

A UNIQUE HELLENISTIC POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE FROM 'AKKO

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A Crusader-period bathhouse was excavated approximately 250–300 m north of the 'Akko Ottoman-period city wall (Fig. 1; Smithline, Stern and Stern 2013).¹ The bathhouse was found to be constructed directly upon remains of the Hellenistic city with no intervening occupation levels. In an earlier excavation, conducted by Fanny Vitto 100–150 m to the west, a similar stratigraphic sequence had been revealed (Vitto 2005:153–156). Vitto's pottery assemblage is a significantly more typical local Hellenistic assemblage than the one reported upon here. During April–June 2010, a large excavation directed by Abu-'Uqsa and Abu Hamid (2012) extended Vitto's excavation farther to the north. Their finds parallel those of Vitto's excavation and do not

exhibit the heterogeneity of the Hellenistic ceramic assemblage associated with the "bathhouse excavation."

Although Hellenistic-period pottery sherds were dominant throughout the bathhouse excavation, remnants of structures dating to the Hellenistic period were revealed in two areas only (Plan 1). In the northeast, a wall (W529) running in an east–west direction, was exposed. It was 3.3 m in length, built of uneven *kurkar* blocks and was preserved to a height of approximately 0.5 m. Perpendicular to W529 were W530 in the east and W531 in the west. Walls 530 and 531 were extremely fragmentary, being 0.8 m and 1.1 m in length respectively. These walls formed the lowest courses of a structure built on sterile basal clay. The entire area was ultimately highly disturbed by the construction of the superimposed Crusader-period bathhouse (Fig. 2).

Nearly all the material presented below, however, originated from a single, homogeneous locus (L336) located in the center of the excavation, below the bathhouse floor and adjacent to W335, which is dated to the Hellenistic period (Fig. 3). Wall 335, well-constructed of *kurkar* blocks, was 0.75 m in width and was exposed for a length and a height of one meter (Plan 1). It continues to the east, below the unexcavated bathhouse floor, while in the west, it was destroyed by the construction of the base of the furnace (W340) that provided the heat for the later bathhouse. The locus, which appears to be a pit or refuse dump containing a large accumulation of restorable and fragmentary vessels, was only partially excavated (Fig. 4). Many of the vessels exhibited cracks and were relatively brittle with

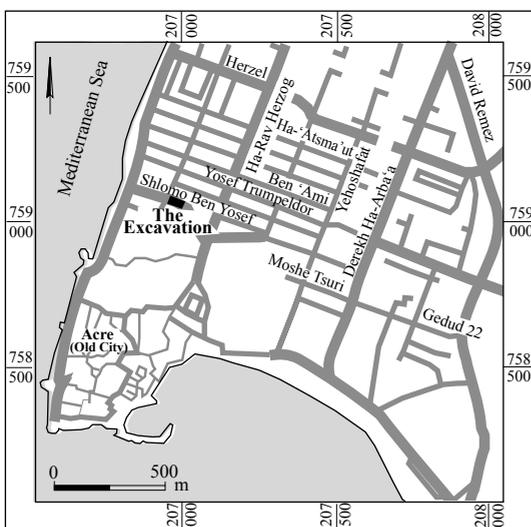
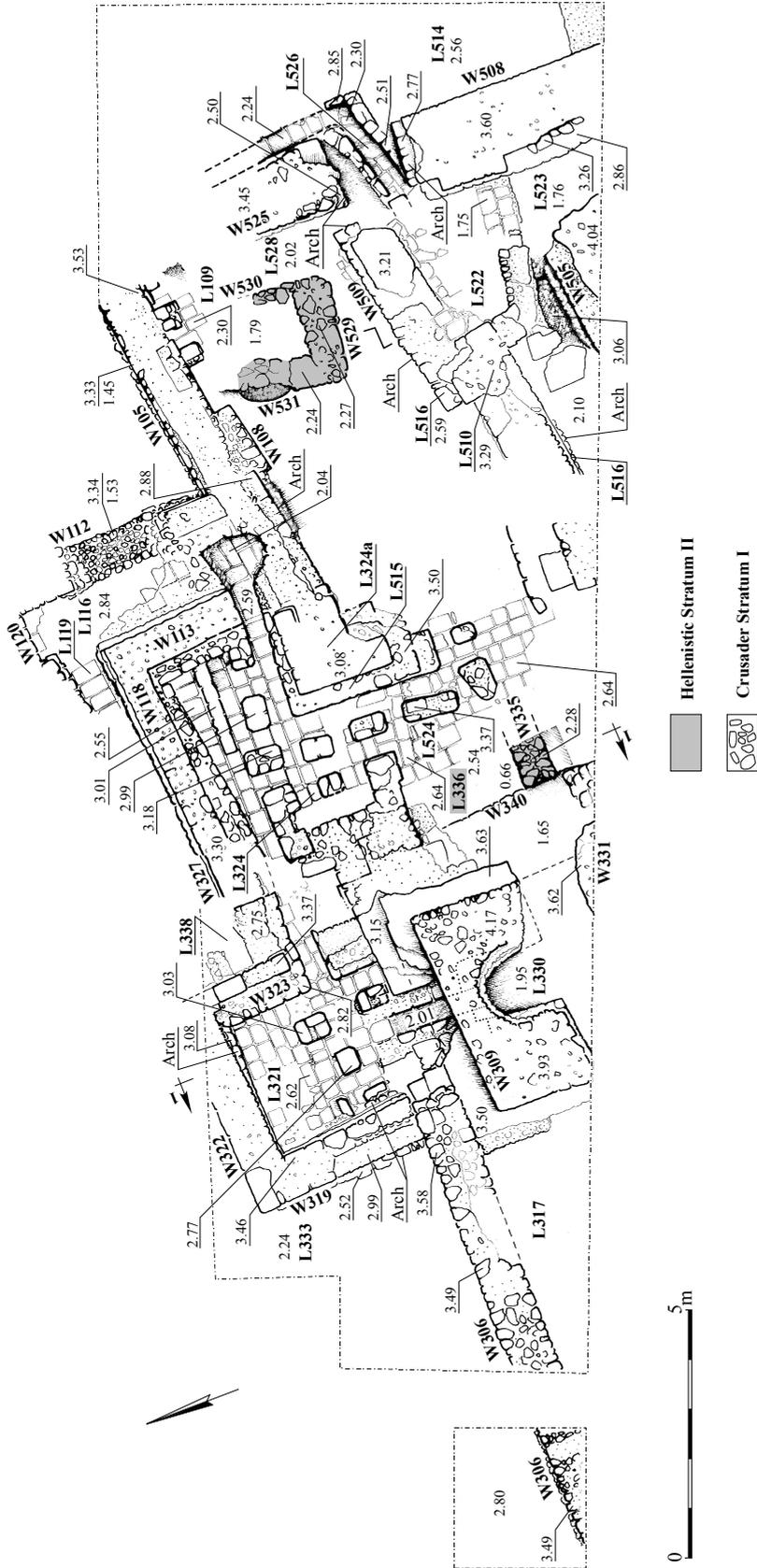


Fig. 1. Location map.



Plan I. General excavation plan and section (on following page).

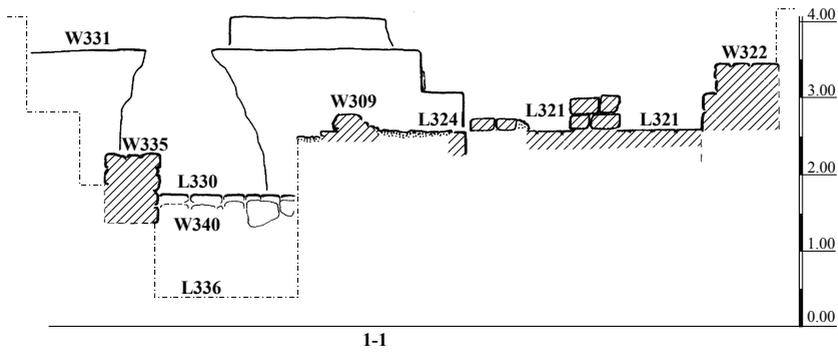


Fig. 2. U-shaped unit comprising Walls 529, 530 and 531, in the lower left, amid Crusader-period bathhouse walls, looking east.

signs of burning, apparently a result of their having been over-fired during manufacture. This is possibly an indication of a potter's workshop in close proximity. No wasters, however, were identified among the finds.

The excavation was carried out in a moist, packed clay matrix and descended down to virgin soil at the level of the present-day water table that appears to be similar to that of the Hellenistic period. Mixed in with the soil



Fig. 3. Wall 335 and L366 below the bathhouse floor, looking east.



Fig. 4. Partially restorable vessels in the packed matrix.

were broken bricks and brick material, and accumulations of ash. The ash may also supply an alternative explanation to the presence of the burnt vessels. The assemblage consisted of common Hellenistic bowls, mortaria, kraters, cooking pots, jugs, storage jars and various other vessel types that are representative of a diverse domestic assemblage dating to the third century BCE. The importance of this assemblage lies in its limited chronological range, relatively early in the Hellenistic period,

and in the variety of foreign features and parallels, the most outstanding and unusual of which are the Egyptian features. Attic and Cypriot influences are also common, as is to be expected from an eastern Mediterranean, third-century BCE pottery assemblage.

THE POTTERY

The Pottery from L366

Bowls.— Bowls, of which there are several types, were the most common vessel among the finds. Incurved-rim bowls, the most popular bowl type between the fourth and second centuries BCE throughout the Hellenistic cultural sphere (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:289–290, Fig. 6.1; see there additional references), predominate, comprising approximately 50% of all bowls found in the excavation (Fig. 5:1–5).² Incurved-rim bowls appear in various sizes and are invariably of a reddish gritty fabric, which is ubiquitous throughout the entire assemblage. The bowls were decorated in characteristic Hellenistic fashion with red or, less frequently, black slip that covered the interior of the bowl

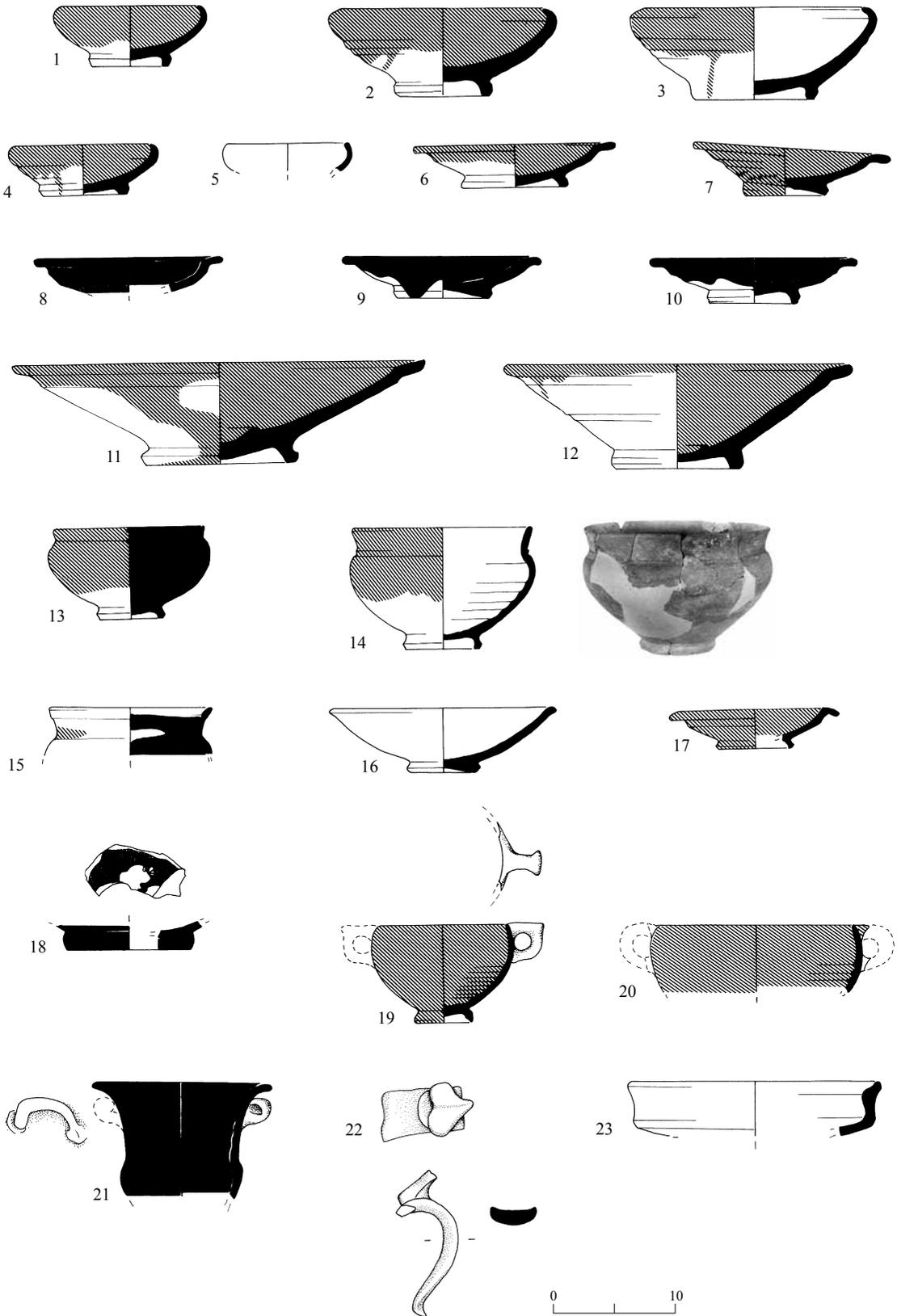


Fig. 5. Bowls, fish plates, skyphoi, kantharoi and an open vessel/lid.

