

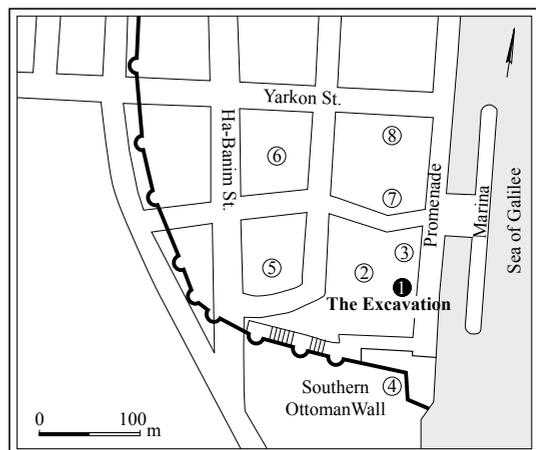
## CRUSADER, AYYUBID AND MAMLUK-PERIOD REMAINS FROM TIBERIAS

EDNA J. STERN

In the winter of 2002, a salvage excavation was conducted by the Israel Antiquities Authority in Tiberias, in anticipation of the construction of public restrooms (Stern 2007).<sup>1</sup> The excavation was located c. 50 m from the Sea of Galilee shoreline, north of the Greek Orthodox Church and the southern Ottoman city wall, on the eastern side of a large parking lot south of the beach hotels (Fig. 1:1; map ref. NIG 25122/74346; OIG 20122/24346). The primary discovery was a medieval-period building with three occupation phases, dating to the Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk periods.

The excavation was carried out within the boundaries of ancient Tiberias, in an area where the Byzantine, Crusader and Ottoman cities seem to overlap. In the immediate area, late Ottoman buildings and the archaeological remains beneath them were destroyed in the 1950s, with the ruins later buried beneath the new hotels, parks and parking lots during a spate of urban development in the 1970s (Pringle 1998:353, Fig. 99). The excavations described here yielded remains from the Crusader, Ayyubid, Mamluk and Ottoman periods, adding to the abundance of archaeological data from previous surveys and excavations (for concise accounts of previous work, see Stepansky 1985:25–27; Hirschfeld 1992; 2004; Bernie, Milwright and Simpson 1992). Archaeological remains in close proximity of the present excavation include a Crusader church to the north (Fig. 1:6), the Crusader castle (Fig. 1:7, 8) and a Crusader-period vault in the Archaeological Park to the west (Fig. 1:5). Just northeast of the finds presented here, five occupation levels of the city were found, spanning the early Islamic to the eighteenth

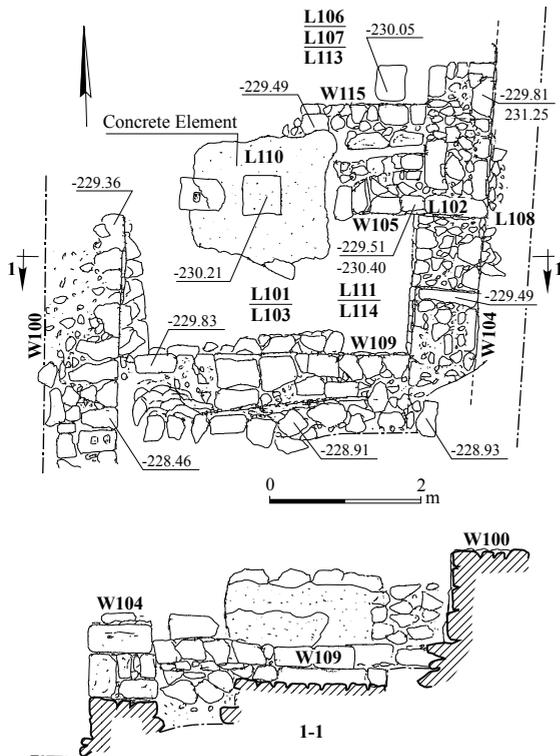
century, in excavations prior to the building of the Plaza Hotel (now the Moriah Hotel), including a large building with a courtyard and three rooms dating to the medieval period (Fig. 1:3). Approximately 200 m to the south, beyond the Ottoman city wall, remains of an industrial installation (sugar production), dating to the twelfth century were revealed, suggesting that this area was outside the city wall (Hartal 2008). Two other excavations were carried out in very close proximity to the present excavations: The first includes scanty architectural remains from the Crusader and Mamluk periods in the same parking lot to the west (Fig. 1:2),<sup>2</sup> and a large



- ① Present excavation
- ② Hartal excavation (Permit No. A-4445)
- ③ Crusader building under Plaza Hotel (HA 1973)
- ④ Hartal excavation Sq A-3 (Permit No. A-4445)
- ⑤ Archaeological Park excavation (HA 1981)
- ⑥ Crusader church under Jordan River Hotel (Harif 1984)
- ⑦ Crusader castle (Razi and Braun 1992)
- ⑧ Crusader castle (Stepansky 2004)

Fig. 1. Location map of the excavation and of other excavations in its vicinity.

wall, running north–south, south of the Ottoman wall (Sq A-3; Fig. 1:4), very likely the southern portion of the Crusader-period city wall; the



Plan 1. Plan and section of the excavation.

second excavation was just north of the present excavation, and comprised one trench, where Early Islamic, Crusader and Ottoman-period finds were discovered (Amos 2010). These surrounding excavations clearly indicate that the present excavation was conducted within the Crusader city, and most likely, within the Ayyubid and Mamluk towns as well.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE EXCAVATION (Plan 1)

The excavation area (5 × 5 m; Fig. 2) had been cleared by backhoe, removing most of the earth that covered the ancient remains, as well as the Ottoman occupation levels. Unfortunately, some of the ancient remains were disturbed in this process, further compromised by the winter rains.<sup>4</sup>

Five primary phases of occupation were distinguished stratigraphically and architecturally. The dating of these phases was established according to the latest pottery types present in each phase. The residual pottery from each phase is not presented here. Phase 3 was also dated using glass vessels. Unfortunately, no coins were found, thus precluding a more fine-tuned dating. The stratigraphy and the architecture of each phase are presented below from early to late, followed by a discussion of



Fig. 2. General view of the excavation, looking south.



Fig. 3. Wall 115, looking west; the upper part of a stone capital in secondary use (see Fig. 4) is seen on the right, with a modern concrete element at the top.

the Phases 4–2 pottery and other finds. As all of the pottery types found here are well-known, published types (Avisar and Stern 2005; Stern 2012a), the importance of the presentation of this assemblage is not related to the discovery of new types of finds, but rather the presence of these finds in well-defined contexts. Therefore, the pottery descriptions will be short, with parallels primarily restricted to Avisar and Stern 2005 and Stern 2012a. In addition, the results of the petrographic analysis (see Shapiro, this volume) of thirteen sherds will be included in the pottery discussion, as they expand the knowledge and understanding of pottery types in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

*Phase 5: Late Roman to Fatimid Periods (Third to Eleventh centuries)*

Three loci (Plan 1: L113, L114 and L108) comprise accumulations of an unknown nature, containing Roman- to Fatimid-period pottery; they were found beneath the Phase 4 remains. Due to time constraints, these remains were not fully exposed. Part of a wall (W115; 0.6 m thick), constructed of well-dressed basalt stones and fieldstones, with no mortar (Fig. 3), was exposed to a height of three courses. Its continuation toward the west was destroyed



Fig. 4. Stone capital in secondary use, looking east.

by a modern concrete element (L110). The wall and a basalt stone capital, shaped in Doric style, were both reused in the Phase 3 floor (Fig. 4).<sup>5</sup> North of W115, L113 was excavated just under the Phase 3 floor (L107). It contained deposits of an unclear nature, with pottery dating mostly to the Abbasid and Fatimid periods, although some Roman and Byzantine pottery was also found.<sup>6</sup> Locus 114 extended to the south of W115, just beneath the Phase 2 living level (L111). It also contained deposits of an unclear nature, with pottery dating mainly to the Byzantine period, and small amounts of twelfth-century pottery (Crusader period,



Fig. 5. Wall 104, looking west; W100 is in the background.

Phase 4). Locus 108, located to the east and alongside W104, was the foundation trench of this wall. No earlier architectural remains were found here, with only the foundations of W104 exposed. The fill here contained pottery dating mostly to the Byzantine period, with smaller amounts dating to the Umayyad, Abbasid, Fatimid and Crusader (twelfth century) periods.

*Phase 4: Crusader Period (Twelfth Century)*

In this phase, a building was erected, a small part of which was excavated. Its eastern wall (W104; Plan 1) was partially exposed (Fig. 5). The wall (0.8 m thick) was built of two outer faces of well-dressed basalt stones with a rubble and mortar fill. This gray mortar was also used to fill in between the stones of the wall's face. The wall was preserved c. 1 m above floor level, with the foundations exposed (in L108) for an additional 0.4 m beneath the surface. An entrance to the building (1 m wide) was found along W104, with its threshold built of small fieldstones (Fig. 6). In Phase 2, this entrance was blocked with stones and earth. A living surface (L111)—contemporaneous with the



Fig. 6. The entrance in W104, looking east, with W105 (left) and W109 (right).

threshold—extended to the west of W104. The surface was characterized by a very light brown soil, above which a thin beaten-earth floor was detected in the section. Mainly twelfth-century pottery was found on this floor, as well as some residual sherds dating to the Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid periods. The living surface was not detected in the northern part of the excavation (north of the later W105).

*Pottery* (Fig. 7).— The pottery from this phase is distinguished by a small quantity of sherds,

because of the limited area of the living surface that was excavated. These include a fragment of a handmade closed vessel with a geometric painted decoration (Fig. 7:1; Avissar and Stern 2005:113, Type II.4.4, Figs. 47, 48; Stern 2012a: 49–50, Type VI.PL.5, Pl. 4.26:4, 5), globular cooking pots with out-turned rims and thin walls (Fig. 7:2, 3; Avissar and Stern 2005:91, Type II.2.1.2, Fig. 39:2, 3; Stern 2012a:41–44, Type BE.CW.1, Pls. 4.15:8–12; 4.16:1, 2) and a bowl with gritty glaze, also known as a Levantine Glazed Bowl (Fig. 7:4; Avissar and Stern 2005:8, Type I.1.2, Fig. 2:1, 7; Stern and Waksman 2003:170–171, 173–175; Stern 2012a:44–47, Type BE.GL.2, Pl. 4.19:19–21).

Cooking pots and glazed bowls of these types were found at numerous sites in Cyprus and the Levant, both along the coast and inland. The production area of these vessels was identified in Beirut (Waksman 2002; François et al. 2003; Stern and Waksman 2003:169–171, 173–175, Figs. 3, 5; Waksman et al. 2008:178–183; Stern 2012a:43, 44, 47; Shapiro 2012:107, 115). According to the petrographic analysis, the cooking pots and glazed bowl are made from a fabric very similar to those from 'Akko, identified as Beirut Ware (Shapiro, this volume: Samples 1–3). Thus, it is apparent that these wares were manufactured in Beirut and transported to Tiberias.

