

THE GLASS FINDS FROM ḤORBAT ZEFAT 'ADI (EAST)

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A very interesting group of glass vessels was uncovered in the plastered burial chamber excavated by Howard Smithline (2015) at Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi (East).¹ All the vessels were found broken into small fragments, and although they were mended, many pieces remained missing. This fact, as well as the absence of complete vessels, indicates that the tomb was looted sometime in the past. All the vessels are closed forms: bottles, jugs and kohl-tubes—indicating Byzantine traditions rather than Roman ones (see Gorin-Rosen 2002:303). Thus far, most of the glass assemblages retrieved from burials in the Galilee are dated to the Late Roman period; only a few have been assigned to the Byzantine, let alone to the late Byzantine period. Therefore, the glass from this tomb is especially interesting.

Bottles (Fig. 1).— Six different rims (Nos. 1–6), a nearly complete bottle (No. 7) and a base (No. 8) were uncovered. All belong to very common types that are usually dated to the Byzantine period.

Bottle No. 1 is rather small and delicate. The rim is simple and rounded at the end of a cylindrical mouth. This type was found in the Byzantine church at Shave Ziyon (Barag 1967:65–66, Fig. 16:3). Another similar bottle, with a thin uneven rim, a cylindrical mouth and a narrow neck was uncovered in Tomb 4 at Khirbat el-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 59:23), and was dated by Barag (1970:55) to the sixth or early seventh centuries CE.

Fragment No. 2 is slightly bigger, and has a thicker wall. It is similar in shape to No. 1. Parallels to both were found in the baths at Ḥammam Gader, dated to the end of the Byzantine period (Cohen 1997:426, Pl. VIII:9, 10). This fragment bears similarities to a globular bottle with a constricted neck from an early Byzantine burial cave at Kabul (Vitto 2011:118, Fig. 11:5).

Bottle No. 3 belongs to a large bottle with a cylindrical mouth and a thin trail decoration below the rim. A bottle fragment with a similar mouth extending down to the shoulder that was found in a tomb at Gush Ḥalav (Makhoully 1939: Pl. 33:1e) was dated by Barag (1970:64) to the sixth century CE. Another similar bottle from Tomb 4 at Khirbat el-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 59:2) was dated by Barag (1970:55) to the sixth or early seventh century CE.

Vessel No. 4, similar in shape to No. 2 but larger, has a typical wavy trail decoration below the rim. Similar bottles with the same decoration, unearthed in Burial Cave 1 at Khirbat el-Shubeika in the western Galilee, were