◀ Fig. 5

No.	Vessel	Bank.	Description
1	Bowl	3172/4	Red slip; yellowish red surface; gray core; crack in base caused by overfiring
2	Bowl	3162/9	Red slip; reddish buff surface; red core; small white inclusions
3	Bowl	3176/2	Variouly dark brown to red slip; buff surface; gray–brown core; slightly warped
4	Bowl	3150/5	Dark red slip; reddish buff surface; red core; small white inclusions
5	Bowl	3142	Buff surface; buff core; white and gray inclusions
6	Bowl	3162/8	Red slip; yellowish red surface; brick-red core; sandy fabric; white and gray inclusions; quartz; slightly warped
7	Bowl	3164/3	Red slip; brick-red and brown core; sandy fabric; white and gray inclusions; shallow rouletting near base; warped; cracked during firing
8	Bowl	3150/4	Black slip; gray surface; grayish brown core; shallow rouletting
9	Bowl	3150/2	Slip varies from very dark brown to red; buff surface; reddish brown core; white inclusions; slightly warped
10	Bowl	3171/2	Dark brown slip; reddish buff surface; grayish brown core; white inclusions
11	‘Fish plate’	3191	Dark brown slip; red core; sandy fabric; white and gray inclusions
12	‘Fish plate’	3185/1	Red slip on inner surface; yellowish red surface; red core; sandy fabric; gray and white inclusions
13	Bowl	3168/6	Black slip on inner surface; black and red slip outside; pink surface; buff core; white and quartz inclusions
14	Bowl	3169/2	Red slip; red surface; red core; fine gray and white inclusions; quartz
15	Bowl	3169	Red and black slip; gray core; white and gray inclusions
16	Bowl	3188/3	Red surface; brick-red core; small gray inclusions; cracked during firing
17	Bowl	3163/1	Red slip and burnish; red core; very fine white inclusions; well-levigated
18	Bowl	3158	Black glaze; red core; very well-levigated
19	Skyphos	3174/1	Red slip; red surface; red core; fine gray and white inclusions; quartz; cracked during firing
20	Skyphos	3160/2	Red surface; red core; white and gray inclusions
21	Kantharos	3168/3	Matte black slip; light reddish brown core; few white inclusions
22	Kantharos	3142	Black glaze; very well-levigated
23	Open vessel/lid?	3163/2	Light brown surface; red and brown core; white and dark brown inclusions

and usually only part of the external surface that is smooth or occasionally ribbed. All had a ring base, frequently rather coarsely formed. Bowls, more than any other vessel type, seem to have suffered from over-firing and cracking. They were possibly discarded in the pit before use or, alternatively, served as lids. A number of small, coarse and undecorated bowls (Fig. 5:5) are similar to bowls that appear in early Hellenistic loci at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.1:34–38).

The less numerous, out-turned flat-rim bowls, constitute approximately 27% of all bowls. They were of a nearly uniform, relatively small size—averaging 16 cm in diameter (Fig. 5:6–10) and they were made of the same red gritty fabric as were the incurved-rim bowls. A number of bowls were carelessly executed, being either warped or severely cracked, apparently once again as a result of misfiring. Besides the usual ring base, some of the bowls had an unusual convex or depressed disk base with a shallow

central depression, suggesting a feature that originated at a single workshop (Fig. 5:7, 9). The matte, black-slipped bowl (Fig. 5:8) was alone in possessing impressed diagonal lines on its lower body. Out-turned flat-rim bowls appear in Dor in the fourth century BCE and “continue to appear in greater frequency during the second and early first centuries BCE” (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:293, Fig. 6.4:10–19). They are extremely common throughout most of the expansive Hellenistic cultural sphere (e.g., Samaria: Kenyon 1957: Figs. 37:12; 55:8–11; Kition: Salles 1993b: Figs. 195:200; 200:229; 209:314 among numerous examples) although they seem to have had a more confined dispersion than did the incurved-rim bowls.

Despite the similarity, none of the small bowls could be definitively identified as a fish plate, one of the diagnostic types of the Hellenistic period. Three large vessels, one fragmentary, do, however, fit into the fish-plate type: the exceptionally large out-turned, flat-rim bowl (Fig. 5:11) has the typical deep central depression emphasized by an encircling high ring, as does the coarse and gritty krater-like bowl in Fig. 5:12. They may be compared to a large fragmentary plate from Dor dated to the third century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.8:4).

A number of unusual, well-made, rounded bowls with an everted neck/rim were found in close proximity. The bowl illustrated in Fig. 5:13 is thin-walled with a low neck and plain rim. A larger, handleless bowl with a straight, slightly everted neck/rim and a shallow groove below a low ridge at the neck/body juncture (Fig. 5:14) appears to hark back to a Persian-period prototype (Stern 1995: Fig. 2.1:9). Possibly related is a bowl possessing a flat, thickened rim (Fig. 5:15). No comparable bowls appear to have been published from Hellenistic sites in Israel. Salles (1993a:265, Fig. 229:498, 499, 501) presents a group of similar bowls found at Kition, although they are not of Cypriot origin. Manufacture of bowls in this “Achaemenid” tradition in Egypt is discussed by Marchand (2002:251, Fig. 10), but in contrast to the

'Akko bowls, they stand upon a ring base. At Naukratis, Berlin (2001:33, Fig. 2.17:11–24) is of the opinion that similarly shaped vessels served either for cooking or as small jars.

The plain, unadorned shallow bowl or saucer (Fig. 5:16) is not common. It is somewhat coarsely made and it apparently cracked during firing. Although it could be mistaken for a large lid, the smoothing and finish of its internal surface indicate its being a bowl. No exact parallels were found in Israel, while in Corinth similar saucers with a ring base are dated from the fourth century BCE to the mid-second century BCE. There, carelessly finished outer walls, similar to the bowl under discussion, became more common from the end of the fourth century BCE (Edwards 1975:42–43, Pl. 5:164). A reminiscent bowl of larger dimensions was recovered at Kition (Salles 1993b: Fig. 202:254). Morphologically similar bowls were retrieved at the Athenian Agora but in significantly later, first century BCE to 20 CE contexts (Rotroff 2006: Fig. 52:315, 316).

Although several small bowls that were manufactured of a well-levigated, fine, reddish fabric and finished with a smooth burnish appear to have been imported from an unknown source (Fig. 5:17), high quality imported vessels are rare in the assemblage. The base of a lustrous black-slipped bowl is made of a well-levigated red fabric (Fig. 5:18); the impressed decoration inside was seemingly carelessly executed with impressed palmettes superimposed over the inner of a double row of rouletting (Kenyon 1957: Fig. 48:5; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:293, Fig. 6.5:1, 2), as occurs on bowls found at Naukratis (Berlin 2001: Fig. 48:5). Although poorly preserved, the stamped palmettes and interlocked arches point to a fourth–third century BCE date. The poor execution of these impressions may be a result of their having been mass produced.

More than 30 nearly identical skyphoi were counted (Fig. 5:19, 20). Almost all possess a matte red slip and spurred handles that are common to these vessels. Figure 5:19 is an exceptionally large example in this assemblage.

One small, thin-walled skyphos made of a well-levigated red fabric, had a thick red slip and an uneven burnish (not illustrated). Several of the skyphoi also show evidence of careless firing and resultant cracks. Skyphoi appear at Dor from the late fourth–early third centuries BCE through the mid-second century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294, Fig. 6.6:3–9 with additional references).

A black-slipped kantharos (Fig. 5:21) has a flaring plain rim that gives the vessel unusual proportions, with its upper body being slightly wider than its lower girth. The horizontal pinched handles are highly unusual. The production of kantharoi was very limited chronologically, from the fourth to the mid-third century BCE (Rotroff 1997:83–85, Figs. 10:102; 12:160; 16:249). The black-glazed strap handle with the ivy-leaf thumb-rest (Fig. 5:22) possibly belongs to an imported Pergamene vessel although, while strap handles are associated with Pergamene manufacture, ivy-leaf thumb-rests are typically Athenian (Rotroff 2002:99–101, Fig. 1:1–4).

Shallow Basin/Lid.— This is a shallow, open vessel (Fig. 5:23), made of a light, reddish brown fabric with much quartz. It is smoothed on its underside and its low outer wall, while the meeting of the wall and floor is externally beveled. The thickened rim possesses a shallow groove, perhaps to accommodate a lid. The vessel bears no evidence of burning.

The only comparative vessels may be traced to Egypt, at the sites of Naukratis and Coptos (Berlin 2001:37, 43, Fig. 2.52:4–6; Herbert and Berlin 2003:90, Fig. 69:H.H.35), where they are dated to the third and second centuries BCE respectively. The function of these vessels is as yet problematic, with Berlin (2001:37, 43) suggesting that in Naukratis they are either basins, lids or bread molds. In our opinion, the ‘Akko vessel, whose fabric is compatible with that of cooking ware, is reminiscent of the shallow casserole at Coptos.

Mortaria.— Four spouted mortaria were retrieved (Fig. 6:1–3). Each possesses an open spout that widens at its pouring end. A series

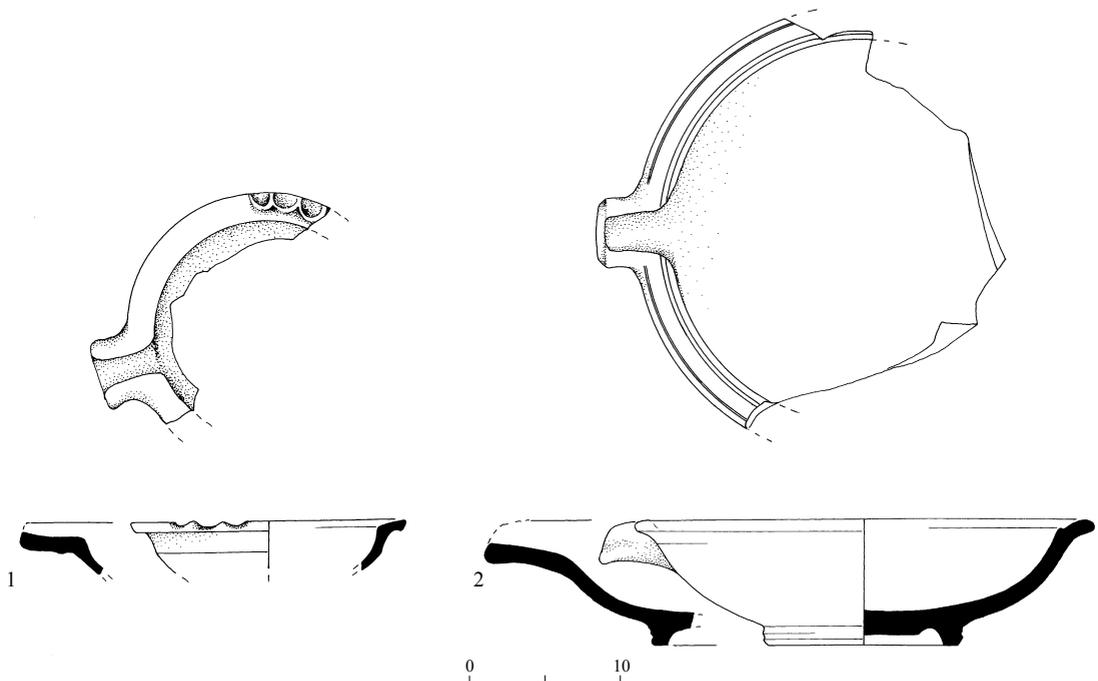
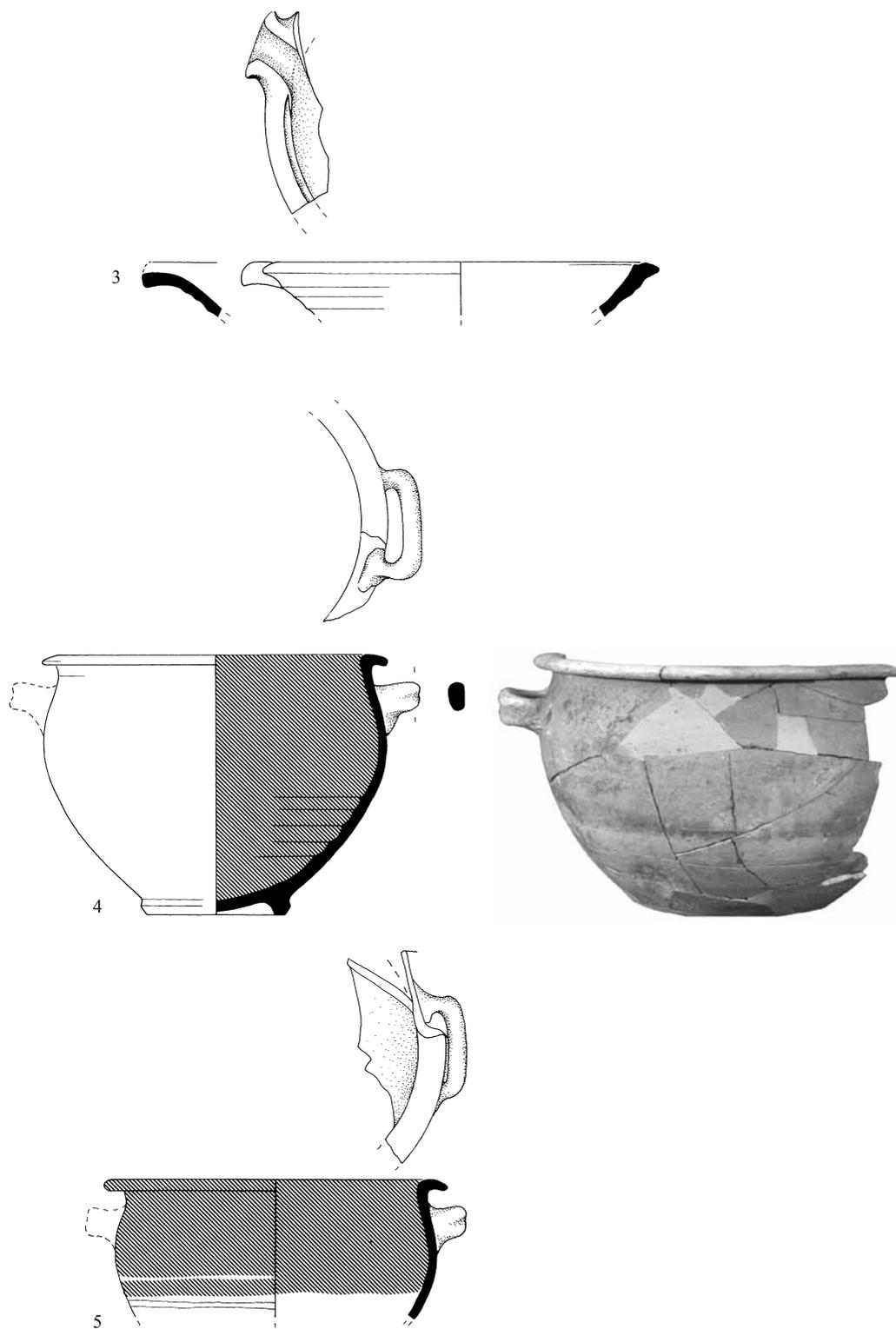


Fig. 6. Mortaria and kraters.



