

A BURIAL CAVE FROM THE THIRD–EARLY FOURTH CENTURIES CE AT IQRIT

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A rock-cut chamber-tomb containing a rich burial repertoire from the Late Roman period was excavated in the course of road widening in Upper Galilee, north of the former Arab village of Iqrit, southwest of present-day Shomera (map ref. NIG 22590/77575; OIG 17590/27575; Fig. 1; Vitto 1973).¹

When the excavation began, parts of *Kokh* 10 and of the entrance had been destroyed by the bulldozer and some earth and rocks had penetrated the central chamber (Fig. 2). All the openings of the *kokhim* were originally blocked with fieldstones, but only the stones of the lower courses were *in situ*; those of the upper courses were found scattered nearby, on the shelves and in the central pit (Figs. 3, 4). Part of the upper stones had collapsed over the years and part had probably been knocked down soon after the discovery of the cave. Burials were undisturbed in some of the *kokhim*, while in others, skeletons were disarticulated and the

artifacts scattered throughout the *kokh*. The large quantity of coins, complete glass vessels and gold, silver and bronze jewelry discovered in the *kokhim* suggest, however, that the cave had only suffered minor disturbance and perhaps limited looting at the time of its discovery.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CAVE (Plan 1)

The cave consists of a square burial chamber (A) with ten *kokhim* hewn into its walls. The entrance (0.6 m wide, 0.9 m high) is in the northern wall (Fig. 5). Its sealing slab was not found and was apparently removed by the bulldozer at the time of the discovery of the cave when the entrance was partly destroyed. Four steps, roughly hewn into the rock, descend from the entrance into the central pit of Chamber A. Chamber A is square (3.3 × 3.3 m, 1.5 m high) with a flat ceiling and a nearly square central pit (2.9 × 3.1 m, 0.3 m deep), which creates 0.15–0.20 m

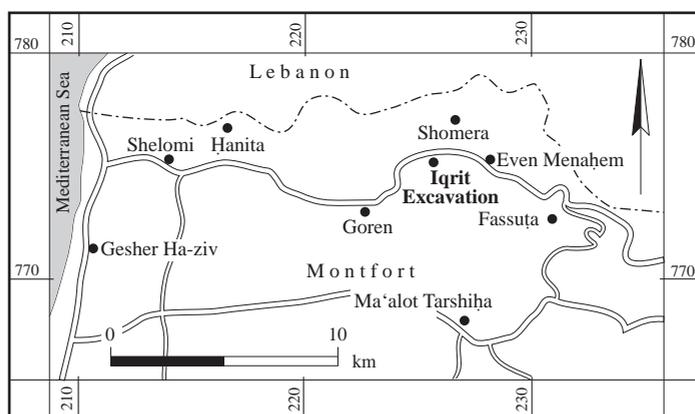


Fig. 1. Location of excavation.

wide shelves on three sides. Ten *kokhim* (nine single and one double) are hewn into the walls of the cave (Table 1), three (*Kokhim* 1–3) in the eastern wall (Fig. 6), three (*Kokhim* 4–6)

in the southern wall (Fig. 7), three (*Kokhim* 7–9) in the western wall and one (*Kokh* 10) in the northern wall next to the entrance (see Figs. 2, 5).



Fig. 2. Cave entrance and *Kokh* 10 partly destroyed by the bulldozer; view from outside, looking south.



Fig. 4. *Kokhim* 7 and 8 (before excavation), looking west.



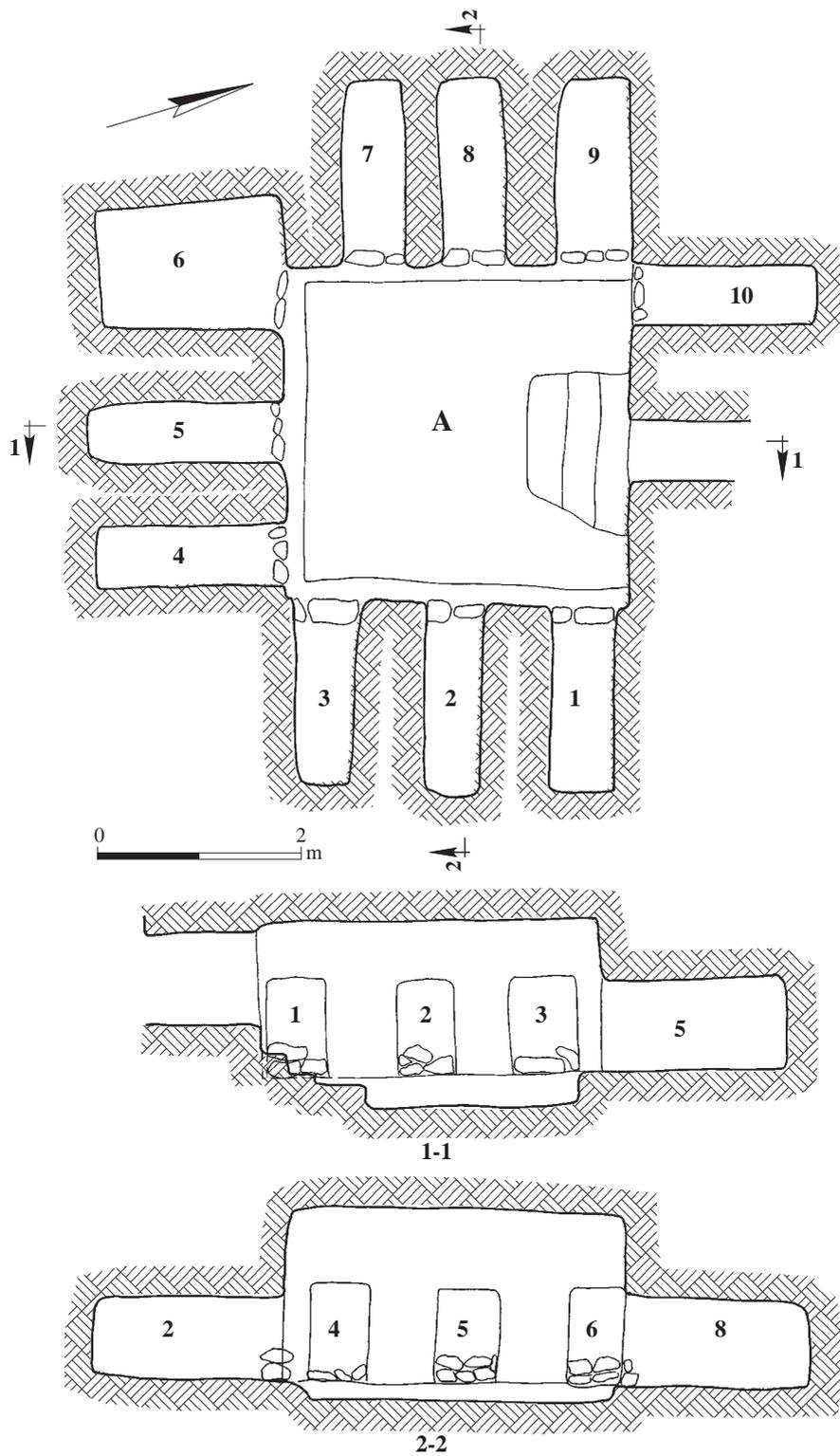
Fig. 3. *Kokh* 3 (before excavation), looking east.



Fig. 5. Cave entrance and *Kokh* 10 (after excavation); view from inside, looking north.

Table 1. Dimensions of *Kokhim* (in meters)

No.	L	W	H
1	1.80	0.60	0.95
2	1.85	0.55	0.95
3	1.80	1.55	0.95
4	1.80	0.60	0.95
5	1.85	0.55	0.90
6 (double)	1.70	1.10–1.35	0.95
7	1.80	0.60	0.90
8	1.80	1.65	0.85
9	1.80	0.75	0.90
10	1.80	0.60	0.90



Plan 1. The burial cave, plan and sections.



Fig. 6. *Kokhim* 1–3 after excavation, looking east.



Fig. 7. *Kokhim* 4–6 after excavation, looking south.

THE FINDS (Table 2)

The finds consist of 26 coins made of bronze, silver and billon (see Bijovsky, this volume), two pottery vessels, c. 22 glass vessels, a bronze scoop-probe, a hematite spindle whorl, seven bone and glass pins, and a rich repertoire of jewelry—seven pairs of gold earrings, ten bracelets and anklets made of silver, bronze and

iron, two rings, one silver and one bronze (the latter with a red jasper gem depicting a warrior personifying, apparently, Alexander the Great), and more than one hundred beads, mostly made of glass. It is worth noting the total absence of pottery lamps and the presence of only two pottery vessels compared to the large quantity of glass vessels.

Table 2. Contents of the Cave

Locus	Pottery Vessels	Glass Vessels	Jewelry	Other	Coins	Osteological Remains* [†]	Remarks
Chamber A, in central pit	In NW corner of central pit, between entrance and <i>Kokh</i> 10: 1 jar (Fig. 9:1)	In SW corner of central pit: 3 shallow bowls (Fig. 9:5,7, not ill.) 1 bottle with concave neck (Fig. 12:3) 1 globular bottle (Fig. 13:1) On SE shelf near <i>Kokh</i> 4: 1 <i>askos</i> -shaped bottle (Fig. 13:2)	In SW corner of central pit: 1 glass bead (not ill.) On SE shelf between <i>Kokhim</i> 3 and 4: 1 gold earring (Fig. 15:3)			Scattered human bones	Central pit was filled with some earth and fieldstones from the upper courses of the stones blocking the <i>kokhim</i>
<i>Kokh</i> 1		1 shallow bowl (Fig. 9:1)	1 bronze bracelet (Fig. 16:9) 1 iron bracelet (Fig. 16:10) Necklace composed of 49 beads (Fig. 18:1–13)	3 bone pins (Fig. 14:4, 5, not ill.)	1 silver-plated Constantius I c. 295 CE (Cat. No. 25)	1 articulated skeleton: adult 19–23 years, sex? (most likely female according to the beads and the bone pins)	Opening blocked by fieldstones preserved two courses high
<i>Kokh</i> 2	Fragments (not ill.)		1 pair of gold earrings (Fig. 15:1) 2 silver anklets (Fig. 16:1, 2) Necklace composed of 28 beads (Fig. 18:14–18)	1 bone pin (Fig. 14:3) 1 glass pin (Fig. 14:6)	4 coins including: 1 Æ Caracalla 211–217 CE used as medal (Cat. No. 6) 1 billon Trajan Decius 249–251 CE (Cat. No. 20) 1 silver-plated Macrianus II 260–261 CE (Cat. No. 23) 1 silver-plated Quietus 260–261 CE (Cat. No. 24)	1 articulated and 1 disarticulated skeletons: 2 adults (20–25 years and 15–20 years) of unclear sex (at least one most likely female according to the pair of earrings, the pins and the beads)	Opening blocked by fieldstones preserved two courses high: all finds were found <i>in situ</i> on articulated skeleton
<i>Kokh</i> 3		1 shallow bowl (Fig. 9:4) 1 deep bowl (Fig. 10:3) 1 sack-shaped beaker with tubular base (Fig. 11:3) 1 beaker with decoration of pinched vertical ribs, intact (not ill.; see n. 2)	1 silver ring (Fig. 17:1) 1 silver anklet (Fig. 16:3)	1 bronze scoop-probe (Fig. 14:1) 1 bone pin (not ill.)	1 Æ Caracalla 211–217 CE (Cat. No. 7) 1 Æ Elagabalus 218–222 CE (Cat. No. 13)	1 disarticulated adult 20–30 years, probably female according to the cosmetic spoon and the anklet	Found blocked by fieldstones preserved one course high

* The remarks made in this column are based on a preliminary report in Hebrew written by Yossi Nagar, who examined the osteological material, and on notes made on-site by the author. All the osteological material was reburied immediately after examination. The author wishes to thank Yossi Nagar for his report.

Table 2. (Cont.)

Locus	Pottery Vessels	Glass Vessels	Jewelry	Other	Coins	Osteological Remains	Remarks
<i>Kokh 4</i>		1 tall candlestick bottle (Fig. 12:1) 1 bottle with concave neck (Fig. 12:2)	1 silver bracelet (Fig. 16:7)		1 <i>R</i> Septimius Severus 197–198 CE (Cat. No. 5) 1 <i>Æ</i> Maximinus 311 CE (Cat. No. 26)	1 skeleton of a male adult over 50 years (severe arthritis in joints, osteoporosis and osteophytes in neck)	Most stones originally blocking opening found scattered nearby
<i>Kokh 5</i>	1 piriform bottle, complete (Fig. 8:2)	Fragments (not ill.)	1 silver bracelet (Fig. 16:8) 2 beads (Fig. 18:19; not ill.)	1 bone pin (not ill.) 1 iron nail (not ill.)	1 <i>Æ</i> Julia Maesa 226 CE (Cat. No. 17)	Disarticulated skeletons of at least 5 individuals, including 3 adults, one c. 30 years old and a child (6–7 years old)	Opening found blocked with fieldstones preserved mid-height
<i>Kokh 6</i>		Fragments including 2 bases of bowls (not ill.)	1 single gold earring (Fig. 15:4)			A few scattered human bones, probably of a female according to the earring	Opening found blocked with fieldstones preserved two courses high
<i>Kokh 7</i>		1 shallow bowl (Fig. 9:6) 1 deep bowl (Fig. 10:4) 2 bowl bases (not ill.)	3 pairs + 1 single gold earrings (Fig. 15:2, 5–7) 1 bronze ring with a red jasper gem (Fig. 17:2, 3) Necklace composed of 25 beads (Fig. 18:20–28)	1 hematite spindle whorl (Fig. 14:2)	13 coins including: 1 <i>Æ</i> Ptolemy II 285–246 BCE (Cat. No. 1) 1 <i>R</i> Trajan 98–117 CE (Cat. No. 2) 1 <i>Æ</i> Autonomous 2nd c. CE (Cat. No. 4) 1 <i>Æ</i> Macrinus 217–218 CE (Cat. No. 8) 2 <i>Æ</i> Diadumenian 217–218 CE (Cat. No. 9, 10) 4 <i>Æ</i> Elagabalus 218–222 CE (Cat. No. 11, 12, 14, 16) 1 <i>Æ</i> Severus Alexander 222–235 CE (Cat. No. 18) 1 <i>Æ</i> Valerian 253–260 CE (Cat. No. 21) 1 <i>Æ</i> 2nd–3rd c. CE (Cat. No. 22)	Scattered bones of at least 2 adults (of which one is 20–25 years), probably female according to the earrings and the necklace	Opening found blocked with fieldstones preserved one course high; bones and finds were scattered throughout the <i>kokh</i> , suggesting that the <i>kokh</i> served for ossilegium; Coin Reg. Nos. 85, 86 (Cat. Nos. 10, 14) were found stuck together

Table 2. (Cont.)

