

THE GLASS VESSELS FROM 'EIN EZ-ZEITUNA

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The site at 'Ein ez-Zeituna yielded some four hundred glass pieces, about seventy percent of them non-diagnostic body fragments.¹ Most of the glass was discovered under the collapsed piers and stone blocks of the peristyle building (see Glick, this volume). The majority of the vessels are Early Roman. Dating was based mainly on the glass finds themselves—their quality, fabric, shape and color—and on comparisons with other glass corpora. The glass dates were cross-checked with the pottery and the coins from the site.

All vessels were free-blown of light blue, light green or colorless glass. Most of the glass contained round and oval, small and medium-sized bubbles. Most pieces were pitted, and bore iridescent film and black, brown or silvery weathering.

Thirty identifiable, representative fragments were selected, studied and drawn (Figs. 1–3). Appendix 1 summarizes the following details: catalogue, locus and basket numbers; type of fragment; color; and dimensions (occasionally the piece is too small to measure). Note is also made of tooling marks, and of scars and glass traces of the pontil.

BOWLS AND BEAKERS

Bowls with Hollow Out-Folded Rim and Ring Base (Fig. 1:1–13)

Rims (Nos. 1, 3, 5–8).— These rounded rims are thickened at the edge and folded out and downward, forming a hollow. Their diameters range between 12–20 cm. Number 1, with a shallow uneven ridge on the exterior below the rim-fold, may have been the upper part of base and body No. 2. Rim No. 3 was probably part of bowl No. 4.

Bases (Nos. 2, 4, 9–13).— These are pinched-out low tubular ring bases, pushed-in at the center. Their diameters range between 3.2 and 8.0 cm, and the walls are thin and usually convex (see above for probable rims of bases Nos. 2 and 4). Number 11 has very thin walls and is of especially fine quality.

Bowls Nos. 1–13 represent the largest group of glass vessels at the site. They are dated from the mid-first century to the first third of the second century CE, and are distinguished by their fine, delicate fabric. This shape continued to appear later, in the Late Roman period, displaying a cruder variation. Complete bowls of this type were unearthed, for example, at Capernaum, where they were dated from the last third of the first century to the early second century CE (Loffreda 1984: Fig. 6:5–9), and in the east cemetery at Akhziv, dated to the second half of the first century CE (Shaked 1995: Fig. 20). A very fragmentary bowl of this type was discovered in the Cave of the Pool at Nahal David, occupied in the first third of the second century CE (Avigad 1962:178, Fig. 6:3, 6). Similar rims were recently published from caves in the northern Judean Desert and dated to the Early Roman period (Jackson-Tal 2002a:110, Fig. 6:2, 3). Bases like Nos. 11 and 13 were found in a *miqwe* near Alon Shevut dated from the last third of the first century to the first third of the second century CE (Gorin-Rosen 1999:85, Fig. 1:6–7).

Bowls with Crimped Trail on Rim (Fig. 1:14–16) These bowls are characterized by the pair of trails applied on the rim on opposite sides of the bowl and tooled to create ribs. Numbers 14