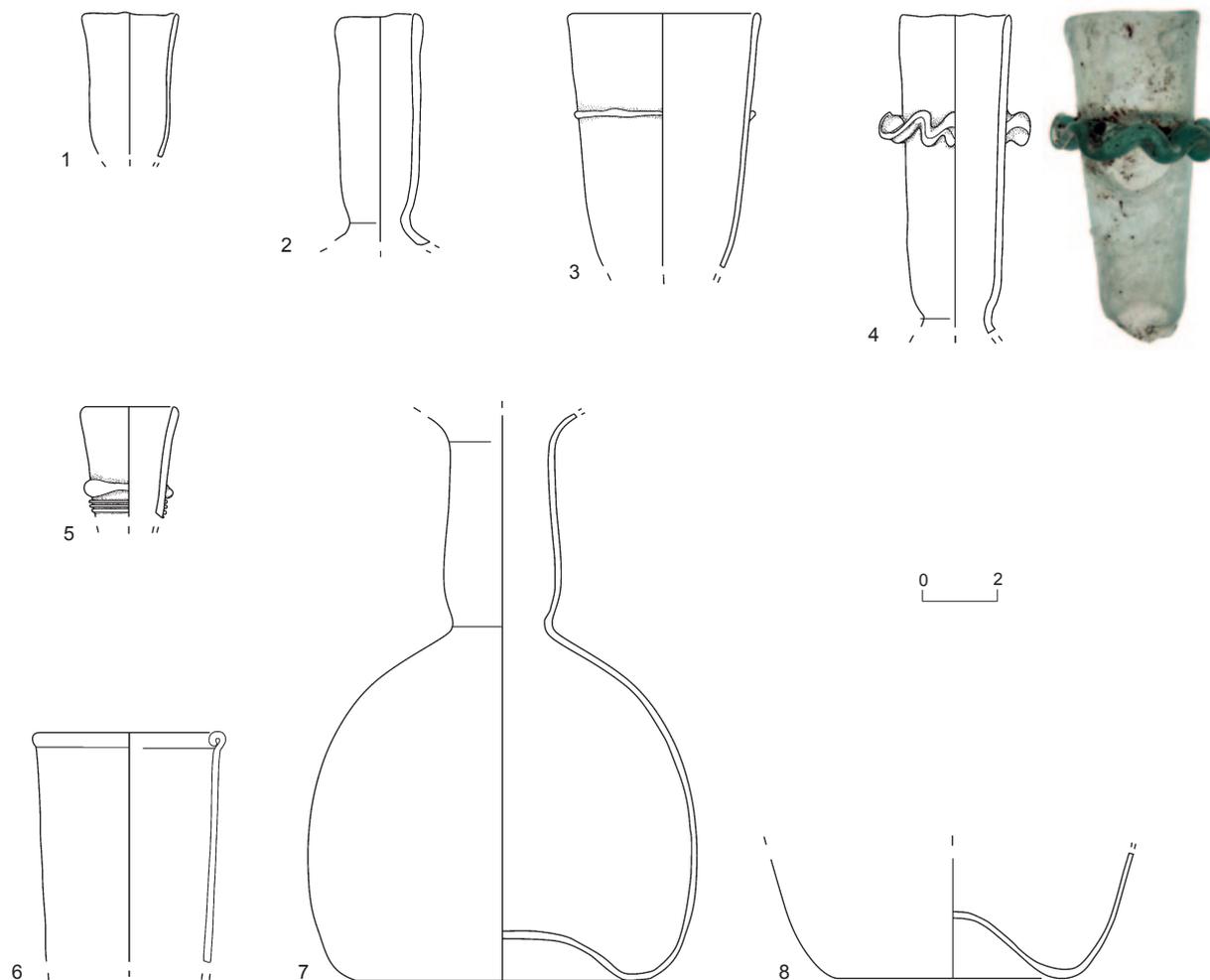


Fig. 1. Bottles.

dated to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:300–301, Fig. 7:61–62).² Such bottles were found in the Church at Khirbat el-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 59:27, 29). Barag (1970:114–115) dated them to the seventh century CE. Additional vessels of this type from Ḥammad Gader were dated to the end of the Byzantine and the Umayyad periods (Cohen 1997:427, Pl. VIII:16, 17, see references therein). This type of bottle was found in Umayyad contexts at Bet She'an as well (Hadad 2005:25, Pl. 13:267–268).

Bottle No. 5 has a narrow and rounded rim, and is decorated on the neck with an applied trail of darker color. This fragment may belong to a bottle with a very long neck, ending at a cylindrical, funnel mouth, decorated with trails. A similar bottle from Burial Cave 2 at Khirbat el-Shubeika was dated to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:316–319, Fig. 8:42). A group of bottles with a long cylindrical mouth,

decorated with similar trails, was uncovered in a tomb at Gush Ḥalav (Makhoully 1939: Pl. 33:1c, 2a–c). Barag (1970:64) dated them to the sixth century CE. Another bottle with a similar body from Tomb 4 at Khirbat el-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 50:14) was dated by Barag (1970:55) to the sixth or early seventh century CE.

The rim of No. 6 is infolded and tubular. Two bottles of this type from Burial Caves 1 and 2 at Khirbat el-Shubeika were dated to the Late Roman and early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:297–300, 306–307, Cave 1: Fig. 6:43; Cave 2: Fig. 2:9). Similar infolded rims, termed 'rolled rims', were uncovered in the Church at Khirbat el-Karak, as well as in the pre-church context (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 59:8, 13).

Bottle No. 7 is of medium size. It is almost complete, missing only the rim. A similar bottle from Burial Cave 2 at Khirbat el-Shubeika was ascribed to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:318–319, Fig. 9:45). Another bottle with a similar body from Tomb 4 at Khirbat el-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 50:14) was dated by Barag (1970:55) to the sixth or early seventh century CE. A very similar bottle appears in the Franciscan collection at Nazareth and is said to originate in a tomb at Iksal, to the south of Nazareth (Bagatti 1967:226–227, Fig. 2:54).

Base No. 8 is very simple and could belong to various types of bottles, such as No. 7 or to other versions, like those from Burial Cave 2 at Khirbat el-Shubeika, dated to the late Byzantine and early Umayyad periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:316–319, Figs. 8:40, 42; 9:43–45). A similar base was discovered in the church at Khirbat el-Karak (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 59:31) and was dated by Barag (1970:114–115) to the seventh century CE.

