

The Pottery of the Later Periods from Tel Jezreel: an Interim Report

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Introduction

This interim report represents a brief overview of the ceramic material from Tel Jezreel ranging from the late fourth century B.C. (Hellenistic period) to the cessation of occupation in A.D. 1948. Material from this time span has been excavated by Ora Yoyev on behalf of the Israel Department of Antiquities beyond the east end of the tell (Yoyev 1988–89) and from seven excavation areas across the tell by the joint Tel Aviv University-British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem expedition during four seasons in 1990–3 (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1992, 1994).

The problems faced in evaluating the material include the sheer volume and complexity of what has been recovered so far and the secondary nature of deposition with consequent high degree of breakage of much of the pottery. Some of the material including the lamps awaits further detailed study and further quantification is required. Complementary material like glass, coins and metal-work requires further analysis to assist in dating deposits in the stratigraphic record thus complementing study of the ceramic assemblages. Hardly any complete vessels were recovered and the possibility of restoration to complete profiles is limited to only a few examples. Restoration work is still under way at the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and at Tel Aviv University.

The excavation areas

Area A. (Iron Age casemate walls, rampart, gateway and rock-cut moat at southern side of tell). Ceramic evidence for activity/settlement from the first century A.D. to after the eighth century A.D. (Roman to earlier medieval periods) is abundant. The Iron Age moat was used as a rubbish dump over a period of centuries and domestic structures of the fourth century were built onto the earlier (Roman period) fills within the moat. Dumping continued and fourth to eighth century material is particularly abundant. Settlement continued thereafter with medieval and post-medieval material present in rubbish pits and occupation deposits.

Area B. (The south-east Iron Age corner tower, Late Roman/Byzantine domestic structure). A range of material from the Hellenistic and later periods was excavated from robber trenches, fourth century A.D. (or later) domestic structures and medieval pits and deposits.

Area C. (Northern side of tell). Robbing and reuse of Iron Age masonry in the Roman/Byzantine period was evident with contemporary and later ceramic material in abundance in these secondary fills.

Area D. (The north-east Iron Age corner tower). A great deal of Roman/Byzantine robbing of the Iron Age masonry is evident from secondary fills with contemporary ceramic material.

Area E. (The western end of the tell where a twelfth century Crusader period church overlies an earlier construction, perhaps sixth to eighth century A.D., which is deeply founded in the upper fills of the Iron Age moat). Excavation so far has yielded ceramic material from stratigraphy extending from *c.* fourth century A.D. and on through *c.* seventh to *c.* eleventh century A.D. (Early Islamic period) deposits to the twelfth century A.D. Crusader period and beyond. Detailed quantification of the ceramic material from 1992–3 is under way based on total collection and retention of all excavated material which was recovered with the aid of sieving.

Area F. (Iron Age casemate walls with later structures and deposits at the southern side of the tell). Abundant ceramic material from the sixth to twentieth centuries has been recovered with quantification conducted on selected samples.

Area G. (Iron Age structures and Late Roman/Byzantine structures and deposits at northern end of tell). Sixth to eighth century A.D. and later material is present.

The wares

Illustrations: all wares are wheelmade unless otherwise stated. Grey shading denotes red slip or red paint. Figure

4:1 and 2 and Fig. 8:4 were drawn at a scale of 1:1. All other illustrations were drawn at 2:5.

Second to first century B.C. coarse wares (Late Hellenistic jars)

A range of Late Hellenistic (second to first century B.C.) amphora/storage jar rims and bases has been recovered from Area B (especially Locus B318) and as a "background scatter" from all over the tel (cf. at Pella, Jordan; McNicoll 1982, 134-5, pl. 127: 7-19, 142-3, pl. 131: 5). Forms include jars with a tall vertical neck and vertical handle springing from rim to shoulder (Fig. 1:1 in hard orange ware with fine white calcite temper), tall amphorae in hard buff to white ware with everted rim and minimal neck (Fig. 1:2) and shorter more globular storage jars with everted rim. Wares are generally well levigated and fired buff, cream or light brown. However, some wares are coarser with grits erupting at the surfaces as in the ring base. Stamped Rhodian wine jar handles were recovered during Ora Yögev's excavation.

Fourth century B.C. to second century A.D. fine gloss wares including terra sigillata

Sherds of thin cream ware with black gloss and fine fairly hard orange ware with deep red gloss occur residually in many contexts. Second to first century B.C. dish, fish plate and bowl ring bases and rims (Fig. 1:3 bowl) as well as a sherd from a fluted small krater were recovered from Locus B318. First to second century A.D. (Early Roman) examples are also represented (Fig. 1:4 ?jug base).

Cooking vessels first century B.C. to beyond eighth century A.D.

a. open form with vertical ring handles

This range of cooking bowls has a sharp angular carination or convex profile, two vertical ring handles from rim to shoulder, ledge rim or complex thickened rim with single, double or triple groove, plain smooth body and convex base. Dating is first century B.C. to late

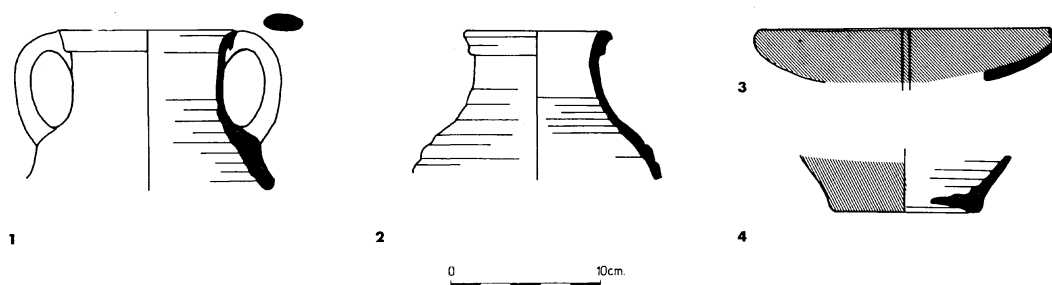


Figure 1. Late Hellenistic jars (1-2); terra sigillata wares (3-4).