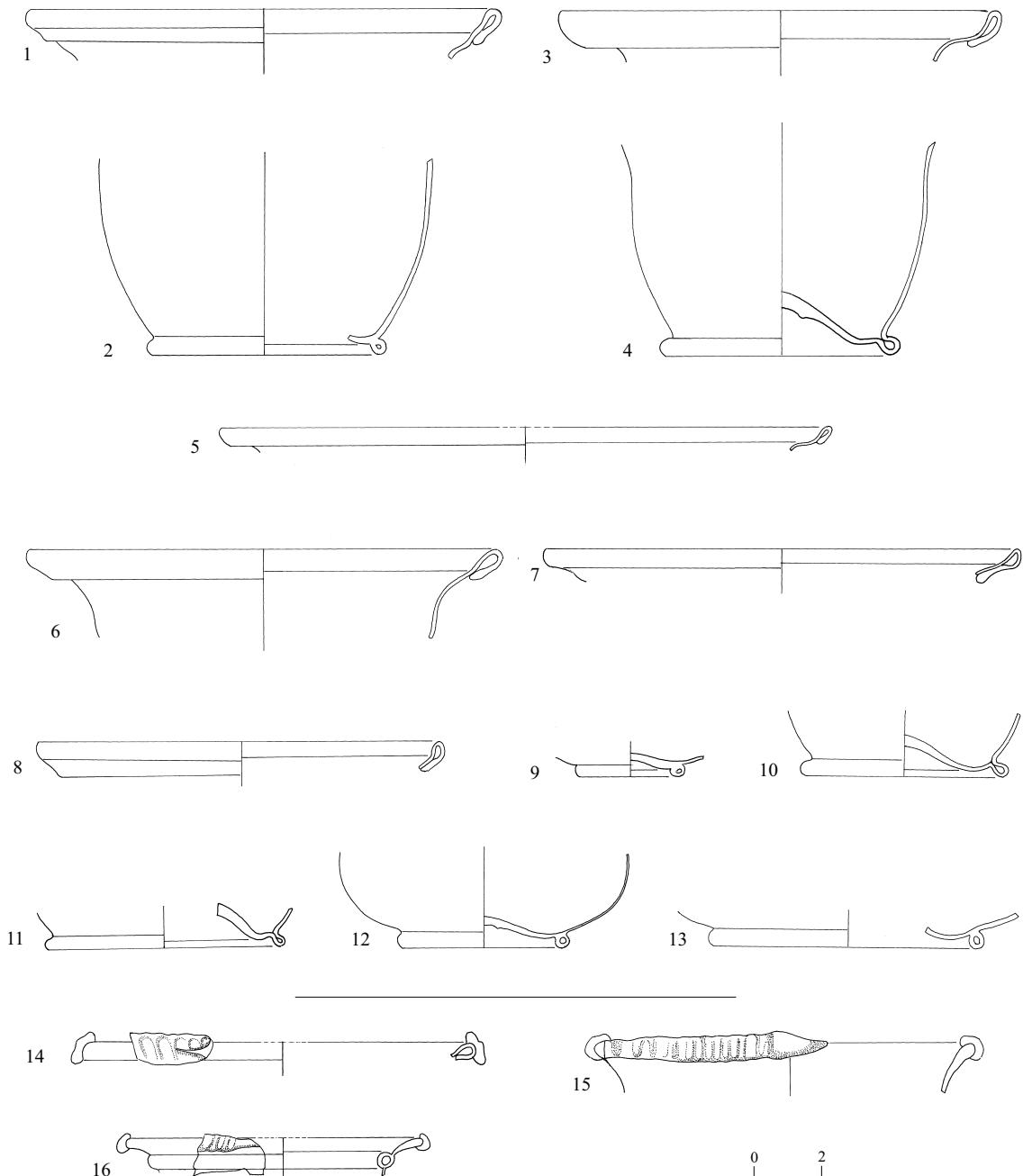


Fig. 1. Glass finds: bowls.

and 16 have diagonal ribs; No. 15 has uneven, vertical ribbing. The shape of the bowls varies: Nos. 14–16 are deep bowls, but wide shallow bowls are also common. Bowl No. 14 has a characteristic hollow outfolded rim, whereas

Nos. 15 and 16 have a simple, rounded, flaring rim, which is less frequent in this type of bowl. Number 16 has an additional hollow fold below the rim. Another variation of these bowls bears a double-fold below a simple rim. Bowls

with a crimped trail on the rim were common in the Roman Empire, especially in the East. Examples are known from Jordan, Asia Minor, Cyprus, Greece, Sardinia, Iberia and North Africa. In Egypt they were quite rare, but in the Eastern Mediterranean they were very popular. The bowls were also found in excavations in present-day Romania, southern Russia, Austria and Switzerland, where they were dated mainly to the first and second centuries CE (Isings 1957:59, Form 43).

In Provincia Iudaea, bowls with a crimped trail on the rim appeared in the late first century (not before 70 CE) and disappeared after the Bar Kokhba Revolt in 132–135 CE (Barag 1970:107–109, 135; Item 6; 139: Item 9–1; Pls. 24, 30:6, 31:9–1). Therefore, their presence in a certain context narrows its dating to a short, defined span of time.

These bowls have been discovered so far in almost every site, which was active from the late first century to the mid-second century, be it a city or settlement, e.g., Banias, Bet She'an, Dor, Caesarea² and 'En Gedi (Jackson-Tal 2005: Fig. 1:8); residential or hiding caves, such as the Cave of Horror (Barag 1962:209–210, Fig. 4), the Cave of the Pool (Avigad 1962:178, Fig. 6:5) and the Cave of the Twins (Bar-Adon 1989:17, Fig. B2:14); or tombs or burial caves, such as at Pella (McNicoll, Smith and Hennessy 1982:144–146, Pl. 132:1, 9, Pl. 133:7; Smith and McNicoll 1992:127, Pl. 87:7).

