

## THE GLASS AND SMALL STONE FINDS FROM A ROMAN TOMB AT 'EIN EL-SHA'ARA

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Twenty-five glass vessels were recovered from the Roman tomb at 'Ein el-Sha'ara (see Kayesar, this volume), nineteen of which are presented here.<sup>1</sup> Two vessels are intact, two have a complete profile, five have a reconstructed profile and the rest are fragmentary. Forty beads were also retrieved from the tomb, seventeen of which are presented here. Fifteen beads are made of glass, one of faience and one of carnelian, while three stone inlays are made of quartz, agate and an unidentified stone. A glass spindle whorl was also uncovered. All the glass vessels were free-blown, some decorated with applied trails or indentations. The majority of the vessels are of colorless or greenish blue glass, a few are pale green or blue. The glass beads were rod-formed or drawn, and most of them are of blue or green glass. The glass finds are covered with black and white patches of weathering and silver iridescence, and are sometimes pitted. Most were discovered in Troughs 52 and 53.

In the catalogue below, parallels are presented, whenever possible, from contemporaneous sites in the vicinity of the tomb. The finds are discussed according to material and form.

### GLASS FINDS

#### *Glass Vessels*

##### *Bowl*

1. Bowl with a horizontal ridge (Fig. 1:1; L58, B571). Rim and wall fragment. Pale green glass with black patches and soil deposits. Rounded upright rim with a slightly thickened, horizontal ridge just below it. Straight side. Rim diam. 19 cm.

This bowl type is well-known in Late Roman contexts in Israel and complete examples have been found at Ḥorbat Sumaq (Lehrer-Jacobson 1999:333, Fig. 1:2, 3) and in Tomb XV at Hanita, dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:15, 17, Fig. 8:26). Rim fragments of this type have also been recovered in the factory dump at Jalame, dated to the second half of the fourth century CE (Weinberg and Goldsein 1988:45, 47, Fig. 4-6:62, 63) and in Late Roman burial caves near Kabri (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:19–20, Fig. 10:6), Ḥorbat Sugar (Gorin-Rosen 1997:96–97, Fig. 5:2, 3) and Kisra (Stern 1997:109, Fig. 2:12).

##### *Beakers*

2. Beaker/cup with a solid base (Fig. 1:2; L55, B539). Rim and wall fragment. Colorless glass, almost completely obscured by a thick black and iridescent film on the outside and soil deposits on the inside. Upright, rounded and slightly thickened rim with a slender, horizontally applied trail below it. Straight side. Thin wall. Solid base. Rim diam. 7.9 cm.

This type of beaker with a solid base is very typical of the region. Similar beakers were found in a Late Roman context at Ḥorbat Sumaq (Lehrer-Jacobson 1999:335, 337, Fig. 2:17–22); in the Jalame factory dump of the second half of the fourth century CE (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:60–61, Fig. 4-23:166); in the northern cemetery at Samaria dated to the fourth–fifth centuries CE (Crowfoot 1957:413, Fig. 95:20); and in Tomb B at Loḥame Ha-Geṭa'ot, dated to the first half of the fourth century CE (Peleg 1991:135, Fig. 5:5). A solid base of the same type of beaker was found in

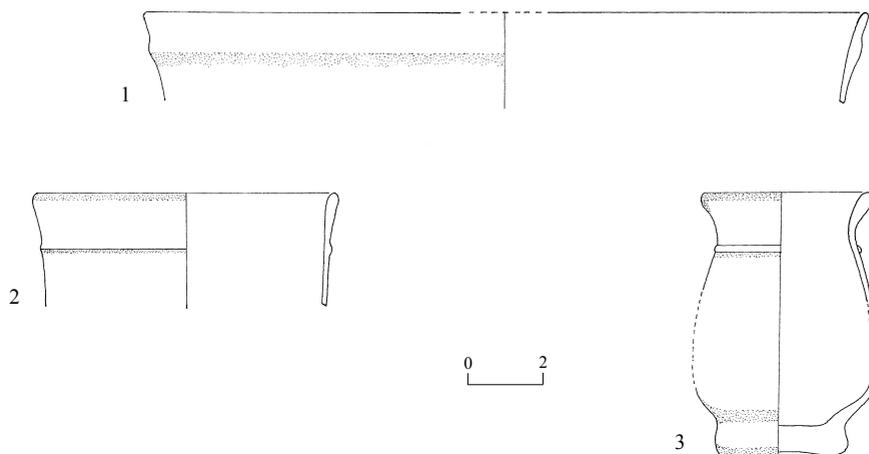


Fig. 1. Glass vessels.

the Byzantine city wall of Caesarea (Peleg and Reich 1992:155–156, Fig. 18:16).

3. Beaker/cup with a flaring, thickened rim (Fig. 1:3; L54, B548). Fragments from base, body and rim. Deep blue, bubbly glass with an iridescent film, some white patches and pitting. Flared, thickened and rounded rim with one horizontal thin trail just below it. Thick, flat, solid base, possibly applied, narrower than the bottom of the body. Pontil mark. Thin wall. Flat floor. Rim diam. 4.3 cm; base diam. 3.2 cm.

