

THE GLASS VESSELS FROM ḤORBAT 'ILLIN (UPPER)

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INTRODUCTION

A total of 671 glass fragments were retrieved from the 1993 excavations at Ḥorbat 'Illin (Upper; see Weksler-Bdolah, this volume).¹ Diagnostic vessel fragments comprised only one-quarter of this assemblage, divided into 34 types (Figs. 1–3). Most of the vessels discussed below were found in the settlement, and date from the Late Roman to the Abbasid periods. Several vessels, dated to the Early Roman and Byzantine periods (not illustrated), were unearthed in burial and dwelling caves to the north and east of the settlement. There are also sporadic fragments (not illustrated) of the Early Roman and Mamluk periods.

The majority of the diagnostic fragments originated in the Byzantine and Early Islamic phases, including a complete rare bottle (Fig. 3:32). Comparable assemblages are familiar from contemporary settlements in Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 2000; 2008a; Winter 2000) and the Judean Shephelah (Winter 1998).

Most of the vessels are free blown; one bottle is mold-blown (Fig. 3:34) and two bowls are cast (Burial Cave I, B32; Pit III, B55; not illustrated). The blown vessels are made either of natural-color glass, or exhibit yellowish, blue and olive-green hues. There is some similarity between Byzantine and Umayyad glassware, which share a shiny bluish-green fabric. The most common designs are applied trails, in the same hue as the vessel or in blue, yellow and olive-green hues (Fig. 2:6–9), and pinched decoration (Fig. 2:24–26). A body fragment decorated with opaque white trails marvered into purple glass is the only vessel from the Mamluk period that was discovered

at the site (not illustrated; Building A1, L51, B299).

THE GLASS VESSELS

Early Roman Period

Small fragments of two cast bowls and a blown one (not illustrated) were found in burial and installation contexts. They represent the earliest glassware from Ḥorbat 'Illin. A rounded rim of a bluish-green cast bowl from Burial Cave I (B32) is decorated with two horizontal grooves, broadly spaced from each other on the interior. A very similar bowl was found in Stratum 5 of the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, assigned to the early first century CE (Gorin-Rosen 2003:368, Pl. 15.3:G26). Tiny rim fragments of a contemporary bowl, made of yellowish glass, were preserved (Pit III, B55), as well as an out-folded rim of a blown greenish-blue bowl (Installation V, B19). The latter may be dated according to its form and fabric to the late first–early second centuries CE.

Late Roman–Early Byzantine Periods

These periods are represented by three fragments, dated to the late fourth–early fifth centuries CE. One is a rim of an unusual bowl (Fig. 1:1), and the other two represent more common vessels (Fig. 1:2, 3). The fragments were found in Buildings C (No. 1, not *in situ*) and A1 (No. 2, from the northwestern entrance, and No. 3, from below the floor of Room 15, L88, L91).

Bowl with a Splayed-Out Rim (Fig. 1:1).— This bowl type has an almost horizontal rim, forming a collar. It resembles shallow bowls and plates

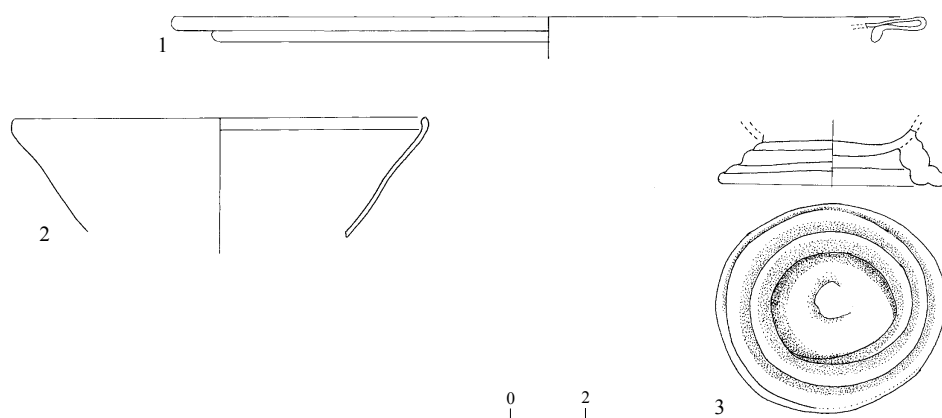


Fig. 1. Glass vessels from the Late Roman–early Byzantine periods.

