

ASPECTS OF PHOENICIAN BURIAL CUSTOMS IN THE ROMAN PERIOD IN LIGHT OF AN EXCAVATION NEAR EL-KABRI (KABRI)*

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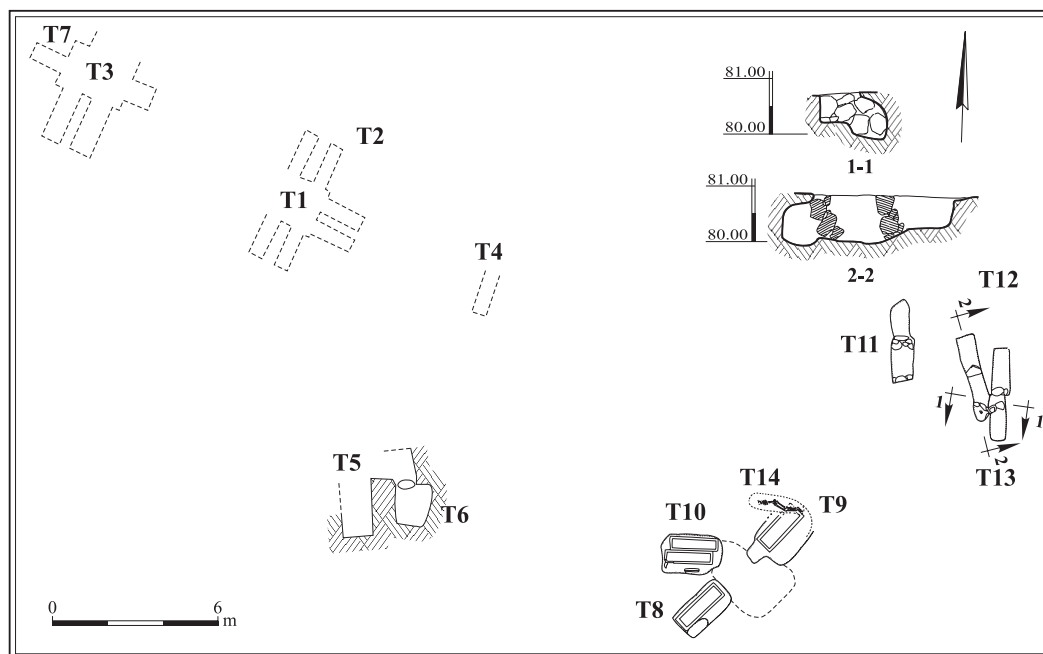
INTRODUCTION

In May 1997 a salvage excavation was conducted in ancient tombs, exposed while digging by mechanical means within the Kabri regional school compound.¹ The site (map ref. NIG 2146/7685, OIG 1646/2684), located on a hill composed of very soft chalk (*nari*), served as the cemetery of an ancient settlement on the site of the village of El-Kabri, about 800 m to the northwest (Rutgaizer 2000; Smithline 2004). About 200 m west of the excavation, seven burial caves were discovered in an earlier survey and excavation (Getzov 1995:1–4; Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:1–22; Fig. 1): one from the Intermediate Bronze Age (T2), one from

the Early Roman period (T3), three from the Roman period (T1, T5, T6), and two were not excavated (T4, T7).

In the present excavation seven more tombs were found (Plan 1). They belong to three types: Type A includes three tombs (T8–10), apparently with *kokhim* (*loculi*) that held clay coffins; Type B also includes three tombs (T11–13), each with a rectangular shaft that led to a single *kokh*; Type C includes a single tomb (T14)—a pit dug into the ground. Types A and B date to the Late Roman period and Type C to the Ottoman period.

* In memory of Michael Miles who drew the glass vessels and did not live to see the publication of his artistic and exacting draftsmanship.



Plan 1. Plan of the excavated tombs at El-Kabri.

TYPE A TOMBS (T8–10)

This group of three tombs was found after a mechanical excavator exposed the edges of two clay coffins. Limited information was gained about the plan of these tombs due to damage caused above the tops of the coffins, prior to their excavation.

TOMB 8

All that is left of T8 is a rectangular pit oriented northeast–southwest (Fig. 1). A clay coffin was placed at the bottom of the tomb beside the northwestern wall, so that the space along the opposite southeastern wall was wider than along the other walls. The coffin was found covered by three upside-down flat clay roof tiles (*tegulae*) and one connecting tile (*imbrex*). The tiles had fallen into the coffin, but it is clear that it had not been opened since the last use of the tomb. Four glass bowls and an iron nail were found in the coffin, on top of the tiles. Apparently the vessels had been placed on the tiles and some vessel fragments fell into the coffin through the spaces between the tiles.

Anatomically articulated bone fragments were found inside the coffin, indicating that a single individual was interred on his back, with his head to the northeast. The poor state of preservation of the bones precluded the possibility of determining the sex or age. Many bones and glass fragments were found in the spaces between the coffin and the walls



Fig. 1. Tomb 8, before removal of the covering tiles, looking northwest.

of the tomb. A bone repository was found in the southern corner of the tomb. The bones in the repository and in the spaces between the coffin and the walls belonged to at least two individuals, one aged between 17 and 20, and the other, older than 17 years.²

Besides the glass fragments, the tomb yielded meager finds. A single nail was found in the bone repository. The finds were numbered according to the following loci: L81—general locus of T8; L82—finds above the covering tiles; L83—finds from the coffin; L84—finds from around the coffin and in the bone repository.

Clay Coffin

1. Clay coffin, three flat roof tiles (*tegulae*) and one *imbrex*.

The coffin is similar to others found in the excavation (see No. 29, below) and is of a type common in western Galilee (Aviam and Stern 1997a). The coffin has an out-turned ledge rim. At the junction of the rim and the short sides there is a small notch, apparently created when the artisan joined the rim to the body. The notch was smoothed out along the long sides, but left as is along the short. The coffin is 185 cm long, 45 cm wide and 28 cm high. The width of the ledge rim is 10 cm. The tiles covering the coffin are common in western Galilee burials, and all belong to Type 2 of the three types described by Smithline (1997:49). This type has high flanges along both long sides and a lower ridge parallel to one of the short sides, set further in from the edge (see No. 69, below). The tiles have a reddish fabric and average 62.5 cm in length, 51 cm in estimated width and 4.7 cm in height. The *imbrex* is similar to the one found in T10 (see No. 72, below).

Glass Vessels

Fragments of three oval glass bowls were found in the bone repository.

2. Oval shallow bowl (84-367/1; Fig. 2:2). Complete profile, mended, many fragments missing. Blown and tooled vessel. Colorless glass with light green tinge. Black, silver and

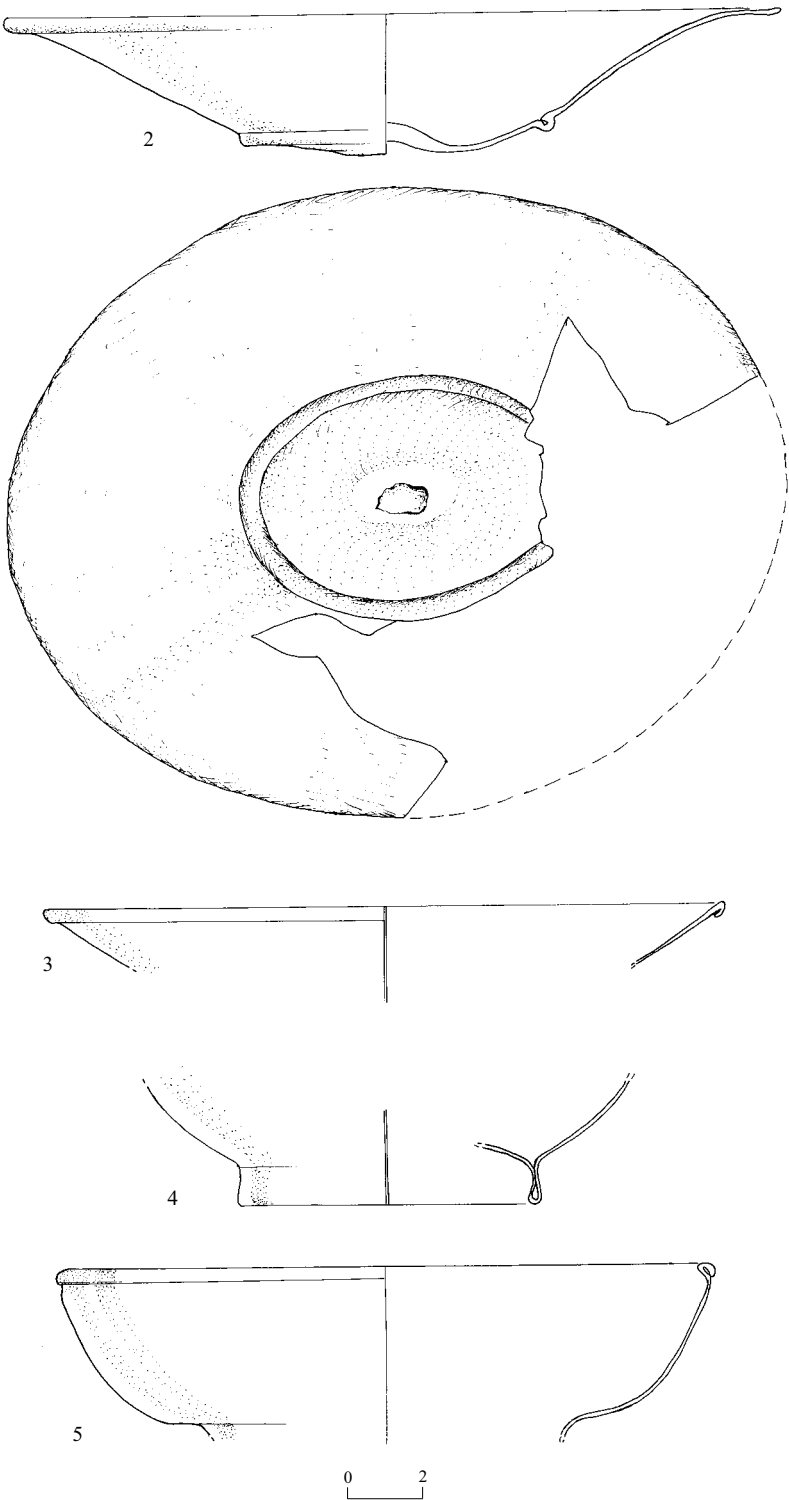


Fig. 2. Glass bowls from Tomb 8.

enameled-like weathering. Lime deposits and iridescent film. Very thin walls. Uneven thick rounded rim and slanting walls. Uneven tooled-out base. Oval thickened ring base. Pontil scar (1.2 cm). Rim diam. c. 20.5 × 16.0 cm; base diam. c. 9.5 × 6.5 cm; height: c. 3.7 cm.

3. Oval shallow bowl (84-367/2; Fig. 2:3). Rim, mended from several fragments. Blown and tooled vessel. Colorless glass, severely pitted. Black and white and enameled-like weathering and iridescent film. Very thin walls. Thickened, rounded, out-turned rim. Slanting walls. Rim diam. 18 cm.

4. Oval shallow bowl (84-367; Fig. 2:4). Part of base and wall, mended from several fragments. Blown and tooled vessel. Same fabric as No. 3. Pushed-in base. Hollow ring base. base diam. 8 cm.

Fragments of Nos. 3 and 4 are most likely of bowls similar to No. 2, but apparently rounder. The fabric of all three bowls is very similar. Oval bowls are uncommon in Israel and better known in Egypt, e.g., the oval bowls that were found at Karanis. These bowls were introduced there during the late third century CE, and were popular during the fourth and the fifth centuries CE (Harden 1936:48–53, Pl. 1). The bowls from Kabri are not identical to those from Karanis; they differ in the base and rim shape, but share the main characteristic of an oval-shaped shallow bowl.

5. Bowl (83-309; Fig. 2:5). Upper fragment, base missing, mended, many parts missing. Light bluish-green glass, pitted, patches of black enamel-like weathering and iridescence. Incurving out-folded rim; incurving walls. Polishing marks on exterior. Rim diam. 22 cm.

6. Bowl (84-326; not illustrated). Fragment of rim, mended. Bluish-green glass, pitted, black and rusty crust weathering, lime deposits and iridescent. Flaring, out-folded hollow rim. Similar to No. 30 (below). Rim diam. 18 cm.

Iron Nail

7. Iron³ nail (84-345; Fig. 3). Square section and a round head, broken at the end. Preserved length: 3 cm.

Such nails are occasionally found in Roman burials and indicate the presence of wooden objects that were not preserved (e.g., Smithline 1997:53, Fig. 9:1, 2; Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:17, Fig. 9:23, 24).

TOMB 9

The plan of T9 (Plan 1; Fig. 4) is very similar to that of T8. The tomb was damaged by T14 that cut into the northeastern corner of the T9 coffin and smashed the cover tiles. Tile fragments were found both inside and outside the coffin. A concentration of bones and other artifacts was found at the southwestern corner of the coffin, apparently moved there during the construction of T14. The bones belong to three individuals, a child younger than 15 years, and a man and a woman, one of whom was 15–20 years old. Glass vessel fragments, three coins, two spindle whorls, beads and a bronze bell were found together with the bones.⁴ One of the spindle whorls (No. 22, see below) was found in the bottom of the tomb, beneath the clay coffin. A coin found in T14 and dating to the second century CE is presented here, since it presumably originated in T9. The finds were numbered according to the following loci: L91—general locus of T9; L93—finds from the coffin; L94—finds from outside the coffin.



Fig. 3. Iron nail from Tomb 8.