1. Fragment of rim and neck (L302; B3007/6; Reg. No. 5). Light bluish green glass, covered with iridescence and sand deposits. Upright, unevenly rounded rim and cylindrical neck. Very thin wall. Rim D. 2.5 cm.

2. Complete rim and neck with beginning of shoulder (L302; B 3007/8; Reg. No. 2). Bluish glass with light green tinge, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass, including elongated, oval bubbles with black impurities. Upright, unevenly rounded rim and cylindrical neck, constricted at the connection with the shoulder. Rather thick wall. Rim D. 2.0–2.2 cm.

3. Two fragments of rim and neck (L302; B 3007/7; Reg. No. 6). Light bluish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Bubbly glass with black impurities. Upright, rounded rim and elongated cylindrical mouth, decorated with thin trail of the same color 2.5 cm below the rim. Rim D. 5 cm.

4. Complete rim and neck (L302; B3007/1; Reg. No. 1). Bluish glass with light green tinge, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass with black impurities. Upright, unevenly rounded rim and cylindrical neck, decorated with a wavy thick trail of the same color 2.5 cm below the rim. The neck is constricted at the connection with the shoulder. Rim D. 3 cm.

5. Complete rim and small fragment of neck (L301; B3005/3; Reg. No. 20). Greenish glass with turquoise trail, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Upright, rounded rim and cylindrical neck, decorated with turquoise trails wound horizontally. Rather thick wall. Rim D. 2.5 cm.

6. Almost complete with part of neck (L302; B3007/9; Reg. No. 4), mended from many fragments. Light bluish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence, pitting and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass with black impurities and blowing spirals. Upright, infolded, tubular rim and cylindrical neck. Rim D. 5 cm.

7. Almost complete, missing rim (Reg. No. 15). Light greenish-blue glass, dull surface, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Rounded pear-shaped body with slight constriction at the connection with the neck. Short cylindrical neck opening to a mouth or rim. Pushed-in, plain base without any pontil mark or scar. Base D. 7.5 cm.

8. Complete base with small part of wall (L302; B3007/3; Reg. No. 9), mended. Bluish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Bubbly glass with blowing spirals. Pushed-in base with high kick, no remains of pontil mark or scar. Base D. 6.5 cm.

Jugs (Fig. 2).— The jugs are characterized by similar shapes and various applied strap handles. This probably indicates that they were produced at the same local workshop. Three vessels were better preserved, with their rim, neck and handles intact (Nos. 9, 11, 12). Vessel No. 10 is less complete, but is the only one decorated with a trail around its neck. The way in which the hot glass trail was attached to the neck of the vessel is similar to that of a group of jugs from Burial Cave 2 at Khirbat el-Shubeika, dated to the Late Roman and early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:307–309, Fig. 3:15–17). The strap handles vary in shape, although Nos. 11 and 12 have similarities and seem to have been made at the same workshop. These handles rise above the rim, a characteristic element probably imitating bronze ewers, like the one uncovered at Bezet/el-Bassa (Ilfie 1934:90, Fig. 27).

The shape of the jugs from Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi is very similar and appears to have been made by the same hand. If we compare them with other jugs from the region, the similarities within each group are notable as are the differences between them; see for instance the jugs from Kisra and their strap handles (Stern 1997:112*–113*, Figs. 5:22–24, 6:25) or those from Khirbat el-Shubeika (Gorin-Rosen 2002:307–309, Fig. 3:15–17). A good example is the best preserved jug from the region, found in the cemetery at Bet She'arim. Its size is similar to those from Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi, but the multiple trail decoration on the neck, the section of the handle and the pushed-in, high base are very different (Barag 1976:206–207, No. 48, Fig. 98:10).

Four lower parts of jugs with pad bases were uncovered (Nos. 13–16; see below). These probably belong to jugs Nos. 9–12. The combination of the shape of the body, the handles and the typical base implies a local origin. Three similar jugs (35–37 cm high) with a high, pad-base were found in a burial cave at Qiryat Ata (Vitto 2008:146–151, Figs. 12–14), and were dated to the mid-fourth – early fifth centuries CE. Based on other finds, Vitto (2008:159) suggested that the jugs were put into the cave in the second half of the fourth century CE. Complete jugs of this type are known from worldwide collections. For instance, a very similar vessel is identified by Hayes as a “flagon with reeded handles”, one of the groups attributed to the Syro-Palestinian glass, dated to the late third – early fourth centuries CE (Hayes 1975:45–46, 77, Pl. 19:276).