0 10

Fig. 6. (cont.)

◀ Fig. 6

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Mortarium	3146/1	Brick-red surface and core; gritty fabric; fine white inclusions
2	Mortarium	3164/1	Brick-red surface and core; gritty fabric; white and fine gray inclusions; inner surface coated with white plaster
3	Mortarium	3168/1	Pink surface and core; smooth surface; well-levigated fabric with fine white and quartz inclusions
4	Krater	3172	Yellowish red surface; red slip; red and black core; small white and few gray quartz inclusions
5	Krater	3168	Dark red slip; red and brown core; small white, gray and quartz inclusions

of thumb impressions forming a pie-crust design, a decorative motif not unusual on these vessels (Salles 1993a: Fig. 230:520, 521; Salles 1993b: Figs. 200:238, 239; 201:246), may appear on the outer edge of the rim. At least one mortarium has a heavy ring base (Fig. 6:2) and one is of unusually small dimensions (Fig. 6:1). Numbers 1 and 2 are of a gritty, brick-red fabric; No. 3 has a smooth surface and is made of a well-levigated, light pinkish fabric. It is probably an import from Cyprus. Spouted mortaria originate in the Aegean area in the mid-fifth century BCE “but do not become the rule until the Hellenistic period” (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:222, n. 4). Several elements distinguish the Hellenistic spouted mortar from its classical prototype. Most significant are the pie-crust decoration on the rim or handle, the shape of the spout and the use of a ring base. According to Rotroff (2006:100–102, Figs. 30–32), “The Hellenistic type probably emerged in the first quarter of the 3rd century.” Important to note is that all of the ‘Akko mortaria have an upturned or horizontal rim, whereas the Agora vessels have an emphatically downturned rim. This possibly indicates the existence of various production centers. Few parallels to spouted mortaria in Israel have been published. At Dor, identical mortaria seem to have been particularly popular during the fourth and third centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:295–296, Fig. 6.10, and additional references therein). They are also a component of contemporaneous

Cypriot and Corinthian assemblages (e.g., Pemberton 1989: Fig. 22:108; Pl. 14:108; Salles 1993b: Fig. 202:246).

Kraters.— Four deep kraters, each with a rounded body (Figs. 6:4, 5; 7:1–5), related to Athenian *lekanai*, are characterized by a slightly drooping rim and two horizontal handles, each with a central shallow groove. One (Fig. 6:5) has white bands traced around its circumference, similar to a banded vessel from Corinth. The kraters are nearly identical in form to imported West Slope *lekanai*, as well as locally produced kraters found at Dor and dated to the third–second centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.12:4; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995: Fig. 5.11:4–6) and at Samaria (Kenyon 1957: Fig. 57:5, 6). Other examples were identified at Tarsus (Jones 1950: Fig. 182:87) and at Paphos, where they are dated to the mid-second century BCE (Hayes 1991: Fig. LVI:19). A shallower, somewhat carinated vessel with identical handles was retrieved from a mid-third century BCE context at Kition (Salles 1993b: Fig. 201:247). Horizontal handles with a central shallow channel seem to be confined to Israel and Cyprus (Kenyon 1957: Fig. 57:5, 6; Hayes 1991: Figs. XII:8; LVI:19; Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.12:4).

The large, heavy-set shallow bowl with a horizontal projecting rim (Fig. 7:1) has few published parallels from sites in Israel. Its shape is derivative of Attic *lekanai* (Sparkes

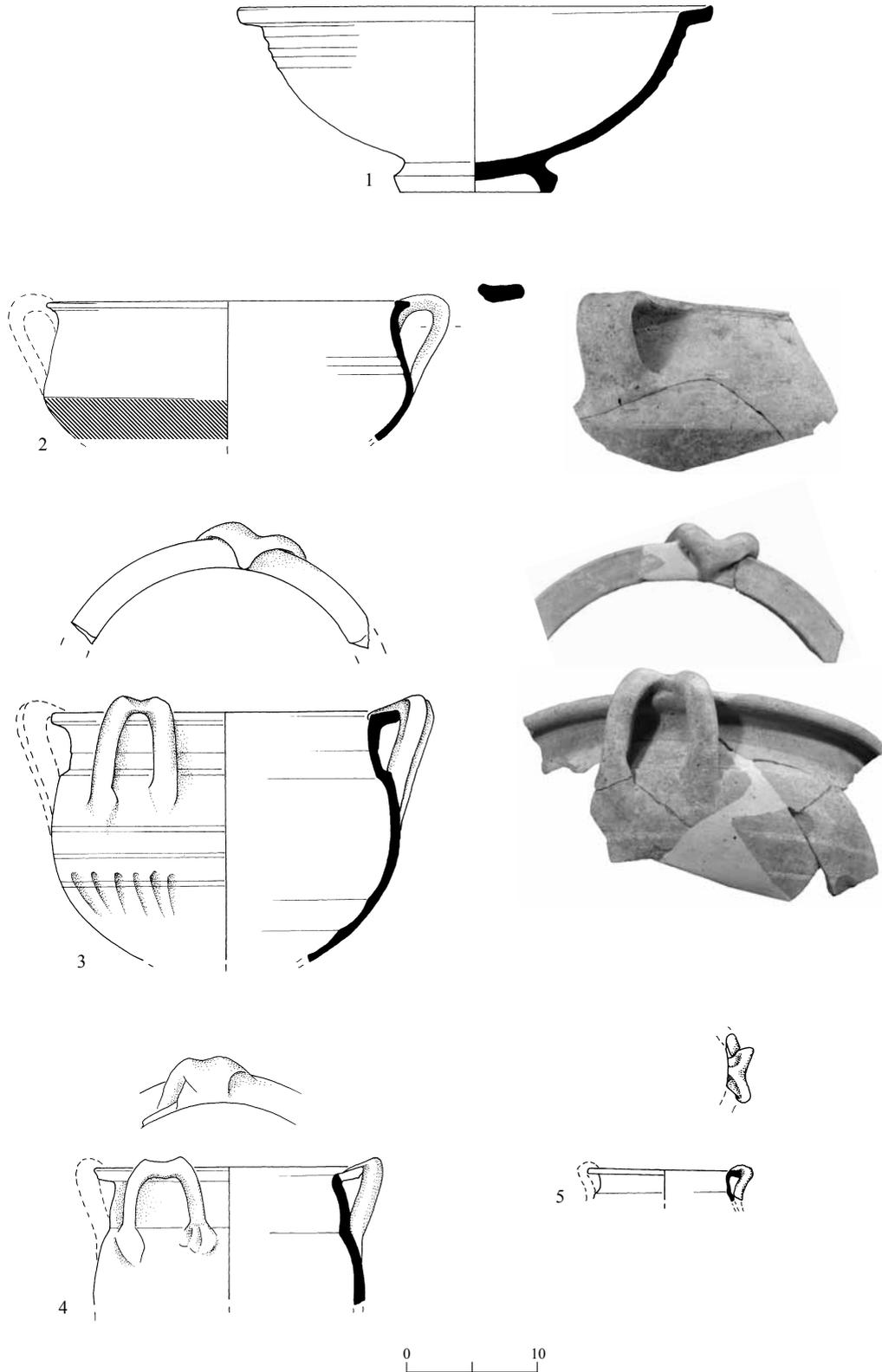


Fig. 7. Kraters and cooking pots.

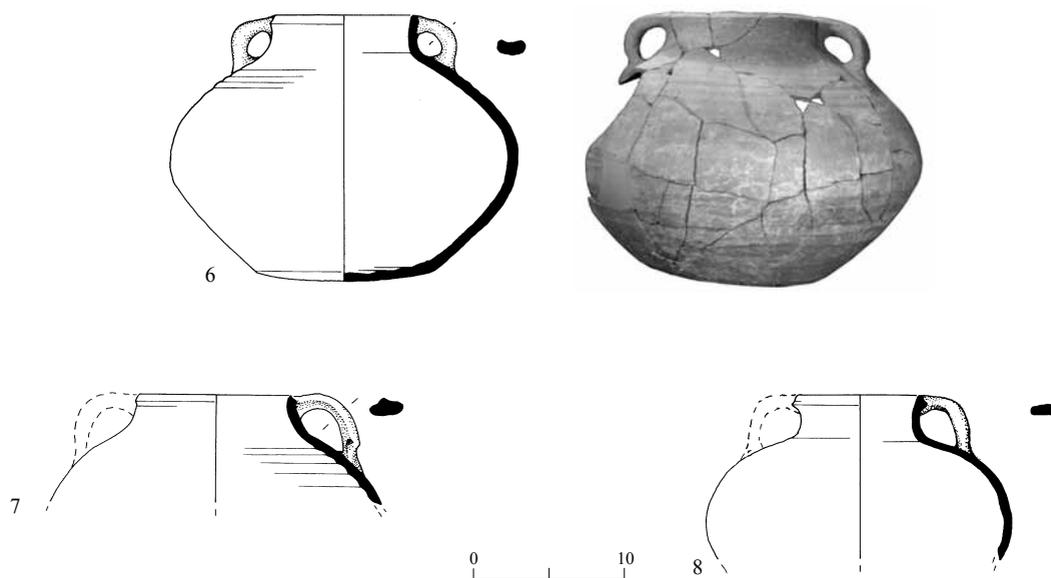


Fig. 7. (cont.)

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Krater	3176/1	Brownish red surface; brick-red core; small white, gray and quartz inclusions
2	Krater	3146/2	Yellowish red surface; dark red slip; brick-red interior; red and black core; fine white, gray, brown and quartz inclusions
3	Krater	3167/2	Red surface; red and brown core; white stripes; pseudo gouged fluting; white, gray, quartz and mica inclusions
4	Krater	3171	Reddish yellow surface; red core; small white, gray and quartz inclusions
5	Krater	3191/1	Reddish yellow surface and core; fine white, gray and quartz inclusions
6	Cooking pot	3166/2	Yellowish red surface and core; gray and quartz inclusions
7	Cooking pot	3146/4	Red surface and core; gray and quartz inclusions
8	Cooking pot	3163/3	Burned surface; dark reddish gray core; white, gray and quartz inclusions

and Talcott 1970:211–216, Pls. 83–86; Rotroff 2006:115, Figs. 50:292; 51). *Lekanai* first appear early in the fourth century BCE and their manufacture ceases in the mid-second century BCE (Rotroff 2006:100–102, Chart 28:231). Comparable vessels were found at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.11:1, 2), Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: Fig. X.2:6) and Tel Keisan (Briend 1980: Fig. XII:9), all in third–second centuries BCE contexts. Additional bowls have been reported from Cyprus (Kition: Salles 1993a: Fig. 212:357) and North Africa (Coptos: Herbert and Berlin 2003: Fig. 52:H2.48; Sabratha: Dore 1989: Fig. 56:253.3190).

Highly unusual is a carinated krater with wide strap handles (Fig. 7:2). It is made of a gritty, grayish brown fabric, not found in local assemblages. Two further exemplars, made of the sandy, reddish yellow fabric that characterizes the Phoenician coast, were also discerned. The latter have more coarsely shaped strap handles. Fragments of a similar vessel were found at Tel Keisan (Briend 1980: Fig. 12:10). The wide vertical strap handles point at a North African origin. There, such handles were relatively numerous, although no identical vessels were found in contemporaneous Naukratis, Coptos or Sabratha.

