Horvat Midras- Late Ceramics Report

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Introduction

Horvat Madras is a large rural site from the Mamluk period, among the most important in the Judean Lowlands. The numismatic finds at the site point to the renewal of settlement in the Ayyubid period – during the reign of Sultan al-Malek al-Adil (ruler of Damascus, 1196–1218). At that time, a fortified rectangular building was built (Area A) – probably a watchtower, which may have been used as one of the stations along a secondary route of the Mamluk postal road (*al-Barid*). It seems that the village settlement at the site was established in connection with the tower. The settlement continued to exist throughout the Mamluk period and even at the beginning of the Ottoman period. It is mentioned in Ottoman tax registries (*daftar*) under the name Drousia, as one of the most important settlements in the Hebron *לואא*. A beautiful example of a rural house from this period was uncovered in Area B. The latest coin found at the site is a silver coin of Charles IV, Duke of Lorraine (who ruled intermittently between 1624–1670), indicating the cessation of habitation. It seems that at a later stage (the 18th–19th centuries), a temporary settlement (*mazra‘a*) was established in the place, probably by the *fellahin* of one of the surrounding villages (Ajjur, Al-Burj, etc.). This settlement is represented by a haphazard construction of circular huts above the remains of the Ayyubid tower in area A.

The ceramic assemblage from the period of our interest in Horvat Madras consists mainly of everyday household vessels. Most of the vessels are handmade and decorated with typical geometric patterns. Such vessels appeared throughout the country towards the end of the 12th century and were among the most common utensils in the country throughout the Mamluk period.

The most characteristic vessels for the late phase of occupation at the site are “Gaza Ware” vessels, characterized by their dark gray material. The production of these vessels began in the city of Gaza towards the end of the 17th century (or even earlier) and they remained the most common type of vessel in the 18th–19th centuries at all Ottoman sites in the south and center of the country.

The relative minority of imported glazed vessels at the site is very conspicuous. This indicates the rural, peasant character of the site at that time.

The catalog includes 213 different indicative items of ceramic vessels, belonging to the Crusader-Ayyubid periods (6.5% of the total assemblage), the Mamluk period (about 73% of the total assemblage), and the Ottoman period (20% of the total assemblage).

The vessels in the catalog are divided into 3 main groups: glazed vessels (31 items: 14.5% of the total), non-glazed handmade vessels (118 items: 55% of the total) and non-glazed vessels made on a pottery wheel (55 items: 26% of the total).

The distribution of the ceramic material among the different areas at the site indicates the intensity of occupation in the different periods as well as the purpose of the various architectural complexes: most of the 31 items in the glazed vessels group were found in Area A and only a minority of them (8 items: 25% of all the glazed vessels) were found in Area B. It should be noted that in Area B, not a single luxury item or imported vessel was found (some of which were found in Area A), but only local types.

MBottom of Formost of the handmade vessels were found in Area B, while only a minority (27 items: about 23% of all vessels of this type) were found in area A. In contrast, most of the unglazed vessels made by wheel were found in area A (42 items: 76% of all vessels of this type). The distribution of vessels according to the different periods also shows that the core of the settlement was concentrated in Area A, while Area B represents the expansion of the settlement during the Mamluk period, which was abandoned at the beginning of the Ottoman period, when the settlement contracted back to the vicinity of area A: out of 14 items characteristic of the Crusader-Ayyubid period found in the different areas, 12 (85%) were found in Area A and only two in Area B. Similarly, examination of the typical Ottoman ceramics found at the site shows that the main settlement at that time was in area A: out of 43 items characteristic of the Ottoman period, the vast majority (38 items: 88%) were found in area A.

From the archaeological findings, it appears that the beginning of the settlement in Horvat Madras during the Middle Ages was in the area of the ruined monumental building in Area A, which apparently, was a local administrative-governmental-commercial center. The beginning of settlement probably occurred at the end of the 12th century to the beginning of the 13th century. During the Mamluk period, the settlement at the site expanded eastward towards Area B. Based on the finds at the site, it can be concluded that the place was used as a residence for the local farmers. During the Ottoman period (probably towards the end of the 16th century), the site began a gradual process of decline and shrinkage, and the inhabited area contracted again to the area of the monumental building in Area A, until its final abandonment. The almost complete absence of smoking pipes at the site may indicate that the process of abandoning the settlement was completed before the 1670s, when the Ottoman authorities legalized tobacco smoking throughout the empire.

Top of Form

The significance of the late ceramic assemblage from the site is that it reflects a duration of continuous settlement spanning about 400 years and is a fine example of the prevalent pottery in the rural area of the Judean Lowlands during the Ayyubid, Mamluk, and early Ottoman periods.

Catalog

1. **Glazed ware**

**I.1 Bowls with Gritty Glaze**

Bowls of this type have a conical shape, usually with a shelf rim. These bowls, made of reddish-brown clay, are mainly coated on their inner side with a haphazard whitewash, leaving uncoated sections on the surface of the vessel. As a result, after the glazing (in yellow or green hues), brighter sections (those covered by the whitewash) and darker sections (those left uncovered) appear on the surface of the vessel. These vessels are characteristic only of the Crusader period and do not appear in the Mamluk period: their first appearance dates to the second half of the 12th century. This type continues to appear throughout the first half of the 13th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 1 | Bowl | 003.4 | 099 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Inner and outer whitish slip.Yellow glaze. |

**I.2 Monochrome Glazed Bowls**

The most common type of glazed bowls throughout the land in the Mamluk period, and also in the Ottoman period.