The shape of this beaker is not common in Israel, although it combines two common beaker types. Its upper part resembles Barag's Type 32-11, which usually has a concave base. This type is dated to between the third and the first half of fourth centuries CE, according to finds from the Ḥanita and Nahariyya tombs (Barag 1970:144, Fig. 32:11) and recent finds from Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002b:154\*, 156\*–157\*, Fig. 10:33–42). Its lower part resembles a beaker with a solid base, similar to the example from our tomb (Fig. 1:2). Therefore, this beaker is apparently a combination of two types of beakers that were very common in the third–fourth centuries CE in Israel.

#### *Bottles and Jars*

4. Pear-shaped bottle with a thick, solid base. Rim, neck and wall fragment (Fig. 2:4a; L55, B566).

Colorless glass with a thick creamy layer, pitting, and some soil deposits. Flared, outfolded, unfinished rim. Short cylindrical neck with a constriction at the bottom. Sloping shoulder, probably piriform body. Thin wall. Rim diam. 1.8 cm.

Base fragment (Fig. 2:4b; L53, B511). Probably from the same vessel as Fig. 2:4a. Colorless glass with a thick creamy layer, pitting, iridescence and some soil deposits. Solid, thickened, flattened base with a slight concavity and pontil mark in its center (1 cm). Rounded side. Base diam. 2.6 cm.

A very delicate, thin-walled bottle, probably with a rounded, pear-shaped body and a thick base. No parallels from dated contexts were found, but judging from the vessel's shape and fabric, a date in the Roman period (second–third centuries CE) is plausible.

5. Candlestick bottle (Fig. 2:5; L56, B562/b). Base, body and neck fragment. Light green glass almost obscured by an iridescent film and a black crust. Some soil deposits and pitting. Long, narrow cylindrical neck, slightly widening toward the body, which is of uneven squat shape. Slightly concave base. Thin wall. Base diam. 3.2 cm.

6. Candlestick bottle (Fig. 2:6; L56, B562/a). Base, body and neck fragment. Colorless glass with greenish tinge, almost obscured by an iridescent film and a thick black crust; severe pitting. Long, narrow, cylindrical neck, slightly widening toward the body.

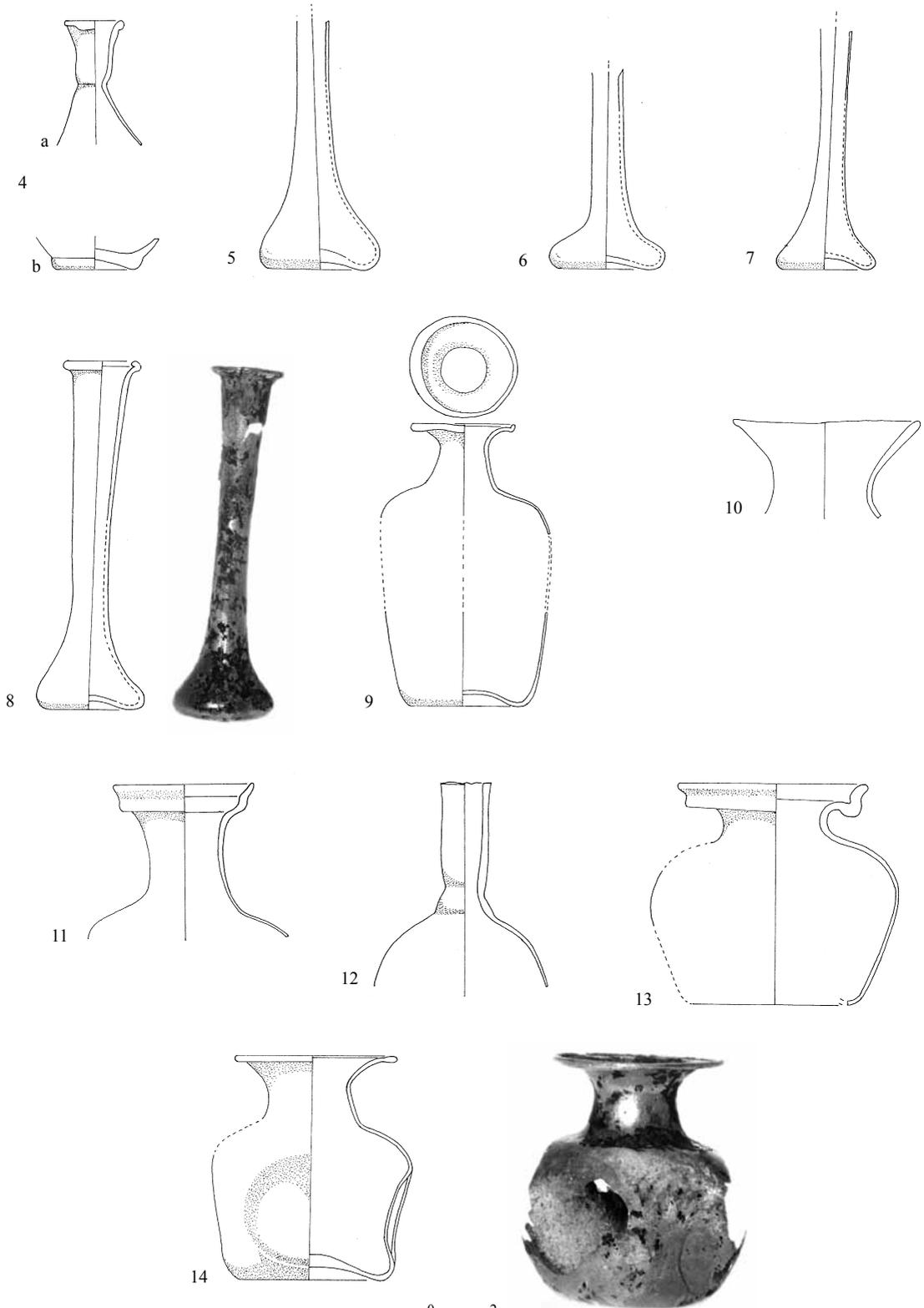


Fig. 2. Glass vessels.