No.	Type	Locus (Building/ Room)	Basket	Color	Weathering	Measurements (cm)	Description
1	Bowl	1025 (C/5)	2096	Greenish blue	Silver iridescence, soil deposit, black impurities	Rim D: 20	Rim fragment; folded outward and then back toward the wall, forming broad collar with thickened edge
2	Bowl	31 (A1/5)	2756	Almost colorless with greenish tinge	Yellow patches on interior, silver iridescence, pitting	Rim D: 11	Rim and fragment; slightly incurved and rounded rim; thin slanting walls
3	Jug/ bowl	88 (A1/14)	417	Greenish	White, enamel- like crust, iridescence	Base D: 6 Pontil mark D:1.3	Base fragment; trail-wound base and beginning of upcurving walls

with double-folded rims produced in the second half of the fourth century CE. A similar fragment was uncovered at Khirbat el-Ni'ana, near Lod (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:80, Fig. 2:8).

Bowl with Incurved Rim and Thin Slanting Walls (Fig. 1:2).— Bowls with a thickened rounded rim were widespread in the country, although published parallels are rare. This bowl type is attributed to the late fourth–early fifth centuries CE at Khirbat el-Ni'ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:84, Fig. 4:2, 3); however, it is known also in the Umayyad period (Hadad 2005:21, Fig. 1:4–8). Numerous versions of similar fragments belong to small local bowls or lamps, e.g., at Caesarea, with an unascertained date (Israeli 2008:383–384, Nos. 155–165).

Trail-Wound Base (Fig. 1:3).— This standard base of the late fourth–early fifth centuries CE might be part of a jug or a bowl. It has a wide geographical range, and was found, e.g., in a dwelling cave on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem (Winter 2000:132–133, Fig. 10:4). Similar bases were recently found in a nearby settlement excavated by Y. Zeligler near Ben Shemen (Katsnelson, in prep.). Vessels with trail-wounded bases were prominent at Khirbat el-Ni'ana—one of the possible places for their production sources in the region (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:88–90, Fig. 7:3–7, and see references therein). Another bluish-green fragment of a trail-wound base (not illustrated) was found in Building C, L1021 (B2080).

Byzantine–Umayyad Periods

Fragments from these periods dominate the glass finds at the site. They date from the fifth to the early eighth centuries CE. It is difficult to offer a narrower range, as many of these types occur in Israel from the Byzantine period to Early Islamic times.

Plain and decorated bowls, bottles and bowl-shaped lamps are the most common types. Most of these vessels originated in fills and accumulations, where they were found with pottery dated to the sixth–eighth centuries CE. Bluish-green and greenish wineglasses, represented by small base fragments with hollow and solid beaded stems, are also typical finds of this period (not illustrated; Building B, L539; Building C, L1021, L1025). Infrequent fragments of windowpanes, rectangular or circular with out-folded rims (not illustrated; Building C, L1003; Installation VI, B2), were found in the assemblage as well.

Bowls with Flared (Fig. 2:4) and Upward or Incurved Rims (Fig. 2:5–9).— Six variations of this type were found in accumulations below floors in Building C. All fragments have a thickened, rounded rim. Numbers 4 and 5 are plain, while Nos. 6–9 are decorated with dark yellow or blue trails, applied on the rim or the wall. The colors of the trails contrast the main colors of the vessels, except No. 9. Comparable fragments from the region were found at Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit, dated to the sixth–seventh centuries CE (Winter 1998:174, Figs. 1:2; 2:11), and at Khirbat 'Adasa, assigned to the Umayyad period (Gorin-Rosen 2008a:124–125, Fig. 2:3, 4). At Ramla, similar vessels, but deeper, are dated to the eighth–ninth centuries CE (Pollak 2007:110, Fig. 6:27–31).