I.2.1 Monochrome Glazed Bowls with Molded Rim

Bowls with a rounded shape and a molded rim. These bowls are usually made of a brown-orangish clay and glazed in green or yellow. The glaze covers the entire interior as well as the entire rim. Their period of use was the late 12th century to the first half of the 13th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 2 | Bowl | 013.3 | 108 | A | Light brown-reddish clay. Green glaze on the interior and over the rim. |

I.2.2 Monochrome Glazed Bowls with Rounded or Carinated Profile

A sub-category of monochrome glazed bowls, characteristic of the period between the second half of the 13th century to the 15th century, and even beyond. The most common type of glaze in this type is green glaze, or, more rarely, yellow glaze, on top of a white slip.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 3 | Bowl | 001 | 709 | B | Orange-brown clay. Inner green glaze. |
| 4 | Bowl | 005.11 | 815 | B | Reddish-brown clay. Inner green glaze. |
| 5 | Bowl | 002.8 | 065 | A | Light orange-brown clay. Inner and outer light green glaze. Thumb-indented ring base. |
| 6 | Bowl | 046.3 | 108 | A | Brown clay. Inner red slip. Inner green glaze. Ring base. |
| 7 | Bowl | 008.2 | 119 | A | Brown clay. Inner red slip. Inner green glaze. Ring base. |
| 8 | Bowl | 001.1 | 098 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Inner white slip. Inner yellow slip. |

I.2.3 Monochrome Glazed Bowls with Thickened Out-turned Rim

Another sub-category of monochrome glazed bowls, characteristic of the 14th-15th centuries. Vessels of this sub-group were always glazed in green, over a white slip. Infrequently, they may also feature sgraffito decoration, under the glaze.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 9 | Bowl | 004.2 | 536 | B | Orange-brown clay. Yellow-green glaze inside and over the rim |
| 10 | Bowl | 009.2 | 133 | A | Orange-brown clay. Green glaze inside and over the rim |
| 11 | Bowl | 006.2 | 084 | A | Orange-brown clay. Green glaze inside. Underglaze sgraffito decoration. |

יוקנעם 1996:49.4

**I.3 Bowls with Slip-Painted Decoration**

One of the most common types of glazed vessels in the country during the Mamluk period. Bowls of this type were mostly made of reddish-brown or orange-brown clay. Geometric patterns, in straight lines, or spiral designs, were drawn on their interior. The vessel was then covered with a yellow or green glaze which made the painted designs stand out against the unbrushed background. A noteworthy feature of this group is the diversity of the vessels’ rims (flat, thickened, protruding outwards) and their shapes (conical, hemispherical). These bowls usually had a ring base. This type began to appear in the Crusader period – from the middle of the 12th century – and continued throughout the Mamluk period into the Ottoman period.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 12 | Bowl | 020.29 | 837 | B | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. |
| 13 | Bowl | 020.46 | 837 | B | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. |
| 14 | Bowl | 004.4 | 827 | B |  |
| 15 | Bowl | 001.22 | 820 | B | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. |
| 16 | Bowl | 001.2 | 821 | B | Brown-reddish clay. Green inner glaze. |
| 17 | Bowl | 005.7 | 126 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. |
| 18 | Bowl | 011.10 | 126 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. |
| 19 | Bowl | 001.1 | 136 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. Triangular rim. |
| 20 | Bowl | 003.5 | 141 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Yellow inner glaze. Triangular rim. |

Bottom of Form

**I.4 Bowls with Sgraffito Decoration**

I.4.1 Bowls with Fine Sgrafitto

A group of bowls of conical or rounded shape with a characteristic ring base. The bowls are mostly made of orangish-brown or reddish brown silt. On the interior of the bowls, there are sgrafitto decorations incised into the body of the vessel. These decorations are geometric or floral. Vessels of this type are glazed on the interior and on the rim, with a green or yellow glaze. This type dates to the 13th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 21 | Bowl | 008.10 | 112 | A | Brown-orange clay. Inner white slip. Green glaze. |
| 22 | Bowl | 006.2 | 084 | A | Brown-orange clay. Inner white slip. Green glaze. |

I.4.2 Bowls with Gouged Sgrafitto

A group of bowls of conical or rounded shape with a characteristic ring base. The bowls are mostly made of orangish-brown or reddish brown silt. On the interior of the bowls, there are sgrafitto decorations characterized by wide straight or wavy lines. The lighter vessels of this type are usually glazed with a monochrome yellow glaze. This type dates to the 14th–15th centuries.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 23 | Bowl | 001.3 | 028 | D | Light brown – reddish clay. Whitish inner slip. Yellow glaze. |

**I.5 Under-Glaze-Painted Soft-Paste Ware**

A group of bowls that imitates Chinese porcelain. Their distribution in our region began at the end of the 11th century. Production centers were Raqqa (until 1259), Damascus, and Cairo. The vessels of this type in our assemblage are represented by three sub-types: Soft Paste Ware Painted in Black under Transparent Colorless Glaze; Soft Paste Ware Painted in Black and Blue under Transparent Colorless Glaze; and Soft Paste Ware Painted in Blue under Transparent Colorless Glaze.