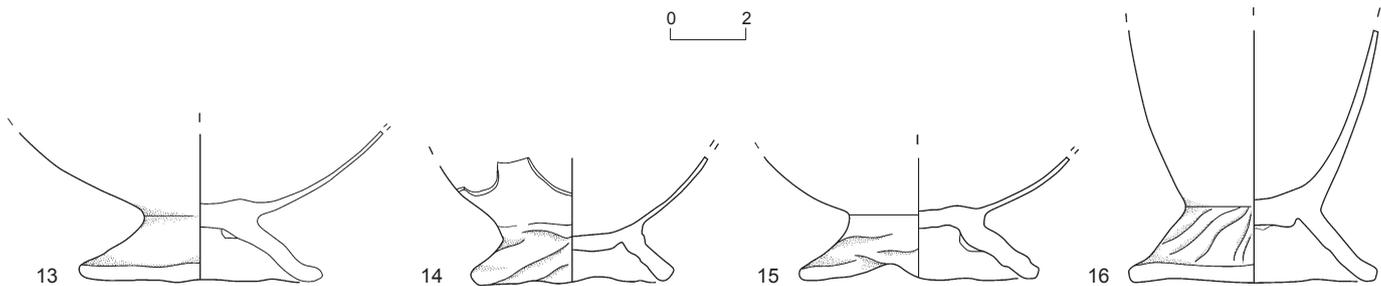
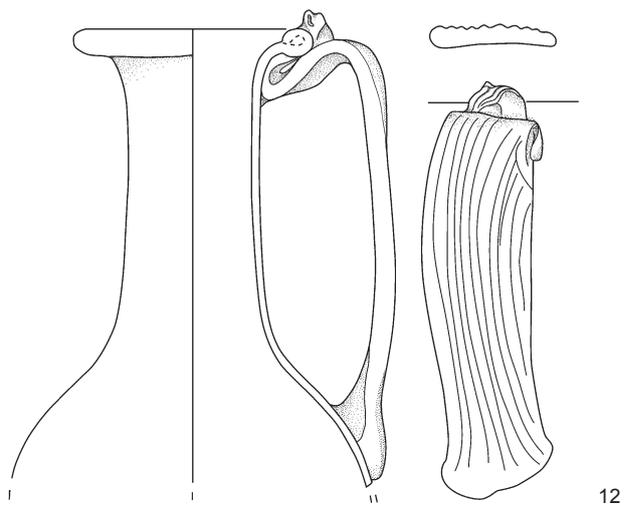
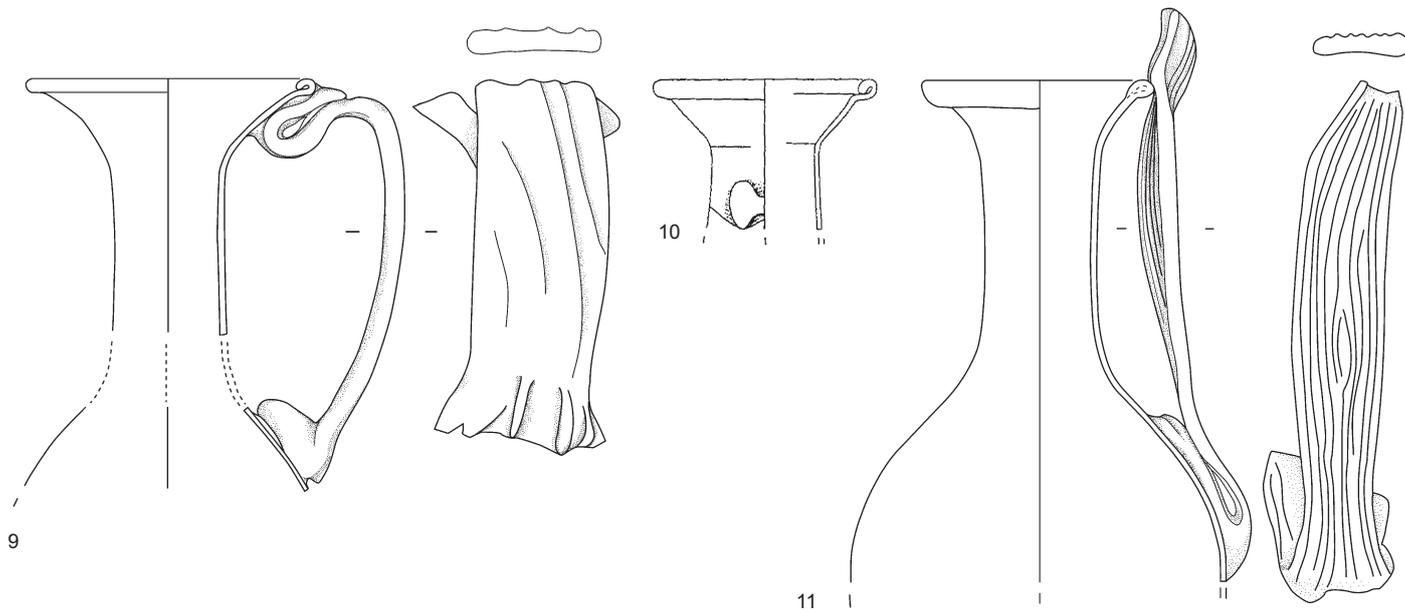