Rims similar to No. 14 were recently published from Khirbat Badd 'Isa (Qiryat Sefer) (Magen, Tzionit and Sirkis 2004:215, 232–233, Pl. 9: 1–3) and from Bethsaida (Rottloff 2000:142–144, Fig. 3:3). A rim similar to No. 15 was recently published from Cave IV/6 in the northern Judean Desert (Jackson-Tal 2002b:48, Fig. 8). These fragments are all attributed to the time of the Bar Kokhba Revolt.

Complete deep and shallow bowls were discovered, for example, at Capernaum (Loffreda 1984:400, Fig. 6:10–12, 14), in the town site at Samaria (Crowfoot 1957:415, Fig.

96:5), in the Cave of Letters (Barag 1963:104–105, Fig. 38:7), and recently at Horbat Castra (*Castra* 1999:18 bottom).³

Shallow Bowl with Rounded Rim (Fig. 2:17)

This thin-walled shallow bowl has a thickened, rounded, nearly horizontal rim. A similar bowl, dated from the last third of the first century to the early second century CE, was discovered at Capernaum (Loffreda 1984:400, Fig. 6:4). In the western part of the Roman Empire these bowls appeared in the late first century CE and remained in use during the second century CE (Isings 1957:58–59, Form 42a).

Deep Bowl with Flaring Rim and Horizontal Ridge (Fig. 2:18)

This bowl has a rounded flaring rim and a horizontal ridge below it. The walls are thin and convex. A similar bowl, with a low solid ring base, was discovered in a *miqwe* near Alon Shevut, dated to the last third of the first century CE and the first third of the second century CE (Gorin-Rosen 1999:87, Fig. 2:7, and see there for more examples).

Deep Bowls or Beakers (Fig. 2:19–21)

These fragments have thickened, rounded flaring rims. The walls of Nos. 19 and 21 are thin and nearly vertical; those of No. 20 taper downward. Traces of wheel-polishing are apparent below the rims of Nos. 20 and 21. These vessels are characteristic of the late first and early second centuries CE. Similar ones were discovered in the Cave of Horror and at Wadi ed-Daliyah in the Judean Desert, both of the first third of the second century CE (Barag 1962:210, Fig. 3; Weinberg and Barag 1974:104, Pl. 39:5–7). Bowls similar to No. 20 and dated to the last third of the first century and the first third of the second century CE were unearthed at Capernaum (Loffreda 1984: Fig. 6:13) and in a *miqwe* near Alon Shevut (Gorin-Rosen 1999:87, Fig. 2:8). Another Early Roman example comes from 'Ein ez-Zara, Transjordan (Dussart 1997: Pl. 22:10).