The column kraters (Fig. 7:3–5), derivatives of classical column kraters (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:297), have a flat ledge rim, a nearly upright neck and an offset round body. One krater stands out with its three white stripes and vertical gouging, or ersatz fluting, in the lower third of the body (Fig. 7:3). The convex neck of the krater in Fig. 7:4 is unusual, although a convex-necked krater with a more bulging body was found at Tel Keisan (Briend 1980: Pl. 12:4). While these vessels are often provided with vertical loop or rectangular horizontal handles, the 'Akko kraters are styled with unusual drawn-up horizontal handles that are pressed onto the rim surface (Fig. 7:3–5). The column krater, a “traditionally Corinthian vessel” dating from the Classical period, was possibly introduced to Athens through Corinthian influence (Rotroff 2006:105–106). The 'Akko kraters are comparable to the simple, plain-ware kraters dating to the first half of the third century BCE uncovered in the Athenian Agora (Rotroff 2006: Figs. 36–38).

There is one outstanding difference between the 'Akko and Agora kraters. None of the Agora kraters appears to possess the drawn-up arched handles that are pressed on to the rim. Identical handles are known from other 'Akko excavations, as yet unpublished (Ayelet Tatcher, pers. comm.). The closest comparable contemporaneous vessels are the 'necked kraters', possessing identical handles and similar profiles unearthed at Kom Hadid (Naukratis; Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.47:4).

Column kraters are found in third to second centuries BCE contexts at sites, such as Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.14; Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995: Fig. 5.11:7–9), Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: Pl. 43:403), Tarsus (Jones 1950: Fig. 186:213) and Paphos (Hayes 1991: Fig. XLI:28).

The krater illustrated in Fig. 7:5 is an accurate replica of the 'Akko column kraters, but of miniature dimensions. Miniature vessels are commonly found in Aegean sanctuaries where they were utilized as votive offerings, frequently several thousands at a time

(Dunbabin 1962:290). Certain types have also been interpreted as being children's toys or even as having served in everyday use. Their dating ranges from as early as the seventh century BCE (Dunbabin 1962:290–291). A miniature krater, very similar to the one from 'Akko, was found at Perachora, Greece and dated there to the seventh century BCE (Dunbabin 1962: Pl. 119:3201). The presence of miniature kraters, although not similar to the one under discussion, was indicated at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.15).

Cooking Pots.— Fragments of at least 87 cooking pots were identified. The cooking pots are globular and somewhat squat and only one has very shallow external ribbing. Two pot types are predominant.

The slightly more numerous type in the assemblage is a very common Hellenistic cooking pot with a low neck, a plain slanted rim and small loop handles (Fig. 7:6, 7). Infrequently, the rim has a more pronounced triangular section above a short concave neck (Fig. 7:8). The majority of the handles on these pots are flat-strap handles as described for the kraters above. Nearly absent from the repertoire is the ridged handle (Fig. 7:7), which is the predominant cooking-pot handle type of the period.³ Cooking pots with ridged handles were very common in the third–second centuries BCE and are found in large quantity at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.18, and additional references therein) and at Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997: “neckless triangular rim cooking pot,” Pl. 20).

A single cooking pot related to this group has handles placed exclusively on its shoulder (Fig. 8:1). The style of pots with shoulder handles is not common (cf. Tīrat Yehuda: Yeivin and Edelstein 1970: Fig. 8:13; and Kition: Salles 1993b: Fig. 210:327). A krater, or possibly a cooking pot that originated from Cyprus was found at Mezad Ḥashavyahu. It is very similar and may indicate a Cypriot source for this form (Fantalkin 2001:83, Fig. 30:5*).

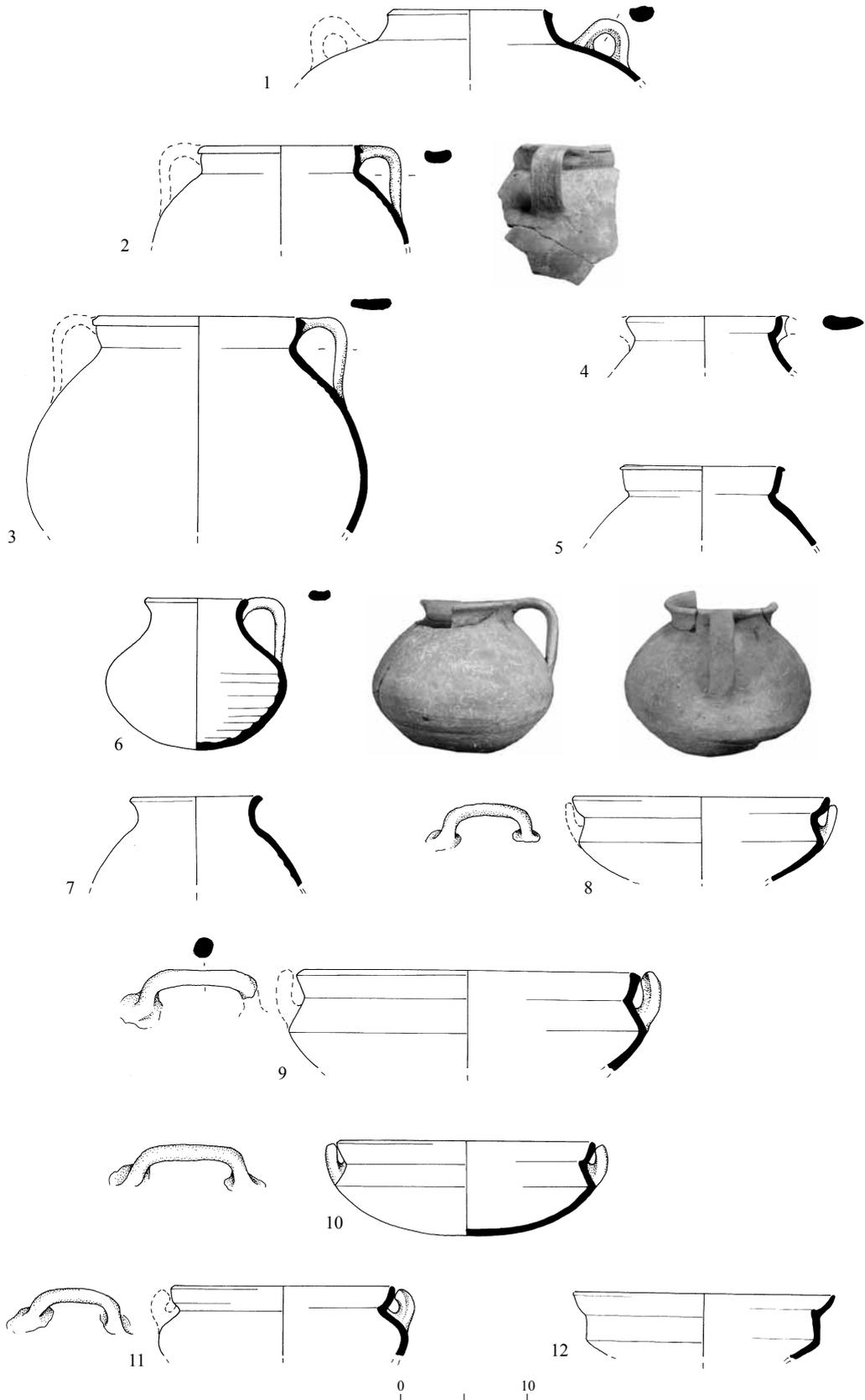


Fig. 8. Cooking pots, *chytra* and casseroles.

◀ Fig. 8

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Cooking pot	3196/3	Red surface and core; gray and quartz inclusions
2	Cooking pot	3162/5	Brick red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
3	Cooking pot	3168/4	Burned surface; yellowish red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
4	Cooking pot	3141	Red surface; brick-red and black core; white and quartz inclusions
5	Cooking pot	3161	Red surface; brick-red core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
6	Cooking pot <i>chytra</i>	3168/5	Red surface; red core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
7	Cooking pot <i>chytra</i>	3175/2	Orange surface; brick-red and gray core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
8	Casserole	3192/5	Yellowish red surface; red core; white and quartz inclusions
9	Casserole	3186/2	Red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
10	Casserole	3163/5	Yellowish red surface; red core; white inclusions
11	Casserole	3161/1	Yellowish red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
12	Casserole	3162	Red surface; dark reddish brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions

The second large group (Fig. 8:2, 3) consists of pots with a more globular body, a short convex neck and a thickened rounded rim with a groove below the thickening on the external surface. All possess characteristic long, slender strap handles whose width ranges from 1 cm to slightly over 3 cm. In contrast to the previous group, these pots were formed in two parts, with the neck having been carelessly placed into the body cavity. The form of these pots, with their round body, low, convex neck and strap handles, invokes a foreign tradition. Aside from one reminiscent high-necked cooking pot with a strap handle from Samaria (Kenyon 1957:2.29:6), no comparable vessels seem to have been published from sites in Israel. The most substantial amount of comparative material consisting of similar cooking pots may be drawn from third-century BCE contexts in Kom Hadid (Naukratis; Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.18:1, 2) and Alexandria (Harlaut 2002: Fig. 3b), both in Egypt. Another comparable pot was found at Paphos, but dated to the mid-second century BCE (Hayes 1991: Fig. XXVIII: W11.61).

One globular cooking pot (Fig. 8:4), possessing a low concave neck with an emphasized internal ridge convenient for accepting a lid, was likewise equipped with strap handles. The single occurrence of this cooking-pot type in the 'Akko assemblage contrasts greatly with its popularity at Dor, where it possesses exclusively loop handles with a ridged profile. This cooking pot accounts for a high proportion of the pots dated to the third and second centuries BCE at Dor (Type CP 4; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:299, Fig. 6.19:10, 12). Nearly identical pots with strap handles were found at Kom Hadid (Naukratis; Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.16:4). Related is a vessel with a nearly upright neck, flat rim and barely perceptible internal neck concavity (Fig. 8:5) that is similar to a cooking pot from Dor (Type CP 4; Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.19:11) and a vessel from Kition (Salles 1993a: Fig. 234:563).

The complete small cooking pot (Fig. 8:6) belongs to the class of Attic *chytra*. It is made of a brick-red fabric and has a simple, rounded everted rim, a rounded base and a single strap handle. The strap handle is a common feature

of the *chytra* (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:206; Rotroff 2006: Fig. 71). Figure 8:7 depicts a larger, but fragmentary *chytra*. Hellenistic-period *chytrai* are direct continuations of pots that appeared in Greece already in the Archaic and Classical periods, and continued in use with relatively few morphological changes through the Hellenistic period. Identical vessels were found in the Athenian Agora and in other Greek sites (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:224–225, Pl. 93, Fig. 18:1922, 1932; Pemberton 1989: Figs. 70:649; 71:652, 656; Rotroff 2006:168, Fig. 71:562). Their form was apparently adopted by Ptolemaic potters as the predominant cooking vessel of third-century BCE Egypt. At Kom Hadid (Naukratis), fragments of plain cooking-pot rims possibly originate from similar vessels (Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.17:4). Additional comparative vessels were produced in Alexandria in third-century contexts. Most were provided with only a single handle (Harlaut 2002:266, Fig. 2a, b, e). Comparable pots are dated by Rotroff to the third century BCE (Thompson 1934: Fig. 21:B32; Rotroff 1987:5). On Cyprus, they appear in Paphos (Hayes 1991: Fig. XXXIV:98, 12). No exact parallels for this form have been published from sites in Israel. In fact, only one site in the Levant, Pella, appears in Rotroff's list of *comparanda* (Rotroff 2006:167–168). A similar pot, possessing a rounded handle and an upright neck, was found at Yoqne'am (Avisar 1996: Fig. X.3:7) and is possibly a local adaptation of the Attic prototype.

Casseroles.— The assemblage contains 61 casseroles, approximately one-third less than the number of cooking pots. All of the casseroles have a vertical or oblique rim. The handle-type is exclusively horizontal with a near rectangular shape and round section (Fig. 8:8–11). The handles are drawn from the body carination up to, and flush with, the rim. Three types of casseroles were defined according to body shape and size. The 'Akko casseroles do not exhibit the variety of rim styles that occur at Kom Hadid (Berlin 2001: Figs. 2.21–2.31).

The majority of the casseroles (Fig. 8:8–10) have a sharply carinated body and a pronounced rim-ridge to accommodate the lid. Their dimensions vary. The smaller vessels have thin walls and a plain rounded rim, at times concave, while the larger vessels have thick walls and a heavy, squared rim.

Less numerous by far are rounded-body casseroles (Fig. 8:11), which are otherwise identical to the carinated casserole that is the most common type found in Israel.

The casserole, or *lopas*, first appeared in the fifth century BCE in the Athenian Agora. It is, thus, an Attic contribution to the local ceramic repertoire (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:227; Rotroff 2006:178–179). Profiles of the earlier Attic vessels are very similar to those found in 'Akko, but the handle styling and application differ (Sparkes and Talcott 1970: Pl. 18:1965). One *lopas* with handles adjacent to the rim, reminiscent of the 'Akko casseroles, was published by Thompson (1934: Fig. 121: C75). At Samaria, casseroles with horizontal handles, although numbering only twelve, were more common than vertical-handled vessels; however, it is unclear whether the rounded or carinated body predominated (Kenyon 1957:230, Fig. 41:8–20). According to Berlin (2001:34), horizontal handles on casseroles should be considered as characteristic of the third century BCE. In contrast, at Tel Dor, round-bodied casseroles with vertical handles were found more frequently.

Identical handles appear on casseroles excavated at Sabratha in eastern Lybia (Dore 1989: Fig. 23:6.2535, 9.351). A casserole nearly identical to those illustrated here, was found at Dor and is dated to the second half of the third century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:299–300, Fig. 6.22:1).

