

APPENDIX:
A NOTE ON OTTOMAN FINDS FROM ASHQELON, ELI COHEN STREET

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A small number of ceramic sherds dated to the Ottoman period were retrieved from the excavation on Eli Cohen Street in Ashqelon. These consist mostly of imported vessels, such as plates and bowls, as well as several fragments of smoking pipes and one narghile head. One bone item, belonging to a narghile, is also discussed below.

Imported Bowls from Didymoteicho.— A distinctive group of imported bowls and plates from Didymoteicho is very common at Ottoman-period sites and can be found throughout Israel. For example, they were found at Shallale in the north of Israel (Avissar, Ben-Ephraim and de Vincenz 2009: Figs. 19:1–3; 20:10; 21:10), at the Ottoman village at Ḥorbat ‘Aqav (Boas 2000: Pl. III:1–4) and in the numerous excavations in Yafo (Jaffa). This ware was produced in the city of Didymoteicho in Thrace (Megaw and Jones 1983:244–245, Pls. 29.3, 29.4) during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (cf. François 1995:213; Vroom 2003:184). Didymoteicho bowls have a folded-over rim with a short flange. The most characteristic feature of these bowls and plates is their glaze: either bright green or ochre-yellow. These vessels were first slip-painted and then glazed, a process which turned the slip-painted decoration into bright green or ochre-yellow and made the un-slipped part darker. The decorations are free-hand, crisscross patterns that drip from the rim down into the interior of the vessel without forming any particular pattern but rather a ‘dripping’ of colors.

The Bowl in Fig. 5:1 (B1035/4, L118) has a folded-over, flanged rim and bears a lemony yellow glaze; the bowl was slip painted and then covered with a transparent yellow glaze. It is dated to nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Parallels were published by François (1995: Pls. I–V), and complete bowls of this type were found in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-DID-PL-2A).

The bowl in Fig. 5:2 (B1048, L126) has a folded-over rim, which creates a small flange. The interior was slip-painted in white and glazed in transparent bright green. The outside, except for the rim, was left unglazed. Complete examples prove that these bowls had a ring base. They are dated to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Parallels were published by François (1995: Pls. I–V; VI:1, 3 lower sherd, 4–5) and were found in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-DID-PL-1A).

The fragment in Fig. 5:7 (B1036, L119) belongs to a bowl with green glaze.

Imported Bowls from Çanakkale.— Glazed bowls made in Çanakkale were found in large quantities in every excavation in Yafo (e.g., The Qishle—Arbel 2009; Arbel and Talmi 2009; de Vincenz, in preparation [b]; and Ha-Zorfim Street—Arbel 2010; de Vincenz, in preparation [c]). Çanakkale was well-known for its pottery production from the second half of the eighteenth century to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (François 1994:382; for a detailed account of the origins of the ware, see Vroom 2003:180). The earlier forms were mostly deep bowls with up-turned hooked ledge-rims, decorated with black manganese painted bands and floral designs on a white slip under a transparent or slightly yellow-tinted lead glaze. The later forms from Çanakkale, such as jugs and animal figures (Vroom 2003:180, and see references therein), are not as common at sites in Israel.

The bowl fragment in Fig. 5:3 (B1041, L113) has an up-turned hooked ledge rim. The bowl is decorated with blobs of white slip, leaves and a black manganese painted line on the rim. It is glazed with a transparent, colorless glaze, which made the ware appear as bright brown. Vessels decorated with splashes of white and glazed with a colorless glaze are found at the Kaleiçi Museum in Antalya. They seem to be earlier than the others, and can thus be dated to the late eighteenth or the beginning of the nineteenth century.

The bowl fragment in Fig. 5:4 (B1035/3, L118) has an up-turned hooked ledge-rim. The bowl is painted over a white slip, with two black manganese bands on the rim; within the bands is a painted design, probably of leaves. The vessel is covered with a transparent glaze. It can be dated to the first half of the nineteenth century. A large collection of these bowls is found at the Kaleiçi Museum in Antalya. Many such bowls were found in Yafo, such as at the Qishle (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-ÇAN-BL-3A).

