

## A CHALCOLITHIC BASALT BOWL FROM QURNAT ḤARAMIYA (ROSH HA-‘AYIN)

EDWIN C.M. VAN DEN BRINK

A single, nearly-complete, fenestrated pedestal basalt bowl was uncovered in a bedrock crevice in Area E1 at Qurnat Ḥaramiya (L1022, B10072; see Torgë and Avner 2018; see also van den Brink 2006).<sup>1</sup> This bowl and some diagnostic pottery sherds from the same area (including a churn fragment), and a few pieces of an ossuary recovered in Area D (van den Brink 1998:167, No. 17), are the only indication of earlier, Chalcolithic occupation at the site.

Basalt bowls are part and parcel of Chalcolithic settlement assemblages in the southern Levant (Amiran and Porat 1984). They can be divided into two main subcategories: bowls on a hollow foot or pedestal with cut-out openings or ‘windows’ (fenestration; van den Brink et al. 1999:170–171, Type 2A; Rowen 1998:163–169, Type 4Ci); and basalt bowls on a three-legged or four-legged stand surmounting a circular ring base (van den Brink et al. 1999:171ff., Type 2B; Rowen 1998:170ff., Type 4Cii).

The vessel from Qurnat Ḥaramiya (Fig. 1; Table 1) belongs to the first sub-category. It is a deep, slightly asymmetrical bowl with a straight wall atop a hollow pedestal with three cut-out, square openings. Three plain, narrow and near-straight bands formed by four narrow, near-parallel incised lines decorate the medial section of the vessel’s exterior. Although decorations comprising a single raised band around the medial section appear to be more common, vessels with multiple raised bands—up to five—do occur occasionally (cf. van den Brink et al. 1999:171, No. 47; Rowan 1998:242–243). A single, shallow incised line decorates the ring base. It may have been originally intended as part of a raised band between two parallel incised lines, but these could not be completed because of the relatively diminutive height of the ring base and the fenestration.

An occupation at the site and its immediate surroundings during the Chalcolithic period, which seems to be indicated by the basalt bowl and the dispersed Chalcolithic pottery sherds, is not surprising. There is a significant number of settlements and burial sites that date from the Late Chalcolithic period along the lower foothills that border Israel’s coastal plain to the east, between Rosh Ha-‘Ayin in the north and Ben Shemen in the south. These include, for example, Qula (Milevski and Shevo 1999; Milevski 2001a; 2001b), Giv‘at Oranim (Oren and Scheftelowitz 1999), Shoham North (van den Brink and Gophna 2005) and Shoham South (Gophna and Feldstein 1998), Nebalat (van den Brink et al. 2001) and Ben Shemen (Perrot and Ladiray 1980).

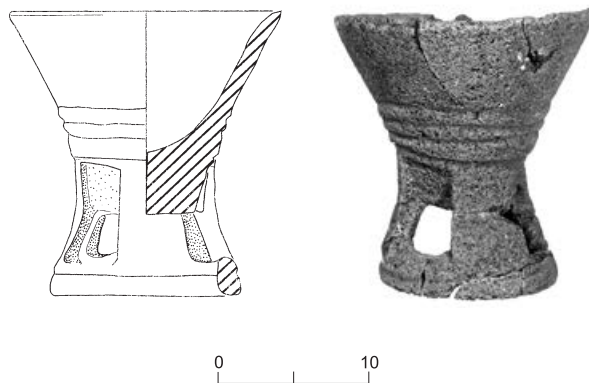


Fig. 1. Basalt bowl.

Feature	Measurements (mm)
Max. rim diam.	180
Max. medial section diam.	70
Max. ring base diam.	120
Windows	40 × 40
Inside height of bowl	75
Height of pedestal (including ring base)	85
Height of ring base	30
Max. total height	186
Wall thickness of bowl	4–12
Wall thickness of ring base	7–15

## NOTE

<sup>1</sup> My thanks go to Hagit Torgë and Rina Avner, the excavators of the site, for inviting me to study the bowl. Smadar Gabrieli edited the article.

## REFERENCES

- Amiran R. and Porat N. 1984. The Basalt Vessels from the Chalcolithic Period and Early Bronze Age I. *Tel Aviv* 11:11–19.
- Brink E.C.M. van den. 1998. An Index to Chalcolithic Mortuary Caves in Israel. *IEJ* 48:165–173.
- Brink E.C.M. van den. 2006. A Note on a Basalt Chalcolithic Bowl from Mitzpe Aphek, Rosh ha-'Ayin. *IEJ* 56:102–104.
- Brink E.C.M. van den, Liphshitz N., Lazar D. and Bonani G. 2001. Chalcolithic Dwelling Remains, Cup Marks and Olive (*Olea europaea*) Stones at Nevalat. *IEJ* 51:36–43.
- Brink E.C.M. van den, Rowan Y.M. and Braun E. 1999. Pedestalled Basalt Bowls of the Chalcolithic: New Variations. *IEJ* 49:161–183.

- Brink E.C.M. van den and Gophna R. 2005. *Shoham (North): Late Chalcolithic Burial Caves in the Lod Valley, Israel* (IAA Reports 27). Jerusalem.
- Gophna R. and Feldstein A. 1998. Shoham (South). *ESI* 18:72–73.
- Milevski, I. 2001a. Qula, Area K. *HA-ESI* 113:62\*–63\*.
- Milevski I. 2001b. Qula, Area J. *HA-ESI* 113:63\*–64\*.
- Milevski I. and Shevo, E. 1999. Qula (West) *HA-ESI* 110:39\*–41\*.
- Oren R. and Scheftelowitz N. 1999. Giv’at Oranim. *HA-ESI* 110:48\*–50\*.
- Perrot J. and Ladiray D. 1980. *Tombes à ossuaires de la région côtière palestinienne au IV<sup>e</sup> millénaire avant l’ère chrétienne* (Mémoires et travaux du Centre de recherches préhistoriques français de Jérusalem 1). Paris.
- Rowan Y.M. 1998. *Ancient Distribution and Deposition of Prestige Objects: Basalt Vessels during Late Prehistory in the Southern Levant*. Ph.D. diss. The University of Texas. Austin.
- Torgë H. and Avner R. 2018. Qurnat Ḥaramiya (Rosh Ha-‘Ayin): Remains of a Settlement from the Iron Age and the Persian–Hellenistic Periods. *HA-ESI* 130 (13 Sept.). [http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/Report\\_Detail\\_Eng.aspx?id=25463&mag\\_id=126](http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/Report_Detail_Eng.aspx?id=25463&mag_id=126) (Hebrew; English summary, pp. 58–61; accessed 13 Sept. 2018).