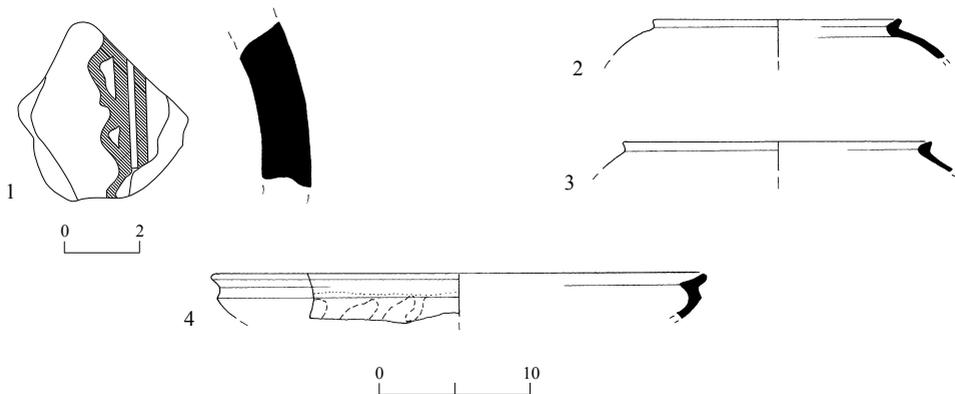


Fig. 7. Pottery of Phase 4.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Vessel and Fabric Description	Petrographic Sample <sup>1</sup>
1	Handmade closed vessel	111	1022/4	Variations in color due to uneven firing: dark grayish brown 2.5 Y 4/2 thick core, brown 7.5 YR 5/4 fabric, thin, inside and surface and yellowish red 5 YR 5/6 fabric, thin, outside; many chalk grits and other dark grits; reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 ext. with light red 10 R 4/4 painted design	
2	Cooking pot	111	1022/5	Yellowish red 5 YR 5/6 fabric and light red 2.5 YR 4/2 ext.; poorly sorted transparent quartz sand and some other light grits	1
3	Cooking pot	111	1022/6	Yellowish red 5 YR 4/6 fabric, very dark grayish brown 2.5 Y 3/2 core at rim and reddish brown 5 YR 5/3 ext.; poorly sorted transparent quartz sand and rare light grits	2
4	Bowl	111	1022/7	Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric; many poorly sorted transparent quartz sand and other white grits; beige slip under a green glaze on int. extending over ext. of rim	3

<sup>1</sup> See Shapiro, this volume

*Phase 3: Ayyubid, Crusader and Mamluk Periods (Thirteenth Century)*

Phase 3 sees the continued use of the Phase 4 building, albeit with the addition of walls (W105 and W109) and the raising of the surface (L103 and L107). Wall 105 was erected perpendicular to W104, apparently dividing the space west of W104. This wall (0.7 m thick, c. 0.6 m high) was built of well-dressed basalt stones, most likely in secondary use (Fig. 8).

Its continuation westward was destroyed by the modern concrete element (L110). Wall 109, perpendicular to W104, was constructed in this phase and served as the enclosing wall of the structure on the southern side. Two courses of the wall's foundations and one course of the superstructure (c. 0.6 m high; Fig. 9) were preserved. The wall (0.6 m thick) was built of well-dressed basalt stones and fieldstones, with gray mortar. As W109 is situated along



Fig. 8. Wall 105, looking north; the concrete element cuts the continuation of the wall westward.



Fig. 9. Wall 109, looking south; on the upper left side, the hydraulic plaster can be seen.

the southern end of the excavated area, its southern face was not excavated. Despite this, it was possible to detect hydraulic plaster in the section, in an area where the upper courses of the wall were missing (see Fig. 9). This plaster seems to have covered the southern face of the wall, possibly indicating the existence of a water reservoir extending to the south.

The Phase 3 surfaces were raised by c. 0.3 m, with two floors excavated—one extending to the north of W105, and the other to its south. The northern floor (L107) was made of dark brown beaten earth that utilized the upper part of W115 and the upper part of the stone capital as floor flagstones (Fig. 10). Although only a very small section of the floor was excavated, and despite the difficult conditions under which the excavation was conducted, charcoal specks, and what seem to be remains of bricks detected on the floor, suggest that this area was used for cooking and food preparation. Finds on the floor included restorable pottery vessels (Fig. 12:1, 2), glass vessels (Fig. 14:1–4) and a stone mortar (Fig. 14:5), all dating to the thirteenth century. Its continuation northward was destroyed prior to the excavation, while the limitations of the excavation did not allow for

its exposure to the west. No floor was detected in the area between W105 and W109 (L103); however, at the level of Floor L107 and above it, a deposit containing collapsed, well-dressed basalt stones and fieldstones, and thirteenth-century pottery was found. The character of the finds in L103 was different than those found in L107, supporting the assumption that these were two separate rooms, divided by W105.

*Pottery* (Figs. 11, 12).— In this phase, a larger and more diverse pottery assemblage was unearthed (totaling 56 diagnostic sherds), including undecorated and decorated handmade wares. The undecorated wares mostly comprised open forms, namely bowls and basins (Fig. 11:1–3; Avissar and Stern 2005:88, Type II.1.4.1, Fig. 38:1, 2; Stern 2012a:49–50, Type VL.PL.4, Pl. 4.26:1–3), with only a few closed forms (Fig. 11:4; Getzov 2000:87\*, Fig. 21:2, 5; Stern and Tatcher 2009:129–131, Fig. 3.19:13, 14; Stern 2012b:65\*–66\*, Fig. 4:3). The handmade wares with geometric painted decoration consist of well-known jug types with simple, red-painted designs (Fig. 11:5–7), as well as rare examples painted in two colors (Fig. 11:8, 9; for both variants, see Avissar and



Fig. 10. Locus 107, looking south; the board is on W115, with the capital in the foreground, both in secondary use as flagstones.

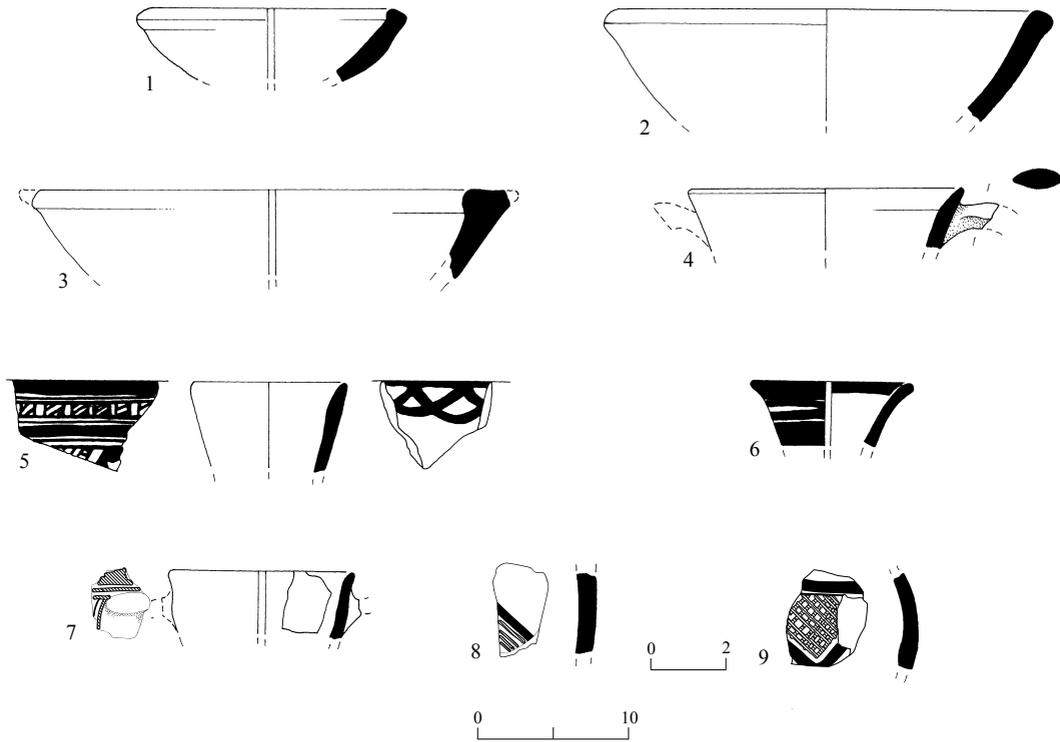


Fig. 11. Pottery of Phase 3.

Stern 2005:113, Type II.4.4.1, Fig. 47; Stern 2012a:49–50, Type VI.PL.5, Pl. 4.26:4, 5).

The unglazed wheel-made ware is exclusively represented by storage jars with a light colored exterior, including two complete/almost complete examples (Fig. 12:1, 2). This type is found in various sites in Israel and Lebanon during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (Avisar and Stern 2005:106, Type II.3.2.4, Fig. 44:6–11), and it is particularly common in 'Akko, where it was produced (Stern 2012a:34–38, Type AC.PL.5, Pl. 4.9:4–13), and its vicinity (Ḥorbat 'Uza: Stern and Tatcher 2009:136, Fig. 3.22:1–3; Mi'ilya: Stern 2012b:67\*–68\*, Fig. 4:4). Petrographic analysis has shown that the examples here were produced in the close vicinity of Tiberias (see Shapiro, this volume: Samples 4, 5).

Most of the glazed cooking wares are of well-known 'Beirut' types of the period, including

open baking dishes (Fig. 12:3; Avisar and Stern 2005:96, Types II.2.3.1, II.2.3.2, Fig. 41:1–3; Stern 2012a:41–44, Type BE.CW.2, Pl. 4.14:7–17) and closed globular cooking pots with gutter rims (Fig. 12:4, 5; Avisar and Stern 2005:92, Type II.2.1.4, Fig. 39:7; Getzov 2000:87\*, Fig. 23:8; Stern 2012a:41–44, Type BE.CW.2, Pl. 4.17). These cooking vessels were produced in Beirut (see Shapiro, this volume: Samples 6–8) and imported over land to Tiberias. Another cooking pot (Fig. 12:6), made of a smoother fabric, is somewhat similar in shape to those produced in Beirut, although the fabric is different, and it is not glazed. Petrographic analysis has shown that this cooking pot was produced in the northern part of Israel (see Shapiro, this volume: Sample 13).