Double-Folded Base (Fig. 2:10).— This fragment has a characteristic thick flat base formed with a double-fold. Two bases of this type were discovered at Khirbat 'Adasa (Gorin-Rosen 2008a:125, Fig. 2:5, 6). Gorin-Rosen suggested that they might have belonged to

Umayyad bowls or beakers, similar to the ones discussed above.

Bowl/Lamp with Out-Folded Rim and Vertical Walls (Fig. 2:11).— This small fragment could be a rim of a bowl or plausibly, a bowl-shaped lamp of the type discussed below (No. 13). Bowls with similar rims were common from the Late Roman to the Umayyad periods; however, some peculiarities in No. 11, such as the thickened fold with a small rounded hollow, imply that this rim might belong to an Early Islamic lamp, similar to the eighth-century CE lamp from Ramla (Gorin-Rosen 2008b:46, middle top drawing).²

Bowl/Lamp with Pushed-In Base (Fig. 2:12).— This massive base with a hollow ring might be a large bowl with out-splaying walls similar to a Byzantine fragment from Ras Abu Ma'aruf, Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 1999:207, RAM3, see references therein) or a base of an Early Islamic oil lamp (Gorin-Rosen 2008b:46, left top drawing).

Bowl-Shaped Oil Lamps (Fig. 2:13–15).— Number 13 is the lower part of a tumbler-shaped lamp with a wide wick-tube attached to the floor and a high concave base. This type, often with three suspension handles joining an out-folded rim, was widespread in the region between the fifth and the eighth centuries CE. Numerous fragments of these lamps' short handles, made of bluish-green and greenish glass, were scattered throughout the site (Building A1: L11, L40, L46, L61, L79, L85; Building B: L500; Building C: L1010, L1040; not illustrated).

The peculiar features of cylindrical lamp No. 13, with its large wick-tube, might suggest an eighth-century date, similar to a lamp from Ramla (Gorin-Rosen 2008b:46, middle top drawing).

Numbers 14 and 15 are hollow stem bases of very common lamps, mainly with a bell-shaped body, which were set into a metal polycandela.