Fig. 2. Jugs.

9. Almost complete rim (L301; B3005/1; Reg. No. 12), neck, beginning of shoulder and handle, mended. Bluish green glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Bubbly glass with blowing spirals in the vessel. Funnel mouth with infolded tubular rim. Cylindrical neck, broken. Wide strap handle with a few diagonal ridges, drawn up from the shoulder with a fold below the rim. Rim D. 7.5 cm.

10. Almost complete rim with small part of neck (L301; B 3005/3; Reg. No. 8). Greenish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Rather clear glass with big oval, elongated bubbles and black impurities. Funnel mouth with infolded rim. Wide neck decorated with horizontal trail. The missing part at the rim probably indicates the place of a handle. Rim D. 5.7 cm.

11. Complete rim, neck, beginning of shoulder and handle (L301; B3005/5; Reg. No. 17), mended. Clear bluish green glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence, pitting and sand deposits. Bubbly glass with blowing spirals in the vessel and low quality glass in the handle: long vertical bubbles and many black impurities. Flaring, partly infolded, tubular rim with wide neck. Long, strap, ribbed handle drawn diagonally from the shoulder, high above the rim. Rim D. 6 cm.

12. Complete rim, neck, beginning of shoulder and handle (L301; B3005/2; Reg. No. 11), mended. Greenish blue glass with a darker green tinge in the handle, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Blowing spirals in the vessel and very low quality glass in the handle: very bubbly with many black impurities. Flaring, infolded, tubular rim with wide, long neck. Wide, strap-ribbed handle drawn from the shoulder above the rim with a fold below it. Rim D. 6 cm.

Pad bases (Fig. 2:13–16) are formed by applying another glass blob or a trail of hot glass to the bottom of the vessel and then tooling it to create a solid base. Such uneven ring bases usually belong to bowls or jugs of various types. In this case they are attributed to jugs, as upper parts of jugs were found in the same baskets, while bowl rims are absolutely missing. Very similar bases were unearthed in Burial Cave 1 at Khirbat el-Shubeika, ascribed to the Late Roman and early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen 2002:292–293, 295, Fig. 3:17–19, see further discussion and references therein). Complete jugs of different types with similar bases were found in a burial cave at Qiryat Ata (Vitto 2008: Figs. 12–14) and in the cemetery at Ḥorbat Qaṣṭra (personal observation). A similar base and a fragment of a strap handle were identified as belonging to a jug discovered in the Byzantine church at Shave Ziyyon (Barag 1967:68, Fig. 16:18).

13. Complete base with part of wall (L302; B3007/2; Reg. No. 13). Greenish glass with a light bluish tinge, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Rather clear glass with bubbles. Applied thick pad base, asymmetrical, with deep tooling marks and a scar with traces of glass from the pontil. The wall is rather thin comparing with the base. Base D. 5.8–6.4 cm.

14. Complete base with part of the wall (L302; B3007/10; Reg. No. 7). Greenish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Rather clear glass. Applied thick pad base, asymmetrical with tooling marks and small scars from the pontil. The wall is rather thin comparing with the base. Base D. ~5 cm.