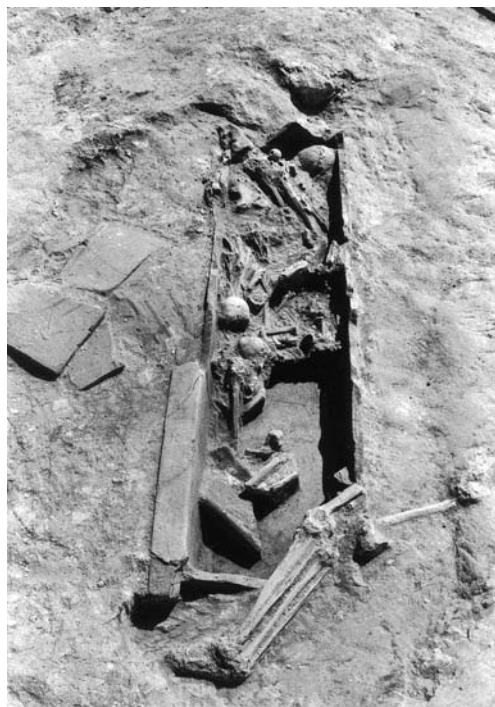


Fig. 4. Tombs 9 and 14, looking southwest.

Clay Coffin

8. Clay coffin and fragments of roof tiles. Similar to the one in T8; 180 cm long, 43.5 cm wide and 26 cm high. Width of rim: 10 cm. Tiles are similar to those in T8, but their fragmentary state prevented measurement.

Glass Vessels

Fragments of glass vessels were found inside and outside the clay coffin.

9. Shallow bowl (91-305/7; Fig. 5:9). The upper and lower parts of the same vessel. Light bluish-green glass, patches of black and rusty weathering and lime deposits. Iridescent film. Small and medium bubbles. Very thin walls. Hollow, out-splayed, out-folded rim. Almost flat base with thick concavity in the center and low, tooled-out, hollow base-ring. Pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (2 cm). Rim diam. 20 cm; base diam. 10.5 cm; height 4.9 cm.

10. Shallow bowl (91-305/6; Fig. 5:10). The upper and lower parts of the same vessel. Colorless glass

with light green tinge, pitted, patches of black and rusty weathering, iridescence. The base is covered with lime deposits. Hollow, out-splayed, out-folded rim. Base with a thickened concavity in the center and a low hollow base-ring. Large pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (3 cm). Rim diam. 22 cm; base diam. 9.7 cm.

Bowls 9 and 10 are of the same type of shallow bowl with an out-folded rim and tubular base-ring. This type is very common in burial contexts dating to the third century CE in western Galilee and was found at Hurfeish Burial Cave D, Hanita, Kabri T1 and Kafr Yasif, as well as in Cyprus (Gorin-Rosen 2002:147*–149*, Fig. 6:15–16, and see references therein).

11. Oval bowl (91-305/5; Fig. 5:11). Almost complete rim, mended from many fragments. Light green glass. Black and rusty crust, lime deposits. Small and medium horizontal oval bubbles. Incurving rounded thickened rim. Slanting walls. Max. rim diam. 22 cm.

12. High base of oval bowl (94-369/1; Fig. 6:12). Part of base and wall, mended from several fragments. Light greenish glass, pitted, patches of blackish weathering, iridescence and lime deposits. High hollow ring base. Center of base thickened and convex in center. Pontil mark (1.5 cm). Base diam. 10 cm.

13. Oval bowl (94-305; not illustrated). Rim, mended from many fragments. Light green glass. Black and rusty iridescence and lime deposits. Uneven, out-folded thickened rounded rim, uneven walls.

14. High base of oval bowl (94-305; not illustrated). Part of base and wall mended from several fragments. Same fabric as No. 13. High tubular ring base.

Bowls 11–14 are made of a similar fabric and it is possible that base No. 12, in fact, belongs to rim No. 11 and that base No. 14 belongs to rim No. 13 and *vice versa*. The oval shape of the bowls is

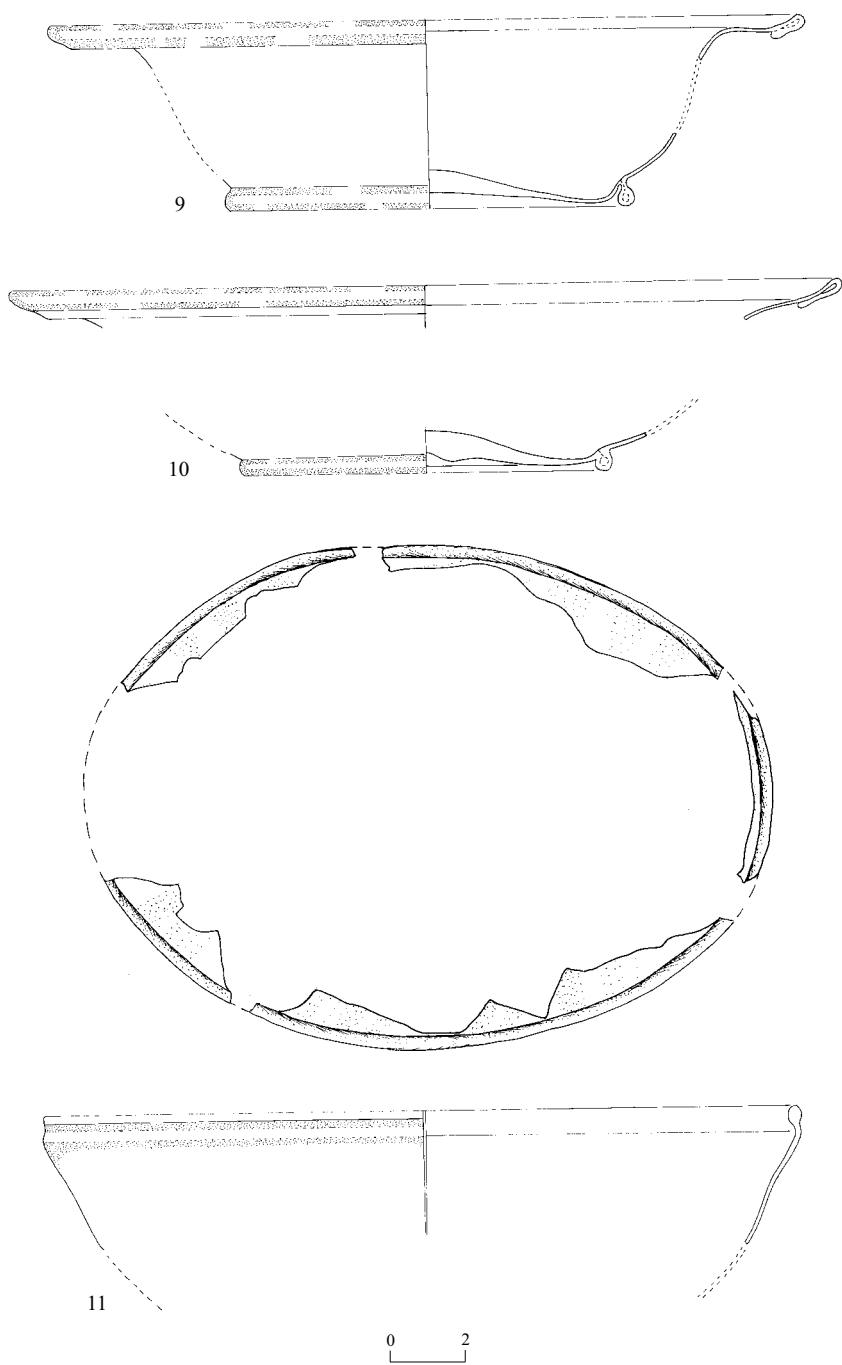


Fig. 5. Glass bowls from Tomb 9.

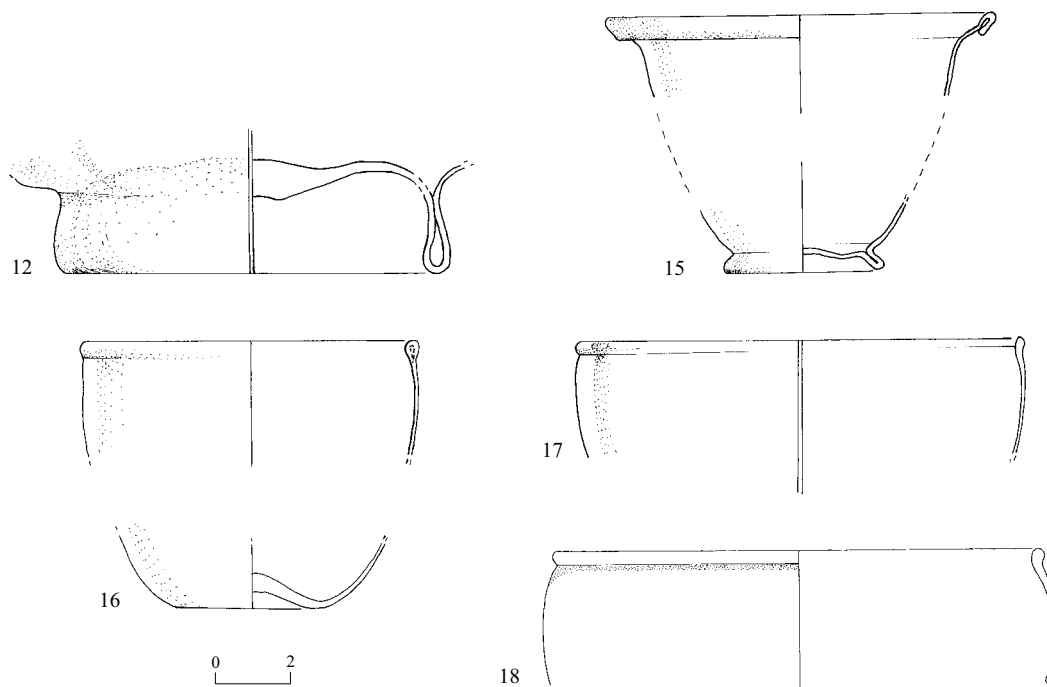


Fig. 6. Glass bowls from Tomb 9 (cont.).

similar to Nos. 2 and 3, with no known parallels from this region. Therefore, it is possible that they are products of a local workshop.⁵

15. Small bowl (94-369/2; Fig. 6:15). Two parts of what appear to be the upper and lower parts of a single vessel. Almost colorless glass with a greenish tinge. Pitted, black and rusty weathering, iridescence and lime deposits. Upright, slightly thickened rounded rim. In-curving walls. Rim diam. 11 cm.

16. Small bowl (91-305/4; Fig. 6:16). The upper and lower parts of a single vessel. Colorless green tinted glass. Black and rusty weathering, lime crust deposits. Very thin walls. Rounded, uneven, thickened rim. Straight walls. Small, uneven concave base. Traces of pontil. Rim diam. 8.5 cm; base diam. 3.5 cm.

17. Hemispherical bowl (91-305/2; Fig. 6:17). Upper part fragment, base missing. Colorless

green tinted glass. Black and rusty weathering, lime crust deposits. Upright, slightly thickened rounded rim. In-curving walls. Rim diam. 11 cm.

18. Hemispherical bowl (91-305/1; Fig. 6:18). Upper part fragment, base missing. Colorless green tinted glass. Black and rusty weathering, lime crust deposits. Upright, slightly thickened rounded rim. Curving walls. Rim diam. 13 cm.

Bowls 16 and 17 are generally similar to a bowl from Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:153*–154*, Fig. 9:29), but the molding or rim is a little different. Bowls similar to No. 15 were found at Tell es-Sumeiriya, Ḥanita and Cyprus (Gorin-Rosen 1997a:41–43, Fig. 3:1, see references therein).

Bracelets

19. Silver bracelet (94-385; Fig. 7:19). The bracelet is a rounded silver wire with flattened ends decorated with engraved serpent heads. Diam. 3–4 cm.

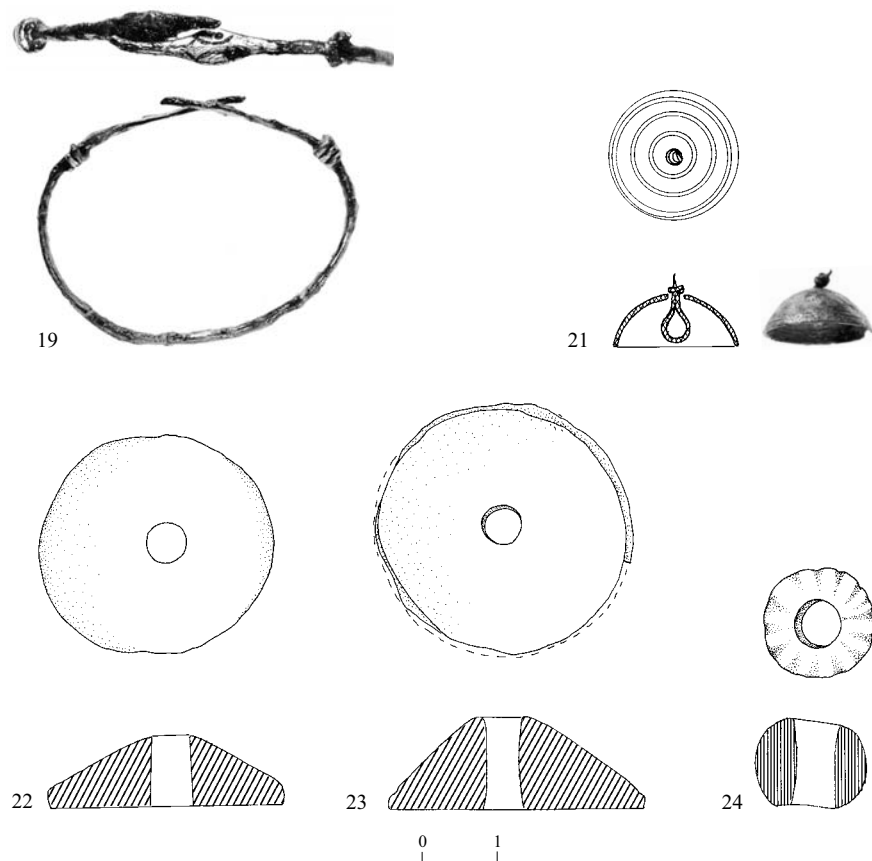


Fig. 7. Finds from Tomb 9.

