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A Hellenistic-Period Farmhouse at Aderet in the Judean Shephelah

Jon Seligman and Ora Yogev[1]

The excavation at Aderet, located south of Ha-Ella Valley, revealed a farmhouse with an olive-oil press, which operated under the administrative control of Idumea during the Hellenistic period. Based on the numismatic evidence and the pottery assemblage, the Aderet farmhouse was dated to the second half of the third century BCE, possibly extending into the beginning of the second century BCE. The firmly dated regional ceramic assemblage of the third century BCE expands our knowledge of Hellenistic rural society. The chronology of the Aderet farmhouse is considered in light of Yogev's suggestion to identify a late Iron Age occupation phase at the site based on its architectural plan and the presence of large quantities of Iron Age pottery. Also, the dating and typology of the oil press uncovered at the site are discussed in detail below.

Keywords: Idumea, Hellenistic period, agriculture, farmhouse, Maresha, numismatics, oil press

Introduction

Aderet is a farmstead located to the south of Ha-Ella Valley (Wadi es-Sunt; map ref. 199510/618227) in the Judean Shephelah, 12 km northeast of the important Hellenistic-period site of Maresha (Bet Guvrin; Fig. 1).[2] In 1980–1981, two short seasons of salvage

[1] Dr. Jon Seligman and Ora Yogev, Israel Antiquities Authority.

[2] The farmhouse on of edge of the present-day Moshav Aderet (Permit Nos. A-983/1980, A-1038/1981) was excavated by the late Ora Yogev of the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums in two seasons. The first author wishes to thank the following staff: Ora Yogev (field photography), Israel Vatkin (surveying), Anna Wasserman (finds drawing), Alon De Groot (consultation regarding the Iron Age finds), Yael Gorin-Rosen (processing of glass finds) and, especially, Débora Sandhaus, who went through the ceramic report with a fine-tooth comb. The workers were pupils from Bet Shemesh and laborers from Kafr Nuba. The illustrations for this paper were optimally selected from among a limited number of poor-quality photographs of the site. As someone who worked with Ora Yogev shortly before her untimely passing in 1989, although for a brief period, I took it upon myself to compile this paper based on her excavation notes and a short preliminary report that she prepared soon after the excavation (Yogev 1984).

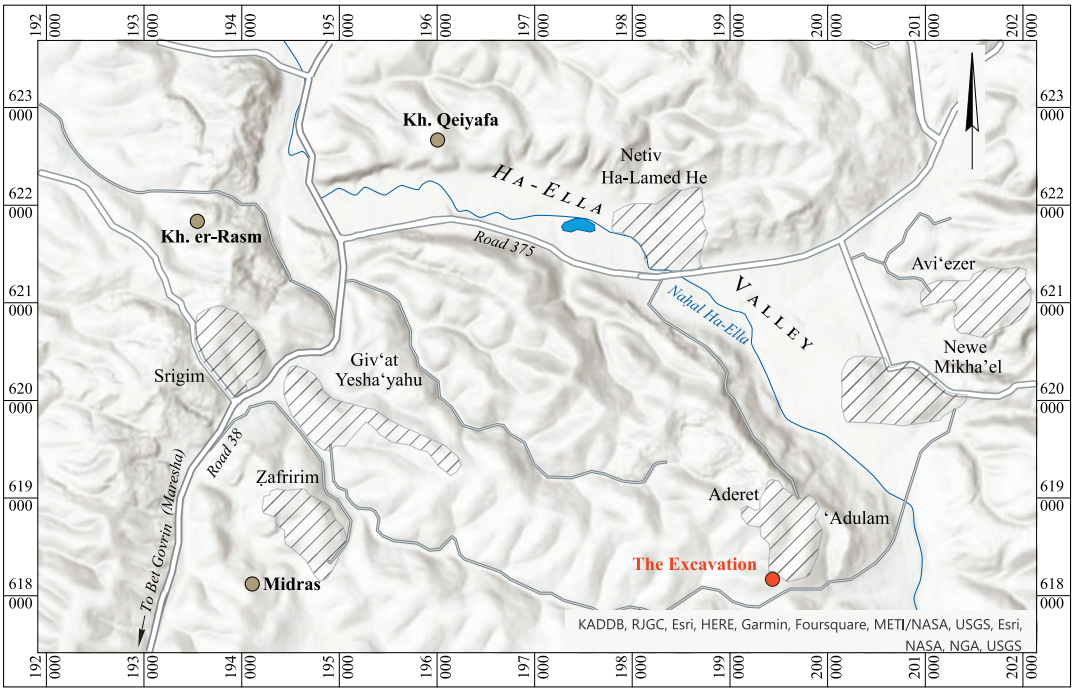


Fig. 1. Location map.

Fig. 2. Ora Yogev and Eliot Braun at Aderet (photograph courtesy of Shimon Gibson).

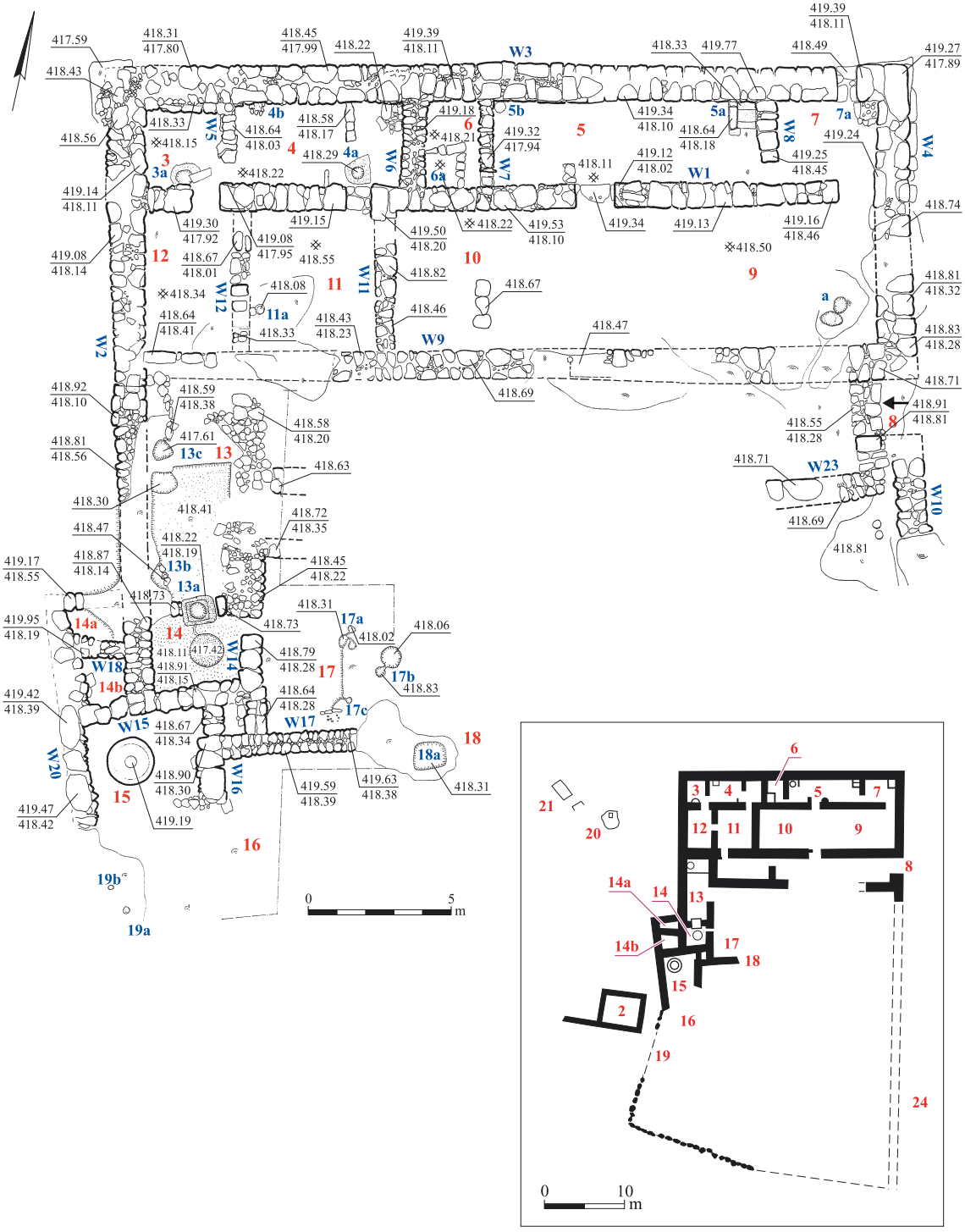
excavations were conducted at the site by the late Ora Yogev (Fig. 2), following the expansion of a chicken coop at nearby Moshav Aderet. The site is set in an unnamed shallow valley, a tributary of Ha-Ella Valley, surrounded by agricultural land that would have served the farm. The existence at Aderet of olive- and wine-presses, with both installations enclosed within constructions and others in the open, illustrates the area's agricultural potential (for a description of the ecology and landscape of a very similar part of the valley near Bet Shemesh, only a few kilometers north of Aderet, see Dagan 2011). Dagan (2000:229–240; 2011:265–266; see also Lipschits et al. 2014:141–142) recorded over 307 Hellenistic-period sites in the Judean Shephelah, noting the existence of eight farms, which testify to the flourishing rural settlement in the region during that period. Archaeologically, this area has received attention since the nineteenth century. The Survey of Western Palestine identified the site of Aderet as Kh. 'Aid el-Ma, noting only stone heaps, a cistern and a tomb (Conder and Kitchener 1883:106). A later survey of the area did not add any information (Rahmani 1964).

The Aderet farmhouse may have been under the administrative control of Idumea during the Hellenistic period, although the political boundaries, the regime structure and even the ethnic composition of this region at that time are not easily defined (Dagan 2000:229; Tal 2006:11–12; Kloner 2015:361; Langgut and Lipschits 2017:147–148, 157–158; Sandhaus 2018; 2021:82–90; Levin 2020). In this regard, the site's proximity to Maresha, Idumea's most important regional center, is noteworthy (Kloner 2003:5; 2015:362). The possibility that Aderet was part of Idumea is reinforced by a description in the Zenon papyri (Tcherikover 1937:40; P. Cair. Zen I: Nos. 59006, 59015; IV: No. 58537), which mentions the establishment of many agricultural settlements in the area surrounding the city in the second half of the fourth and the third centuries BCE; at that time, the city of Maresha was at its zenith, acquiring the status of a regional center of agricultural production and commerce, renowned both locally and internationally (Lipschits et al. 2014:148; Sandhaus 2018:25–26, 30–33).

The chronology of the Aderet farmhouse merits an in-depth consideration here, given Yogev's suggestion to identify an occupation phase of the late Iron Age at the site, based on her reconstruction of the architectural plan of the farmhouse and the presence of relatively large quantities of Iron Age pottery in some of the fills. The dating and typology of the oil press uncovered at the site are also discussed in detail below.

The Excavations

The excavations revealed that the site comprises a farmhouse fronted by an enclosure with ancillary buildings, including an olive press (Fig. 3; Plan 1; Appendix 1). Entry to the complex was from a road running in a northerly direction to the gate of the complex. The road (L24) is flanked by a row of stones (not on plan), 30–40 cm high (Figs. 4, 5). It was 3 m wide and was traced along c. 170 m. This road was probably used by the farm residents to access the agricultural areas in the valley to the southwest.



Plan 1. Plan of the farmhouse and adjacent installations (indicated by numbers).

Fig. 3. General view of the site, looking northwest (photograph courtesy of Shimon Gibson).

Fig. 4. Road 24 leading southwest from the site, looking southwest.

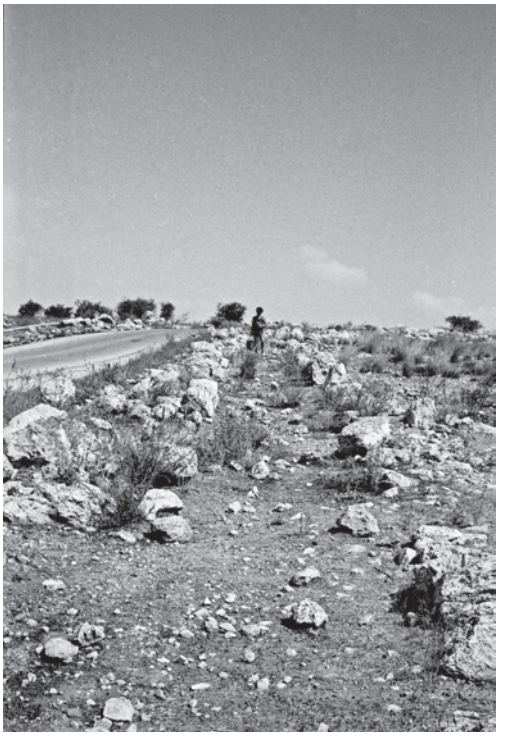


Fig. 5. Road 24 leading southwest from the site, looking southwest.

Fig. 6. The gateway to the courtyard of the farm through W10, looking west.

The gateway to the complex was located in the eastern enclosure wall (W10; Plan 1:8), directly abutting the southeastern corner of the farmhouse (Fig. 6). It is 1.9 m wide and includes a stone-paved threshold, situated about 1 m inside the opening. Continuing from the threshold is the leveled rock surface of the enclosure. A wall (W23), which may have formed part of a passage toward the farmhouse entrance, leads westward from the southern edge of the gateway. The size of the enclosure remains unclear, as only its southwestern corner was found (at the southern end of W2, including L15 and L16), showing the length of its western side to have measured some 45 m.