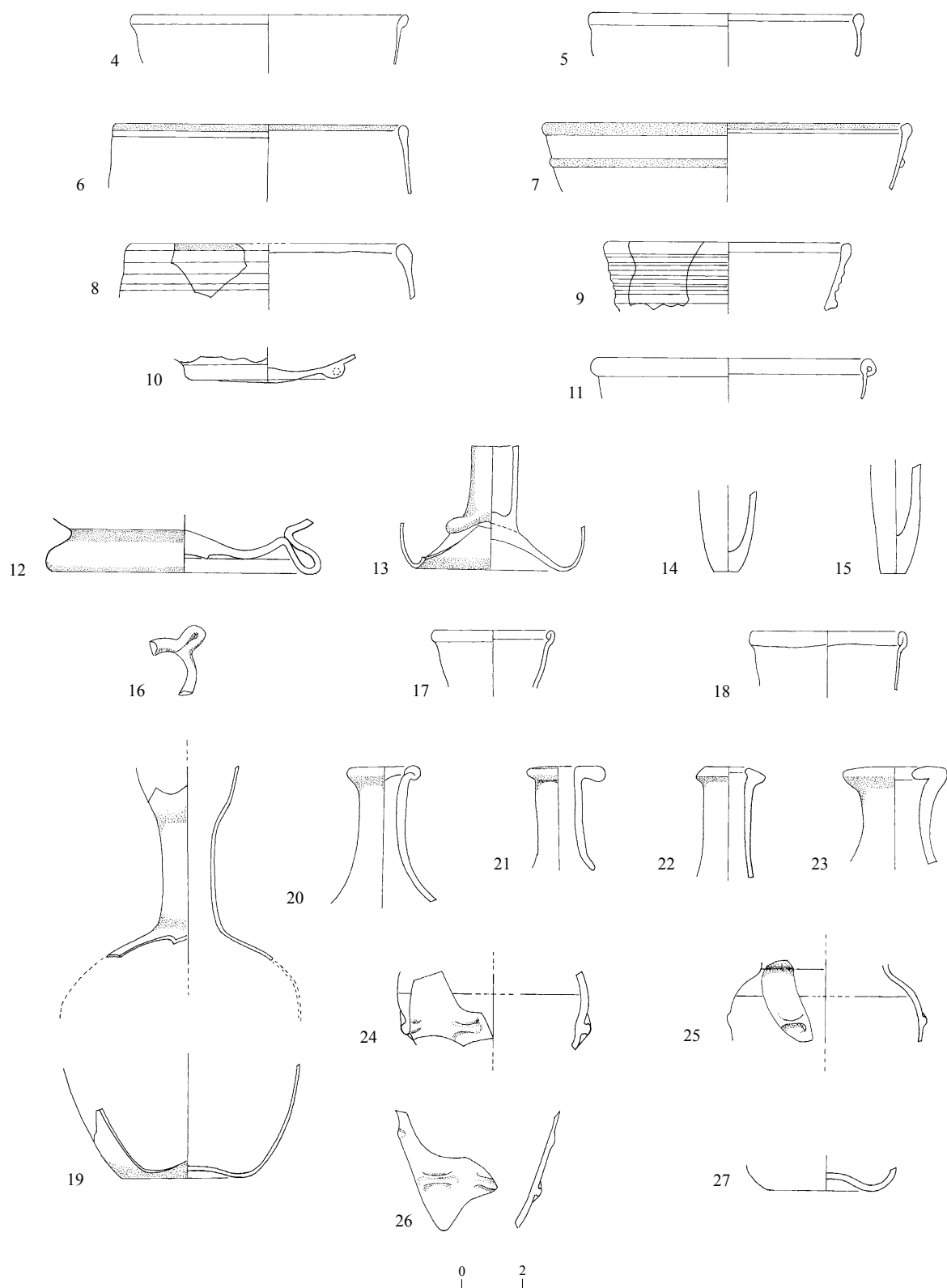


Fig. 2. Glass vessels from the Byzantine–Umayyad periods.