20. A fragment of another, identical, silver bracelet (94-366; not illustrated) was found.

The bracelets are very small and probably belonged to a child. They are made of a rounded wire with flattened ends that are twisted spirally around the wire. The flattened parts are decorated with engraved serpent heads. This type is a very common find in Roman burials dating to the third and early fourth centuries CE in western Galilee. Bracelets of this type are made of either bronze or silver. Similar bracelets were found at Kabri T1, Asherat, Hurfeish, Tell es-Sumeiriya⁶, Yehi'am and Hanita (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:17, Fig. 9; see references therein, and Abu Uqsa 1997:40, Fig. 1:3–5). They were also found in what seems to be earlier burial contexts at, for

example, Gesher Ha-Ziv, dated from the first century CE to the beginning of the third (Mazar 1994:87, Fig. 8), or in later burial contexts at, for example, Kisra Burial Cave 2, dating from the fourth and beginning of the fifth centuries CE (Stern 1997:121–123, Fig. 12:45, 55, 56). It seems that this type of bracelet was very popular in the third and early fourth centuries CE. It appears that the depictions of the serpent heads are more finely executed on the earlier bracelet types and very schematic or absent altogether on later types.

Bracelets of this type can also be found, but are quite rare, in burial contexts in geographic areas other than western Galilee, for example Kh. Sabiya (Ayalon 1994:37*, Fig. 12:1). Bracelets with depictions of serpents were well known in the Hellenistic and Early Roman

periods (Higgins 1961:187). However, in western Galilee they seem to be very popular in a slightly later period, during the third and early fourth centuries CE. We cautiously suggest that this type of bracelet might be Phoenician.

Bronze Bell

21. Bronze bell (94-381/1; Fig. 7:21). Dome-shaped bell with a decoration on the exterior of three pairs of parallel incised lines. Height 0.7 cm; diam. 1.6 cm.

This bronze bell seems to be part of a piece of jewelry and could have been hung from a bracelet or a necklace. Bronze bells of different shapes were found in Roman and Byzantine burial contexts in sites throughout the country, such as Tarshiḥa, El-Jish, Kisra, Tell es-Sumeiriya, Samaria, Jerusalem and Netiv Ha-Lamed-He (Stern 1997:124, Fig. 13:59, 60; see references therein).

Bronze bells of similar shape were found in tombs near Metulla dating from the third to sixth centuries CE (Tzaferis 1982:30, Pl. VII:4), at Dominus Flevit in Jerusalem (Bagatti and Milik 1958:154, Fig. 36:37, 38) and near Netiv Ha-Lamed-He dating to the Byzantine period (Barag 1974: 87, Fig. 3:5).

Spindle Whorls

22. Spindle whorl (94-386; Fig. 7:22). Made of schist.⁷ Conical, traces of oxidized iron on both sides of hole. Height 1 cm; diam. 3 cm; diam. of hole: 0.5 cm; weight 11.64 g.

23. Spindle whorl (94-381/3; Fig. 7:23). Made of schist. Conical, traces of oxidized iron on both sides of hole. Height 1.3 cm; diam. 3.5 cm; diam. of hole 0.5 cm; weight 16.12 g.

Spindle whorls are a common find in burials in western Galilee and seem to represent the personal belongings of the deceased. Similar spindle whorls were found in burials contemporary to those at Kabri in Tell es-Sumeiriya, some in clay coffins (Peleg 1991:142, Fig. 13:15–17; Shourkin 1999:154, Fig. 22:1, 2). Such spindle whorls were found in burial and

settlement contexts in geographical areas other than western Galilee, such as Jalame, Jerusalem, Nasbeh and Horbat Shema' (Berry 1988:237, Fig. 8-8:73, 74; see references therein). Traces of oxidized iron on both sides of the hole were also found on a spindle whorl from Tell es-Sumeiriya (Peleg 1991:142, 148–149, No. 66, Fig. 13:16). A spindle whorl with a fragment of a bronze nail was found at Hurfeish Burial Cave 1 (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:28, Fig. 2:8). The metal traces may indicate that a metal device was used to secure the wooden spindle stick to the stone spindle whorl.

Bead

24. Glass bead (94-381/1; Fig. 7:24), made of bluish green faience. Rounded with shallow grooves. Length 1.2 cm.

This type of bead is known as a 'Melon bead' and is very common in Roman- and early Byzantine-period sites throughout the country (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 18:134; Berry 1988:230, Fig. 8-3:19).

Coins

Four coins were uncovered:

25. Autonomous Tyre (94-307; Syon, this volume: No. 1), dated 93–136 CE (found in T14, see below).

26. Autonomous Tyre (94-384; Syon, this volume: No. 2), dated 93–136 CE.

27. Tyre under Elagabalus (91-357; Syon, this volume: No. 7), dated 219–222 CE (found during sieving).

28. 'Akko-Ptolemais under Gallienus (?) (91-356; Syon, this volume: No. 8), dated 253–268 CE(?) (found during sieving).

TOMB 10

The layout of T10 (Plan 1) is similar to that of T8 and T9, but T10 contained two clay coffins laid side by side on an east–west axis. Coffin A

was adjacent to the northern wall and Coffin B was next to it (Fig. 8). There was a wider space between coffin B and the southern wall than between the coffins and the other walls, similar to T8 and T9.

Coffin A was covered by three tiles laying right side up, upon which two groups of glass vessels were placed. The smaller group on the western side contained five vessels; the larger group, on the eastern side, contained ten (Fig. 9). One coin was found on the center tile. Although the tiles collapsed and the vessels broke, their original position was easily discernible.



Fig. 8. Tomb 10, after removal of tiles from Coffin B (top of photo) and before removal of tiles from Coffin A, looking south. Locations of glass vessels indicated by catalogue numbers.

After removing the tiles, meager remains of bones of an adult over 16 years old were found. Grave goods found inside Coffin A included beads, bracelets and a ring in the presumed position of the right hand, a kohl stick near the presumed position of the head, a spindle whorl in the presumed position of the left hand and a coin, apparently in the right hand. Iron sandal rivets were found during sieving so that their original position could not be reconstructed (Fig. 10). The nature and position of the finds suggest that the deceased was a woman laid with her head to the east.

Coffin B was also covered by three tiles: two upside down and one right side up. There were glass fragments above the tiles. Some sandal rivets were found in the center of the coffin. Some bone fragments of an adult, their state of preservation too poor to determine sex or age, were found in the western part.

After the coffins were removed, the bones of at least three individuals were found around and between the coffins. The skull of an adult covered by an *imbrex*, was found in the wide space south of Coffin B. Again, the poor state of the bones precluded determination of sex or age. Many glass vessels were found with the bones; most were broken during the use of the

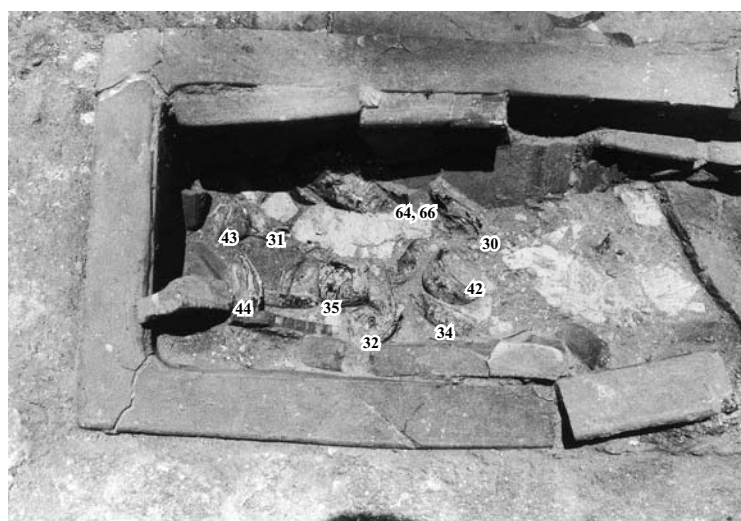


Fig. 9. Coffin A in Tomb 10, looking south. Locations of glass vessels on tiles near the head indicated by catalogue numbers.

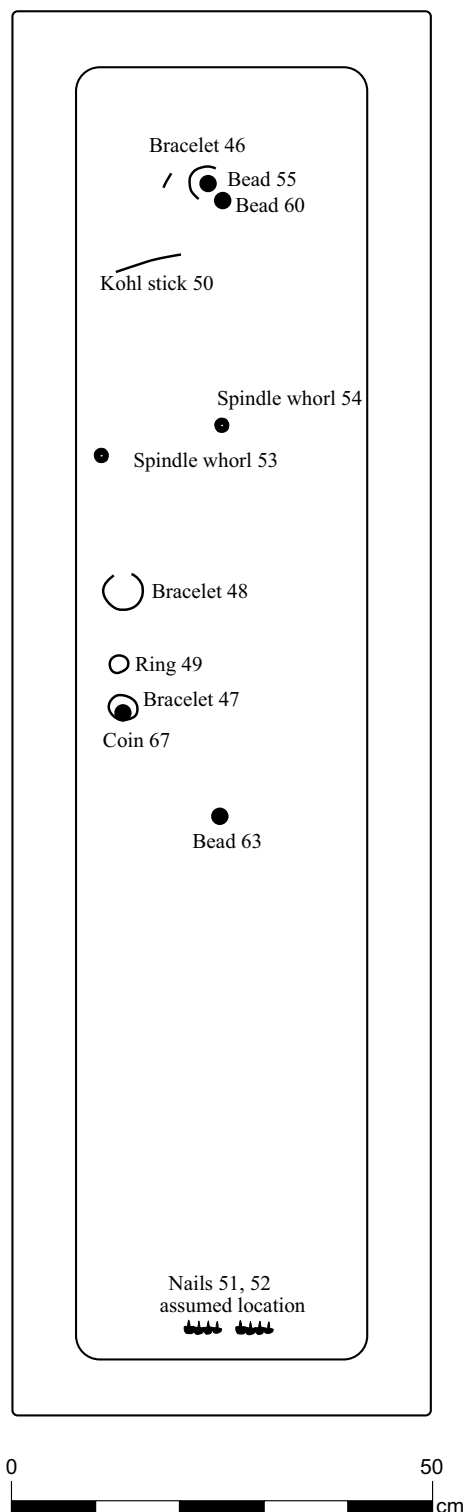


Fig. 10. Location of the grave goods in Coffin A, looking east. The nails were found during sieving and their location in this figure is assumed.

tombs. However two intact vessels were found: a bottle near the northeastern corner and a bowl that was tucked into a gap beneath the wide rims of the coffins.

The finds were numbered according to the following loci: L102—finds above the covering tiles of Coffin A; L103—finds from Coffin A; L104—finds above the covering tiles of Coffin B; L105—finds from Coffin B; L106—finds from outside the coffins.

The Finds from Coffin A

Clay Coffin

29. Clay coffin and three roof tiles (Fig. 11). Coffin A is similar to the coffin in T8, but smaller. It is 172 cm long, 34 cm wide and 24 cm high. The width of the ledge rim is 8.5 cm. The tiles are similar to those in T8, except the clay is yellowish, they are smaller and they are trapezoidal due to unequal short sides. Their average length is 57.5 cm, average width near the low ridge 48 cm, average width of the side opposite the low ridge 43.5 cm, and average flange height 3.7 cm.

Glass Vessels

30. Large, shallow bowl (102-341; Fig. 12:30). Complete profile, mended, many parts missing. Bluish-green glass, pitted, silverish and black enamel-like weathering, rust patches and iridescence. Slightly flared, thickened rounded rim; short upright walls curving under the rim to a near-flat floor. Polishing marks on exterior. Thickened concavity in center of base. Hollow base-ring; pontil scar (1.4 cm). Rim diam. 25.7 cm; base diam. 12.8 cm; height 5.5 cm.

Bowl 30 is of a type of shallow bowl with rounded rim that is common in burial contexts dating to the third to early fourth centuries CE in western Galilee. This type was found in Hurfeish Burial Cave D, Hanita, Asherat Burial Cave 1, H. 'Eitayim⁸ Burial Cave 1 and Cyprus (Gorin-Rosen 2002:140*, 142*–143*, Fig. 2: 5, 6, and see references therein).

31. Shallow bowl (102-329; Fig. 12:31). Restored profile, mended, many fragments

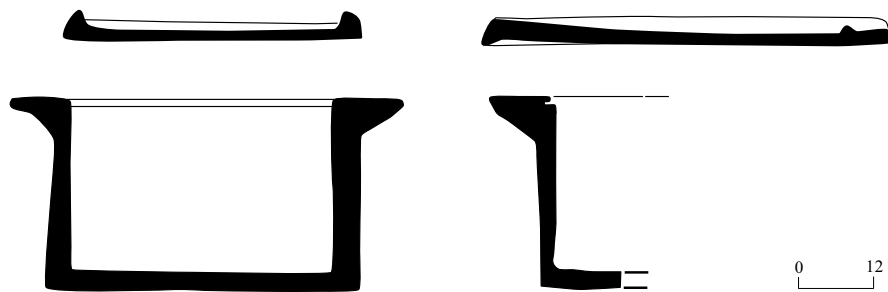


Fig. 11. Coffin A from Tomb 10 and one of its covering tiles.