A third group of casseroles (Figs. 8:12; 9:1, 2), some rather small, have a vertical or slightly angled wall above the body carination, and a round unsteady base. None was found with handles. They appear to be closely related morphologically to third-century BCE casseroles found in Egypt, at Kom Hadid

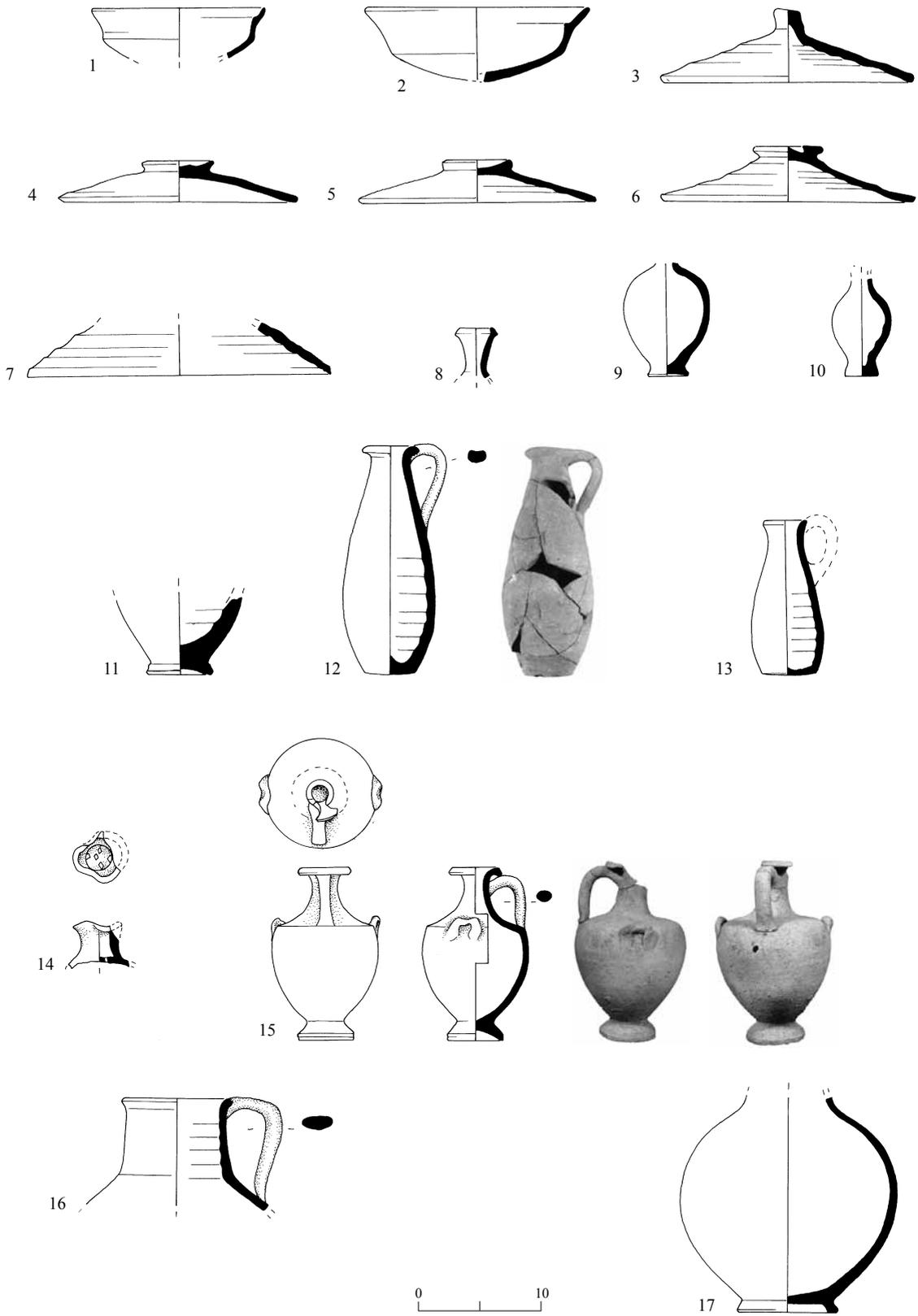


Fig. 9. Casseroles, lids, unguentaria, bottle, dipper juglets, strainer juglet, *hydria* and jugs.

◀ Fig. 9

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Casserole	3169/1	Yellowish red surface; red core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
2	Casserole	3160/1	Red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
3	Lid	3146/3	Red surface; dark reddish brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
4	Lid	3151/1	Burned surface; red core; white, gray and quartz inclusions; very warped
5	Lid	3163/4	Red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
6	Lid	3162/7	Red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
7	Lid	3189/1	Red surface; red and brown core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
8	Piriform unguentarium	3150/12	Buff surface; red core; gritty fabric; white, gray and quartz inclusions
9	Piriform unguentarium	3140	Red surface; brick-red core; white, gray and quartz inclusions; string-cut base
10	Piriform unguentarium	3186/1	Buff surface; light reddish brown core; gritty fabric; white and gray inclusions; string-cut base
11	Bottle	3151/2	Smoothed light buff surface; pink core; gray, brown and quartz inclusions
12	Dipper juglet	3168/2	Red surface and brick-red core; gritty fabric; white inclusions; string-cut base
13	Dipper juglet	3142	Red surface and core; gritty fabric; white inclusions; string-cut base
14	Strainer juglet	3262/4	Brick-red surface and core; gritty fabric; white and gray inclusions
15	<i>Hydria</i>	3166	Very pale brown surface; yellowish red core; white and fine gray inclusions
16	Jug	3188	Light gray surface; reddish gray core; white, brown and quartz inclusions
17	Jug base	3175/2	Light gray to light red surface and core; white, brown and quartz inclusions

(Naukratis) and Alexandria (Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.21:7, 8; Harlaut 2002: Fig. 4b, c). A similar small casserole, identified by Hayes as Egyptian, was found in Paphos and was dated by him to the second quarter of the second century BCE (Hayes 1991:114–115, Fig. LXXIII:6). Comparable straight-walled casseroles, both with and without handles, from the Athenian Agora are classified as *lopas* Form 4 and Form 5 respectively by Rotroff (2006:183–186). Form 4 (with handles) is dated from c. 220 BCE through the Early Roman period, while Form 5 (handleless) appears from the mid-second century to the first half of the first century BCE, relatively late to assist in dating the ‘Akko casseroles. Probably Forms 4

and 5 represent an earlier foreign tradition and are not of Attic origin as Rotroff suggests. This foreign tradition may be traced back to Egypt. Nonetheless, it should be stated that these vessels also exhibit an affinity with the sharp angularity of casseroles found in the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore (Pemberton 1989: Fig. 24:111, 112, 658, 660, Pls. 14:111, 112; 24:660; 59:658–660), most of which are dated to the fourth century BCE.

Lids.— The excavation unearthed 70 cooking-ware lids (Fig. 9:3–7), slightly more than the number of casseroles ($n = 61$). The lids, of casseroles and cooking pots, were either ribbed or had a smooth surface treatment. Although

they may be mistaken for saucers, they are identified as lids by their coarse inner surface and finished exterior. Nearly all had a simple rounded or slightly beveled edge. Where they do exhibit variation is in the shaping of the knob. Not common were lids with a crudely shaped, plain knob handle (Fig. 9:3), similar to those found at Tel Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.24:4). Dominating the 'Akko assemblage, however, are unusual handles in the form of ring and disk bases that are identical to bowl bases (Fig. 9:4–6). Such lid handles possess a much larger diameter than common knob handles. The nearly homogeneous nature of the lids perhaps points to their having been manufactured at a single ceramic workshop. Poorly fired or manufactured bowls were possibly sorted out and utilized instead as lids. Figure 9:4 could be an example of this, as it is warped and its base is deformed on one side. At Paphos, a lid styled with a knob with a “central spike,” similar to several from the 'Akko assemblage (Fig. 9:6), was retrieved (Hayes 1991: Fig. XLIV:22). Lids with similarly wide handles were unearthed at Sabratha (Dore 1989: Fig. 41:101.3324).

Unguentaria.— Surprisingly, only three fragments of unguentaria, so ubiquitous in sites of the Hellenistic period, were found. A short-necked unguentarium is made of a gritty fabric (Fig. 9:8), as is the vessel with the piriform body and the unusually well-formed base (Fig. 9:9). The two are very similar to an unguentarium from the Athenian Agora (Anderson-Stojanović 1987: Fig. 2). The unguentarium possessing the round body and hollow, low, string-cut stump base (Fig. 9:10) dates to the early part of the Hellenistic period. Numerous comparative vessels were found at Dor and are dated to the third–second centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.26:9–22 and additional citations therein).

Bottle.— Hellenistic bottles have exceedingly thick walls. Only one example of this type was found (Fig. 9:11). Bottles are dated from the

end of the fourth through the third centuries BCE at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:304, Fig. 6.26:3–5 and additional citations therein).

Dipper Juglets.— The two illustrated dipper juglets are both made of the gritty, brick-red fabric with very numerous white inclusions (Fig. 9:12, 13). Neither shows evidence of slip application. The larger vessel still has its grooved strap handle attached. They continue the form of earlier Persian-period dipper juglets (Stern 1982:119–120, Fig. 179, Type 2b), which, according to Stern, originate in Cyprus. The Attic *olpe* with a strap handle, introduced in the sixth century BCE in Athens, possibly serves as the prototype for this vessel (Sparkes and Talcott 1970: Pl. 12:255–283). Comparable juglets, both large and small, were found at Dor, although most were covered with a red or gray slip (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.28:1–7). On Cyprus they are dated to the third century BCE (Vessberg and Westholm 1956:60, Fig. 24: 13–15; Salles 1993b:200–201, Fig. 214:359). A nearly identical juglet with a grooved strap handle was found at Paphos in a mid-second century BCE context (Hayes 1991: Fig. XVI:9).

Juglet with a Strainer.— A single example of a trefoil-rim juglet with a pierced strainer was found (Fig. 9:14). It shares the same brick-red fabric as that used to manufacture the dipper juglets. The strainer was pierced by a square tool.

Hydria.— One complete and several fragmentary small *hydriae* were among the finds (Fig. 9:15). *Hydriae*—water jars possessing three handles, one to assist in pouring and two for carrying—originate in the classical Attic repertoire (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:53, Pl. 3:46). The small delicately styled *hydriae*, such as the examples found in 'Akko, are a variant of these large vessels. They have a tapering piriform body with a clearly defined shoulder and two horizontal, decorative or vestigial, shoulder-handles and a slender loop handle extending from the shoulder to below

the rim. The deeply inset base, resembling a suction cup, is alien to the local Hellenistic repertoire. The illustrated vessel, undoubtedly imported, has a pale brown surface color. Fragments of at least two additional *hydriae* have a squatter body and a flatter shoulder, and are made of a sandy, reddish yellow coastal fabric. No parallels from Israel were found in the archaeological literature.

Small *hydriae* are known to be votive vessels, having been unearthed in temple and mortuary contexts. Comparable, nearly identical *hydriae* were the third most popular form of votive vessel unearthed in the Sanctuary of Demeter and Kore in Corinth, where they are dated to c. 300 BCE (Pemberton 1989:11, Fig. 1:99). Many were also found in sanctuaries of Demeter in Kos and Crete and in Tocra (Pemberton 1989: n. 12). On Cyprus, they were associated with mortuary practices and are dated to the Hellenistic I period (Vessberg and Westholm 1956: Fig. 25:1, 2 and SCE II: Pl. CXLVI:7). A significantly larger (0.4 m in height), yet stylistically similar vessel, is located in the Alexandria Museum and is thought to originate in Naukratis. Coulson dates it to the mid-third century BCE (Coulson 1996:85–88, nn. 272 and 273, Fig. XV:2).

Jugs.— One of the outstanding features of this assemblage is the quantity and variety of the jugs. This is reflective, as well, of the finds

from Kom Hadid, where jugs are the most common utility vessel found (Berlin 2001:37, n. 14, Table 2.3). At the Athenian Agora, it was pointed out that jugs occur “in a bewildering variety of shapes, fabrics and finishes” (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:204), and Rotroff states that they “are among the most common shapes in the Agora plain-ware assemblage.” Vessberg and Westholm (1956:58) state that in Cyprus “jugs are by far the commonest types of vase during the Hellenistic period”, although this should be qualified by stating that most of the Cypriot material originates from tombs.

The largest group of jugs (Figs. 9:16, 17; 10:1–6) possesses an undecorated globular body and a well-formed ring base. The neck is not particularly high and may be straight, slightly bulging, or concave. Many of the jugs have a ridge around the neck at the level of the handle attachment (Fig. 10:4). Usually, the rim is rolled and droops outward, although the largest jugs have a heavy, thickened rim (Fig. 10:2). The handle is either a plain strap handle, or a wide strap handle with two pronounced ridges. It is most commonly drawn from the rim down to the shoulder. Occasionally, the handle is attached below the rim. Invariably, it is not a simple loop-handle but is bent at a nearly right angle and is reminiscent of the slender cooking pot handles (cf. above Fig. 8:2, 3). None of the jugs has external body ribbing. Some are quite large and possibly served to store liquids.