THE FARMHOUSE

The farmhouse is a large stone structure (11 × 28 m) built as a broad-room house on an east–west axis, with two rows of rooms and courtyards along a north–south short axis on the northern flank of the enclosure (Figs. 7, 8). Its exterior walls (W2–4 and W9) were built of two rows of large, roughly-cut fieldstones laid in a dry-stone manner. Walls 2 and 4 continue on its eastern and western sides as the farmyard's enclosure walls (W2 and W10). The farmhouse facade (W9) fronts two separate housing units, each with what appears to be an internal open area, probably a courtyard: the western unit, with open (L11, L12) and roofed (L3, L4) sections; and the eastern unit, with open (L9, L10) and roofed (L5–7) sections. An

Fig. 7. The farmhouse enclosure, looking east.

Fig. 8. The farmhouse enclosure, looking northeast.

east–west wall (W1), built of one row of roughly worked large and small stones, separates the open parts from the roofed parts of the structure. The two units and the rooms within them are divided by small walls, usually of one row of small and medium-sized fieldstones.

While the external and facade walls are constructionally integrated, the internal subdividing walls may have been built at a later time, as the need arose for special-purpose spaces. However, there is no stratigraphic evidence for this supposition, and it is just as likely that the small walls were part of the building's original plan.

The Western Housing Unit

No surviving evidence of entrances leading into the courtyard (L11 and L12; Fig. 9) of this unit was found; however, both the wall shared with that courtyard (W11) and W9 were incompletely preserved. A now-fragmentary partition wall (W12), perhaps built later than the surrounding structure, split the western courtyard into two, possibly with the eastern space (L11; 4 × 4 m) remaining open and the western space (L12; 3 × 3 m) either remaining

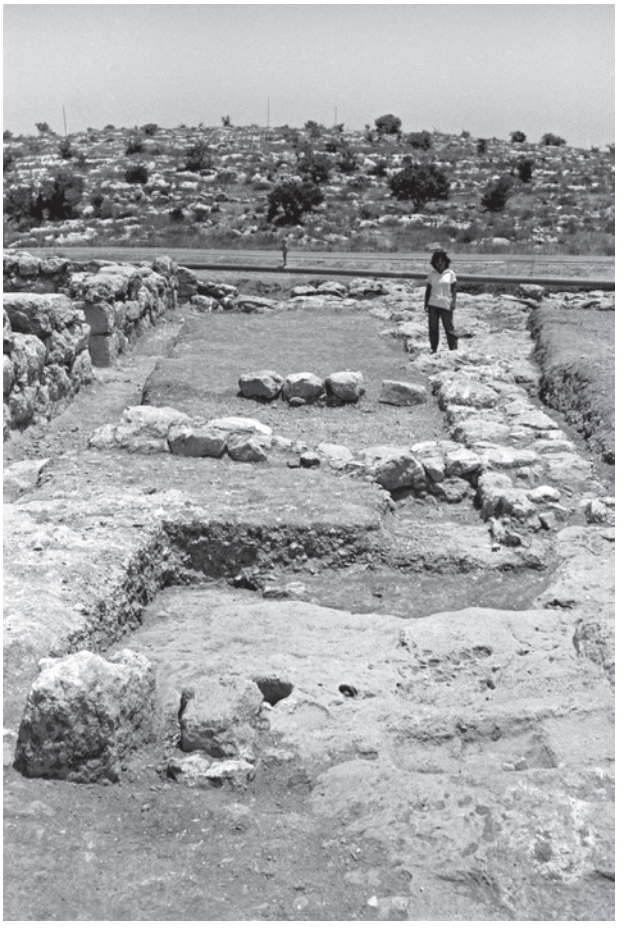


Fig. 9. Courtyards 12 and 11, looking east.

open or becoming roofed at that time. Courtyard 11 exhibited two floors,[3] one above the other, the lower one partially made up of layers of crushed and compact chalk and partially of leveled bedrock. Quarried into the lower floor is an installation (L11a) consisting of two round depressions connected by a gutter, the use of which is unknown. The upper floor of Courtyard 11 was composed of a thick layer of crushed, compact chalk. Room/Courtyard 12 connected to L11 via a doorway in the center of W12, the jambs and threshold of which were uncovered. This space was not excavated to bedrock, but it appears to have had two floors, the upper of the two resembling that of adjacent L11. In the western part of the room was a *ṭabun* or a built hearth.

Two doorways cut through the courtyard's northern W1, one passing from L12 to Room 3 and the other, from L11 into Room 4 (Figs. 10, 11). Room 3 (2.65 × 2.65 m), in the

Fig. 10. The north exterior wall (W3) of the farmhouse, looking east.

[3] The excavators did not assign separate locus numbers for the floors of rooms.

Fig. 11. Northern exterior wall (W3) of the farmhouse, looking north.

northeastern corner of the farmhouse, had a second entrance to adjacent Room 4 through its eastern wall (W5). The jambs of the two doorways were constructed from crude ashlars. The floor of Room 3, like that of Room 4, was made of crushed and compounded chalk. Close to the doorway in W1, slightly to the west of the jamb, was a built round hearth (L3a) full of ash and bones, its base 34 cm below the floor. A stone roller found in the center of the room (Fig. 12) must have been used in laying down and compacting the floors. Room 4 (2.75 × 5.70 m) had a stone-slab threshold in its doorway with adjacent Courtyard 11. There were two built hearths in the room, one round and located just inside the door (L4a; Fig. 13) and another (L4b; Fig. 14), semicircular and attached to the wall at the back of the room. Both hearths contained ash and charcoal. Opposite and in line with Hearth 4a was a short wall of unclear nature. In the center of Room 4 was a square stone with a round hole, which, according to Yogev's notes, probably supported a wooden roof post (i.e., a pillar).

The finds of this unit consisted of household wares (cooking pots, jars, bowls, jugs, juglets and lamps; see below). The fact that this part of the farmhouse contained hearths and a *ṭabun*, and its location within it, points to the possibility that the courtyards and rooms were used for housework and kitchen tasks.

Fig. 12. Room 3, roof roller.

Fig. 13. Room 4, Hearth 4a just inside the door, looking southeast.

Fig. 14. Room 4, Hearth 4c built against the back wall, looking northeast.

The Eastern Housing Unit

The main living area of the farmhouse included a large courtyard on its southeastern side (L9, L10; 5.0 × 16.5 m; Figs. 15, 16), leading to three roofed rooms to its north (L5–7). Facade W9 was very incomplete along this courtyard, and in parts, only a flat cut in the rock corresponding with the line of the wall was discernable. The courtyard was probably entered from the large open enclosure to its south through a wide doorway in W9, located opposite an entrance into one of the roofed rooms (L5); here, a socket for a door axis was cut in bedrock, and a quarried, 2 m wide step led into Courtyard L9/L10. A small wall or bench separates L9 from L10, and the courtyard floor in both spaces was mostly made of compact earth and chalk. The higher-elevation bedrock on the eastern side of the courtyard (L9) formed the floor of this space. In the southeastern corner of Room 9, in front of an entrance to Room 7, two round installations were cut in bedrock with a gutter connecting them.

The main room of the eastern unit (L5; 3 × 9 m) was entered from the courtyard through a wide doorway with a large stone threshold in the middle of W1. The threshold had two holes cut into it, probably for the bolts that locked the door (Fig. 17). From the threshold, one stepped down some 20 cm to the floor of the room, which was also made of crushed and compact chalk. As in Room 3, a floor roller used to compound the floor was found, lying

Fig. 15. The entrance from Courtyard 9 into Room 5, looking north.

Fig. 16. Courtyards 10 and 9, looking east.

Fig. 17. The doorway of Room 5, looking north.

Fig. 18. Room 5, pillar base and roof roller, looking east.

Fig. 19. Room 5, plastered bath (L5a), looking north.

close to the northern wall (Fig. 18). On the floor of Room 5 was a stone-pillar base (Fig. 18), similar to that found in Room 4, although no longer *in situ*; this base may have been an olive-press weight in secondary use. Two installations were uncovered in Room 5: one (L5a), in its northeastern corner, was coated with gray plaster and had a small depression in its center and a step-like bench at the back (Fig. 19)—it may have been used for washing the feet or for bathing; the other, in its northwestern corner, was a large jar sunk into the floor (L5b), the exterior covered with *ṭabun* plaster.

Room 6 (1.97 × 3.05 m), the smallest of the complex, was entered from Room 5 to its east, through an entrance at the southern end of its eastern wall (W7; Fig. 20). The lintel was found *in situ*, revealing that it was inexplicably built only 60 cm high. In the southwestern corner of Room 6 was an installation (L6a; 1.36 × 1.47 × 0.47 m), in which jar sherds and an iron chisel were found (see Fig. 40:4). The corner stone of this installation was an olive-press weight in secondary use (Fig. 21). Room 7 (3.05 × 3.25 m), east of Room 5, was entered both through the southern end of its western wall (W8) and an opening into Courtyard L9 through W1. At the back of the room was a window built 0.5 m above the floor, with a bolt hole on its eastern side (Fig. 22). In the northeastern corner of Room 7 was

Fig. 20. Room 6, looking west.

Fig. 21. Room 6, an installation with an oil-press weight in secondary use, looking southwest.

Fig. 22. Room 7, window in W1, looking southwest.

a built installation (L7a) containing many broken vessels. As in Room 5, the floor of this room comprised compact earth and chalk.

The finds from this unit included large quantities of housewares, some metal objects (see Fig. 41) and a few coins (see Fig. 40). Rooms 5 and 7 were probably the main living areas of the farmhouse, while Room 6, which was partially blocked and contained many broken jars, was probably a storeroom, all arranged along Courtyard L9/L10.

THE OIL PRESS (Figs. 23, 24)

The oil-press complex consisted of a number of rooms (L13–16) abutting southwestern W2 of the farmhouse. It contains a round crushing basin and a lever press of the 'improved' type, with a central collecting basin connected to a lateral vat in Room 15. This room (3 × 4 m) abuts the southern end of W2, its southern wall (W19) discernable only as a bedrock cut. On the room's floor, slightly deviating to the west from its center, is the olive crushing basin, standing 75 cm high, with a diameter of 1.35 m. It is cut from hard limestone

Fig. 23. General view of the oil press west of the farmhouse enclosure, looking southwest (photograph courtesy of Shimon Gibson).

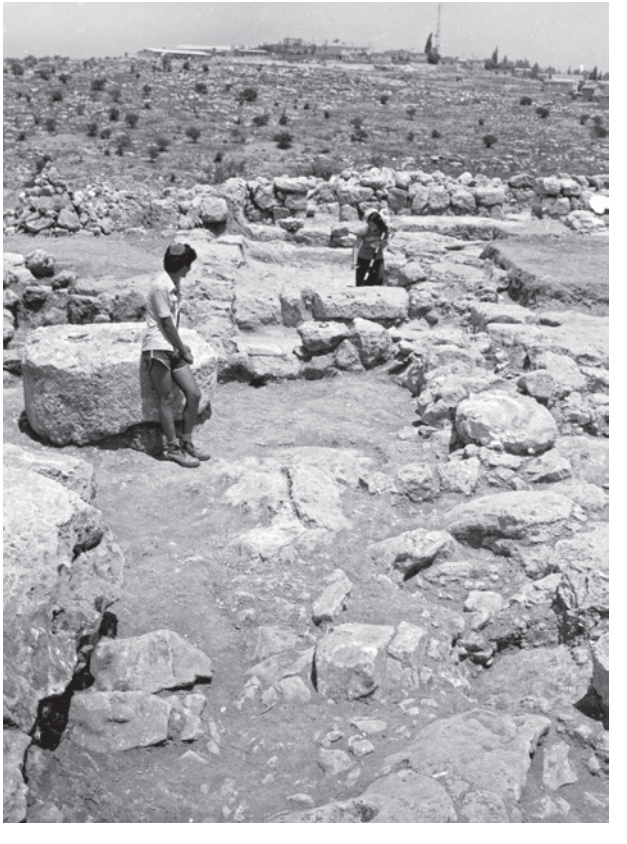


Fig. 24. The oil press viewed from L16, looking north.

(Figs. 25, 26), the edge raised 5–10 cm above the bottom surface; a depression in the center fixed in place the axis for the beam that held the millstone. Just barely enough space was left between the basin and the walls to allow the manual circular movement of the millstone. The floor was made of compact earth and leveled bedrock. One entrance to the room was found, leading northward, over a stone threshold, to another room (L13/L14), where the

Fig. 25. The crushing basin of the oil press (L15), looking northeast.

Fig. 26. The crushing basin of the oil press viewed from L16, looking west.

press was situated. It is possible that another opening existed to the south of Room 15 into an irregularly shaped, open courtyard (L16), which probably served to store the olives before crushing.

Room 13/14, the northern room of the olive press, contained the lever press used to extract the oil from the crushed olives brought from the basin to the south (Figs. 27, 28).

Fig. 27. The collecting vat and the fallen pier of the oil press (L14), looking northeast.

Fig. 28. The plaster floor (L13) and a pier of the oil press, looking south.

The room's length is unclear as the northern wall is unknown, while the width is 3 m. The room has one, possibly two, entrances from the farm enclosure to its east, through what remains of its eastern wall (W14). One clearly identified opening is opposite the pressing installation, and the other, less well-defined, may open into Room 13, to the north of the pressing bed. In the southern part of the room was the shallow, rectangular (1.10 × 1.55 m) plastered pressing bed. In its center was a round shallow vat, only 30 cm deep, with a diameter of 55 cm, fitting the dimensions of the press baskets. On either side were stone piers, of which one was found fallen over the pressing bed, their bases plastered similarly to the rest of the installation. A small gutter led from the press bed to a lateral collecting vat to the south. This plastered vat was round with a diameter of 1.5 m and 80 cm deep in the center, where a hard plastered floor (L14) was exposed. No stone weights used in the pressing process were found in this area, though three were found in secondary use in the farmhouse (see above), two with a reversed T-shaped bore and the other doughnut-shaped with a vertical bore. The pressing beam was probably anchored into the southern wall of Room 13/14 (W15), behind the collecting vat, although W15 was not sufficiently preserved to allow identification of the anchoring.