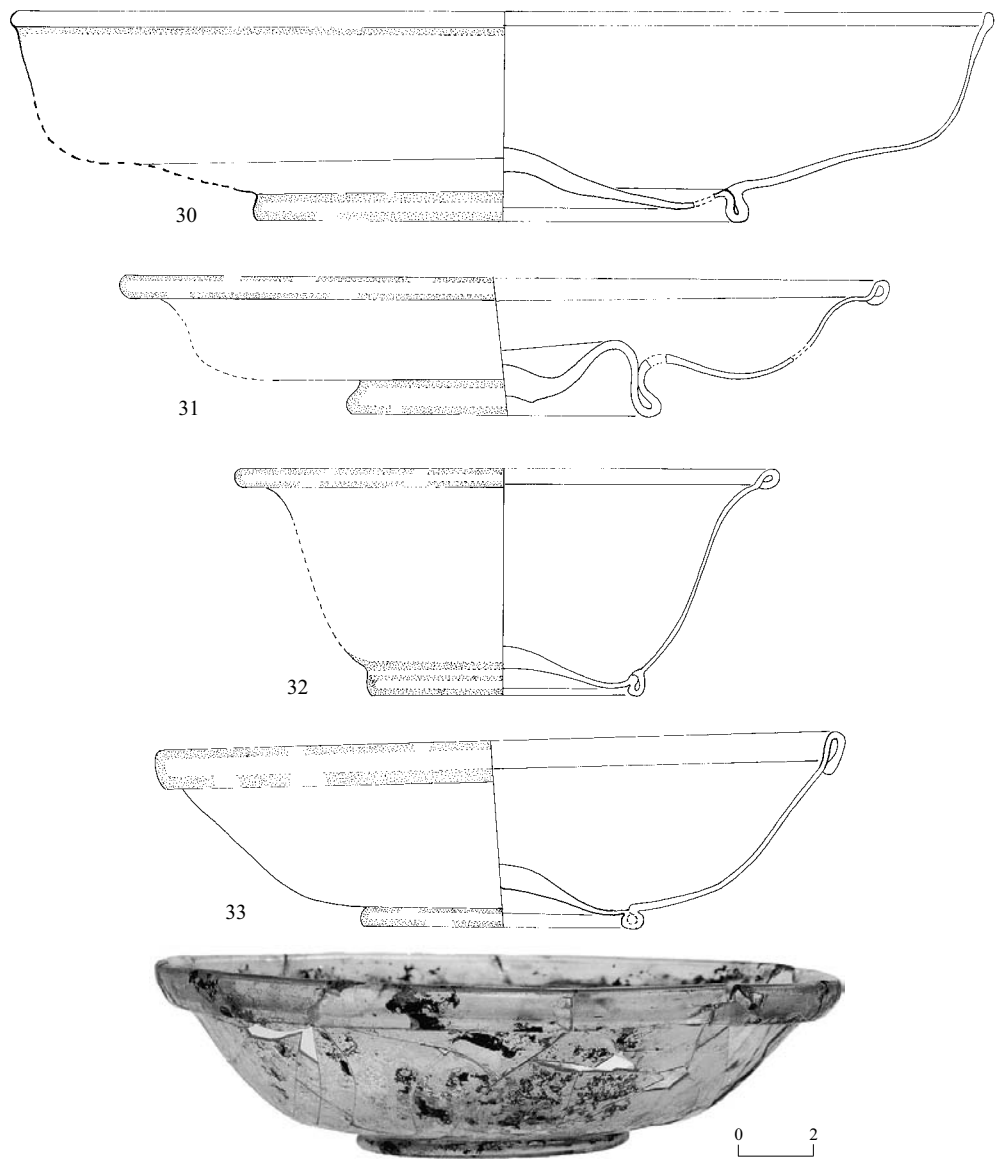


Fig. 12. Glass bowls from Coffin A in Tomb 10 (L102).

missing. Light bluish-green glass, pitted, patches of black and enamel-like weathering. Iridescent film. Hollow, out-splayed, out-folded rim. Uneven, slanting wall. Pushed-in base with thick concavity in its center and low, tooled-out, hollow base-ring. Pontil scar (1.5 cm). Rim diam. 20 cm; base diam. 8 cm; height 3.6 cm.

32. Deep bowl (102-334/1; Fig. 12:32). Complete profile, many fragments missing from body. Colorless glass, pitted, small patches of black and silver weathering and lime deposits. Iridescent. Very thin walls and very fine ware. Flaring, out-folded hollow rim. Thick concavity in center of base and a tooled hollow base-ring. Pontil scar with traces of glass (1.5 cm). Rim diam. 14 cm; base diam. 7 cm; height 6 cm.

Bowl 32 is of a type of deep bowl with out-folded rim and tubular ring-base. This type is common in burial contexts dating from the third to early fourth centuries CE in western Galilee. This type was found in Hurfeish Burial Cave D, Hurfeish Burial Caves 1 and 3, Kabri Burial Cave 1, Kafr Yasif and different burial groups at Tell el-Sumeiriya, as well as in Cyprus (Gorin-Rosen 2002:148*–149*, Fig. 6:18, and see there for other references).

33. Bowl (102-338; Fig. 12:33). Complete, mended, with parts missing from body. Light green glass, severely pitted, thick black weathering, lime deposits and iridescence. Upright, out-folded hollow rim. Slanting walls curving under base. Pushed-in base with thick concavity in its center and a low, probably hollow base-ring. Large pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (1.6 cm). Rim diam. 17.8 cm; base diam. 7.1 cm; height 4.9 cm.

A bowl similar to Bowl 33, but not identical, was found at a burial cave at Yehi'am dated to the third and first half of the fourth centuries CE (Tzaferis 1969:72, Fig. 2:1).

34. Bowl (102-332+334/2; not illustrated). Almost complete profile, reconstructed of separated lower and upper parts. Light green glass, pitted, patches of black and milky enamel-

like weathering. Hollow, out-splayed, out-folded rim. Curving walls, tooled hollow base-ring with concavity in its center. Pontil scar (1.4 cm). Rim diam. 14.5 cm; base diam. 8.5 cm.

Bowl 34 is the same as Bowls 9 and 10. See references therein.

35. Beaker (102-333; Fig. 13:35). Complete profile, mended, parts missing. Purple glass. Severely pitted, patches of black and milky weathering. Iridescence. Flaring, rounded thickened uneven rim. Sack-shaped body. Uneven horizontal trail in green applied 1.2 cm below the rim. Flattened base with thickened concavity in center. Pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (1 cm). Rim diam. 5.1 cm; base diam. 3.5 cm; height 8.9 cm.

Purple glass with a green trail is a very uncommon combination.

36. Beaker (102-360; not illustrated). Fragment of base. Light green glass. Severely pitted, black and silver weathering. Iridescence. Slightly concave bottom. Pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (0.7 cm). Similar to No. 35, but larger. Base diam. 5 cm.

Beakers 35 and 36 are of a type of sack-shaped beaker that is common in burial contexts dating to the third to early fourth centuries CE in western Galilee. This type was found at Hurfeish Burial Cave D, Hanita, H. 'Eitayim and Kafr Yasif, as well as in Cyprus (Gorin-Rosen 2002:154*–156*, Fig. 10:33, and see references therein).

37. Beaker (102-337/1; Fig. 13:37). Upper part fragment, base missing. Colorless green tinted glass, pitted. Black and white weathering and iridescence. Upright, slightly thickened rounded rim. Overlapping horizontal trail of the same color as the vessel applied 1.5 cm below the rim. Cylindrical body, slightly widening toward the bottom. Rim diam. 6.7 cm.

38. Beaker (102-337/2; Fig. 13:38). Base fragment. Light bluish-green glass, pitted.

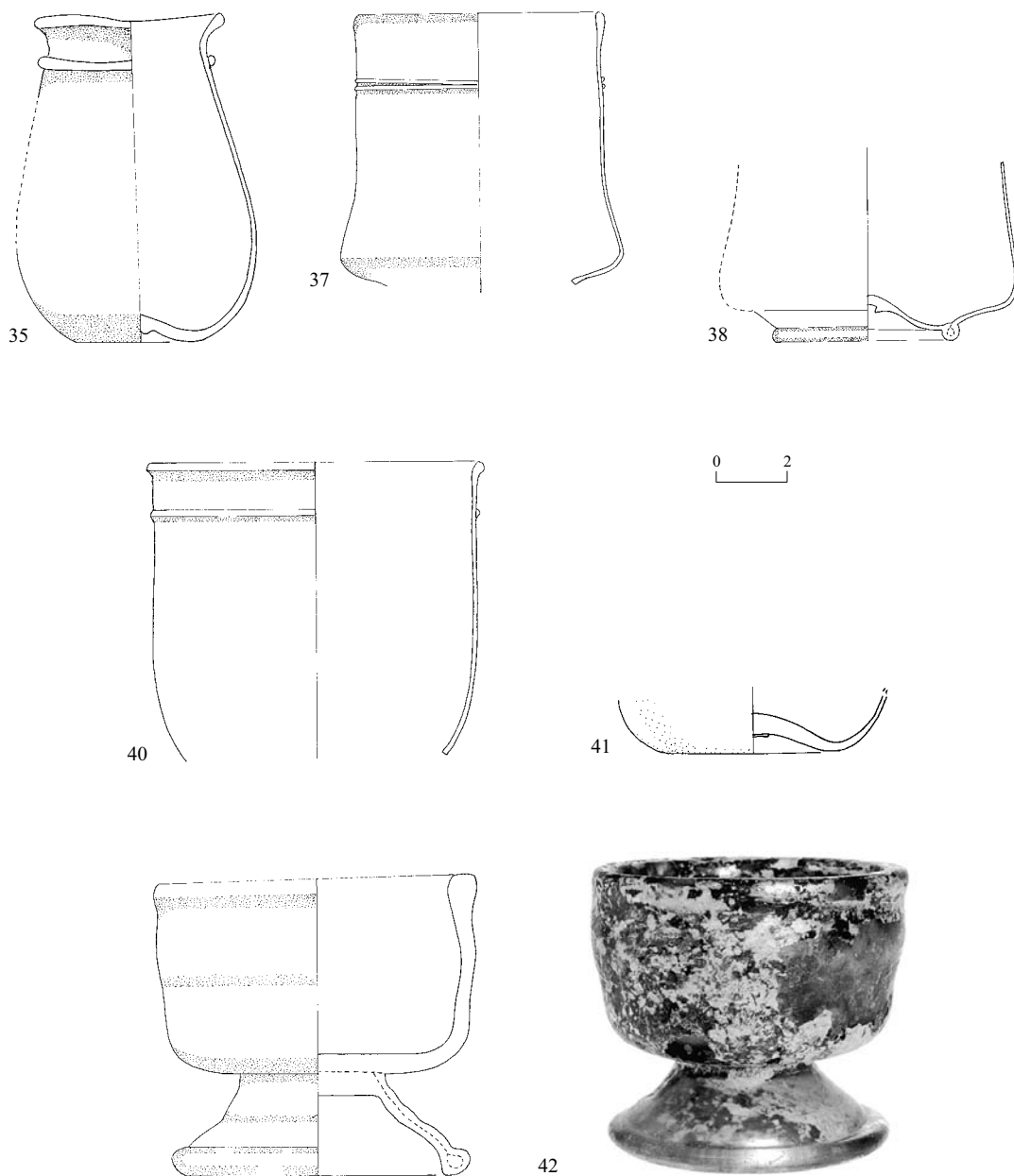


Fig. 13. Glass bowls and beakers from Coffin A in Tomb 10 (L102).

Black and white enamel-like weathering and iridescence. Cylindrical body, slightly widening toward the bottom. Pushed-in concave bottom thickened in center. Low tubular base-ring. Crude pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (1.2 cm). Base diam. 4.8 cm.

39. Beaker (102-360/1; not illustrated). Base fragment. Similar to No. 38. Light green glass. Black crust and iridescence. Base diam. 4 cm.

Beakers 37–39 are of a type of short cylindrical beaker with a tubular base-ring that is common

in burial contexts dating to the third century CE in the western Galilee. This type was found at Hurfeish Burial Cave D, Hurfeish Burial Cave 2 and Peqi'in, as well as in unpublished tomb groups in Galilee (Gorin-Rosen 2002:157*–159*: Fig. 46, and see references therein).

40. Beaker (102-337/3; Fig. 13:40). Upper part fragments, mended. Light bluish-green glass, pitted. Black weathering and iridescence. Some small bubbles. Thickened rounded rim, horizontal trail of the same color as the vessel applied 1.2 cm below the rim. Vertical walls, slightly curving toward the base. Rim diam. 9.2 cm.

41. Beaker (102-360; Fig. 13:41). Base. Same fabric as No. 40. Flattened base with thickened concavity in center. Pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (0.8 cm). Base diam. 5 cm.

42. Goblet (102-331; Fig. 13:42). Intact vessel, blown from two separate blobs. Green glass, pitted. Black and white enamel-like weathering and iridescence. Thick-walled bowl with a rounded flattened rim, almost vertical wall and thick flat bottom. Applied thick trumpet foot from a separate blob. Hollow ring base. Rim diam. 8.5 cm; base diam. 7.5 cm; height 8.2 cm.

Goblet 42 is very unique, and no parallel was found. A similarly shaped vessel, but with a different treatment of the trumpet foot (not applied from a separate blob), is in the Royal Ontario Museum. This vessel was attributed by Hayes to type XI—"Palestinian Ware" (Hayes 1975:43–46, 80, Fig. 9:297, Pl. 18:297).

43. Candlestick bottle (102-328; Fig. 14:43). Restored profile, mended, parts missing from neck. Colorless glass with light bluish-green tinge, severely pitted. Patches of black and rusty weathering and iridescence. Very thin walls. Uneven, infolded rim. Cylindrical neck and triangular body with pushed-in concave base. No traces of the pontil. Rim diam. 3.3 cm; base diam. 6.5 cm.

44. Candlestick bottle (102-335; Fig. 14:44). Restored profile, mended, parts missing from neck and base. Almost colorless glass with light green tinge, pitted. Patches of black weathering and iridescence. Very thin walls. Uneven, infolded and flattened rim. Tall neck. Squat triangular body with pushed-in concave base. Rim diam. 3.8 cm; base diam. 12.5 cm.

45. Bottle (102-336; Fig. 14:45). Almost complete profile, reconstructed of separated lower and upper parts. Light green glass, severely pitted. Patches of enameled-like black and white weathering, iridescence. Very thin walls. Uneven, partly infolded rounded rim. Slightly funnel-shaped neck. Sloping shoulder. Piriform body, small uneven tooled base. Rim diam. 4.2 cm; base diam. 4 cm; height 16.5 cm.

No exact parallel to No. 45 was found, but bottles with similar characteristics, such as the shape of the rim, the neck, the carination of the body and the base, were found in Burial 1 in Kabri (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997: Fig. 8:17, 20).

Bracelets

46. Silver bracelet (103-351; restored with 102-330, 106-378/1; Fig. 15:46) made of a thick rounded silver wire that was flattened and decorated with engraved serpent heads. The wire is decorated with slanted incised lines that seem to represent the serpent scales. Diam. 4.4–5.8 cm.