I.5.1 Soft Paste Ware Painted in Black under Transparent Colorless Glaze

This type is characterized by painting executed in black or (more rarely) in blue. Subsequently, the vessel was glazed with a transparent glaze. The decoration, painted in black, comprises a rich variety of motifs, such as botanical or geometric designs, figures of animals, arabesques, and inscriptions. Most of the vessels produced with this technique are bowls of various shapes, as well as jugs and apothecary vessels (albarelli). The only fragment of a vessel of this type in our assemblage is a fragment of this apothecary vessel. This type began to become common in the last quarter of the 12th century, continuing throughout the 13th century.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 24 | Albarello | 106.2 | 111 | A | White soft paste. Black painted floral decoration on the outer side. Transparent glaze on both sides of the vessel. |

I.5.2 Soft Paste Ware Painted in Black and Blue under Transparent Colorless Glaze

This type is characterized by painting, executed in black and blue. The blue color served to fill in the open space between the black lines. Subsequently, the vessel was glazed with transparent glaze. Bowls of a rich variety of shapes, as well as jars, were produced using this technique. This sub-type (which originated in Iran at the end of the 12th century) began to appear in our region in the 13th century and was very widespread throughout the 14th century. The production of vessels of this sub-type continued in Damascus until the beginning of the Ottoman period.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 25 | Bowl | 011.1 | 126 | A | White soft-paste. Black-blue painted decoration on both sides of the vessel under transparent glaze |
| 26 | Bowl | 011.14 | 126 | A | White soft-paste. Black-blue painted decoration from the outer side of the vessel under transparent glaze |
| 27 | Bowl | 017.1 | 112 | A | White soft-paste. Black-blue painted decoration from the outer side of the vessel under transparent glaze |
| 28 | Bowl | 004.36 | 126 | A | White soft-paste. Black-blue painted decoration from the outer side of the vessel under transparent glaze |
| 29 | Bowl | 012.2 | 112 | A | White soft-paste. Black-blue painted decoration from the outer side of the vessel under transparent glaze. Ring base. |

I.5.3 Soft Paste Ware Painted in Blue under Transparent Colorless Glaze

A type that includes hemispherical or rounded bowls with flared upwardly facing rims. These vessels were intended to imitate Chinese porcelain of the Ming dynasty. The decorations on these vessels include botanical or geometric motifs and, sometimes, figurative depictions (birds). The paintings were done in blue and white on a white background and glazed with transparent glaze. These vessels appear at the end of the 14th century and are common throughout the 15th century.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 30 | Bowl | 012.1 | 119 | A | White paste. Blue painted decoration in outer in inner sides of the vessel under transparent glaze. |

**I.6 Italian Ware**

I.6.1 Graffita Arcaica

Hemispherical bowls with shelf rims, made of red or pink clay with white slip on the interior. On the inner side of the concave portions, there is also decoration engraved on the body of the vessel, which is usually of a geometric or floral pattern. The interior of the vessel is glazed with a transparent glaze with splashes of green and yellow glaze. Vessels of this type were produced in northern Italy and were imported to our region from the mid-13th century. These vessels continued to be imported into the area until the 15th century, with their distribution peak in the 14th century.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 31 | Bowl | 015.1 | 071 | A | Pink clay. Inner white slip and transparent glaze with yellow and green splashes. |

1. Unglazed ware

**II.1 Handmade Vessels**

II.1.1 Platters/ Dishes טסים

Very large bowls: diameters reach around 50-60 cm. The dishes are made of very coarse and non-levigated clay. No parallels to this type are known to have been found at other sites. The vessel appears to be a kind of basin/platter/dish made of clay. This type should probably be attributed to the Ottoman period.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 32 | Large Bowl | 052.1 | 108 | A | Light gray clay with white grits. Light brown – orange surface. |
| 33 | Large Bowl | 020.72 | 837 | B | Light gray clay with white grits. Light brown – orange surface. |

II.1.2 Undecorated bowls

Bowls of various sizes, with rounded or flat rims. Sometimes, there is a פלסתי decoration on the outside of the vessel, under its rim – a ridge with a row of sockets. These bowls usually have a hemispherical shape, and only rarely have a flat base. They are usually made of light brown clay. The vessels’ surfaces are polished and painted, sometimes in red, orange or light brown. These bowls begin to appear at the end of the 12th century and continue through the entire Mamluk period, into the Ottoman period.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 34 | Bowl | 011.17 | 819 | B |  |
| 35 | Bowl | 011.57 | 819 | B |  |
| 36 | Bowl | 017.60 | 831 | B |  |
| 37 | Bowl | 008.53 | 837 | B |  |
| 38 | Bowl | 002.2 | 512 | B | Orange clay |
| 39 | Bowl | 003.3 | 093 | A | Gray clay. Orange slip/ |
| 40 | Bowl | 004/11 | 065 | A | Outturned rim. Gray clay mixed with grits. Pinkish slip. |
| 41 | Bowl | 012.11 | 064 | A | Light orange clay. Rounded simple rim. |
| 42 | Bowl | 012.10 | 064 | A | Light gray clay with grits. Inner and outer light orange slip. Flat rim. |
| 43 | Bowl | 008.1 | 071 | A | Gray-brownish clay. Outer and inner red slip. Simple rim. |
| 44 | Bowl | 015.6 | 127 | A | Light gray clay. Outer and inner light orange slip. Plastic decoration of thumb-indented bands. |
| 45 | Bowl | 011.5 | 110 | A | Gray clay. Light orange slip. Simple rim. |
| 46 | Bowl | 012.6 | 127 | A | Gray-brownish clay. Outer and inner red slip. Simple rim. Flat base. |
| 47 | Bowl | 002.10. | 127 | A | Light gray clay. Inner light orange slip. Plastic decoration of thumb-indented bands. |
| 48 | Bowl | 020.2 | 064 | A | Gray clay. Cream slip. Flat rim. |
| 49 | Bowl | 020.5 | 064 | A | Brown clay. Light orange slip. Simple rim. |
| 50 | Bowl | 002.6 | 127 | A | Light gray clay. Outer and inner orange slip. Plastic decoration of thumb-indented bands. Flat outturned rim. |
| 51 | Bowl | 013.4 | 064 | A | Light gray clay. Outer and inner orange slip. |
| 52 | Bowl | 020.62 | 837 | B | Light gray clay. Outer and inner orange slip. |
| 53 | Large Bowl / Basin | 008.82 | 837 | B | Grey clay with white grits. Pinkish slip outside and inside. |