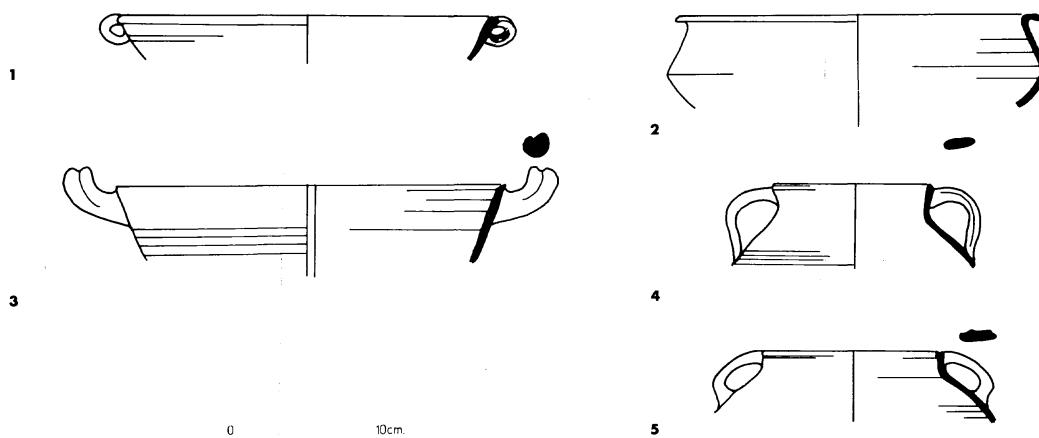


Figure 2. Open form cooking bowls (1-3); closed form cooking pots (4-5).

fourth century A.D. (Fernandez 1983, 164–173, 231; Adan-Bayewitz 1992, 91–101, for Galilee Roman common wares. Jerusalem area casseroles of this form are dated to late third century A.D. by Magness, 1993, 211.) The ware is hard-fired, fairly thickly potted, oxidised (surfaces appear red-brown to dark purple-red), sometimes with a grey core and occasional small calcite grit temper.

i. with ledge rim (Fig. 2:1, second to later fourth century.)

ii. with grooved rim (Fig. 2:2, Galilee bowl.)

b. open form with horizontal handles

The open form cooking bowl with vertical ring handles was superseded by vessels with two coil-formed horizontal basket handles, flat or pointed rim and ribbed or ridged body in coarse gritty quartz tempered brittle ware, sometimes oxidised, sometimes reduced. (cf. forms at Jalame; Johnson 1986, 201, fig. 7–43, Nos. 630–8.)

i. casserole. This is the shallow form of vessel. (Fig. 2:3.)

ii. tureen. This is the deep form of vessel.

c. closed form

Both the earlier (first to fourth century A.D.) and later (fifth to eighth century A.D.) varieties share a common basic form with vertical or flared neck, two vertical ring handles from rim to shoulder, globular body whose maximum diameter exceeds that of the rim diameter and convex base.

i. with small loop handles: this range of cooking bowls has a short neck with plain, grooved, everted or folded rim, small vertical loop handles from rim to upper shoulder and often a sharp angle between rim and shoulder and is dated from the first to the fourth century A.D. The ware is thinly potted, brittle, often quartz tempered and oxidised, sometimes with a grey or brown core and often appearing purplish-red at the surfaces. The body may be smooth or with thin, narrowly spaced ribs. (Fig. 2:4–5; Fig. 3:1, smooth-bodied pot.)

ii. with large vertical loop handles. This group typically has large vertical loop handles from the rim to below the shoulder, a smooth neck and ribbed body and is dated to the fifth to eighth century A.D. Rim variants include triangular (Fig. 3:2), everted (Fig. 3:3), flared, grooved, and rounded. Neck variants include vertical and flared. The ware is coarse quartz tempered and oxidised or reduced. Examples abound from other sites (e.g. Jalame; Johnson 1988, 189, fig. 7–35, Nos. 540–2, 191, fig. 7–37, Nos. 552–3.) Surface treatment consists of ribbing plus, in later material, (sixth to eighth century and later) white slip painted loops and swirls.

Handmade basins

Heavy, coarse, handmade, finger impressed, chaff-tempered basins (Fig. 3:4) in pale orange ware.

Bowls, beakers, flasks, jugs

A variety of other Roman/Byzantine period vessel forms occur. These include ledge-rimmed bowls, beakers, jugs and flasks (Fig. 3:5/6).

Transport amphorae

These are amphorae for the transport of comestibles. The Roman/Byzantine period wares include white ware with a pink fracture, coarse soft buff ware, hard-fired orange ware, red brittle coarse ware and soft micaceous ware with a laminar fracture. (Fig. 3:7, buff ware; Fig. 3:8, ribbed orange ware base; Fig. 3:9, base; Fig. 3:10, “carrot” base toe in hard orange ware.)

Lamps

A range of material, with several nearly complete examples, covers the centuries from the Hellenistic period to the early medieval and beyond. Examples include a red-slipped ring-handled earlier Roman type (Fig. 4:1), a ring lamp with 17 projecting nozzles, single small filling hole and three suspension rings from a cistern beyond the eastern end of the tell which was converted into a possible columbarium in the later Roman period (see Yoyev 1988–89) (Fig. 5), and a mould-made ovoid lamp of the Early Islamic period (Fig. 4:2).

Ribbed baggy jars

The form has its origins in the Hellenistic period and reaches a peak of abundance at Jezreel in the sixth to eighth centuries A.D. It has parallels at many sites across Palestine and Jordan. (Johnson 1988, 214.) This class of vessel, sometimes referred to as the Palestinian baggy/bag-shaped jar, is often considered to have been used for water storage. The variety confined to northern Palestine and adjacent parts of Jordan—and very abundant at Jezreel—is characterised by white /cream slip painted decoration on a grey or black exterior (and, in Israel, often called Beit Shean ware).