47. Silver bracelet (103-359; restored with 103-361/3; Fig. 15:47). The bracelet is a thin rounded silver wire that appears to have been twisted spirally. Part of the bracelet is missing. Diam. 4.0–4.5 cm.

48. Silver bracelet (103-353; Fig. 15:48). The bracelet is a very thick rounded silver wire that was flattened at the ends. The flattened parts are decorated with engraved serpent heads. The bracelet is decorated with slanted incised lines near the ends. Diam. 4–5 cm.

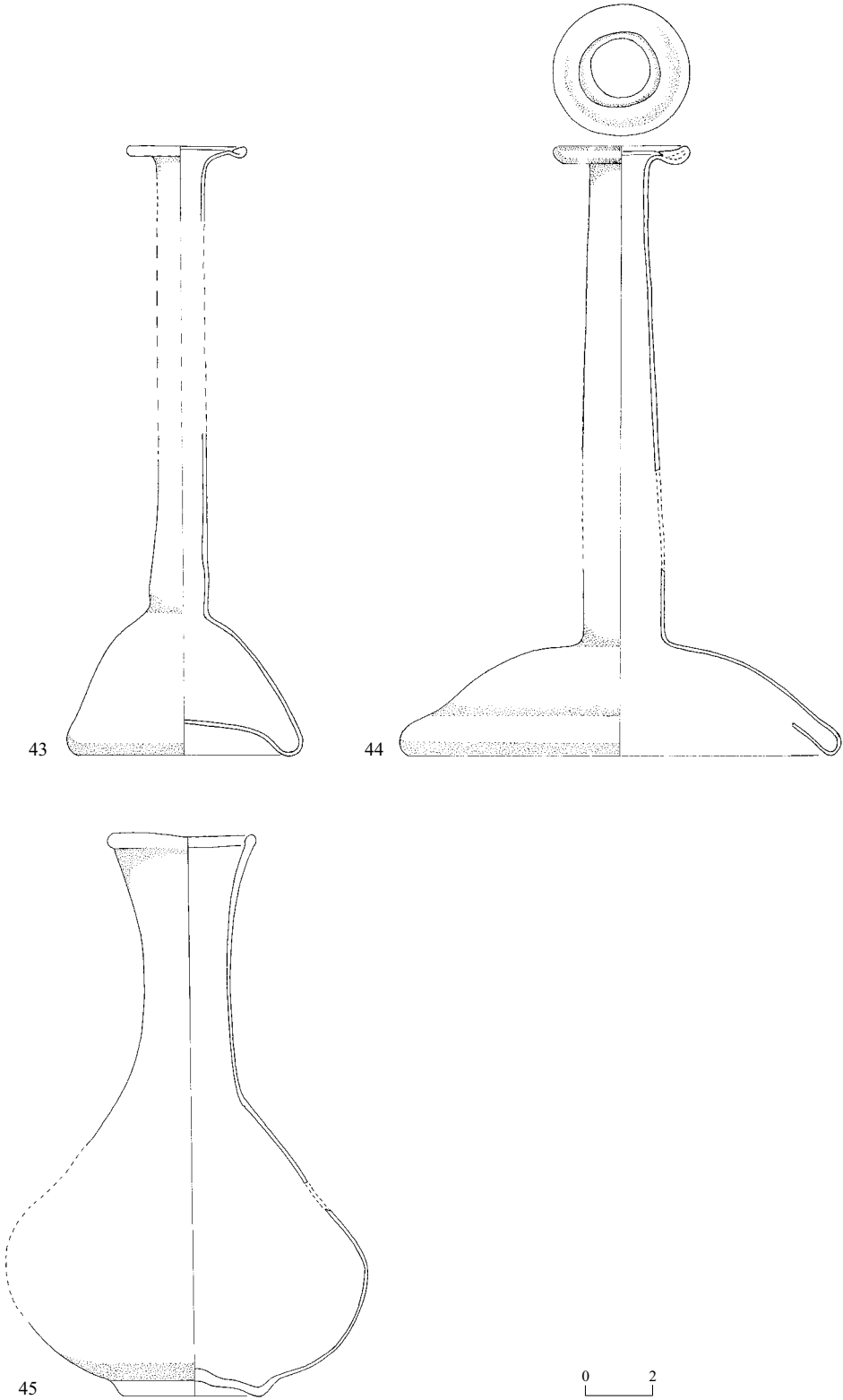


Fig. 14. Finds from Coffin A in Tomb 10 (L102).

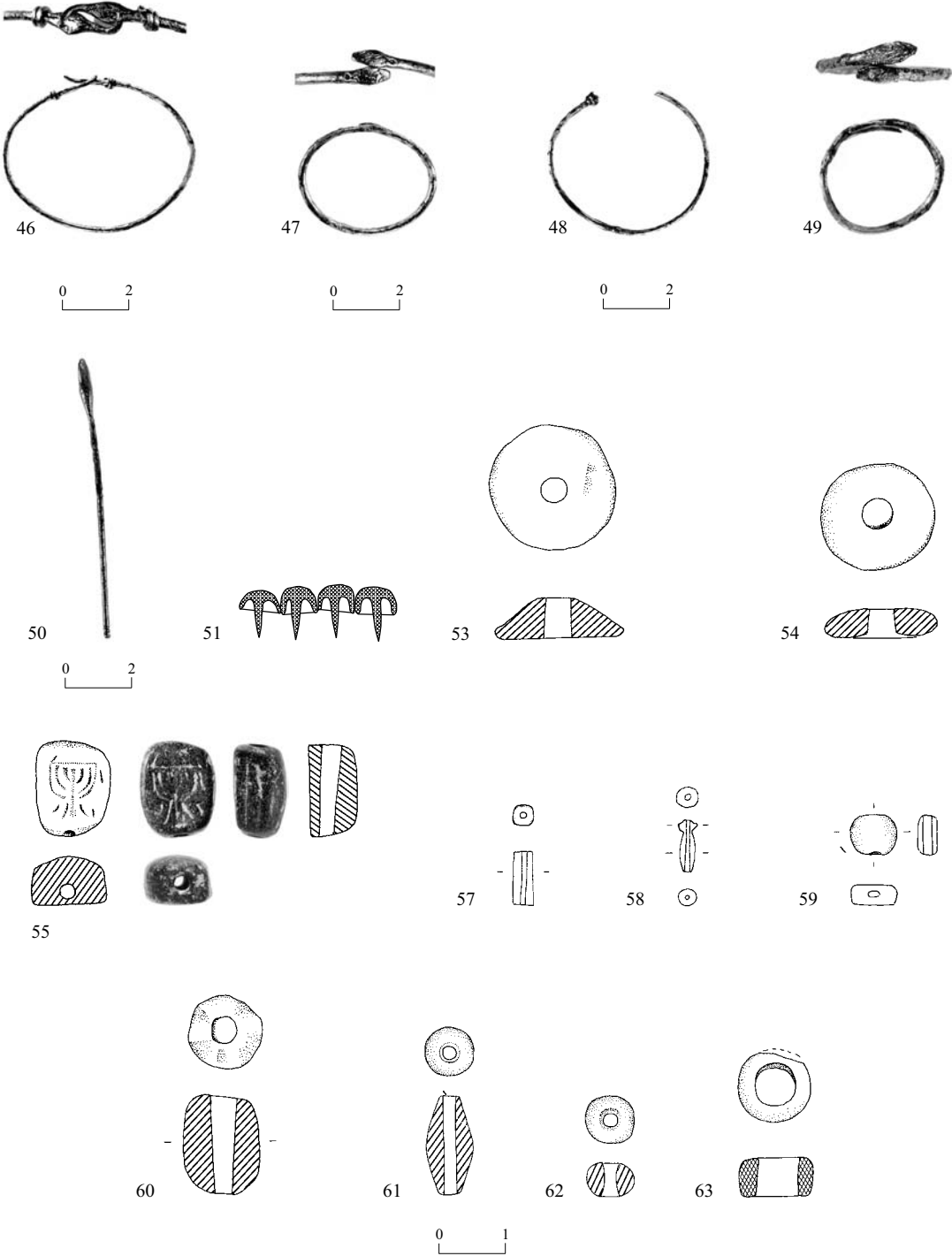


Fig. 15. Finds from Coffin A in Tomb 10 (L103).

Bracelets 46 and 47 are of the same type as No. 19, but No. 46 is larger and seems to have belonged to an adult. A bracelet similar to No. 47, but very schematic in style, was found at Kisra Cave 3, dating to the fourth and beginning of the fifth centuries CE (Stern 1997:123, Fig. 12:54).

Ring

49. Silver ring (103-354; Fig. 15:49). The ring is a rounded silver wire with overlapping flattened ends that are decorated with incised serpent heads. Diam. 1.6 cm.

The ring is of a similar style to bracelet No. 48. A similar ring with overlapping ends was found at Ḥanita, but the ring was bronze and not decorated (Barag 1978:43, Fig. 18:104).

Kohl Stick

50. Bronze kohl stick (103-352; restored with 103-350; Fig. 15:50). One end of the shaft is thickened; the other broken end has diagonal grooves. Preserved height: 9 cm.

Bronze kohl sticks are commonly found in tombs and seem to be part of the personal belongings of the deceased. Similar bronze kohl sticks were found, for instance, at Tell es-Sumeiriya (Peleg 1991:149, No. 83, Fig. 13:3).

Nails

51. A group of small iron nails or sandal rivets (103-364; Fig. 15:51—note that the section is a reconstruction, due to bad preservation). Seven small iron nails with convex heads that were found adhered together, and two separate nails. Preserved height: 0.9 cm.

52. A group of small nails (103-361/2; not illustrated). Same as No. 51 (6 nails).

It seems that these small nails are sandal rivets. It appears that the leather parts of the sandals were not preserved, and these rivets are the only testimony of the existence of the sandals. Riveted sandals are known from archeological finds and historical documents dating to the Roman period. They are usually related to Roman soldiers and are called *caliga* in Latin. Such sandals were

found in Roman army camps that were excavated in Europe. In Israel they were found at Masada and at several refuge caves in the Judean desert, where they were dated to the Bar Kokhba Revolt. Those from the Judean desert caves seem to have belonged to Jewish warriors. Riveted sandals are mentioned in Jewish sources. For example, the *Halakha* prohibits the fastening of sandals with rivets on the Sabbath (Eshel 1998).

Evidence of the existence of riveted sandals was found in burial contexts dating to the late Roman and early Byzantine periods in Israel. In some cases only small nails were found, and they were not always identified as sandal rivets.⁹ Small nails that may be from riveted sandals were found in burial contexts dating from the second to early fourth centuries CE in the western Galilee at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 18:137), at Kabri Burial Cave 1, Asherat Burial Cave 1 and Gesher Ha-Ziv Burial 1030 (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:17, Fig. 9:25; see references therein). Seventy small nails were found in one of the *kokhim* of a burial cave on Mt. Gilboa, indicating that they may have been from sandals (Syon 1999:68*, Fig. 9:2).

Remains of sandals including the leather were found in Tomb 200 at Giv'at Sharet in Bet Shemesh, dating to the last quarter of the fourth and the first quarter of the fifth centuries CE (Seligman, Zias and Stark 1996:50, Plan 2, Fig. 19:5), and at Kafr Makr, dating from the second to fourth centuries CE (Shaked 1997:29).

Spindle Whorl

53. Spindle whorl (103-348; Fig. 15:53). Conical, made of schist. Height 0.5 cm; diam. 1.8 cm; diam. of hole: 0.4 cm; weight 2.77 g.

54. Spindle whorl (103-349; Fig. 15:54). Disc, made of schist. Height 0.5 cm; diam. 1.7 cm; diam. of hole 0.5 cm; weight 2.12 g.

Spindle whorl 53 is the same shape but smaller than No. 22. Number 54 is also small; similarly shaped spindle whorls were found at Jalame and Samaria (Berry 1988:237, Fig. 8-8:72; see references therein).

Beads

55. Stone bead (103-342; Fig. 15:55). Made of bog iron or stone. Scaraboid, two incised parallel lines on the lower part. Shallow design that seems to be a depiction of a menorah incised on flat bottom.

No exact parallel regarding shape and incised design was found for bead No. 55. However, a serpentine scaraboid bead with a crude geometric pattern incised on all sides was found at Jalame (Berry 1988:230, Fig. 8-3:218). Scaraboid beads of different materials are known, e.g., a scaraboid bead of glass was found in Kabri T6 (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:20, Fig. 10:8).

56. Glass bead (102-310; not illustrated). Translucent light blue glass. Hexagonal section. Length 0.8 cm.

57. Glass bead (103-361/15; Fig. 15:57). Opaque dark blue glass. Square section. Length 0.8 cm.

58. Glass bead (103-361/14; Fig. 15:58). White opaque glass. Rounded section, with mushroom shape. Length: 0.8 cm.

59. Glass bead (103-361/12; Fig. 15:59). Opaque black glass. Rectangular section. Length 0.7 cm.

60. Stone bead (103-365; Fig. 15:60). Translucent dark orange carnelian. Round section. Shallow grooves on the exterior. Length 1.5 cm.

61. Stone bead (103-361/10; Fig. 15:61). Translucent dark orange carnelian. Round section, biconical. Length 1.5 cm.

62. Stone bead (103-361/11; Fig. 15:62). Translucent dark orange carnelian. Round section. Length 0.5 cm.

63. Metal bead(?) (103-355; Fig. 15:63). Bronze. Round section. Length 0.6 cm.

The glass and stone beads may have formed a necklace. Such necklaces are well known from the late Roman period (Barag 1978:44–45). Bead 56 is a faceted hexagonal bead (Beck 1928:6); a similarly shaped bead was found at Hanita (Barag 1978:46; Fig. 18:122). Bead 57 was made on a glass cane and is of a type named ‘cane beads’ (Beck 1928:60). A similar bead was found at H. Sugar Burial Cave 1 (Aviam and Stern 1997b: 98, Fig. 6:5). Carnelian beads are quite a common find in Roman contexts. Beads of a shape similar to that of No. 62 were found at Jalame (Berry 1988:230, Fig. 8-3:16) and H. Kenes (Porat 1997a:86, Fig. 3:11a). Three carnelian beads of different shapes were found at Hanita (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 18:131–133). Bead 63 may not be a bead but part of an implement that was not preserved.