Small, squat, uneven body with rounded sides. Uneven, concave base. Thin wall. Base diam. 3 cm.

7. Candlestick bottle (Fig. 2:7; L56, B562/b). Base, body and neck fragment from a small candlestick bottle. Colorless glass covered by an iridescent film and some black patches; pitting. Long, narrow, cylindrical base flaring out to a small, uneven, squat body. Concave base. Very thin wall. Base diam. 2.8 cm.

8. Candlestick bottle (Fig. 2:8; L56, B562/c). Complete, two small pieces missing. Light, bluish green glass, almost obscured by an iridescent film and a thick black crust; soil deposits and severe pitting. Flared, infolded and flattened rim, long, narrow, cylindrical neck and small, uneven, triangular body. Concave base. Very thin wall. Rim diam. 2.3 cm; base diam. 2.8 cm; height 11 cm.

Bottle Nos. 5–8 are of the candlestick type, characterized by their long necks and small, rounded, triangular bodies. This type was very common throughout Israel during the Roman period, mostly in funerary contexts. Apart from the bottles that are presented here, a bottle similar to No. 7 and a few fragments of rims and necks belonging to at least two additional bottles of this type were recovered (L56, B562/c). Similar bottles were found in Tomb E220 at Samaria (Crowfoot 1957:409, Fig. 94:3), dated by Barag to the second half of the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1970:46–47), and in the northern cemetery at the same site (Crowfoot 1957:412, Fig. 95:3), as well as in Roman tombs at Caesarea dated to the second–third centuries CE, among a large group of candlestick bottles (Mazar 1992:106–107, Fig. 5:4, 5). In the Akeldama tombs in Jerusalem, a similar bottle was found, also among a large group of candlestick bottles. Candlestick bottles are dated in general from the late first to the mid-third centuries CE (Winter 1996a:98, Fig. 5.4:1, and see further references therein), while the subtypes found in the tomb under discussion probably date to the second–third centuries, based on their shape.

9. Cylindrical bottle (Fig. 2:9; L53, B526/e). Rim, neck and shoulder fragment; separate base and wall fragment from the same vessel. Colorless glass with an iridescent film and black patches; severe pitting. Outplayed, flattened and unevenly infolded rim. Cylindrical body. Square wide shoulders and steep sides. Concave base with no pontil mark. Very thin wall. Rim diam. 3.4 cm; base diam. 3.7 cm.

This cylindrical bottle is common in Israel. Based on the evidence from funerary contexts in Samaria, Nahariyya, Ḥanita and Karm el-Shaikh, Jerusalem, Barag dated this type of bottle to the second half of the third–fourth centuries CE (Barag 1970:206–207, Fig. 45-18:1, 2). The cylindrical bottle is also known in other parts of the Roman Empire, where it is dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Isings 1957:121, Form 120b).

10. Bottle/jar (Fig. 2:10; L56, B542). Rim, mouth and neck fragment. Colorless glass with a light green tinge. Milky white, iridescent film and severe pitting. Funnel mouth with slightly uneven, rounded rim. Short wide neck. Very thin, outplayed wall. Rim diam. 6 cm.

This fragment represents the upper part of a bottle or rounded jar. Bottles with similar rim shapes were found in a Late Roman burial cave at Kisra (Stern 1997:111, Fig. 4:19, with further parallels), while complete jars with similar rims were recovered in a fourth–fifth-centuries context in the northern cemetery of Samaria (Crowfoot 1957:412, Fig. 95:8) and in the cemetery at Tyre, where they were dated from the Severan period to the end of the Roman Empire (Chéhab 1986:230–231, Pl. 34:1).

11. Bottle with a folded, horizontal ridge below the rim (Fig. 2:11; L56, B553). Rim, neck and shoulder. Bluish green glass. Black patches and soil deposits, iridescent film; pitting. Rounded, funnel-mouthed rim. Below the rim's edge, on the inner side, is a folded horizontal ridge. Cylindrical neck. Sloping shoulders. Rim diam. 2.8 cm.

This type of bottle also appears in a Late-Roman context at Ḥorbat Sumaq (Lehrer-Jacobson 1999:338, Fig. 3:35), in the factory

dump at Jalame, dated to the second half of the fourth century CE (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:72–73, Fig. 4-34:291, 292), in Tomb 230 at Dominus Flevit, Jerusalem (Bagatti and Milik 1958:143, Fig. 33:24), dated by Barag to the end of the third–first half of the fourth century CE (Barag 1970:30), and in a Late Roman context at 'En Gedi (Jackson-Tal 2007:485, Pl. 8:5).