There are variants in size, neck form, rim form, ware and surface treatment. The ware is hard-fired metallic, sometimes oxidised with black surfaces and sometimes partly or wholly reduced firing rosy pink. Often a dark brown to grey slip has been added. The variation in fabric may be attributable to a large number of local industries (Johnson 1988, 214). At Jezreel this ware is often from poorly levigated clay leaving large quartz

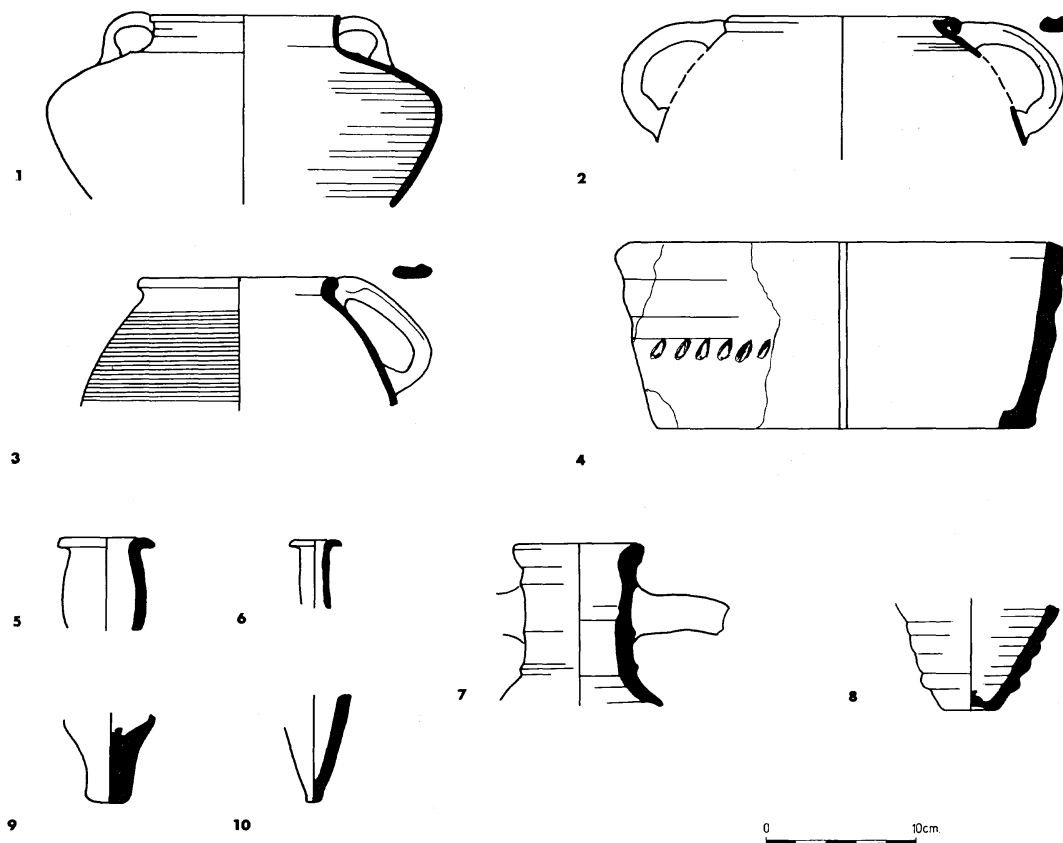


Figure 3. Closed form cooking pots (1-3); handmade basin (4); flasks (5-6); amphorae (7-10).

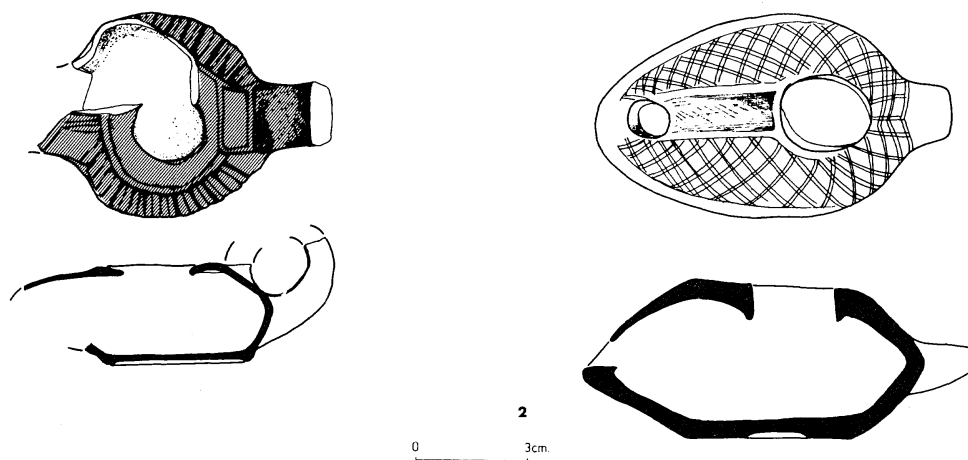


Figure 4. Roman lamp (1), Early Islamic lamp (2).