II.1.3 Decorated handmade bowls

The most common vessel type in our collection. These bowls are usually made of light brown clay, brushed with light colors and polish. The rim of the bowls varies: inclining outwards, thickened, or flat. Most bowls of this type have a ring or disc base. The entire exterior of the vessel is covered with a geometric decoration painted in red, purple, black, orange or white. Vessels of this type appear at the end of the 12th century and continue through the entire Mamluk period into the Ottoman period. Production of these vessels continued until the early 20th century.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 54 | Bowl | 001.11 | 831 | B |  |
| 55 | Bowl | 001.25 | 831 | B |  |
| 56 | Bowl | 001.26 | 831 | B |  |
| 57 | Bowl | 001.63 | 831 | B |  |
| 58 | Bowl | 001.33 | 831 | B |  |
| 59 | Bowl | 001.24 | 831 | B |  |
| 60 | Bowl | 001.35 | 831 | B |  |
| 61 | Bowl | 001.55 | 819 | B |  |
| 62 | Bowl | 011.18 | 819 | B |  |
| 63 | Bowl | 011.62 | 819 | B |  |
| 64 | Bowl | 020.62 | 837 | B |  |
| 65 | Bowl | 026.10 | 837 | B |  |
| 66 | Bowl | 001.6 | 819 | B |  |
| 67 | Bowl | 001.19 | 819 | B |  |
| 68 | Bowl | 001.33 | 819 | B |  |
| 69 | Little Bowl | 001.11 | 819 | B |  |
| 70 | Little Bowl | 001.31 | 819 | B |  |
| 71 | Bowl | 001.1 | 819 | B | Vertical handle |
| 72 | Bowl | 004.21 | 827 | B | Yellowish decorations on the Inner purple slip. |
| 73 | Bowl | 004.2 | 827 | B |  |
| 74 | Bowl | 011.36 | 819 | B |  |
| 75 | Bowl | 011.31 | 819 | B |  |
| 76 | Bowl | 011.23 | 819 | B |  |
| 77 | Bowl | 001.7 | 819 | B |  |
| 78 | Large Bowl / Basin | 001.1 | 831 | B |  |
| 79 | Little Bowl | 001.14 | 831 | B |  |
| 80 | Large Bowl | 003.70 | 837 | B |  |
| 81 | Bowl | 008.68 | 837 | B |  |
| 82 | Little bowl | 017.44 | 831 | B | Little handmade bowl with a funnel |
| 83 | Large Bowl | 004.46 | 815 | B | Orange-grey clay. Inner and outer pinkish slip. Outer side drawn. |
| 84 | Large Bowl | 003.1 | 507 | B | Grey clay. Inner and outer pinkish slip. Outer side drawn. |
| 85 | Large Bowl | 003.2 | 082 | A | Grey clay. Inner and outer pinkish slip. Outer side drawn |
| 86 | Large Bowl | 002.1 | 081 | A | Grey clay. Inner and outer pinkish slip. Outturned drawn rim |
| 87 | Bowl | 001.8 | 820 | B | Grey clay. Inner and outer pinkish slip. Inner side drawn. |
| 88 | Bowl | 001.9 | 821 | B | Orange-grey clay. Inner and outer pinkish slip. Outer and inner paint. |
| 89 | Bowl | 004.1 | 836 | B | Light grey clay. Inner and outer red slip. Hollowed disk base. |
| 90 | Bowl | 001.14 | 093 | A | Light grey clay. Inner and outer light orange slip. Inner painted decoration. |
| 91 | Bowl | 023.5 | 066 | A | Orange-brown clay. White inner and outer slip. Inner painted decoration. |
| 92 | Bowl | 001.6 | 098 | A | Gray clay. Outer and inner cream slip. Inner painted decoration. |
| 93 | Bowl | 020.12 | 064 | A | Light orange clay. Light orange slip. Simple rim. Outer painted decoration. |
| 94 | Bowl | 004.24 | 126 | A | Light gray clay. Pinkish slip. Simple rim. Outer painted purple decoration. |
| 95 | Bowl | 007.3 | 087 | A | Light brown clay. Outer and inner cream slip. Outer decoration. |