Fragments of a rim and base of what may be the same Levantine glazed bowl, with a yellow

◀ Fig. 11

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Vessel and Fabric Description
1	Handmade bowl	107	1019/3	Variations in color due to uneven firing: light yellowish brown 10 YR 6/4 ext. fabric and surface, very dark grayish brown 2.5 Y 3/2 core and pink 5 YR 7/4 int. surface; some dark, reddish and light inclusions and chalky material; much organic material (straw and other) added to the paste, which was charred and burnt out while firing, leaving marks and negatives
2	Handmade basin	103	1014/2	Variations in color due to uneven firing: very dark gray 10 YR 3/2 very thick core, with 1 mm to the surface being pink 7.5 YR 7/4; some poorly sorted quartz and limestone gray and white inclusions, well seen on the surface; much organic material (straw and other) added to the paste, which was charred and burnt out while firing, leaving marks and negatives
3	Handmade basin	103	1011/1	Very dark gray 7.5 YR 3/0 very thick core; about 1 mm of int. surface is reddish brown 5 YR 5/3 and 5 YR 5/4 on ext.; rare dark inclusions, with some organic material (e.g., straw) added to the paste, which was charred and burnt out while firing and left marks and hollows
4	Handmade jar	103	1010/3	Variations in color due to uneven firing: brown to dark brown 10 YR 4/3 fabric, very dark gray 5 Y 3/1 core and light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 core; some light inclusions and grits, with much organic material (e.g., straw) added to the paste, which was charred and burnt out while firing and left marks and hollows
5	Handmade jug	103	1014/3	Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric and ext. and grayish brown 10 YR 5/2 core; some grits (light and dark), inclusions and traces of organic material; most of the preserved fragment's surface is covered with a very pale brown 10 YR 8/3 slip and a very dark grayish brown 10 YR 3/2 painted design on ext. and rim int.
6	Handmade jug	107	1019/4	Light yellowish brown 10 YR 6/4 fabric made of a mixture of limestone and chalk with small amounts of clay; white 10 YR 8/2 slip covers the surface of the preserved fragment with a very dark grayish brown 10 YR 3/2 painted design over it
7	Handmade jug	107	1019/6	Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric and grayish brown 10 YR 5/2 core, darker in thick parts; some limestone and dark inclusions, with many traces of fine organic material; pinkish white 7.5 YR 8/2 slip covers the surface of the preserved fragment with a very dark reddish brown 5 YR 3/2 painted design over it
8	Handmade jug	107	1018/1	Grayish brown 10 YR 5/2 fabric on int. and light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric on ext.; limestone, chalk and grog inclusions, with some traces of fine organic material; very pale brown slip covers the outer surface with a black and dark reddish brown 5 YR 2.5/2 painted design
9	Handmade jug	107	1019/5	Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric and dark gray 10 YR 4/1 core; limestone, chalk and grog inclusions, with some traces of fine organic material; very pale brown 10 YR 8/3 int. surface; ext. surface is pink 7.5 YR 7/4 and seems burnished, with a black and dark reddish brown 5 YR 2.5/2 painted design

gritty glaze, were found (Fig. 12:7, 8; Avissar and Stern 2005:8, Type I.1.2, Fig. 2:3; Stern 2012a:44–47, Type BE.GL.2, Pl. 4.19:19–21), also produced in Beirut (see Shapiro, this volume: Samples 9, 10). A slip-painted bowl, apparently locally produced, was also found (Fig. 12:9; Avissar and Stern 2005:19, Type

I.1.6.1, Fig. 7:2; Stern and Tatcher 2009:147–148, Fig. 3.26:8, 9), as well as a small fragment of a Cypriot imported bowl (Fig. 12:10), classified as Cypriot Green and Brown Sgraffito ware (Avissar and Stern 2005:62, Type I.8.5, Fig. 25:2; Stern 2012a:60–65, Type CY.GL.5, Pls. 4.46:11, 12; 4.47:1–3).

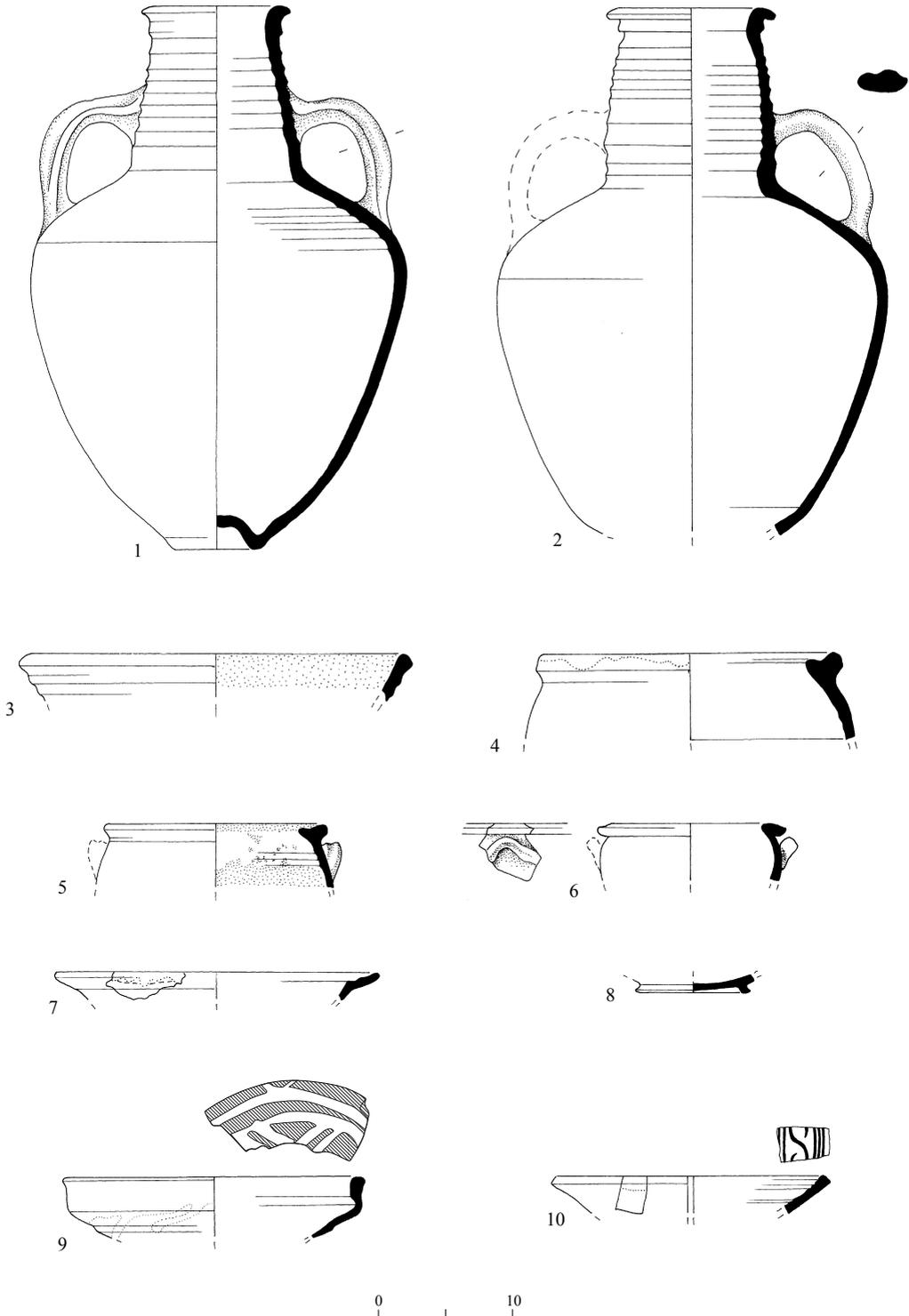


Fig. 12. Pottery of Phase 3 (cont.).

◀ Fig. 12

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Vessel and Fabric Description	Petrographic Sample <sup>1</sup>
1	Jar	107	1023/5	Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric with many fine quartz, limestone and possibly micro-fauna grits	4
2	Jar	107	1015/1	Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric, with the 1 mm of ext. fabric being pink 5YR 7/4; many fine quartz, limestone and possibly micro-fauna grits	5
3	Baking dish	103	1010/2	Yellowish red 5 YR 4/6 fabric with many fine, transparent quartz sand and a transparent glaze on int.	6
4	Cooking pot	107	1023/4	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric, poorly sorted, with transparent quartz sand and some other dark grits; transparent glaze on rim and int.	7
5	Cooking pot	103	1014/1	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric, poorly sorted, with transparent quartz sand and some other dark grits; transparent glaze on the rim and splashes of glaze on int.	8
6	Cooking pot	103	1007/1	Light red 2.5 YR 6/6 fabric, poorly sorted, with transparent quartz limestone and some other dark reddish brown grits and inclusions	13
7	Bowl	107	1020/2	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric, with a reddish brown 2.5 YR 5/4 ext.; poorly sorted, with transparent quartz sand; pinkish slip under a light yellow glaze on int. and extending over ext. of rim	9
8	Bowl	107	1020/1	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric, with a reddish brown 2.5 YR 5/4 ext.; poorly sorted, with transparent quartz sand and chalk inclusions; pinkish slip and yellow glaze on int.	10
9	Bowl	107	1019/1	Light reddish brown 5 YR 6/4 fabric with some quartz sand and rare brownish red grits; whitish slip-painted lines under a very light yellowish glaze on int. and splashes of glaze on ext.	
10	Bowl	107	1023/4	Light reddish brown 5 YR 6/4 fabric with some dark gray grits; white slip under a transparent glaze and an incised design on int., with a green glaze spot on int.	

<sup>1</sup> See Shapiro, this volume

*Other Crusader-Period Pottery* (Fig. 13).— This assemblage includes fragments of five pottery vessels found in unclear contexts, during the preparation of the area for the excavation (Fig. 13:1–3), as well as residual finds in later loci (Fig. 13:4, 5). They date to the same time frame as Phase III. These include two large fragments of imported glazed bowls (Fig. 13:1, 2), known as Aegean wares, or Aegean coarse incised wares (Avisar and Stern 2005:46, Type I.5.3, Fig. 17:3, 4; Waksman and von Wartburg 2006; Stern 2012a:65–69, Type GR.GL.6, Pl. 4.49:5–7). This type dates from the end of the twelfth century to the early thirteenth century. In addition, a closed, glazed oil lamp was

found (Fig. 13:3; Avisar and Stern 2005:126, Type III.1.2.1, Fig. 52:6). Fragments of simple, unglazed bowls, common at 'Akko, were found in Loci 102 and 106 (Fig. 13:4, 5). These 'Acre bowls' date to the Crusader period (twelfth to thirteenth centuries; Avisar and Stern 2005:82, Type II.1.1.2, Fig. 35:4, 5). Chemical and petrographic analyses have shown that such bowls—including the examples here (see Shapiro, this volume: Samples 11, 12)—were produced in 'Akko (Stern and Waksman 2003:168–169, 173–175, Fig. 2; Waksman et al. 2008:159–161, 176–180; Shapiro 2012:104–105, 114–115; Stern 2012a:34–38, Type AC.PL.1, Pl. 4.1).