Two further installations were found in L13, north of the press. These include a plastered water cistern (L13c) of unknown depth in the northwestern corner of the room and a round pit (L13b) to the west of the pressing bed that could have held upright oil storage jars.

Two small spaces within Room 14 (L14a: 0.65 × 1.75 m; L14b: 1.45 × 1.75 m) were west of the olive press. Both contained many fragments of jars and large quantities of ash. This points to the utilization of these spaces as roofed storage areas for the oil produced.

INSTALLATIONS NEAR THE OIL PRESS

To the east of the olive press was an enclosed and leveled bedrock (L17) that was not fully excavated. Three installations were hewn into the bedrock here: Installation 17a, consisting of three interconnected depressions with varying depths—where liquids could spill from the highest to the lowest—was probably used to separate liquids of different gravities, such as oil from lees; Installation 17b, comprising two round depressions connected with a gutter—the southern one smaller and shallower than the northern—likely functioned as a grape pressing surface and collecting vat; Installation 17c, also a depression, was isolated and of unclear use.

Southeast of L17 was a rectangular unplastered basin (L18a; 1.05 × 1.20 m) cut into bedrock. It may have been used to store liquids, to gather loose olives before pressing or even as an animal feed trough.

Southwest of the olive press complex, two cup marks, one (L19a) with a conic section and the other (L19b) with a round section and a flat base, may have been used to crush small quantities of olives to produce oil.

Structures Outside the Farm Enclosure

A structure and various installations were found outside the farm enclosure (Plan 1) and seem to be associated with it. Slightly west of the olive-press complex were the crude remains of a small building (L2; 4.5 × 5.0 m) comprising a room and possibly a courtyard. Only the foundation level of the building survived, and nothing is known of its use.

Six meters west of the farmhouse was a small winepress (L20; Plan 1; Fig. 29) with an oval treading floor (diam. 2.8 × 3.2 m). North of this press was a collecting vat (0.5 × 0.5 m) with a small depression to collect liquid. The small winepress seems to have been for the local use of the farm, while the large olive press seems to have been built for trade, with olive oil probably representing the farm's primary product. Further to the west was a quarried cave (L21; Plan 1) with a square opening leading to a blocked passageway. Due to the proximity of the winepress and the cave, it is possible that the cave was used to store the wine during fermentation. In the surrounding area were field enclosures and ancient terraces. These were not recorded, so their connection to the farmhouse, if it existed, is not known.

Installations such as those excavated in L17 and L19 were found on a hillslope west of the farm. These were also associated with the production of oil and wine, but likely on a domestic scale, given their relatively small size.

Fig. 29. Rock-cut winepress (L20), looking southeast.

THE FINDS

THE POTTERY

The Iron Age

The Iron Age assemblage (Fig. 30) is typical of Judean sites dated to the eighth–seventh centuries BCE, the later phase of Iron IIC. Sites near Aderet with deposits of this period include Tel Baṭash Strata II and III (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001); the Bet Shemesh reservoir (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2003; 2016:85–153); and Lakhish Stratum II (Ussishkin 2004:90–93; Zimhoni 2004:1799–1805).

Notable in the assemblage are: burnished bowls with rounded sides and a folded rim, a type which occurred throughout Iron II (Fig. 30:1–6; Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:39–40; Gitin 2015:346–347, Fig. 3.3.1:8–13; Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016:132, Pl. 5.72: Type BL fld-rim); a burnished bowl with rounded sides and a hammerhead rim (Gitin 2015:328, Fig. 3.1.1:10); cylindrical holemouth storage jars (Fig. 30:9–14), which are ubiquitous in the final phase of Iron II in Judean sites (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:105–107; Gitin 2015:349, Pl. 3.3.5:10–13; Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016:136, Pl. 5.72: Type HM flt-rim); and typical pinched lamps with a heavy base (Fig. 30:15, 16; Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:133–134; Gitin 2015:351, Fig. 3.3.8:4, 5).

An unusual vessel is an Assyrian-type bowl (Fig. 30:8) with embossed bulbous decoration below a prominent carination (Ben-Shlomo 2014; Stern 2015a:534–535). Like other vessels of this type, the Aderet bowl is manufactured from finely levigated clay with an exceptionally thin section. Though no petrographic study was conducted, the bowl is likely to have been produced locally. A similar example of this bowl was found at ʻEqron, dating to the eighth–seventh centuries BCE (Gitin 1998:169, Fig. 3:10).

The Hellenistic Period

The assemblage from Aderet represents locally produced types with few fine wares: several bowls in the Attic tradition and molded lamps. The color of the fabrics in this assemblage is mostly buff, brown and reddish brown, all containing small white grits.

Bowls (Fig. 31)

The bowls of the Hellenistic period generally include roughly executed imitations of Attic forms (Berlin 2015:634) alongside local forms continuing earlier traditions. The local imitations are flat bowls with out-turned and flaring rims (Fig. 31:1, 2), crudely approximating the form of Attic fishplates, with production dates from the late fourth to the second centuries BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:293–294, Pl. 3.4; Levine 2003:83, Pl. 6.3:28–30; Stern and Alpert 2014:10, Fig. 3.6). Deeper bowls with out-turned rims (Fig. 31:3) clearly continue local forms of the Persian period, which are known to have persisted only as late as the second century BCE (Sandhaus 2009:209, Fig. 12.1:6–8; Sandhaus and

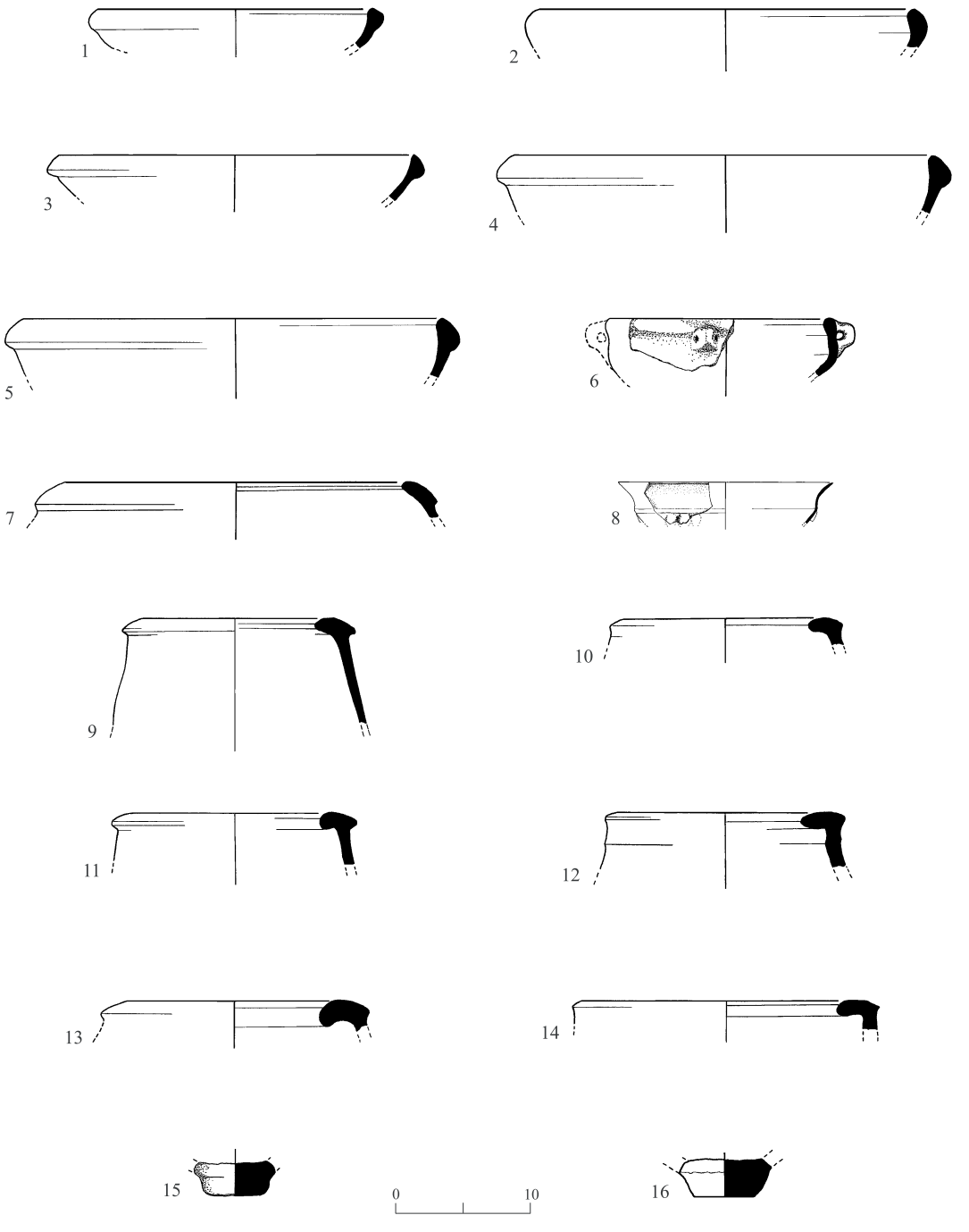


Fig. 30. Iron Age ceramics.

◂ **Fig. 30**

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	104/1	14	Rounded sides and folded rim; burnished, reddish-brown ware	Gitin 2015:346–347, Fig. 3.3.1:8–13 Tel Baṭash, Type BL13 (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:39–40, Fig.1) Beth Shemesh, Type BL fld-rim (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2016:132, Pl. 5.72)
2	Bowl	26/1	5	Rounded sides and folded rim; burnished, brown ware	As No. 1
3	Bowl	24/2	4	Rounded sides and folded rim; reddish-brown ware	As No. 1
4	Bowl	38/1	5	Rounded sides and folded rim; burnished, reddish-brown ware	As No. 1
5	Bowl	32/1	5	Rounded sides and folded rim; burnished, reddish-brown ware	As No. 1
6	Bowl	153/1	27	Handle; buff ware	Tel Baṭash, Type BL13 (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:40, Pl. 60:9)
7	Bowl	133/1	13	Rounded sides with hammerhead rim; burnished, brown ware	Gitin 2015:328, Fig. 3.1.1:10
8	Bowl	143/1	13	Assyrian-type, thin-walled, carinated; embossed decoration; light brown ware	Stern 2015:534–535, Pl. 4.4.1:15, 16 ʻEqron (Gitin 1998:169, Fig. 3:10)
9	Jar	148/1	17	Cylindrical holemouth; brown ware	Gitin 2015:349, Pl. 3.3.5:10–13 Tel Baṭash (Mazar and Panitz-Cohen 2001:105–107, Fig. 6) Bet Shemesh (Bunimovitz and Lederman 2003: Fig. 9:6, 7; 2016:136, Fig. 5.72, Type HM flt-rim)
10	Jar	95/15	15	Cylindrical holemouth; brown ware	As No. 9
11	Jar	65/5	7	Cylindrical holemouth; brown ware	As No. 9
12	Jar	133/3	13	Cylindrical holemouth; brown ware	As No. 9
13	Jar	95/12	15	Cylindrical holemouth; brown ware	As No. 9
14	Jar	56/5	9	Cylindrical holemouth brown ware	As No. 9
15	Lamp	115/38	17	Heavy base fragment; reddish-brown ware	Gitin 2015:351, Pl. 3.3.8:4, 5
16	Lamp	56/9	9	Heavy base fragment; reddish-brown ware	As No. 15

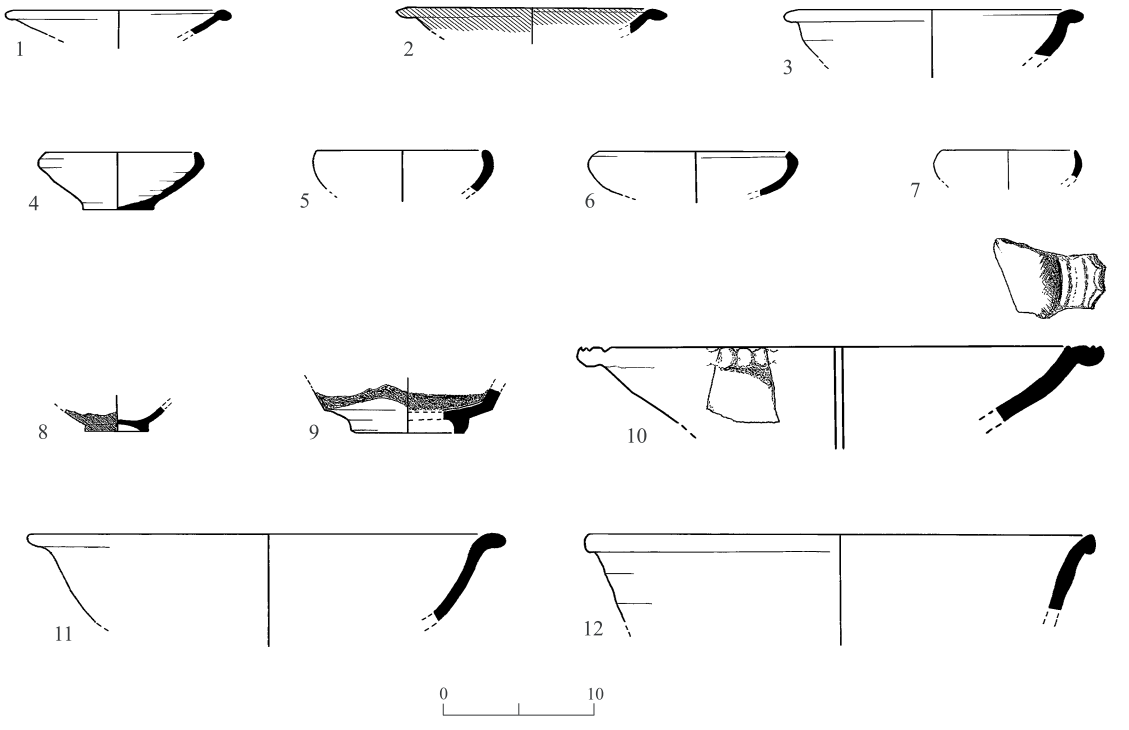


Fig. 31. Hellenistic-period bowls and mortaria.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Bowl	102/2	11	Shallow bowl or lid with an out-turned rim; reddish-brown ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.2:6, 7 Jerusalem, City of David Str. 7B (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.4:1) Maresha (Levine 2003:83, Pl. 6.3:28–30; Stern and Alpert 2014: Fig. 3.6)
2	Bowl	115/2	17	Shallow bowl with out-turned rim; buff ware with red slip	As No. 1
3	Bowl	90/7	16b	Rounded sides with an out-curved flat rim; buff ware	Maresha (Stern and Alpert 2014: Fig. 3.8) Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus 2009: Fig. 12.1:6–8; Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015: Figs. 2:1, 2; 5:1, 2) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.1:1)
4	Bowl	29	5	Rounded sides with an incurving rim and string-cut base; buff ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.3:10–19 Maresha (Levine 2003:83–84, Fig. 6.2:31–33; Stern and Alpert 2014: Fig. 3.4) Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus 2011:120, Fig. 2.6:1–5) Kh. er-Rasm (Sandhaus 2011:120, Fig. 2.6:3, 4)
5	Bowl	115/1	17	Rounded sides with an incurving rim; buff ware	As No. 4
6	Bowl	69/1	7	Rounded sides with an incurving rim; reddish-buff ware	As No. 4