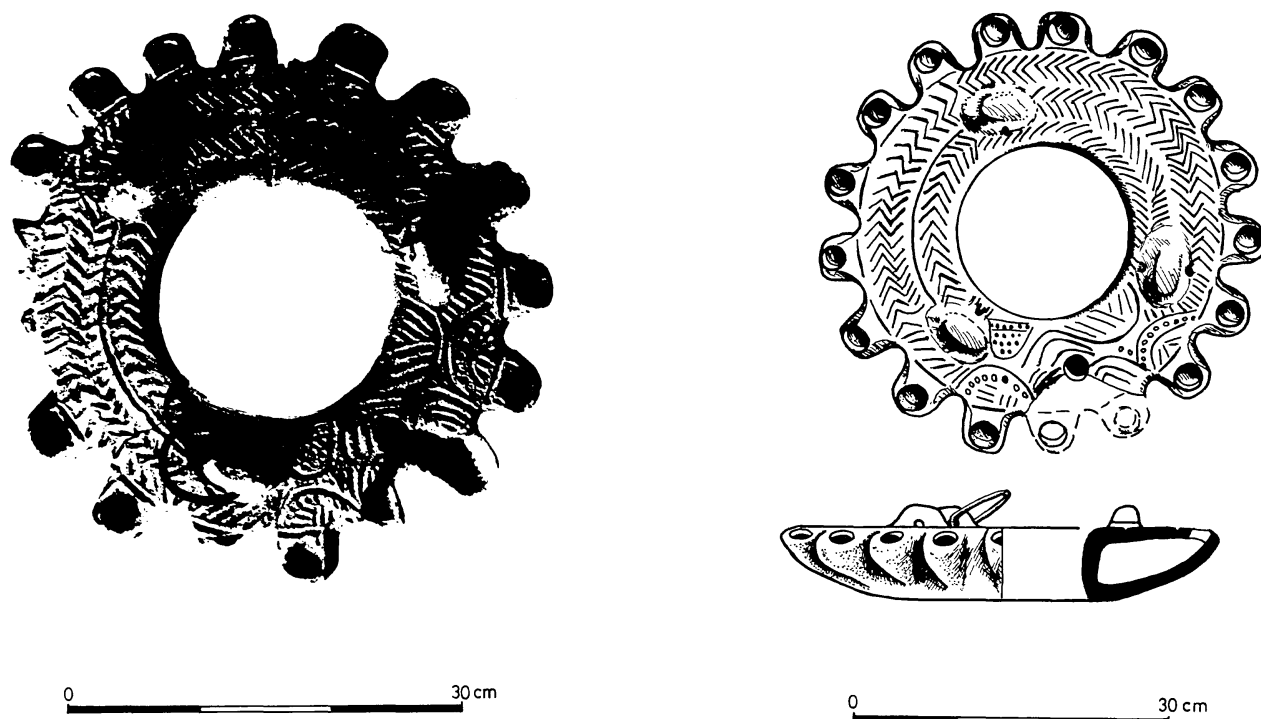


Figure 5. Roman multi-nozzle ring lamp.

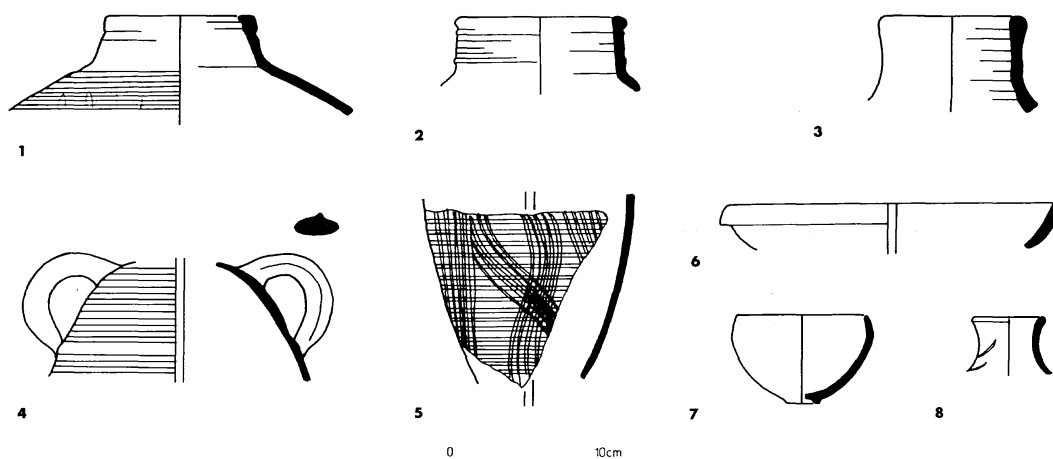


Figure 6. Metallic ware baggy jars (1-5); Cypriot Red Slip bowl (6); sixth to eighth century A.D. fine wares (7-8).

grits, blisters and uneven profiles, perhaps representing the output of a local manufactory.

The basic form is a deep, broad, bag-shaped jar with small neck and rim diameter of around 8 to 10 cm., two ring handles on the shoulder, ribbed/ridged body, sometimes with a clear panel in the middle, and convex base. White slip-painted decoration is very common on

this ware and on other jar wares and cooking wares through into the eighth century. A restored example from Area G Locus G2020 shows a common motif of bands of intersecting oblique lines (often wavy in other examples) in between bands of vertical straight lines. Sherds from other, perhaps earlier, examples have a horizontal white girth band.

Examples include Fig. 6:1, tapering neck; Fig. 6:2, neck with sharp ridge near neck base (a common form at Jezreel) could be a late sixth century A.D. form, (cf. Pella, Jordan; McNicoll 1982, 156–7) F525/4744; Fig. 6:3, tall neck; Fig. 6:4, ring handles on ridged shoulder; Fig. 6:5, intersecting wavy lines of white slip-painting on grey ribbed body.

Late Red Slip Ware

A dated typology for this ware has been formulated (Hayes 1972, 1980, 1993, called by him Late Roman Fine Ware) dating from c.370 A.D. to c.700 A.D. This group incorporates a range of table wares (dishes, bowls, basins) imported from the Mediterranean Basin. The ware is usually fairly fine, hard-fired with an orange fabric and self-slipped to produce an orange gloss of variable quality possibly emulating terra sigillata. This material is invaluable as a dating tool. The majority of Jezreel material dates to the sixth to seventh centuries located in the moat dump, Area B, Area F and the Area E ?seventh century A.D. destruction level by the church. The four groups so far identified are African Red Slip (ARS), Cypriot Red Slip (CRS), Phocian Red Slip (PRS), formerly referred to as Late Roman 'C', and, possibly, Late Roman/Asia Minor Light-coloured Ware. Other Red Slip wares such as Egyptian Red Slip have not so far been identified though there do appear to be some local versions of Red Slip wares and forms. At Jezreel only a tiny percentage of Roman/Byzantine wares are fine table wares: for Area E 1992 Red Slip wares make up 0.87% and local fine ware of the same period 1%. Wares represented at Jezreel include:

- a. African Red Slip with forms ARS 64:3, 91A, 93B, 104C, 105 and 107 represented.
- b. Cypriot Red Slip with forms CRS 1, 7, 9B (Fig. 6:6) 9C and 11 represented.
- c. Phocian Red Slip with forms PRS 1D, 3C, 3F, 3H, 6, 10A and 10C represented.
- d. Late Roman Light-coloured Ware(?) Sherds from two high-footed dishes appear to be of this class (which emanates from Asia Minor) dating mid-fifth to early-seventh century A.D.

Fine wares sixth-eighth centuries A.D.

This group has been termed Fine Byzantine Ware (Gihon 1974) and dated sixth to eighth centuries A.D. Many examples are cited from the Jerusalem area (summarised by Magness 1989, 1993, 166–71). Forms include hemispherical cups/beakers, bowls (Fig. 6:7, band burnished) and juglets (Fig. 6:8) with the open form (bowls) continuing up to the tenth century (Magness 1993, 171). These small bowls are attested at Pella in Jordan (McNicoll 1982, 161, pl. 140:8) and

dated to the 740s A.D. Surface treatment includes incised diagonal "shoulder nicks" or band burnishing on the exterior (and sometimes on the interior). The ware is thinly potted, fine grained with white calcite grits and hard-fired to buff or orange with a grey core. Such wares manufactured in the Jerusalem area have a northern limit at Lower Galilee (Magness 1993, 167–8). The quantity and range of material at Jezreel is limited. These wares are replaced during the eighth century A.D. by thicker, coarser Khirbet al-Mafjar-type wares.

