

THE CERAMIC FINDS FROM KHIRBAT EL-MUGHRAM IN THE SHU‘AFAT NEIGHBORHOOD, JERUSALEM

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The pottery presented here was recovered from two locations in Kh. el-Mughram (see ‘Adawi, this volume):¹ a burial cave and L102, excavated in an open field c. 100 m east of the cave. The sherds illustrated and discussed here are diagnostic examples chosen by the excavator and are for the most part of local ware and form. The burial cave and L102 seem to have been associated with the nearby village of Shu‘afaṭ (Sklar-Parnos, Bar-Nathan and Rapuano 2004),² which is dated exclusively to the period between the First and Second Jewish Revolts against the Romans (70–132 CE), based on ceramic, glass, metal and numismatic finds. The pottery from Kh. el-Mughram clearly reflects this connection.

POTTERY FROM THE BURIAL CAVE

Fourteen examples are represented. A single residual sherd (Fig. 1:1) is a late Hellenistic (late second–early first centuries BCE) jar; it has an externally folded, rounded rim with a beveled underside. It is noteworthy that a few sherds dating to the late Hellenistic–beginning of the Early Roman periods were recovered from the village at Shu‘afaṭ (at the site of the light-rail).

Two somewhat similar basins (Fig. 1:2, 3) have a shelf rim with a rounded, thickened, grooved outer edge and a second groove running along the inner edge. The basins are made of a well-levigated, rather soft fabric. The shelf-rim basin is one of the most common forms found at Shu‘afaṭ. It has been dated to the first–third centuries CE (HersHKovitz 1987: Fig. 3:1–7; Magness 1993:202). Our examples

herald the so-called rilled-rim basins, typical of the Jerusalem area in the Late Roman and early Byzantine periods. Each has shallow grooves on top of its rim, one arranged toward the outer edge and another toward the inner edge of the rim. On true rilled-rim basins, these grooves are deeper and more distinct; their profile possibly was intended to imitate Eastern Terra Sigillata Atlante Form 63 (Hayes 1985:41, Pl. 8:1). Our examples may in fact be transitional forms between the shelf-rim and the rilled-rim basins. Magness (1993:203–204) originally dated the rilled-rim basins between the late third/early fourth century and the sixth century CE. However, after encountering examples of rilled-rim basins at the Jerusalem International Convention Center site, Magness (2005:104–105) revised her chronology, raising the date of their appearance to the Hadrianic–Antonine periods (117–161 CE) or even earlier. Comparisons with pottery from the Shu‘afaṭ light-rail site suggest that our basins were probably produced no later than the early second century CE.

The upper part of a small cooking pot (Fig. 1:4) has a rim with a narrow, uneven external fold and a short vertical neck; it had a globular to squat body. This diminutive cooking-pot type appears in small numbers at Judean sites, in levels dating to the period between the revolts (see parallels in table of Fig. 1).

Two casseroles with a broad, slightly concave, everted rim (Fig. 1:5, 6) are illustrated. This vessel type is common at other sites in the country, dating from the end of the first to the third centuries CE. They apparently developed from a wide-mouthed, carinated

