

TELL MUSA SHAHIN (KEFAR GEVIROL), APPENDIX II: THE GLASS VESSELS

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The excavation at Kefar Gevirol yielded a total of 135 glass fragments; of these, 90 were unidentified body fragments. The assemblage is attributed to the Late Ottoman period and the British Mandate (Fig. 1). It consists principally of mass-produced bottles made of brown or green glass. These are represented mainly by bases and rim fragments; two bottles (Fig. 1:1, 2) were found complete.

Bottle 1 is a wine bottle made of dark green glass; it carries no inscription. Wine bottles are usually tall and heavy and need stabilizing, and therefore tend to have a very high and pushed-in neck. This functional characteristic didn't change from blown-glass bottles, through molded bottles, the first machine-made bottles and up to today; Bottle 1 is no exception. Bottle 2 is characterized by its elongated, oval, torpedo-like shape and its very thick wall. A similar bottle was found at the Kishle Compound in Jaffa (Gorin-Rosen, forthcoming).



Fig. 1.

Another bottle with a similar shape was found at the excavation of the Armenian monastery in the neighborhood of Morasha in Jerusalem (Wolff 2012); it bore a molded inscription of a firm in Portsmouth, England. A very similar bottle, but of an uncertain date, was published in a catalogue of ancient glass of Asia Minor (Lightfoot and Arslan 1992:241, Cat. No. 182). These torpedo-shape bottles were usually used for soda water and became a collector's item during the second half of the twentieth century CE.

Several fragments of small, decorated bottles have been found, such as No. 3, which bears a mold pattern of tiny balls between vertical lines, and No. 4—a base fragment of a polygonal bottle, also bearing mold decoration.

Fragment No. 5 belongs to a typical local hurricane-lamp known as Lux or 'Ashashit in Hebrew. It consists of elements made of glass and metal. The lower part is usually made of molded colored glass—light blue in this case—and the upper part, the cover, is of clear, colorless glass. Both parts are very characteristic and can be recognized even from small fragments. These lamps were common during the first half of twentieth century.¹

Several bracelet fragments were also found in the excavation. These were of types that were common beginning in the Mamluk period and continued to be in use during the Ottoman period and into modern times (Shindo 2001). Hebron was most likely the largest producer of glass bracelets during the Ottoman rule, and remained so into the twentieth century (Spaer 2001:198, 204). Bracelets Nos. 6–8 are trail-decorated, and had a cross-section that was either obliquely pointed, more or less triangular, or rounded.

NOTE

¹ For more information and a photograph, see "Nurat Lux" in *Nostalgia On-line* (Hebrew; <http://www.nostal.co.il/search.asp>; accessed August 6, 2015).

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