Other earlier medieval wares

Settlement on the tell appears to have continued from the apogee of the sixth to eighth centuries A.D. through to the eleventh century A.D. (Early Islamic period) as evidenced by a range of ceramic material specific to those centuries. Useful for comparison and dating is the corpus from Khirbet al-Mafjar (Hisham's Palace) (Baramki 1942; Whitcomb 1988).

a. Coarse orange jar ware

Thickly potted, heavy, coarse, white calcite gritted ware firing to orange was used for storage jars, bowls and basins, generally ridged and white slip-painted often over a thin cream colour wash. Surface treatment includes combing (Fig. 7:1, basin with wavy combed rim and neck) finger impressed cordons around rim and neck ridge, and white slip-painted rims, handles and bodies including swirls, loops and "palm branch" latticing (Fig. 7:2/3/4, open form bowl.)

b. Reduced, white-painted metallic ware

The ware is hard-fired, metallic, reduced, smooth bodied and white slip-painted and utilised for forms including beakers (Fig. 7:5, painted inside and out, seventh/eighth century A.D.), amphorae, jugs, bowls and basins (cf. metallic ware cups and plates from Tel Hesban, Sauer 1982, 332.)

c. Red-painted, cream-slipped, hard-fired orange ware

Forms include smooth bodied jars in hard-fired oxidised ware (Fig. 8:2, red-painted lattice and "palm branch") cf. motifs in white paint on coarse orange jar ware. It is likely that both white and red-painted decoration continues into the ninth century A.D. (Sauer 1982, 333).

d. Reduced handmade basins and bowls

These wares are handmade, thickly potted and fired dark grey to buff with wheel-finished, thickened, incurved and out-turned rims. Forms include large flat-based basins and bowls. Surface treatment may include wavy combing and lines of chisel decoration. The ware is

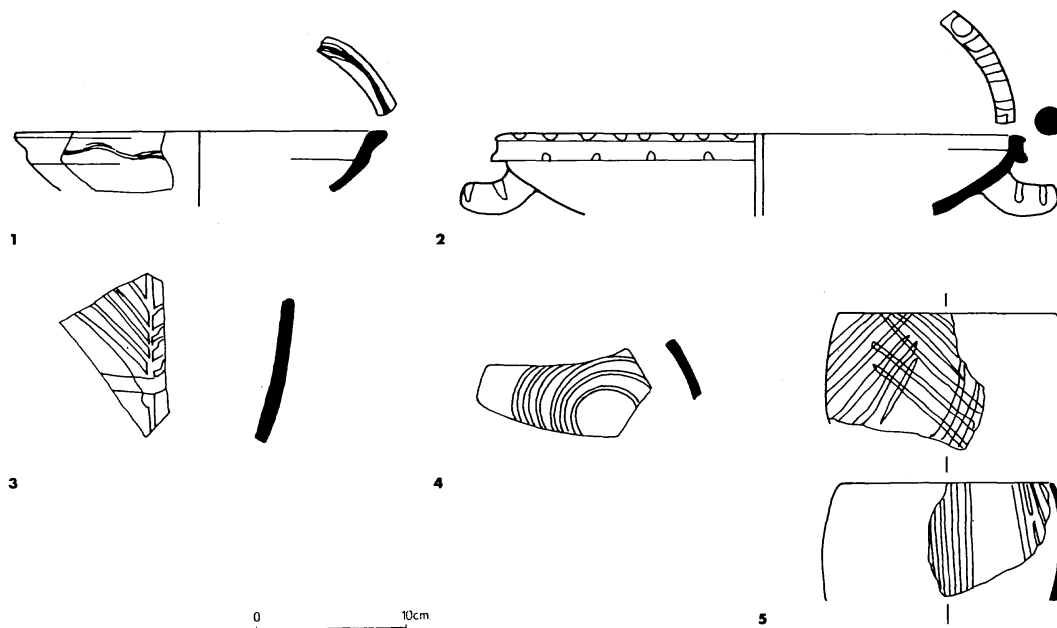


Figure 7. *White painted coarse ware bowls and jars (1–4); white painted metallic ware beaker (5).*

dated seventh to eighth century A.D. cf. the Umayyad reducing and oxidising kilns at Jerash, Jordan (Schaefer and Falkner 1986, 425–9). (Fig. 8:1, chisel-cut bands of wedges.)

e. Coarse cooking pot ware

This represents a continuation of pre-seventh century A.D. coarse brittle cooking pot ware but with evolving surface treatment with white slip paint over ribbing giving way to smooth-bodied pots with a finger-impressed or rocker-impressed geometric cordon around a carination sometimes with white slip paint.

f. Handmade, “cut ware”, geometric relief bowls

Knife-cut motifs include triangles and crossed squares on straight-sided, flat-based, thickly-potted, coarse, reduced ware bowls. The cut designs are a development of painted motifs and the vessel forms are derived from metal or stone precursors. Sauer dates earlier examples from c. 696 to 750 A.D. and cruder, deeper, versions to after c. 750 (Sauer 1982, 333) while Whitcomb dates the Khirbet al-Mafjar bowls to c. 800–850 A.D. (Whitcomb 1988, 55–6). (Fig. 8:3, bowl with two tiers of relief design); 8:4, bowl with cut relief exterior and red painted design on burnished interior.)

g. White ware

Dated eighth to eleventh centuries A.D. (cf. Abu Ghosh, de Vaux and Steve 1950, Pl.B, C) and sometimes called

Abbasid white ware. The ware is often fairly fine, rather soft and with a greenish or yellowish tinge or slightly buff to pink. Forms include bowls, water jars and spouted jugs (Pringle 1986, 145). (Fig. 8:5, flask neck and rim.) The jug handles may have conical thumb stops.

h. Red ware. Fig. 8:6 is a flask top in hard red ware.

i. Industrial vessels: sugar pots

The remains of four sugar pots were found close to the church north wall exterior in Area E. (cf. Jordan Valley; MacDonald 1992, dated as early as tenth/eleventh century A.D.) The pots are conical with a hole in the bottom and used for solidifying boiled sugar cane juice. They stood in the mouth of a molasses jar. Their presence near the top of a sequence of burnt horizons, ash, sand and clay next to the church and dated c. seventh century to c. eleventh century A.D. suggests the interesting possibility of a sugar-making industry, using cane from the swampy Jezreel Valley below the tell, preceding the Crusader occupation of the twelfth century. (Fig. 8:7, thickly potted, wheelmade orange ware.)