Coins

64. Autonomous Tyre (102-340; Syon, this volume: No. 3). Date: 155/6 CE.

65. Probably Autonomous Tyre (102-311; Syon, this volume: No. 4).

66. Colonial coin of ‘Akko-Ptolemais (102-339; Syon, this volume: No. 5). Date: second century CE.

67. ‘Akko-Ptolemais under Septimius Severus(?) (103-358; Syon, this volume: No. 6). Date: 193–211 CE.

68. Unidentifiable (102-312/1).

*The Finds from Coffin B**Clay Coffin*

69. Clay coffin and three roof tiles. The coffin is similar to No. 29. It is 170 cm long, 32 cm wide and 23 cm high. The width of the ledge rim is 8.5 cm. The tiles are similar to those in T8, but smaller, averaging 57.5 by 40 cm, with a flange 3.5 cm high. There are four footprints of a dog on one tile, made before the clay was fired (Fig. 16).

An identical tile was found in a burial at Kabul (Porat 1997b).

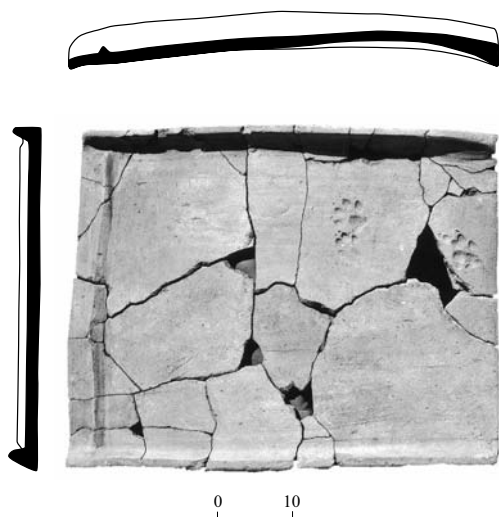


Fig. 16. Tile from coffin B, Tomb 10, with four footprints of a dog.

Nails

70. A group of 46 small nails (105-314; Fig. 18:70—only one illustrated).

71. A group of 20 small nails (105-315; not illustrated).

Both groups are sandal rivets, the same as No. 51 (see there for references).

Exterior of Coffins A and B

72. *Imbrex* tile (Fig. 17). The tile is gabled, 50 cm long, 12.2 cm wide and 5.3 cm high. The



Fig. 17. *Imbrex* tile.

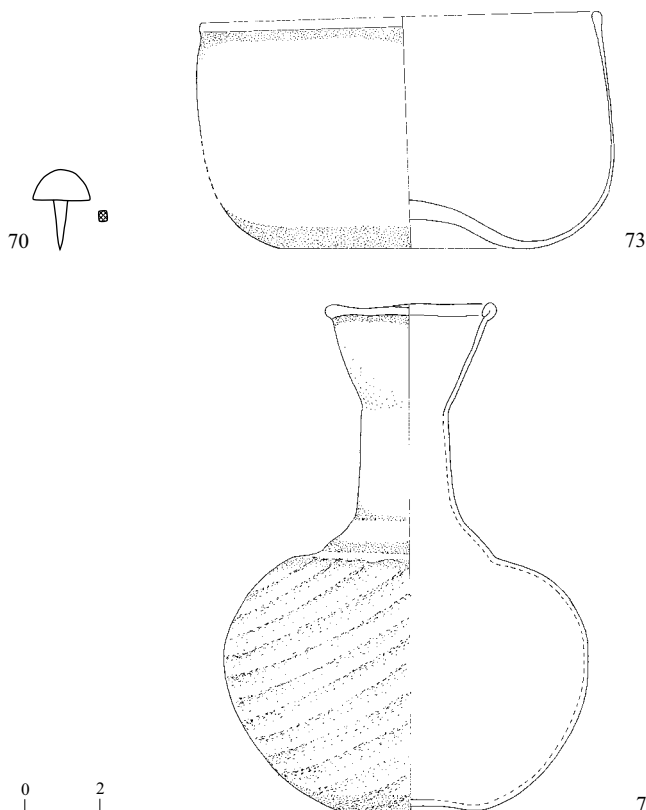


Fig. 18. Finds from Coffin B, Tomb 10 (L106).

clay is reddish brown. An identical *imbrex* was found at Asherat (Smithline 1997: Fig. 5:3).

Glass Vessels

73. Hemispherical bowl (106-380; Fig. 18:73). Complete profile, mended, with a few fragments missing. Light bluish-green glass, pitted. Blackish-silver weathering and iridescent film. Some small bubbles. Very thin walls. Uneven rounded rim. Near-vertical walls curving toward the base. Pushed-in thickened concave base. Vague remains of pontil scar. Remains of polishing marks on the exterior. Rim diam. 10.5 cm; base diam. 7 cm; height 6 cm.

Bowl 73 is the same as Bowl 18. See there for references.

74. Bottle (106-382; Fig. 18:74). Intact, mold-blown vessel. Olive green glass, pitted. Blackish-silver weathering and iridescence film. Many horizontal elongated bubbles and black impurities. Low quality fabric. In-folded rim. Funnel-shaped mouth with a short neck, stepped shoulder. Squat globular body with twisted ribs. Flat bottom with slight concavity in its center. No traces of the pontil. Rim diam. 4.3 cm; base diam. 3.8 cm; height 13.2 cm. The color of the glass is very unusual.

Bottles similar to No. 74, with a mold-blown globular body, but differently shaped upper parts, were found in burial contexts dating to the third and early fourth centuries CE at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:27, Fig. 13:52) and Ḥ. Kenes (Porat 1997a:83–85, Fig. 3:1).

Nails

75. A group of 8 small nails (106-378/2; not illustrated).

TYPE B TOMBS (T11–T13)

TOMB 11

Entry to this tomb is via a rectangular shaft with a north–south axis. A step of fieldstones was constructed at the foot of the southern wall and a *kokh*, subsequently walled up with fieldstones,

was cut in the northern wall (Fig. 19). The *kokh* and the upper part of the shaft were destroyed by the mechanical excavator that exposed the tomb, but the bottom 10 cm of the *kokh* and its contents were undamaged.

The bones and grave goods in the *kokh* were concentrated at the northern end, opposite the shaft (Fig. 20). Bones of two adults and a child



Fig. 19. Tomb 11, general view looking south.

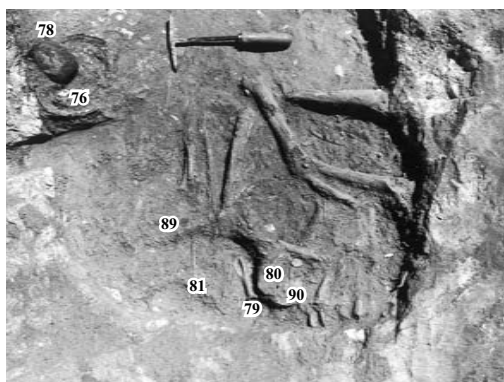


Fig. 20. Tomb 11, close-up looking south. Locations of finds indicated by catalogue numbers.

were found, not in any anatomical articulation. The following grave goods were found with the bones: a beaker inside a glass bowl near the eastern wall of the *kokh*; another glass bowl, a bottle and a bone pin near the northern end; two coins, one beneath the bottle; a spindle whorl and beads.

Glass Vessels

76. Shallow bowl (76-392/1; Fig. 21:76). Complete profile, mended, some fragments missing. Light green glass, pitted. Very thin walls. Patches of black and rusty weathering, lime deposits and iridescence. Out-splayed, out-folded rim. Uneven, shallow slanting walls curving at the base. Asymmetrical base, pushed inward with thick concavity in center and low, tooled-out, hollow base-ring. Pontil scar (1 cm). Rim diam. 20.4 cm; base diam. 9.1 cm; height 4.6 cm.

77. Hemispherical bowl (76-392/2; Fig. 21:77). Upper part fragment, base missing. Light bluish-green glass, pitted. Lime crust and iridescence. Upright, slightly thickened rounded rim. Curving walls. Exterior rotary polishing marks below the rim and on the body. Rim diam. 10.2 cm.

Bowl 76 is the same as Bowl 9; see there for references. Bowl 77 is the same as Bowl 18; see there for references.

78. Beaker. (76-391; Fig. 21:78). Complete profile, mended, parts missing from body. Light green glass, severely pitted, patches of black weathering. Iridescence. Thin walled vessel. Flaring, rounded uneven rim. Sack-shaped body. Uneven horizontal trail of the same color as the vessel applied 2 cm below the rim. Flattened base with concavity in center. Pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (1 cm). Rim diam. 6.2 cm; base diam. 3.7 cm; height 9.4 cm.

Beaker 78 is the same as Beaker 35. See there for references.

79. Bottle (76-395; Fig. 21:79). Intact vessel, blown and indented. Colorless glass with

light green tinge, pitted. Black weathering and lime deposits. Uneven, partly infolded rim. Cylindrical neck, piriform body with four deep indents. Rounded base with remains of pontil (1.2 cm). Rim diam. 2.1 cm; base diam. 1.4 cm; height 10.5 cm.

A bottle similar to Bottle 79 was found in a burial cave at Nahf, dating to the third and first third of the fourth centuries CE (Sussman 1982:32, Pl. VIII:10).

Spindle Whorl

80. Spindle whorl (76-397; Fig. 22:80). Blue and white glass. Conical. Height 0.7 cm; diam. 2 cm; diam. of hole 0.4 cm; weight 6.04 g.

Glass spindle whorls are less common than stone (e.g., Nos. 22, 23, 53, 54), but do appear in the archaeological record, dating from the Roman period. A glass spindle whorl similar to No. 80 was found in burials contemporary to those at Kabri in clay coffins at Tell es-Sumeiriya (Shourkin 1999:154, Fig. 22:3) and Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:399, 402, Fig. 92a:17).

Bone Pin

81. Bone pin (76-396; Fig. 22:81). Broken at one end. Head of the pin decorated with three parallel horizontal lines, the middle one gouged and the other two thinly incised. Preserved length 10.5 cm.

Bone pins are fairly common in Roman-period tombs and may have been used as hairpins or to apply kohl. They suggest burial of a female. This pin is crude compared to other bone pins from the Roman period (e.g., at Hanita—Barag 1978:44, Fig. 18:111; Asherat—Smithline 1997:54–55, Fig. 12:5).

Beads

82. Faience bead (76-394/4; Fig. 22:82). Buff-colored faience. Round section. Length 0.7 cm.

83. Stone bead (76-394/5; Fig. 22:83). Translucent dark orange carnelian. Round section. Length 0.5 cm.

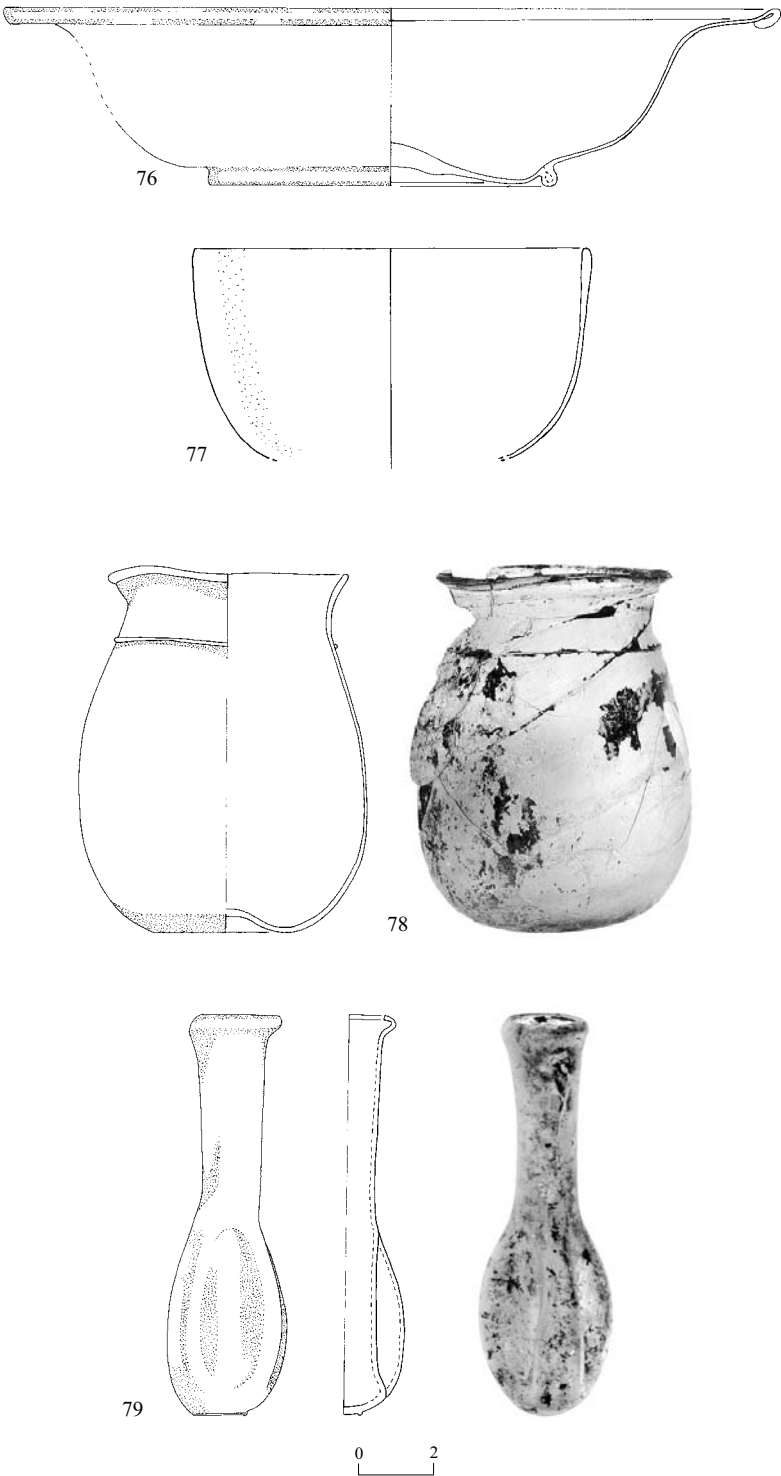


Fig. 21. Glass vessels from Tomb 11.