15. Complete base with part of the wall (L302; B 3007/11; Reg. No. 10). Greenish blue glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence, pitting and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass. Applied thick pad base, asymmetrical with tooling marks and a scar with traces of glass from the pontil. The wall is rather thin compared with the base. Base D. ~5.8–6.4 cm.

16. Complete base with part of wall (L302; B3007/12; Reg. No. 14). Greenish blue glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence, pitting and sand deposits. Bubbly glass with blowing spirals. Applied thick pad base, asymmetrical with tooling marks and a big scar (1.2 cm) with traces of glass from the pontil. Very fine workmanship of body compared with the base. Base D. ~5 cm.

Two-handled Vessel (Fig. 3:17).— Vessel No. 17 is characterized by two similar handles drawn from the neck/sloping shoulder to the rim, and finely fused and flattened with the infolded rim. The shape of the body is uncertain. The rim and the handle bear similarities to two different vessels found in the baths at Ḥammāt Gader: a vessel with a bi-tubular body and a single neck and rim, and an *amphoriskos* (Cohen 1997:414, 417–419, Pl. V:15, 18). Three vessels with two handles, an infolded rim (not flattened) with a mold-blown pattern similar to No. 18 were discovered in a burial cave at Baqa el-Gharbiya (Sharvit 2009: Figs. 3, 7, 8), and were dated to the end of the Byzantine and the beginning of the Umayyad periods (Gorin-Rosen, unpublished).

17. Complete rim, neck and two handles (L301; B3005/1; Reg. No. 19). Bluish green glass, covered with iridescence and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass with black impurities. Infolded flattened rim with short neck widening downward. Two very similar, uneven trail handles drawn from the neck to the rim, fused into the rim edge and flattened. Rim D. 3.3–3.4 cm.

Mold-Blown Vessel (Fig. 3:18).— This lower part of a mold-blown vessel could belong to a decorated jug. Mold-blown jugs and flask were common during the Late Roman and Byzantine periods. A two-handled *amphoriskos* with a similar pattern from Burial Cave 3 at Kisra was dated to the fourth century CE (Stern 1997:114*–115*, Fig. 7:29). Two vessels with a similar decoration were discovered in the tomb at Bezet/el-Bassa: a conical beaker and a jug (Iliffe 1934:89, Figs. 21, 24). Iliffe (1934:81) dated the tomb to 396 CE, based on the average date of the bronze coins, ignoring the later date of the oil lamps. Barag (1970:73), however, dated the tomb between the fourth century CE and the early Umayyad period. Vessels with two handles and a similar twisted mold-blown pattern are dated to the end of the Byzantine and the beginning of the Umayyad periods (see No. 17, above).

18. Complete base and part of the body (L302; B3007/4; Reg. No. 3), mended. Greenish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence, pitting and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass with small bubbles and blowing spirals. Thick pushed-in base with a pontil scar (D. 1.3 cm) and traces of glass from the pontil. The body is decorated with mold-blown, evenly twisted ribs, ending 2 cm above the base. Base D. 2 cm.

Double Kohl-Tubes (Fig. 3:19–21).— One almost complete specimen (No. 19) and two additional fragments (Nos. 20, 21) of double kohl-tubes were found. They present important evidence for this type of vessel, which is infrequent in burials in the Galilee.

Fragment No. 19 belongs to a plain double kohl-tube vessel with elaborate handles. A few similar examples were found at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana, and were probably made in a local glass workshop during the late fourth – early fifth centuries CE (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:114, Figs. 17:4, 5; 20; 21, see further discussion and references therein). They differ from the long version found at Ḥorbat ZĒfat ‘Adi only in the pair of small side