Medieval Glazed Wares

A substantial range and quantity of glazed wares have been recovered from all areas (but especially along the southern and western areas of the tell) all in a very fragmentary state with no complete vessels and very few

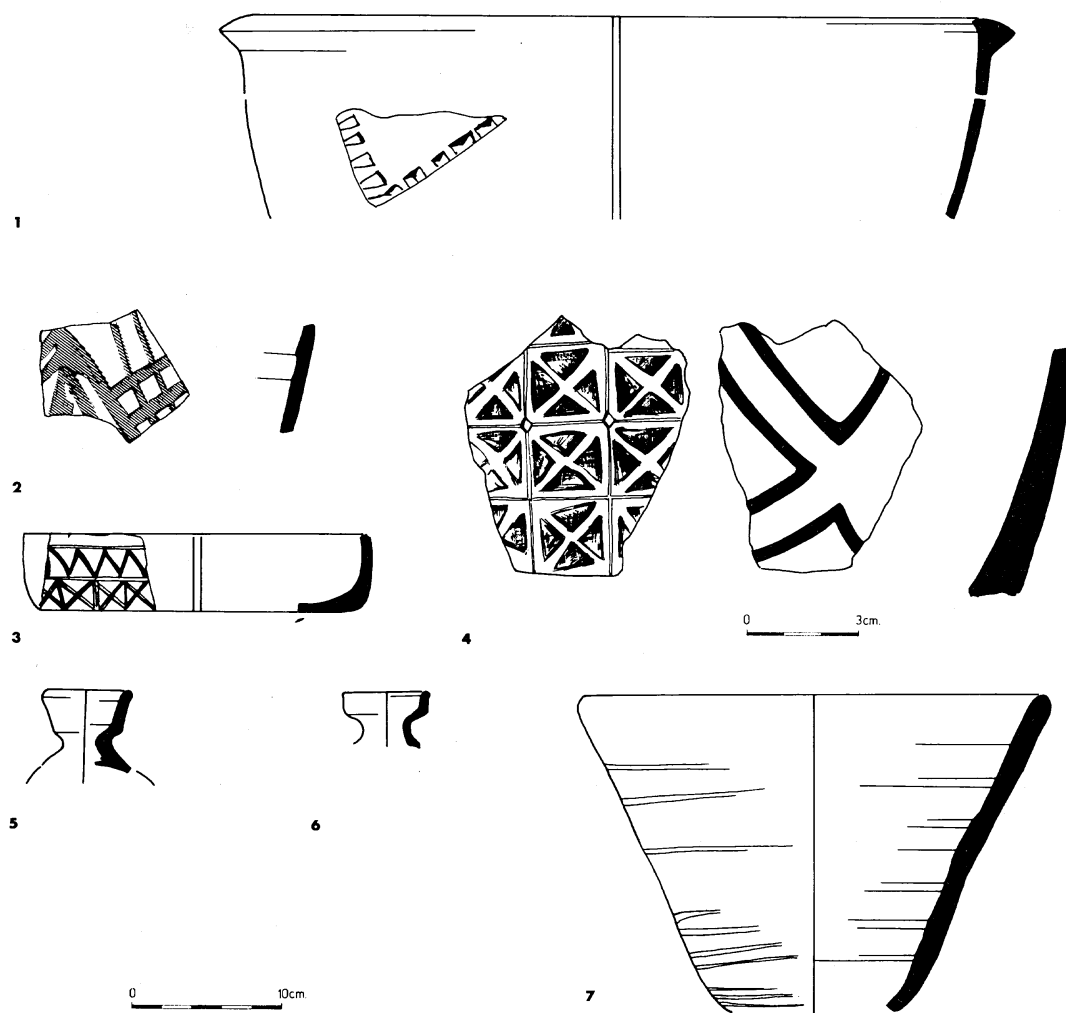


Figure 8. Handmade grey ware bowl (1); red painted jar (2); 'cut' ware handmade bowls (3-4); flasks (5-6); sugar pot (7).

complete profiles. The wares range in date from perhaps the ninth or tenth century A.D. to the post-medieval (Ottoman) period. Much work remains to be done in studying this material. There is evidence of imported ceramics such as the frit wares from Syria, and there may be imports from the eastern Mediterranean as at Beit Shean (Boas, forthcoming). Glazed wares (such as monochrome green glazed slip-ware) of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and later are abundant at Jezreel suggesting a substantial settlement following the recorded ousting of the Crusaders in 1187 A.D. A Mamluk caravanserai at Zer'in is recorded (Sauvaget 1941, 74-5).

Wares treated with glaze include kitchen wares (cooking vessels), and table ware bowls, dishes and

platters. The table ware is frequently a rather coarse, thickly-potted light red or "brick red" ware in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries A.D.

Lead glazed common and kitchen wares

Cooking vessels include open-form frying pans with horizontal basket handles, sometimes lead glazed over the ware in dark brown glaze or with a finger-impressed cordon (Fig. 9:1/3 glazed, with flaring sides, basket handles and grooved rim to take a lid) and closed-form globular cooking pots with vertical strap handles, often with a glazed interior and a splash of glaze on the exterior dated thirteenth century A.D. and evolving to a lighter fabric with a light brown glaze by the late

fourteenth century (Pringle 1986, 146). Fig. 9:2 is an unglazed basin in red ware.