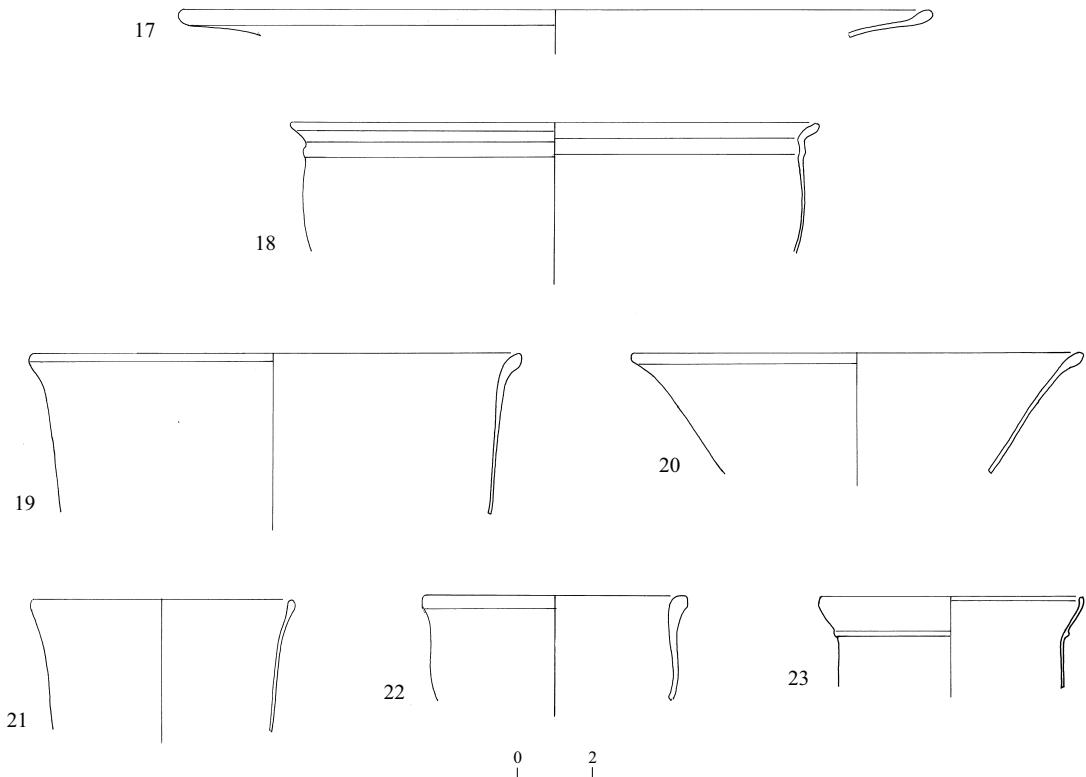


Fig. 2. Glass finds: bowls and beakers.

Colorless Deep Bowl or Beaker (Fig. 2:22)

This fragment was found in a *tabun*. Its rim is thickened, rounded and flaring, and its thick walls are convex. It belonged to a relatively small colorless vessel, which may have had a base like No. 9. A similar, larger, colorless vessel was found at Rujm el-Bahr on the northwest shores of the Dead Sea, dated to the second half of the first century CE and the second century CE (Bar-Adon 1989:11–14, Fig. 11a:11). A much larger greenish-blue example was unearthed in a *miqwe* near Alon Shevut, dated from the last third of the first century CE to the first third of the second century CE (Gorin-Rosen 1999:85–87, Fig. 2:5).

Beaker Adorned with Wound Trail (Fig. 2:23)

The beaker has a rounded flaring rim, slightly incurving at the edge. A thin trail is horizontally wound around the vessel, one centimeter below

the rim. Trail-wound beakers were common in the region in the Late Roman period (e.g., at Hanita, Barag 1978:28–31, Fig. 14:60–65), but this and several other fragments from earlier contexts suggest that this type may have first appeared as early as the late first century CE or the early second century CE. The earlier beakers are characterized by their fineness and high quality, which is displayed in the thin, delicate walls and the meticulous treatment of the wound trail. Two similar vessels, probably of the first century CE, were unearthed at the Amathonte necropolis in Cyprus (Oliver 1992:106, Fig. 5:6, 9). A trail-decorated body fragment, probably of this type, was discovered in a *miqwe* near Alon Shevut, dated from the last third of the first century CE to the first third of the second century CE (Gorin-Rosen 1999:87, Fig. 2:9, and see parallel from the Sela‘ Cave, and discussion, including examples from the West).

BOTTLES AND JUGS

Candlestick-Type Bottles (Fig. 3:24–28)

Candlestick-type bottles occur in different sizes and variations, their height ranging between 6 and 20 cm. They have flaring rims, sometimes folded, either hollow or solid; tall and narrow, usually cylindrical necks, often constricted at their bases; bodies varying in shape; and flat or concave bottoms. Number 24, of poor quality, has an uneven flaring rim, partly infolded at its edge, and a characteristic thin-walled cylindrical neck. Numbers 25 and 26 have uneven, flattened, hollow infolded rims. Bottom No. 27 belonged to a rather small bottle, while No. 28 has a large, squat, triangular-sectioned body and a concave bottom.

Candlestick-type bottles were very popular throughout the Roman Empire and are common

finds in contexts of the late first to mid-third centuries CE throughout the country (Barag 1970:209–212, Fig. 46, Type 21; Winter 1996:96–98, Figs. 5.4–5.5; and see there for more examples). The bottles from 'Ein ez-Zeituna, particularly No. 28, are characteristic of the second century and the early third century CE in Provincia Iudaea and the Phoenician coast (e.g., at Tyre, Chéhab 1986:202, Pl. 4:2). A similar bottle was unearthed in Tomb 7 at Castra.⁴

Jug (Fig. 3:29)

The jug has a flaring, infolded rim and a bulging neck, constricted at its base. The strap handle, thickened at both ends, has nine vertical ridges. It was drawn up from the shoulder, folded down, then up and down again below the rim. The missing body was probably cylindrical or globular.