Fig. 31. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
7	Bowl	66/1	15	Rounded sides with an incurving rim; reddish-brown ware with black slip	As No. 4
8	Bowl	37/4	5	Out-curved carinated bowl; brown ware with black slip	Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Pl. 6.2:3–9)
9	Bowl	32/4	5	Out-curved carinated bowl; buff ware with black slip on int.	As No. 8
10	Mortarium	114/1	16	Out-turned rim and thumbed decoration; buff ware	Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Pl. 6.10:5–8)
11	Mortarium	24/3	4	Out-turned ridged rim; reddish-brown ware	Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Pl. 6.9:8, 9)
12	Mortarium/ stand	143/2	13	Out-turned rim; buff ware	As No. 11

Kreimerman 2015: Fig. 2:1, 2). Another common bowl type at Aderet, also an imitation, is a round bowl with an incurving rim (Fig. 31:4–7), developing from the Attic original in the fourth century and attested in several varieties through the first century BCE (Levine 2003:83, Pl. 6.2:31–33; Sandhaus 2011:120, Fig. 2.6:1–5; Berlin 2015:634, Pl. 6.1.3:10–19). Another bowl in the Attic tradition with an out-curved carinated rim and a distinctive black slip (Fig. 31:8, 9) originated in the Persian period and remained in use until the third century BCE (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:290–291, Pl. 6.2:3–9). There are also a few large mortaria with out-turned rims (Fig. 31:11, 12; see Guz-Zilberstein 1995:295, Pl. 6.9:8, 9) and one with thumbed decoration around the rim (Fig. 31:10; see Guz-Zilberstein 1995:295–296, Pl. 6.10:5–10), both typical of the fourth to the third centuries BCE.

Cooking Pots and Casseroles (Fig. 32)

Casseroles (Fig. 32:1–3) with an out-turned rim and two loop handles are generally attested from the late fourth century BCE to the end of the Hellenistic period (Levine 2003:95; Sandhaus 2011:116; Stern and Alpert 2014:11–12; Berlin 2015:636).

Globular cooking pots, with a number of variations, appeared over a long time span throughout the Hellenistic period. Cooking pots with their widest diameter set below the mid-point of the vessel and a smooth surface (Fig. 32:4–7) are typical of southern sites in Israel from contexts predating the late second century BCE. Though this type consists of subtypes with a variety of neck and rim forms (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:298–299), these are of little chronological significance in the period between the fourth and second centuries BCE (Berlin 2015:636). The assemblage also includes a number of globular pots with a high vertical neck and a ribbed body (Fig. 32:8–10), which are usually dated from the second century BCE onward (Levine 2003:94; Sandhaus 2011:115, Fig. 2.4:8, 9; Berlin 2015:636, Pl. 8.1.8:1–3), although their appearance in Aderet suggests that they were produced from as early as the later decades of the third century BCE.

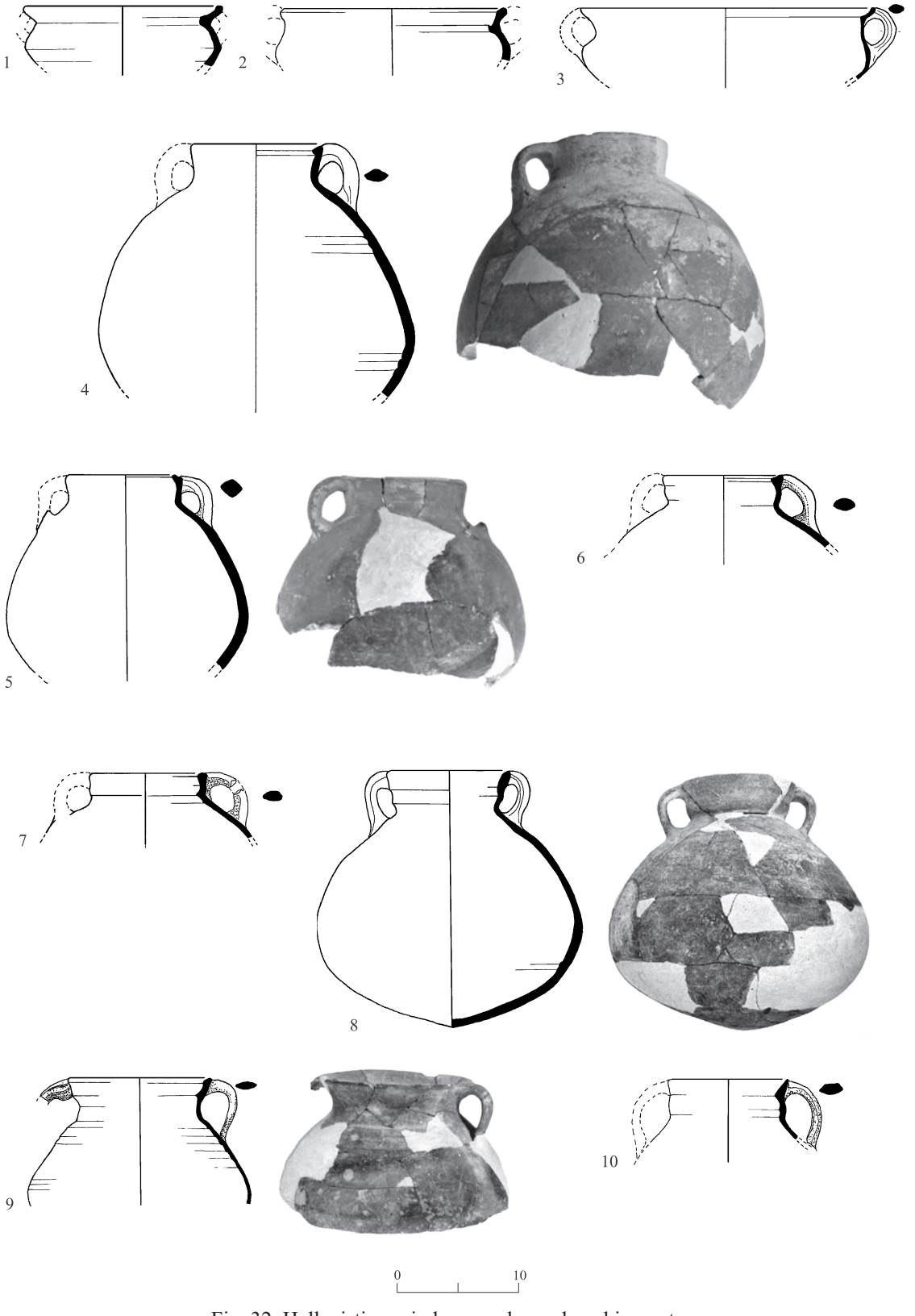


Fig. 32. Hellenistic-period casseroles and cooking pots.

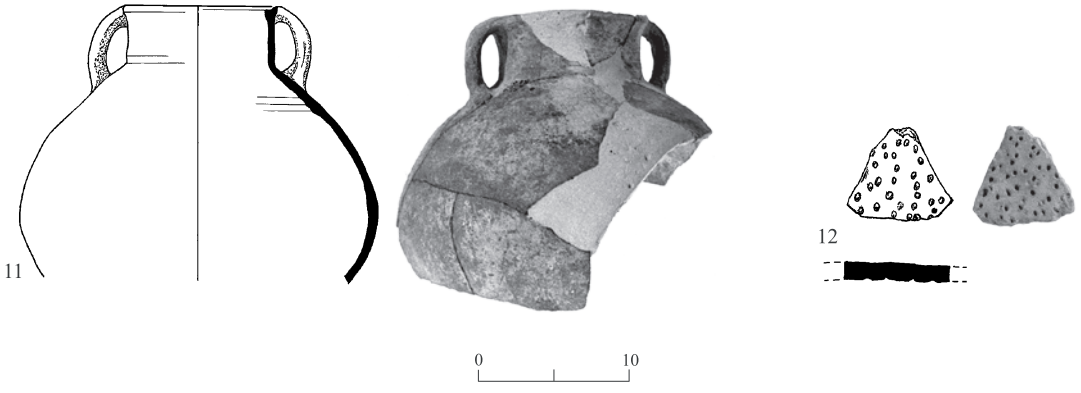


Fig. 32. (cont.).

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Casserole	29/10	5	Brown ware	Maresha (Levine 2003:95, Pl. 6.6:77; Stern and Alpert 2014:11–12, Fig. 3.12) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.1:7) Kh. er-Rasm (Sandhaus 2011:116, Fig. 2.4:14)
2	Casserole	53/5	5a	Brown ware	As No. 1
3	Casserole	16/4	4	Brown ware	As No. 1
4	Cooking pot	134/3	13	Globular; reddish-brown ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.7:5–8 Maresha (Levine 2003: Pl. 6.6:69) Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995:298, Fig. 6.17:4)
5	Cooking pot	142/7	13	Globular; reddish-brown ware	As No. 4
6	Cooking pot	134/6	13	Globular; reddish-brown ware	As No. 4
7	Cooking pot	105/5	14	Globular; brown ware	As No. 4
8	Cooking pot	37/2	5	Globular; brown ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 8.1.8:1–3 Maresha (Levine 2003:94, Pl. 6.6:70, 71) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 7B (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.4:6) Kh. er-Rasm (Sandhaus 2011:115, Fig. 2.4:8, 9)
9	Cooking pot	35/7	5	Globular; brown ware	As No. 8
10	Cooking pot	46/5	5	Globular; brown ware	As No. 8
11	Cooking pot	69/5	7	Globular; brown ware	Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.1:4)
12	Brazier	130/1	9	Brown ware	

Storage Jars (Figs. 33–35)

Storage jars were by far the commonest pottery type uncovered at Aderet, a pattern typical of the Hellenistic period, especially in rural sites. The Aderet jars closely resemble Hellenistic-period jars found in other Judean sites, while they differ from those found on the coastal plain at that time, in line with the regional distinctions noted by Berlin (2015:636–637). Of the four types of jars found at Maresha (Levine 2003:95–89, Figs. 6.7–8), the Aderet group comprises three, dated from the Persian to the Hellenistic periods. These three types include two early types of storage jars with rounded shoulders, a long neck and either ovoid (Fig. 35:1; Levine 2003: Fig. 6.7:78) or sack-like (Fig. 34; Levine 2003: Fig. 6.7:79) bodies, while the third, late jar type has an ovoid body and a short neck (Fig. 34; Levine 2003: Fig. 6.7:80). Similar jars were found at Kh. Qeiyafa, where parallels are described in detail (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015:255, 261, Figs. 3, 5). The rims vary greatly among these jar types but are usually out-turned and thickened.

Jugs (Fig. 36)

Large globular jugs with beveled, flat or plain rims had a long lifespan, beginning in the late Persian and lasting throughout the Hellenistic periods (Berlin 2015:637–638, Pl. 6.1.17). Numerous examples are found at Maresha (Levine 2003:100–104, Pls. 6.10, 6.11). The Aderet examples (Fig. 36:1–11) have a variety of rims, with handles attached to them, and various heights. Also found was a table amphora (Fig. 36:12) with two handles attached below the rim, and a ring base, dating from the Hellenistic period (see Levine 2003:99, Fig. 6.9:87, 88; Sandhaus 2011:117; Stern 2015b:572, Pl. 5.1.15:3, 4).