◀ Fig. 2

No.	Type	Locus (Building/ Room)	Basket	Color	Weathering	Measurements (cm)	Description
4	Bowl	1034 (C/1)	2110	Almost colorless with greenish blue tinge	Black patches, lime crust	Rim D: 9.0	Rim and body fragment; flared, rounded and thickened rim; vertical walls
5	Bowl	1034 (C/1)	2110	Light greenish blue	Milky clouds, iridescence	Rim D: 9.0	Rim and body fragment; upward, rounded and thickened rim; vertical walls
6	Trailed bowl	1037 (C/15)	2118	Colorless with bluish tinge, dark blue trail, appearing black	Shinny fabric, soil deposit	Rim D: 9.5	Two rim and body fragments; incurved, rounded and thickened rim; horizontal trail fused on rim's edge; walls slightly tapering outward
7	Trailed bowl	11 (A1/20)	313	Almost colorless with greenish blue tinge, yellow trail	Iridescence	Rim D: 12.0	Rim and body fragment; flared, rounded and thickened rim; band of two horizontal trails: one fused on the rim, another 6 mm below; tapering walls
8	Trailed bowl	1037 (C/15)	-	Light bluish green, olive- green trail	Iridescence	Rim D: 9.0	Rim and body fragment; incurved, rounded and thickened rim; broad horizontal trail fused on the rim and remains of five thin trails below; vertical walls
9	Trailed bowl	1010 (C/1)	2007	Greenish yellow	Iridescence, sand deposits, bubbly	Rim D: 8.0	Rim and body fragment; flared, rounded and thickened rim; tapering walls, multi-trailed just below the rim
10	Bowl	1018 (C/8)	2071	Greenish blue, shiny	Iridescence	Base D: 4.8	Base fragment; double- folded, flattened and thickened in the center
11	Bowl	1046 (C/13)	2130	Almost colorless, shiny	Iridescence, sand deposits	Rim D: 9.0	Rim and body fragment; folded-out and thickened rim; straight walls
12	Bowl	L11 (A1/20)	450	Greenish	Soil deposits, bubbly	Base D: 8.8	Base fragment; pushed-in with hollow ring; thick walls
13	Lamp	7000/ Cistern III		Greenish blue	Iridescent film, lime deposits	Base D: 5.0	Base and body fragment; concave; wick-tube on interior floor; cylindrical body
14	Lamp	51 (A1/5)	304	Greenish blue	Iridescence, soil deposits	Base D: 1.0	Base fragment with hollow stem
15	Lamp	1037 (C)	-	Greenish blue	Iridescence, soil deposits	Base D: 1.0	Base fragment with hollow stem
16	Small handle	29 (A1/12)	308	Greenish blue	Iridescence, lime crust		Small fragment of handle made of rounded trail, pinched at the top

◀ Fig. 2 (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus (Building/ Room)	Basket	Color	Weathering	Measurements (cm)	Description
17	Bottle	1037 (C/15)	2118	Light green	Iridescence	Rim D: 4.0	Rim and neck fragment; flared, folded-in rim; tapering neck
18	Bottle	1046 (C/13)	2130	Light bluish green	Soil deposit	Rim D: 5.0	Rim and neck fragment; upward, folded-in rim; cylindrical neck
19	Bottle	51 (A1/5)	304	Almost colorless with greenish tinge	Lime crust	Base D: 4.0	Two fragments: upper and lower parts; rim and most of body missing; funnel-shaped mouth; cylindrical neck; piriform body; concave base
20	Bottle	522 (B/5)	1102	Light bluish green	Iridescence, lime deposits, elongated bubbles, black impurities	Rim D: 2.0	Rim and neck fragment; uneven, flared, infolded rim; cylindrical neck
21	Bottle	43 (A1/15)	369	Green	Lime crust, iridescence, soil deposits	Rim D: 2.2	Rim and neck fragment; uneven, outward and inward folded rim, flattened at the top with small opening; cylindrical neck; thick walls
22	Bottle	93 (A1/19)	448	Greenish blue	Black crust, soil deposits, severe pitting	Rim D: 2.5	Rim and neck fragment; uneven, outward and inward folded rim, flattened at the top; cylindrical neck
23	Bottle	81 (A1/3)	420	Deep green	White enamel-like tooling marks on neck	Rim D: 3.4	Rim and neck fragment; uneven, outward and inward folded rim, flattened at the top with small opening; cylindrical neck; thick walls
24	Bottle	15 (A1/17)	302	Light greenish blue	Iridescence, lime deposits		Small fragment of globular body, two horizontal pinches preserved
25	Bottle	1034 (C/1)	2110	Aquamarine blue	Pitted		Small fragment of globular body, one horizontal pinch preserved
26	Beaker/ bowl	58 (A1/9)	322	Light greenish blue	Iridescence		Small fragment of body with thin straight walls, two horizontal pinches preserved
27	Bottle	1046 (C/13)	2130	Greenish blue	Iridescence	Base D: 3.5	Base fragment; plain, concave

This lamp type was common chiefly in the Byzantine period, for example in dwellings in Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 1999:212, RAM29;

Winter 2000:133, Fig. 10:5). Similar fragments of bowl-lamps were found in Building C, L1018, L1035 (not illustrated).