Fig. 10 ▶

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Jug	3162/3	Light brownish gray surface; reddish brown core; white, brown and quartz inclusions; gritty ware
2	Jug	3143	Pale brown surface; brownish gray core; white and brown inclusions
3	Jug base	3143	Pale brown surface; brownish gray core; white and brown inclusions
4	Jug	3137/1	Pale brown surface; red core; fine white and gray inclusions
5	Jug base	3167/1	Pale brown surface; red core; white inclusions
6	Jug	3162/1	Light red surface; dark red and gray core; white and quartz inclusions
7	Jug	3184/1	Light red surface; reddish gray core; fine white and gray inclusions; gritty
8	Jug	3150/9	Black(?) slip; buff surface and core; white, gray and light green inclusions
9	Jug	3163/1	Red surface; red core; white stripes; white, gray, quartz and mica inclusions

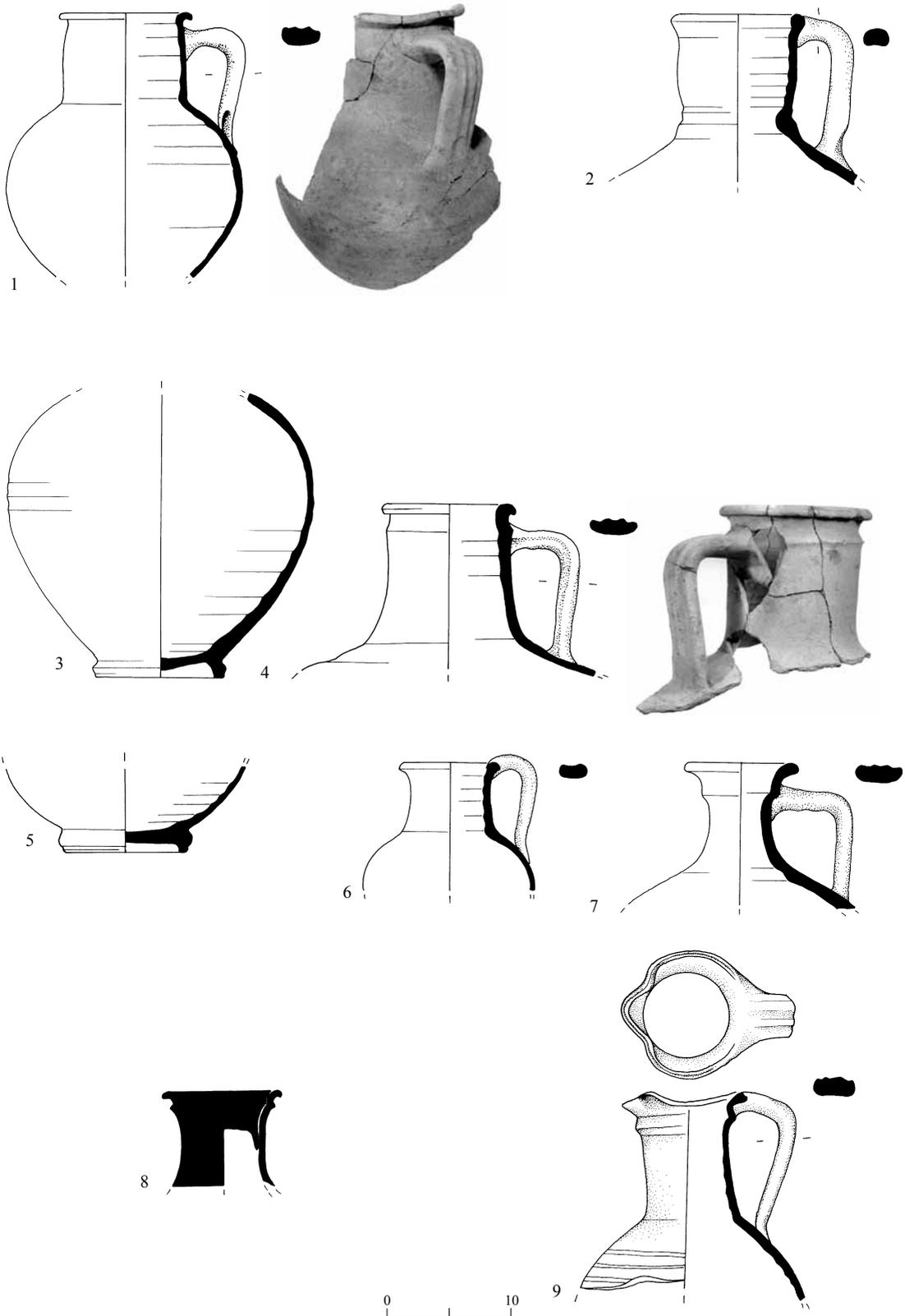


Fig. 10. Jugs.

These jugs do not demonstrate continuity with the common local jugs of the preceding fourth century BCE and earlier. Rather, their form is indicative of an intrusive foreign tradition. Nearly identical jug repertoires were uncovered at the Athenian Agora and in Egypt. The Agora jug Form 1, dated from c. 325 to 150 BCE, has a disk base, but from c. 270 to the first century BCE, the base was changed to a ring base, as found in the ‘Akko assemblage (Thompson 1934: Figs. 8:A53; 23:B39; Sparkes and Talcott 1970: Pl. 73:1612, 1616, 1618; Rotroff 2006:73–76, Figs. 3–7). The Egyptian association is notable in the nearly exclusive use of strap handles and the drooping rim (Berlin 2001:39, Figs. 2.36; 2.37:6, 7, 12). Rotroff (2006:73–74) limits the distribution of these jugs to the eastern part of central Greece with no sites in the Levant being mentioned among her *comparanda*. The finds from ‘Akko and Naukratis greatly expand the extent of their distribution.

A separate group of jugs has a narrow, usually everted, neck and rim and a pronounced neck ridge (Fig. 10:7–9). Identical jugs have been excavated in ‘Akko (Ayelet Tatcher, pers. comm.). Similar jugs are also part of the Egyptian pottery repertoire (Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.38:16), as well as being present on Cyprus,

in Paphos (Hayes 1991: Fig. XLIII:42) and in Kition, although in this last without the handle (Salles 1993a: Fig. 231:535).

The thin-walled jug with a neck-ridge and matte gray/black slip (Fig. 10:8) is similar to one from Dor, where it is not common. It is dated to the third century–first quarter of the second century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:320, Fig. 6.29:11).

One trefoil-mouth jug with a grooved rim was found (Fig. 10:9). Its three white stripes and its red fabric are identical to the krater illustrated in Fig. 7:3 and it appears to be a product of the same workshop. Although few Hellenistic trefoil-mouth jugs have been published from sites in Israel, a comparable vessel was found in Yoqne‘am (Avisar 1996: Fig. X.7:6). It has, however, a wider neck and differs in its handles and their application. Rotroff (2006:71) states that trefoil-mouth jugs are not common in Athens in the Hellenistic period.

An outstanding jug type uncovered in ‘Akko (Fig. 11:1, 2) has a high handle that is drawn upward from inside the rim—a very common feature of sixth–fifth-centuries BCE Attic vessels—and descends down to the shoulder below which is a squat sack-like body and wide base. The slanting rim invariably has a groove running around its circumference. A fragment

Fig. 11 ▶

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Jug	3196/1	Pale brown to gray surface; reddish gray core; white and brown inclusions
2	Jug	3175	Reddish gray surface; reddish buff core; fine white and brown inclusions
3	Jug	3162/2	Red/brown slip; pale brown surface; light red core; white, gray and quartz inclusions; gritty
4	Jug	3138/1	Buff surface and core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
5	Jug	3177	Reddish brown surface; brick-red core; fine white and quartz inclusions
6	Jar	3188/1	Reddish yellow surface and core; white and gray inclusions
7	Jar	3172	Pale brown surface; reddish yellow core; brown and gray inclusions
8	Jar	3164/2	Pale brown surface; reddish gray core; brown, gray and quartz inclusions
9	Jar	3171/1	Pale brown surface; reddish yellow core; brown, gray and quartz inclusions
10	Basket-handle jar	3171/2	Yellowish red surface and core; white, gray and quartz inclusions
11	Basket-handle jar	516/5080	Red surface; brick-red core; numerous white and gray inclusions

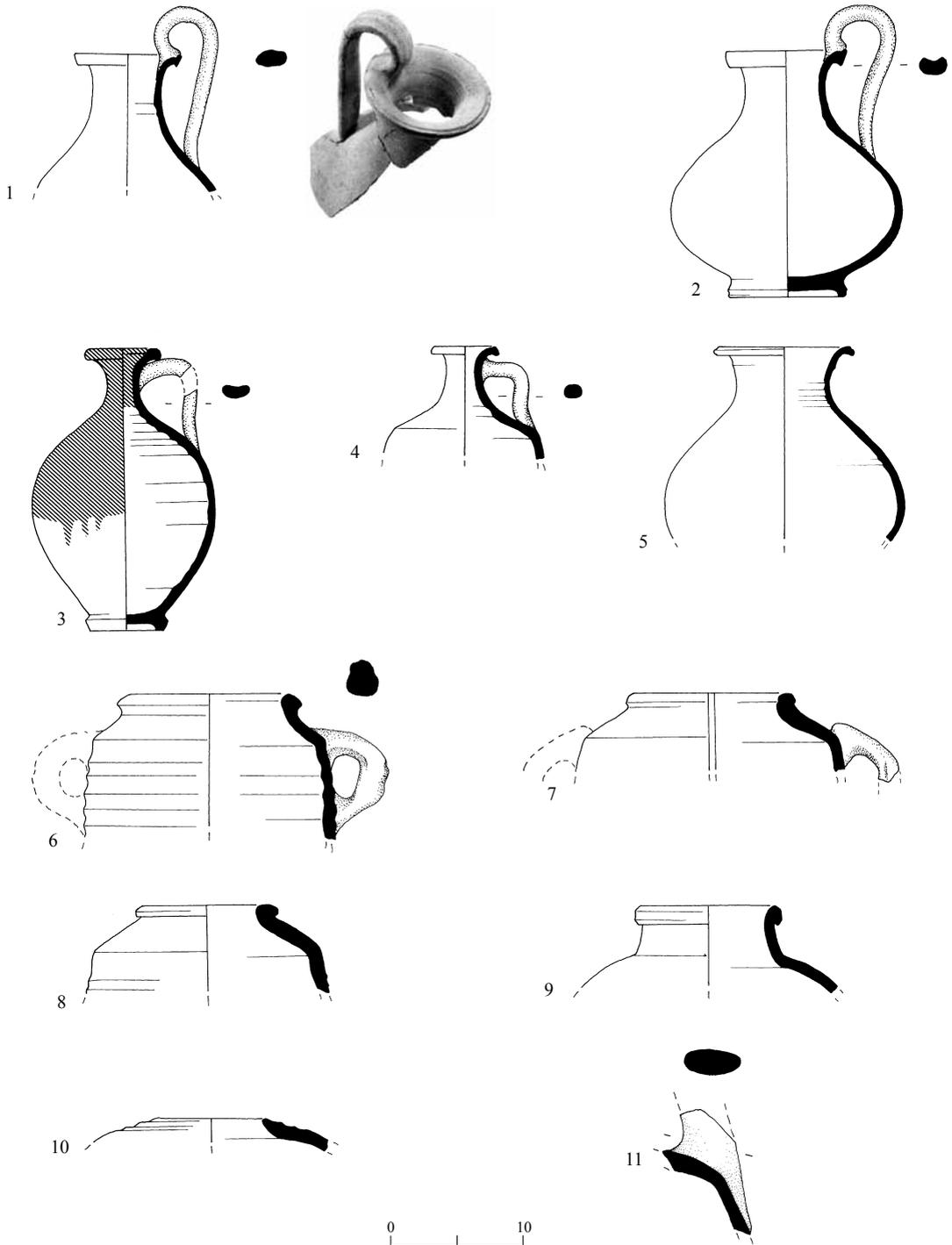


Fig. 11. Jugs, jars and amphora.

from a similar jug was found at Samaria and dated to early in the Hellenistic period (Kenyon 1957: Fig. 58:10). Although these jugs are derivative of Attic *oinochoe*, on which this handle styling was ubiquitous (Thompson 1934: Fig. 8:A51, A52; Sparkes and Talcott 1970: Pl. 8), it may be proffered that these jugs are products of northern Egypt, where identical and nearly identical vessels have been retrieved from Kom Hadid (Naukratis; Berlin 2001:39, Fig. 2.38:5–13) and Coptos (Herbert and Berlin 2003: Fig. 47:H2.30).

The description of the development of the strap handle on the *oinochoe* in Athens after the mid-sixth century BCE—“usually concave on its outer face forming in some cases definite flanges at the edges” (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:64)—well describes the handle on the complete example (Fig. 11:2). The ‘Akko jugs appear to have lost the elegance and pleasing classical proportions and to have degenerated into a somewhat clumsy, sack-like vessel. Although Rotroff’s jug Form 3 possesses a similar “high-swung handle,” none of the Athenian Agora Hellenistic jugs are reminiscent of the ‘Akko and Egyptian finds.

Two nearly identical jugs, each with a well-formed, ovoid-shaped body, belong to the only jug-type in the assemblage to possess typical Hellenistic red/brown slip (Fig. 11:3). The everted rim is funnel-shaped with a vertical step down on the inside. Similar jugs were found at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.29:17) and in the Middle Hellenistic Unit at Tarsus (Jones 1950: Fig. 123:91).

Another jug type alien to the local ceramic tradition appears to be derivative of the *lagynoi*, although it is also reminiscent of the small *hydriae* (Fig. 11:4). This vessel possesses a short neck and a bent handle drawn from directly above the shoulder carination to below the everted funnel rim. Its body is heavier and more barrel-shaped than the *hydriae*. Parallels are most common in Cyprus during the early Hellenistic period (McFadden 1946: Pl. XXXVII:24; Vessberg and Westholm 1956: Fig. 22:22–24). The form appears to be related

to vessels found in Corinth in fourth- through second-century BCE contexts (Edwards 1975: Pl. 24:634, 636).