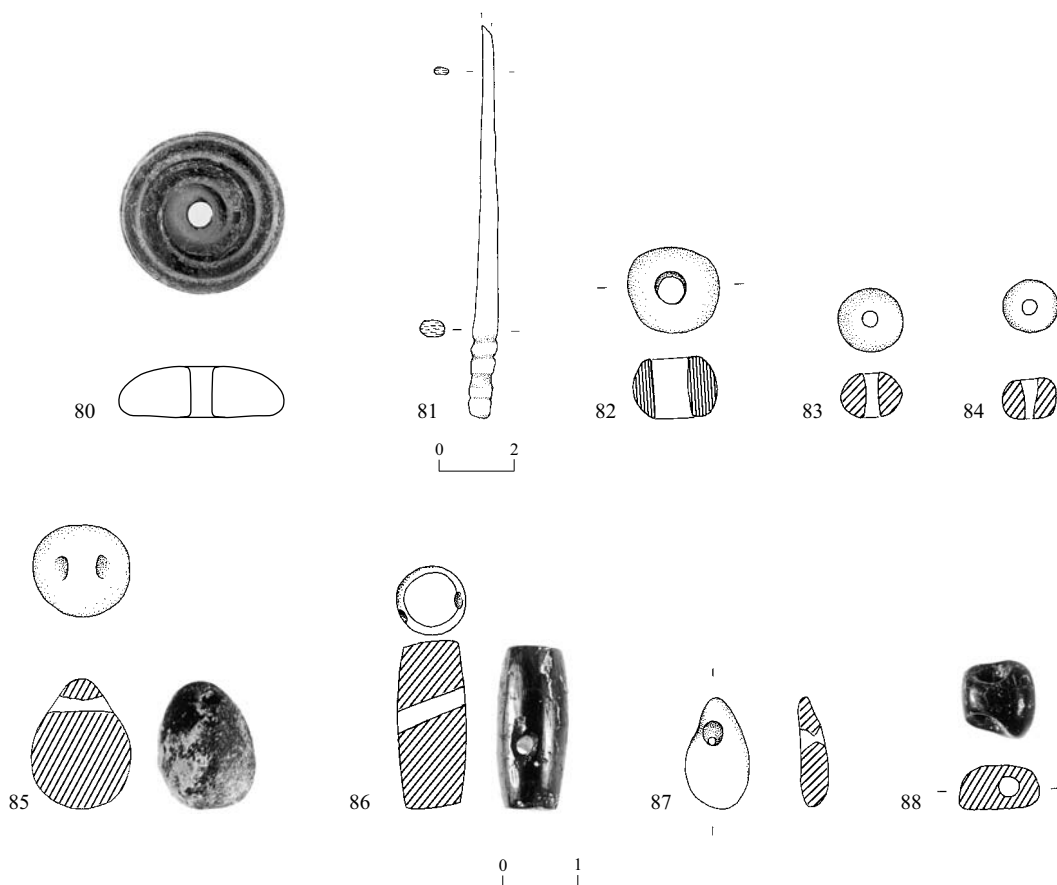


Fig. 22. Finds from Tomb 11.

84. Stone bead (76-394/6; Fig. 22:84). Dark orange carnelian. Round section. Length 0.5 cm.

85. Stone bead (76-394/1; Fig. 22:85). Sandstone or quartzite, shaped like a drop pendant (Beck 1928:22–23, Fig. 20:B.2.a). Length 1.8 cm.

86. Stone bead (76-394/2; Fig. 22:86). Brown hematite. Long, cylindrical bead, round section. Length 2.2 cm.

87. Stone bead (76-394/7; Fig. 22:87). Translucent quartz. Shaped like a drop pendant. Length 1.5 cm.

88. Stone bead (76-394/3; Fig. 22:88). Unidentified black stone. Roughly scaraboid. Length 0.5 cm.

It is possible that these beads formed a necklace.¹⁰ Most of the beads are stone rather than glass, the most common material for bead fabrication in the Roman period.

Coins

89. Quietus, Antioch (76-393; Syon, this volume: No. 9). Date: 260–261 CE.

90. Unidentifiable, second century CE Roman Provincial coin (76-398).

TOMBS 12 AND 13

These tombs are similar to Tomb 11, i.e., they consist of a shaft leading to a single *kokh* walled-off by fieldstones (Fig. 23). It seems that Tomb 13 inadvertently cut into the earlier Tomb 12, requiring the building of another wall. The later



Fig. 23. Tombs 12 and 13, general view looking east.

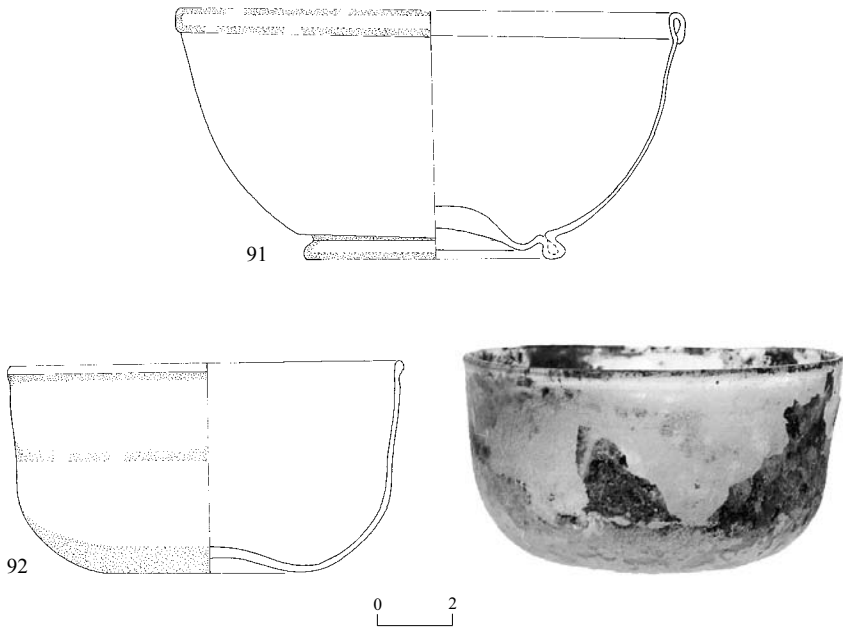


Fig. 24. Glass bowls from T12.

wall created three spaces, one at the northern end of the *kokh* in T12, another at the northern end of the *kokh* in T13 and a common space at the southern end. The finds were meager and included the bones of a child in the space at the end of the *kokh* in T12 and two glass bowls,

one inside the other, leaning against the stones walling-off this space.

Glass Vessels

91. Deep bowl (71-343; Fig. 24:91). Complete profile, mended, parts missing from body and

rim. Light bluish-green glass, pitted, patches black and rusty weathering. Iridescent film and many lime deposits. Uneven, upright, out-folded hollow rim. Curving thin walls, hemispherical body. High pushed-in base with thick concavity in the center and an uneven tooled ring base. Large pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (2.2 cm). Rim diam. 13 cm; base diam. 6.7 cm; height 6.5 cm.

Bowl 91 is of a type of bowl with upright, out-folded rim and a tubular pushed-in ring base. This type was found in burial contexts dating from the third to early fourth centuries CE in western Galilee. Similar bowls were found at Ḥurfeish Burial Cave D, Ḥanita, and Tomb 1 at H. 'Eitayim (Gorin-Rosen 2002:151*–152*: Fig. 8:24, and see references therein).

92. Hemispherical bowl (71-344; Fig. 24:92). Intact bowl. Light bluish-green glass, pitted, patches of black and rusty crust weathering and almost lime deposits. Iridescent film. Upright rounded rim. Near vertical walls curving toward the base. Pushed-in concave base. Pontil scar with traces of glass from the pontil (2.2 cm). Rim diam. 10.5 cm; base diam. 5.6 cm; height 5.5 cm.

Bowl 92 is the same as Bowl 18. See there for references.

TYPE C TOMB (T14)

An adult male was buried in an east–west pit, on his right side with his head in the west, facing south. The cutters of the pit hit the coffin in T9. Two coins were found beside the feet of the deceased: one from the second century CE and one probably from the Ottoman period. It is assumed that the first originated from the grave goods in T9 and the second dates to the burial in T14. According to the position and orientation of the deceased, it is assumed to be a Muslim grave, belonging to the cemetery of the village of El-Kabri.

Coin

93. Unidentifiable, probably Ottoman coin.

DISCUSSION

Type A Tombs (T8–T10)

The assemblage of finds in these tombs suggests that the treatment of the dead involved two stages. First, the deceased was placed in a coffin with a few personal belongings, such as bracelets and spindle whorls, the coffin was covered with tiles and glass vessels were placed upon the tiles. In the second stage, the bones were taken out of the coffin (probably in preparation for a new burial) and placed together with the grave goods and glass vessels in the spaces between the coffin and the tomb walls. A spindle whorl found beneath the coffin in T9 indicates that the coffin was placed in a tomb that had already been used. In some burials from this period, tiles were cemented to coffins with lime mortar (plaster; Siegelmann 1996:14*; Smithline 1997:49), but this practice is absent here, apparently because of the need to reuse the coffins.

The reuse of coffins and placement of glass vessels upon tiles indicate that the tombs were not simple pits covered with earth. We suggest that the excavated tombs contained *kokhim*, reached by a shaft whose bottom was higher than the top of the coffin, and that the shafts were destroyed by the mechanical excavator. However, this reconstruction is conjectural because of the nature and extent of the damage.

Type B Tombs (T11–13)

The upper parts of these tombs were damaged and the (presumed) ceilings of the *kokhim* were lost. Yet during excavation, the difference between the hard-packed earth in what was identified as a shaft and the loose earth in what was identified as a *kokh* was very clear. This difference is the result of secondary crystallization of calciferous deposits from rains that entered the open shaft.

The *kokhim* (c. 1.4–1.6 m) are shorter than the average human adult and may have served as bone repositories for persons initially laid at the bottom of the shaft. This suggestion is

supported by the bone finds in T11 and the smaller spaces created by the final organization of T12 and T13.

The Tombs' Plan

The type B, and probably type A, tombs consisted of a shaft leading to a single *kokh* rather than a tomb chamber. This design is known in western Galilee in the extensive cemetery north of H. Ga'aton (Frankel and Getzov, forthcoming), at Peqi'in (Tzaferis 1969: Fig. 4), Asherat (Smithline 1997: cave 3), H. 'Eitayim, and in other regions such as Mt. Karmel (Siegelmann 1996:B; shaft near H. Haruvim). Barag (1986:397) assumed that similar tombs at H. 'Eitayim served for individual, one-time burials, although such a conclusion is not possible for the burials at Kabri.

The Coffins and Tiles

The coffins are very similar, but their dimensions suggest two standards: the coffins in T8 and T9 are slightly larger than those in T10. The tiles slightly vary: the tiles that could be measured indicated several standards, although for each coffin the tiles were of a single standard. A systematic publication of the dimensions of coffins and tiles may, in the future, contribute toward understanding the standards, their distribution and origins.

Placement of the Coffins in the Tombs

The coffins and covering tiles were apparently imported by sea through the port of 'Akko-Ptolemais where they were purchased (Aviam and Stern 1997a). The difference between the tiles of the two coffins in T10 suggests that the coffins were not purchased at the same time; at first a single coffin was placed in the tomb, it was joined by the second at a later time.

It is reasonable to assume that the burial took place after the coffin was placed in the *kokh* (Aviam and Stern 1997a:158). In some cases, a coffin was placed in the tomb after the tomb had been previously used, as evidenced by the spindle whorl found under the coffin in T9.

Similar situations were observed at other sites, e.g., a second–third-century CE lamp under a coffin in Karmiel (Porat 1997a:82), a Roman jar and lamp under a coffin at Asherat (Smithline 1997:48–49) and a third–fourth-century CE bowl under a coffin in the cemetery near Tell es-Sumeiriya (Shourkin 1999:160).

Number of Interments and Reuse of Tombs

As far as we know (Aviam and Stern 1997a:158), a single individual was buried in each coffin and lids were often cemented to the coffins with lime mortar. Pit graves with coffins containing more than one individual were found only in the cemetery at Tell es-Sumeiriya (Peleg 1991:132), indicating reuse of the coffin. In other burials in the same cemetery, several coffins were found with a single skeleton (Shourkin 1999:147). Tombs 8–10 at Kabri evidenced for the first time removal of bones of the dead in preparation for interment of a new body in the coffin. Perhaps such a practice was used elsewhere, but was not identified in the archaeological record because of excavation or publication limitations. Nevertheless, the placing of additional coffins in tombs at Tell es-Sumeiriya and the cementing of lids at other places suggest that it was intended to use the coffin only once and for a single individual. In contrast, in tombs with *kokhim*, the *kokhim* were regularly emptied of bones to make way for new burials (Barag 1986:398).

Burial Goods

The majority of the burial goods consisted of glass vessels, mainly of open shapes. This phenomenon occurs in contemporary burials throughout western Galilee. The number of glass vessels differed among burials and there seems to be no standard, as in other contemporary burials in western Galilee (see, e.g., Gorin-Rosen 2002:164*–165*). However, unlike other burials in the area, no misshapen glass vessels were found at Kabri.

The glass vessels form quite a homogenous group, except for the goblet, which is an extraordinary specimen. The vessels have

similar shapes to vessels in south Phoenicia (especially western Galilee tombs) and Cyprus. The similarities between this assemblage and others in the vicinity suggest a local source for almost all the vessels from the Late Roman period in western Galilee (Gorin-Rosen 2002:165*; Barag 1978:56). The glass vessels are of types dating to the third and early fourth centuries CE.

The coins, discussed in Syon (this volume), date from c. 100 until c. 260 and indicate that the population buried here was Phoenician-Pagan. The earlier coins are worn, and thus it appears that the burials took place in the third century CE.

