

APPENDIX: THE GLASS FINDS FROM NAḤAL ‘ANIM

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Some 30 glass finds in a fragmentary and corroded state of preservation were recovered from the site of Naḥal ‘Anim.¹ They were unearthed mostly on floors and in accumulations covering the bedrock in the residence quarters in a large homestead from the late Byzantine and Early Islamic periods. The glass vessels include bowls/beakers, bottles and lamps; of these, five pieces were selected for publication (Fig. 1:1–5). A small chunk of raw glass is also presented (Fig. 1:6).

Bowl/Beakers (Fig. 1:1, 2).— Both these fragments belong to one of the most characteristic vessel types of the Umayyad period. Bowl No. 1 is plain, whereas No. 2 has a vertical, wavy trail adorning its walls. The trail is of the same color as the vessel, and was one of several wavy trails applied vertically along the vessel’s walls.

Diverse variants of these bowls/beakers were recovered from Umayyad-period contexts excavated north of the White Mosque in Ramla (Gorin-Rosen 2010:215–219, Pls. 10.1:1–4; 10.2:1, 2, and see therein additional

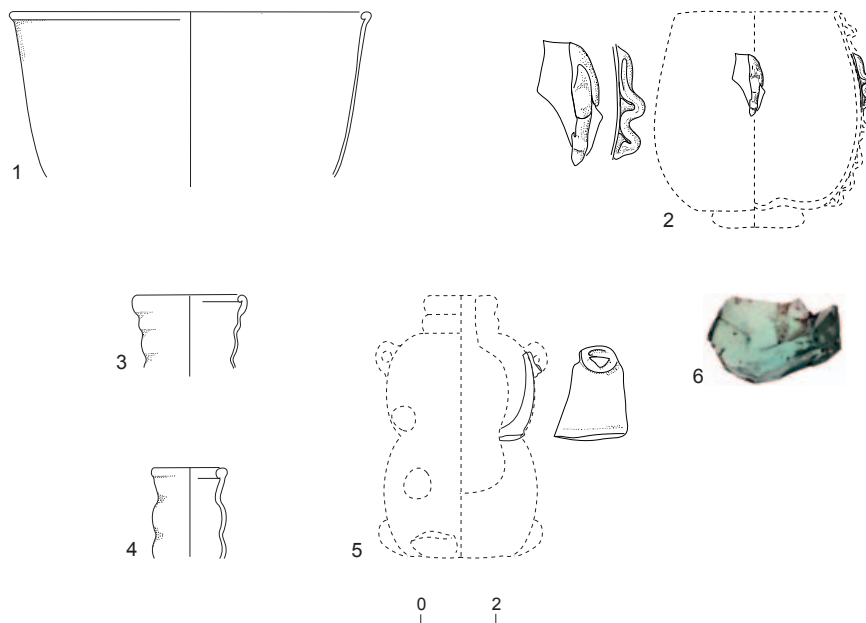


Fig. 1. Glass finds.

◀ Fig. 1

No.	Item	Locus	Basket	Description
1	Bowl/beaker	180	1186	An infolded rim (D 95 mm) and thin walls. Light greenish blue. Severely weathered
2	Bowl/beaker	128	1080	Wall fragment with a vertically applied wavy trail. Light greenish blue. Slightly weathered
3	Bottle	193	1203	An infolded rim (D 30 mm) and a thin-walled ridged neck. Light greenish blue. Severely weathered
4	Bottle	158	1124	An infolded rim (D 20 mm) and a thin-walled ridged neck. Light greenish blue. Severely weathered with a limey crust
5	Thick-walled vessel	194	1219	Wall fragment (broken, so not all its thickness is evident) decorated with glass blobs. Vessel—greenish blue; blobs—blue. Weathered
6	Raw glass chunk	187	1196	Irregular in shape and section, broken on all sides (max. L 35 mm). Greenish blue

examples from Ramla, as well as from Caesarea Maritima, Ashdod, Khirbat el-Karak, Siyar el-Ghanam near Bethlehem, and from sites in Jordan and Syria). A complete green beaker resembling Fig. 1:2, with vertically applied brownish/olive-green trails, was excavated on Marcus Street in Ramla, along with pottery dated to the eighth–ninth centuries CE (Pollak 2007:110, 112–113, Fig. 6:32). The piece illustrated in Fig. 1:2 may have also belonged to a contemporaneous bottle. A complete, light-green bottle of this type, with five brown wavy trails vertically applied along its body, is said to have originated in northeastern Iran and to date from the eighth–ninth centuries CE (Kunz. 1981:123, Cat. No. 503).