II.1.4 Handmade Cooking Pots

II.1.4.1 Handmade Mamluk Cooking Pots

One of the most common types in the assemblage. These cooking pots appear in the middle of the 13th century and continue until the end of the 15th century. They are characterized by their spherical body and simple outward-slanting rim. They are usually made of light brown clay and are occasionally brushed with red paint. These vessels have triangular handles that rise vertically from the shoulders of the pot.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 96 | Cooking Pot | 001.16 | 831 | B |  |
| 97 | Cooking Pot | 001.27 | 831 | B |  |
| 98 | Cooking Pot | 001.43 | 831 | B |  |
| 99 | Cooking Pot | 026.4 | 837 | B |  |
| 100 | Cooking Pot | 011.61 | 819 | B |  |
| 101 | Cooking Pot | 020.48 | 837 | B |  |
| 102 | Cooking Pot | 001.10 | 819 | B |  |
| 103 | Cooking Pot | 001.18 | 819 | B |  |
| 104 | Cooking Pot | 011.35 | 819 | B |  |
| 105 | Cooking Pot | 001.2 | 819 | B |  |
| 106 | Cooking Pot | 001.13 | 831 | B |  |
| 107 | Cooking Pot | 008.50 | 837 | B |  |
| 108 | Cooking Pot | 008.65 | 837 | B |  |
| 109 | Cooking Pot | 017.8 | 831 | B | Dark grey clay with white grits. Pinkish slip inside and outside. |
| 110 | Cooking Pot | 017.17 | 831 | B | Dark grey clay with white grits. Cream slip inside and outside. |
| 111 | Cooking Pot | 009.26 | 815 | B | Dark grey clay with white grits. Pinkish slip inside and outside. |
| 112 | Cooking Pot | 003.3 | 507 | B |  |

II.1.4.2 Handmade Ottoman Cooking Pots

In contrast to the previous sub-group, these pots are characterized by a plain rim, which sometimes thickens at the edge. The opening of the rim of these vessels can reach up to 30 cm. Vessels of this type were found in Ta‘anakh (Fig 10:4), where they were found in most layers from the 16th century to the 20th century, with the most extensive distribution in the second half of the 17th century (Stratum 8).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 113 | Cooking Pot | 012.1 | 127 | A | Grey clay. Inner and outer light brown slip. Simply, bent inwards rim. |
| 114 | Cooking Pot | 024.8 | 064 | A | Grey clay. Inner and outer brown slip. Simply, bent inwards rim. |
| 115 | Cooking Pot | 001.4 | 064 | A | Grey clay. Inner and outer brown slip. Flat, bent inwards rim. |
| 116 | Cooking Pot | 001 | 125 | A | Grey clay. Very rough vessel. No slip |
| 117 | Cooking Pot | 013.10 | 064 | A | Brown clay. Outer dark gray slip. |
| 118 | Cooking Pot | 020.73 | 837 | B | Brown clay. Very rough vessel. No slip |

II.1.5 Handmade Jars and Jugs

II.1.5.1 Jugs

The most common jugs in our assemblage. Like the other handmade vessels, this type also begins to appear in the various ceramics assemblages in the land at the end of the 12th century and continues to be found throughout the entire Mamluk period into the Ottoman period, with its production lasting into the beginning of the 20th century. Vessels of this type were made by shaping and designing them around a sack filled with wet sand. These vessels are usually made of light brown clay and glazed in light hues. On top of this painted background, a geometric pattern is drawn, covering most of the body of the vessel, as well as its neck. The drawings were done in purple, red, or black. One vessel of this type, lacking these drawings, was found in our assemblage.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 119 | Jug | 020.59 | 837 | B | Gray clay. Outer an inner cream slip. Purple outer decoration. |
| 120 | Jug | 026.14 | 837 | B |  |
| 121 | Jug | 001.4 | 819 | B |  |
| 122 | Jug | 001.3 | 827 | B |  |
| 123 | Jug | 004.5 | 827 | B |  |
| 124 | Jug | 001.5 | 831 | B |  |
| 125 | Jug | 008.72 | 837 | B |  |
| 126 | Jug | 003.2 | 507 | B | Brown clay. Pinkish inner and outer slip. |
| 127 | Jug | 003.3 | 082 | A | Light brown clay. Cream inner and outer slip. Rim painted from outer and inner side. |
| 128 | Jug | 013.2 | 071 | A | Light brown clay. Pinkish outer slip. Outturned rim drawn from outer and inner side. |
| 129 | Jug | 001.11 | 087 | A | Light brown clay. Orange outer slip. |
| 130 | Jug | 001.12 | 087 | A | Light brown clay. Cream outer slip. |
| 131 | Jug | 003.3 | 090 | A | Light brown clay. Cream outer slip. Painted outside. |
| 132 | Jug | 001.25 | 820 | B | Light brown clay. Cream slip outside and over the rim inside. Painted outside. |
| 133 | Jug | 001.16 | 821 | B | Brown clay with dark grits. Outer cream slip. Painted outside. |
| 134 | Jug | 002.2 | 19 | D | Light brown clay. Cream slip outside and over the rim inside. Painted outside. |
| 135 | Jug | 003.1 | 11 | D | Light brown clay. Cream slip outside and over the rim inside. Painted outside and over the rim inside. Remains of filter inside.. |
| 136 | Jug | 001.2 | 028 | D | Light brown clay. Pinkish outer slip . Outside painted. |
| 137 | Jug | 005.1 | 126 | A | Light gray clay. Cream outer slip . Outside painted. |
| 138 | Jug | 005.48 | 126 | A | Light brown clay. Orange outer and inner slip . Outside and inside painted. |
| 139 | Table Jar | 001.17 | 093 | A | Gray clay. Outer and inner cream slip. Outer painted decoration. |
| 140 | Jug | 011.3 | 071 | A | Orange clay. Outer cream slip. No painted decoration visible. |
| 141 | Table Jar | 011.1 | 064 | A | Pinkish clay. Outer cream slip. Outer painted decoration. |
| 142 | Jug | 005.6 | 122 | A | Orange clay. Outer and inner cream slip. Outer painted decoration. |