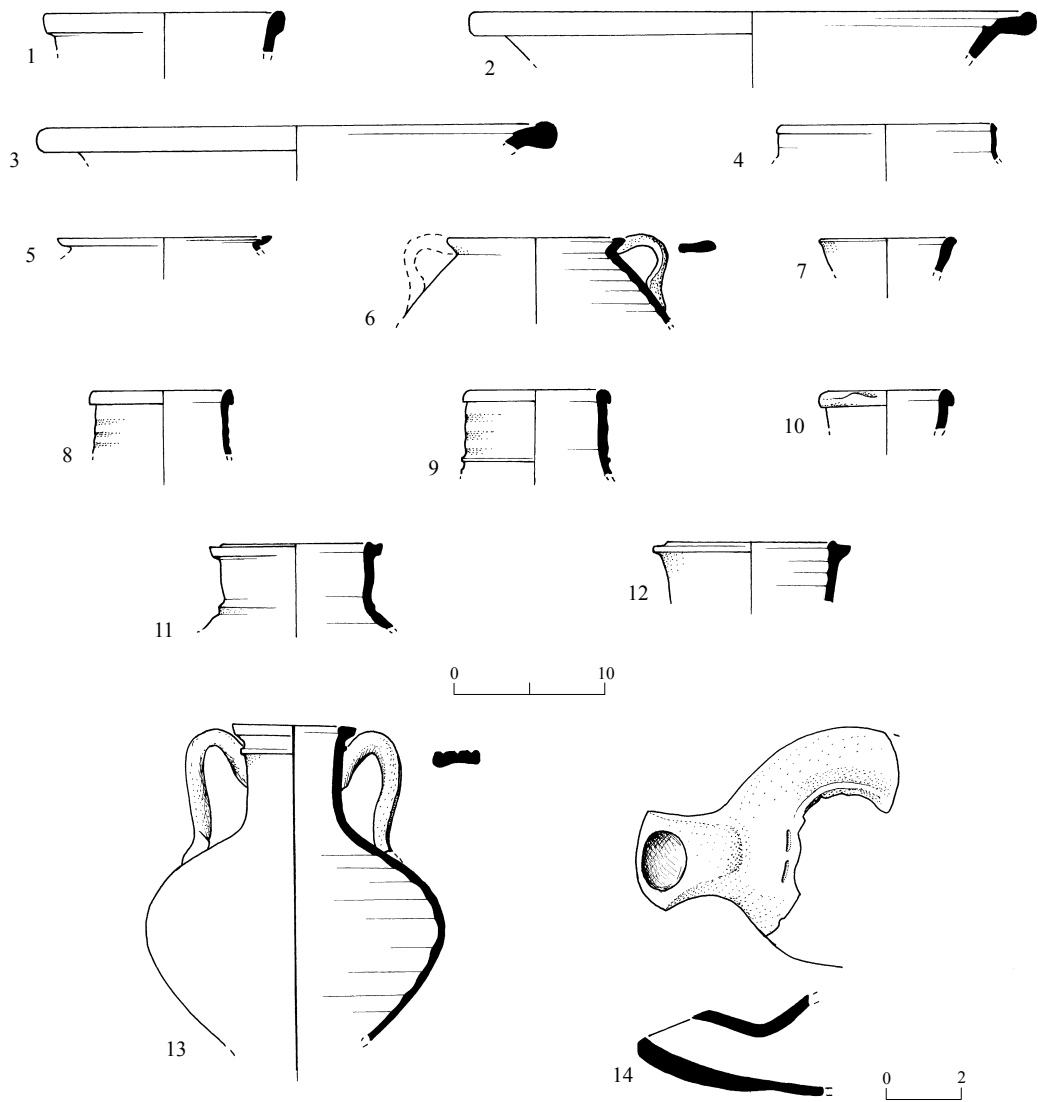


Fig. 1. Pottery from the burial cave.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels and Date	Suggested Date
1	Storage jar	155	1508	Light red 2.5YR 6/6 ware; light reddish brown 5YR 6/4 toward int. and ext. surfaces; dark gray 2.5YR N4 core; some small to tiny white inclusions	Gezer: Gitin 1990: Pl. 36:3 (late Hellenistic, mid-2nd c. BCE)	Late 2nd–mid-first c. BCE
2	Basin	151	1501.5	Red 2.5YR 5/8 ware; thick reddish gray 5YR 5/2 core; some small to tiny white inclusions	Magness 1993:202, Shelf-Rim Basin, most similar to No. 5 (1st/2nd–3rd c. CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
3	Basin	152	1502.2	Light red 2.5YR 6/6 ware; thick, grayish brown 10YR 5/2 core; some small to tiny white inclusions	As No. 2	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
4	Cooking pot	150	1500.A1	Yellowish red 5YR 5/6 ware; very dark grayish brown 10YR 3/2 core; few large to tiny white and black inclusions	Akeldama: Ben-Arieh and Coen-Uzzielli 1996: Fig. 4.3:5	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE

Fig. 1. (cont.)