The jewelry is of relatively poor quality and comprises mainly silver bracelets, a ring and beads. Absent are gold earrings that are quite common in contemporary burials in western Galilee, such as at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:41–43, Fig. 18:96–101), Yehi‘am (Tzaferis 1969:73) and Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994:78–79). Ten of the beads are stone and only six are glass or faience. Of the stone beads, five are carnelian, a common material for stone beads in the Roman period.

The two groups of small nails found in Coffins A and B in T10 seem to be sandal rivets and indicate that the deceased were buried with their sandals. Small nails that may have been from riveted sandals were found in burial contexts dating from the second to early fourth centuries CE in western Galilee, indicating that this was a common burial practice during this period and in this area.

No ceramic finds, including oil lamps, were found in the Kabri burials. This also seems to be a regional phenomenon and will be discussed below.

SUMMARY

It appears that the burials in T8–13 were performed during a short period of time in the third century CE. The burial goods are typical of western Galilee burial contexts and, as will be suggested below, constitute a group of burial goods that are typical of Phoenician burials,

thereby enabling us to identify the ethnic identity of the deceased.

The burial goods in T8–13 are similar to those in Kabri Burial Cave 1 and seem to date to the same period (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:9–17). In these tombs, the quantity and quality of the burial goods is low compared to other tombs in western Galilee, for example in Ḥanita and Ḥurfeish Cave D, and suggest that the economic situation of the inhabitants of Kabri was poor. The glass vessels are of simple shapes and undecorated, and no gold jewelry was found.

Phoenician Burial Customs in the Roman Period in Western Galilee

The six early burials date to the third century CE, when there was a pagan Phoenician population living in the coastal plain of the Galilee. Barag (1986; 1993) showed that, in burials at nearby Ḥ. ‘Eitayim, glass bowls and other glass vessels are common and more similar to Cyprus rather than to other parts of Israel. In the majority of these glass bowls, Barag sees possible evidence of Phoenician mortuary practices persisting from the Iron Age.

The assemblage of grave goods at Kabri possesses additional properties to those outlined by Barag (1986; 1993) as characteristic of a Phoenician population, such as those found at Ḥanita (Barag 1978), Tell Shubeib (Abu Uqsa and Katsnelson 1999), Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994), Ḥ. ‘Eitayim (Barag 1986; Abu Uqsa, forthcoming), Kabri T1 (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:8–17) and Tell es-Sumeiriya (Peleg 1991; Abu Uqsa 1997; Shourkin 1999). At least six such properties can be noted: (1) there are many glass vessels, especially bowls and beakers and (2) many coins, some of which were used as ‘Charon’s obol’, based on their position in the burial (see Syon, this volume); (3) there are bracelets, with snake-head ends; (4) there are round-headed sandal rivets; (5) lamps are very rare; and (6) pottery vessels are rare with cooking pots completely absent. These properties are rare in Jewish burials in adjacent areas, e.g., at Sajur (Braun, Dauphin and Hadas 1994), Sha‘ab (Aviam 1997) and I‘billin (Feig 1999).

Other properties of the Kabri burials are regional western Galilee traits and have no ethnic connotation, for example, (a) burials in clay coffins apparently imported through 'Akko-Ptolemais, and used by both Jews and pagans (Aviam and Stern 1997a:159); and (b) tombs with *kokhim* (*loculi*) that were common throughout the Galilee in the Roman period. *Arcosolia*, already common in the Early Roman period in Judea, had not yet reached the Galilee. Very few *arcosolia* were found in western Galilee and they appear to have been cut only in the Byzantine period (Frankel and Getzov 1997:46*–48*; Frankel and Getzov, forthcoming).

Determination of the ethnic affiliation of a burial should not depend on a single property, however characteristic, but on the total

assemblage of finds. For example, the practice of providing the deceased with Charon's obol is sporadically attested in Jewish burials (Syon, this volume) and the many glass vessels found in tombs at Caesarea (Mazar 1992) do not provide evidence of Phoenician burials since no other properties of Roman-period Phoenician burials were found and the absence of bowls among the glass finds is notable.

In T10, a characteristic Phoenician assemblage was found: glass vessels, many of them bowls; coins, one of them demonstrably a Charon obol in the deceased's right hand; bracelets decorated with snake heads; sandal rivets; and the conspicuous absence of lamps and other pottery vessels. The bead decorated with an incised menorah, a characteristic

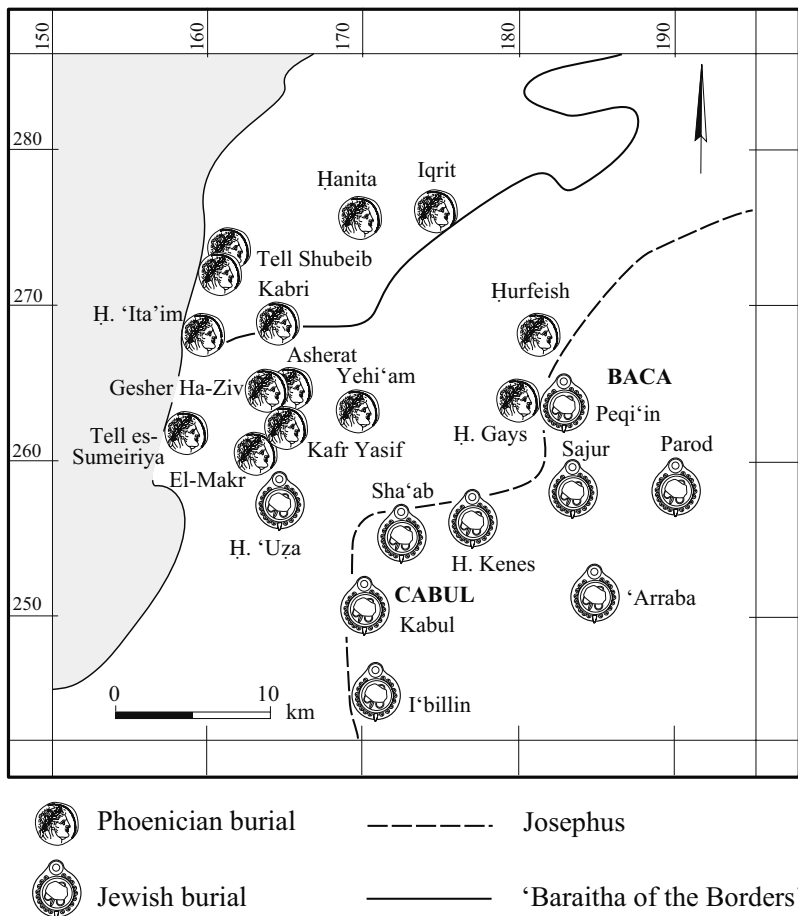


Fig. 25. Boundary between Jewish and Phoenician populations in the Galilee in the Roman period according to Josephus, 'Baraita of the Borders', and burials.

Jewish symbol, does not serve as evidence of the ethnic affiliation of its bearer, who may not have even been aware of its significance.

The Phoenician Population in the Western Galilee

The coastal plain of the Galilee was part of Provincia Phoenicia in the second to third centuries CE (Tsafrir, Di Segni and Green 1994: Fig. 3). Western Galilee contained a Jewish population that occupied the hill country and mountainous areas and a Phoenician-pagan population along the coast.

Two important historical sources describe the extent of the Jewish population during the Roman period (Fig. 25). Josephus Flavius describes the Jewish settlement on the eve of the Great Revolt (*The Jewish War* III:3,1), according to which the western boundary of the Lower Galilee passes through Cabul (map ref. 1703/2544) and the western boundary of the Upper Galilee through Baca (Peqi'in; map ref. 1818/2646). The second source is '*Beraitat Ha-Tehumim*', a rabbinic passage that delineates the boundaries of Eretz Israel for the purpose of keeping the laws that pertain only to Eretz Israel (Tosefta Shevi'it 4:5; JT Demai 2:1). According to this source, the boundary in the northwest passes a few kilometers west of the boundary outlined by Josephus (Frankel and Finkelstein 1983).

Archaeologically, the distribution of the Phoenician population can be seen in the distribution of Phoenician jars from the Roman period (Frankel and Getzov 1997:35*; Avshalom-Gorni 1998: Class 2.1–2.4; Getzov 2000:79*). In an archaeological survey of Upper Galilee, these jars were dominant in assemblages of the Roman period west of Peqi'in and north of a line drawn between Tell es-Sumeiriya and Peqi'in (Frankel et al. 2001: Pl. 31).

The burials serve as a further criterion for determining the range of Phoenician settlement in the Roman period. According to the above six properties, the following can be identified as Roman-Phoenician burials: Kabri, Hanita, Tell

Shubeib, Gesher Ha-Ziv, H. 'Eitayim and Tell es-Sumeiriya. Other tombs excavated in western Galilee that can be identified as Phoenician burials are Iqrit (Vitto 1973), Hurfeish (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997), H. Gays (Tzaferis 1969:75–76), Yehi'am (Tzaferis 1969:72–75), Asherat (Smithline 1997), Kuweikat (Frankel and Getzov, forthcoming), Kafr Yasif (Gorin-Rosen 1997b) and El-Makr (Shaked 1997). There is significant correlation between the distribution of Phoenician jars and Phoenician burials.

There are tombs containing dissimilar assemblages of finds in neighboring areas of the western Galilee that can be attributed to the Jewish population: H. 'Uza (Ben-Tor 1966:23–24), H. Kenes (Porat 1997a), Sajur (Braun, Dauphine and Hadas 1994), Parod (Tal et al. 1999), 'Arraba (Tzaferis 1969:76–79), Sha'ab (Aviam 1997), Kabul (Aviam 2000) and I'billin (Feig 1999). In these areas, the dominant pottery form is a stepped rim jar, such as those manufactured at Shihin (Adan-Bayewitz and Wieder 1992: Fig. 5:5; Avshalom-Gorni 1998: Class 1.2).¹¹

The boundary between the Phoenician and Jewish populations in western Galilee in the second to third centuries CE according to burial finds agrees well with the boundary described by Josephus but differs from the boundary of the Talmudic *berayta* (Fig. 25). Sussman (1975–1976:251) stresses the relevancy of the *berayta* at the time of the redaction of the *mishna* (c. 200 CE). The distribution of the Phoenician burials supports the view that the editors of the *berayta* were strict and included even areas of sparse Jewish population within the area in which the *halakha* was obligatory (Safrai 1989:12; Frankel and Getzov, forthcoming).

Evolution of Funerary Practices in the Fourth Century CE

It seems that at the beginning of the fourth century CE new influences from other areas penetrated the mortuary practices of the Phoenician population in western Galilee. First and foremost among these is the use of oil lamps. From the beginning of the century,

and perhaps already from the end of the third century CE, lamps with stamped decorations appear in tombs in western Galilee (Sussman 1989). Barag (1993) seems to refer to these lamps when stating the resemblance between tombs at Ḥ. 'Eitayim and Bet She'arim. Stamped lamps were found in tombs at Ḥanita (Barag 1978), Bezet (el-Bassa; Iliffe 1934), Ḥ. Sugar (Aviam and Stern 1997b), Kisra (Stern 1997) and Asherat (Smithline 1997). A connection is assumed between the appearance of the lamps in tombs and the spread of Christianity in western Galilee.

At the same time that the mortuary practices of the Phoenician population in the western Galilee changed, the Phoenician jars disappeared, together with the local manufacturing tradition of more than a thousand years (Frankel and Getzov 1997:32*–35*). Nevertheless, Phoenician burial customs continued to find expression for a considerable time after Christianity became widespread. Glass bowls continued to be used in many western Galilee tombs of the Byzantine period, such as in those at Ḥ. Sugar (Aviam and Stern 1997b) and Kisra (Stern 1997).

NOTES

¹ The five-day excavation, carried out on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority (Permit No. A-2668), was directed by Nimrod Getzov. Surveying was carried out by Israel Vatin, Pavel Gertopsky and Nimrod Getzov, and the plan was drawn by Valentin Shor. The project was funded by the Ma'alē Yosef Regional Council. Assisting in processing the finds were Hagit Tahan (drawing of miscellaneous finds), Michael Miles and Alina Pikovsky (drawing of glass vessels), Clara Amit and Tsila Sagiv (photography of finds), Mary Levin (cleaning of metals) and Olga Shor (glass restoration). We wish to thank Yael Gorin-Rosen for her assistance with the study of the glass vessels, Dr. Rafael Frankel for his invaluable help in discussing issues of geographical history and Mordechi Aviam for his assistance during the excavation and discussing of the finds.

² The bones from all the tombs described in this report were analyzed by Dr. Yossi Nagar and transferred to the Ministry of Religious Affairs for burial. Most of the bones were very poorly preserved.

³ The metal was identified by eye, and not by analytic study. The three types of metal identified here are iron, bronze and silver.

⁴ Because of the disorder caused to the original arrangement of goods, no importance is associated

to whether the goods were found inside or outside the coffin.

⁵ This suggestion was made by Yael Gorin-Rosen.

⁶ In excavation reports, the site has variously been called Loḥame Ha-Geta'ot (Peleg 1991), Tell es-Sumeiriya (Abu Uqsa 1997), Giv'at Yasaf (Peleg 1991), or Tel er-Ras (Shourkin 1999). However, as shown by Di Segni and Frankel (2000), the ancient name is Tell es-Sumeiriya and this is the name used in the present report.

⁷ We wish to thank Anastasia Shapiro for identifying the stone of the spindle whorls and beads.

⁸ Dan Barag, the excavator, called the site Nahariyya, after the modern town. There are, however, several ancient sites within Nahariya, so the site name Ḥ. 'Eitayim was preferred.

⁹ It is possible that in some cases such nails were found but not published. This is an example of the importance of publishing every find from a burial cave, even if it is less impressive than the lamps or glass vessels, or of an unknown function.

¹⁰ The beads were not found *in situ* in the excavation, but during the sieving of the excavated material.

¹¹ The same boundary between Phoenician and Jewish burials was observed in a recent study of Jewish ossuaries by Aviam and Syon (2002).

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