II.1.5.2 Storage Jars

Bottom of Form

Large vessels with a rim diameter reaching up to about 20 cm, which were probably used for storage purposes. Vessels of this type found in Ta‘anakh are associated by the excavators with layers 6 and 7 (end of the 15th century–first half of the 17th century).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 143 | Storage Jar | 001.1 | 140 | A | Light gray clay. Pinkish outer slip. Drawn purple line under the outer side of the simple rim. |
| 144 | Storage Jar | 003.1 | 074 | A | Brown clay. Simple rim. |
| 145 | Storage Jar | 020.4 | 064 | A | Gray clay. Pinkish outer and inner slip. Simple rim. |
| 146 | Storage Jar | 007.1 | 071 | A | Gray clay. Pinkish outer and inner slip. Simple rim. |
| 147 | Storage Jar | 001.3 | 087 | A | Light brown clay with white grits. Pinkish outer and inner slip. Flat rim. |
| 148 | Storage Jar | 013.10 | 064 | A | Blown clay. Brown outer slip. |
| 149 | Storage Jar | 020.48 | 837 | B | Light gray clay. Pinkish outer slip. |

**II.2 Wheelmade pottery**

**II.2.1 Basins and Bowls**

II.2.1.1 Crusader Shallow Bowls

Large unglazed bowls belonging to the Crusader period (second half of the 12th century–13th century). The bowls of this type are made of brown clay or buff. The sides of the vessels tend to form an upper break line (carination) or to have a rounded shape. The rims of the vessels are plain.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 150 | Bowl | 003.4 | 141 | A | Buff clay. Carinated. |
| 151 | Bowl | 003.2 | 141 | A | Light brown clay. Rounded. |

II.2.1.2 Sugar Pots

A type of large open vessels with a conical shape. These vessels were used for the concentration of juice extracted from sugar canes and to form conical sugar heads" inside them. These vessels have a large or small lip that folds outward. The first appearance of these vessels was in the Fatimid period, but their main distribution was in the Crusader period (12th-13th centuries) and the Mamluk period (14th-15th centuries). The main difference between Crusader and Mamluk sugar vessels is the color of their clay, which is gray or light brown for the Crusader vessels, and reddish in the Mamluk vessels. The only fragment of such a vessel found in our assemblage belongs to the Crusader type.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 152 | Sugar Pot | 001.5 | 064 | A | Light gray clay. |

II.2.1.3 Bowls with Out-folded or Everted Rim

Bowls with an outward-folded rim, with a ring base. Usually, these are bowls glazed with monochromatic glaze. In our assemblage, this type is represented by a single fragment of an unglazed vessel. The glazed vessels of this type were common from the end of the 13th century to the 15th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 153 |  |  |  |  | Light pinkish-brown clay. Outer white slip. |

II.2.1.4. Mamluk Basins/Pitchers

A type of basin that appears in the second half of the 13th century and continues until the 15th century and even later. Basins of this type are distinguished by their sides, which gradually slope inward. The rim of the vessel is thickened and folded outwards. The surfaces of the vessels, made of a pinkish-brown material, are well-brushed. Vessels of this type were found in Yokneam (Type II.1.2.4-5) and in Emmaus.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 154 | Basin | 014.1 | 071 | A | Brown pinkish clay. Well- smoothed interior. Outturned rim. |

II.2.1.5 “Gaza Ware” Bowls

A group of bowls and basins made of a characteristic clay of a distinctive color, ranging from dark gray to black. The center of production for these vessels was the city of Gaza. The spouts of the vessels of this type exhibit great diversity (triangular, outward-folded, shelf-like). Some experts attribute the beginning of the appearance of this type of vessel, which were common throughout southern and central Israel during the Ottoman period, to the 17th century, or even to the 16th century. Gaza vessels continued to be among the common everyday vessels in these regions until the beginning of the 20th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 155 | Large Bowl | 003.1 | 128 | A | Dark gray clay. Outturned down folded rim with gouged wavy ornament. |
| 156 | Large Bowl | 002.9 | 127 | A | Gray clay. Outturned down folded rim with three ridges on it. |
| 157 | Bowl | 001.1 | 070 | A | Dark gray clay. Triangular rim. |
| 158 | Bowl | 001.3 | 075 | A | Gray clay. Ledge rim. |
| 159 | Bowl | 002.4 | 066 | A | Gray clay. Ledge rim. |
| 160 | Large Bowl | 003.2 | 146 | A | Gray clay. Thumb-indented ridge under the flat rim. |
| 161 | Large Bowl | 013.9 | 064 | A | Gray clay. Molded rim. |

II.2.1.6 Large Ottoman Bowls 1

Large bowls (the diameter of the opening is about 30–37 centimeters) of a conical shape, with a ring base. The spouts of the bowls exhibit great variety, but the fragment in our assemblage had a plain rim, which thickens somewhat. These bowls are usually glazed, though the vessel in our assemblage is without glaze. In Ta‘anakh (Fig. 15:9-12), vessels of this type were found in Strata 6–8 (late 15th century–second half of the 17th century).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 162 | Bowl | 005.1 | 080 | A | Light brown clay. |

II.2.1.7 Large Ottoman Bowls 2

Large bowls (the diameter of the opening is about 30–40 centimeters), usually with a ring base. These bowls are generally coated and glazed in most cases, though the two vessels from our assemblage are unglazed. In Ta‘anakh, the majority of vessels of this type (Fig, 16:2) are attributed to Strata 6-7 (end of the 15th century–first half of the 17th century).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 163 | Bowl | 022.2 | 112 | A | Reddish-brown clay. Cream Inner and outer slip. |
| 164 | Bowl | 007.3 | 071 | A | Gray clay. Cream Inner and outer slip. |

