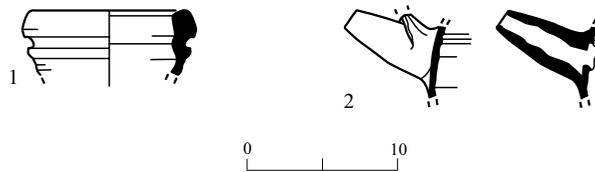


Fig. 40. Ottoman period: Gaza ware.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	IAA No.
1	4068	409	Jug, dark gray ware	P-599331
2	5003	500	Spout of jug, gray ware	

NOTES

¹ The excavation (Permit No. A-2773) was directed by the author on behalf of the IAA. I thank all those who participated in the excavation and in the preparation of this paper: Maya Pri'el, Marek Molokondof and Larisa Zak (area supervisors); Dov Porotzky and Fadi Amiran (plans); Hary El-Neqaveh and Haim Lavi (administrators); Tsila Sagiv (photography); Israel Vatkin and Vadim Essmann (survey and maps); Vered Eshed, Yossi Nagar and Baruch Arensburg (anthropology); Erella Tzarfaty (pottery restoration); Rahel Rodnitski (GPS); Ella Altmak (metal conservation); Marina Suiskaya-Arnov (pottery drawings); Yeshe Dray (ancient technology); and Amos Hachmon (heavy equipment). Michael Rorberger and Prof. Moshe Kochavi helped with friendship and advice. Edna Ayash and Aviva Bushennino directed the excavation during the first few days, and Amir Gorzalczany helped with encouragement throughout the excavation. Various finds were processed by Yossi Mizrahi (scarab); Donald T. Ariel (Rhodian stamps); Orit Shamir (loom weights); Anat Cohen-Weinberger (petrography); Robert Kool (numismatics); Moshe Sade (archaeozoology) and Yossi Nagar (anthropology), and Livnat Iechia (GPS map). Special thanks are due to the late Prof. Pirhiya Beck, and to Mrs. Esther Yadin of Tel Aviv University, for their help in the study of the MB II pottery and kilns; and to the late Joe Shadur for editing the manuscript. This report was submitted in January 2001.

² In Greece, there is mention of banquets of the dead, called *enata* or *trita*, separated from meals after funerals called *perideipnon* (Garland 1981:39–40). In Mesopotamia, we have evidence particularly from Mari (Bottéro 1987:281–282; Cooper 1992:29–33);

the evidence for Ugarit, Israel, and Judea can be found in a recent ‘minimizing’ but thorough treatment by Schmidt (1994); for Egypt see Spencer (1982:131–132). Funerary meals were often taken in dwellings rather than near the grave, since the dead lingered there and could be potentially dangerous (or impure).

³ Egyptians wanted to die and be buried at home. They abhorred a possibility of foreigners performing Egyptian funeral rites and burials, as correct rites and burials were crucial for reaching the next world ‘in a good shape’ (Spencer 1982:51–73). The writer of Sinuhe’s story viewed the Asians as ‘others’ who do not know proper (i.e., Egyptian) customs. For him, they are ‘barbarians’ or ‘nomads,’ who bury in sheepskins (cf. the Mesopotamian ‘curse of Agade,’ where the outsider, the highlander, has no grave: Cooper 1983:32).

⁴ Despite these limestone fragments, these structures were not limekilns. Limekilns are large, round, and lack the inner structure of supports (Sasson 1990; 1999:95–96, 105–106). Moreover, the surrounding rock is *kurkar*-sandstone with no limestone, and it is more economical to prepare the lime further to the east, where it is found, and carry it to the site, rather than haul the heavy stones there. In short, both the structure of the kilns and the evidence of wasters indicate that these are pottery kilns.

⁵ No truncated loom weights, such as are typical of the Hellenistic period, were found (Brandl 1993:235; Shamir 1990–1993:37; 1996:146–147).

⁶ One well of the Late Roman period was excavated by the present author at Kh. Ibreiktas, near Ḥadera (Kletter and Rapuano 1998, with further references).

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