Monochrome Green Glazed Bowl.— The bowl fragment in Fig. 5:6 (B1035/2, L118) had a ring base and bears a bright green glaze over white slip. Monochrome-glazed bowls continued previous traditions, and were in use during the Mamluk period. It stands to reason that they continued to be produced during the Ottoman period as well. This bowl can probably be dated to the eighteenth century, but might be earlier.

A Glazed Jug.— The fragment in Fig. 5:20 (B1040, L123) belonged to a pitcher or an *alcarazas* with a tall and slightly flaring neck and a round rim. The vessel is slipped with yellowish slip on the inside and glazed with brown glaze on the outside and over the rim. These pitchers were used for carrying water and drinking. From the nineteenth century on, they were produced throughout Southern France, especially in the Huveaune Valley and the Hérault. They are often slipped and usually have a spherical body with a small ring base and can be dated to the nineteenth century. Similar jugs were found in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-GL-JUG-1).

A Hardpaste Breakfast Bowl.— The ring base in Fig. 5:5 (B1024, L103) belongs to a typical French breakfast bowl. These bowls were made of hardpaste that was glazed white. Frequently, they were decorated with floral, vegetal and other patterns. Many factories throughout France and in other parts of Europe produced such bowls, and so it is not easy to identify their place of origin if the backstamp was not preserved. One of the most famous

factories was in Sarreguemines in Alsace, and many vessel fragments with an identifying backstamp from this factory were retrieved from excavations in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]). These vessels were very common from the eighteenth century on, and continue to be produced to this day.

Handmade Cooking Pots.— The cooking pot rim and handle in Fig. 5:15, 16 (B1042, L123; B1034/1, L117) are both made of coarse ware with many inclusions: micaceous grits that suggest non-local production. The pots are of a basic type; they lack a neck and have a rolled rim. They differ in the decoration that appears below the neck and on their large band handles. The decoration was made with a pointed tool and the pattern comprises incised dots or lines. Many fragments of such cooking pots were recorded at Kefar Gevirol, where they are dated from the middle to the late nineteenth century (de Vincenz, in preparation [a]: Fig. 6:1–5). The same type of pot, but without a neck, was found at the Qishle in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Fig. 5B1:2).

A Handmade Closed Vessel.— The fragment of a closed vessel in Fig. 5:22 (B1034/2, L117) was handmade and decorated with painted bands. These vessels continue the Mamluk ceramic tradition, in which handmade vessels of various types were common. During the Mamluk period, these vessels were decorated with painted geometric patterns in red, brown and black. The fragmentary nature of the sherd does not allow a more precise identification.

Smoking Pipes and Narghiles.— The fragmentary pipe in Fig. 7:1 (B1002, L102) is a long shank with an upward-curved ending in a thickened end with a simple ring. The shank is decorated with lines that give it the appearance of a flower with closed petals. The ring is set off by a rouletted band of vertical lines, as is the lower part of the ‘petals’. This type of pipe frequently exhibits a tulip-shaped bowl and is dated to the second half of the nineteenth century. It is made of gray ware, has a brownish slip and is burnished. Similar pipes were found in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-19M).

The bowl fragment in Fig. 7:2 (B1025, L112) is large and round; it is decorated with carved flowers set in medallions. The upper part was probably straight and undecorated and set off by an incised or rouletted line. These pipes usually have a short, upturned shank, and their end is thickened and carved. This type is dated to the end of eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries. It is made of gray ware, and has dark red slip and burnishing. Similar pipes were found in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-18N).

The fragment in Fig. 7:3 (B1035, L118) belonged to a large round bowl that was divided into two registers, both decorated with a stamped pattern. The two registers are set apart by a carved or rouletted band, which gives the impression that the bowl was put together from two parts. It is made of gray ware with red-brown slip and burnishing. Similar pipes were found in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Type J-18M).

The fragmentary narghile head in Fig. 7:4 (B1013, L100) is made of light brown ware and is burnished. Its upper part is decorated with a band of incised nicks. Similar narghile heads have been reported from the Greek Market in Yafo and are dated to the late nineteenth century.

The bone item in Fig. 7:8 (B1004, L104) is carved and has an incised line at one end. It was used to connect the smoking tube of a narghile to the water container. Finds of this type are rarely found in excavations, but recently several mouth pieces for pipes have been found in excavations in Yafo (de Vincenz, in preparation [b]: Fig. 6:137–138).

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