Glazed table wares

a. Early Polychrome glazed ware may be dated ninth to eleventh centuries A.D. (sometimes referred to as Early Islamic polychrome glazed ware). The fabric may be fairly fine and hard cream or buff, thinly potted, with a thin cream wash and a triple merging colour scheme or "splashed" glaze of purple-brown + yellow + green or turquoise merging with yellow to form green. A few examples have been recorded from Areas B, C, F and G. Forms include plates and bowls with flared walls and out-splayed rims (cf. Pringle 1986, 150; Sauer 1982, 333).

b. Graffita wares were produced locally from the tenth century A.D. with some imported in the thirteenth century A.D. from the eastern Mediterranean (Cyprus, Byzantium and Port St. Symeon) into coastal Crusader cities and Beit Shean (Boas 1992).

i. Finely incised monochrome graffita wares. The design is created by incising the motif through the white slip covering the ware with a sharp tool and then covering with a green, yellow or brown glaze which makes the lines appear darker than the glaze colour. Forms include bowls and dishes often in fairly coarse light red ware (Fig. 9:6, splayed ring base, pale green glaze) and thinly potted bowls (including one in pale green glaze possibly imitating imported Chinese celadon.)

ii. Gouged ware incorporates motifs that are more deeply and broadly cut than above, using a sharp metal instrument to carve or gouge through the slip and into the ware which is then glazed in green, yellow and/or

brown to produce a design of black or dark brown appearance. (Fig. 9:4, pale yellow glaze on dish interior over wiggly lines.)

iii. Byzantine and Cypriot graffita wares were imported into several Crusader sites in Palestine in the late twelfth to early thirteenth century A.D. from Byzantium while evolved varieties were imported from Cyprus with examples from the monastery of St. Mary of Carmel (Pringle 1984, 102, fig. 7:60-3, 104-5, fig. 8:57-9), Caesarea, Atlit and elsewhere. One sherd from Jezreel, probably representing this class, has two gouged concentric circles on the base under an ochre glaze in a fine hard ware. A high foot-ring base with out-turned lip is probably thirteenth century Cypriot (cf. Pringle 1983, 190-2).

c. Slip-painted glazed ware dates to the thirteenth century A.D. (Pringle 1986) with the decoration achieved by painting white slip lines of 0.3 to 0.8 cm. width (commonly 0.6 cm.) on the ware and then glazing over the slip and ware with green or yellow glaze. The glazes vary from pale to dark producing green or yellow lines on red-brown or dark brown. The ware is fairly coarse and thickly potted orange to "brick red". (Fig. 9:5, bowl ring base.)

d. Glazed reserved slip-ware. The Jezreel examples utilise white or cream slip to cover only a major part of the ware which is then glazed in pale yellow and merging green glaze to produce brown + yellow + green colour zones on the interior of carinated red ware bowls/dishes.

e. Relief-moulded glazed ware is represented at Jezreel by one sherd with Arabic script with parallels at Beit Shean. The ware (thick, hard, white) has been moulded to form a relief design under a sea green glaze.

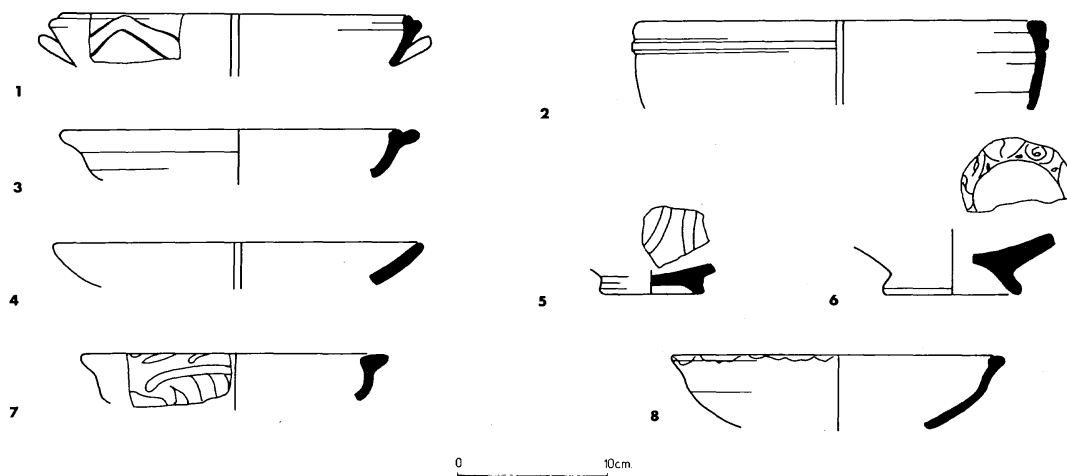


Figure 9. Lead glazed common ware (1,3); unglazed basin (2); graffita wares (4,6); glazed slip-painted ware (5); monochrome glazed bowls (7-8).

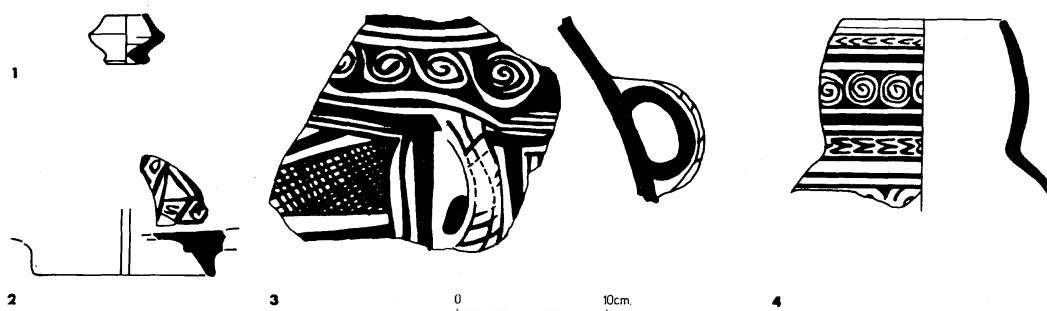


Figure 10. Blue glazed pot (1); underglaze painted dish (2); handmade geometrically painted jugs (3–4).

f. Monochrome glazed slip-ware is abundant from the thirteenth century into the fourteenth century A.D. and later for plates, dishes and bowls. Glazes are commonly green or yellow. What appear to be monochrome yellow and ochre sherds may sometimes derive from graffita wares. (Fig. 9:7, carinated dish with pale yellow glaze over white slip which is splashed and trailed down the exterior; 9:8, bowl with leaf green glaze, coarse red ware). Tripod marks from using a tripod to separate wares stacked for firing in the kiln are frequently visible.

g. Glazed slip-ware with green splashes exhibits a pale yellow glaze with splashes of green on the interiors of bowls/dishes.

h. Syrian under-glaze painted frit ware (often referred to colloquially as Raqqa ware) was produced at sites including Raqqa and Rusafa in the Euphrates Valley in the earlier thirteenth century with similar derived wares from the later thirteenth to fourteenth centuries in central Syria as represented at the Hama excavations (Poulsen 1957). Motifs were produced by painting in colours including black, blue and red on to white frit ware which was then covered with transparent (clear), blue or turquoise glaze with forms including bowls on high footring bases, plates and dishes. Frit ware was a possible attempt to imitate imported Chinese ceramic fabric in a white, very friable ware of silicates that did not fuse or vitrify under the firing temperatures that were used. The few very fragmentary examples from Jezreel derive mainly from Areas E and F. (Fig. 10:1, a tiny cobalt blue-glazed carinated pot; Fig. 10:2, red and black paint under a clear glaze on inside of bowl with high footring base.)