12. Bottle with a knocked-off rim (Fig. 2:12; L54, B520). Rim, neck and wall fragment. Greenish blue glass with an iridescent film and some black and iridescent patches; pitting forming a dullness on the surface of the glass. Several vertically elongated bubbles in the neck. Knocked-off, uneven and unfinished rim. Very narrow, cylindrical neck with slight constriction at the base. Globular body. Wall of body thinner than wall of neck. Rim diam. 1.4 cm.

Similar complete bottles were found in the cemetery at Tyre, where they were dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Chéab 1986:226, Pl. 16:1–3). An additional, similar bottle with a globular body was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, dated to the third–fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:23, Fig. 12:45), and another, decorated with incisions and ribs, in Tomb E220 at Samaria, dated to the third century CE (Crowfoot 1957:410, Fig. 94:12). In the Franciscan museum at Nazareth is a similar but unadorned bottle, whose provenance is said to be a tomb at Gerasa (Bagatti 1967:229, Fig. 3:83). This type of undecorated bottle was very common in the western Roman empire during the second half of the third–fourth centuries CE (Isings 1957:121–122, Type 103; Barag 1978:26–27).

13. Squat, rounded jar with a folded flange rim (Fig. 2:13; L53, B511). Rim, neck and wall fragment; body fragment from the same vessel. Greenish blue glass with an iridescent film, black patches and soil deposits; pitting. Wide, overhanging, folded flange below rim, and rounded, flared, thickened rim. Short wide neck and globular body. Thin wall. Rim diam. 6 cm.

This type of jar was very common throughout Israel during the Late Roman period. Barag reviewed the occurrence of this type in tombs at Samaria, Dominus Flevit and Beit Fajjar and dated them to the third–first half of the fifth centuries CE (Barag 1970:151, Fig. 34:7). A jar with a similar rim was found in a burial cave at 'Ar'ara (Jackson-Tal 2008:47\*, Fig. 1:4).

14. Indented jar (Fig. 2:14; L53, B526/f). Complete rim and neck fragment; base and body fragment from the same vessel. Colorless glass with an iridescent film and black patches; severe pitting. Wide, outspread, funnel mouth and infolded rim. Short wide neck. Globular body decorated with four large, round indentations on the wall. Pushed-in base, slightly thickened at the center with marks of a polished pontil (1.5 cm). Thin wall. Rim diam. 5 cm; base diam. 4.5 cm.

15. Indented jar (Fig. 3:15; L53, B526/b). Intact. Light greenish blue glass almost obscured by an opaque, iridescent film and a thick earthy crust; severe pitting. Shallow funnel mouth with infolded rim. Cylindrical neck. Squarish body with four round indentations in the wall. Concave base. Thin wall. Rim diam. 5.2 cm; base diam. 4.2 cm.

Apart from these two vessels, base and wall fragments with indentations, probably from a similar vessel, were also recovered (L56, B553). Complete jars of this type were found in Tomb E220 at Samaria (Crowfoot 1957:409, Fig. 94:5), dated to the second half of the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1970:46–47), and in a fourth-century CE tomb at Beit Fajjar (Husseini 1935:176, Pl. LXXXV:5). Lower parts of similar vessels were found in Catacomb 20 at Bet She'arim, where they were dated to the Late Roman period based on other finds of that period (Barag 1976:202–203, Fig. 97:28, and further references therein), and in Grave 600B at Pardes Ha-Gedud (Jackson-Tal 2004:147, Fig. 13:2, 3). A fragment of a similar, infolded rim was discovered in a Late Roman burial cave at 'Ar'ara (Jackson-Tal 2008:47\*, Fig. 1:3).