Locus	Pottery Vessels	Glass Vessels	Jewelry	Other	Coins	Osteological Remains	Remarks
<i>Kokh 8</i>		1 deep bowl (Fig. 10:1) 2 sack-shaped beakers with thickened base (Fig. 11:1, 2) 1 short cylindrical beaker (Fig. 11:4)	1 silver anklet (Fig. 16:5)	1 bone pin (not ill.)	1 Æ Severus Alexander 222–235 CE (Cat. No. 19)	1 adult, probably female according to the bone pin and anklet	Opening found blocked with fieldstones preserved up to one course high
<i>Kokh 9</i>		Fragments (not ill.)			1 Æ Elagabalus 218–222 CE (Cat. No. 15)	1 male adult	Opening found blocked with fieldstones preserved up to two courses high
<i>Kokh 10</i>		2 shallow bowls (Fig. 9:2, 3) 1 deep bowl (Fig. 10: 2) 6 bowl bases (not ill.)	1 silver bracelet (Fig. 16:6) 1 silver anklet (Fig. 16:4)		1 Æ Autonomous 2nd c. CE (Cat. No. 3)	1 articulated adult and at least 2 disarticulated adults including at least one female	<i>Kokh</i> partly destroyed by bulldozer; opening blocked by fieldstones preserved one course high; the coin was located to the right of the skull of the articulated skeleton

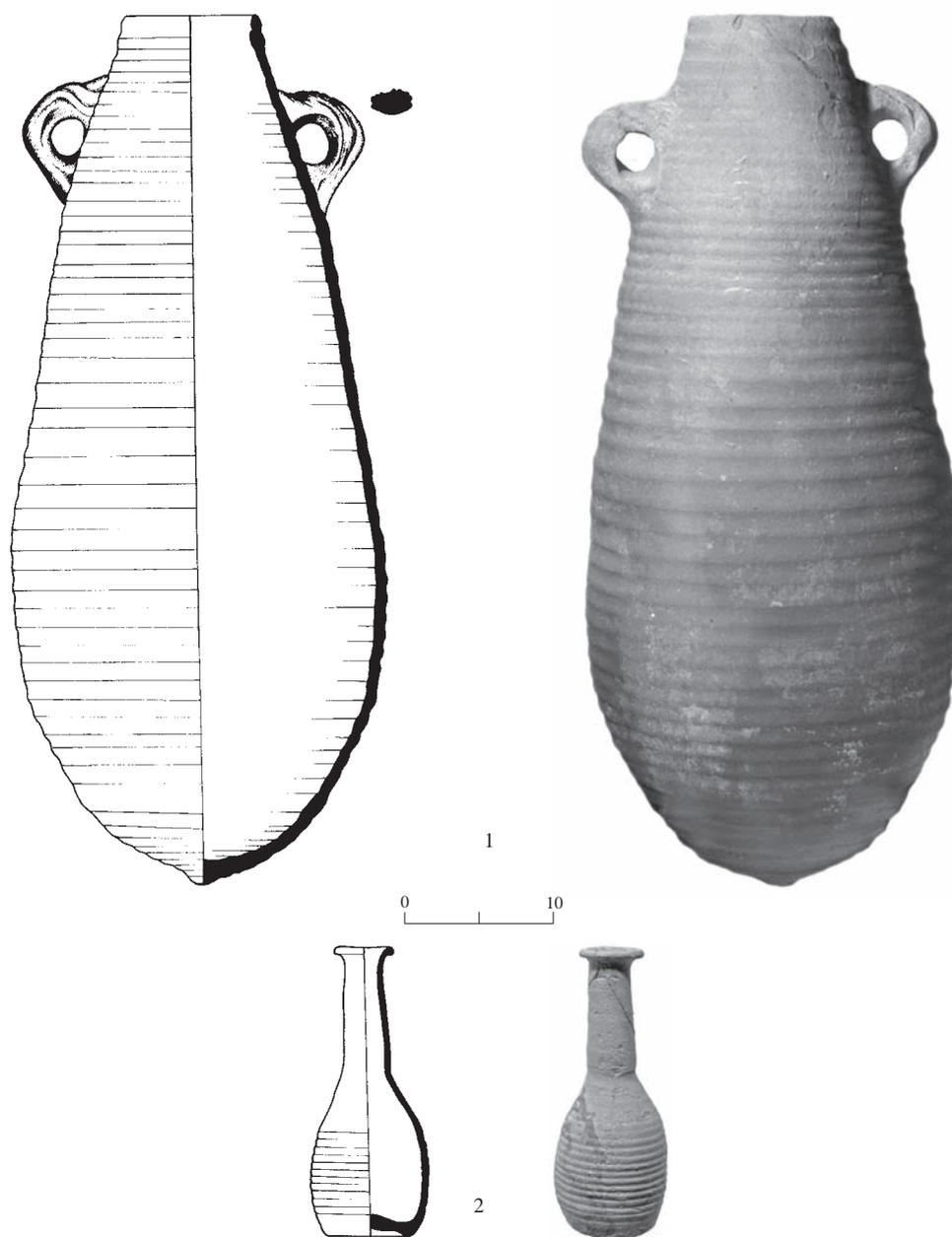


Fig. 8. Pottery vessels.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	1	Chamber A, in pit between entrance and <i>Kokh</i> 10	Jar	Light red fabric 10R 6/8 with orange tinge	H 58, D rim 9, D max. body 25
2	31	<i>Kokh</i> 5	Piriform bottle	Light red fabric 10R 6/6	H 19.4, D rim 4, D max. body 7.8

Pottery Vessels (Fig. 8)

Two complete pottery vessels were found: a jar and a small piriform bottle.

Jar (Fig. 8:1).— It has an elongated piriform body, entirely ribbed, ending in a button-shaped base, no neck, a straight pointed rim and two small, slightly twisted handles attached 4 cm below the rim. This is the Phoenician jar of the Late Roman period, common at sites in northwestern Galilee, e.g., at Shiqmona (Elgavish 1977: Pls. V:24, 26; XIX:145–150; XXVI:26, dated to the second century CE); Loḥame Ha-Geta'ot (Peleg 1991:133–134, Fig. 4:3, who wrongly attributed it to the early Hellenistic period even though it was found in Burial E dated to the first half of the third century CE); Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994:80, 85, Fig. 5, in Burial 1005, where it was found with second- and early third-century CE coins and candlestick glass bottles); Asherat (Smithline 1997:50, Fig. 6:2, in Cave 1, dated to the first half of the third century CE). This type developed from the Phoenician jar of the Iron Age II, the Persian and the Hellenistic periods (Frankel and Getzov 1997:35*; Avshalom-Gorni 1998: Class 2.1; Getzov 2000:79; Avshalom-Gorni and Getzov 2002:78–81; Regev 2004:345–346), with its characteristic neckless mouth and small twisted handles. Artzy (1980) suggested that the handles were intentionally 'distorted' by the potters so as to provide a better grip for those carrying the jars when they were full. At Iqrit, the jar was found in the northwestern corner of the central pit of Chamber A, leaning against the steps next to the entrance, where it had apparently been left by the last visitors to the tomb. As shown by the above examples, this type of jar is usually dated from the second century to the first half of the third century CE. The good state of preservation of the jar reinforces the impression that it was deposited in the last phase of use of the tomb (the latest coin uncovered in the cave is a coin of Maximinus, 309–313 CE). This would mean that this type of jar was still in use at the end of the third–early fourth centuries CE.

Piriform Bottle (Fig. 8:2).— It has a long cylindrical, slightly swollen neck, with an everted rim, a ribbed piriform body and a concave base. One side of the body is slightly warped. This is a developed version of the unribbed piriform bottles with a flat base, very common in the burial caves of the Second Temple period in Jerusalem (Kahane 1952; Vitto 2000:87–88). Several parallels have been found along the Phoenician coast in third-century CE contexts, e.g., at Tyre (Le Lasseur 1922:20, 23, Fig. 11b, found in a tomb together with a coin of Caracalla, 211–217 CE), Byblos (Dunand 1937–1939:420, Pl. CLV:6522; 1958:560–561, No. 12916–12923, Fig. 649) and Ḥanita (Barag 1978:39–40, Fig. 17:94, Pl. VI:94, in *Kokh* 8A, in a third-century CE context). Kahane (1952:177–178) mentions several (unpublished) examples discovered in a tomb at el-Makr, southeast of 'Akko, together with third- and fourth-century CE coins. He notes that it much resembles a pottery bottle mainly found in Transjordan (similar long, swollen neck and ribbed body)—Kahane Variant d—except for its base, which is convex (shallow cone) as opposed to the concave base of the Phoenician one. This bottle with a convex base, found at Petra (Murray and Ellis 1940:23, Form 74; Horsfield 1942:143, 148, 150, Pls. 21:155; 24:173; 25:185; Hammond 1973:29, 43–44, Nos. 27–57; Khairy 1980; Johnson 1989) and 'Amman (Harding 1946:60–61, Fig. 2:5b, Pl. XX:5a, 5b), is generally considered of Nabatean origin and dated to the first century CE.

At Iqrit, the bottle was found in *Kokh* 5, together with a coin of Julia Maesa (c. 226 CE), supporting a date in the third century CE for the Phoenician type.

Glass Vessels (Figs. 9–13)

A large number of mostly complete glass vessels were found in the *kokhim* and in Chamber A, including shallow and deep bowls, beakers, various bottles and a fairly rare *askos*-shaped bottle.

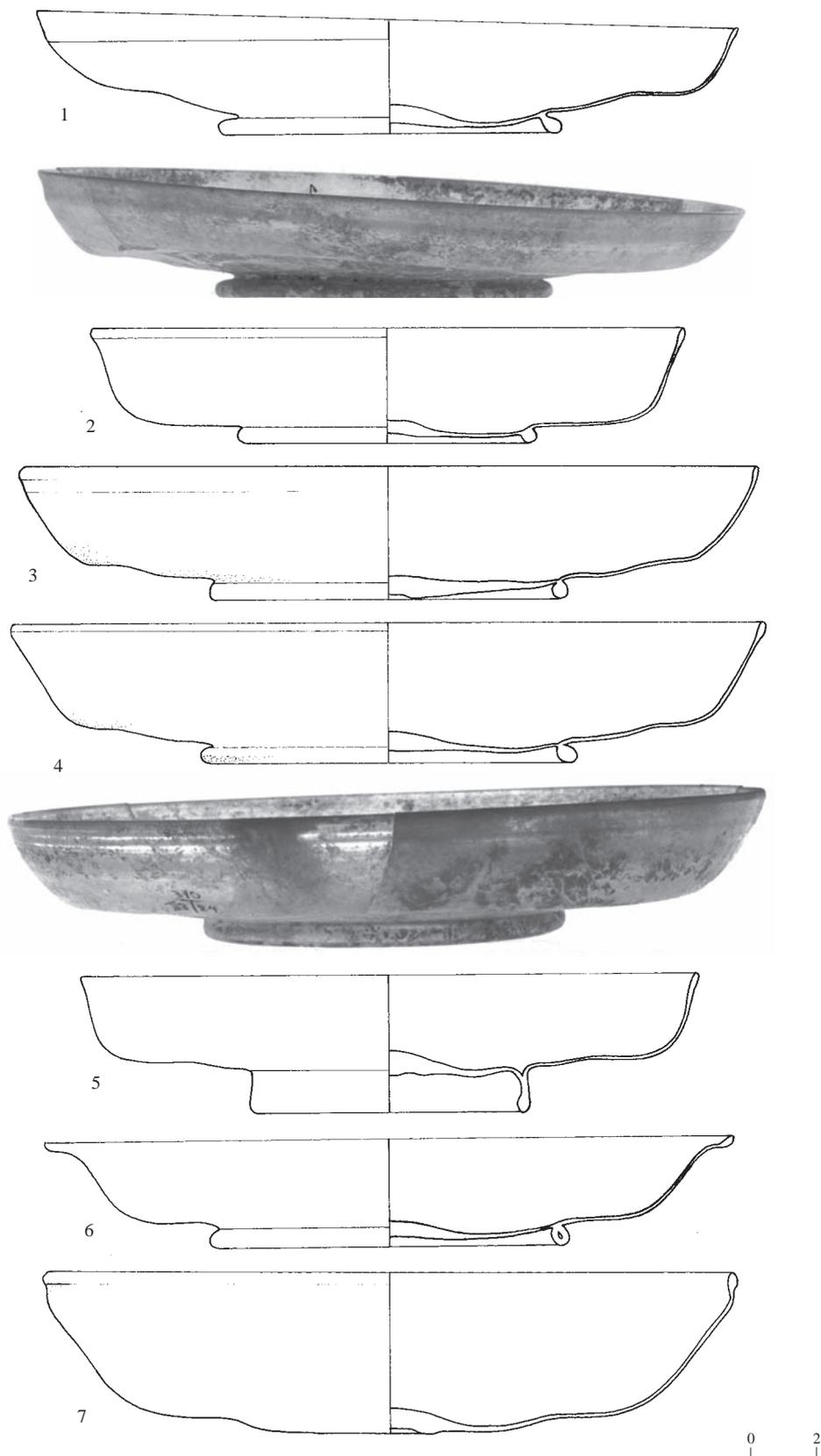


Fig. 9. Shallow glass bowls.

◀ Fig. 9

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	11	<i>Kokh</i> 1	Light greenish	H 3.4, D rim 21.3
2	111	<i>Kokh</i> 10	Light greenish	H 3.4, D rim 18
3	110	<i>Kokh</i> 10	Light greenish	H 4.2, D rim 22.6
4	8, 24	<i>Kokh</i> 3 + Chamber A, southwestern corner of central pit	Light greenish	H 4, D rim 22
5	5	Chamber A, southwestern corner of central pit	Light bluish	H 4.1, D rim 18.5
6	109	<i>Kokh</i> 7	Light greenish	H 3.2, D rim 20.7
7	7	Chamber A, southwestern corner of central pit	Light greenish	H 4.8, D rim 20.5

Shallow Bowls (Fig. 9)

Eight examples were found in *Kokhim* 1, 3, 7 and 10 and in the southwestern corner of the central pit of Chamber A. They belong to a type very common in the Galilee in the third and early fourth centuries CE. At Iqrit, they were found with coins ranging from Caracalla (211–217 CE) to Constantius I (c. 295 CE). There are four variants:

1) Figure 9:1–4. This variant is a shallow bowl (3.4–4.2 cm high, rim diam. 18.0–22.6 cm) with a rounded rim and a low, hollow tubular ring base. For parallels, see Ḥanita (Barag 1978:13–17, Fig. 7:16) and Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:140*–143*, Fig. 2:5, 6, with further references therein). At Iqrit, they were found in *Kokh* 10 with an autonomous coin of the second century CE, in *Kokh* 3, with two coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabal (218–222 CE) and in *Kokh* 1, with a coin of Constantius I (c. 295 CE).