Small sherds of turquoise-blue and turquoise-green alkaline glazed ware are present.

Handmade geometrically painted coarse ware

This ware dates from the fourteenth century (or possibly earlier) to the twentieth century A.D. and the earlier material is contemporary with some of the glazed

wares of the later medieval period. It is sometimes termed Ayyubid-Mamluk or Mamluk Handmade Ware and is associated with contexts of that period (eg. Armenian Garden, Jerusalem; Tushingham 1985).

The ware was usually low-fired (in a bonfire) to a pale orange or cream and tempered with fine to large quartz grits and chaff. Vessels were often roughly burnished, wet-smoothed or slipped on one or both surfaces. Further surface treatment included finger impressed cordons or painted geometric motifs (see Franken and Kalsbeek 1975, 170–1) in monochrome black or deep red or in a bichrome combination of black and red. Some similarly decorated hard-fired orange ware is contemporary. Typochronological change is suggested with a move from high quality design and execution of geometric motifs to a freer, less geometric style in later centuries. These wares are probably the product of many local village industries in Jordan and Palestine. The vessels were handmade being shaped with the aid of a piece of textile. Three Jezreel sherds have been noted with a textile impression (assessed by H. Granger-Taylor, British Museum). Examples at Jezreel appear in highly fragmentary form with no complete restoration feasible. Also, they often appear in contexts not recorded as exhibiting clear stratigraphy. Locus F476 has yielded a lot of this material contemporary with glazed wares.

Forms include bowls, dishes and jugs (Fig. 10:3, jug neck, purplish painted design on a cream slip; 10:4, jug handle, black paint on cream slip).

Post-medieval material

A wide range of common and table wares from Zer'in village date to the Ottoman and British Mandate periods, generally in unstratified surface deposits, especially at the western end of the tel. The table wares include late glazed bowls and plates with white slip trails glazed in mustard yellow or dark green (the dating of this material suggested by A. Boas, pers. com.), eighteenth-century Turkish coffee cups, stoneware, porcelain and china made locally or imported. The

common wares include large globular cooking pots with upwardly arched ledge handles, hard-fired and light white ware jugs with incised decoration, bowls and basins with wavy combing, grey ware wheel-made bowls and jugs, storage jars and black Gaza Ware water jugs, jars, bowls and basins. Gaza Ware dates from the eighteenth century or earlier to the twentieth century. It is a dark grey to black reduced ware which was widely traded from Gaza throughout Palestine and into Jordan. The familiar water jug (*ibriq*) has two opposed vertical strap handles one of which is attached to a side spout, a tapered neck, collared rim, ribbed body and flat base. A variant has a single handle and opposed side spout. (cf. jugs from an Islamic burial at Tel el-Hesi, Toombs 1985, 245–7, pls. 82–4).

Several fragments of Turkish smokers' pipes have been identified and dated to the eighteenth century (verified by S. Simpson, British Museum). A lot of interesting work could be done on these late wares, some of which were manufactured within living memory and some of which remain in folk tradition and in local museum collections.

Conclusion

From the ceramic record no clear breaks appear in occupation across the tell during the period under consideration. There appears to be no hiatus following the Arab conquest of Late Roman (Byzantine) Palestine in 638 A.D. Whether there is a reduction of, or break in, occupation following the earthquake of 747/8 A.D. and the political changes under the Abbasid Dynasty (ruling from 750 to c. 967 A.D.) is a very interesting question to consider. At Jezreel some early glazed pottery is attested. Such a hiatus is attested across Syria and Jordan. There appears to be no clear break in the record following the ousting of the Templars in 1187 A.D. with glazed fine wares in evidence alongside coarse handmade wares through the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries A.D. There are implications for settlement and trade to be considered.

Isolating local typologies and understanding typological development over time are clear goals. Parallels with other sites to find common sources of wares plus trade patterns must be sought with particular reference to Beit Shean with its large Roman/Byzantine city, medieval occupation and seventh/eighth century A.D. (Umayyad period) pottery kilns and to other sites along the Jezreel Valley into the Jordan Valley.

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Registration numbers of pottery figures

Each pottery figure is registered as follows: figure number in brackets followed by area letter and locus number followed by basket number.

Fig. 1: (1) B318/3506; (2) B318/3436; (3) B318/3410; (4) A88/1514; **Fig. 2:** (1) F420/4194; (2) A73/1293; (3) F508/4690; (4) D774/7344; (5) A73/1293; **Fig. 3:** (1) A73/1290; (2) F440/4306; (3) C405/4051; (4) A67/1207; (5) A86/1396; (6) A139/1671; (7) A67/1214; (8) F464/1372; (9) A89/1400; (10) E911/8505; **Fig. 4:** (1) 204/2686; (2) F428/4236; **Fig. 5:** Israel Antiquities Authority reg. no. 1514/275; **Fig. 6:** (1) F546/4825; (2) F525/4744; (3) E924/6568; (4) F444/4293; (5) F449/4341; (6) A138/1678; **Fig. 7:** (1) F428/4253; (2) E928/8668; (3) F508/4695; (4) E905/8461; (5) E849/8453; **Fig. 8:** (1) E862/8504; (2) E905/8521; (3) A139/1687; (4) A002/0027; (5) E928/8590; (6) F525/4741; (7) E912/8545; **Fig. 9:** (1) F433/4277; (2) F444/4293; (3) F505/4672; (4) F424/4266; (5) F476/4404; (6) E972/8681; (7) F425/4255; (8) F431/4261; **Fig. 10:** (1) E812/8194; (2) F483/4277; (3) C403/7001; (4) D680/3949.

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