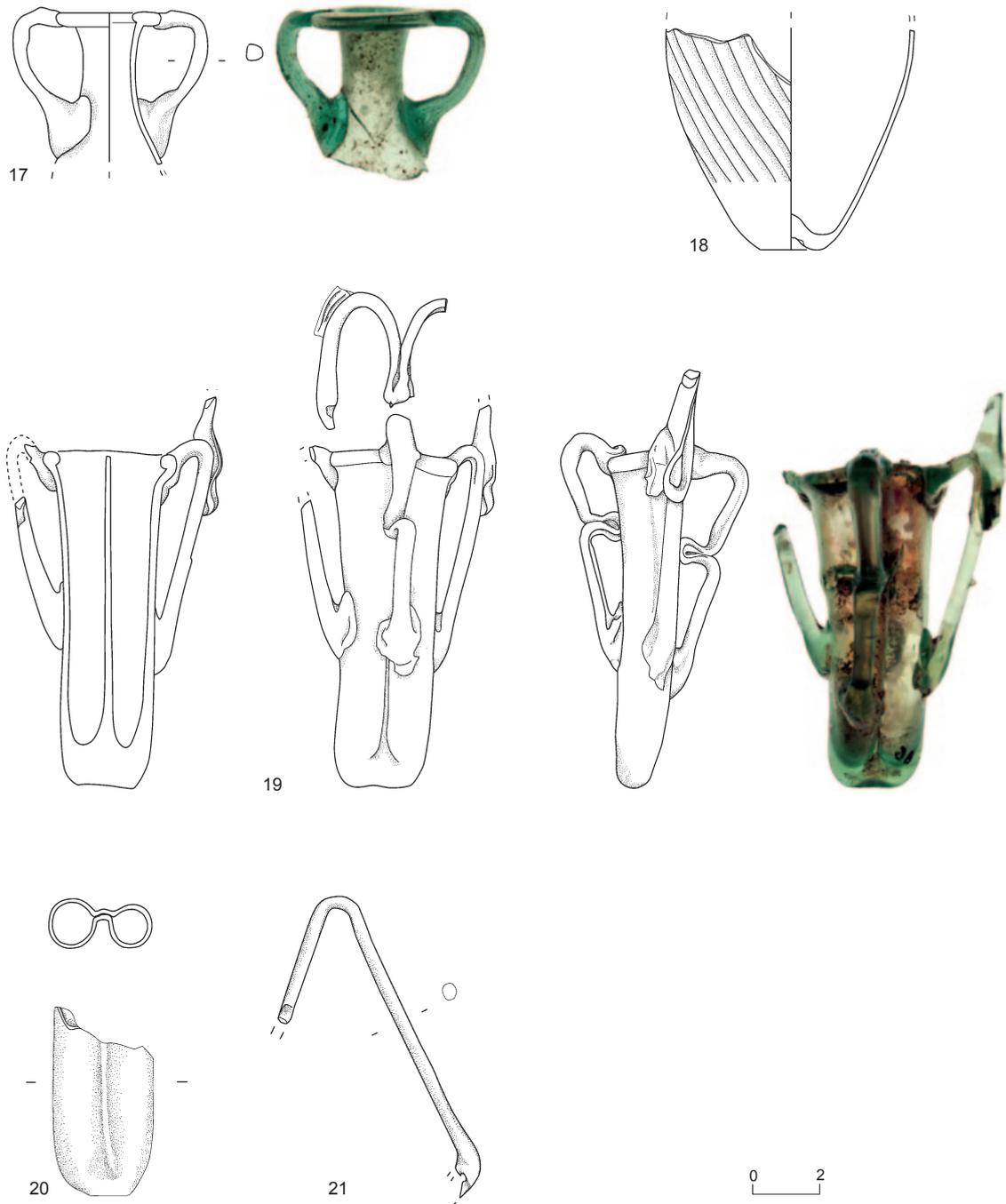


Fig. 3. Two-handled vessel (17), mold-blown vessel (18) and double khol-tubes (19–21).

handles. Most of the published examples are from the center of Israel: Khirbat el-Ni'ana, Lod, Yaffo and Bet 'Anyā. Only two groups were retrieved from burials in the North: Gush Ḥalav and Bet Yerah. Three different double kohl-tubes were uncovered at Gush Ḥalav (Makhouly 1939: Pl. 32:2a–c). These were decorated with trails

on the body and were dated by Barag (1970:64) to the sixth century CE. Two of them have asymmetrical basket handles on top, and one has four side handles. They are carelessly made in comparison with those from Ҳорбат Ҷефат ‘Ади. Two double kohl-tubes with elaborate handles from Bet Yerah are decorated with trails on the body (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 50:11, 12). The finds from the tombs were dated to the sixth or early seventh century CE (Barag 1970:54–55). The vessel from Tomb 3 at Bet Yerah (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 50:11) has two basket handles above the rim and another triangular one on top. There are some small but very distinct differences between the one from Bet Yerah and No. 19 from Ҳорбат Ҷефат ‘Ади: the way the triangular handle from Bet Yerah is twisted on its top, and the way the uneven, careless side-handles were attached. The triangular handle of the other vessel from Bet Yerah (Delougaz and Haines 1960: Pl. 50:12) is more similar to the handle of No. 21 from Ҳорбат Ҷефат ‘Ади, and the side handles are similar to the handles applied at the center of vessel No. 19.