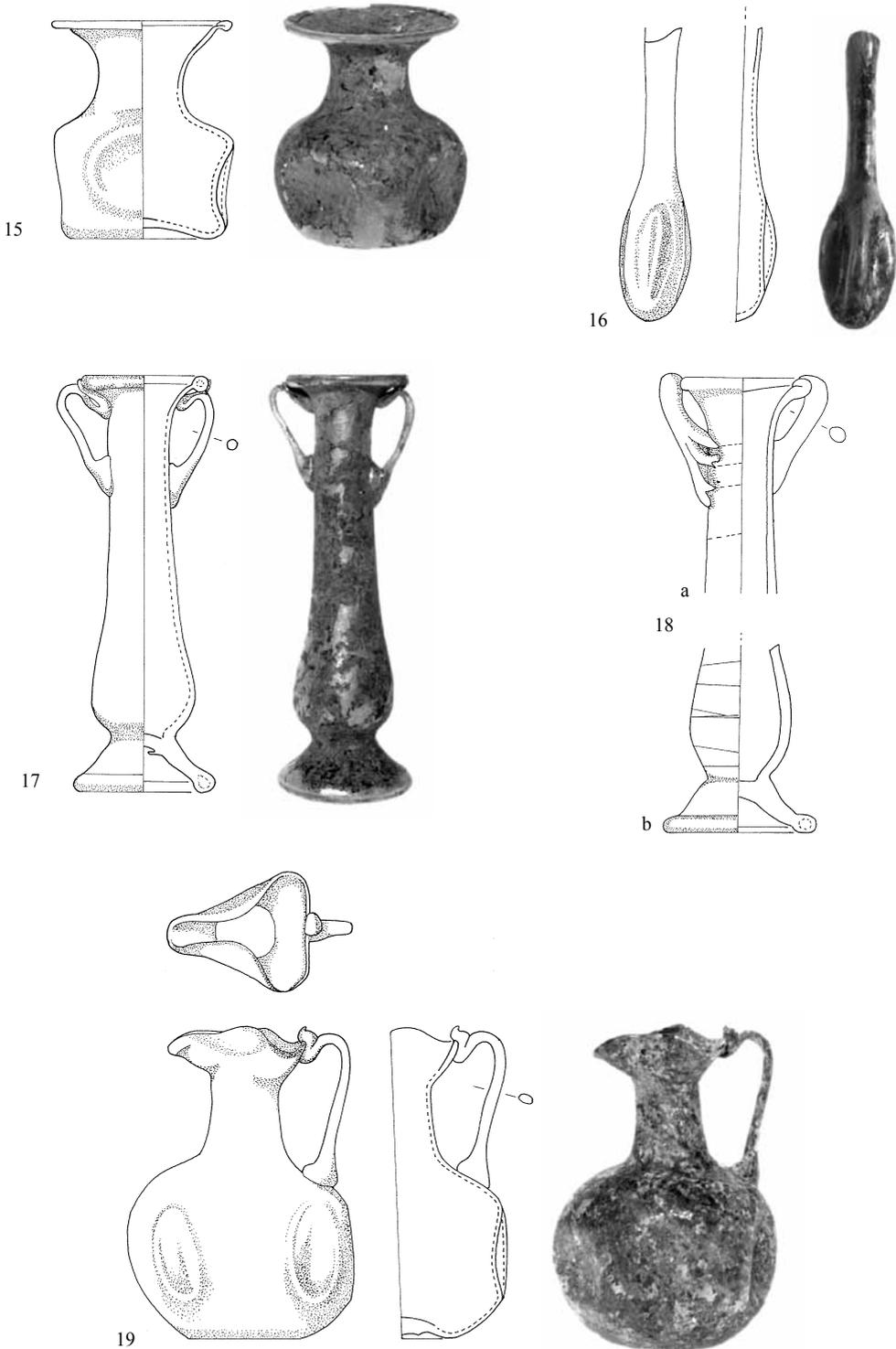


Fig. 3. Glass vessels.

16. Indented bottle (Fig. 3:16; L53, B526/c). Complete, missing rim. Colorless glass with a black and purplish crust on the inside, iridescence and lime deposits on the outside. Long, tubular neck. Narrow, bulbous body with four deep, uneven, elongated indentations. Rounded bottom. Thin wall.

A complete bottle of this type was found in a tomb at Kabri dated to the third century CE (Stern and Getzov 2006:112, Fig. 21:79). The lower part of a similar vessel was found in a tomb at Nahf, which is dated to the third–first half of the fourth centuries CE (Sussmann 1982:32, Fig. 8:10), and another body fragment was recovered at Jalame in an undated context (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:74, Fig. 4-37:336).

#### *Kohl Tubes*

17. Kohl tube (Fig. 3:17; L53, B526/a). Complete, small piece missing from the rim. Bluish green glass almost obscured by an iridescent film and a thick earthy crust; severe pitting. Tall, slender, cylindrical body bulging at the bottom. Concave, pushed-in, tubular base-ring. Pontil mark with glass from the pontil (0.9 cm). Widely flared, infolded rim. Two small, thin, trailed handles from upper part of body, folded and joined at the rim on different levels. The bottle was found with its bronze kohl-stick still inside (see Kayesar, this volume: Fig. 5:2). Rim diam. 3.5 cm; base diam. 3.8 cm; height 11.9 cm.

18. Kohl tube. Rim and neck (Fig. 3:18a; L53, B511). Greenish blue bubbly glass with iridescence, black patches and pitting. Uneven, outplayed funnel mouth with rounded rim. Long, narrow, cylindrical neck. Two applied, uneven trail handles from the upper neck to the rim. Traces of wound trail decorations on the exterior. Thick wall. Rim diam. 3.2 cm.

Complete base and body fragment (Fig. 3:18b; L54, B545), probably from the same vessel as Fig. 3:18a. Greenish blue bubbly glass with an iridescent film, some black patches and pitting. Tall, slender body with bulbous bottom. Concave, pushed-in base with a tubular base-ring. Traces of spiral, trail-wound decorations on the body. Thick wall. Base diam. 4.2 cm.

In addition to these two vessels, fragments of rims, bases and handles of two more kohl tubes were found in the tomb (L56, B553). The tubes in Fig. 3:17, 18 belong to a type that was in use during the second half of the third–fourth centuries CE throughout Israel, mainly for cosmetic purposes. The metal spoon found in the kohl tube in Fig. 3:17 (see Kayesar, this volume: Fig. 4:2) was probably used to apply the kohl. The earliest examples of this type appear in tombs of the third century CE. Other parallels are known from a second–third-centuries CE tomb near Tel Ḥalif (Gophna and Sussmann 1974:74–75, Pl. 24:4) and in Catacomb 20 at Bet She'arim, dated to the mid-third century CE (Barag 1976:202, Fig. 97:26). Another example was discovered in an undated context in Yavne-Yam and assigned a general date in the third–fourth centuries CE (Lehrer-Jacobson 1991:58, Vessel 8). A base fragment of a similar vessel was found in a Late Roman burial cave at 'Ar'ara (Jackson-Tal 2008:47\*, Fig. 1:5).