2) Figure 9:5. One example, found in the southwestern corner of the central pit in Chamber A. It is a shallow bowl (4.1 cm high, rim diam. 18.5–20.7 cm) with a rounded rim and a high, hollow tubular ring base. For parallels, see Ḥanita (Barag 1978:13–17, Fig. 7:10), Ḥurfeish (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:31–32, Fig. 5:8; Gorin-Rosen 2002:140*–144*, Fig. 1:1–4, with further references therein) and Shelomi (Vitto 2008b:106–107, Fig. 2:1).

3) Figure 9:6 and Reg. No. 6 (not illustrated). Two examples found in *Kokh* 7 and in Chamber A. It is a shallow bowl (3.2 cm high, rim diam. 20.7 cm) with an out-folded rim and a low, hollow tubular ring base. For parallels, see Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:147*–149*, Fig. 6:15 with further references therein). At Iqrit, the bowl was found in *Kokh* 7, with eight coins dating between 217 and 222 CE and one coin of Valerian (253–260 CE).

4) Figure 9:7. Two examples found in central Chamber A. It is a shallow bowl, slightly deeper than the examples above (4.8 cm high), with a rounded rim and a thickened, pushed-in base.

Deep Bowls (Fig. 10)

Four examples were found in *Kokhim* 3, 7, 8 and 10. They all belong to the type of deep bowl with a rounded rim and a high tubular ring base (7.0–8.3 cm high, rim diam. 13.0–16.5 cm), common in the Galilee in the third and early fourth centuries CE. For parallels, see Ḥanita (Barag 1978: Fig. 10:33–34), Ḥurfeish (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:31–32, Fig. 5:10; Gorin-Rosen 2002:144*–146*, Fig. 4:10, 11, with further parallels therein) and Shelomi (Vitto 2008b:106–107, Fig. 2:2). At Iqrit, they were found in *Kokh* 10 with an autonomous coin of the second century CE, in *Kokh* 3 with two coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (218–222 CE), in *Kokh* 7 with eight

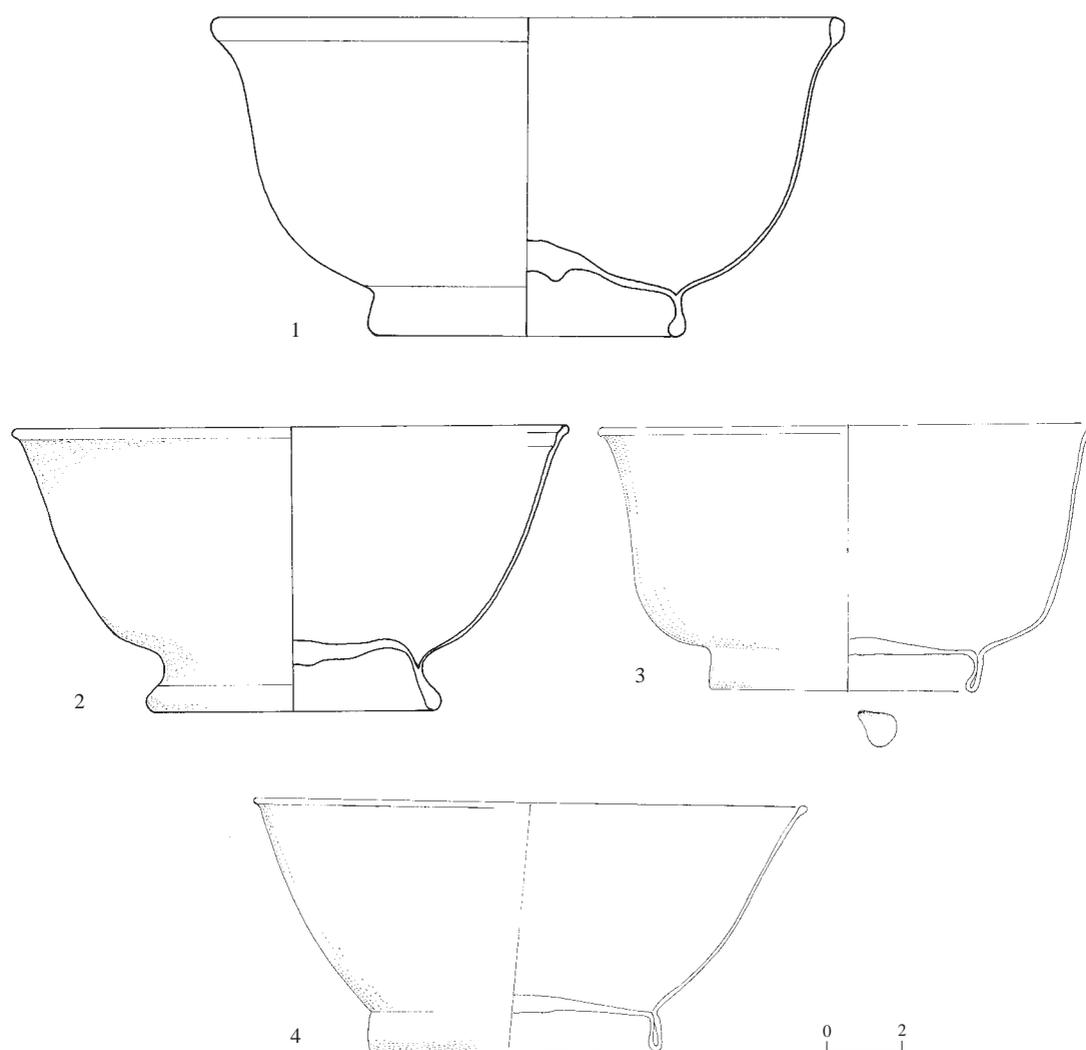


Fig. 10. Glass deep bowls.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	113	<i>Kokh</i> 8	Light greenish	H 8.3, D rim 16.5
2	116	<i>Kokh</i> 10	Light greenish	H 7.5, D rim 14.6
3	115	<i>Kokh</i> 3	Light greenish	H 7, D rim 13
4	114	<i>Kokh</i> 7	Light greenish-blue	H 7, D rim 15.7

coins dating between 217 and 222 CE and one coin of Valerian (253–260 CE), and in *Kokh* 8, with a coin of Severus Alexander (222–235 CE).

Beakers (Fig. 11)

Five beakers were uncovered in *Kokhim* 3 and 8, falling into four main types: a sack-

shaped beaker with a thickened base, a sack-shaped beaker with a tubular base, a short cylindrical beaker with a tubular base and a beaker with pinched vertical ribs. They are known from tombs dating to the third–mid-fourth centuries CE in the western Galilee and Phoenicia.

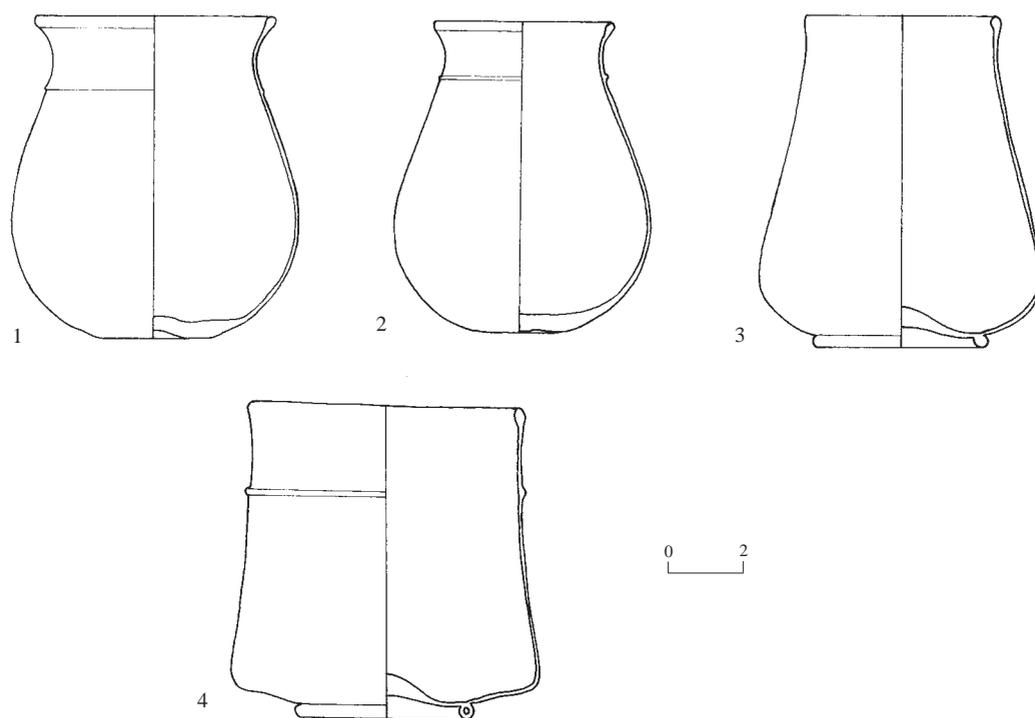


Fig. 11. Glass beakers.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	117	<i>Kokh</i> 8	Sack-shaped with thickened base	Light bluish	H 8.5, D rim 6.4
2	118	<i>Kokh</i> 8	Sack-shaped with thickened base	Light bluish	H 8.2, D rim 4.7
3	67	<i>Kokh</i> 3, behind stones at entrance of <i>kokh</i>	Sack-shaped with tubular base	Colorless	H 8.7, D rim 5.2
4	40	<i>Kokh</i> 8	Short cylindrical with tubular base	Light greenish	H 8.2, D rim 7.2

Sack-Shaped Beakers with a Thickened Base (Fig. 11:1, 2).— Two beakers belong to this type. They have a flaring, rounded rim and a horizontal trail applied below the rim. There are two variants; Fig. 11:1 has a thickened pushed-in base. For parallels, see Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:154*–157*, Fig. 10:34). Figure 11:2 has a thickened flattened base. For parallels, see Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:154*–157*, Fig. 10:35–42). At Iqrit, both were found in *Kokh* 8, together with a coin of Severus Alexander (222–235 CE).

Sack-Shaped Beaker with a Tubular Base (Fig. 11:3).— One example of this type of sack-

shaped beaker with a concave tubular base was found in *Kokh* 3, with two coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (218–222 CE). For parallels, see Ḥurfeish (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:31–32, Fig. 5:12–14).

Short Cylindrical Beaker (Fig. 11:4).— A short cylindrical beaker with a low tubular ring base, an upright, slightly incurving rounded rim with a horizontal trail below the rim was found in *Kokh* 8 with a coin of Severus Alexander (222–235 CE). For parallels, see Ḥurfeish (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:29–30, Fig. 4:7; Gorin-Rosen 2002:157*–159*, Fig. 11:44–46, with further references therein).

Beaker with Pinched Vertical Ribs (Reg. No. 19; not illustrated)².— Intact. It has a slightly incurved rim and a decoration of pinched vertical, bifurcated ribs. For parallels see Ḥanita (Barag 1978:28–29, Fig. 14:62, Pl. 5:62, found in *Kokh* 3 with coins from the mid-second to the mid-third centuries CE), Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988:80–81, Fig. 4-39, with a discussion of the technique used to produce this decoration), Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:158*–159*, Fig. 11:47) and Shelomi (Vitto 2008b:109, Fig. 2:5, where it was found

with a coin of Probus: 276–282 CE). At Iqrit, it was found in *Kokh* 3 with coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (218–222 CE).

Bottles (Figs. 12, 13)

Five glass bottles were found in *Kokh* 4 and in the southwestern corner of the central pit of Chamber A, falling into four types:

Tall Candlestick-Type Bottle (Fig. 12:1).— Upper part of a tall candlestick bottle with an everted rim folded inward, a very tall and

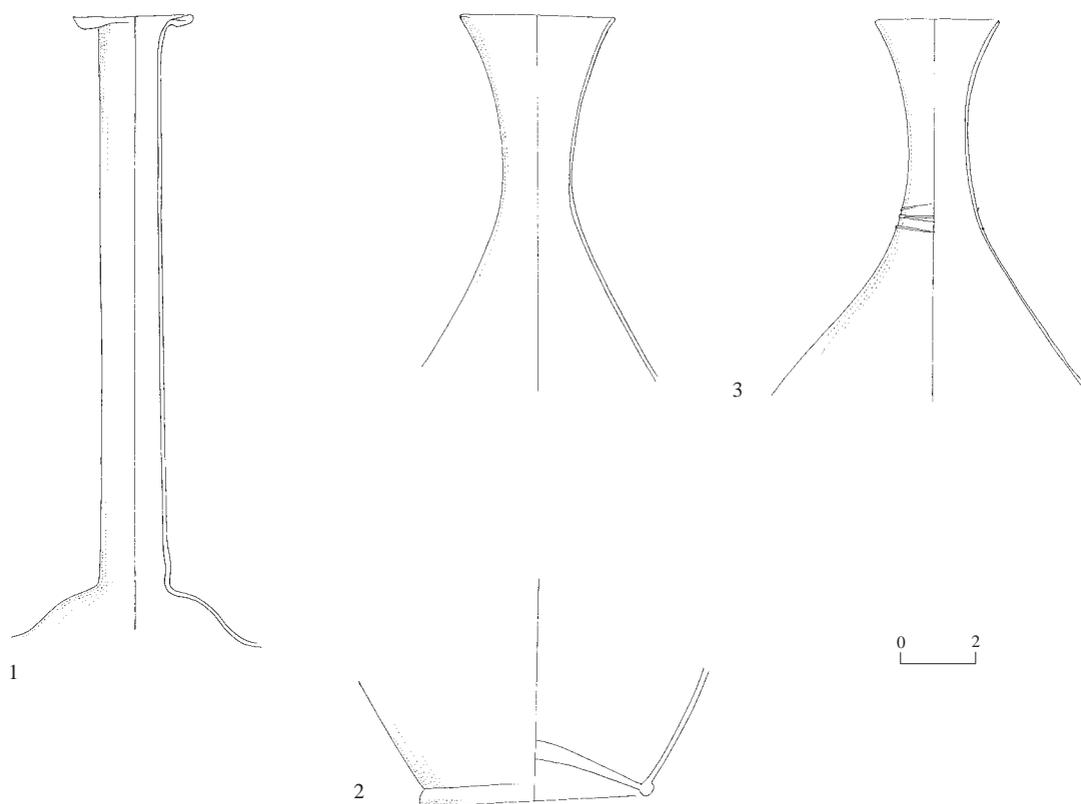


Fig. 12. Glass bottles.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	28	<i>Kokh</i> 4	Tall candlestick bottle	Light greenish	D rim 3.2
2	29	<i>Kokh</i> 4	Bottle with concave neck	Colorless	D rim 4.2
3	3	Chamber A, southwestern corner	Bottle with concave neck	Light bluish-greenish	D rim 3.2

narrow cylindrical neck (15 cm high, diam. 1.5 cm), slightly constricted at the junction with the body. This type of bottle is very common in tomb repertoires throughout the country. For northern parallels, see, e.g., Yehi'am (Tzaferis 1969:74, Fig. 2:4), Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:160*–162*, Fig. 12:52–53, with further references therein) and Tiv'on (Vitto, forthcoming[b]). Tall candlestick bottles are usually dated from the end of the first to the mid-third century CE. It seems, however, that at least at some sites in northwestern Galilee, they disappear at the beginning of the third century CE. None was found at Ḥanita, where Barag (1978:48, 54) dates the first use of Tomb XV to the reign of Elagabalus (218–222 CE), and at Iqrit, the only example was found in *Kokh* 4, together with a coin of Septimius Severus (197–198 CE), while they are absent from all the other *kokhim* that contained coins dating from the first half of the third century CE, such as Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (218–221 CE).