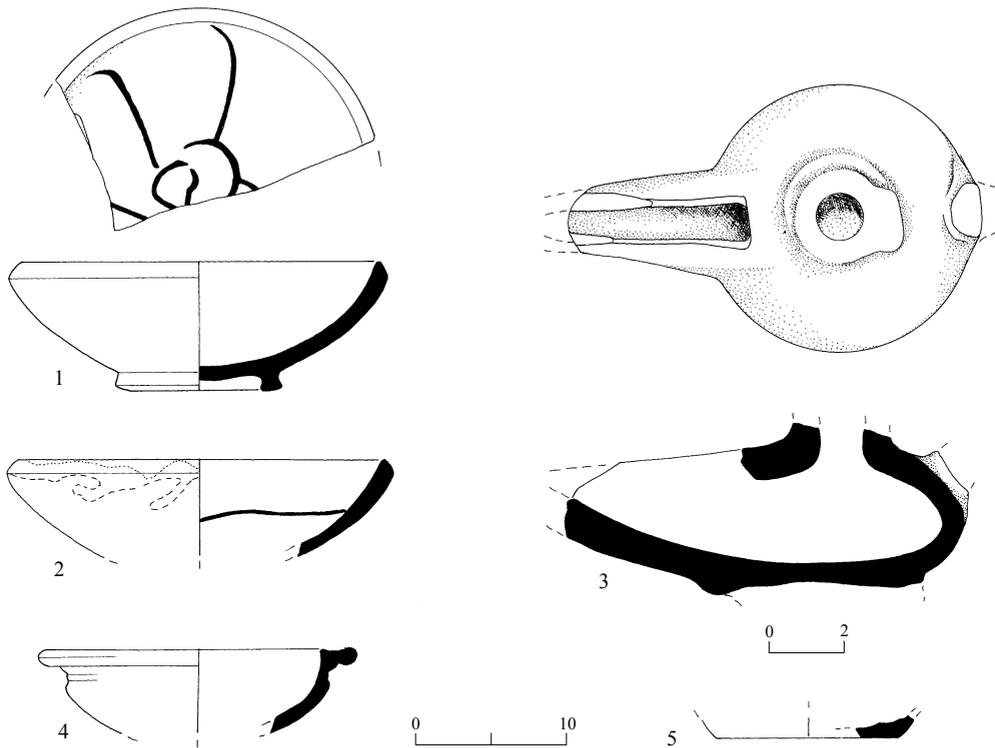


Fig. 13. Other Crusader-period pottery.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Vessel and Fabric Description	Petrographic Sample <sup>1</sup>
1	Bowl	120	1222/1	Light red 2.5 YR 6/8 fabric with a pink 5 YR 7/4 ext. and very fine polymineral sand and chalk grits; thin whitish slip on ext. and a thick whitish slip on int. with a light greenish yellow glaze and deep incised design over it	
2	Bowl	120	1222/2	Brown 7.5 YR 5/4 fabric with a pink 7.5 YR 7/4 ext. and very fine polymineral sand and chalk grits; white slip under a light greenish glaze and deep incised design on int.; the slip and glaze extend to ext. of rim	
3	Lamp	120	1222/4	White 10 YR 8/1 soft paste with transparent quartz sand mixed with some chalky material; remains of transparent turquoise-blue glaze covering the entire lamp other than the base bottom	
4	Bowl	102	1005/1	Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric, brown to dark brown 7.5 YR 4/2 core and reddish brown 2.5 YR 5/4 to pinkish white 7.5 YR 8/2 ext. and white surface on int.; quartz sand inclusions and hollows	P11
5	Bowl	106	1009/7	Light red 2.5 YR 6/6 fabric, reddish brown 5 YR 5/3 core and pink 5 YR 8/3 ext.; quartz sand inclusions	P12

<sup>1</sup> See Shapiro, this volume

*Glass* (Fig. 14:1–4).<sup>7</sup>—Fragments of several glass vessels—a jar, a mold-blown glass bottle, a high ring base and the handle of a ‘mosque lamp’—were found in Phase 3. The jar (Fig. 14:1) is made of colorless glass, with a light

grayish purple tinge and a turquoise trail. Black and silver weathering, iridescence and pitting can be seen on the fragments. The glass—of inferior quality—is thick, with an uneven, turquoise, horizontal trail applied below the

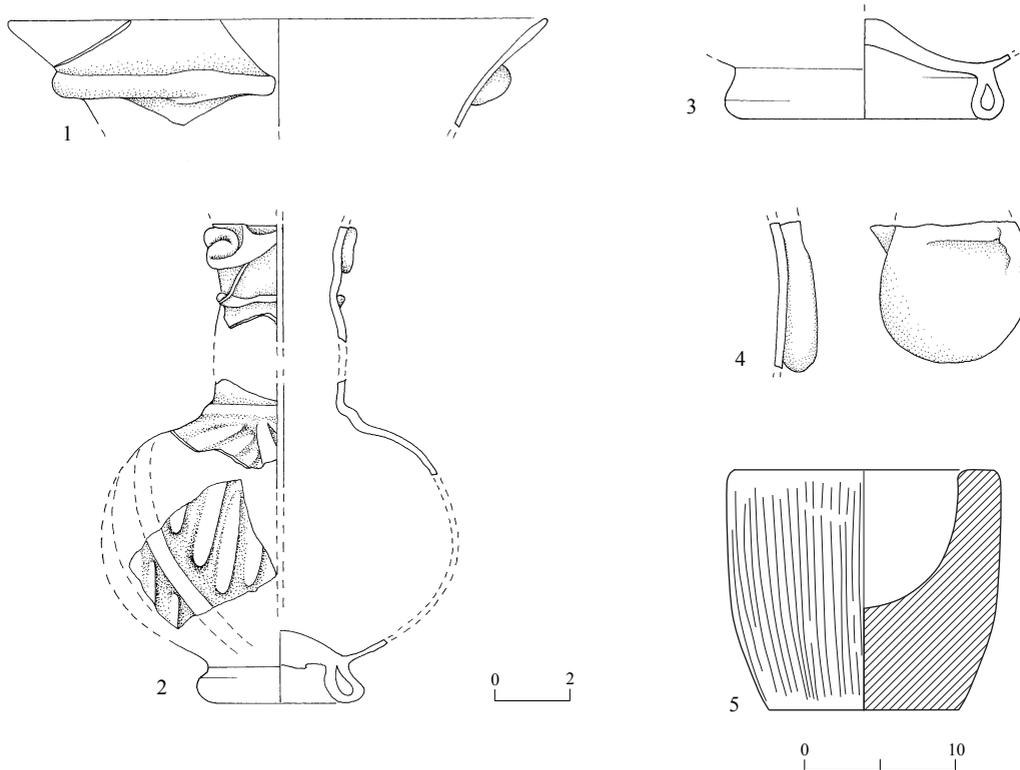


Fig. 14. Glass vessels and Stone Mortar from L107, Phase 3.

No.	Type	Locus	Basket
1	Glass jar	107	1015/1
2	Glass mold-blown bottle	107	1023/1-3
3	Glass base	107	1020/1
4	Glass 'mosque lamp'	107	1020/2
5	Stone mortar	107	1015/2

flaring, rounded rim and a slanting wall. No exact parallels were found for this vessel, but unpublished examples from contemporary sites in northern Israel indicate that this vessel was most likely produced locally. The local glass production of the medieval period frequently used colorless, low quality glass and decorations consisting of trails in a darker shade than the vessel, occasionally turquoise.

Numerous fragments of colorless glass, with a green tinge, black and silver weathering and severe pitting seem to belong to a single mold-blown bottle, although there are no

direct connections between the fragments (Fig. 14:2). The neck and beginning of the shoulder indicate that this was a bottle with a rather thick and cylindrical neck, decorated with a thick wavy trail, which was applied to the neck and then flattened. The wavy trail is very dense, characteristic of the Crusader and Mamluk periods, although it begins to appear already in the Umayyad period. Below it, a thin trail appears along the joining of the neck and shoulder. The upper part of the neck is cut in a manner that may be a natural break or was an intentional cutting away. The three body

sherds exhibit a very prominent, mold-blown decoration that can be seen on both sides of the wall. The hollow base, which is very thick, is complete and has a pontil scar.

To date, this vessel is unique in Israel. A similar mold-blown bottle, with a high neck and a dense wavy trail at the base of the neck is in the collection of L.A. Mayer in Jerusalem, and seems to have originated in eleventh–twelfth-century Iran (Hasson 1979:32, Fig. 60). Bottles with a similar profile and a trail (occasionally wavy), but which are not mold-blown, are known from the al-Sabah Collection in the Kuwait National Museum (Carboni 2001:191, Cat. Nos. 3.2a, d, e). These are also dated to the eleventh–twelfth centuries and are reported as originating from Iran or Syria.

A complete, hollow base of a glass vessel with a pontil scar was mended from five parts (Fig. 14:3). The base may belong to a bowl, bottle or jug. The glass is colorless, with a light green tinge, black and silver weathering, iridescence and pitting. Similar bases dating to the Crusader period were found at 'Akko (Gorin-Rosen 1997:81, Fig. 2:15) and Monfort (Dean 1927:40, Fig. 56:G). It should be noted that although the general shape of the base is known from the Late Roman period onward, the fabric and workmanship of this example clearly dates it to the medieval period.

Figure 14:4 is the body fragment of a non-homogenous, glass handle of a lamp of the Mosque-Lamp type. The body is made of colorless glass, while the handle is made of opaque red glass with turquoise streaks or veins.<sup>8</sup> Similar lamp handles were reported from elsewhere in Tiberias, dating to the Fatimid period (Lester 2004:199–201, Fig. 7.12:155) and from Bet She'an (Hadad 2005:47, Pls. 45:972; 46:973–976), dating to the Abbasid–Fatimid periods. One of the Bet She'an lamps has a colored (turquoise) handle attached to a colorless body (No. 976), similar to the item here. Such lamp handles were also found at Montfort (Dean 1927:40, Fig. 56:B) and are securely dated to the thirteenth century, as is the case here. For discussions on this type

of lamp, its development and further parallels, see Lester 2004:199–201 and Hadad 2005:47, Type 5.

A very small glass fragment was also found (L107, B1020/3; not illustrated). Although it is possible that it may be part of a shallow bowl, it is more likely the fragment of a windowpane. It is made of a deep purple glass with black and silver crust and is severely pitted, probably from a thin round window of the 'bull's eye' type. Windowpanes dating to the Crusader period (thirteenth century) have been found in various excavations at 'Akko (Gorin-Rosen 2010: Fig. 6; Gorin-Rosen 2013:111–113, Fig. 2) and 'Atlit (Johns 1935:133). A fragment of a windowpane of this type was also found in Bet She'an in a Mamluk-period house (Hadad 2005:63, Pl. 55:1125). The glass vessels found suggest that the assemblage can be attributed quite securely to a local workshop of the medieval period.<sup>9</sup>

*Stone Mortar* (Fig. 14:5).— Half of a stone mortar was found, made of a coarse grain marble, which is more durable for such implements.<sup>10</sup> Its exterior surface has chiseling marks, and its finish seems to be quite careless. The interior, on the other hand, is smoothed. This mortar seems to be a simple, household utensil. It is possible that it was carved from Roman *spolia* marble that was apparently abundant in Tiberias. Mortars of a similar shape, made of marble or limestone, but with handles and/or a spout, are common in Crusader-period household assemblages. Similar mortars were found at Monfort (Dean 1927:34, Fig. 44), 'Akko (Rosen, forthcoming: Nos. 22–28), Ḥorbat 'Uza (Tatcher 2009:187, Fig. 3), Ḥorbat Bet Zanita (Getzov 2000:98\*, Fig. 28), 'Atlit (Johns 1934: Fig. 10) and Kokhav Ha-Yarden (Ben-Dov 1975:106, bottom left).