#### *Juglet*

19. Indented juglet (Fig. 3:19; L53; B526/d). Intact. Colorless glass with greenish tinge, almost entirely obscured by black and earthy crust; some iridescence. Trefoil mouth with rounded rim. Cylindrical neck, slightly widening toward the body. Globular body with five indentations on the wall. Slightly concave base with marked pontil scar bearing glass from the pontil (0.8 cm). Slender trail handle attached to the shoulder, drawn up, folded and joined at the rim. Very thin wall. Rim diam. 4 cm; base diam. 3.2 cm; height 8.8 cm.

This is a very delicate vessel, dated to the Late Roman period (third–fourth centuries CE), based on the indentation decoration, which was very common at that time. Similarly decorated jugs were found in Late Roman burial caves in the Galilee at Kisra (Stern 1997:116–117, Fig. 8:33, 34) and Khirbat el-Shubeika (Gorin-Rosen 2002a:295, 309, 311, Figs. 4:24; 4a:21–23).

#### *Glass Spindle Whorl*

Spindle whorls made of glass, stone, bone or ceramics were probably fitted onto rods to

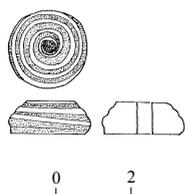


Fig. 4. Glass spindle whorl.

spin yarn. The glass variants were produced by rod-forming and winding. Glass whorls are known since the first millennium BCE, but the majority can probably be dated to the first–second centuries CE, when they became a common commodity (Spaer 2001:259–260). A single-trailed glass spindle whorl was found at the site. Glass spindle whorls were discovered at Samaria in undated contexts (Reisner, Fisher and Lyon 1924:380, Fig. 244:4a, b; Crowfoot 1957:399, 402, Fig. 92a:17) and in a Late Roman tomb near Kabri (Stern and Getzov 2006:112, Fig. 22:80).

1. Spindle whorl (Fig. 4; L52, B516). Intact. Blue and white trails. Silver weathering, iridescence and some soil deposits. Rounded upper side and flattened base, made by twisting blue and white trails around a rod. Diam. 2.1 cm; height 0.8 cm.

#### *Glass Beads*

Fifteen beads are presented here: round, square, biconical, rectangular, squat, ribbed and cylindrical. Beads were produced in various forms and strung on necklaces. They are among the earliest jewelry objects made by mankind and continued to be produced for thousands of years with very few changes due to traditional production methods. Therefore, it is usually difficult to date beads without a secure context, and parallels span from the eighth millennium BCE to modern times. The earliest glass beads were produced in the third millennium BCE, in Mesopotamia and Egypt, before the production of glass vessels. There were two main methods of making glass beads: winding glass around a rod (rod-forming) and drawing

a hollow cane from the furnace and cutting it (Beck 1928:60–61; for an updated discussion, see Spaer 2001:43–48). A third, less common method used a mold to create spacer beads in the early stages of glass-bead production. Plain, rounded beads were drawn and cut into separate beads. Unseparated beads like those in Fig. 5:10 are called segmented beads. These were sometimes made of gold-glass, a thin gold leaf placed between two layers of glass (Spaer 2001:130–135, Fig. 58).

Glass beads similar to the examples presented here have been found in contexts dating to the Late Roman period at the following sites: in a tomb at 'Ar'ara (cylindrical, square and rounded; Jackson-Tal 2008:47\*–48\*, Fig. 1:6, 9–11), at Meron in the western Galilee (conical and rounded; Meyers, Strange and Meyers 1981: Pl. 9.21:5, 10–15), in Tomb XV at Ḥanita (rounded, rectangular and conical; Barag 1978:44–46, Fig. 18:115, 121–128), at Loḥame Ha-Geta'ot (rounded, conical and hexagonal; Peleg 1991:143, Fig. 13:8, 10–11), at Ḥorbat Kenes (rounded and conical; Porat 1997:86, Fig. 3:12, 13), and in Tombs 2 and 3 at Kisra, dated to the fourth and sixth centuries CE (rounded and barrel-shaped; Stern 1997:125–126, Fig. 14:62, 64, 69). Hexagonal beads were found in undated contexts at Samaria (Reisner, Fisher and Lyon 1924:380–381, Fig. 245:1a, 2a–b, 3a, 4a, 5a). Segmented beads of slightly different shape were recovered in a Late Roman tomb at Kh. el-Shubeika (Katsnelson 2002:322, Fig. 1:8, 10) and in Tomb 1 at Ḥuqoq, dated to the second half of the first century CE and reused in the fourth century CE (Ravani and Kahane 1961:142–143, Pl. 18:6).

1. Rounded and flattened bead (Fig. 5:1; L53, B530). Complete, broken on the sides. Purple glass. Soil deposits. Rounded with a flat section. Height 0.8 cm.

Three similar beads were found in L56, B546.