Fig. 33 ▸

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	76/1	14b	Sack-shaped with short neck; buff ware	Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015: Fig. 3:7, 8) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.3:115)
2	115/5	17	Sack-shaped with short neck; light brown ware	As No. 1
3	69/3	7	Sack-shaped with short neck; light brown ware	As No. 1
4	56/4	8	Sack-shaped with short neck; light brown ware	As No. 1
5	133/6	13	Sack-shaped with short neck; buff ware	As No. 1
6	129/2	11	Sack-shaped with short neck; buff ware	As No. 1
7	38/7	5	Sack-shaped with short neck; light brown ware	As No. 1

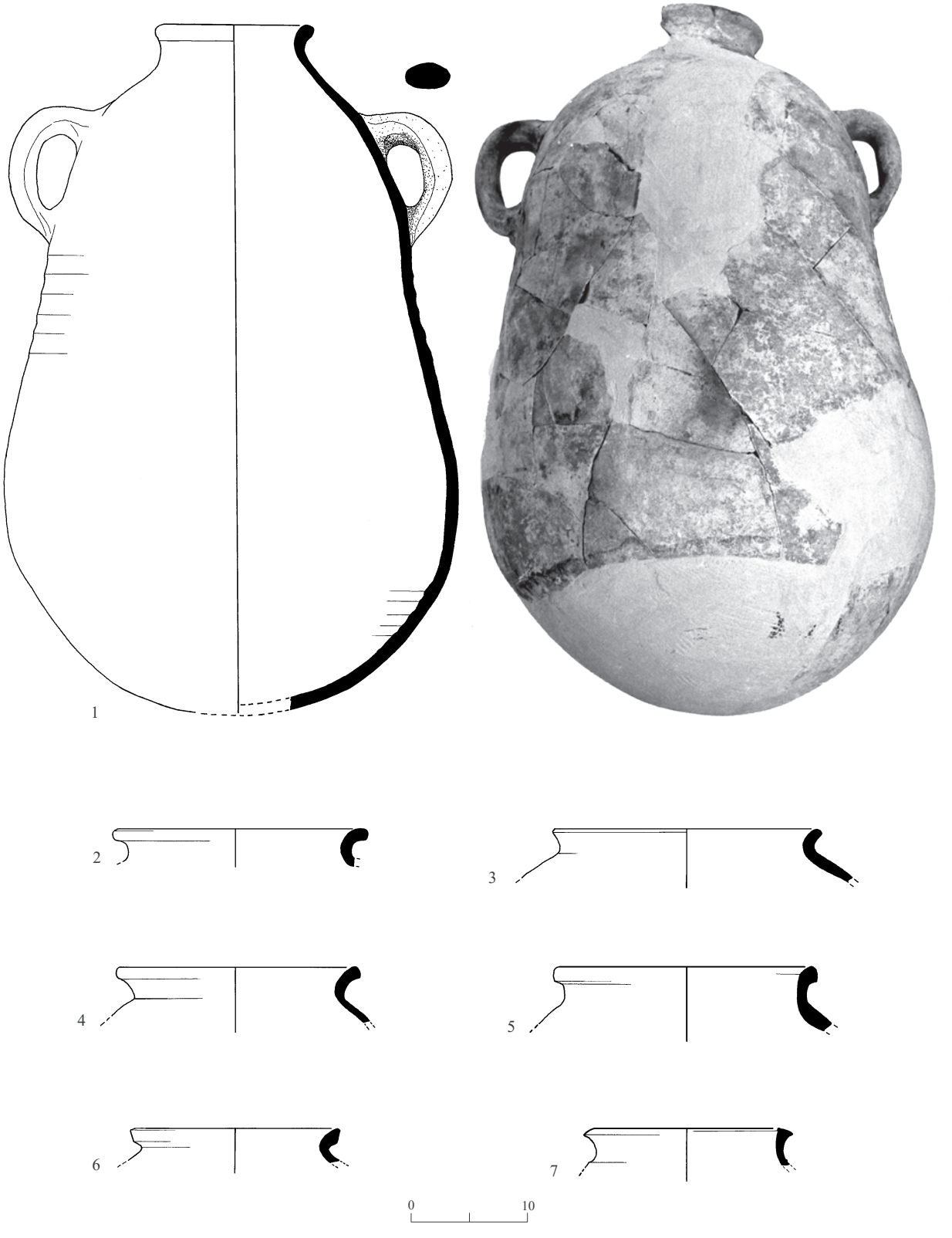


Fig. 33. Hellenistic-period storage jars.

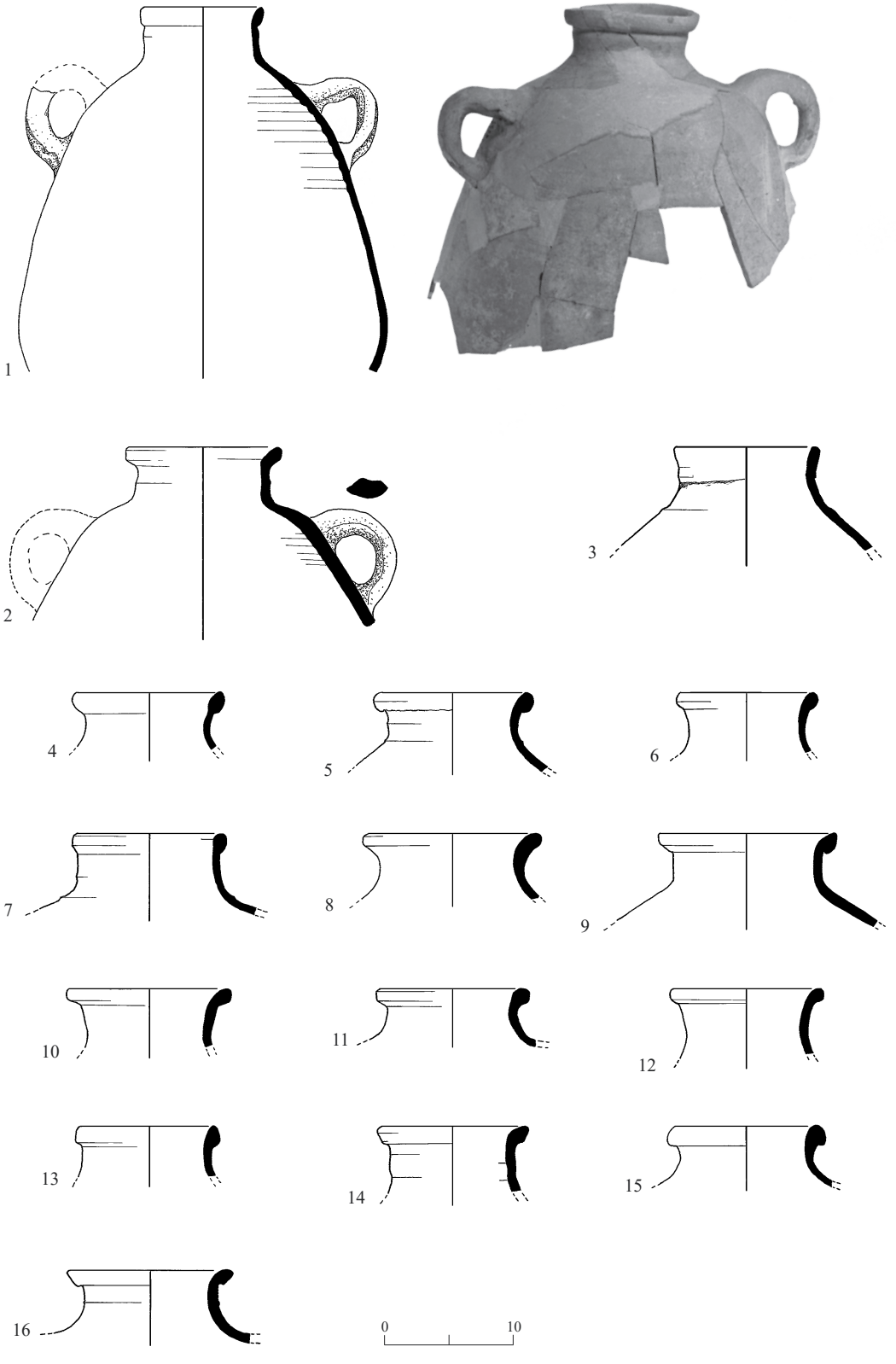


Fig. 34. Hellenistic-period storage jars (cont.).

◂ **Fig. 34**

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	37/1	5	Sack-shaped with long neck; buff ware	Maresha (Levine 2003: Pl. 6.7:78) Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015: Figs. 3:1–6; 5:3–5) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Figs. 2.2:1; 2.3:10–14)
2	24/5	4	Sack-shaped with long neck; buff ware	As No.1
3	28/2	4	Sack-shaped with long neck; brown ware	As No.1
4	102/6	11	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
5	105/1	14	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
6	105/3	14	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
7	143/1	13	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
8	115/3	17	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
9	144/1	13a	Sack-shaped with long neck; reddish-brown ware	As No.1
10	71/1	16	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
11	93/10	11/12	Sack-shaped with long neck; buff ware	As No.1
12	53/1	5a	Sack-shaped with long neck; buff ware	As No.1
13	53/4	5a	Sack-shaped with long neck; buff ware	As No.1
14	95/3	15	Sack-shaped with long neck; buff ware	As No.1
15	47/1	4	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1
16	38/4	5	Sack-shaped with long neck; light brown ware	As No.1

Fig. 35. Hellenistic-period storage jars (cont.).

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	124/2	14	Reverse ovoid with short neck; buff ware	Maresha (Levine 2003: Pl. 6.8:82–83) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.3:9)
2	46/2	5	Brown ware	
3	53/3	5a	Buff ware	
4	62/7	9	Light brown ware	

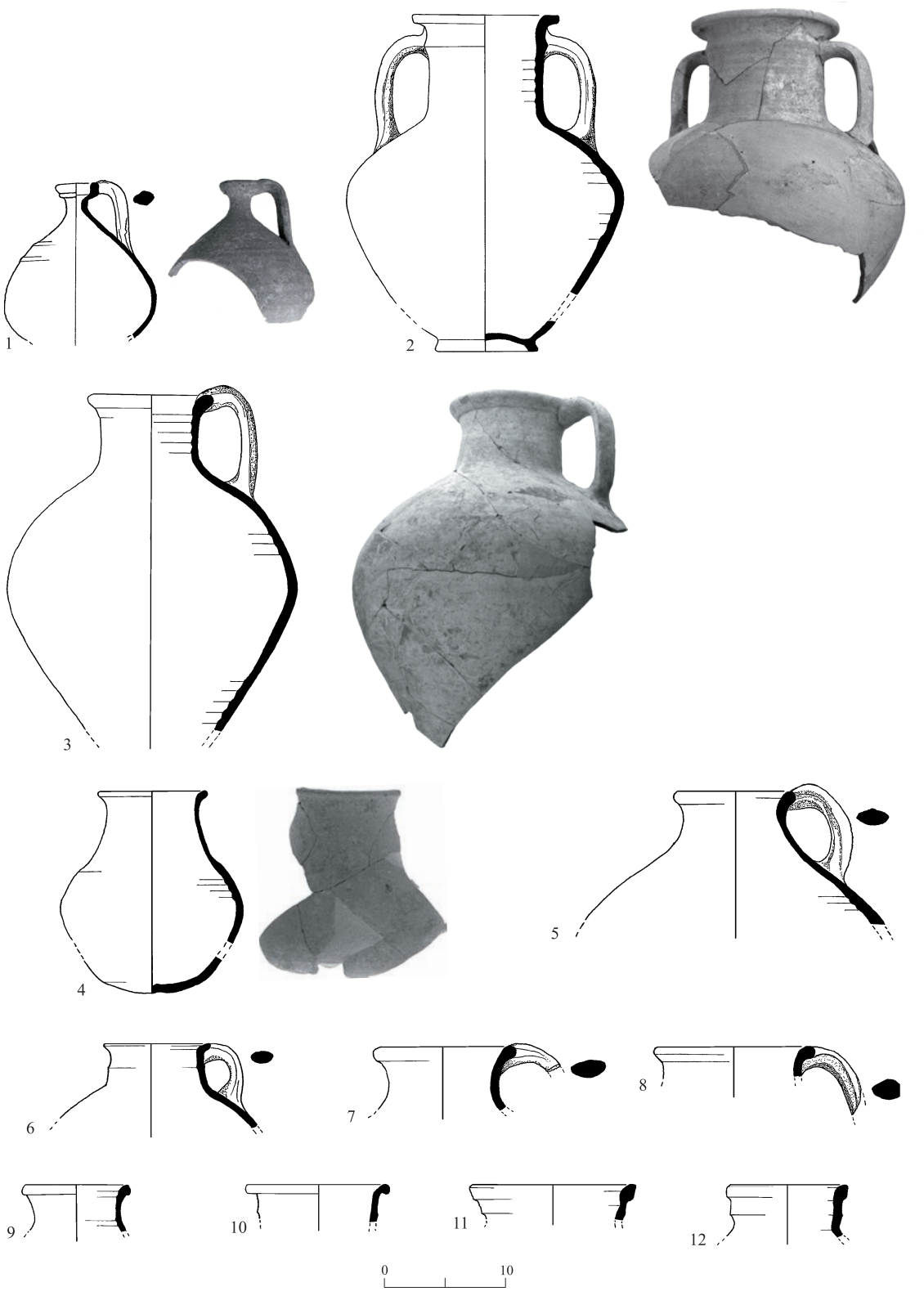


Fig. 36. Hellenistic-period jugs and table amphora.