Bottles with a Ridged Neck (Fig. 1:3, 4).— These bottle necks are thin walled, and their tooling is quite shallow, allowing for a rather large opening.

Bottles with a horizontally ridged neck were widespread in the region during the Early Islamic period; they appeared in the Umayyad period and continued into the Abbasid period. These bottles were blown and tooled, and they varied in their fabric and workmanship, the thickness of their neck's wall and the width of their opening, as well as in the number, thickness and density of the ridges (for a detailed discussion and numerous examples, see Gorin-Rosen 2010:233–235).

A bottle neck very similar to those illustrated in Figs. 1:3 and 1:4 was excavated at nearby Hura (Gorin-Rosen 2012: Fig. 9:4). Bottles with a horizontally ridged neck were also recovered in several other sites in southern Israel, e.g., Tel 'Ira (Lehrer-Jacobson 1999:443–444, Fig. 13.1:3) and Upper Naḥal Besor (Ben Michael, Israel and Nahlieli 2004:114*, Fig. 12:4). Numerous bottles with a ridged neck were documented in contexts dated to the seventh–ninth centuries CE throughout the country and the surrounding regions (Gorin-Rosen 2010:233–235, Pl. 10.6:7–10, and see therein examples from Ramla, Caesarea Maritima, Bet She'an, Tiberias, Nessana and Capernaum, as well as from sites in Egypt and Mesopotamia).

Thick-Walled Vessel (Fig. 1:5).— This body fragment with part of a handle belongs to a small, thick-walled vessel (see illustration for a probable reconstruction). Such vessels, ascribed to the Early Islamic period, are divided into

two by a horizontal constriction, and are decorated with applied glass blobs, generally of a color darker than that of the vessel's body.

A nearly complete, thick-walled, greenish blue vessel of this type was discovered at Ḥorbat 'Illin. It has a horizontally ridged neck, and two tiny handles (one only partly intact) are attached to its shoulders, possibly for suspension; fourteen uneven blue blobs are applied at regular intervals around the upper and lower parts of the body, four of which served as the vessel's base (Katsnelson 2012:54*–55*, Fig. 3:32). Five similar vessels, all bluish green with dark blue blobs, were uncovered in Abbasid–Fatimid contexts at Bet She'an (Hadad 2005:43, Pl. 41:852, 853, and see therein [n. 361] an example dated to the ninth–tenth centuries CE from a private collection). Another example was unearthed at Bet She'an in the 1921–1923 excavations (FitzGerald 1931: Pl. 39:15).

Raw Glass Chunk (Fig. 1:6).— The clear, greenish blue fabric of this raw glass chunk is typical of the Umayyad period. The chunk was recovered from a disturbed context of collapsed stones found on the surface, and is the only remain of glass production at the site. This find is therefore insufficient evidence for establishing the existence of a glass workshop at the site. However, the chunk's shape is not functional for cutting, and its ordinary appearance does not justify keeping it for its beauty. Thus it may, nevertheless, suggest that a small vessel-making facility functioned at the site or in its vicinity.

The glass vessels from Naḥal 'Anim date from the Early Islamic period, principally the eighth and ninth centuries CE, within the late Umayyad and early Abbasid periods. They supplement the meager published material from this period from the northern Negev. Additionally, the raw glass chunk, made of a fabric typical of the Umayyad period, enhances our knowledge of glass making in the area during this period.

Noteworthy is the small thick-walled vessel (Fig. 1:5): a rare find, of which less than a dozen specimens have been discovered so far in archaeological excavations in Israel. As all the other specimens originated from Bet She'an and Ḥorbat 'Illin, the piece from Naḥal 'Anim in the Negev significantly expands the geographical distribution range of the type southward.

NOTES

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