#### *Phase 2: Mamluk Period (Fourteenth–Fifteenth Centuries)*

Occupation of the Phase 4 and 3 building continued during this period, with some modifications. The entrance in W104 was

blocked with well-dressed basalt stones and earth containing pottery sherds dating to the fourteenth century (L112). No clear floor belonging to this phase was detected, probably due to the difficult conditions of the excavation, particularly since the excavation began with the removal of muddy earth, deposited (L101, L102, L106) just above the Phase 3 occupation levels, and just below the area that was cleared by the backhoe. Pottery in these deposits dates to the fourteenth century, similar to that found in the blocked entrance.

*Pottery* (Figs. 15, 16).— A total of 61 sherds from Phase 2 were found, most of well-known Mamluk types. As in the previous phase, these include undecorated and decorated handmade wares. The undecorated wares comprise seven open and one closed form (not illustrated). The handmade wares with geometric painted decoration include forms and decorations similar to those found in Phase 3 (Fig. 15:1, 2), as well as a large painted bowl (Fig. 15:3; Avissar and Stern 2005:88, Type II.1.4.2, Fig. 38:6–10).

Unglazed wheel-made ware is represented by storage jars, jugs and a flask. The storage jars (Fig. 15:4–7) are made of a red fabric, with a high ribbed neck and rims of various shapes (Avissar and Stern 2005:102, Type II.3.1.4, Fig. 42:5–10; Stern and Tatcher 2009:136–137, Fig. 3.22:4–6). A jug spout with a red-painted decoration and a light, pinkish brown fabric (Fig. 15:8) belongs to a type of decorated jug that is quite rare. It is found mainly in Jordan and eastern Israel, indicating that it may have been produced in Jordan (Avissar and Stern 2005:111, Type II.4.3.1, Fig. 46:2). Jugs with stamped necks, such as the example shown in Fig. 15:9, on the other hand, are common in Ayyubid–Mamluk contexts in Israel (Avissar and Stern 2005:110–111, Type II.4.2.2, Fig. 45:6). The body fragment of a mold-made, flat-bodied flask (Fig. 15:10), made of a buff fabric, is also common in Mamluk-period contexts. This piece may come from Syria, where a workshop producing this type of flask was

discovered (Avissar and Stern 2005:117, Type II.4.5.2, Fig. 49:4; Stern and Tatcher 2009:134–135, Fig. 3.21:12, 14, 15).

Open and closed wheel-made cooking vessels of well-known types were also found. The cooking bowls have a deep groove on the rim and slightly flaring (Fig. 15:11) or inverted walls (Fig. 15:12; Avissar and Stern 2005:97, Type II.2.3.5, Fig. 41:8, 9; Stern and Tatcher 2009:142, Fig. 3.23:18). The closed cooking pots, globular in shape, have either a ledge rim with no neck (Fig. 15:13; Avissar and Stern 2005:92, Type II.2.1.5, Fig. 39:10; Stern and Tatcher 2009:140, Fig. 3.23:12, 13), or an outward folded rim, and a coarser, more sandy fabric (Fig. 15:14; Stern and Tatcher 2009:140, Fig. 3.23:16).

The glazed bowls are of monochrome and slip-painted types. The monochrome types have a green glaze and either a carinated wall and a simple (Fig. 16:1, 2; Avissar and Stern 2005:12, Type I.1.4.1, Fig. 4; Stern and Tatcher 2009:144–145, Fig. 3.25:4) or ledge rim (Fig. 16:3). The slip-painted bowls have similar profiles as the monochrome glazed bowls, but with geometric designs typical of the period (Fig. 16:4, 5; Avissar and Stern 2005:19, Type I.1.6.1, 2, Fig. 7:1–3; Stern and Tatcher 2009:148–150, Fig. 3.26:4–12). A fragment of a soft paste-ware bowl, decorated in black and blue, was also found in this phase (Fig. 16:6; Avissar and Stern 2005:28–29, Type I.2.3.3, Figs. 11; 12:1–4).

*Phase 1: The Ottoman to British Mandate Periods (c. Eighteenth–Early Twentieth Centuries)*

Other than one wall (W100) in the western part of the excavated area (Fig. 17) and a concrete element, the backhoeing prior to the excavation completely removed the Phase 1 occupation levels. Wall 100 was built of small, well-dressed basalt stones and white mortar.<sup>11</sup> Three courses of the superstructure and two foundation courses (c. 1.45 m) were exposed (2.9 m long). The late Ottoman period wall (dated according to the building technique)

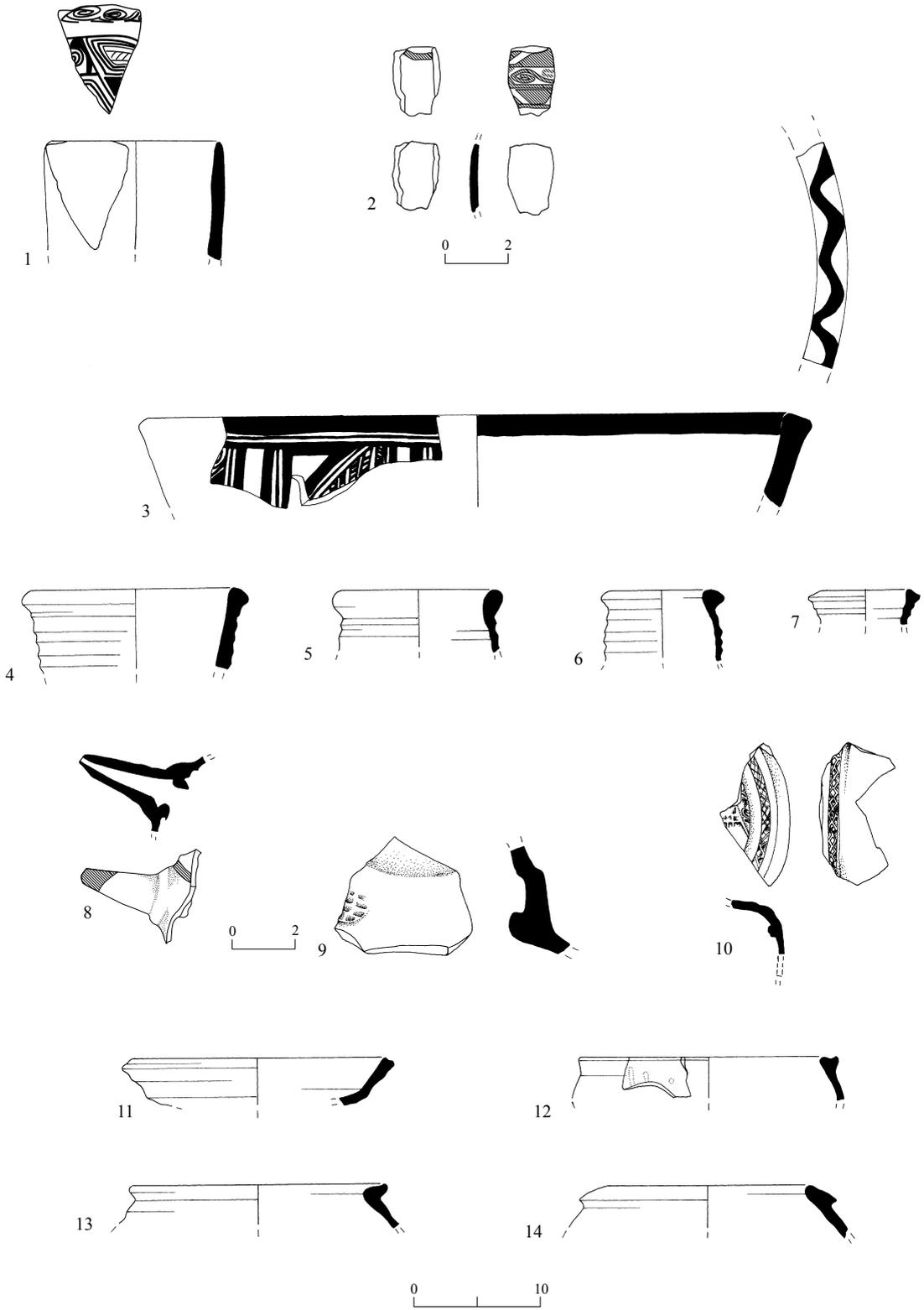


Fig. 15. Pottery of Phase 2.

◀ Fig. 15

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Vessel and Fabric Description
1	Handmade jar	102	1008/2	Very thick, dark grayish brown 2.5 Y 4/2 core, with an ext. portion of about 1 mm light reddish brown 5 YR 6/4; some light and brownish grits and traces of fine organic material; pale slip over the int. rim and ext. surface, burnished with black painted design
2	Handmade jug	106	1009/1	Very pale brown 10 YR 7/3 fabric., many limestone grits, chalk inclusions and traces of fine organic material; white slip on surface with dark reddish brown 2.5 YR 3/4 painted design.
3	Handmade basin	102	1003/1	Very dark gray 2.5 YR 3/0 fabric with some light grits and plenty of traces of organic material; surface has a very pale brown 10 YR 8/3 slip with very dark brown to black painted design
4	Jar	106	1003/3	Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric and brown 10 YR 4/3 core, with some light and gray grits and rare gray inclusions
5	Jar	106	1009/2	Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric and reddish brown 5 YR 5/3 core; some light and light gray grits, possible micro-fauna, and rare gray inclusions
6	Jar	101	1002/1	Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric and reddish brown 2.5 YR 4/4 ext.; dark gray 10 YR 4/1 core with some limestone and chalk grits and large black inclusions
7	Jar	101	1004/3	Red 2.5 YR 5/6 fabric and reddish brown 2.5 YR 5/4 ext., with chalky and possible micro-fauna inclusions
8	Jug spout	106	1009/4	Reddish yellow 5 YR 7/6 fabric, grayish brown 10 YR 5/2 core and reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 int.; fine light, dark and brown grits; reddish brown 5 YR 5/3 painted design on ext.
9	Jug	102	1013/1	Very pale brown 10 YR 8/3-8/4 fabric with some white and dark brown grits
10	Flask	101	1002/3	Light brownish gray 10 YR 6/2 fabric and white 2.5 Y 8/2 ext.; quartz, microfossils and dark reddish brown grits
11	Baking dish	106	1009/5	Reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 fabric, with some quartz sand; transparent glaze on int. and rim
12	Cooking pot	101	1004/2	Reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 fabric and pink 5 YR 7/4 ext., with some quartz sand inclusions; transparent glaze on rim and int., as well as splashes of glaze on ext.
13	Cooking pot	101	1002/2	Light brown 7.5 YR 6/4 fabric and reddish brown 2.5 YR 5/4 ext.; quartz, limestone, chalk and dark red grits and inclusions, some of which are very large (3–7 mm), as well as some traces of fine organic material
14	Cooking pot	102	1008/4	Red 2.5 YR 4/6 fabric and 5/6 ext. and dark gray 2.5 YR 4/0 core in thick sections; fine quartz sand, limestone and reddish brown inclusions, some of which are very large (5–7 mm)