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Description	Parallels and Date	Suggested Date
5	Casserole	150	1500.A2	Red 10R 4/6 ware; no core; few tiny white inclusions	Naḥal Hever Cave 8: Aharoni 1961: Fig. 10:12 (Bar Kokhba Revolt) Cf. Machaerus: Loffreda 1996: Fig. 34:3	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
6	Casserole	152	1502.3 (on sherd B5023)	Red 2.5YR 5/8 ware; gray (2.5YR N5/) core; some large to tiny white and sand inclusions	Cf. Machaerus: Loffreda 1996: Fig. 34:5 Cf. H. Hermeshit: Greenhut 1998: Fig. 39:3 (1st c. CE) H. 'Eleq: Silberstein 2000: Pl. VI:16 (last third of 1st c. BCE–2nd c. CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
7	Storage jar	151	1501.4	Reddish yellow 5YR 7/6 ware; thick gray 5YR 5/1 core; few large to tiny, white inclusions; traces of black slip(?) on rim and int.	H. Hermeshit: Greenhut 1998: Fig. 33:7 (1st c. CE) Cf. Kh. Badd 'Isa, Synagogue Building VI: Magen et al. 2004: Pl. 5:11 (mid-1st–mid-2nd c. CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
8	Storage jar	151	1501.2	Light brown 7.5YR 6/4 ware; gray 7.5YR N5/ core; many medium-sized to tiny, white, dark brown and red inclusions; light gray 2.5Y 7/2 slip on ext. and over rim	Naḥal Hever Caves 5, 6: Aharoni 1961: Fig. 7:20 Sela' Cave: Amit 1998: Pl. 3:40, not clear if there is a collar ridge (Bar Kokhba Revolt) Kh. Badd 'Isa, Synagogue Building VI: Magen et al. 2004: Pl. 5:11 (mid-1st–mid-2nd c. CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
9	Storage jar	152	1502.1	Reddish yellow 5YR 6/6 ware; no core; few large to tiny white, red and black inclusions	Naḥal Hever Caves 5, 6, 8: Aharoni 1961: Figs. 7:24; 10:22 (Bar Kokhba Revolt) Makkuk Cave: Eshel 1998: Pl. 62:10 (Bar Kokhba Revolt)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
10	Storage jar	151	1501.3	Reddish yellow 5YR 6/6 ware; light reddish brown 5YR 6/3 core; few medium-sized white, red, brown and black inclusions; very pale brown 10YR 8/3 slip on ext. and over rim	Naḥal Hever Caves 5, 6: Aharoni 1961: Fig. 7:16 (Bar Kokhba Revolt)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
11	Storage jar	151	1501.1	Light reddish brown 5YR 6/4 ware; pinkish gray 7.5YR 6/2 core; some large to tiny white and gray (sand?) inclusions	Cf. Wadi ed-Daliyeh: Lapp and Nickelsburg 1974: Pl. 26:7 (Bar Kokhba Revolt) Cf. Makkuk Cave: Eshel 1998: Pl. 62:4 (Bar Kokhba Revolt)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
12	Storage jar	151	1501.2	Red 2.5YR 4/8 ware; no core; some large to tiny white, brown, light gray and black (sand?) inclusions	Kh. Badd 'Isa, Synagogue Building VI: Magen et al. 2004: Pl. 5:13 (1st–early 2nd c. CE) Wadi ed-Daliyeh: Lapp and Nickelsburg 1974: Pl. 26:10 (Bar Kokhba Revolt)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
13	Table amphora	150	1500 (A on sherd)	Reddish yellow 5YR 7/6 ware; dark gray N4 thick core; many large to tiny white, gray and red inclusions	Cf. Hayes 1985:46–47, Pl. 10:6; ETSA Form 116 (70–120[?] CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
14	Lamp	155	1507	Pink 7.5YR 7/4 ware; no core; few small to tiny, gray, white and red inclusions	Masada: Barag and Hershkovitz 1994:49, Fig. 7:44, 45 (66–74 CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE

late Hellenistic to Early Roman form (Adan-Bayewitz 1993:112, Pl. 3A; Loffreda 1996:83).