◂ **Fig. 36**

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Jug	137/2	13a	Globular with cup rim; buff ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.18:11, 12 Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.1:10)
2	Jug	46/1	5	Globular with thickened rim; buff ware	Maresha (Levine 2003:100–104, Pl. 6.10–11) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Figs. 2.1:11; 2.3:1–8)
3	Jug	39/3	6	Globular with thickened rim; buff ware	As No. 2
4	Jug	38/5	5	Globular with thickened rim; reddish-brown ware	As No. 2
5	Jug	69/7	7	Globular with thickened rim; reddish-brown ware	As No. 2
6	Jug	142/6	13	Globular with thickened rim; buff ware	As No. 2
7	Jug	90/1	16b	Globular with thickened rim; buff ware	As No. 2
8	Jug	42/1	5	Out-turned rim; light brown ware	
9	Jug	56/1	9	Out-turned rim; reddish-brown ware	
10	Jug	28/5	4	Out-turned rim; reddish-brown ware	
11	Jug	102/7	11	Out-turned rim; buff ware	
12	Table amphora	39/2	6	Flat rim and two handles attached to shoulder; buff ware	Maresha (Levine 2013:99, Fig. 6.9:87, 88; Stern and Alpert 2014:12, Fig. 3.14) Kh. er-Rasm (Sandhaus 2011:117, Fig. 2.5:1, 2) Stern 2015:572, Pl. 5.1.15:3, 4

Flasks

Also found in the assemblage are flasks (Fig. 37:1–3) with long narrow necks and two handles. These are usually dated to the second century BCE (Berlin 2015:638–639, Pl. 6.1.19:1–5), although there exists a very similar precursor of this type, dated between the Persian and the early Hellenistic periods (Sandhaus 2009:217, Fig. 12.6:15–17; Stern 2015b:574, Pl. 5.1.18:10).

Fusiform Ungentaria (Fig. 37:4–8)

These vessels have a long history, initially occurring as imported Greek forms and later as local Palestinian copies. While in general, the slenderer the form the later the date, this is not enough to determine their dating with certainty, with the various forms known from the third to the first centuries BCE (Levine 2003:113–114; Berlin 2015:639).

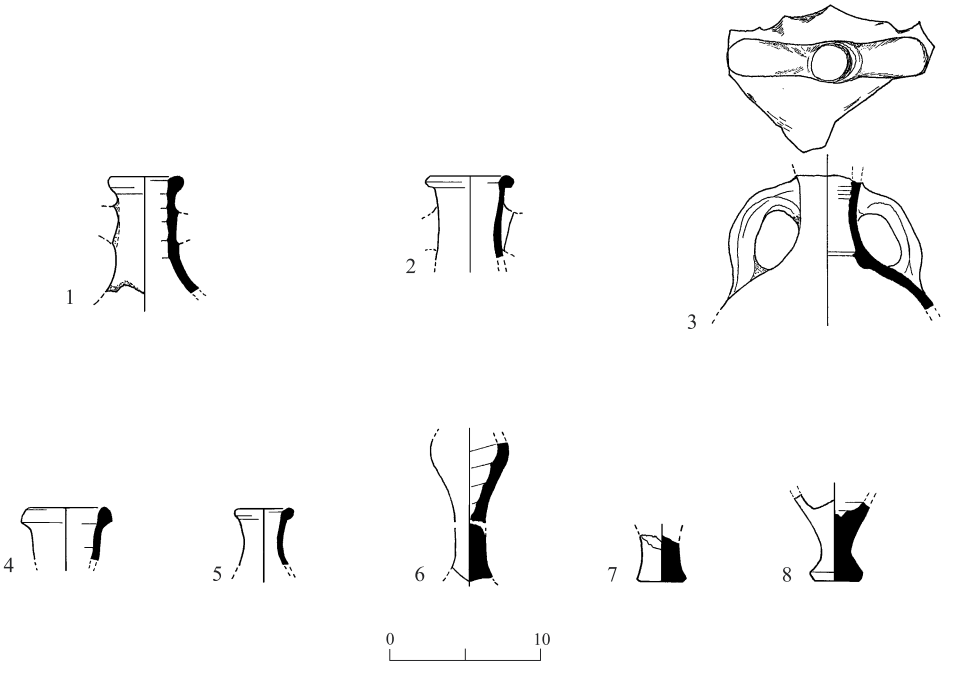


Fig. 37. Hellenistic-period flasks and ungentaria.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Flask	84/1	13	Long neck and two handles; orange-red ware, buff slip	Stern 2015: Pl. 5.1.18:10 (Persian) or Berlin 2015:6.1.19:1–5 (Hellenistic); Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus 2009: Fig. 12.6:15–17)
2	Flask	95/1	15	Long neck and two handles; light brown ware	As No. 1
3	Flask	68/3	9	No rim; buff ware	As No. 1
4	Unguentarium	97/1	16b	Fusiform shape; light brown ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.20 Maresha (Levine 2003: Pl. 6.14) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 7B (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.4:2–4) Tel Mikhal Str. V (Fisher 1989: Fig. 13.1:11, 12)
5	Unguentarium	68/1	9	Fusiform shape; buff ware	As No. 1
6	Unguentarium	65/6	7	Fusiform shape; base; brown ware	As No. 1
7	Unguentarium	50/3	9	Fusiform shape; base; light brown ware	As No. 1
8	Unguentarium	13/7	4	Fusiform shape; base; light brown ware	As No. 1

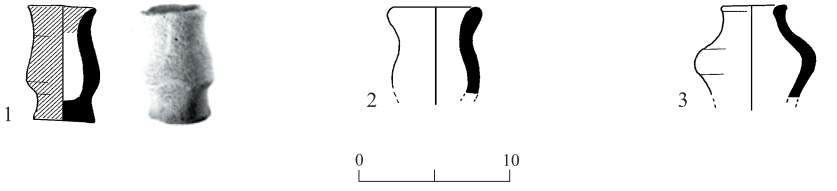


Fig. 38. Hellenistic-period ointment bottles.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	25	4	Ointment bottle; light, reddish-brown ware with red slip	Dor (Guz-Zilberstein 1995: Photo 6.22, Pl. 6.25:6–14) Jerusalem, Jewish Quarter (Geva and Hershkowitz 2006: Pl. 4.12:3)
2	16/1	4	Ointment bottle	As No. 1
3	82/1	11	Ointment bottle; light, reddish-brown ware	Maresha (Stern and Alpert 2014:18, Fig. 3:30) Tel Anafa (Berlin 1997:70–71, Pl. 15:PW123–126)

Miniature Ointment Bottles (Fig. 38)

Three Hellenistic ointment bottles were found. These miniature vessels have a heavy, elongated piriform body with an everted rim and a solid disc base. Though not of frequent occurrence, these vessels, of which a number of variants are known, have been uncovered at many sites dating from the third century BCE till the first century CE in Israel and throughout the Hellenistic world. The examples from Aderet fall into Type A of Hershkovitz' (1986) typology, noting parallels from Tell el-Ful, Ramat Raḥel, Tel Bet Yeraḥ, Tel Dor, Tel Anafa, Samaria, Pella, Masada, Jericho and the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, together with vessels of the third to the second centuries BCE in Greece and Asia Minor (Hershkovitz 1986:45–47; see also Guz-Zilberstein 1995:303–304, Photo 6.22, Pl. 6.25:6–14; Geva and Herschkowitz 2006:107, Pl. 4.12:3).

The fact that as many as three bottles of this type were found in a rural context of the Southern Levant deserves some consideration. Though the use of these vessels had been an issue of debate, the discovery of examples stamped with the word "ΛΥΚΙΟΝ", the name of an ancient medical ointment used as an astringent for the treatment of inflammations and eye infections, leaves little doubt that this ointment was the content of the vessels (Sjoqvist 1960; Herschkowitz 1986:50; Guz-Zilberstein 1995:302–303, Pl. 6.25:1, 2; Berlin 1997:68–73). Berlin (1997:69) suggested that the bottles were imported from Lycia between the Hellenistic and the Herodian (Early Roman) periods and probably sold in small quantities because of their high value; it is also quite probable that local imitations were produced, as illustrated by the presence at Tel Anafa of exemplars manufactured from Phoenician semi-fine ware, raw material originating from the northern Levantine coast.

Lamps (Fig. 39)

Three lamp types were found at Aderet. The first is a saucer lamp with a pinched nozzle (Fig. 39:1–3). The specimens from Aderet are less open than those known from the Persian period but still wider than those of the Hasmonean period (see Berlin 2015:639, Pl. 6.1.22:1–5; Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015:263, Fig. 5:11) and hence, they are considered transitional. The second lamp type is a local immitation of round-bodied, wheel-made lamps (Fig. 39:4–6) produced in coastal sites from as early as the late fourth century, becoming common in northern sites in the early third century, and in the Central Hills by the late third century (Levine 2003:115, Pl. 6.15:152; Berlin 2015:639–640, Pl. 6.1.22:6–8). The final lamp type is molded with a stubby nozzle (Fig. 39:7–9). The introduction of mold-made lamps around 200 BCE signaled a revolution in the manufacturing techniques of lamps in

Fig. 39 ▸

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	71/10	16	Saucer lamp with pinched nozzle; buff ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.22:1–5 Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015: Fig. 5:11) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.1:12)
2	93/12	11/12	Saucer lamp with pinched nozzle; buff ware	As No. 1
3	102/14	11	Saucer lamp with pinched nozzle; buff ware and soot on nozzle	As No. 1
4	31/6	4	Plain, wheel-made lamp; buff ware	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.22:6–8; Maresha (Levine 2003: Pl. 6.15:152) Kh. Qeiyafa (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015: Fig. 5:12) Jerusalem, City of David Str. 8 (Berlin 2012: Fig. 2.1:13)
5	69/9	7	Plain, wheel-made lamp; reddish-brown ware; soot on nozzle	As No. 4
6	31/6	4	Plain, wheel-made lamp; reddish ware	As No. 4
7	20	4	Molded lamp with volute decoration; buff ware with grayish-black slip	Berlin 2015: Pl. 6.1.22:9 Maresha (Levine 2003: Pl. 6.16:160, 161; Pl. 6.17:167) Tel Mikhal, Str. V (Fisher 1989: Fig. 13.1:14)
8	61	7	Molded lamp with volute decoration; buff ware with red slip	As No. 7
9	45	7	Molded lamp with volute decoration; buff ware with red slip	As No. 7

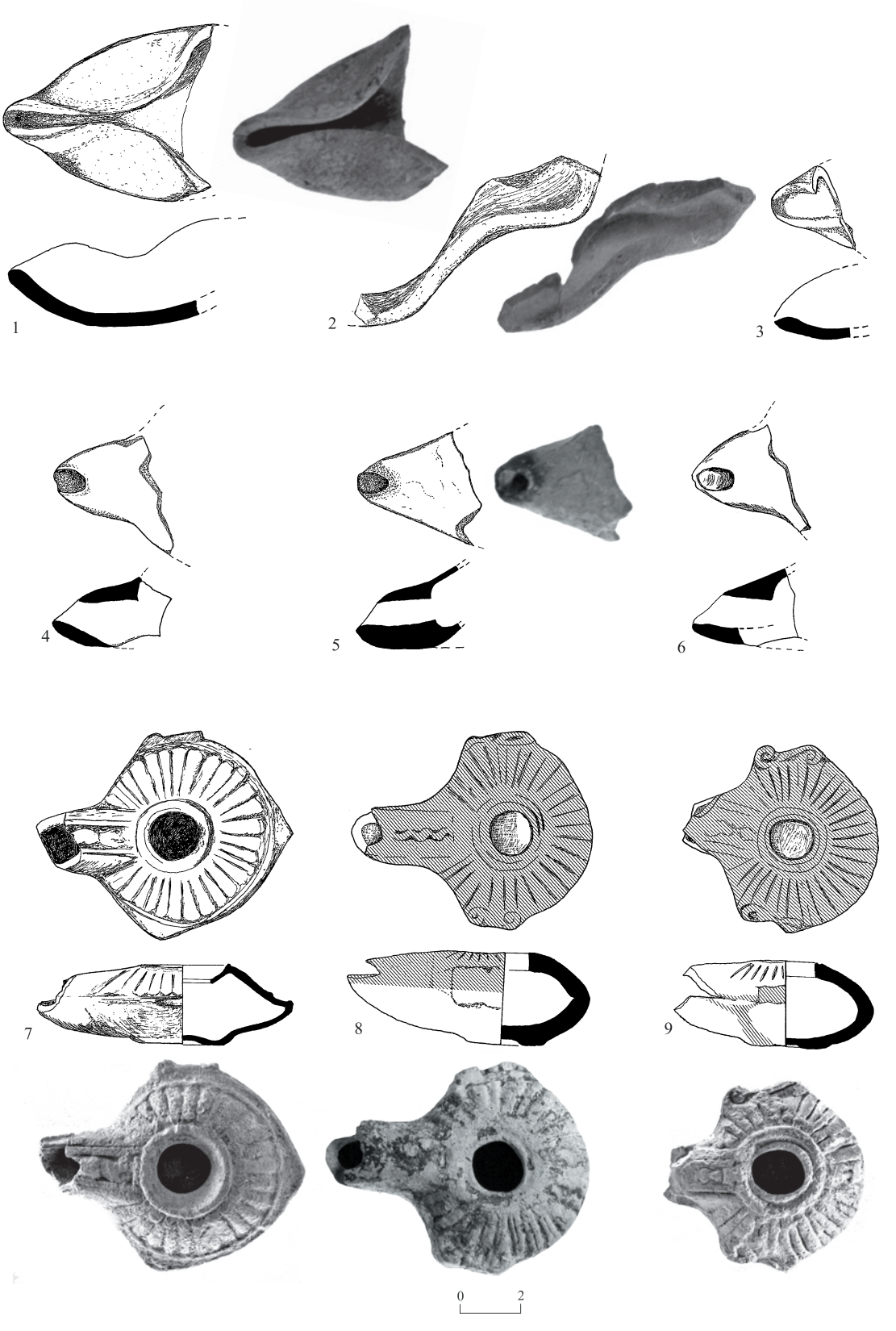


Fig. 39. Hellenistic-period lamps.

the Mediterranean region (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2015:686, Pl. 6.2.13:6–8). The shoulder of the lamp is decorated with radial petals and two volutes at the side; the volutes appear as a degenerative form of the decoration typical of an earlier variant of this lamp type. The lamps with radial decoration on the shoulder became popular in the eastern Mediterranean region from the late third to the early first centuries BCE, their manufacture occurring in several production centers (Rosenthal-Heginbottom 2015:686). Nearby Aderet, at Maresha, these common lamps are dated to the second–first centuries (Levine 2003:116), based on examples listed by Rosenthal and Sivan (1978:13), though examples dated to the third century are attested in Tel Mikhal Stratum V (Fischer 1989:79, Fig. 13.1:14).