II.2.1.8 Frying Pans

Only one fragment of a frying pan is included in our assemblage. This type has a polyganol rim that is slightly folded inwards. Under the rim on the outer side of the vessel, remains of a small decorative handle can be discerned. Pans of a similar type were found in the Ta‘anakh excavations, where they were attributed to Strata 6–8 (end of the 15th century–second half of the 17th century). Unlike the fragment of our vessel, most vessels of this type are glazed on the interior.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 165 | Frying pan | 013.8 | 064 | A | Brown-reddish clay. No glaze. |

**II.2.2 Storage Vessels**

II.2.2.1 Crusader Storage Jar 1

A group of jugs characterized by a short and straight neck and a plain rim. On top of the ?קטף of the vessel, just below the neck, there is a characteristic ridge. Jugs of this type are the continuation and the final development of the sack jugs from the Byzantine period (white painted jugs) which were common throughout the early Muslim period. Compared to earlier types, the later types of this category have shorter necks.. This type was common from about the middle of the 12th century to the middle of the 13th century. The vessel in our assemblage is made of very light brown clay.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 166 | Jar | 002.1 | 19 | B | Very light brown clay. Outer cream slip. |

II.2.2.2 Crusader Storage Jar 2

A group of jugs characterized by a short neck that leans inward and a rim that folds into the vessel. The vessels are made of reddish-brown clay and are sometimes coated. The jugs of this type are one of the last developments of sack jugs from the Byzantine period (white painted jugs) which were common throughout the early Muslim period. This type was common from about the middle of the 12th century to the middle of the 13th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 167 | Jar | 004.6 | 835 | B | Brown-reddish clay. Buff self-slip. Inward drooping rim. |
| 168 | Jar | 013.25 | 108 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Buff self-slip. Inward drooping rim. |

II.2.2.3 Crusader Storage Jar 3

This type of jug is marked by its outwardly-folding lip and by a characteristic ridge on the neck just below the lip. These vessels appear during the Crusader period and continue into the Mamluk period. See, for example, Yokne'am (Fig. XIII.121.1–3).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 169 | Jar | 101.3 | 118 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Outer buff slip. |

II.2.2.4 Amphorae

In our assemblage there is a single fragment belonging to a Table Amphora. This storage vessel belongs to the Crusader period (12th –13th centuries). Vessels of this type, such as those found, for example, in Yokneam and Horvat Uza, are characterized by their reddish-brown clay and their outwardly-folded rim. Vessels of this type, at least some of which were made in the city of Acre, were common mainly along the coastal plain.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 170 | Amphora | 010.1 | 008 | A | Light brown – reddish clay. Out folded rim. |
| 171 | Amphora (?) | 013.6 | 064 | A | Light brown – orange clay. Out folded rim. |
| 172 | Amphora (?) | 013.12 | 064 | A | Very light brown clay. Outturned rim. |

II.2.2.5 Mamluk Storage Jar 1

The most common group of jugs in our collection. Jugs of this group are distinguished by their color, which ranges from brown to orange-brown. These jugs have necks of varying lengths, sometimes slightly swollen. The rims of the jars are folded outwards, with a characteristic depression created by pressing a finger under the rim. Jars of this type begin to appear in the Ayyubid period (for example in Jerusalem:) and continue throughout the Mamluk period (Yokneam).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 173 | Storage jar | 004.10 | 827 | B | Reddish-brown clay. Small white grits. |
| 174 | Storage jar | 009.33 | 815 | B | Brown clay. Buff slip. |
| 175 | Storage jar | 001.27 | 819 | B | Orange-brown clay. Buff slip. |
| 176 | Storage jar | 001.7 | 831 | B | Brown clay. Buff slip. |
| 177 | Storage jar | 001.11 | 820 | B | Orange-brown clay. Buff slip. |
| 178 | Storage jar | 011.13 | 110 | A | Light gray core. Buff slip. |
| 179 | Storage jar | 011.14 | 110 | A | Light gray core. Light orange surface. Buff slip. |
| 180 | Storage jar | 001.05 | 140 | A | Light gray core. Light orange surface. Buff slip. |
| 181 | Storage Jar | 023.6 | 066 | A | Brown clay. |
| 182 | Storage Jar | 001.1 | 070 | A | Light gray clay. Buff slip. |
| 183 | Storage Jar | 007.7 | 087 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Outer cream slip. |

II.2.2.6 Mamluk Storage Jar 2

Jugs characterized by their folded thickened rim, which inclines outward, and a protruding ridge, which inclines upwards, on top of their necks. Jars of this type were found in Yokneam in a Mamluk context.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 184 | Storage Jar | 004 | 706 | B | Orange-brown clay. Grey core. |
| 185 | Storage Jar | 004.3 | 536 | B | Orange-brown clay |

II.2.2.7 Mamluk Storage Jar 3

Jugs that resemble a Mamluk 1 jug in shape (a characteristic depression created by pressing a finger under the rim). These jugs are characterized by a pair of handles located at the meeting point between the neck of the vessel and its shoulders. The shoulders of the vessel are narrow and ridged. These jugs are characteristic only of the Mamluk period and are not known during the Crusader period (Yokneam–Storage Vessel n.17)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 186 | Storage Jar | 008.1 | 119 | A | Reddish-brown clay, gray core |