Fig. 16 ▶

No.	Type	Locus	Basket	Vessel and Fabric Description
1	Bowl	102	1005/2	Reddish yellow 5 YR 6/6 fabric and light reddish brown 2.5 YR 6/4 ext., with some polymineral sand; white slip under a yellow glaze on int., extending over ext. of rim
2	Bowl	112	1024/1	Brown 10 YR 5/3 fabric, with occasional light and dark gray grits; beige slip under a green glaze on int., extending over ext. of rim
3	Bowl	106	1009/3	Red 2.5 YR 5/6 fabric and ext., with fine polymineral sand; reddish yellow 7.5 YR 7/6 slip under a green glaze on int., extending over ext. of rim
4	Bowl	101	1001/1	Red 2.5 YR 5/8 fabric and light reddish brown 2.5 YR 6/4 ext., with some fine quartz sand and chalk grits; white slip-painted design under a light greenish yellow glaze on int., extending over ext. of rim; splashes of glaze on ext.
5	Bowl	102	1008/3	Yellowish red 5 YR 5/6 fabric with some polymineral sand; white slip-painted design under a light greenish-yellow glaze on int.
6	Bowl	101	1004/1	White 10 YR 8/1 soft paste ware; transparent quartz sand mixed with some chalky material; black and blue painted design under a transparent glaze

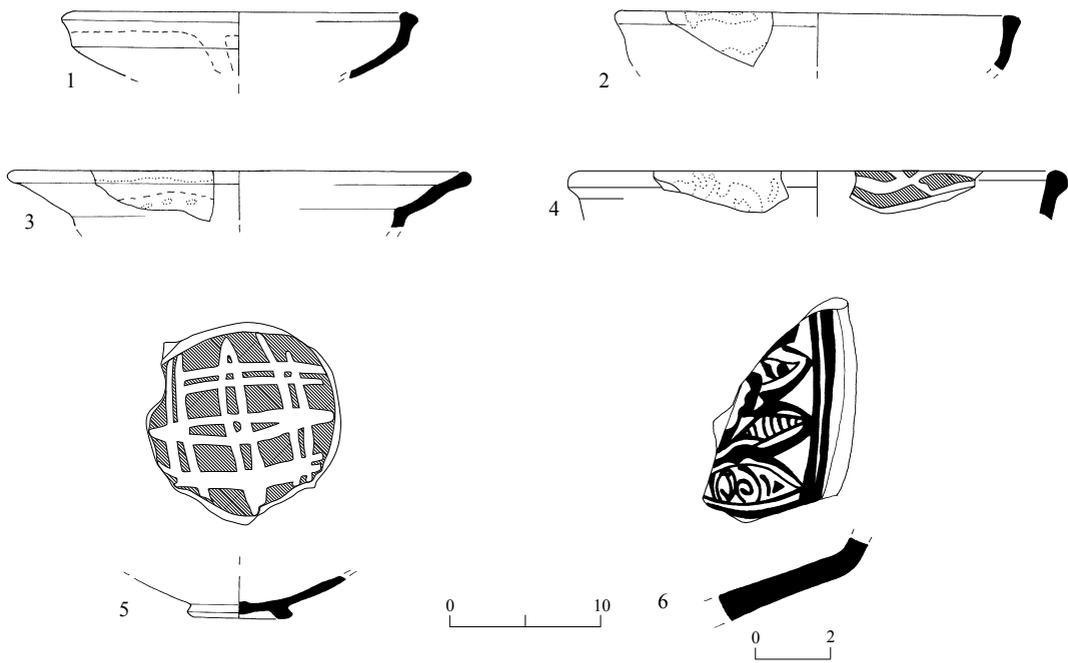


Fig. 16. Pottery of Phase 2 (cont.).



Fig. 17. Wall 100, looking west; W109 is on the right.

was built over W109, after the upper courses of the latter were removed. The square-shaped concrete element (c. 2.6 × 2.6 m) was dug into the earlier buildings (excavated mainly as L110; Figs. 2, 8), and seems to have been cast following manual digging, since there was no evidence for mechanical digging in this area. Consequently, the remains to the east and south of the concrete element remained undamaged.

#### DISCUSSION

##### *The Archaeological Remains*

The excavation presented here uncovered the remains of a single building, most likely a private dwelling. Despite the small scale of the excavation and the fragmentary state of the remains, the history of the site can be reconstructed with much certainty. During the Late Roman to Fatimid periods (grouped together here under Phase 5, third–eleventh centuries), this area was occupied and at some point a wall (W115) was built. It remains unclear if there was uninterrupted occupation of the site during this entire timespan, what the nature of this occupation was (private, public or industrial buildings) and whether the area was situated within the confines of the city walls.

In the twelfth century, during the Crusader occupation of Tiberias, another building was constructed (Phase 4). A segment of its eastern wall (W104) and the entrance were exposed, in addition to a section of a thin beaten-earth floor (L111). The outer faces of well-dressed basalt stones, with a rubble and mortar fill and mortar between the stones of the face are typical features encountered in Crusader-period construction (Boas 1999:217–219). The remains to the east of the building were only partially uncovered and their nature unclear.<sup>12</sup> It seems that the building was of a domestic nature, due to the simple, non-monumental building techniques used, as opposed to the monumental ones used in the nearby church (Harif 1984: Fig. 2) and the Crusader citadel gate and wall (Stepansky 2004:51–52).

The domestic building continued to be in use during the thirteenth century (Phase 3), with some constructional changes. It was apparently divided into smaller rooms by W105, and what may have been a water reservoir was constructed to the south of the excavated area. North of W105, a floor containing charcoal specks and remains of bricks, pottery, glass and a stone vessel utilized for food cooking and preparation, indicate that this area served as a kitchen. Historical records indicate that during the thirteenth century, Tiberias changed regimes many times. It was in the hands of the Crusaders, followed by the Ayyubids and then the Mamluks (see below). There is no archaeological evidence from the current excavations that indicates such changes in regime (e.g., continuous use or gaps in occupation). The identification and ethnic orientation of the inhabitants also remains ambiguous.

The building continued to be in use under Mamluk rule during the fourteenth and perhaps fifteenth centuries (Phase 2). At this time, the entrance to the building was blocked. Apart from this change and the pottery retrieved dating to this period, little can be said of the Mamluk-period occupation.

One wall (W100) of the late Ottoman period (Phase 1) was exposed, bearing evidence of the living quarter that was situated here before being demolished in the early 1950s.

*Domestic Architecture.*— Due to the limited finds in this excavation, there is no significant contribution to the understanding of domestic architecture during the Crusader period. However, in contrast to the other sites in Israel, where the Franks occupied houses that were abandoned by the Muslims in the cities and towns they conquered (Boas 1995:1–2), here a new building was erected. This is similar to 'Akko, where in most of the domestic structures, it is evident that the Crusader-period inhabitants built new buildings (Stern and Syon, in prep.).<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, there is evidence here

that the Crusader building continued to be in use during the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods. Continuous habitation of Crusader-period buildings in later periods is also a well-known phenomenon, for example at Tel Yoqne‘am (Avissar 2005:15–16).

### *Pottery*

The analysis of the pottery collected not only aided in the dating of the various phases, but also provided a well-defined pottery assemblage for each. The study of these assemblages—including the petrographic examination of a sample of the sherds—helped provide further insights into the life and importance of Tiberias in the different periods discussed.

Pottery from the Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk periods has usually been excavated as one stratum and published together, occasionally due to a lack of clear differences in the strata of these periods. Such excavations include Nazareth (Bagatti 1984), St. Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984), Caesarea (Pringle 1985), the Red Tower (Pringle 1986) and Ḥorbat ‘Uza (Stern and Tatcher 2009). In some cases, it was impossible to separate the Crusader and Mamluk periods because of the reuse of massive stone structures and flagstone floors (for example at Ḥorbat ‘Uza; Stern and Tatcher 2009). However, in other cases (mostly older excavations), the excavators had not developed a fine-tuned dating of pottery types spanning the Crusader–Mamluk periods. In the current excavation in Tiberias, it was possible to distinguish the various phases, thereby enabling a chronological differentiation between the assemblages (see Ḥorbat Manot, where it was also possible to separate the phases and ceramics; Stern 2001). Recent advancements in the study of medieval pottery, in which the medieval layers are excavated carefully and pottery is presented according to stratigraphic layers, in addition to the study of pottery from single-phase sites, such as Crusader-period sites of the ‘Akko courthouse (Stern 1997), Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (Getzov 2000) and Mamluk Giv‘at Dani (Lazar 1999), facilitates in

distinguishing exclusive pottery assemblages dated to a limited timespan. Consequently, we have gained a better understanding of the production, distribution, consumption and dating of different ceramic types represented in these assemblages. Moreover, given that few pottery assemblages from the Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk periods have been published from the eastern parts of Israel, these small assemblages from Tiberias are of great significance in distinguishing the types that were in use during these periods in this region.

*Dated Pottery Assemblages.*— As shown above, the pottery of the twelfth century (Phase 4) consists mainly of handmade wares, cooking pots and glazed bowls. The latter two categories were produced in Beirut and brought inland to Tiberias. It is possible that the Aegean glazed bowls that were found prior to the excavation also belong to this phase, thus indicating the use of imported glazed wares at an inland site. These may have been brought to Tiberias over the same inland routes with the Beirut wares. Although quite small, this assemblage should be considered Crusader per se, similar to twelfth-century Crusader assemblages from ‘Akko and its immediate vicinity (Stern 2012a:24–25, Table 3.1; 2012b). The thirteenth-century pottery (Phase 3) consists of many local handmade and wheel-made wares, in addition to vessels imported from Beirut. It is important to note that the pottery assemblage is quite different in character than that of ‘Akko (Stern 2012a:25, Table 3.2), due to the paucity of imports and the high percentage of handmade wares. During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (Phase 2), the percentage of the pottery types (handmade, wheel-made and glazed wares) remains unchanged (see Table 1). However, while the handmade wares are of the same types as found in the previous phases, there seems to be a break in the tradition of the production of the wheel-made wares. The cooking and glazed wares are made of different fabrics (usually fired to a red color) and forms, typical of the period as seen at sites throughout

Israel. Unfortunately, the vessels of this phase were not examined petrographically and their provenance is still unknown.

*Petrographic Analysis.*— The petrographic analysis of pottery types aimed at examining the pottery from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and comparing it to the pottery that was analyzed from ‘Akko (Shapiro 2012; this volume).<sup>14</sup> Some interesting results emerged, in addition to the differentiation of local and imported pottery. The locally produced wares include storage jars, also produced in ‘Akko, indicating that certain types of utilitarian vessels of identical form were produced in different production centers.