THE COINS

Jon Seligman, Marcia Sharabani and Donald T. Ariel

Ten coins were collected during the excavations, seven of which were identified (Fig. 40)—one made from silver and the others from bronze. Four of these are Ptolemaic (Nos. 1–4), two date to the reign of Alexander Jannaeus (104–76 BCE; Nos. 5, 6) and one was minted by Elagabalus (218–222 CE) at Sidon (No. 7). Coin No. 3 is a Ptolemaic silver *tetradrachm* of the 'uncertain era' (Lorber 2007). Yogev (1984) noted eight coins in her publication, of which she presumably relied upon the Ptolemaic specimens to date the olive press to the third century BCE.

1. Reg. No. 77, L13 (near W2), IAA 11133.
Ptolemy III Euergetes, Ioppe, 245/4 BCE.
Obv.: Diademed head of Ptolemy I r.
Rev.: [- - -] Eagle with closed wings stg. l. on thunderbolt; in l. field: [·] above A ligature; in r. field: Γ above Θ
Æ *tetradrachm*, ↑, 11.903 g, 25 mm.
CPE I/II:427, No. S872; Yogev 1984:82 (this coin). Provenanced coins of Ioppe are rare in the archaeological record (six are documented in the IAA National Coin database). A *tetradrachm* minted in Ioppe in 246/5 BCE, a year before this coin, was found at nearby Maresha (Kloner 2008:171; *CPE* I/II:426, No. S869).

2. Reg. No. 92, L12 (atop the floor), IAA 11135.
Ptolemy III Euergetes, Alexandria, c. 230–197 BCE.
Obv.: Horned head of Zeus Ammon r., wearing taenia with *basileion* above forehead.
Rev.: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ–ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Eagle with closed wings stg. l. on thunderbolt; in l. field, cornucopias bound with royal diadem oriented l.; between eagle's legs: ℞
Æ *hemiobol*, ↑, 5.371 g, 19 mm. Central cavities.
CPE I/II:95, No. B399. A *hemiobol* of the same type was found at nearby Maresha (Ariel 2019:337, No. A36).

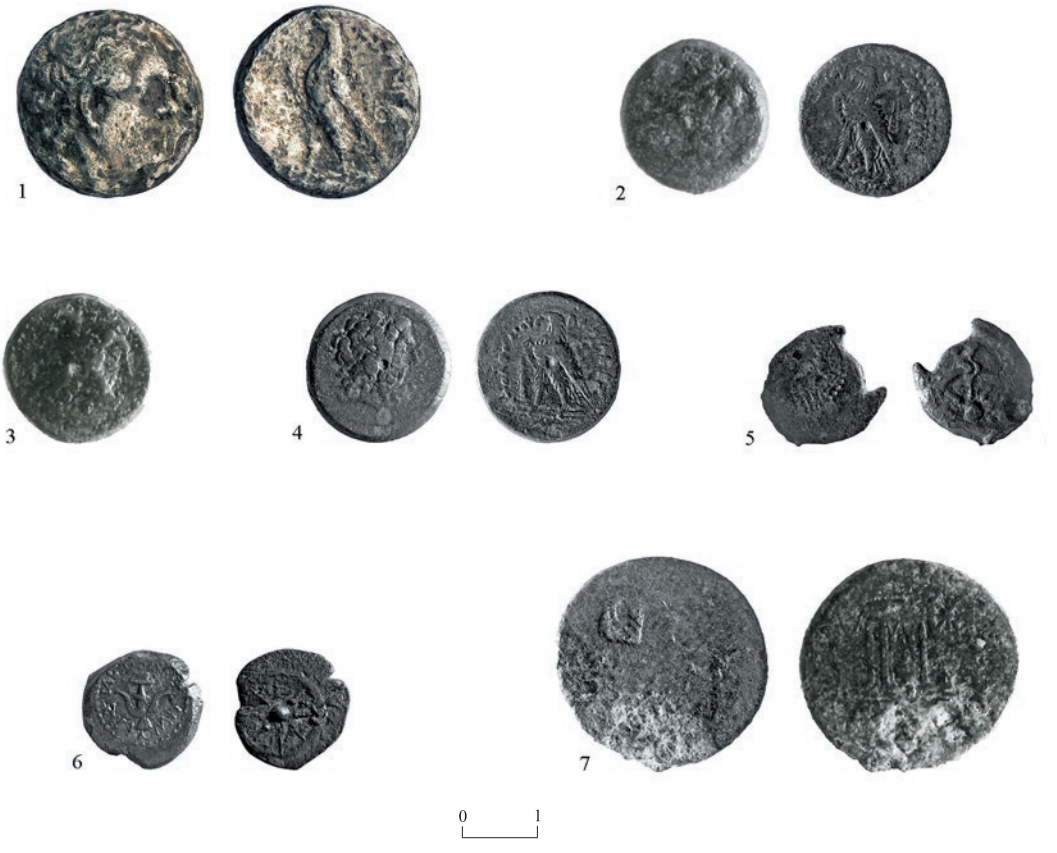


Fig. 40. Coins.

3. Reg. No. 119, L16 (in area south of the oil press), IAA 11134.
Ptolemy III Euergetes (246–222 BCE).
Obv.: Bust of Zeus Ammon r.
Rev.: [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ]–ΠΤΟΛΕΜ[ΑΙΟΥ] Eagle with closed wings l. on thunderbolt; in l. field, cornucopias bound with royal diadem oriented l.
Æ *hemiobol*, ↑, 5.506 g, 19 mm. Central cavities.
Cf. *CPE* I/II:95, No. B399. See Coin No. 2.

4. Reg. No. 100, L15 (atop the bedrock floor, south of the vat in Room 15), IAA 11132.
Ptolemy III Euergetes (246–222 BCE), Tyre.
Obv.: Horned head of Zeus-Ammon r., wearing taenia with *basileion* above forehead.
Rev.: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ–ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ Eagle with closed wings stg. l. on thunderbolt; in l. field, club.
Æ *obol*, ↑, 5.392 g, 20 mm.
Hemiobol, central cavities.

CPE I/II:116, No. B468. Fourteen *obols* of the same type as this coin were found at nearby Maresha, 12 published (Ariel 2019:338, Nos. A46–A57) and two unpublished.

5. Reg. No. 67, L9 (in fill beside W9), IAA 11137.
Alexander Jannaeus (104–80/79 BCE), Jerusalem.
Obv.: [ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ] ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔ(ΡΟΥ) Anchor.
Rev.: Star in diadem; between rays: [- - -].
Æ, 1.919 g, 16 mm.
TJC:209–210, Group K.

6. Reg. No. 116, L17 (in the fill), IAA 11136.
Alexander Jannaeus (104–80/79 BCE), Jerusalem.
Obv.: ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡ(ΟΥ) Anchor.
Rev.: Star in diadem; between rays: [- - -].
Æ, 2.679 g, 16 mm.
TJC:209–210, Group K.

7. Reg. No. 65, L4 (room in farmhouse), IAA 11131.
Elagabalus (218–222 CE), Sidon.
Obv.: [- - -] Bust r.; on r. shoulder, unclear rectangular countermark.
Rev.: [- - -] Car of Astarte on two wheels, with four columns supporting the roof; within, spherical objects (baetyls).
Æ, ↑, 8.31 g, 25 mm.
Cf. *BMC Phoen.*:186, No. 255. The countermark on this coin depicts a car of Astarte, and the same depiction may appear on the countermark of one of the unidentified coins. The latter coin was photographed before cleaning, and its cleaning did not reveal more identifying details, save a 3 mm piercing at 12 o'clock.

MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

Finds other than the pottery were few. Of great interest is a rare small bronze bowl (Fig. 41:1), for which parallels were hard to find. Other metal finds included a cosmetic pincer (Fig. 41:2) and a spatula (Fig. 41:3) decorated with an incised band twisting around the shaft just above the spoon. The only tool found at the site was an iron chisel (Fig. 41:4), while a few nails (not illustrated) were also uncovered. The few glass finds dated far later than the period of occupation at Aderet: an almost complete candlestick-type bottle (Room 4; Fig. 42) has parallels dated to the first and the second centuries CE (Winter 1996:98); a bowl-shaped oil lamp with a wick tube is of Byzantine date; and a rim of a bottle with a ridged neck is typical of the eighth century CE. Other finds included some glass and frit beads (Fig. 43), a milling stone (Fig. 44) and a stone mortar (not illustrated).

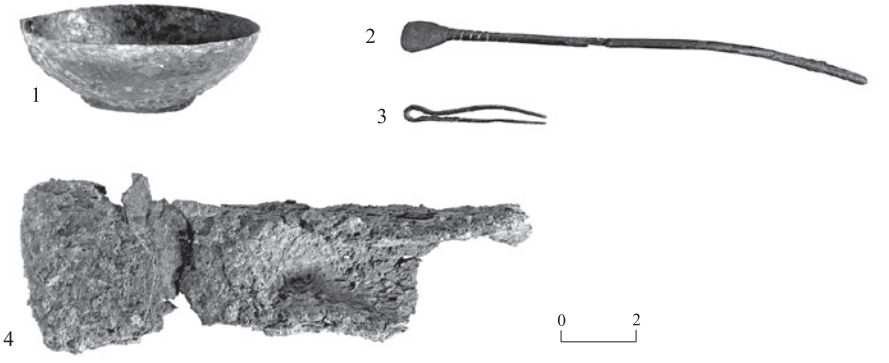


Fig. 41. Metal finds.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description
1	Bowl	51	9	Flat base; bronze; dimensions: weight 18 g; diam. 7.8 cm; height 2.2 cm
2	Spatula	59	16	Cosmetic spatula; bronze; dimensions: 4 g; length 12.4 cm; width of spoon 0.8 cm
3	Pincers	99	11	Bronze; dimensions: 2 g; length 3.8 cm
4	Chisel(?)	52	6a	Iron; dimensions: 126 g; length 13.5 cm; width 4.6 cm

Fig. 42. Glass.

No.	Vessel	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	Bottle	18	4	Small candlestick-type bottle with a triangular body and a constriction between body and neck; slightly concave base; no pontil mark; no rim; bluish-green glass, displaying iridescence and pitting	Akeldama (Winter 1996:98, Fig. 5.5:1–3)

Fig. 43. Beads.

No.	Basket	Locus	Description	Parallels
1	147/1	13	Bead; biconical; cobalt blue translucent glass (Hellenistic–Roman period)	Akeldama (Winter 1996:114, Fig. 7.2:13)
2	147/2	13	Tiny elongated ovoid bead; light turquoise translucent glass	
3	117	17	Melon-shaped frit bead with tooled, ribbed decoration; 3rd century BCE and later	Akeldama (Winter 1996:114–115, Fig. 7.2:17)

Fig. 44. Grinding stone.

DISCUSSION

The importance of the excavation at Aderet, beyond its general contribution to expanding our knowledge of Hellenistic rural society, rests on two interrelated issues, its chronology and the architecture of the farmhouse, while a third issue worth elaborating upon concerns the oil press uncovered at the site.

The Chronology

The numismatic evidence from Aderet securely identifies the existence of an early Hellenistic occupation at the site in the third century BCE, providing a clearly dated ceramic assemblage for a period for which we have limited comparative material with a secure

chronological assignment. The reasons for this lack of ceramic resolution are as follows: (1) the slow pace of development of regional ceramic types between the latest phase of Persian rule and the subsequent Hellenistic period, with considerable stylistic continuation between the two periods (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2017:209–210); (2) the absence of well-dated destruction layers between the late Iron Age and the time of the Hasmonean Revolt (the mid-second century BCE); (3) the generally poor stratigraphic differentiation achieved in excavations pertaining to this period (Tal 2006:1–3; Lipschits and Tal 2007:36; Lipschits et al. 2014:134; Sandhaus 2018).

The well-known difficulties in differentiating between the ceramic assemblages of the Persian and the early Hellenistic periods in Judea (see Lipschits and Tal 2007:36; Fantalkin and Tal 2012:9–13, 16; Lipschits et al. 2014:134–135) further complicate attempts to differentiate between different phases of the Hellenistic period in the Judean Shephelah. Dagan's (2000:229–240; 2011:265–266; see also Lipschits et al. 2014:141–142) survey of this region lacked such differentiation between the early (third century BCE) and late Hellenistic sites (second–first centuries BCE), and this problem also plagues research in adjacent regions, such as other parts of the Shephelah and Jerusalem (Lipschits and Tal 2007:38–45; Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2017:203–204). This issue makes a reliable judgment of the dating of sites reliant on stamp seals and numismatic data far more than on the pottery. The stratigraphic divisions recently achieved at the site of Kh. Qeiyafa, located near Aderet, provided more finely resolved chronological ranges for some of the regional types (Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015); however, the lack of a comprehensive system with clear ceramic-type fossils means that pottery analysis for sites in the Shephelah region may erroneously attest to the continuity of settlements between the Persian and the early Hellenistic periods (Tal 2006:155–163; Lipschits and Tal 2007:36). Such continuity is exhibited at Aderet, for example, by the presence of ceramic types with chronological ranges that span both periods (see below).