Ironically, plain jugs with an everted grooved rim (Fig. 11:5), which are the most common jug type at Dor, are rare in this assemblage. The illustrated ‘Akko jug most resembles the earliest of the Dor jugs (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:309, Fig. 6.31:3).

Storage Jars.— The storage jars can be divided into three types: Phoenician, necked and holemouth with basket handles. The majority exhibit continuity with the Phoenician neckless, flat-shouldered jar (Fig. 11:6–8) that predominated in coastal sites during the Persian period. The ‘Akko jars have a short, slanted shoulder with a thick, folded rim. Very similar jars, dated to the fourth and third centuries BCE, are part of the Dor assemblage (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.38:1–6).

Only two rim fragments belong to the Hellenistic-period necked jars (Fig. 11:9). They have a relatively high neck and an everted folded rim. Similar jars, although usually with a lower neck, were common at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.35).

Fragments of four holemouth jars with basket handles are also represented in the assemblage (Fig. 11:10, 11).⁴ They are made of a red fabric with many dark inclusions. The rims are thickened and have three ridges. The jars had basket handles drawn from the shoulder with either a round or oval section. They demonstrate the continuity of the basket-handled jars of the Persian period into the Hellenistic period. Nearly identical rims have been found at coastal sites: ‘Akko (Ayelet Tatcher, pers. comm.); Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.8:1); Dor, where they were interpreted as being fragments of a Persian-period krater (Stern 1995:58, Fig. 2.5:2); and Tell ‘Arqa in northern Lebanon, dated there to the end of the third century BCE (Thalman 1978: Fig. 44:7, 9).

Amphorae.— Seven imported amphora rims were found in L336.⁵ The earliest and largest

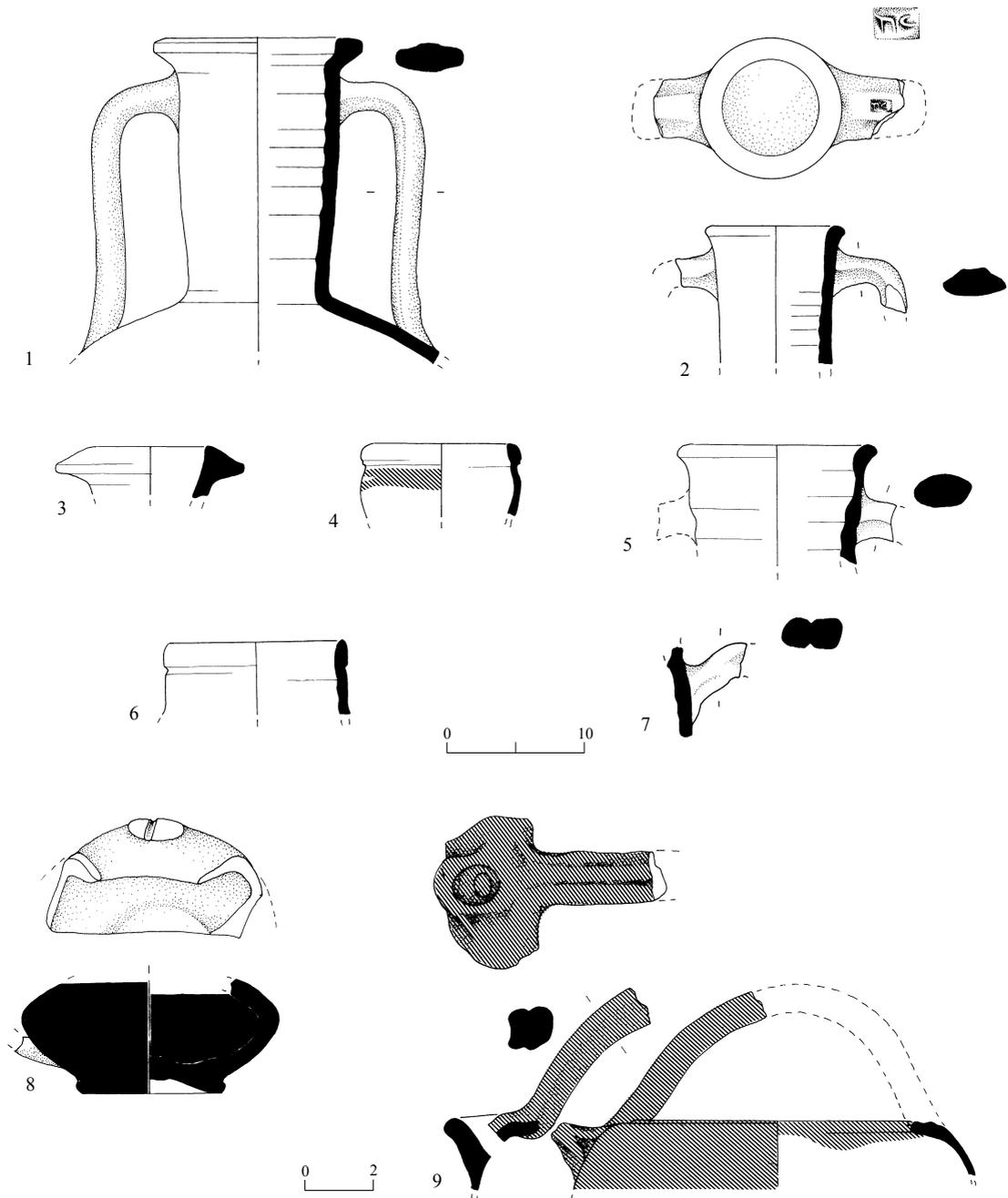


Fig. 12. Amphoras, lamp and 'teapot'.

(Fig. 12:1), with a deep, recessed, square rim, originates from the southeastern Aegean and may be dated to the second half of the fourth century BCE. A coarse amphora with an undeciphered poorly impressed stamp (Fig. 12:2) is most probably of Cypriot provenience.

It is dated to the end of the fourth–beginning of the third centuries BCE (see Finkelstzejn, this volume: Cat. No. Cy 1). Similar amphorae were found at Dor (Mook and Coulson 1995: Fig. 3.13:21) and Apollonia (Fischer and Tal 1999: Fig. 5.15:18). Also dated to the end of

◀ Fig. 12

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Amphora	3172/3	Light buff surface; pink core; fine white, gray and quartz inclusions
2	Amphora	3183/4	Yellowish buff surface; pink core; white, gray, brown and quartz inclusions; seal impression
3	Amphora	3150/7	Buff surface; reddish brown core; white, gray and mica inclusions
4	Amphora	3158/2	Red stripe on smooth pink surface; light brown core; white, gray and mica inclusions; vitrified pockets
5	Amphora	3163/6	Dark red surface; brick-red core; white and brown inclusions
6	Amphora	3168/7	Beige surface red core; white, brown and mica inclusions
7	Amphora	3183/5	Buff surface and core; white, brown and mica inclusions
8	Lamp	3150/1	Black glaze; red core; very well-levigated
9	'Teapot'	3188/2	Red slip; red core; white and gray inclusions; very well-levigated

the fourth—beginning of the third centuries BCE is the thick triangular “mushroom-like” rim of a southwestern Aegean amphora (Fig. 12:3). The profile of Fig. 12:4, with the red painted stripe below the rim, is close to the profile of a Rhodian amphora that bears a stamp impression dated to the mid-third century BCE found at Dor (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995: Fig. 5.0:6). Most probably, however, on the basis of both profile and fabric, it is of Knidian origin. The provenience of Fig. 12:5 is the north Aegean region. Figure 12:6, with the barely perceptible thickening of the rim, is of undetermined provenience. It resembles the rim of an amphora found at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.67:3, 4).

Double-barrelled handles from Koan amphorae (Fig. 12:7), as well as pseudo double-barrel and standard and half-standard Rhodian amphorae, probably dating to the second half of the third century BCE, were among the finds. Only two bases are attributable to amphorae. One highly burned base is of third-century BCE Chian origin, while the second is unidentified.

Lamp.— A single lamp was found (Fig. 12:8). It is black-glazed and is not of local manufacture. Although it is fragmentary, its side lug and its profile classify it as Type 9 of the Dor lamp classification (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:236, Fig. 5.15:1–5).

Miscellaneous.— A highly unusual, imported pitcher-like vessel is made of a reddish, well-levigated fabric and is covered with a matte red slip that extends partially inside as well (Fig. 12:9). No comparative vessel was identified.

Unassociated Hellenistic-Period Finds

Although the site was occupied by the large Crusader-period bathhouse, the quantity of Hellenistic-period finds, as is common in ‘Akko, was quite outstanding, and in fact, constituted the vast majority of ceramic finds. Most of this material originates from loci with no clear stratigraphic significance, as the foundations of the Crusader bathhouse destroyed nearly all earlier archaeological contexts. Only in one other area, as discussed above—in the northeastern part of the excavation—were there fragmentary remains of a Hellenistic structure. The chronological homogeneity of the L336 assemblage is emphasized by finds in nearby loci datable to later in the Hellenistic period, as well as the Roman period, which were not present in L336. Among these finds, the following are notable:

Bowls.— The bowl in Fig. 13:1 has a slightly down-turned rim. This bowl is possibly a fish plate with a poorly formed central depression. Its poor workmanship may indicate a second-century BCE date (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:292, Fig. 6.3:24). It should be pointed out that

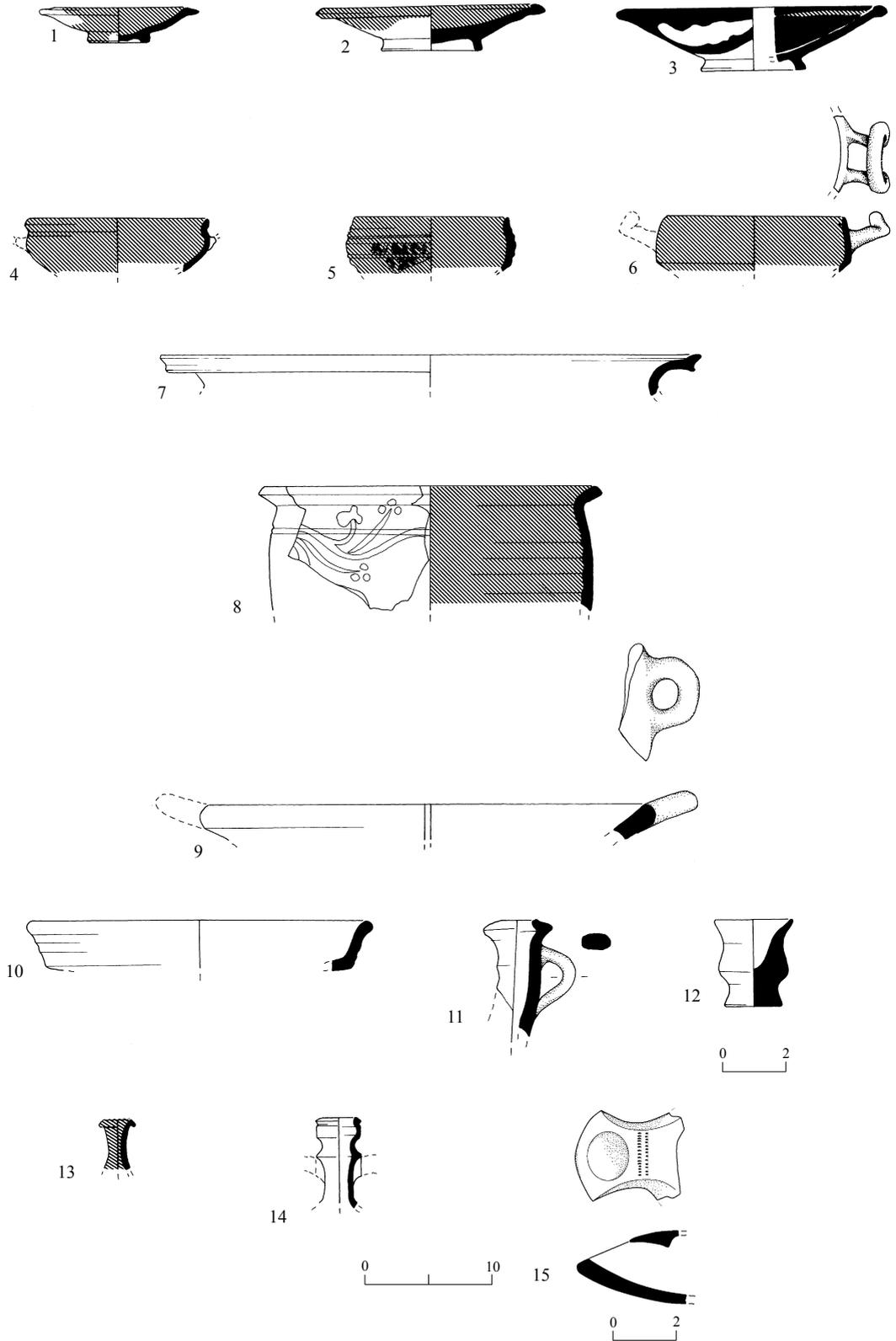


Fig. 13. Bowls, kraters, baking tray, pan, cooking prop, ointment jar, unguentarium, amphora and lamp.