The results of the petrographic analysis show that cooking wares and simple glazed bowls found in Phases 3 and 4 originated in Beirut. It remains uncertain however, whether these types were manufactured in one production center, from which they were distributed, or whether very similar types were manufactured in different production centers in the Levant and Cyprus. While it is still premature to reach conclusions regarding this last point, the petrographic examination here indicates that the Beirut workshops distributed their pottery not only to coastal sites, but inland ones as well—possibly from the port of ‘Akko, situated c. 50 km west of Tiberias.

Most surprisingly, the simple, unglazed ‘Acre bowls’ were found to have been produced at ‘Akko, and brought to Tiberias. Such bowls were unearthed in large quantities in the courtyard of the ‘Akko Hospitaller compound—hence their name. The coarse fabric and poor workmanship indicate that these bowls were mass-produced and served as a local, utilitarian vessel of low cost, likely used to feed the sick and pilgrims in soup kitchens during periods of heavy pilgrimage in the Hospitaller compound, as well as for the Hospitallers themselves in their communal meals. Consequently, it seems that the ‘Acre bowls’ are indicative of the Hospitaller Order and reflect some of their main activities, like their care for the sick, poor

and pilgrims in the Holy Land, as well as their communal life in general (Stern 2008:207, 210–211; 2012a:37–38, Type AC.PL.1).

The presence of these bowls in Tiberias, clearly connected to the Hospitaller Order, which to date had only been identified in ‘Akko and its close vicinity, raises several questions. Written sources confirm that the Hospitaller Order had property in Tiberias from the early twelfth century, including a ‘house of the hospital’ (*domus Hospitalis*), a church and a square. In addition, the order was required to provide sugar to the Hospital of Jerusalem each year, indicating that they possessed sugar production facilities in Tiberias. After 1187, it seems that the Hospitallers were no longer present in Tiberias (Pringle 1998:358). Therefore, if the ‘Acre bowls’ are indeed connected to the Hospitaller Order (as in ‘Akko and Ḥorbat Manot), it is possible that this is the area where the order had its property within the Crusader city of Tiberias. It should be noted that in an excavation c. 200 m to the south, remains of sugar production were found (see Hartal 2008). Thus, I would like to cautiously suggest that the ‘Acre bowls’ found here belong to members of the Hospitaller Order, or alternatively, to pilgrims who had stayed in the ‘Akko hospital and then came to Tiberias. This seems to be the most reasonable explanation for the presence of such simple, unglazed vessels from ‘Akko in Tiberias.

*Ceramic Quantitative Analysis.*— Quantitative analysis of the well-dated ceramic assemblages excavated in Tiberias (Table 1) also yielded significant information.<sup>15</sup> While conclusions were only drawn for Phases 2 and 3, the data from Phase 4 is presented as well, despite the small number of vessels attributed to it. The quantitative analysis revealed the following information: (1) The undecorated handmade wares outnumber the painted handmade wares; (2) Both types of handmade ware comprise almost a quarter of each assemblage (23.2% in Phase 3, 22.9% in Phase 2); (3) The cooking wares comprise a quarter of each assemblage,

**Table 1. Quantitative Analysis of Pottery from Tiberias**

Group	Phase 4		Phase 3		Phase 2	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Handmade, undecorated			9	16.1	8	13.1
Handmade, painted			4	7.1	6	9.8
Wheel made, plain	3	50.0	11	19.6	10	16.4
Cooking ware	2	33.3	14	25.0	13	21.3
Glazed tableware—Levantine/local	1	16.7	15	26.8	23	37.7
Glazed tableware—imported			1	1.8		
Oil lamps			2	3.6	1	1.6
<i>Total</i>	6	100.0	56	100.0	61	100.0

indicating that these are domestic assemblages; (4) Most of the glazed tablewares are of local and Levantine types, with imported types almost completely absent.

Despite the small excavated area and few diagnostic sherds, a comparison of the percentage of pottery types with those from contemporary sites was undertaken, yielding significant conclusions.<sup>16</sup> The quantitative data from Tiberias was compared with that of the 'Akko courthouse (Stern 1997:36, Table 1), Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (Getzov 2000:97\*, Table 1) and Khirbat Burin (Kletter and Stern 2006:198–199, Table 2, and see Table 3 and Fig. 24 for a comparison of the three sites). The data from 'Akko represents a large, thirteenth-century urban center; the data from Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta represents a rural thirteenth-century site; and the data from Khirbat Burin represents a rural Mamluk site of the late thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. While handmade wares were less prominent at Tiberias (23.2% in Phase 3 and 22.9% in Phase 2) than at Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta (43.8%) and Khirbat Burin (42.2%), they were far more common than at 'Akko (0.7%). This phenomenon, in which handmade wares are more abundant in rural assemblages, was noted elsewhere (van der Stein 1998).<sup>17</sup> The relatively high percentages of handmade wares found in thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Tiberias suggests that the nature of the settlement was

of a more rural nature. This fits well with the historical data of Tiberias during the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (see below). During this period, the city was reduced in size and importance, possibly also explaining the few imported ceramic types found.

Two bowls of Aegean Ware (Fig. 13:1, 2) were found out of context, and probably date to the twelfth century, when Tiberias was the capital of the principality of Galilee. During this period, one could assume that there was a constant connection between Tiberias and the port of 'Akko, which served as the middleman between inland and coastal trade. During the thirteenth century, when Tiberias was no longer in Christian hands, this trade route would have been less active. This is further supported by the small quantity of imported glazed wares unearthed in the many excavations at Tiberias: one thirteenth-century, Cypriot ware sherd in this excavation, and two fragments of Cypriot imports at Mt. Berenice (Amir 2004b:161, Fig. 9.8:1, 2). This is in complete contrast to 'Akko, where the imported glazed wares were found in higher percentages than the local ones (Stern 2012a:31, Tables 3.4, 3.7). Even in the remote, rural site of Khirbat Burin, a higher percent of imports were found than in Tiberias. To date, Cypriot glazed wares are the only thirteenth-century imported pottery known from Tiberias.

*Archaeology and History*

When comparing the archaeological data uncovered in this small excavation with the historical background of Tiberias, interesting insights about the life of the populace during the different periods under discussion come to light. Tiberias was captured by Godfrey of Bouillon in September 1099, and was granted to Tancred in the year 1110, together with the principality of Galilee. Tiberias served as the capital of one of the most important and strongest twelfth-century principalities. The population consisted of indigenous Christians, Jews and Muslims, as well as the Christian Franks. Contemporary sources also mention a market and a burgh court. On July 1, 1187, the city was captured by Saladin's army, which dismantled its defenses three years later (Pringle 1998:351–352). The construction of a new building in the twelfth century, as found in this excavation (Phase 4), coincides well with the historical data, as Tiberias was a thriving city that grew in size. The scanty ceramic finds include two Aegean imported bowls, indicating connections with the coast. However, no remains of the violent capture of the city by Saladin were found in this limited excavation.

During the thirteenth century, Tiberias was smaller in size and importance. It changed hands every few decades, although it remained primarily in Muslim control (Ayyubid and then Mamluk), with a short lacuna of Frankish rule from 1241 to 1247. Although Tiberias was described in 1321 as being in ruins, pilgrims' accounts dating from 1360 and 1401 list monasteries and

churches that were active (Pringle 1998:351–352). The finds from the thirteenth (Phase 3) and the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries (Phase 2) correspond well with this historical data. The town was declining, and one can assume that no new buildings were constructed, causing the reuse of existing buildings. Activities, such as raising floor levels, adding partition walls, water cisterns and blocking entrances, are evidence of the secondary use of existing buildings. The evidence of the ceramic finds also indicates the decline of the city. The ceramic assemblage fits that of a rural site, rather than a Crusader-period (e.g., 'Akko) or Mamluk-period (e.g., Safed) city.<sup>18</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

As shown above, the finds from this limited and complex excavation—particularly those from Phases 4–2—yielded much information regarding the material culture and architecture of a domestic quarter in Tiberias during the Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk periods. The importance of the excavation is heightened due to the domestic nature of the site, in contrast to the other areas excavated in close proximity. Moreover, it contributes to the broader picture of eastern Israel during these periods, in comparison with contemporary finds in other geographical regions in Israel. As data of this nature is quite sparse, this study is a significant addition in achieving a better understanding of domestic life in southern Bilad al-Sham during the twelfth to fifteenth centuries.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> The excavation (Permit No. A-3584) was conducted by the author and financed by the Government Tourism Corporation. Pottery was restored by Leea Porat; the finds were drawn by Hagit Tahan-Rosen; the plans were drawn by Avraham Hajian and Irina Berin; and the photographs were taken by Howard Smithline and the author. Yael Gorin-Rosen assisted with the glass finds, Anastasia Shapiro, with the pottery finds, stone identification and the petrographic analysis of pottery sherds. Yardenna Alexandre and Yosef Stepansky assisted during the excavation season and with the study of the finds. I would like to thank them for their assistance. All the dates used here are CE, unless stated otherwise.

The article was originally written in 2006 and submitted in 2008. Despite the publication of additional articles related to the issues discussed here, it was not possible to update the manuscript, save for choice publications by the author (Stern and Tatcher 2009; Stern 2012a; 2012b). I would like to thank the reader for his valuable comments and Joe Uziel for his editing.

<sup>2</sup> The excavation was conducted in 2005 by Moshe Hartal (Permit No. A-4445).

<sup>3</sup> In a recent excavation to the north, it seems that the western city wall and the moat wall of the Crusader period were exposed (Mokary and Hartal 2010).

<sup>4</sup> This excavation was carried out under very difficult conditions, during a very rainy winter. The position of the excavated area, at the lowest point of the parking lot, resulted in it becoming a drainage point for all the rainwater, leading to excavation in muddy earth. There was a problem with the absolute heights in the excavation. After the excavation, it was realized that the elevations used were incorrect. It was not possible to derive exact heights for the excavated features. The heights here should therefore be treated with caution.

<sup>5</sup> The capital was left buried in the area after the excavation.

<sup>6</sup> The pottery from the Late Roman to Fatimid periods is not presented here. The pottery types that were found here are similar to types that were published from other excavations in Tiberias (Amir 2004a; Stacey 2004:89–147).

<sup>7</sup> I would like to thank Yael Gorin-Rosen for sorting the glass vessels and for her assistance in the study of these vessels.

<sup>8</sup> It is not clear if the intention of the glass maker was to make turquoise or red glass handles. It may be that initially, his intention was to make turquoise glass, but in the process it turned red. I thank Yael Gorin-Rosen for this observation.

<sup>9</sup> This observation was made by Yael Gorin-Rosen.

<sup>10</sup> This observation was made by Anastasia Shapiro.

<sup>11</sup> The western face of this wall was not exposed, due to an electric cable that was placed near it.

<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, this area was cleared by a backhoe prior to excavation, removing all remains. In addition, due to safety considerations, it was impossible to examine the sections made by the backhoe in order to try to understand the nature of this area.

<sup>13</sup> Only in Area D in the Knights Hotel, there is evidence that a Fatimid building was reused in the Crusader period (Stern and Syon, in prep.).

<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately, budget restrictions did not allow for the petrographic examination of the fourteenth–fifteenth-century pottery. Further study of the provenance of the period's pottery has been conducted recently by Anastasia Shapiro, and will be published in the near future (e.g., Shapiro, forthcoming).