Bottles with Concave Neck (Fig. 12:2, 3).— Two examples were found in *Kokh* 4 and in the central pit of Chamber A. This type of bottle has a tubular ring base and a globular, often carinated body merging into a long, concave neck flaring at the top with a slightly thickened, rounded rim. Two fragmentary examples were found in *Kokh* 4 and in the southwestern corner of the central pit of Chamber A. A thin trail is wound around the base of the neck on the example of Fig. 12:3. This type of bottle is not very common, with a few parallels in Cyprus (Vessberg 1952:135, Pl. VIII:2, 3) and in the Galilee from the late second–third centuries CE, e.g., Ḥanita (Barag 1978:25–27, Fig. 13:56, found in *Kokh* 8A with deep and shallow glass bowls and a piriform pottery bottle similar to Iqrit's Fig. 8:2), Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994: Fig. 5 found in Burial 1005 with an autonomous coin dated 93/94–136/137 CE and a Geta coin, 198–205 CE), Kafr Yasif (Gorin-Rosen 1997:74–76, Fig. 4:11 dated third century CE) and Tell Shubeib (Abu 'Uqsa

and Katsnelson 1999:178, Fig. 4:6, found in Tomb 1 with deep and shallow bowls and an Elagabalus coin, 218–222 CE). At Iqrit, it was found in *Kokh* 4, together with a coin of Septimius Severus (197–198 CE) and a tall candlestick glass bottle.

Globular Bottle (Fig. 13:1).— One example was found in the southwestern corner of the central pit of Chamber A. It has a globular body and a concave base, a conical neck slightly widening toward the body and a double-folded rim. Globular bottles were discovered in several Late Roman tombs in the Galilee, e.g., Ḥanita (Barag 1978:25–27, Fig. 13:51–53), Tell Shubeib (Abu 'Uqsa and Katsnelson 1999:177–178, Fig. 4:7) and Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:162*–164*, Fig. 13:56–58, with further references therein), but this type of globular bottle with a double-folded rim is much rarer: it was found in Cyprus (Vessberg 1952:132, Pl. VII:10, XVI:2) and in the Galilee at Ḥurfeish (Gorin-Rosen 2002:161*–164*, Fig. 12:55).

Askos-Shaped Glass Bottle (Fig. 13:2).— One almost complete (mended) example was found on the shelf near *Kokh* 4. Made of very thin glass, it has a squat piriform body, drawn at one end apparently into a spout of small diameter (broken)—in some examples, the body is drawn into an S-curved tail without an aperture—a flat, slightly concave base, a cylindrical neck, a roughly oval mouth and an everted, rounded rim. This type of vessel, whose shape is sometimes compared to a bird or a swimming swan, is rarely found in archaeological contexts; most belong to collections or museums, e.g., Hayes (1975:131, Pl. 33:539) and Israeli (2003:290, Nos. 382, 383). A few similar examples were found in tombs at Tyre (Chéhab 1986:238–239, Pl. 45, 46:1, 2), in Cyprus, e.g., at Kambi Vasa (Vessberg 1952:148–149, 209–210, Pls. 10:1, 2, 20:4, 5; Harden 1958:56, Fig. 23e, Pl. VIe) and Kourion (McFadden 1946: Pl. 39:32) and in Greece, e.g., at Samothrace (Dusenbery 1967: No. 49). Various functions have been



Fig. 13. Glass bottles.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	2	Chamber A, southwestern corner	Globular bottle	Light greenish	H 20.08, D rim 5.1 D max. body 15.5
2	4	Chamber A, on shelf near <i>Kokh</i> 4	<i>Askos</i> -shaped bottle	Light greenish	H 6.5, D rim 2.6–2.8

suggested for this type of glass vessel, which recalls the Greek pottery *askos*, but without a handle. Their rarity in excavated contexts seems to indicate that they were not of frequent use. Among the functions suggested are: an oil-lamp feeder (Newman 1977:28)—unlikely because if it was used as such, it would not have been so rare; a baby-feeding bottle (Barag 1970:220–221, Pl. 47, Type 23:2; Hayes 1975:131, Pl. 33:539)—improbable because it would be too fragile for a baby; a urinal (Klauda 1986:14)—implausible because the opening of the vessel is too small for such a use; a wine-tasting funnel (Israeli 2003:290), because according to Sperber (1993), it fits the description of a peddler’s wine-tasting funnel in Mishna, Kelim 2, 4: “he lays it on its side to let the buyer smell it...” (משפך של רוכלין... (מטהו על צדו ומריח בו ללקוח). The description of the position of the vessel might fit; however, there is no indication in this mishnaic passage that the funnel served for wine or that it was made of glass. A more likely hypothesis is that it was a *balsamarium* (de Ridder 1909:161, Pl. XII:287; Berger 1960:84, Pl. 15:224), used for perfume or incense.

Date: Barag (1970) dates this vessel to the second–third centuries CE; Hayes (1975), to about 150–250 CE; Chéhab (1986), to the end of the second until the end of the third centuries CE; Israeli (2003), to the first–second centuries CE. At Iqrit, the *askos*-shaped vessel was found on the shelf in front of *Kokh* 4. Therefore, we may assume that it originated in this *kokh*, in which a coin of Septimius Severus (197–198 CE), a tall candlestick glass bottle and a glass bottle with a concave neck were found.

Personal Objects and Clothing Accessories (Fig. 14)

A few personal objects were found, including a bronze scoop-probe (probably used as a cosmetic spoon), a hematite spindle-whorl, as well as bone and glass pins, probably used as hairpins.

Scoop-Probe (Fig. 14:1).— One example was found in *Kokh* 3. It is a slender bronze instrument, comprising a probe with an olivary tip at one extremity and a twisted shaft and an oval convex spoon at the other. Called *cyatiscomele* (from καθαίσκεος—small scoop, and μήλη—surgeon’s probe), it differs from the *spatomele* or spatula-probe in that the spoon is convex instead of flat. In medical art it was used to mix, measure and apply medicaments. According to Rimón (1996:65*), the passage of BT Gitin 69a, mentioning the use of spoonfuls in connection with an eye disease, would refer to such an instrument. However, the relatively frequent discovery of these instruments in tombs would indicate that it was also employed for non-medical purposes, probably as a cosmetic tool. Similar bronze objects (with variations in the shaft—twisted or not—and in the length of the olivary tip) were found in several Late Roman–early Byzantine tombs of the Near East, e.g., in Jerusalem on the grounds of the Rockefeller Museum (Karmal-Shaikh; Baramki 1931: Pl. XI:11), at Beit Fajjar (Husseini 1935: Pl. 85:I:3, found in a double glass kohl-container), Jebel Jofeh, ‘Amman (Harding 1950:90, Pl. 28:281), Kh. Sabiya (Kefar Sava; Ayalon 1994:33*–34*, Fig. 5:7, in a double glass kohl-container), Asherat (Smithline 1997:54–55, Fig. 12:4) and Kisra (Stern 1997:127, Fig. 15:76, 80, with further references therein). They are also common in the rest of the Roman world, e.g., at Colchester, England (Crummy 1983:60–61, Fig. 65). At Iqrit, it was found in *Kokh* 3, together with two coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (216–222 CE). It is worth noting that unlike several examples mentioned above, where this instrument was found in conjunction with a double glass kohl-container, no such vessel was found at Iqrit. The reasons are, apparently, that double kohl-containers appeared after the end of the cave’s use, and that while double-tube containers are widespread in tombs of Palaestina Prima and Secunda, they are almost completely absent from Phoenician

tombs—one sole example is mentioned in the entire cemetery of Tyre (Chéhab 1986:243, Pl. 49:4).

Spindle Whorl (Fig. 14:2).— One example made of hematite was found in *Kokh 7*. Similar items are quite frequently found in tombs of the Roman period, e.g., Gezer (Macalister 1912: Pl. 132, 34), Jerusalem (Baramki 1931:3–5, Pl. 4:3; Hamilton and Hussein 1934: Pl. 81:23), Tarshiḥa (Ilfie 1934a: Pl. 13:16), Loḥame Ha-Geṭa'ot (Peleg 1991:142–143, Fig. 13:15–17 where several serpentine-made whorls were found), Kefar Sava (Ayalon 1994: Fig. 7:29), Asherat (Smithline 1997: Fig. 9:4) and Ḥurfeish

(Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997: Fig. 2:8, a nail was found inserted into the hole of the spindle whorl, which the authors suggest connected the spindle whorl to the distaff; see also Abu 'Uqsa 2002: Fig. 2:19: eight spindle whorls found). Their presence in the tombs is usually explained by the fact that they belonged to the woman buried in the tomb, but it is not clear why spindle whorls rather than other items of her belongings were put into the tomb.

Bone Pins (Fig. 14:3–5).— Fragments of six bone pins were found in *Kokhim 1, 2, 5* and 8. Most are plain, consisting of a shaft ending in a thick-pointed extremity and a thin-pointed

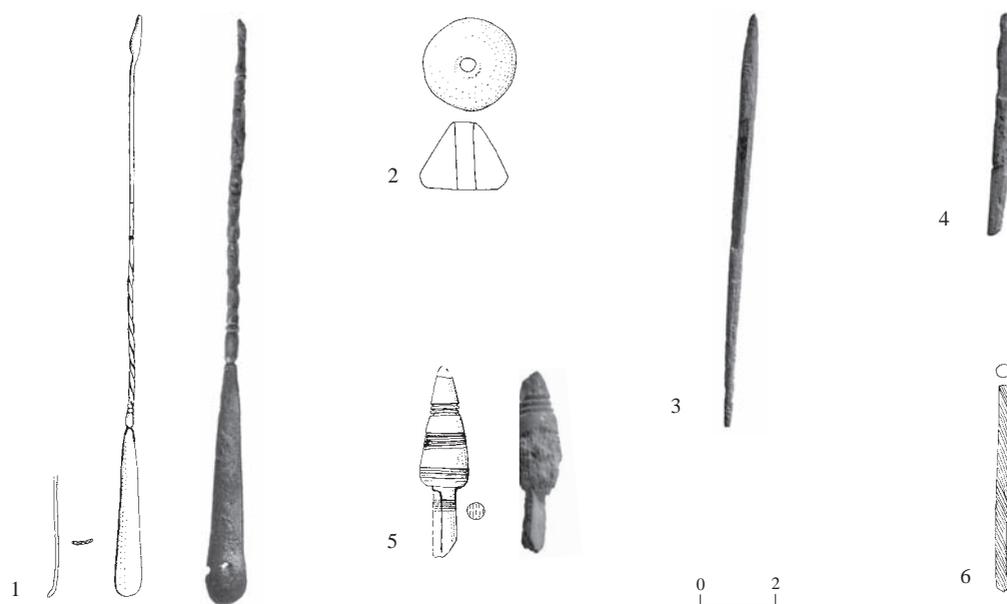


Fig. 14. Personal objects and clothing accessories.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	22	<i>Kokh 3</i>	Scoop-probe	Bronze	L 15.5, D shaft 0.2, W max. spoon 0.7
2	87	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Spindle whorl	Hematite	D 2.5, H 1.2, D hole 0.35
3	17	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Pin	Bone	Pres. L 10.4, D section 0.3
4	13	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Pin	Bone	Pres. L 5.5, D section 0.3
5	55	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Pin	Bone	Pres. L 2.3
6	62	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Pin	Colorless glass, iridescent weathering	Pres. L 6.3, D section 0.3

extremity (e.g., Fig. 14:3, 4). Figure 14:5 has a carved, flame-shaped head, decorated with horizontal incised grooves. The upper part of its shaft is also decorated with three grooves. A similar example was found at Caesarea (Ayalon 2005:62, Fig. 22:236). Bone pins are fairly common in Late Roman tombs (see Vitto 2008c:151–152 with further references therein). Ayalon (2005:51–52) suggests several functions for these pins: kohl applicators, garment pins and hair pins. The most probable hypothesis for the Iqrit examples is their being hairpins; this is supported by the discovery of several such pins on or near the skulls of women in a fourth-century CE cemetery at Colchester, England (Crummy 1983:19–25).

Glass Pin (Fig. 14:6).— A broken cylindrical shaft, spirally twisted, made of colorless glass with iridescent weathering, was found in *Kokh* 2. The discovery of several glass pins, close to a woman's skull in a fourth-century CE tomb at Colchester, England (Crummy 1983: 28), attests to their use as hairpins. Spaer (2001:262–265, 382, Pl. 49), however, suggests a number of other uses for glass 'pins', according to their dimensions and decoration: hairpins, cosmetic applicators, needles (when pierced), or stirring rods.