◀ Fig. 13

No.	Type	Basket	Description
1	Bowl	513/5138	Thin red slip; buff surface; reddish buff gritty core; white and quartz inclusions
2	Bowl	513/5153	Red slip; very light buff surface; red core; white and numerous quartz inclusions
3	Bowl	329/3130/1	Glazed black and red slip; smooth red surface; gray core; very fine white and quartz inclusions; very well-levigated
4	Bowl	329/3126	Glazed red slip; pink core; well-levigated fabric
5	Bowl	310/3060	Glazed red slip; red gritty core; numerous mica inclusions
6	Bowl	320/3088	Poorly preserved purple(?) slip; reddish buff core; white, gray and brown inclusions
7	Krater	320/3108	Reddish brown surface; brick-red core; white and quartz inclusions
8	Krater	514/5088/2	Red slip; red and brown core; brown and mica inclusions
9	Baking tray	514/5073	Burnt red surface; brick-red core; white, gray and mica inclusions
10	Frying pan	329/3130/2	Pink surface; brown core; white, gray, brown and calcite inclusions
11	Cooking prop	333/3140/1	Very pale brown slip; brick-red core; white and quartz inclusions
12	Miniature bottle	511/5054	Reddish buff surface and core; white and quartz inclusions
13	Unguentarium	333/3140/2	Red slip on pink surface; pink core; gray and quartz inclusions; well-levigated
14	Amphora	517/5093	Pink surface and core; few quartz and very numerous white, gray and brown inclusions
15	Lamp	313/3083	Smooth reddish brown surface; red core; white and gray inclusions

numerous typical, small fish plates were found during the excavation, but only the three large examples discussed above are associated with L336.

The shallow bowl with a thickened, in-folded rim (Fig. 13:2) is made of a gritty fabric and is coarsely finished. A larger, imported bowl of a fine, well-levigated fabric and a metallic black glaze, fired red at the join of the rim and the inside surface, exhibits higher-quality craftsmanship (Fig. 13:3). These bowls are dated to the second century BCE at most sites. At Dor, however, they first appear in the fourth century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:292–293, Fig. 6.4:1–9). A similar bowl with a channel running along the rim, but manufactured in ESA fabric, identical to bowls dated to the second–first centuries BCE, was also found (cf. Jones 1950: Fig. 189:252, 253). Another commonly found second-century BCE bowl type has a pinched handle and a low folded rim (Fig. 13:4) (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294, Fig. 6.7:1–6).

Sherds from molded-relief bowls were found in several loci. The illustrated bowl (Fig. 13:5) has a tapered upright rim above a dart-and-egg register, below which is a floral pattern. It is possibly of Ionian workmanship. The earliest Attic molded-relief bowls are dated to the final third of the third century BCE (Rotroff 1982:9–13), while Ionian manufacture is limited to 166–69 BCE (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:209, comparable shape in Fig. 5.4:6). Nevertheless, be it of Ionian provenience or not, this bowl postdates the finds from L336.

A Knidian carinated bowl (Fig. 13:6) with folded horizontal handles is dated from the early second through the first centuries BCE at Dor, Samaria and Ashdod (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:294–295, Fig. 6.7:9–10).

Kraters.— Fragments of kraters, both large and small, with an everted, overhanging grooved rim (Fig. 13:7), most commonly dated to the second and first centuries BCE, were found

in a number of loci. Comparable vessels were found at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:296 with additional references, Figs. 6.11:8–11) and at Kom Hadid (Berlin 2001:41, Fig. 2.45).

Only one krater was decorated in the “West Slope” technique with undulating ivy tendrils and berries (Fig. 13:8). This krater is of eastern manufacture, as its red slip and lack of glaze attest. Its decorative style is known from Tarsus (Jones 1950: Figs. 127:133; 128:141) and Cyprus (Hayes 1991: Pl. III:10), where it is dated to the second century BCE. Comparable kraters, dated to the third–second centuries BCE, were found at Dor (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 1995:222, 229, Fig. 5.11:5, 6).

Baking Trays.— Baking trays with ring handles (Fig. 13:9) exhibit considerable geographical range during the Hellenistic period, being present throughout the eastern Mediterranean from Greece in the north to Egypt in the south, from c. 180 BCE (Rotroff 2006:188, Fig. 86:679–682). At Dor, they are also dated to the second century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:300–301, Fig. 6.23a:11–15). Also from second-century BCE contexts are handleless frying pans (Fig. 13:10), one of which is very similar to a vessel from Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Fig. 6.23a:8).

Cooking-Pot Props.— Several cooking-pot props (Fig. 13:11) were found in various loci. They are identical to props from Dor with the convex disk rim, strap handle and vertical finger groove opposite the handle. Their chronological range begins in the third century BCE, but at Dor they become quantitatively more significant during the second century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:301–302, Fig. 6.23b).

Miniature Jars.— Miniature ointment jars are a common component of Hellenistic repertoires (Hershkovitz 1986). The illustrated jar (Fig. 13:12) is extremely small, 2.75 cm in height. A smaller jar was only 2.5 cm high.

Unguentaria.— An unguentarium, attributable to the second century BCE, has a narrow high neck and thin walls (Fig. 13:13). Fragments of red slip remain on its surface. Comparable unguentaria were found at Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:305–306, Fig. 6.26:25, 26, 37–40).

Amphorae.— Fragments of imported amphorae are ubiquitous and appear in most loci. Several of the rims, decorated with a red stripe, originate from Rhodes and possibly Knidos. Their chronological range is limited to the third and second centuries BCE. Figure 13:14 is a rare example of an amphora from Sinope on the Black Sea. Fourteen stamped amphorae are also dated to the second century BCE (see Finkielsztejn, this volume).

Lamps.— Nine lamps or fragments of various lamp types, with a chronological range from the third to the first centuries BCE, were found. Two additional lamps are clearly attributable to the Early Roman period: a knife-pared lamp with a double row of squared point impressions (Fig. 13:15) and a worn fragment of a first–second centuries CE Roman imperial lamp, whose specific type is indeterminable.

CONCLUSIONS

The sole evidence of intensive utilization of the site prior to the Crusader occupation is attributable to the Hellenistic period. The earliest assemblage comes from L336, which presents a repertoire of domestic vessels that date to the third century BCE. More than 700 rim fragments from identifiable vessels were found in this partially excavated locus. Four vessel-families dominate the assemblage (Table 1): open table vessels; closed table vessels; cooking vessels; and storage vessels. Mortaria, a lamp and approximately 20 unidentifiable rim sherds complete the assemblage.

This Hellenistic assemblage reflects one of the earliest Hellenistic occurrences in the

Table 1. Number of Vessels and the Percentage of each Vessel Type in L336

Category	Type	No. of Vessels
Open Table Vessels (38%)	Bowls	168
	Skyphoi	31
	Kraters	36
Total		235
Closed Table Vessels (16%)	Jugs	90
	Juglets	5
	Unguentaria	3
	Bottle	1
Total		99
Cooking Vessels (36%)	Cooking pots	87
	Casseroles	61
	Lids	70
Total		218
Storage vessels (5%)	Jars	24
	Amphorae	7
Total		31
Miscellaneous (5%)	Mortaria	10
	Lamp	1
	Unidentified	20
Total		31

‘Akko area outside the tell of ‘Akko, Tell el-Fuḥar. The appearance of Egyptian, Aegean and Cypriot elements upon the vessels of this domestic assemblage is unambiguous, and may be interpreted as reflecting the foreign origin of many of the vessels and possibly, of the inhabitants of the site. More than being a continuation of local ceramic traditions, there is an identification with, and perhaps a replication of, alien vessel types and features. The only vessel type that is predominantly manufactured locally is the cooking pot with small loop handles (cf. Fig. 13:6–8). The bowls with an incurved rim and the bowls with an out-turned flat rim are not, as such, local, being rather universal elements of the Hellenistic cultural sphere, an intimation of early “globalization”. Although petrographic analysis was not undertaken, superficial in-hand observation of fabric strongly hints at a foreign origin for many of the vessels, some of which may

be traced to the northern Phoenician littoral, coastal Lebanon and Syria, or Cyprus.

The restricted nature of the excavation, to L336 and its adjacent area, limits our ability to define the nature of the Hellenistic occupation. The unexpected concentration of poorly fired and warped bowls in such a confined space suggests the existence of a pottery workshop in close proximity. Locus 336 may have served as a rubbish pit for this conjectured workshop. Its interpretation as a pit is further supported by the absence of similar concentrations of chronologically homogeneous and repairable vessels elsewhere in the excavated area. The variety and provenience of the retrieved vessels is too wide-ranging, however, for the dump to have been limited to a workshop.

The extremely small number of storage vessels and the single imported lamp are unusual in the context of so many identifiable vessels and, even more so, in light of the

seemingly domestic nature of the assemblage. It would be expected that, from such a large sample of vessels, more than a single lamp would be retrieved. The storage jars stand out also by being the most fragmentary of the vessel types. Not a single jar was repairable, while numerous examples of other vessel types were reconstructed to a substantial degree. Storage jars would also be expected to be more numerous.

The absence of certain vessel types is quite significant for determining the date of the L336 assemblage. Most outstanding is the absence of relief bowls, which are so common in later Hellenistic contexts; neither rims nor body sherds were unearthed. Amphoriskoi, which are an important component of second-century BCE repertoires, are absent as well. Among other missing common second-century BCE types are tall unguentaria, squat dipper juglets, "West-Slope"-technique kraters and braziers, all of which are present in other 'Akko assemblages. The presence of certain of these vessel-types in nearby loci, as has been demonstrated above, emphasizes their absence in this locus and assists in defining its chronological significance.

The pottery repertoire of L336 may thus be dated to the second half of the third century BCE. The amphorae uncovered in the locus are not of much assistance in narrowing the date of the assemblage, although none of them can be dated after the second half of the third century BCE. Only one datable stamped handle, of Cypriot origin, was found (Fig. 12:2) and it dates to the end of the fourth–beginning of the third centuries BCE (see Finkielsztejn, this volume: Cat. No. Cy 1). There are no amphora fragments in L336, nor any other finds, that can be unequivocally attributed to the second century BCE.

Attic influence, as well as Cypriot, are common in the eastern Mediterranean during the Hellenistic period. What is unusual is the quantity of uncommon vessels and features in this Hellenistic 'Akko repertoire, whose recognized Hellenistic assemblages

are standard and well-known. An interesting connection with Egypt, notably Kom Hadid (Naukratis), is observable in the similarity of numerous features of the assemblage to material from Egypt. This is particularly striking in the occurrence of strap handles on numerous 'Akko vessels, unusual in Hellenistic assemblages from Israel. Strap handles do appear rather frequently on vessels from the classical Attic ceramic repertoire and they occasionally appear in later contexts on Cyprus: at Paphos (Hayes 1991: Fig. XXIX:5, cooking pot; 112, Fig. XLIII:42, Colour-Coated Ware jug; 145, Fig. L:27, Painted Ware jug/jar) and on a krater from Kition (Salles 1993b: Fig. 208:303). They seem, however, to be ubiquitous in Egypt in the third century BCE (Kom Hadid: Berlin 2001: Fig. 2.18:1–4; Alexandria: Harlaut 2002: Fig. 2:a, e).

The extremely limited extent of the excavation hinders interpretation of the source and purpose of this large ceramic accumulation. Earlier it was suggested that the locus served as a refuse pit, possibly for a pottery workshop. It is not clear, however, if the pit contained, in addition, the remains of a domestic assemblage from a functioning community, possibly foreign to 'Akko, or the remains of a commercial enterprise. The close proximity of the site to the shore, about 200 m, is highly amenable to assuming the existence of commercial activity there. With no architectural remains, later Hellenistic pottery finds not associated with L336 are the sole indication to the continued occupation of the site through the second century BCE. This compliments Vitto's conclusion that the site of her adjacent excavation mentioned above was abandoned in the second half of the second century BCE (Vitto 2005:155).

This excavation, with its rich Hellenistic finds, demonstrates the extensive interaction of 'Akko with the Hellenistic world. The expansion of 'Akko to the sea in the west and northwest in the third century, brought it close to the large Hellenistic burial area outside the inhabited city limits to the north.

NOTES

¹ Two excavations were conducted at the site located on Ben-Yoseph St. (presently known as Derekh Ha-Nof), which is about 200 m north of the 'Akko Crusader city wall and 200 m from the sea. The first excavation (Permit No. A-2439), in 1996, was directed by Eliezer Stern with the participation of David Goren; the second excavation (Permit No. A-2734), in 1997, when the present discussed material was revealed, was directed by the author, with the participation of Eliezer Stern and Edna Stern. Both excavations were conducted on behalf of the IAA and funded by the Ministry of Transportation. Assisting were Israel Vatkin, Vadim Essman and Rachel Graff (surveying and drawing), Gerald Finkielsztejn (imported amphorae identification and epigraphy), Lea Porat (pottery restoration), Hagit Tahan (pottery drawing), Yael Gorin-Rosen (glass), Danny Syon (numismatics), Eldad Barzilay (sediment analysis) and Anastasia

Shapiro (petrography). Additional assistance was provided by Dr. Andrea Berlin, to whom I am grateful.

For the report on the Crusader bathhouse, excavated during the two excavations, see Smithline, Stern and Stern 2013.

² All rim sherds were counted and organized typologically. Unfortunately not all sherds were typologically identifiable.

³ It is interesting to note the appearance of a Palestinian cooking pot with ridged handles in the Athenian Agora (Sparkes and Talcott 1970:225, Fig. 18:1946).

⁴ The illustrated handle originates from L516, although it is identical to a handle found in L336.

⁵ The identification and chronology of the amphorae was done by Dr. Gerald Finkielsztejn. For a catalogue of all amphora handles uncovered in this excavation, see Finkielsztejn, this volume.

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