The storage jars illustrated in Fig. 1:7–12 are bag-shaped, with tall, more-or-less cylindrical necks. The main distinguishing feature of each jar is the profile of its rim. Storage Jar No. 7 has an everted rim with a thickening on its internal side; this variant probably first appeared in the course of the first century CE and continued into the early second century CE. Jars 8–10 have externally folded rims; Figure 1:8, which has a short, triangular, folded rim, may be somewhat earlier than Jars 9 and 10, which have thicker, rounded, folded rims. The jars in Fig. 1:11, 12 have channel-rims. Jars with folded, narrow channel-rims appeared already at the end of the first century BCE at Modi'in (Permit No. A-3394; personal observation of the author). Toward the end of the first century and beginning of the second century CE, the channel-rim became thicker, broader and more pronounced. Figure 1:9, 11 and possibly Fig. 1:7, 8, 10, 12 have a collar ridge at the base of the neck. Storage jars with folded rims and collar ridges first appeared in Judea in the later part of the first century BCE and became common by the end of the first–beginning of the second centuries. The ware of Fig. 1:12 is of a dark reddish color; this jar may have been produced in the coastal region. Jars of this dark reddish ware were produced both with and without collar ridges at the base of the neck (for examples of those without, see Wadi el-Daliyeh: Lapp and Nickelsburg 1974: Pl. 26:8, 10). Since Fig. 1:12 is broken off above the shoulder, it is not possible to tell whether or not it had a collar ridge. Channel-rim and folded-rim jars became the dominant storage-jar forms in Judea between the revolts.

The table amphora in Fig. 1:13 was restored nearly to completion; only its base is missing. It has a narrow shelf rim, a tall neck and an ovoid body. The funnel-shaped upper part of the neck is separated by an external ridge from the cylindrical lower part of the neck. Multi-grooved strap handles spring from the ridge on the neck, arching at their upper ends to just

below the rim and attaching at their lower ends to the shoulders. The missing base was likely a low ring with a small omphalos rising from its floor and a central button on its external underside. The vessel is made of coarse local ware. A few examples of table amphorae were excavated at the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site, including one complete vessel with a similar rim and neck form. The rim of our vessel is somewhat similar to Hayes' (1985: Pl. 10:6) ETSA Form 116, which he dated to c. 70–120(?) CE.

The spatulated, knife-pared Herodian lamp (Fig. 1:14) has a narrow, grooved rim and a stout undecorated spout. It was carelessly formed on the potter's wheel, however, with notably articulate thinness. It is of a later type, designated Form C III at Masada, where it was found in abundance and associated with the Zealot occupation of the site (Barag and Heshkovitz 1994:49). At the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site, spatulated, knife-pared lamps were discovered together with typical Roman disc lamps—sometimes within the same locus.

POTTERY FROM LOCUS 102

Six examples are represented from L102. A residual sherd of a large, closed-form krater (Fig. 2:1) was recovered dating to the end of the Iron Age (seventh–sixth centuries BCE). It has a thickened rolled-back rim and is made of a heavy, coarse gray ware, fired pink toward its interior and exterior surfaces. Another residual sherd is the fragment of a Hasmonean wide-mouthed jug with a thickened, out-turned rim (Fig. 2:2). It is made of the pale brown ware typical of the late Hellenistic period.

A bowl with a shelf rim that arches slightly (Fig. 2:3) is illustrated. An arched-rim basin, similar in form to the bowl, but larger (Fig. 2:4), is made of a finely levigated, well-fired pink local fabric. The arched-rim basin was the predominant basin form throughout the Late Roman and Byzantine periods in Jerusalem. Magness (1993:204) originally dated the appearance of the arched-rim

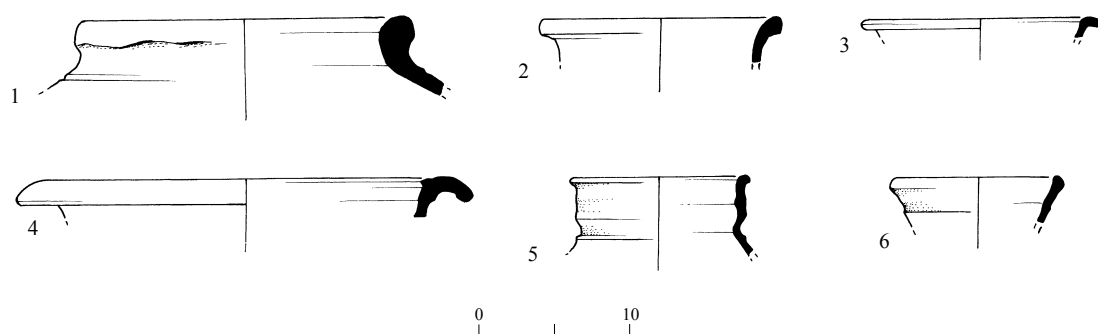


Fig. 2. Pottery from Locus 102.