Jewelry (Figs. 15–18)

A rich repertoire of jewelry was found, including gold earrings, silver, bronze and iron bracelets, silver and bronze rings, a coin-medal and a large quantity of beads, mostly of glass.

Gold Earrings (Fig. 15)

Four pairs and three single gold earrings, originally totaling seven distinct pairs of earrings, were found in *Kokhim* 2, 6 and mainly 7 (3 pairs and 1 single) as well as on the shelf of Chamber A in front of *Kokhim* 3 and 4. They fall into four types:

1) *Plain Earring* (Fig. 15:1–3). Two pairs and one single earring of this type were found.

They consist of a tubular hoop with a seam on the inside, the ends tapering into round wires, one end coiled back to form an eye, into which the other end is inserted. This is the most frequent type of earring found in the Eastern Mediterranean, with parallels in Syria-Palestine, e.g., at el-Bassa (Iliffe 1934: Pl. 24:5, 9), Rosh Ha-'Ayin (Eitan 1969: Fig. 14:9, in a mausoleum, the burial use of which is dated to the second century CE), Yeḥi'am (Tzaferis 1969:73, Pl. 17:8, in a third-century CE tomb), Ḥanita (Barag 1978: Fig. 18:99, 101, Pl. 7:99–101, with mid-second–late third century CE coins), Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994: Fig. 8, in Burial 1007, with a second-century CE coin, a shallow glass bowl and candlestick glass bottle), Ḥorbat Sugar (Aviam and Stern 1997:98, Fig. 6:3, in Cave 1 dated to the fourth century CE), Khirbat esh-Shubeika (Tatcher, Nagar and Avshalom-Gorni 2002:273, 285, Fig. 10:34) and in Cyprus (see references in Davidson and Oliver 1984:133–134, Nos. 168–181). At Iqrit, one pair of the plain-earring type (Fig. 15:1) was found *in situ* in *Kokh* 2, on either side of the skull of a young woman with whom two coins of Macrianus II and Quietus (260–261 CE) had been deposited.

2) *Earring with Cluster of Granules* (Fig. 15:4). A single earring of this type was found in *Kokh* 6. It is similar to Type 1, with the addition of a plain convex disc soldered onto the eye and a cluster of five small granules soldered to the hoop. This type, which is a transition between the plain earring of Type 1 and the more sophisticated Type 3, has few parallels. At el-Bassa (Iliffe 1934: Pl. 24:8), a similar gold earring with granules soldered to the hoop but without a convex disc, was found.

3) *Earring with Disc and Cluster of Granules* (Fig. 15:5, 6). One pair and one single earring of this type were found in *Kokh* 7. It is similar to Type 2, but the hoop is larger, the tubular hoop is surrounded by a twisted wire, the convex disc is bordered by a twisted wire with a granule in its center, and the cluster soldered to the hoop

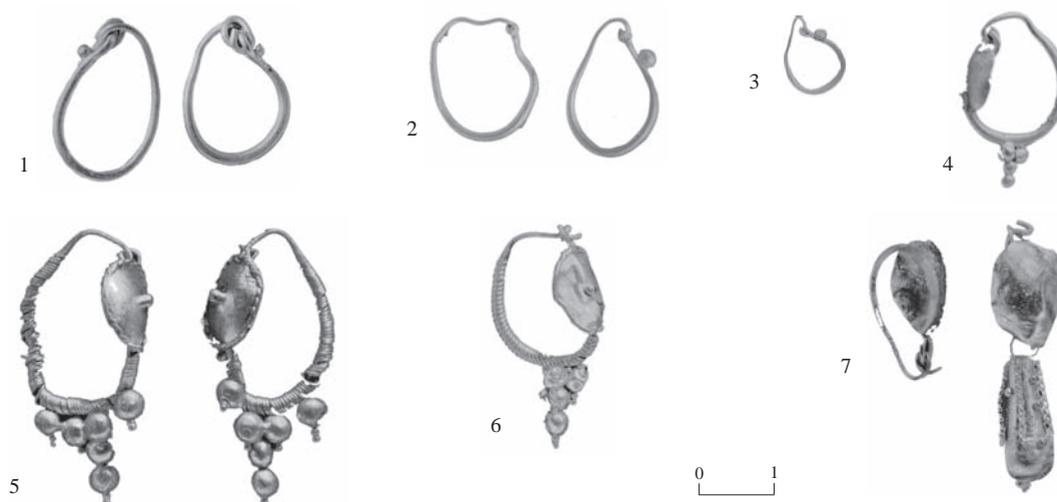


Fig. 15. Gold earrings.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Dimensions (cm)
1	57	<i>Kokh 2</i> , found <i>in situ</i> on either side of skull	Pair of plain earrings	1.4 × 1.1
2	89	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Pair of plain earrings	1.3 × 1.2
3	95	Chamber A, Southeastern corner near <i>Kokhim 3</i> and 4	Plain earring	D 1
4	103	<i>Kokh 6</i>	Earring with cluster of granules	1.2 × 0.8, L 1.5
5	88	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Pair of earrings with disc and cluster of granules	1.9 × 1.1, L 3.5
6	91	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Earring with disc and cluster of granules	1.8 × 1.3, L 2.7
7	90	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Pair of earrings with disc and pendant	1.3 × 0.8, L 3.1

consists of five globules, each ending with two granules on the earring of Fig. 15:6. On the earrings in Fig. 15:5, on either side of the cluster of five globules, is a globule ending with two granules soldered to the hoop. This is a fairly common type of gold earring with parallels at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:41–42, Fig. 18:96, Pl. 7:96, found in *Kokh 3*, with mid second–mid third-century coins) and Ḥurfeish (Abu ‘Uqsa 2002: Fig. 2:10, 13, 136*–138*, found in Cave D with coins from the late second to the early fourth centuries CE).

4) *Earring with Disc and Pendant* (Fig. 15:7). One pair of earrings of this type was found

in *Kokh 7* (one of the earrings had lost its pendant). It consists of a tubular hoop with a seam on the inside, the ends tapering into round wires, one end coiled back to form an eye, into which the other end is inserted. A plain convex disc is soldered onto the eye and a large drop-like hollow pendant hangs from a small loop attached to the main hoop. Four twisted wires and granules are applied onto the face of the pendant and three granules are soldered to its bottom.

All the earrings found at Iqrit are made of gold, which seems to be the case of almost all the earrings discovered in Late Roman tombs of

the Eastern Mediterranean. The preference for a stable precious metal is certainly due to the desire to prevent the ear from going septic. Based on the Iqrit cave and on the parallels presented above, the four types of gold earrings discovered at Iqrit appear to have been used contemporaneously, from the second half of the second century CE, chiefly during the third century CE, until the early fourth century CE. After that date, gold earrings disappear almost completely from Near Eastern burial caves and a few bronze or silver-made earrings start appearing, e.g., at Tarshiḥa (Iliffe 1934a: 15, Pl. 8:6), Elqosh (Vitto 2008a:120–123, Fig. 120:8) and Cabul (Vitto, forthcoming [a]). The reason is very likely the economic decline at this time, despite Diocletian's Reform and the Edict of Prices, and people would have refrained from wasting expensive gold objects on a tomb.

The earrings discovered at Iqrit all require that the ear be pierced; this seems to be true for all earrings of the Roman period (Allason-Jones 1984; 1989). Although Pliny (*NH* XII.1.2) expressed his disgust at this practice, it was apparently obligatory for women: "Man has come...to explore the depth of the Red Sea for the pearl and the bowels of the earth for the emerald. For this purpose has been devised the fashion of making wounds in the ears, because forsooth it was not enough for jewels to be worn on the hands and neck and hair without making them even pierce the body." The portrait of Tekosis, painted in tempera on wood panels from Assiut (Lycopolis), Egypt, dated 180–200 CE, shows a woman wearing gold hoop earrings from which are suspended pyramidal clusters of gold drops, resembling bunches of grapes (Walker 2000:121–123, No. 78).

Bracelets and Anklets (Fig. 16)

Ten bracelets and anklets falling into five types were found in *Kokhim* 1–5, 8, and 10, including five made of silver (Types 1–3), one of bronze (Type 4) and one of iron (Type 5).

1) *Silver Anklet with Snake Heads* (Fig. 16:1–5).— Five examples of this type were found

in *Kokhim* 2 (2 examples), 3, 8 and 10. They consist of a hoop (interior diam. ranging between 5.3–7.0 and 5.8–7.2 cm) with a round cross-section (diam. 0.2 cm), the flattened ends overlapping and then twisted spirally around the wire. The top of the flattened ends is engraved with stylized snake heads, their eyes marked by a pair of small hollows, and a herringbone pattern is shallowly engraved on the wire, before the flattened ends, imitating the scales of the snakes. There are a few variants in the design of the heads: with or without a lozenge-shaped border and a head represented by a longitudinal line or by crossed lines with hatching. The twisted ends originally moved freely, allowing for the extension of the diameter as the child wearing the bracelet grew.

The relatively large dimensions of these bracelets, and the fact that two of them (Fig. 16:1, 2) were found *in situ* in *Kokh* 2 at each of the ankles of the deceased, suggests that they were anklets rather than bracelets. Such an identification as anklets seems to be confirmed by the fact that whenever reports on the discovery of bracelets with snake heads in burial-caves indicates the exact find-spot, they are said to be found near the feet of the skeleton, e.g., at Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994:80, Fig. 8, Burial 1008, "at the feet of burial H8", a female 12–14 years of age) and Ḥurfeish (Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:26–28, Fig. 2:7, in Cave 1, "around an ankle"). There are many parallels to this type, both in bronze and in silver, in burials of the western Galilee, dating from the end of the second to the early fourth centuries CE, e.g., Ḥanita (Barag 1978:42–44, Fig. 18:106, silver, in *Kokh* 9B with coins from mid-third–early fourth centuries CE), Naḥf (Sussman 1982:32, Pl. 8:13, bronze, dated late second–early fourth centuries CE), Loḥame Ha-Geṭa'ot (Peleg 1992: Figs. 12:3, 13:1, Burial G, bronze example found in a pottery coffin with a deep glass bowl), Gesher Ha-Ziv (Mazar 1994:80, Fig. 8, Burial 1008), Giv'at Yasaf (Abu 'Uqsa 1997: Fig. 1:3, 4, silver, with coins and glass vessels from the third century CE), Ḥurfeish

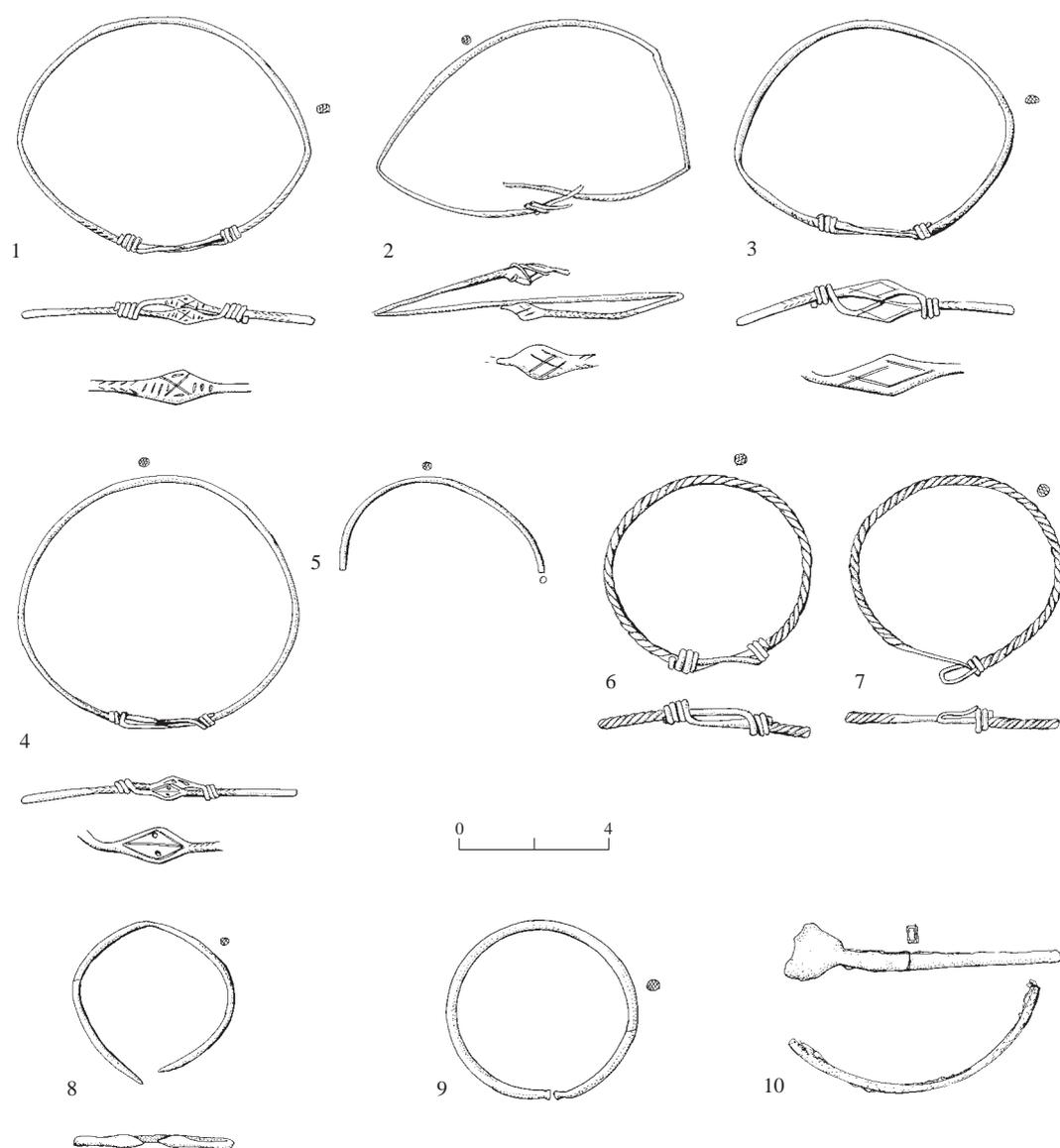


Fig. 16. Bracelets and anklets.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	66	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Anklet, snake-heads type	Silver	Int. 7.2 × 5.8, section 0.2
2	65	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Anklet, snake-heads type	Silver	Int. 7.2 × 5.8, section 0.2
3	20	<i>Kokh 3</i>	Anklet, snake-heads type	Silver	Int. 7.0 × 5.3, section 0.2
4	45	<i>Kokh 10</i>	Anklet, snake-heads type	Silver	Int. 7.0 × 6.5, section 0.2
5	107	<i>Kokh 8</i>	Anklet, snake-heads type? broken	Silver	D int. 5.1, section 0.2
6	43	<i>Kokh 10</i>	Twisted bracelet	Silver	Int. 5.0 × 4.5, section 0.4
7	96	<i>Kokh 4</i>	Twisted bracelet	Silver	Int. 5.0 × 4.5, section 0.4
8	101+33	<i>Kokh 5</i>	Open-ended bracelet	Silver	Int. 4.0 × 3.6, section 0.25
9	14	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Open-ended bracelet	Bronze	Int. 4.6 × 4.3, section 0.3
10	115+50	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bracelet with medallions	Iron	D int. 5.5, section 0.6 × 0.3

(Aviam and Gorin-Rosen 1997:26–28, Fig. 2:7, bronze, in Cave 1, dated late second–early fourth century CE), Asherat (Smithline 1997:51–52, Fig. 8:3, 4, bronze, in Cave 1 dated first half of the third century CE), Kisra (Stern 1997: Fig. 12:54–56, bronze, dated early fourth centuries CE), Kabri (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997:17, Fig. 9:21, 22, bronze and silver, in Cave 1, dated second half third–early fourth centuries CE) and Ḥurfeish (Abu ‘Uqsa 2002:136*–137*, Fig. 2:3–6, silver, in Cave D, dated late second–early fourth centuries CE). At Iqrit, they were found in *Kokh* 2 with coins of Macrianus II and Quietus (both 260–261 CE), in *Kokh* 3 with coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (218–222 CE) and in *Kokh* 8 with a coin of Severus Alexander (222–235 CE). Thus, these anklets were found with coins ranging from the 210s to the early 260s CE. In *Kokhim* 2 and 3, the deceased who wore these anklets were 20 to 30 years old, therefore suggesting a date from the late second to the mid-third centuries CE if we assume that they started wearing them soon after birth and extended the diameter as they grew.