<sup>15</sup> The types were counted by rim, this being the most diagnostic part of the vessel. Although the number of rims does not represent the absolute number of vessels, a quantitative analysis of rims offers a convenient, quick counting method. For this reason it was used here and in other excavations (e.g., Stern 1997; 2012a:24–32; Kletter and Stern 2006; Stern and Tatcher 2009:167–172). I would like to thank Nimrod Getzov for suggesting the use of this system, as well as for his assistance in understanding the quantitative analysis of this ceramic assemblage.

<sup>16</sup> Unfortunately, it is impossible to compare this numerical data with many excavated sites in Israel, in which such data is not given. Even when the data is published, a comparison with the data from sites counted in a different manner is not always possible.

<sup>17</sup> One exception for this is Jerusalem, where an abundance of handmade wares was found (Miriam Avissar and Annette Nagar, pers. comm.)

<sup>18</sup> This data is from a preliminary study conducted by the author of the pottery from the citadel in Safed, excavated by Hervé Barbe in 2001–2003 (Permit Nos. A-3504, A-3611 and A-4023).

## REFERENCES

- Amir R. 2004a. Pottery and Small Finds. In Y. Hirschfeld. *Excavations at Tiberias, 1989–1994* (IAA Reports 22). Jerusalem. Pp. 31–56.
- Amir R. 2004b. Pottery. In Y. Hirschfeld. *Excavations at Tiberias, 1989–1994* (IAA Reports 22). Jerusalem. Pp. 153–167.
- Amos E. 2010. Tiberias, the Promenade. *HA–ESI* 122 (September 6). [http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report\\_detail\\_eng.asp?id=1456&mag\\_id=117](http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1456&mag_id=117) (accessed 6.6.2011).
- Avissar M. 2005. *Tel Yoqne‘am: Excavations on the Acropolis* (IAA Reports 25). Jerusalem.
- Avissar M. and Stern E.J. 2005. *Pottery of the Crusader, Ayyubid and Mamluk Periods in Israel* (IAA Reports 25). Jerusalem.
- Bagatti B. 1984. *Gli Scavi di Nazaret II: Dal Secolo XII ad.Oggi*. Jerusalem.
- Ben-Dov M. 1975. Crusader Fortresses in Israel. *Qadmoniot* 8/4:102–113 (Hebrew).
- Bernie V., Milwright M. and Simpson E.J. 1992. An Architectural Survey of Muslim Buildings in Tiberias. *Levant* 24:95–129.
- Boas A.J. 1995. *Domestic Architecture in the Frankish Kingdom of Jerusalem*. Ph.D. diss. The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- Boas A.J. 1999. *Crusader Archaeology: The Material Culture of the Latin East*. London.
- Carboni S. 2001. *Glass from Islamic Lands*. New York.
- Dean B. 1927. *A Crusaders' Fortress in Palestine, a Report of Explorations Made by the Museum* (The Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art II). New York.
- François V., Nicolaïdes A., Vallauri L. and Waksman Y. 2003. Premiers éléments pour une caractérisation des productions de céramique de Beyrouth entre domination Franque et Mamelouke. In Ch. Bakirtzis ed. *VII<sup>e</sup> Congrès International sur la Céramique Médiévale en Méditerranée*. Thessaloniki 11–16 Octobre 1999. Athens. Pp. 325–340.
- Getzov N. 2000. An Excavation at Ḥorbat Bet Zeneta. *‘Atiqot* 39:75\*–106\* (Hebrew; English summary, pp. 202–204).
- Gorin-Rosen Y. 1997. Excavation of the Courthouse Site at ‘Akko: Medieval Glass Vessels (Area TA). *‘Atiqot* 31:75–85.
- Gorin-Rosen Y. 2010. Glass. In E.J. Stern. ‘Akko, the Educational Campus. *HA–ESI* 122 (November 22). [http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report\\_detail\\_eng.asp?id=1561&mag\\_id=117](http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1561&mag_id=117) (accessed June 6, 2011).
- Gorin-Rosen Y. 2013. Glass Finds from the Crusader-Period Bathhouse in ‘Akko (Acre). *‘Atiqot* 73:109–116.
- HA 1973. Tiberias. *HA* 47:4.
- HA 1981. Tiberias. *HA* 76:10–11.
- Hadad S. 2005. *Islamic Glass Vessels from the Hebrew University Excavations at Bet Shean* (Qedem Reports 8). Jerusalem.
- Harif A. 1984. A Crusader Church in Tiberias. *PEQ* 116:103–109.
- Hartal M. 2008. Tiberias, Galei Kinneret. *HA–ESI* 120 (April 15). [http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report\\_detail\\_eng.asp?id=773&mag\\_id=114](http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=773&mag_id=114) (accessed June 6, 2011).
- Hasson R. 1979. *Early Islamic Glass*. Jerusalem.
- Hirschfeld Y. 1992. *A Guide to Antiquity Sites in Tiberias*. Jerusalem.
- Hirschfeld Y. 2004. *Excavations at Tiberias* (IAA Reports 22). Jerusalem.
- Johns C.N. 1934. Excavations at Pilgrims' Castle, ‘Atlit (1932); the Ancient Tell and the Outer Defenses of the Castle. *QDAP* 3:145–164.
- Johns C.N. 1935. ‘Atlit, Church in the Suburb. *QDAP* 4:122–137.
- Kletter R. and Stern E. J. 2006. A Mamluk-Period Site at Khirbat Burin in the Eastern Sharon. *‘Atiqot* 51:173–214.
- Lazar D. 1999. A Mamluk and Ottoman Settlement at Giv‘at Dani in the Ayyalon Valley. *‘Atiqot* 38:127\*–136\* (Hebrew; English summary pp. 231–232).
- Lester A. 2004. The Glass. In D. Stacey. *Excavations at Tiberias, 1973–1974: The Early Islamic Periods* (IAA Reports 21). Jerusalem. Pp. 167–220.
- Mokary A and Hartal M. 2010. Tiberias. *HA–ESI* 122 (November 17). [http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report\\_detail\\_eng.asp?id=1542&mag\\_id=117](http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=1542&mag_id=117) (accessed February 18, 2013).
- Pringle D. 1984. Thirteenth-Century Pottery from the Monastery of St. Mary of Carmel. *Levant* 16:91–111.
- Pringle D. 1985. Medieval Pottery from Caesarea: The Crusader Period. *Levant* 17:171–202.
- Pringle D. 1986. *The Red Tower* (British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem, Monograph Series I). London.
- Pringle D. 1998. *The Churches of the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem* II. Cambridge.
- Razi Z. and Braun E. 1992. The Lost Crusader Castle of Tiberias. In B.Z. Kedar ed. *The Horns of Hattin*. Jerusalem–London. Pp. 216–227.
- Rosen J. Forthcoming. The Knights Hotel Site: The Crusader Architectural Elements. In E. Stern and D. Syon. *‘Akko II. The 1991–1998 Excavations; The Late Periods*. IAA Reports.

- Shapiro A. 2012. Petrographic Analysis of the Crusader-Period Pottery. In E.J. Stern *'Akko I. The 1991–1998 Excavations; The Crusader-Period Pottery* (IAA Reports 51) (2 vols.). Jerusalem. Pp. 103–126.
- Shapiro A. This volume. Petrographic Examination of Medieval Pottery from Tiberias.
- Shapiro A. Forthcoming. Petrographic Study of Selected Mamluk-Period Pottery from Khirbat Din'ila. *'Atiqot*.
- Stacey D. 2004. *Excavations at Tiberias, 1973–1974: The Early Islamic Periods* (IAA Reports 21). Jerusalem.
- Stein E.J. van der. 1998. What Happened to Arabic Geometric Pottery in Beirut? *ARAM* 9–10:121–127.
- Stepansky Y. 1985. The Archaeological Research in Tiberias in the Last Decade. *Mi-Tiv Tverya* 3:24–28 (Hebrew).
- Stepansky Y. 2004. The Crusaders Citadel of Tiberias. *Qadmoniot* 127:50–57 (Hebrew).
- Stern E.J. 1997. Excavations of the Courthouse Site at 'Akko: The Pottery of the Crusader and Ottoman Periods. *'Atiqot* 31:35–70.
- Stern E.J. 2001. The Excavations at Lower Ḥorbat Manot: A Medieval Sugar-Production Site. *'Atiqot* 42:277–308.
- Stern E.J. 2007. Tiberias. *HA–ESI* 119 (February 8). [http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report\\_detail\\_eng.asp?id=479&mag\\_id=112](http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.asp?id=479&mag_id=112) (accessed August 14, 2007).
- Stern E.J. 2008. The Hospitaller Order in Acre and Manuth: the Ceramic Evidence. In V. Mallia-Milanes ed. *The Military Orders 3: History and Heritage*. Aldershot. Pp. 203–211.
- Stern E.J. 2012a. *'Akko I. The 1991–1998 Excavations; The Crusader-Period Pottery* (IAA Reports 51) (2 vols.). Jerusalem.
- Stern E.J. 2012b. Mi'ilya: Evidence of an Early Crusader Settlement. *'Atiqot* 70:63\*–76\*.
- Stern E. and Syon D. In preparation. *'Akko II. The 1991–1998 Excavations; The Late Periods*. IAA Reports.
- Stern E.J. and Tatcher A. 2009. The Early Islamic, Crusader and Mamluk Pottery. In N. Getzov, D. Avshalom-Gorni, Y. Gorin-Rosen, E.J. Stern, D. Syon and A. Tatcher. *Ḥorbat 'Uza. The 1991 Excavations II: The Late Periods* (IAA Reports 42). Jerusalem. Pp.118–175.
- Stern E.J. and Waksman S.Y. 2003. Pottery from Crusader Acre: A Typological and Analytical Study. In Ch. Bakirtzis ed. *VII<sup>e</sup> Congrès International sur la Céramique Médiévale en Méditerranée. Thessaloniki 11–16 Octobre 1999*. Athens. Pp. 167–180.
- Tatcher A. 2009. Miscellaneous Finds from Strata 5–1. In N. Getzov, D. Avshalom-Gorni, Y. Gorin-Rosen, E.J. Stern, D. Syon and A. Tatcher. *Ḥorbat 'Uza. The 1991 Excavations II: The Late Periods* (IAA Reports 42). Jerusalem. Pp. 182–188.
- Waksman S.Y. 2002. Céramiques levantines de l'époque des Croisades: le cas des productions a pâte rouge des ateliers de Beyrouth. *Revue d'Archéométrie* 26:67–77.
- Waksman S.Y. and von Wartburg, M-L. 2006. "Fine-Sgraffito Ware", "Aegean Ware", and Other Wares: New Evidence for a Major Production of Byzantine Ceramics. *RDAC* 2006:396–388.
- Waksman S.Y., Stern E.J., Segal, I., Porat N. and Yellin J. 2008. Some Local and Imported Ceramics from Crusader Acre Investigated by Elemental and Petrographical Analysis. *'Atiqot* 59: 157–190.