

YAFO, SHA‘ARE NICANOR STREET APPENDIX II: GLASS VESSELS

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An assemblage of 220 glass fragments was found during the excavation; these included about 190 non-diagnostic body fragments. All the finds date to the first half of the twentieth century (British Mandate) and are principally bottles, windows and bracelets fragments. It is difficult to classify objects dating from this period as archaeological finds. These artifacts are commonly termed ‘antique’ or ‘vintage’ items, and are of interest mainly to the collectors. Nevertheless, today such finds are inventoried in a growing number of excavations in Israel, such as at Kafr ‘Ana, a rural settlement in the Lod Valley (Taxel 2007:73–74, Fig. 4.5:1–3), and more recently at different excavations in Jaffa and Kefar Gevirol.



Fig. 1. Glass finds.

All the vessels were masse-produced, and were made of colorless, brown or yellowish glass (Fig. 1). In Pitt 166, various examples of small bottles were found, exhibiting different shapes. Several have rectangular (Fig. 1:1) and others have a square (Fig. 1:2) section. Although Bottle 2 is broken, a two-line inscription reading “A & E” and “PARIS” below it can be seen on one side. Small bottles were generally medicinal bottles and formed the largest and most diverse group of bottles produced during the nineteenth century and up to the mid-twentieth century.

Bottle base 3 is made of thick brown glass. This base bears a three-line inscription: the first looks an open triangle, perhaps the letter ‘פ’ in a stylized fashion; the second is the number 33; and beneath it, around the circumference of the base is a set of numbers or letters that is difficult to identify. Bottle base 4 resembles No. 3, and bears the inscription “4 0.33190” in the center of the base. A body fragment (Fig. 1:5) bears a graphic label.

Three items (Fig. 1:6–8) are small fragments of bracelets of the common types that were in use from the Mamluk period, throughout the Ottoman period, and, in fact, until modern times. Bracelets 6 and 7 are twisted, with a round cross-section—a type that was an innovation of the Ayyubid–Mamluk periods. Bracelet 8 has applied trails of various colors on both sides of the pointed cross section.

Taxel I. 2007. Glass Objects. In R. Gophna, I. Taxel and A. Feldstein eds. *Kafr ‘Ana: A Rural Settlement in the Lod Valley* (Salvage Excavation Reports 4). Tel Aviv. Pp. 66–76.