Snakes became a popular motif in jewelry during the Hellenistic period, and continued to be fashionable throughout the Roman Empire during the first–early-fourth centuries CE. In addition to the suitability of the slender and sinuous form of the snake for the design of rings and bracelets, the reptiles had symbolic connections, above all with the god Asclepius. The circular shape of the snake-bracelets is also reminiscent of the *ouroboros*, the snake devouring its tail, an image that passed from Ancient Egypt to the Phoenicians and then to the Greeks. Two main types of snake-bracelets are found in Roman times (Johns 1996:37–38, 44–47; 1997:34–37): a bracelet formed of a single, more or less realistic snake, with its head at one end and tail at the other (Johns Type A), and one in which the bracelet terminates with snake heads, realistic or highly stylized, at each end (Johns Type B). In Syria-Palestine, only the second type with a stylized snake-head at each end seems to have been used, but in Egypt,

both types are found on rings (Guiraud 1975) and on bracelets. This is particularly evident on depictions of jewelry seen on mummy cases and in some mummy portraits (Walker 2000:151–152).

2) *Twisted Silver Bracelet* (Fig. 16:6, 7). Two bracelets belonging to this type were found in *Kokhim* 4 and 10. They are made of four stout round wires, spirally wound to form a hoop (interior diam. 4.5 × 5.0 cm). The clasp of the two bracelets differs. On the bracelet of Fig. 16:6, at each extremity, the four wires have been joined and forged into one wire, which is coiled around the opposite end of the hoop. On the bracelet of Fig. 16:7, at one extremity, the wires have been joined and forged into a single wire, which is coiled back to form a loop, and at the other extremity the four wires have also been joined and forged into one wire, which is inserted into the loop and then coiled around the opposite end of the hoop. As a result, like Type 1 bracelets, the hoop could easily slide through the wound wires, allowing for the extension of the diameter. This type, which is less common than Type 1, also existed in bronze, e.g., at Sajur (Braun, Dauphin and Hadas 1994: Fig. 5:2, a chamber-tomb in use from the second to the fourth centuries CE), Qiryat Ata (Vitto 2008c:155–156, Fig. 17:13) and in gold (Davidson and Oliver 1984:148–149, No. 203, bought by W.F. Petrie in Cairo).

3) *Open-Ended Silver Bracelet with Elliptical Ends* (Fig. 16:8). One example was found in *Kokh* 5. It consists of a hoop (interior diam. 3.6–4.0 cm), open-ended, made of a stout wire with a round cross-section (0.25 cm in diam.), hammered to form elliptical ends, which very likely hint at snake heads, although no engraving was preserved. Its small dimensions suggest that it was worn by a child, perhaps the 6–7 years old found in *Kokh* 5 (see Table 2). A similar silver example was found at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:42–43, Fig. 18:109) and bronze examples at Kisra (Stern 1997:123, Fig. 12:54) and Qiryat Ata (Vitto 2008c:155, Fig. 17:7–11).

4) *Open-Ended Bronze Bracelet* (Fig. 16:9). One example was found in *Kokh 1*. It consists of a hoop (diam. 4.3–4.6 cm), open-ended, made of a stout bronze wire with round cross-section (diam. 0.3 cm), constricted before both ends. A similar bracelet was found at Kisra (Stern 1997:122–123, Fig. 12:50, in Cave 2 dated early fourth–mid fifth centuries CE) and Qiryat Ata (Vitto 2008c:155, Fig. 17:12, in *Arcosolium* with coins of Aurelian, 270–275 CE, and Carinus, 282–283 CE). At Iqrit, it was found in *Kokh 1* with a coin of Constantius I (c. 295 CE).

5) *Iron Bracelet with Medallions* (Fig. 16:10). Fragments of an armband consisting of a flat, ribbon-like band (0.6 cm wide) with oval medallions were found in *Kokh 1*. A few similar examples were discovered, e.g., in burial caves near Bet Nat̄if (Barag 1974:84–85, Fig. 3:3), Kisra (Stern 1997:122–123, Fig. 12: 48) and Cabul (Vitto, forthcoming [a]). Bracelets of this type are usually attributed to the fifth–sixth centuries CE, but at Cabul a bracelet was discovered in a late fourth-century CE context,

and at Iqrit, one was found with a coin of Constantius I (c. 295 CE) and a skeleton, which apparently belongs to the last phase of burial in the cave, in the late third–early fourth centuries CE (see below, Conclusions).

Rings (Fig. 17)

Two rings were found, one of silver and one of bronze, with a gem.

Silver Ring (Fig. 17:1).— One example was found in *Kokh 3*. It consists of an almost circular hoop (interior diam. 1.6–1.7 cm) with a rectangular section (0.1–0.3 cm), widening into a flat oval bezel that may have been originally incised, although no traces of decor have survived. The shape of the ring corresponds to Type I.2.IV of Henkel (1913:235–236; Pl. 18:350–356), who dates it to the end of the second–third centuries CE. At Iqrit, it was found with the bones of an adult aged 25–30 years, probably female, together with two coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and Elagabalus (216–222 CE), which give a date for the burial in the early third century CE.

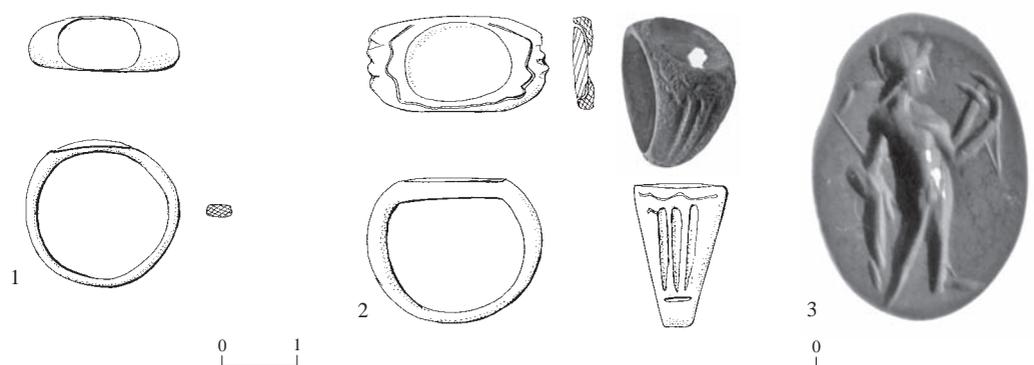


Fig. 17. Rings.

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	21	<i>Kokh 3</i>	Ring	Silver	D 1.7 × 1.6, section 0.3 × 0.1
2	92	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Ring	Bronze	D int. 1.8 × 1.4, W max. 1, Th 0.1
3	93	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Gem within Ring 17:2	Red jasper	H 1.4, W 1 cm, Th 0.1

Bronze Ring with Gem (Fig. 17:2).— One example was found in *Kokh* 7. It consists of an oval hoop (interior diam. 1.4–1.8 cm) of rectangular cross-section (0.1 cm thick), widening toward horizontally protruding and rounded shoulders, decorated with longitudinal flutes, which flank an ellipsoid shield set with a red jasper intaglio (see Fig. 17:3, below) occupying most of the width of the bezel. The shape of the ring corresponds to Type I.3.C.IV. of Henkel (1913, Pl. 49: Nos. 1279–1281), who dates it to the third century CE.

Gem (Fig. 17:3)

Description.— Red jasper. Oval (1.0–1.4 cm). Young man standing left. He is nude apart from a chlamys draped over his left arm and a crested helmet on his head. He holds a transverse spear (*hasta*) in his left hand and in his right is a sword (*gladius*) in a scabbard, hilt forward, which he grasps by its strap.

Parallels.— An almost identical gem was found in Chesters, Northumberland (Budge 1907: 385; No. 1420, Pl. 5:7; Charlesworth 1961:32; No. 6, Pl. 5:7; Henig 1978:245, Pl. 15:468). A very similar gem, except for the strap of the sword-scabbard (which was misunderstood by the gem-cutter and represented in the form of two long streamers), was discovered in the legionary fortress baths at Caerlon (Henig 1978:245, Pl. 15:469; Zienkiewicz 1986:135–136, Pl. 12:47). Similar gems are known from museum collections in Berlin (Furtwängler 1896: No. 7272) and Xanten (Steiner 1911:119, Pl. 13:13).

Discussion.— The youthful male figure represents a warrior. The iconography is greatly influenced by representations of Mars, but Zienkiewicz (1986:135–136) suggests identifying him as a hero, and Henig (1970:264–265; 1978:79–80, 245, Pl. 15: 468, 469), very convincingly, as Alexander the Great. In the Roman army, heroic scenes and representations of heroes were favored as seal-rings, probably because the dangers faced by soldiers rendered

them in special need of assistance from the great heroes of the past, such as Hercules, Theseus, Odysseus and Achilles. Gem-cutters took their inspiration from the artists of Classical and Hellenistic Greece. The deeds of the heroes were patterns for the soldier to follow. The appeal of heroic subjects within the Roman army is particularly illustrated by gemstones found in forts and other sites with military connections, and the heroic gems appealed in particular to officers (Henig 1970; 1978:78–80). In the Hellenistic world, and later under the Roman Empire, Alexander the Great was himself venerated as a hero. He was “a man of superhuman achievements, who like Herakles had become divine on the basis of his illustrious deeds” (Bieber 1964:71). By the second century BCE, the Romans had absorbed all the Greek states that had once been under the sway of Alexander, and one state after another became part of the Roman Empire. Roman citizenship was given to all the different peoples who lived in their Empire, thus fulfilling the wish of Alexander that brotherhood should unite all mankind regardless of race. The Romans, therefore, considered themselves heirs to the empire of Alexander and wished to emulate him. Augustus put Alexander’s head on his signet ring (Suetonius, *Augustus* 50). Mithridates VI Eupator of Pontus considered himself, like Herakles, a benefactor of mankind, engaged in liberating it from evil, and he felt himself a kind of reincarnation of Alexander. Pompey, like his enemy Mithridates, tried to imitate Alexander’s appearance (Plutarch, *Pompey* 2), as shown on his coins and portraits (Bieber 1964:68–69; Spencer 2002:189–191). Nero called the Legio I Italica ‘the Phalanx of Alexander the Great’. Artists of the imperial period continued to create portraits of the great conqueror. During the time of Augustus, Phidias and Praxiteles were taken as models by the copyists, but during the Flavian period, a new conception of Alexander developed, based on the romantic Hellenistic ideal, and statues represented the deified, not the human, Alexander. The Iqrit gem and its parallels are close to two statuettes,

one in marble, the other in bronze, kept in Paris, which probably date to this period. The marble statuette, in the Louvre, was found in Gabii (Bieber 1964: Figs. 94, 95). It represents Alexander standing in a Praxitelean manner, holding a sword in the right hand and the scabbard in the left. The bronze statuette, in the Cabinet des Médailles, comes from Reims (Bieber 1964: Fig. 96). It represents Alexander seated, wearing a chlamys, and holding a spear in the right hand and a sword in the left. The Iqrit gem has the same leg movement as the Gabii statuette, but the upper part of the body is closer to the Reims bronze. It represents Alexander as godlike, but also as a ruler of the world who trusted his own weapons (Bieber 1964:73–74; Henig 1970:264–265). Details of the gem, however, betray the provincial origin of the artist and a slightly later date. Body and legs are not rendered naturalistically and the facial features are stylized. For a similar rendering of the sword-scabbard and the strap, see a gem representing Theseus (Henig 1970: Pl. 23:A, B; 1978: No. 455). This would place it in the second century CE, like the Chesters gem (Henig 1978:245).

This gem was, most likely, set originally in a gold ring. However, as the style of the gem is typical of the second century CE and the bronze ring points to the third century, we may infer that the wearer of the ring buried in the cave had found the gem, which had belonged to a soldier, or, more probably, to an officer of the Roman army, and reset it into a bronze ring.

Necklaces/Beads (Fig. 18; see Table 3)

One hundred and five beads were discovered, mainly in three *kokhim*: 1, 2 and 7. Most are made of glass (94), with a few bone examples (10), and one is made of carnelian. The majority are standard glass beads, but a few deserve special attention. According to Spaer (2001:163, No. 288, Pl. 24:288), Fig. 18:13 is a stylized amphora-shaped glass pendant, with a piriform body (no handles) ending in a point, and a perforation at the place of the neck, a type which she attributes to the late seventh–

fifth centuries BCE, although later versions exist. Our bead is either an early type, which was reused, or a later type. Two beads are trail-decorated (Fig. 18:3, 19), made of dark glass that appears black with a white linear trail (see Spaer 2001:102–103, and 52–53 for the technique). Of the beads made of bone, most are spacing beads made of a thin cylinder disc (Fig. 18:2, 15, 21) and three are dice-shaped with six dots (Fig. 18:5).