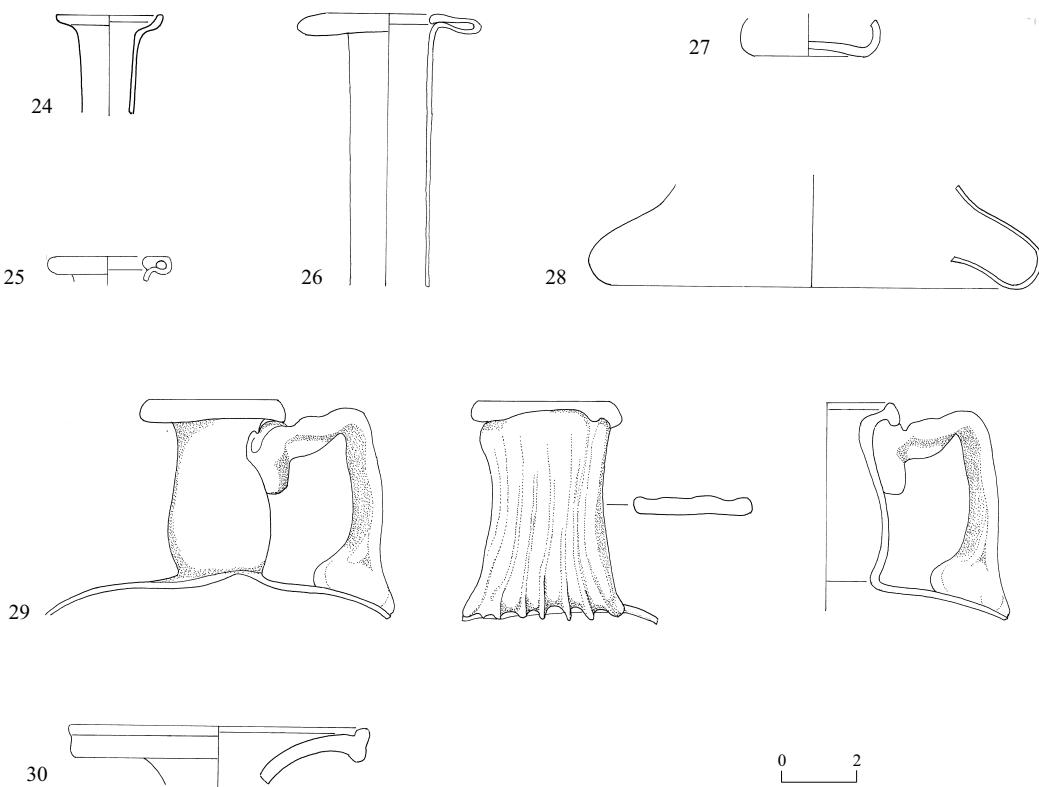


Fig. 3. Glass finds: bottles and jugs.

This type of jug was common in the Roman Empire in the late first and second centuries CE (Isings 1957:67–69, Form 51). A similar complete jug from the first century CE was found in a burial cave at Ha-Gosherim (Ovadiah 1999:41*, Fig. 4:1). A complete jug, with a similar handle but a different rim, was discovered in the Cave of Letters, dated to the early second century CE (Barag 1963:102, Fig. 38:1). In the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto there is a complete vessel from Cyprus, with a different rim, dated to the early–mid-second century CE (Hayes 1975:59, Fig. 4:147, Pl. 11:147).

Bottle or Jug with Ridged Rim (Fig. 3:30)

This thick, flaring rim was folded down and upward, forming a horizontal exterior rib. The rim probably belonged to a bottle or jug with a cylindrical neck constricted at its base, a globular or pear-shaped body and a flat or concave bottom. A similar piece was found at Dura Europus, dated from the second to mid-third centuries CE (Clairmont 1963:107, Pl. 12:504). Bottles with a similar rim were discovered at Karanis, Egypt, and dated to the second and third centuries CE (Harden 1936:186, 203–204, Pl. 18:566, 569, 571). A pear-shaped jug with

a constricted neck and a similar though less flaring rim is in the Cyprus Museum collection (D1475; Vessberg 1952:128, Pl. 5:19).