Another double kohl-tube with an elaborate trail decoration and handles was retrieved from the Byzantine–Umayyad bathhouse at Kabul (Gorin-Rosen 2013: Fig. 13). This vessel is important for its geographical location near Ҳорбат Ҷефат ‘Ади. It may have originated from the same workshop, although exhibiting several differences, stemming from its relatively later date and from its daily-life use in a bathhouse rather than serving as a grave good.

A large group of double kohl-tubes from the cemetery at Ҳорбат Қастра exhibits a few examples with elaborate handles (Gorin-Rosen 1998:30; Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 1999: Color Pl. iii:4). Some have similar upper handles but different side ones, as well as an applied decoration on the body. The quantity of this type of kohl-tubes from Ҳорбат Қастра implies they originated in a local glass workshop.

Vessel No. 20 is the lower part of a double kohl-tube. Since it is broken, it is uncertain whether it was plain or decorated on its upper part, and how many handles were attached to it (for some plain versions with various handles, see the discussion in Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007:110–114).

Fragment No. 21 is a triangular basket handle. Similar handles on double kohl-tube vessels appeared in the cemetery at Ҳорбат Қастра (Gorin-Rosen 1998:30; Zemer 1999:59). A triangular handle applied to a single tube was found in an early Byzantine burial cave at Kabul (Vitto 2011:112, 115, Fig. 10:1). These handles are similar to those of vessel No. 19.

19. Complete body with part of the handles (L301; B3005; Reg. No. 16). Greenish glass, covered with silver weathering, iridescence and sand deposits. Very bubbly glass. Plain double kohl-tube with elaborate handles. Two long ear-shaped handles on both sides of the tube, one complete and the other broken on the upper part. Two short handles are applied one above the other at the center between the two tubes. Two basket handles are drawn from the upper part of the side handles, and another basket handle on top is missing. Cut-off base and a pontil scar.

20. Complete base and part of the body (L302; B3007/5; Reg. No. 18). Greenish blue glass, covered with iridescence and sand deposits. Double kohl-tube with a cut-off base and a pontil scar.

21. Part of basket handle (L301; B3005/3; Reg. No. 21). Light bluish glass, covered with iridescence and sand deposits. Part of triangular basket handle, made of one trail with circular section. At one edge are remains of the connection to the rim or to the side handles.

CONCLUSIONS

The glass vessels from Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi (East) seem to have been produced at local workshops, somewhere in the nearby region. Although some of the shapes appeared during the Late Roman period, the majority of the vessels are of the Byzantine period, and a few may even be of an early Umayyad date. Taking into consideration the earliest vessels and the latest ones, it seems possible that this burial cave was in use from the fifth to the seventh centuries CE.

The vessels are divided into three groups. The first consists of simple bottles with a rounded rim, well-known in the region during the Byzantine period; they have been found in burial complexes as well as in dwellings. Some of the types, like No. 4, continued into the Umayyad period. The second and most important group consists of tall jugs with ribbed handles and pad bases. These jugs have a very distinctive fingerprint, differentiating them from other jugs in the region. They are most similar to the jugs from Qiryat Ata (Vitto 2008) and from the cemetery at Ḥorbat Qastra (Castra), where a local glass workshop was active during the Late Roman and Byzantine periods. We would suggest that the vessels from Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi (East) and Qiryat Ata were made at Ḥorbat Qastra, or at another nearby glass factory. This group represents the early glass vessels in the cave. The third group is the cosmetic vessels, namely double kohl-tubes. Their characteristically elaborate handles—especially the combination of long ear-shaped handles on the side, two handles, one above the other in the middle and a basket handles above the rim—are also indicative of a specific workshop.

The glass assemblage from Ḥorbat Zefat 'Adi (East) enlarges our knowledge regarding the distribution, typology and chronology of glass vessels in the western Galilee.

NOTES

¹ I wish to thank Howard Smithline for inviting me to study this group and for sharing with me all the information regarding the excavation. Thanks are due to Hagit Tahan-Rosen for drawing the vessels. The restoration was done by the author, and the glass was photographed by Howard Smithline.

² Two groups of vessels were found in Caves 1 and 2 at Khirbat el-Shubeika: one from the late Roman – early Byzantine periods and the other from the late Byzantine – early Umayyad periods.

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