Coin-Medal

In *Kokh 2*, a well-preserved bronze Caracalla coin (211–217 CE), representing the temple of Aphrodite at Paphos (Bijovsky, this volume: Cat. No. 6), which had been intentionally pierced for suspension, was found on the chest of the deceased. For parallels of coins pierced for suspension, see, e.g., Pella, where a pierced coin of Constantius I (307–337 CE), representing on the reverse a stylized military camp surmounted by Sol, was found in Tomb 39A, presumably serving as a talisman for a soldier or an officer (McNicoll, Smith and Hennessy 1982:100–101, Pl. I 28b: No. 87), and in Jerusalem, where two fourth-century CE pierced coins were found in the Akeldama caves (Bijovsky 1996: Nos. 2, 12).

Iron Nail

One nail was found in *Kokh 5*. It is 5 cm long, has a circular flat head (diam. 1.5 cm) and a square shaft.

CONCLUSIONS

The Date

This type of chamber-tomb with plain *kokhim* hewn into the walls of a central chamber is the earliest of the *kokhim* caves found in the Eastern Mediterranean. It appears in the Late Hellenistic period and, in Jerusalem, continues until approximately the mid-first century CE, when *arcosolia* and troughs hewn into the floors of the *kokhim* start to appear (Kloner

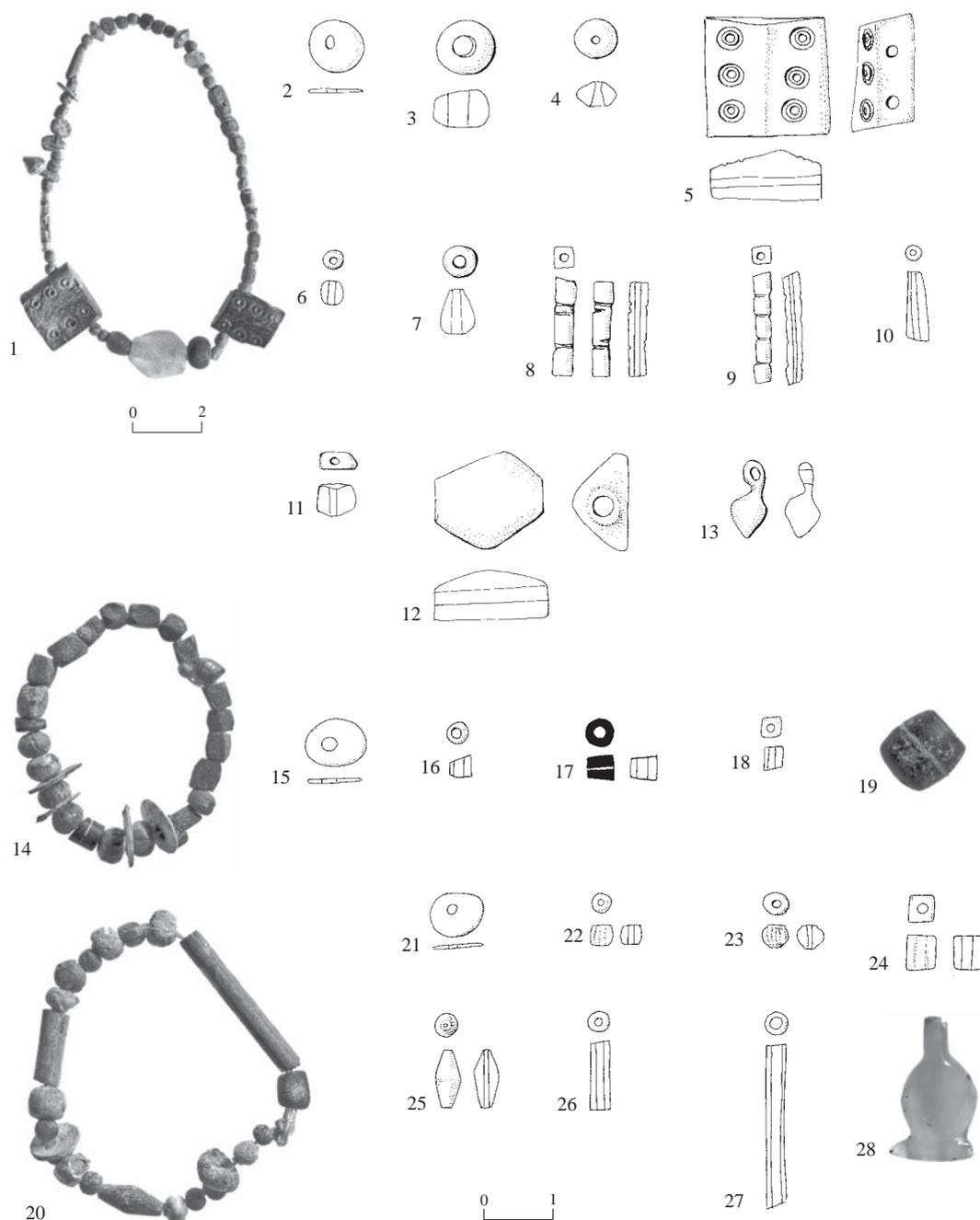


Fig. 18. Necklaces and beads.

1980:235–236; Vitto 2000:65–103, Caves 1 and 2). In the Galilee, however, *kokhim* caves with no troughs hewn into their floors seem to have survived at least until the second century CE, e.g., Sajar (Braun, Dauphin and Hadas

1994), Kabri, Cave 3 (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997), Asherat, Cave 1 (Smithline 1997) and Hurfeish (Abu ‘Uqsa 2002).

The 26 coins discovered in the cave (see Bijovsky, this volume) display a range from

◀ Fig. 18

No.	Reg. No.	Locus	Type	Description	Dimensions (cm)
1	53	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Necklace consisting of 49 beads (arbitrarily restrung)		
2	53-5	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Spacing bead	Bone	L 0.7, Th 0.1
3	53-8	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Black glass with white trail décor	L 0.6, section 0.9
4	53-10	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Brown glass	L 0.3–0.4, section 0.6
5	53-1	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Dice-shaped bead	Bone	L 1.8 × W 1.8, Th 0.7
6	53-12	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Light and dark blue glass	L 0.2–0.3, section 0.3
7	53-4	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Brown glass	L 0.6, section 0.5
8	53-7	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Brownish glass	L 1.4, section 0.3 × 0.3
9	53-6	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Yellow glass	L 1.6, section 0.3 × 0.3
10	53-11	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Blue glass	L 1.0, section 0.3
11	53-9	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	White glass	L 0.5, section 0.3 × 0.6
12	53-2	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	White glass	L 1.6, max. W 1.3, Th Max. 0.7
13	53-3	<i>Kokh 1</i>	Bead	Blue glass	H 1.2, D max. 0.5
14	64	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Necklace consisting of 28 beads (arbitrarily restrung)		
15	64-2	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Spacing bead	Bone	D 0.6–0.8, Th 0.1
16	64-3	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Bead	Dark blue glass	L 0.2, section 0.3
17	64-4	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Bead	Opaque black glass	L 0.3, section 0.3
18	64-1	<i>Kokh 2</i>	Bead	Dark blue glass	L 0.3–0.4, section 0.3–0.4
19	100-1	<i>Kokh 5</i>	Bead	Deep blue glass with white trail décor	L 1.0, section 0.9
20	75	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Necklace consisting of 25 beads (arbitrarily restrung)		
21	75-6	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Spacing bead	Bone	D 0.8, Th 0.1
22	75-1	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	Blue glass	L 0.2–0.3, section 0.3
23	75-2	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	White glass golden iridescence	L 0.3–0.4, section 0.3–0.4
24	75-4	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	Green glass	L 0.3–0.5, section 0.3
25	75-3	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	Blue glass	L 1.0, section 0.3
26	75-5	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	White glass	L 1.0, section 0.4
27	75-7	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	Blue glass	L 2.3, section 0.3
28	94	<i>Kokh 7</i>	Bead	Carnelian	Pres. L 2, Max. W 1

Table 3. Types of Beads according to Finding Spot

	<i>Kokh 1</i> (N = 49)	<i>Kokh 2</i> (N = 28)	<i>Kokh 5</i> (N = 2)	<i>Kokh 7</i> (N = 25)	Chamber A (N = 1)
Types of Beads (Beck 1927)	<i>Kokh 1</i> (N = 49)	<i>Kokh 2</i> (N = 28)	<i>Kokh 5</i> (N = 2)	<i>Kokh 7</i> (N = 25)	Chamber A (N = 1)
Thin cylinder disc-shaped spacing-beads (Type I.A.2.b)	1 bone (Fig. 18:2)	4 bone (Fig. 18:15)	1 bone (not ill., Reg. No. 100-2)	1 bone (Fig. 18:21)	
Short barrel-shaped trail-decorated bead with circular section (Type I.B.1.b)	1 black glass with white trail décor (Fig. 18:3)				
Short convex bicone with circular section (Type I.B.1.e)	2 brown glass (Fig. 18:4)				
Short dice-shaped (six dots) spacing beads with square section and two holes (Type IX.B.2.b)	3 bone (Fig. 18:5)				
Spherical with circular section (Type I.C.1.a).	29 light and dark blue glass (Fig. 18:6)	8 dark blue and brownish glass (Fig. 18:16)	1 deep blue glass with white trail décor around circumference (Fig. 18:19)	10 blue glass (Fig. 18:22) 7 white glass, several with golden iridescence (Fig. 18:23)	1 greenish-blue glass, broken (not ill., Reg. No. 9)
Cylindrical with circular section (Type I.C.2.b)		2 black glass with thin trail décor (Fig. 18:17)			
Standard cylinder with square section (Type IX.C.2.b)		14 dark blue glass (Fig. 18:18)		3 green glass (Fig. 18:24)	
Long barrel with circular section (Type I.D.1.b)	1 brown glass (Fig. 18:7)				
Long truncated convex bicone with circular section (Type I.D.1.f)				1 blue glass (Fig. 18:25)	

Table 3. (cont.)

	<i>Kokh 1</i> (N = 49)	<i>Kokh 2</i> (N = 28)	<i>Kokh 5</i> (N = 2)	<i>Kokh 7</i> (N = 25)	Chamber A (N = 1)
Types of Beads (Beck 1927)					
Segmented long cylinder with square section (Type IX.D.2.b)	4 brownish glass, including: 1 made of 2 segments (not ill.); 1 made of 3 segments (Fig. 18:8); 1 made of 4 segments (not ill.); 1 made of 5 segments, yellow glass (Fig. 18:9)				
Long cylinder with circular section (Type I.D.2.b)	1 blue glass (Fig. 18:10)			1 white glass (Fig. 18:26) 1 blue glass (Fig. 18:27)	
Long cylinder with rectangular section (Type X.D.2.b)	5 including: 1 white glass (Fig. 18:11); 4 brown glass (not ill.)				
Lozenge (flat on one side and convex on the other)	1 white glass (Fig. 18:12)				
Drop-pendant (Type XXII.B.2)	1 blue glass (Fig. 18:13)			1 carnelian (Fig. 18:28)	

Ptolemy II (285–246 BCE) to Maximinus (309–313 CE). However, a study of the other finds from the cave shows that the tomb was in use for a much shorter time. The glass vessels form a group typical of the third century CE. The earliest vessels, the candlestick bottle and the *askos*-shaped bottle, both seem to be connected with one of the first burials: *Kokh* 4, in which a coin of Septimius Severus (197–198 CE) was found. The coins contemporaneous with the use of the tomb range, therefore, from the late second century CE (a silver coin of Septimius Severus, 197–198 CE, and two autonomous coins from the second century CE) to the beginning of the fourth century CE (a coin of Maximinus, 309–313 CE), the bulk dating from the first half of the third century CE. A Tyrian coin of Ptolemy II (285–246 BCE) with an eagle on the reverse and a very worn silver *denarius* of Trajan (98–117 CE) minted in Rome, both found in *Kokh* 7, are clearly earlier than the first burials, as no other finds from these periods were discovered in the cave. Incidentally, a similar Tyrian coin of Ptolemy II with an eagle on the reverse was found in the late second–early fourth centuries CE burial cave at Ḥanita (Barag 1978:48, No. 138). A possible explanation for the presence of these Ptolemaic coins in Late Roman tombs might be that the size and the eagle motif of the Ptolemaic coins roughly recall the Tyrian coins of Trajan Decius (249–251 CE; Bijovsky, this volume: Cat. No. 20). Those who placed them in the tomb either mistook them for Trajan Decius coins, or deliberately swapped the coins in the hope of ‘cheating Charon’, similar to the ‘pseudo-coins’ or ‘ghost-money’ (plaques bearing the impression of a coin) placed in burials of South Italy, Sicily and Greece (Kurtz and Boardman 1971:211, Pl. 40).

The cave apparently belonged to a family who used it for slightly more than a century, from the end of the second to the early fourth centuries CE. Most of the *kokhim* contained one or more primary burials, except for *Kokh* 7, which had an unusual content: In addition to the bones of at least two disarticulated individuals,

scattered throughout the *kokh* was a very large quantity of finds, including 13 coins, four pairs of gold earrings, a bronze ring set with a gem and several glass vessels. It would seem that this *kokh* was used to gather the coins and precious jewelry items from the other *kokhim*.

The Chronology of the Burials

The questions of whether all the deceased were originally buried with coins, and whether these coins are reliable for precisely dating the times of burials are open to debate. However, since most of the coins discovered in the cave are in very good condition, indicating their deposition very soon after minting, I will try to propose a chronology of the burials in the various *kokhim* of the cave on the basis of the coins.