SUMMARY

The glass corpus from ‘Ein ez-Zeituna consists of domestic, largely undecorated vessels of common types. About eighty percent are bowls and beakers, and the rest are bottles and jugs. The plainness of the shapes and quality of the material, as well as the lack of luxury ware or imported vessels, suggest a local production of glass vessels.

The glass vessels are characteristic of the second half of the first century CE and the first half of the second century CE. A few may appear later in the second century and into the third century CE. The variety of types resembles other contemporaneous corpora (e.g., Capernaum, Tomb 7 at Castra, the Judean Desert caves, the *miqwe* near Alon Shevut), in which bowls with a hollow out-folded rim and ring base, bowls and beakers with a thickened, rounded flaring rim, bowls with crimped trail on rim, deep bowls with flaring rim and horizontal ridge, candlestick-type bottles and cylindrical jugs with strap handle—all appear together.

APPENDIX 1 (and see Figs. 1–3)

Cat. No.	Locus No.	Basket No.	Fragment	Color	Diameter (mm)	Comments
1	132	5790	Rim	Light blue	Rim 135–140	
2	132	5790	Base and wall	Light blue	Base 70	
3	98	5573	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 130	
4	98	5573 and 5593	Base and wall	Light blue	Base 70	
5	31	5138	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 170–200	
6	132	5783	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 136–138	
7	25	5095	Rim	Light blue	Rim 135–140	
8	92	5546	Rim	Light blue	Rim 120	
9	13	5058	Base and wall	Colorless	Base 32	
10	34	5333	Base and wall	Light blue	Base 70	
11	92	5546	Base and wall	Light blue	Base 50	Pontil scar on bottom at center
12	89	5652	Base and wall	Light blue	Base 61	
13	132	5783	Base and wall	Light blue	Base 80	

APPENDIX 1 (and see Figs. 1–3) (cont.)

Cat. No.	Locus No.	Basket No.	Fragment	Color	Diameter (mm)	Comments
14	25	5654	Rim	Light blue	Rim frag. Too small to measure	
15	13	5058	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 110	
16	117	5663	Rim	Light blue	Rim frags. Too small to measure	
17	34	5333	Rim	Light blue	Rim 200	
18	127	5708	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 140	
19	88	5518	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 130	
20	31	5138	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 120	
21	118	5769	Rim and wall	Light blue	Rim 70	
22	102	5568	Rim and wall	Colorless	Rim 70	Wheel polishing traces on exterior
23	34	5333	Rim and wall	Colorless	Rim 70	
24	34	5333	Rim and neck	Light blue	Rim 27–29	
25	7	5025	Rim	Light blue	Rim 30–35	
26	132	5783	Rim and neck	Light green	Rim 46–48	
27	81	5517	Bottom	Light blue	Bottom 30	
28	78	5533	Bottom	Colorless	Bottom 105–110	
29	89	5652	Upper body	Light blue	Rim 35	
30	89	5531	Rim and neck or mouth	Light green	Rim 80	

NOTES

¹ I wish to thank Don Glick, director of the excavation, for the opportunity to study the glass finds, and Yael Gorin-Rosen, for her guidance and advice. The finds were mended by Olga Shorr and drawn by Michael Miles.

² The glass from these sites, which has not yet been published, was studied by Yael Gorin-Rosen. I wish to thank her for bringing this material to my attention. I also wish to thank the directors of these excavations: Vassilios Tzaferis and Shoshana Israeli (Banias), Rachel Bar-Natan and Gaby Mazor (Bet She'an), Ephraim Stern and Bracha Zilberstein (Dor)

and Yosef Porath (Caesarea) for permission to cite these unpublished finds.

³ Tombs 7, 38 and 46 at Castra also yielded these vessels. The material from Castra, which has not yet been published, was studied by Yael Gorin-Rosen and Natalya Katsnelson; I wish to thank them for bringing this material to my attention, and Ze'ev Yeivin and Gerald Finkelsztein, directors of the Castra excavations, for permission to cite these unpublished finds.

⁴ See n. 3 concerning the processing of the material from Castra.

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