2. Rounded bead (Fig. 5:2; L53, B527). Complete. Bluish glass. Silver weathering. Squarish and tiny. Height 0.3 cm.

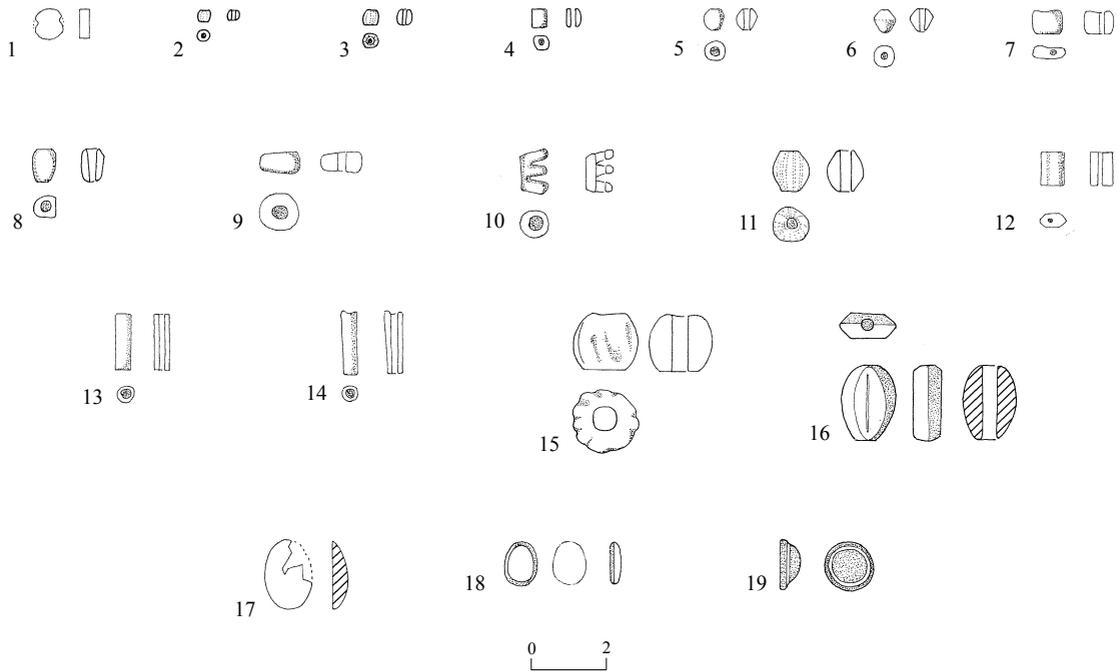


Fig. 5. Glass (1–14), faience (15) and stone (16) beads, and stone inlays (17–19).

3. Rounded bead (Fig. 5:3; L52, B516). Intact. Colorless glass. Brown and black patches. Rounded with dense, vertical ribbing. Severely pitted. Diam. 0.4 cm; height 0.4 cm.

Eleven similar beads were recovered in L52, B516. A bead similar to Nos. 2 and 3 was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, which is dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:45, Fig. 42:115).

4. Square bead (Fig. 5:4; L53, B530). Intact. Bluish glass. Severe pitting, lime deposits and silver weathering and iridescence. Squarish, uneven and small. Diam. 0.4 cm, height 0.5 cm.

A similar bead was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 42:127).

5. Biconical bead (Fig. 5:5; L53, B530). Complete. Cobalt blue. Biconical. Diam.: 0.5 cm.

6. Bead (Fig. 5:6; L53, B530). One end missing. Blue glass. Iridescence. Biconical. Diam. 0.6 cm; height 0.6 cm.

A similar biconical bead was found in the Akeldama tombs in Jerusalem in a Late Roman–Byzantine context (Winter 1996b:114–115, Fig. 7.2:13).

7. Rectangular bead (Fig. 5:7; L56, B546). Complete, one end missing. Pale purple–pink glass. Pitted with some lime crust. Flattened, rectangular. Diam. 0.8 cm; height 0.6 cm.

8. Uneven square bead (Fig. 5:8; L53, B572). Complete, one end missing. Greenish glass. Earthy patches. Uneven squarish, flat on three sides and concave on other. Diam. 0.7 cm; height 0.9 cm.

A similar bead was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 42:131).

9. Squat rounded bead (Fig. 5:9; L53, B518). Intact. Black glass. Soil deposits. Rounded, ground unevenly and flattened on both sides. Diam. 1 cm; height 0.4 cm.

A similar bead was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 42:132).

10. Segmented rounded bead (Fig. 5:10; L53, B518). Intact. Bluish glass. Silver weathering, iridescence and some soil deposits. Rod-formed, twisted into three loops, probably three beads before separation. Diam. 0.7 cm; height 0.9 cm.

11. Ribbed bead (Fig. 5:11; L52, B516/c). Complete, broken. Color obscured by thick black layer of weathering and severe pitting. Large oval, vertically ribbed. Diam. 1 cm; height 1.1 cm.

A similar bead was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 42:130).

12. Cylindrical hexagonal bead (Fig. 5:12; L53, B530). Intact. Green glass. Soil deposits. Flattened, hexagonal section. Diam. 0.6 cm; height 0.9 cm.

Four other such beads were recovered from the tomb, and a similar bead was found in Tomb XV at Ḥanita, dated to the third–early fourth centuries CE (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 42:122).

13. Cylindrical bead (Fig. 5:13; L53, B518). Intact. Bluish glass. Lime crust, white and silvery weathering. Elongated square eroded to a rounded cylindrical shape. Diam. 0.4 cm; height 1.1 cm.

14. Cylindrical bead (Fig. 5:14; L56, B546). Complete, one end missing. Bluish glass. Severe pitting, gold and silver weathering. Cylindrical. Diam. 0.4 cm; height 1.7 cm.