The first burials seem to have taken place in the late second or early third centuries CE in *Kokh* 10, with a second-century CE Tyrian coin, and in *Kokh* 4 with a silver coin of Septimius Severus (197–198 CE) minted in Rome, a tall candlestick glass bottle, a glass bottle with a concave neck, and probably, the *askos*-shaped glass bottle. Soon after these, an individual 20–30 years old was buried in *Kokh* 3, with Tyrian coins of Caracalla (211–217 CE) and of Elagabalus (218–222 CE), several glass vessels (deep and shallow bowls, beakers), a silver ring, a silver anklet, a bronze scoop-probe and a bone pin. At about the same time, a male adult was also buried in *Kokh* 9, with a Sidonian coin of Elagabalus (218–222 CE). Some of the eight coins from the late 210s–early 220s CE found in *Kokh* 7 might be contemporaneous with the two adult skeletons found in this *kokh*; the remainder of the coins probably originates in other *kokhim* of the cave. Burial then took place in *Kokh* 8, where an adult was buried with a Tyrian coin of Severus Alexander (222–235 CE), three glass beakers, one glass bowl and a silver anklet. At about the same time, burial was also conducted in *Kokh* 5, where a rare Sidonian coin of Julia Maesa (d. c. 226 CE) was found with a zodiac wheel on the reverse. The discovery of a single coin and few artifacts (a silver bracelet, two beads, a bone pin and a complete pottery bottle)

in this *kokh* is surprising, as the disarticulated skeletons of at least five individuals were identified, including three adults (one of whom was c. 30 years old) and one child (6–7 years old). Perhaps some of the coins and artifacts found in *Kokh 7* originate in this *kokh*. There seems then to have been a gap of some 20 years until the next burial, in *Kokh 2*, where a billion *tetradrachm* of Trajan Decius (249–251 CE), minted in Antioch, was found, probably belonging to the disarticulated skeleton of a young adult discovered in this *kokh*. Some ten years later, a young female adult was buried in this *kokh* and her skeleton was discovered in full articulation with coins and jewelry items *in situ*. On either side of the skull was a fairly rare silver-plated coin of the brothers Macrianus II (260–261 CE) and Quietus (260–261 CE)—both minted at Antioch and representing on the reverse Rome seated on a round shield, holding a spear and Victory. On her chest was a fine bronze coin of Caracalla (211–217 CE), minted at Paphos, representing on the reverse the temple of Aphrodite in Paphos. It was pierced for suspension and thus used as a medallion, hanging around the neck of the deceased. A pair of gold earrings was found at the place of the ears. Two snake-head-type silver anklets were around the ankles, and a necklace composed of 28 beads, made mostly of dark blue glass, around the neck. A bone pin and a glass pin were also found. After this burial, there seems to have again been a gap of some 35 years until a burial in *Kokh 1*, where a woman 19–23 years old was buried and found in full articulation with a silver-plated *antoninianus* of Constantius I (c. 295 CE) minted in Antioch, a necklace composed of 49 beads, mostly of glass, with a few dice-shaped spacing beads made of bone, a plain open-ended bronze bracelet and an iron bracelet with oval medallions, three bone pins and a shallow glass bowl. Some 15 years later, the last burial in the cave was laid in *Kokh 4*, where a male over 50 years old, with severe arthritis in the joints, osteoporosis and osteophytes in the neck, was found with a bronze coin of Maximinus (309–313 CE)

minted at Antioch—obviously the oldest and last member of the family to die and be buried in the family cave. An entire pottery jar was found, leaning against the southern side of the central pit, between the entrance and *Kokh 10*. It probably contained water with which people who had tended to a burial washed their hands before leaving the tomb, and was left there after the last burial was completed.

Gender and Status of the Deceased

Based on anthropological evidence (see Table 2), we may deduce that at least 18 adults and sub-adults were buried in the cave. Almost no babies or small children were identified, evidently due to the poor preservation of the small bones, thus adding probably another 10–20 individuals to the total of people buried in the cave. Both articulated and disarticulated skeletons were found. All the articulated burials were lying in a supine position with the head toward the rear of the *kokh*, arms extended along the body and feet near the opening. When a corpse was laid in a *kokh* that already contained an earlier burial, the bones of the former burial were pushed to the side of the *kokh* to make room for the newly deceased. As noted above, *Kokh 7* contained the bones of at least two individuals (disarticulated) and a large number of coins and jewelry items, which may have been gathered from other *kokhim*. In some cases, the gender of the deceased could be inferred from the osteological study, but when this is not possible, we assume that necklaces and earrings were always worn by women. Silver anklets, as shown by those found around the ankles of the articulated skeleton of a young woman in *Kokh 2*, seem to have been worn by women.³ This is probably also the case for the various bracelets made of silver, bronze and iron. As for the bone pins, they were probably also connected with women if we assume that they served as hairpins. This assumption is corroborated by the fact that in *Kokh 1*, which contained one skeleton, three bone pins were found together with a necklace; in *Kokh 2*, one bone pin and one glass pin were

found together with earrings, anklets *in situ* and a necklace; and in *Kokh* 3, where one adult was buried, one bone pin was found together with a bronze scoop-probe (most likely used for cosmetic purposes), a silver ring and a silver anklet. In any case, based on evidence from portraits of women painted on second–early third-century CE coffin-lids in Egypt, it appears that a woman usually owned only one pair of earrings, but that she could have more than one bracelet and one necklace. A painted plaster coffin-lid from Antinoopolis, dated to c. 190–220 CE, shows the portrait of a woman who wears three necklaces, three bracelets and four rings (Walker 2000:92). A portrait of Tekosis painted in tempera on wooden panels from Assyut, dated 180–200 CE, shows her wearing seven necklaces (Walker 2000:121–123).

The cave contains a fairly large amount of jewelry, some of it quite costly: the silver bracelets and anklets, the silver ring, the ring with the gem and the several pairs of gold earrings, especially those with pendants and clusters of granules. They suggest that the deceased were quite wealthy, although they did not include any outstanding pieces, such as earrings consisting of a flower-shaped gold disk above a bar shaped like two heraldically juxtaposed animals, which were discovered in other third-century CE tombs, e.g., in Jerusalem, Naḥal Raqafot (Rahmani 1976: Pls. 23, 24) or at Naḥf (Sussman 1982: Pl. 8:16).

The Religion of the Deceased

The relatively large number of coins attests to the pagan belief of paying the ferryman Charon for crossing the River Styx to the netherworld, a custom first noted in the Hellenistic period (Kurtz and Boardman 1971:166). Rahmani (1993:149) writes that an obol for Charon “may be identified as such when the coin is found inside the mouth of an inhumated body, clenched between its teeth, or held in its hand”. Coins discovered inside skulls, where they would indicate that they had been put in the mouth of the deceased, were found, e.g., at

Loḥame Ha-Geta’ot (Peleg 1991:133: early second-century CE coins found in Burials C, J, T and T19), in Jerusalem (Greenhut 1992:65, 70: a coin of Herod Agrippa I, 42–43 CE), and at Jericho (Hachlili and Killebrew 1999:135–136, two coins of Agrippa I, 41–42 CE). At Loḥame Ha-Geta’ot (Peleg 1991:133), five coins of Constantine I, 328–329 CE, and Constantius II, 355–361 CE, were found in Burial R, clenched in the right fist of a skeleton. At Iqrit, however, none of the coins found *in situ*, in connection with articulated skeletons, was discovered inside a skull or in the hands of the deceased. In *Kokh* 10, an autonomous coin was found to the right of the skull and in *Kokh* 2, two coins of the brothers Macrianus II and Quietus dating to the same year (261–262 CE) were placed on either side of the skull. There seem to be other cases when two coins were given to one deceased individual, e.g., the two coins (Bijovsky, this volume: Nos. 10 and 14) of Diadumen and Elagabalus that were stuck together. Burials for which sex and/or age of the deceased could be determined show that men and women, young and old adults, were equally supplied with coins (see Table 2).

Most of the coins are Roman Provincial issues minted in Phoenician cities: Tyre (the majority), Sidon and Byblos, then in Antioch, from c. 260 CE, after the former cities ceased minting. The coins clearly indicate that Iqrit belonged to Tyre and was oriented toward Phoenicia rather than Palestine. It should be noted that the picture is the same in second–third centuries CE burial caves in Upper Galilee, e.g., Ḥanita (Barag 1978:46–54) and Ḥurfeish (Ariel 1997; Syon 2002); the numismatic evidence of sites like Meron, Gush Ḥalav, Horbat Shema’ and Migdal (Hanson 1980:52; Barag 1982–1983) also shows strong trade connections with Phoenicia during this period. The pottery and glass vessels found in the cave at Iqrit are also typical of the Phoenician coast, Upper Galilee and South Lebanon.⁴ There seems to have been some connection with Cyprus in the second–early third centuries CE as shown by the rare coin of Caracalla minted in Paphos and used

as a medallion and, perhaps, also by the *askos*-shaped glass bottle for which several parallels are in Cyprus. The gem representing a warrior-hero, apparently personifying Alexander the Great, clearly originates in the western Roman Empire, as its parallels are found mainly in Great Britain and Germany. It probably belonged originally to a second-century CE Roman officer and was reset by a member of the family buried in the Iqrit cave.

The total absence of pottery lamps is puzzling, although not unique in Late Roman caves of Upper Galilee and south Lebanon, e.g., Hurfeish (Abu-‘Uqsa 2002). The reason may be that the users of the tomb were not Jewish, and consequently not restricted by impurity laws that prevented them from reusing objects that had been in contact with the dead; therefore, they took back with them the lamps that they had used in the cave.

Identification of the Site

The first definite mention of a village called Iqrit (اقریت) appears in the Ottoman tax registers (*daftar-i mufassal*) of 1596/1597 AD (Hütteroth and Abdulfattah 1977:180, P18). In the nineteenth century, it is described as a small Arab village with a Christian population, called Ikrit by Robinson (1857:66), Akrit by Guérin (1880:125) and Akrih by Conder and Kitchener (1881:148). The Arab village, which was inhabited until November 1948 (Vilnay 1976–1980:280; Khalidi 1992:15–17), was built on an artificial hill located south of the burial cave excavated in 1972, where ancient remains, such as cisterns and an oil press paved with a white mosaic floor, were found. In April 1932, a double sarcophagus (2.15 × 2.25 m) and a rock-cut chamber-tomb with *kokhim* were noticed, but not excavated. In December 1942, N. Makhoully excavated, on the side of the same road where the burial cave described in this article was discovered, a rock-cut tomb that had been looted and contained only a few human bones (British Mandate Archives, Rockefeller Museum, File Iqrit; Dauphin 1998:631, Feuille 1:10).

Neubauer (1868:18), Press (1948:389), Avi-Yonah (1976:70, s.v. Jokereth) and Tsafir, Di Segni and Green (1994:153, s.v. Ioqereth), all identify Iqrit with a place that appears in a variety of spellings in Rabbinic literature (*Ioqereth* יוקרת, *Toqereth* תוקרת, *Tiqereth* תיקרת, etc.), describing it as a “Jewish village in Upper Galilee, within the territory of Tyre”. A closer examination of the sources on which this identification is based reveals that there is no reason to assume the existence of a Jewish village in Roman times. One of the sources consists in some versions of the well-known *baraita* dealing with the boundaries of the Land of Israel of the ‘exiles returned from Babylon’: The name appears in Tosefta Shevi‘it 4:11 and in JT Shevi‘it 36c, but not in *Sifre*-Deuteronomy 10 (Klein 1965) nor, strikingly, in the earliest extant version of this *baraita* preserved on the mosaic inscription of the Rehov synagogue (Vitto 1974:103, Pls. 36, 37; Sussmann 1976:232–233), where the short stretch of the northwestern section of the boundary between ‘Akko and Caesarea Philippi (Paniias) is, however, given in particularly great detail. The inconsistency in the reading of the place-name in the various recensions of the text and the debate concerning its location (see, e.g., Hildesheimer 1965:67, who suggests placing it further east) make its identification with Iqrit uncertain. In any case, the mention of a border point in this *baraita* does not imply that the place was inhabited by a Jewish population (see, e.g., Oppenheimer 2005:37–38). The second source used for declaring Iqrit a Jewish village is a passage of BT Ta’anith 23b, which connects Rabbi Yossi with Ioqereth (רב יוסי דמן יוקרת, Rabbi Yossi of Ioqereth). Several scholars, however, believe that the place mentioned in Ta’anith was not in Eretz Israel, e.g., Klein (1945:134; 1977:177, s.v. Ioqereth) and Epstein, in his translation and edition of BT Ta’anith (p. 121, n. 3), who suggests identifying Ioqereth with Derokereth (דרוקרת), mentioned in BT Ta’anith 21b (p. 107), a place from which Rav Huna Resh Galuta (end of second century CE) is said to come, and which is located near

Sura in Babylonia (Safrai 1971:1074). Evidence from this tomb shows that in the third–fourth

centuries CE, the population was pagan rather than Jewish.

NOTES

¹ The cave was discovered on September 13, 1972 during the widening of Upper Galilee's northern road, by a bulldozer of the Israel National Roads Company, which destroyed part of the cave's northern wall, including its entrance. Some disturbance occurred soon after the discovery of the cave and a few artifacts were looted, although most, if not all, seem to have been returned to the Regional Inspector. A 12-day excavation (Permit No. A-370) was conducted by the author, on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums, with the assistance of the Regional Inspector of Antiquities, Yehuda Ben-Yosef, and three workers from Kafr Yanik and Khirbat Jurdaih. The plan was drawn by the author and prepared for publication by Natalia Zak. Field photographs were taken by Yehuda Ben-Yosef and Zeev Radovan. The finds were drawn by Boris Zieloni and Carmen Hersch, and photographed by Zeev Radovan. Coins and metal finds were cleaned by Ella Altmark. Gabriela Bijovsky identified the coins (see Bijovsky, this volume). Yael Gorin-Rosen gave advice on some of the glass vessels. Yossi Nagar examined the osteological material. To all the author wishes to express her gratitude. This article was submitted in May 2005; limited updating of the bibliography was made after its submission.

Fifteen meters east of this cave, an ovoid-shaped cave (length 5 m, width 2.6 m, height 3 m) was discovered, filled with earth to a height of 1.7 m. Its excavation revealed a large quantity of animal bones (identified by Simon Davies from the Hebrew University Zoological Department as consisting of at least nine donkeys, mostly found in articulation on the floor of the cave, as well as the incomplete skeletons of a deer, probably the *Dama mesopotamica*—Persian fallow deer—three goats, one pig and probably two dogs). The earth filling the cave yielded a relatively rich repertoire of vessels, all fragmentary and with old breaks, including platters, carinated bowls, jars, jugs, cooking pots and chalices dating to EB II and MB IIA. Five meters west of this cave, a shallow pit, 2.2 × 2.5 m, 0.4 m deep (remains of another destroyed cave?) was found, also containing pottery from these periods.

² The beaker was stolen before it could be drawn or photographed.

³ Recent research suggests that the wearing of anklets was already a female-gendered practice in the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages in the southern Levant (Green 2007).

⁴ See Stern and Getzov 2006 on Phoenician burial customs, published after the submission of this article.

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