Pinched Handle (Fig. 2:16).— This fragment is of a small, rounded handle pinched at the top. A very similar handle of a late Byzantine–Umayyad bowl-lamp was retrieved from Khirbat 'Adasa (Gorin-Rosen 2008a:127, Fig. 2:16), possibly dating to the eighth century CE.

Bottles with High Cylindrical or Tapering Necks (Fig. 2:17–19).— These are typical Byzantine bottles; variations thereof occurred up to Islamic times. Rounded and out-folded rims of similar bottles, made of bluish green and greenish glass, comprise one of the most distinctive finds from the site (not illustrated; Building A1: L89, B419, L502; Building A2: L36; Installations III, V and VI).

Bottle Nos. 17 and 18 represent a subtype with an infolded rim, resembling the mid-fifth to sixth-centuries CE bottles from Ras Abu Ma'aruf, Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 1999:208, RAM11, see references therein) and from dwelling caves on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem (Winter 2000:133, Fig. 10:7).

Bottle No. 19 was discovered near the northwestern entrance to Building A1. It is the largest example, its profile almost completely preserved. It exhibits an early version of Byzantine bottles with a characteristic, tall funnel-shaped mouth, a cylindrical neck and a wide piriform body, similar to a complete bottle with a rounded rim from a burial cave at Akeldama, assigned to the fifth–sixth centuries CE (Winter 1996:98, Fig. 5.6:3).

Bottles with Infolded Flattened Rims and Short Cylindrical Necks (Fig. 2:20–23).— Number 20 has a flared infolded rim and a tall cylindrical neck. Numbers 21–23 are distinguished by uneven flattened rims with a narrow opening. They may have had shorter necks and probably, broad spherical bodies. These small-sized bottles are the most common type from the late Byzantine–Umayyad periods. Their date is a factor of the glass-fabric quality and the archaeological context. Number 21 was unearthed on the floor of Room 15 in Building A1; No. 22, in a fill in the Byzantine/

Early Islamic industrial area. They occurred at the end of the Byzantine and in the Umayyad periods, but are mainly typical of the Early Islamic period, such as the Umayyad bottles from Khirbat 'Adasa (Gorin-Rosen 2008a:126, Fig. 2:10, 11) and the eighth–ninth-century CE bottles from Ramla (Pollak 2007:121, Fig. 10:61, 62).

Bottles with Pinched Decoration (Fig. 2:24, 25).— These fragments belong to globular bottles with a pinched horizontal decoration on the body, which appeared at the end of the Byzantine period. This bottle type was especially favored in the Levant during the Umayyad period, for instance, a bottle from Bet She'an (Hadad 2005:24, Pl. 12:222). Bottle No. 25 has a strong aquamarine color, which is characteristic of Islamic glass.

Beaker/Bowl with Pinched Decoration (Fig. 2:26).— This body fragment possibly belonged to an open vessel, a beaker or a bowl. A similar Byzantine/Early Umayyad cylindrical beaker was found at Khirbat Ṭabaliya, Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 2000:86*, Fig. 2:12). Similar cylindrical bowls, decorated with one or two rows of 'nipped decoration', were retrieved alongside Byzantine and Umayyad pottery at Bet She'an (Hadad 2005:21, Pl. 4:78–81).

Bottle with Concave Base (Fig. 2:27).— This small fragment of a plain base is typical of Byzantine/Umayyad bottles and could belong to any of the bottles discussed above.

Abbasid Period

This period is represented by two bowls (Fig. 3:28, 29) and a number of plain and decorated bottles (Fig. 3:30–34).