Five other similar beads were recovered (three together with bead No. 15 in L56, B544, another in L52, B516). Similar cylindrical beads were found in a disturbed shaft tomb on Nablus Road in Jerusalem (Hamilton and Husseini 1935:170, Pl. LXXXI:3).

#### FAIENCE BEAD

Faience is an artificial substance in use since Predynastic times in Egypt to produce small objects and vessels (Aldred 1971:35). It is easy to manipulate and can produce a variety of shapes through molding and firing (Zuckerman 1996:277). A single ribbed faience bead was found at the site. Ribbed faience beads are

well-known in Israel, in contexts dating mainly to the Roman and Byzantine periods, but also earlier. Similar ribbed beads have been found in contexts dating to the Late Roman period in Tomb 1 at Ḥuqoq (Ravani and Kahane 1961:142–143, Pl. 18:6), in a tomb near Kabri (Stern and Getzov 2006:99, Fig. 7:24), in Tomb XV at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 18:134), in a tomb at Sajur (Braun, Dauphine and Hadas 1994:109, Fig. 6:6) and in a tomb at Kh. el-Shubeika (Katsnelson 2002:322, Fig. 1:11).

15. Bead (Fig. 5:15; L56, B544). Intact. Pale blue faience, almost obscured by soil deposits. Rounded shape with vertical ribs. Diam. 1.7 cm; height 1.5 cm.

A similar faience ribbed bead was found in the Akeldama tombs in Jerusalem in a Late Roman–Byzantine context (Winter 1996b:114–115, Fig. 7.2:17, and further references therein).

#### STONE FINDS

##### *Carnelian Bead*

Carnelian is found in the desert areas of Palestine and Jordan and was used to produce beads as early as the eighth millennium BCE (in Cyprus, see Mellaart 1975:131). A single large, oval carnelian bead with a hexagonal section was found at the site. Rounded, conical, biconical and hexagonal stone beads of carnelian, agate, quartz and other unidentified stones were found at Samaria in various unclear contexts (Reisner, Fisher and Lyon 1924:381–382, Fig. 247; Crowfoot 1957:396–397, Fig. 92:60, 62, 64, 66, 67, 69, 72, 74), in Tomb XV at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:46, Fig. 18:131–133), in a Late Roman tomb at Kh. el-Shubeika (Katsnelson 2002:327, Fig. 2:5, 6) and in a Late Roman tomb near Kabri (Stern and Getzov 2006:112, 114, Fig. 22:83, 84).

16. Oval hexagonal bead (Fig. 5:16; L56, B546). Complete. Dark orange carnelian. Lime crust inside. Large oval bead with flattened hexagonal section. The bead is decorated with vertical incisions, cut and polished edges. Diam. 1.9 cm; height 2 cm.

*Stone Inlays*

Stone inlays are rounded, flat on one side and convex on the other and were inlaid in pendants, rings and other jewelry. Three stone inlays were found at the site, made of quartz, agate and an unidentified green stone. A metal ring was recovered in the tomb (see Kayesar, this volume: Fig. 4:11) and it is possible that one of the inlays was set in it.

17. Stone inlay (Fig. 5:17; L52, B516). Three pieces of an almost complete inlay, probably quartz. Colorless. Some shiny iridescence. Oval stone. Rounded on upper side and flattened base. Probably inlaid in a ring. Diam. 1.3 cm; height 1.8 cm.

18. Stone inlay (Fig. 5:18; L53, B524). Complete. Green. Earthy patches and some silver iridescence. Oval stone, cut and polished. Rounded on upper side and flattened base. On upper side, which is severely pitted, are traces of a relief-cut design. Probably a stamp seal set in a ring like that found in the tomb. Diam. 0.8 cm; height 1.1 cm.

Additional stone inlays similar to Nos. 17 and 18 were found in the tomb, one in L56, B546 and four in L52, B516.

19. Stone inlay (Fig. 5:19; L56, B547). Complete. Brown, white and black agate. Some lime crust. Rounded on upper side and flattened base. Diam. 1.3 cm; height 1.4 cm.

## CONCLUSIONS

The glass vessels from the tomb at 'Ein el-Sha'ara, comprising daily household ware, and the cosmetic artifacts and jewelry made of ceramics, bone, ivory, stone and metal, are well-known in Israel in Late Roman domestic and funerary contexts, and were probably funerary offerings. The majority of the glass artifacts can be dated to the Late Roman period (third–fourth centuries CE), although a few glass and ceramic vessels indicate an earlier date, during the second–third centuries CE (see Kayesar, this volume). Most of this assemblage represents the contents of a family burial tomb that was in use for a long period of time, during the third–fourth centuries CE, and includes personal and tableware vessels typical of similarly dated burial contexts throughout Israel. However, the glass assemblage stands out from contemporaneous assemblages in the types of vessels. The usual Late Roman burial assemblage in the Galilee includes a large number of open vessels, mostly bowls (see Stern and Getzov 2006:117–118), while in this tomb the majority of the vessels are closed containers, such as bottles, jars, beakers, kohl tubes and a juglet. This may indicate a different local production center (perhaps specializing in indentions, which are relatively common in this assemblage) or different burial customs, perhaps connected with a local Samaritan population.

## NOTE

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