II.2.2.8 Gaza Ware Jars and Jugs

These vessels appear towards the end of the 17th century. This group includes closed vessels (jars, jugs) and open vessels (basins), whose prominent feature is their dark gray color. The production center for these vessels was the city of Gaza, hence their name. This is one of the most prominent and typical vessel types for the mid-late Ottoman period (late 17th century–early 20th century) at sites in the southern and central regions of the country. In our assemblage, vessels of this type represent the latest settlement phase at the site and most likely date to the second half of the 17th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 187 | Storage jar | 008.44 | 837 | B | Grey brownish clay |
| 188 | Jug | 003.4 | 507 | B | Dark grey clay. |
| 189 | Storage jar | 002.3 | 512 | B | Grey brownish clay |
| 190 | Storage jar | 004.7 | 065 | A | Grey brownish clay. Outturned, down folded rim |
| 191 | Storage jar | 005.4 | 068 | A | Grey brownish clay. Outturned, down folded rim |
| 192 | Storage jar | 012.11 | 064 | A | Grey brownish clay. |
| 193 | Jug | 003.5 | 090 | A | Grey brownish clay. Outturned, down folded rim |
| 194 | Jug | 008.12 | 071 | A | Gray clay. Outturned, rounded rim. |
| 195 | Jug | 002.4 | 065 | A | Gray clay. Outturned, rounded rim. |
| 196 | Jug | 002.6 | 065 | A | Grey brownish clay. Outturned, down folded rim |
| 197 | Storage jar | 009.7 | 064 | A | Grey brownish clay. Outturned, down folded rim |
| 198 | Jug | 009.1 | 064 | A | Gray clay. Simple, thickened rim |
| 199 | Jug | 013.1 | 064A | A | Gray clay. Nuzzle. |

II.2.2.9 Ottoman Jar 1 “Zir”

One of the Ottoman types of jars. A vessel with an oval body and a short neck with a slightly thickened, outward-inclining rim. Vessels of this type were found in excavations at the Damascus Gate and also at Ta‘anakh (Fig. 11.5), where this vessel was found in Stratum 12, dated to the British Mandate, which attests to continuity in the use of this type into the first half of the 20th century.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 200 | Jar | 001. | 080 | A | Light gray clay. Cream slip. |
| 201 | Jar | 001.2 | 123 | A | Light gray clay. Orange slip. |

II.2.2.10 Ottoman Jar 2

This type is characterized by its upright neck and its lip, which is folded inward into the vessel. The color of the clay is reddish-brown. Vessels of this type were found in Ta‘anakh in strata 6–8 (end of the 15th century–second half of the 17th century).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 202 | Jar | 013.7 | 064 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Cream slip. |

II.2.2.11 Antilya Vessel

A special type of vessels, which were used to raise the water from pits with the *antilia*/*sakia* wheels, to which they were tied. Vessels of this type are known in the country starting from the early Muslim period, through the Crusader and Mamluk periods and into the Ottoman period. A דודד fragment of a vessel of this type from our assemblage probably belongs to the Ottoman period.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 203 | Antilya vessel | 001.7 | 087 | A | Brown-reddish clay. Cream slip. Flat rim. |

**II.2.3 Cooking Pots**

II.2.3.1 Mamluk Cooking Pot

Spherical cookware typically made of light brown or brown-orangish clay. These cooking pots have a short neck and a shelf rim. The pots were glazed on the interior, sometimes only on the bottom. The period of their distribution is the 14th–15th centuries.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 204 | Cooking Pot | 017.16 | 831 | B | Black core. Brown clay. |
| 205 | Cooking Pot | 007 | 129 | A | Black core. Brown clay. |

1. M**iscellaneous**

III.1 Stoppers

Several stoppers were found in our assemblage. Almost all of them are rounded pieces of pottery made from fragments of broken pottery in secondary use. One unusual example is a stopper made in the shape of an inverted bowl with a handle on the top, made of “Gaza ware” clay.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 206 | Stopper | 011.1 | 819 | B | Handmade stopper |
| 207 | Stopper | 001.10 | 819 | B | Buff postsherd carwed stopper |
| 208 | Stopper | 003.5 | 507 | B | Handmade conical stopper. Orange-grey clay with large brown grits |
| 209 | Stopper | 012.6 | 112 | A | Buff postsherd carwed stopper |
| 210 | Stopper | 001 | 081 | A | Handmade postsherd carwed stopper. Ligt orange slip. Purple decoration. Hole in the center of stopper. |
| 211 | Stopper/Jug Lid (?) | 006.3 | 131 | A | Gray clay of "Gaza ware". Ridges on the outer side. A little handle (?) on the top. |
| 212 | Stopper | 001.9 | 087 | A | A base of broken juglet (?) converted into the stopper. Brown clay. |

III.2 Pipes

Tobacco smoking became widespread in the Ottoman Empire after the Ottoman government gave permission in principle for the consumption and cultivation of tobacco in the 1670s. In our assemblage, not even a single fragment of a traditional Ottoman pipe (*galyun*) was found, indicating that the permanent settlement at the site ceased before the spread of tobacco in the country. One unusual find is a fragment of a vessel that looks like a small argentarium אורגנטריום made of a material typical of “Gaza ware.” This vessel has an upper opening and a side opening that were used, apparently, to insert some kind of pipes. No known parallel has been found to this vessel. With considerable caution, I suggest that this vessell was used for smoking, but not for tobacco, but rather for some narcotic substance (*bong*) that was common in the Mamluk state prior to the Ottoman conquest.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Object | Reg.No. | Locus | Area/Sq | Description |
| 213 | Pipe | 004.1 | 065 | A | Gray clay |