Tongued Bowl with Incurved Rim (Fig. 3:28).— This fragment belongs to a deep bowl decorated with two wavy lines below a thick rounded rim. Its design was impressed into the walls with a metal tool, a technique found mainly on Early Islamic vessels. No exact parallel for this distinct

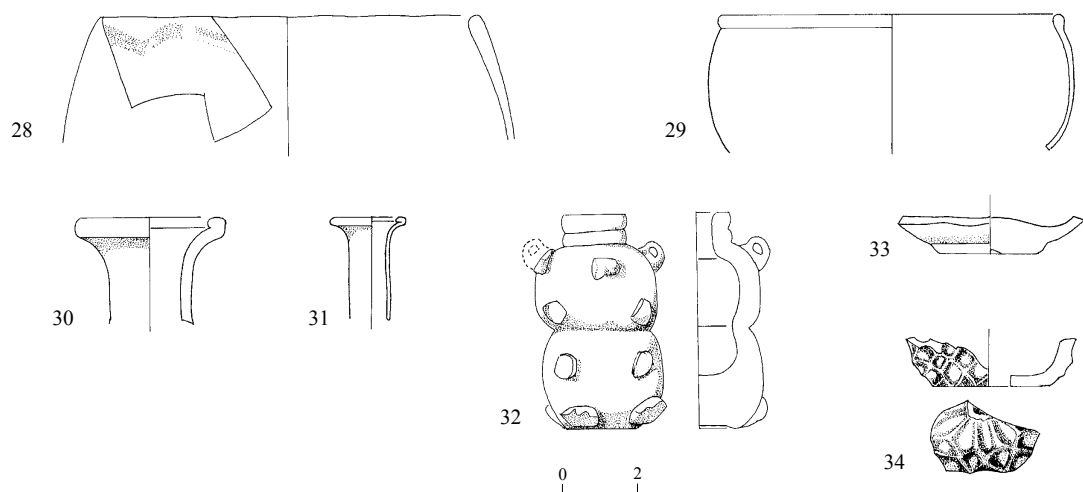


Fig. 3. Glass vessels from the Abbasid period.

No.	Type	Locus Building/ Room)	Basket	Color	Weathering	Measurements (cm)	Description
28	Bowl	91 (A1)	424	Greenish yellow	Yellow-white enamel-like, iridescence, pitting	Rim D: 10.0	Rim and body fragment; incurved, rounded and thickened rim; linear tonged decoration below rim; thick walls tapering inward
29	Bowl	1014 (C/3)	2062	Colorless	Black crust, silver iridescence, severe pitting	Rim D: 9.0	Rim fragment; incurved, rounded and thickened; thin, convex curving walls
30	Bottle	1037 (C/15)	-	Colorless	Black-silver crust, severe pitting	Rim D: 4.0	Rim and neck fragment; flared, infolded rim; cylindrical neck
31	Bottle	1037 (C/15)	-	Colorless	Black-silver crust, severe pitting	Rim D: 2.0	Rim and neck fragment; flared infolded rim; tall cylindrical neck
32	Small bottle	1003 (C/15)	2013	Greenish blue, blue bosses	Yellow-white crust, iridescence, lime deposits	H: 5.6 Rim D: 1.6 Base D: 2.0	Complete. Part of rim, bosses and looped handles missing; ribbed cylindrical neck; cylindrical body divided in the middle by a horizontal constriction into two parts; flat base with small pontil mark underneath; body decorated with 14 blue applied bosses: two of uncertain shape at the shoulders, four rounded, flattened on the upper part, above the constriction, and four others in the middle of lower body; four elongated blue bosses of uncertain shape (partly missing) applied around the bottom; two small looped handles applied at both sides of shoulders (one almost missing); thick walls
33	Bottle	1029 (C/4)	2101	Dark green	lime crust, iridescence, black impurities	Base D: 2.6 Pontil mark D: 0.9	Base fragment; solid, disc-shaped
34	Mold-blown bottle	1002 (C/8)	2067	Dark bluish green	Iridescence, soil deposits	Base D: 3.0	Base and body fragment; flat and thickened base; mold-blown pattern of high relief: rosette on the base and lozenges on the body

pattern was found, but similar bowls from the eighth–tenth centuries CE were unearthed at Ḥorbat Ḥermeshit (Winter 1998:174, Fig. 2:10) and Ramla (Gorin-Rosen 2008b:49, left top drawing). Another small fragment, decorated in the same technique, was found in Building C, L1002, B2067 (not illustrated).