No.	Type	Basket	Description	Parallels and Date	Suggested Date
1	Krater	1004.1	Gray 7.5YR N5 ware; no core; many large to tiny white inclusions; pink 7.5YR 7/3 on ext. and very pale brown 10YR 7/3 int. slip	Cf. Gezer: Gitin 1990: Pl. 28:1 (7th–6th c. BCE)	7th–6th c. BCE
2	Jar/jug	1004.2	Light reddish brown 5YR 6/4 ware; gray 10YR 5/1 core; many tiny white and sand inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces: Bar-Nathan 2002:38–40, Type J-JG1A1 (85/75–31 BCE)	Late 2nd–1st c. BCE
3	Bowl	1004.4	Dark gray N4 ware; no core; many large to tiny white and brown inclusions; pink 7.5YR 8/4 int. and ext. slip		Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
4	Basin	1004.5	Reddish yellow 5YR 6/8 ware; light brown 7.5YR 6/4 core; few small to tiny white inclusions; very pale brown 10YR 7/4 int. and ext. slip	Magness 1993:205, Form 1:14	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
5	Storage jar	1008.1	Light brown 7.5YR 6/4 ware; reddish brown 2.5YR 5/4 core; some small to tiny white, sand and shell inclusions	Jericho Winter Palaces: Bar-Nathan 2002: Pl. 24:410, Type J-SJ10 (6–48 CE)	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE
6	Jug	1004.3	Reddish brown 5YR 5/4 ware; brown 10YR 5/3 core; few tiny white and sand inclusions	Machaerus: Loffreda 1996:64–65, Fig. 25:2	Late 1st–early 2nd c. CE

basin in Jerusalem to no earlier than the late-third century CE. Notwithstanding, the few examples present at the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site demonstrate that they were already being produced at least by the early part of the second century CE.

The bag-shaped storage jar (Fig. 2:5) is of the type with a collar ridge at the base of its tall neck, that appears with a variety of rim profiles. Our example has a sharply everted rim. This jar type first emerged toward the end of the first century BCE, and continued to be produced until the early second century CE.

The jug illustrated in Fig. 2:6 has a thickened, incurving cupped rim and a carinated neck. Its red ware may indicate that it is a kettle or cooking jug used to heat liquids. While jugs with carinated rims or necks were common at the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site, only a few carinated-rim cooking jugs were found and none that the author studied had a form similar to our vessel. In fact, nearly every locus at the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site yielded at least one cooking jug, but nearly all were of the form with a square, folded rim typical of the Middle Roman period. Our example is significant in

that it evidently fills a hiatus in the Shu'afaṭ pottery repertoire.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

A few residual examples were found in the burial cave and in L102, namely the Iron Age krater (Fig. 2:1), the late Hellenistic storage jar (Fig. 1:1) and the late Hellenistic jug (Fig. 2:2). The fact that a handful of potsherds and a few coins dating to the late Hellenistic and the beginning of the Early Roman periods were also discovered at the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site may hint at a limited late Hellenistic–Early Roman presence in the area.

Outside of these residual examples, the pottery from the burial cave and L102 represent homogeneous deposits dating to the period between the revolts (70–132 CE). The forms and wares are identical to those of the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site, with the exception of Fig. 2:6.

The ceramic finds from the burial cave and L102 amplify the pottery repertoire of the village, especially with regard to the cooking jug (Fig. 2:6) and the table amphora (Fig. 1:12). The close proximity of the burial cave to the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site, and the clear similarity of the pottery finds at the two sites, leads to the conclusion that the tomb belonged to inhabitants of the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site.

NOTES

¹ I wish to thank Zubair 'Adawi for inviting me to publish the pottery finds, which were drawn by Alina Pikovsky-Yofe.

² The author was invited by the excavator, Debra Sklar-Parnos, to study the pottery of the first

season of excavations at the Shu'afaṭ light-rail site (Permit No. A-3955) in 2004, before the permit was transferred to Rachel Bar-Nathan, who excavated the site in subsequent seasons.

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