The narrowly defined chronological range of the Aderet farmhouse, as proposed here, places the site in a period later than Khirbat Qeiyafa Stratum III, but earlier than the occupation at Kh. er-Rasm, i.e., in the second half of the third century BCE, possibly extending into the beginning of the second century BCE. Drawing on recent typological analyses for sites near Aderet, including Khirbat Qeiyafa Stratum III (Sandhaus 2009; Sandhaus and Kreimerman 2015), Maresha (Levine 2003; Stern and Alpert 2014), City of David Stratum 8 (Berlin 2012:5–16) and Khirbat er-Rasm (Sandhaus 2011:105–130), it can be determined that some of the more characteristic Persian forms, such as mortaria, storage jars with small rounded rims and twin vessels, are missing at Aderet. Also absent are the typical late Hellenistic (late second and first-century BCE) collared-rim storage jars, cooking pots with grooved rims and lamps with profound pinching. The importance of the Aderet assemblage rests in its chronological placement close in time to the cave of Heliodorus at Maresha and clearly prior to the destruction levels of the mid-second century BCE, as represented at Khirbat er-Rasm (Stern and Alpert 2014).

The site seems to have been abandoned sometime toward the end of the third or the beginning of the second century BCE, a pattern fitting well with the process of abandonment of many settlements and the establishment of new sites during this timeframe in the southern Shephelah (Lipschits et al. 2014:141, 146–147; Langgut and Lipschits 2017:158; Sandhaus 2018). Though two later coins belonging to Alexander Jannaeus were found, their presence in fills suggests that they were likely intrusive.

The Architecture of the Farmhouse

The first author of this paper holds a different view than the excavator of Aderet, Ora Yogev, regarding the architectural plan of the farmhouse and its affinity with ancient regional architectural traditions, and both views are presented in detail below. Ora Yogev's suggestion regarding the origin of this architectural plan, although not fully formulated, was clearly stated in her notes and discussions with the first author of this paper before her death.

Assyrian Palaces. Ora Yogev considered that the architectural plan of the farmhouse broadly conformed to the well-known plan of the so-called Assyrian palaces or 'open court buildings,' with one or two rows of rooms surrounding a central courtyard (Fig. 45). The origins of these structures were proposed to have been in the Assyrian cultural sphere of the late Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian periods (Watzinger 1935:25; Amiran and Dunayevsky 1958:26), and they were introduced into and further developed in Palestine in the late Iron Age and Persian periods. According to Yogev's reconstruction (Fig. 45), the Aderet complex—initially erected during the late Iron Age—would have originally comprised another row of rooms opposite and south of the surviving architectural remains of small rooms and courtyards, with the two sets of rooms flanking a large courtyard, and the entire complex walled in. In this reconstruction, the entire southern part of the complex (i.e., the hypothesized additional set of rooms and large courtyard) would have been converted to a farmyard and attendant farming installations at a later occupation phase, either the Persian or the early Hellenistic period. Yogev saw this reconstruction reinforced by the appearance of an unusual Assyrian bowl in the ceramic assemblage (see Fig. 30:8). Structures of this type were uncovered, e.g., at Megiddo (Lamon and Shipton 1939:72, 88, Fig. 89), Lakhish (Tufnell 1953:133–135) and Ḥazor (Yadin et al. 1958:53–54, Pl. CLXXVII), while a Persian–Hellenistic structure at Bet Ẓur shows some affinity with this type of plan (Sellers 1933: Pl. II; Sellers et al. 1968:15). It should be noted, however, that all these examples are of structures much larger and more elaborate than that of Aderet; they are of a fortified and administrative rather than agrarian nature; and mostly found in urban instead of rural contexts.

Further reinforcing evidence mentioned by Yogev concerned the large quantity of late Iron Age and Persian-period ceramics found in several fills in the excavation. Although these finds were not uncovered in stratified contexts, Yogev considered that the Aderet farmhouse had an occupation phase preceding the Hellenistic period, even though evidence

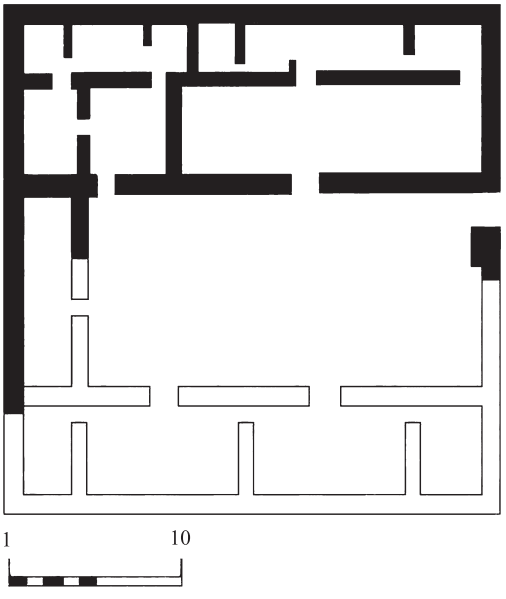


Fig. 45. Schematic reconstruction of the Aderet structure according to Ora Yogev.

of such a phase was not apparent in the stratigraphy. The possibility of such an earlier occupation phase at Aderet seemingly supports Yogev's interpretation of the architectural influences on the building of the farmhouse.

Several other structures comprising single or double rooms surrounding a central courtyard could similarly suggest that their design was influenced by the Assyrian 'open court building,' while they, in fact, lack the defensive characteristics of that building type and are more appropriately interpreted as isolated farms. Examples include a late Iron Age–Persian farmhouse at Kh. Abu eṭ-Ṭwein (Mazar 1982); a Hellenistic farmhouse at Har Adar, northwest of Jerusalem (Dadon 1997); a farmhouse at Qalandiya (Magen 2004); a farmhouse or inn at Kh. er-Rasm (Faust and Erlich 2011); a 'fortress' at Kh. 'Eres, and several other nearby structures (Mazar and Wachtel 2015:237–239); and other examples described by Faust (2018:35–41).

Hellenistic Farmhouse. After reviewing Ora Yogev's arguments, the excavation plan and evidence from the small finds at the site, the primary author finds her argument lacking for two reasons:

1. The resemblance between the Aderet structure and the Assyrian-type open court building is superficial at best, with the former comprising only half of the common plan of the latter building type and is not as elaborate in its internal composition. Even though the excavation was not exhaustive, the exposed remains are sufficient to determine that there were no architectural remains that justify reconstructing a larger and more elaborate plan for the farmhouse, in a way that would make it resemble that of the open court building.

2. The occurrence of late Iron Age and Persian-period pottery in mixed fills at Aderet is a common characteristic of similarly dated strata in nearby sites, e.g., Khirbat Qeiyafa Stratum III (Garfinkel, Ganor and Hasel 2014:13–14) and Khirbat er-Rasm (Faust and Erlich 2011:202–207). In these cases, as at Aderet, there are no clean loci from these earlier periods, and the clean loci all date to the early Hellenistic period.

In my opinion (J.S.), the architectural and ceramic evidence from Aderet place the farmhouse in a group of such structures described by Tal (2006:130–135; see also Faust and Erlich 2011:251–253) in a discussion of rural Hellenistic-period settlements. Excavated farmhouses of this type reveal various plans, sometimes with two parallel rows of rooms and courtyards as at Aderet, some with a farmyard fronting the rooms of the farm building and an adjoining oil press or other agricultural installations. Such farmhouses with a date range that includes the early Hellenistic (Ptolemaic) period are known at Khirbat el-Keikh and Khirbat Shumeila in Ramat Bet Shemesh (Kogan-Zehavi 2014); Ṭirat Yehuda (Yeivin and Edelstein 1970:57); Mazor Areas S2–3 (Amit and Zilberbod 1998:62, Fig. 117); Umm er-Riḥan (Dar 1986:3–4); Qasr el-Lejah (Dar 1986:10–12); Phase A of the farmhouse at Qalandiya (Magen 2004:45); el-ʻAbd el-Nabi (Fantalkin and Tal 2003:112–115); Ḥolot Rishon Le-Ẓiyyon (South; Tal 2014); and Qir Ha-ʻOrvim in Haifa (Yeivin 1998). Some of these farmhouses were founded in the Persian period and continued to exist in the Hellenistic period with few changes. Aderet, dating to the begining of the Hellenistic period, fits within the cultural and architectural context of this diverse group of farmhouses.

The Olive Oil Press

Oil presses securely dated to the early part of the Hellenistic period are not common. Nevertheless, a number of such installations, some near Aderet, belong to the same type of what is known as an ‘improved lever’ press, which became common in the Hellenistic and the Roman periods (Frankel 1984:127; 1999:76). A central feature of the new technology was the construction of stone piers on either side of the pressing bed, usually using monoliths as in Aderet, to support a pile of frails and hold the press beam in place while working beneath it, before and after the pressing.

While this press type is quite common, and the earliest examples are dated to the Hellenistic period, comparable presses of a similar date to the Aderet press are few and far between. An early lever-and-weight press similar to Aderet’s was found in the excavation at Khirbat Qeiyafa, only 5.5 km from Aderet (Hasel 2014). Here, an installation comprising two adjacent ‘improved lever’ presses and a central lateral collecting basin were enclosed in a room; for each of the two pressing beds, only one flanking stone pier was extant, and the crushing basin was missing. As at Aderet, the floor surrounding the vat was plastered from the vat edge outward to ensure a thorough collection of the precious oil. This press was part of a building (D200) constructed in the late Persian period, according to its associated ceramics. The building and the press continued in use into the early Hellenistic period.

Another important example of an early Hellenistic press was found at Ṭirat Yehuda (330–180 BCE; Yeivin and Edelstein 1970). It is noteworthy that the room enclosing the press was large enough to accommodate all its parts: a crushing basin, a pressing bed extending between two plain-stone piers and a lateral collecting vat set slightly to one side of the pressing bed. The press weights have a reversed T-shaped bore, similar to the two weights found at Aderet.

A number of oil presses found at the site of Maresha, also near Aderet, are of a similar date. These are located within caves and are hewn in bedrock rather than built from separate parts (Kloner and Sagiv 1993; 2003; Sagiv and Kloner 1996). All have the typical collecting vats of the south-central part of the country (Frankel 1984:204–217; Frankel, Patrich and Tsafrir 1990:292–297). The Aderet press, also located in the southern Shephelah, certainly fits within this regional group. An unusual feature at Aderet, not seen among the mentioned parallels, is an additional larger lateral collecting vat connected to the central vat by a small gutter. This would have allowed continuous operation of the press without dismantling the frails from the pressing board over the central collecting vat.

The Aderet oil press fits in a large group of lever-and-weight presses of the 'improved lever' subtype, with plain piers, central oil collection and weights with a reversed T-shaped bore. Frankel (1999:68, and information in supplementary digital media) named this group type T401110002 and attributed 19 other presses to it besides the Aderet press. The Aderet press, and probably that of nearby Khirbat Qeiyafa, are some of the earliest presses of this group, underscoring their significance.

Appendix 1: Locus List

Locus	Basket Nos.[i]	Description	Finds
1	6	Surface locus on east side of excavation	
2		Opening locus on west side of excavation	
3	5, 11, 19, 21	Room in northwest corner of western housing unit	Pottery
3a	15*, 22, 79	Hearth in L3	Pottery
4	12, 13, 16, 20, 24*, 25, 28*, 31, 47*	Room in western housing unit	Pottery
	18		Glass bottle
4a		Hearth in L4	
4b	33	Hearth in L4	Pottery
5	14, 17, 23, 26*, 27*, 29*, 30*, 32*, 35*, 37, 38*, 41, 42*, 45*, 46*, 80*	Room in eastern housing unit	Pottery
	36		Grinding stone
5a	53*	Stepped bath in northeast corner of L5	Pottery
5b		Jar sunk in northwest corner of L5	
6	29b, 34, 39*, 58	Small room in eastern housing unit	Pottery
6a	52	Walled area inside L6	Metal

[i] Baskets located atop floors are marked with an asterisk.

APPENDIX 1. (cont.)

Locus	Basket Nos.[i]	Description	Finds
7	40, 43, 45, 48, 54, 60*, 61, 65*, 69*, 81*	Room in northeast corner of eastern housing unit	Pottery
8	43, 44, 49, 55*, 64, 72, 20	Entrance area to the farm complex	Pottery
9	50, 56, 68, 110, 118, 122*, 130, 132	Courtyard of eastern housing unit	Pottery
	51		Metal bowl
	67		Coin
10	78, 111, 121*	Western part of courtyard of eastern housing unit	Pottery
11	82*, 93, 102, 108, 112, 129	East courtyard of western housing unit	Pottery
	99		Metal pincers
	109*		Metal pin(?)
12	83, 93*, 103	West courtyard of western housing unit	Pottery
	92*		Coin
13	77	Northern part of the oil press	Coin
	84a, 84b, 126, 133*, 134, 142*, 143*, 145*		Pottery
	136		Coin
	139		Metal nail
13a	137, 144*	Pressing bed of the oil press	Pottery
13b	138	Pit in L13	Metal nail
13c		Plastered cistern in northern part of L13	
14	76a, 76b, 84, 86, 87, 105*, 113*, 124*, 127,	Plastered floor of oil press	Pottery
14a	75, 174	Small room west of oil press	Pottery
14b	85a, 85b, 94, 174	Small room west of oil press	Pottery
15	57, 66, 70*, 73, 88*, 95*, 104*, 146	Room with crushing basin of the oil press	Pottery
	100		Coin
16	59	Area south of the oil press	Metal kohl-stick
	63, 71, 74, 89, 91, 96, 98, 106 114, 123		Pottery
	119		Coin
17	90*, 97, 107, 115, 116*, 117, 125, 135, 141, 148, 165, 168, 173	Enclosure of the farmhouse	Pottery
	116*		Coin
17a		Rock cutting in L17	
17b		Rock cutting in L17	
17c		Rock cutting in L17	
18	128, 131*	Plastered basin in L17	Pottery
19	149	Cup marks in L16	Pottery
21	140		Pottery
25	160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 169, 170, 171, 172	Excavated area of the farmhouse enclosure (L17)	Pottery
27	153	Excavated area of the enclosed courtyard (L17)	Pottery

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