Spherical Bowl with Incurved Rim (Fig. 3:29).— This plain bowl is distinguished by its thickened rounded rim and delicate walls made of colorless glass. Similar bowls have been retrieved from later contexts of the Early Islamic period, as, for example, a bowl from Ramla (however with an upward rim), dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2005:104–105, Fig. 2:14).

Bottles with Flared Rim and Cylindrical Neck (Fig. 3:30, 31).— Rim fragment Nos. 30 and 31 are later versions of the bottles with infolded rims discussed above (Fig. 2:20–23). Their colorless fabric and black weathering are typical of the ninth–eleventh centuries CE, e.g., at Tiberias, Strata II and I (Lester 2004:185, Fig. 7.8:86–88, see references therein).

Small Decorated Bottle (Fig. 3:32).— This vessel is the only one that is almost completely preserved. The bottle represents a rare type of small ornamented bottles distinguished by their very thick walls. The decoration consists of 14 uneven bosses in blue glass applied at regular intervals around the upper and lower parts of the body. Two tiny rounded handles (possibly for suspension; one almost missing) are attached to the shoulders. The bottle's neck tolled with horizontal ribs is preserved approximately half its height. Four blue bosses around the bottom of the vessel, partly missing, served as a foot-base. Bottles of this type are rare in excavated contexts, and No. 32 is one of the best preserved examples. Most of the other local examples are known from Abbasid–Fatimid Bet She'an, where they were probably manufactured. These fragments include a partly preserved bottle found in the 1921–1923 excavations (Fitzgerald

1931: Pl. 39:15) and five pieces revealed in later seasons (Hadad 2005:43, Pl. 41:852, 853, see references therein to a similar bottle, 7 cm high, from a private collection). Another fragment of a similar bottle has been recently discovered in Nazareth (Alexandre 2012).

Vessel with Solid Base (Fig. 3:33).— This fragment has a characteristic low, solid base. This kind of thickened base is common on Early Islamic vessels, for instance, on a suspended oil lamp from Ramla (Pollak 2007:115, Fig. 7:43) and a bottle from Bet She'an, discovered in an Abbasid–Fatimid context (Hadad 2005: Pl. 39:802).

Mold-Blown Bottle (Fig. 3:34).— A base and body fragment of a small bottle. This thick-walled vessel has a deep-relief design of lozenges set in a honeycomb pattern on the body, ending in a rosette on the flat base. Similar decorated fragments, but of larger vessels, were found in an Abbasid–Fatimid level at Bet She'an (Hadad 2005: Pl. 30:595) and possibly in a ninth-century CE context at Ramla (Pollak 2007:123, Fig. 10:69). Regional parallels to bottles ornamented with similar “honeycomb” motifs come from Khirbat 'Adasa (Gorin-Rosen 2008a:129–130, Fig. 3:4, 8, see references therein), dated to the Abbasid period.

CONCLUSIONS

Although many of the glass vessels from Ḥorbat 'Illin (Upper) do not originate in well dated contexts, they compose an interesting assemblage from the end of the Byzantine to the Early Islamic periods. The material provides additional data regarding local domestic ware used in agricultural settlements of the region, particularly during the Early Islamic period. The majority of these vessels were likely manufactured at nearby workshops, such as Jerusalem, Lod and Ramla. A few others, for instance, the unusual decorated bottle No. 32, was possibly produced in a more distant workshop, such as at Bet She'an.

NOTE

¹ I wish to thank Shlomit Weksler-Bdolah for inviting me to publish the glass finds. Olga Shor restored the vessels and Michael Miles drew them.

² This paper was last updated in 2008. For the final report of the glass finds from Ramla, see Gorin-Rosen 2010.

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