Contract Archaeology Reports III

Reports and Studies of the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies Excavations

Haifa 2008
Contract Archaeology Reports
III

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Excavation at Bat Galim: The Glass Vessels

Rachel Pollak

Introduction

The salvage excavation at Bat Galim conducted by I. Jabour in 2002 (B-251/02) yielded a small quantity of glass vessel fragments - some 40 pieces. These represent mainly goblets or wine glasses, beakers, oil lamps, and bottles. A single fragment of a bowl and another of a double tube cosmetic vessel were also recovered. The glass is mainly green to bluish-green and the quality of production varies.

The glass vessels will be presented by typological classification. Due to the lack of sound stratigraphical contexts in the Bet Galim excavation the dating is based on parallels from other sites. All items are illustrated by the author.

The Glass Vessels

I. Bowl with Out and Down Folded Rim (Figure 1: 1)

A single rim fragment was assigned to this category, which is distinguished by an out and down folded rim that usually creates an air tube. Out-folded rim bowls usually have a tubular base ring. It is a common type that appears in a wide range of forms from the Roman to the Early Islamic period.

A large group of such bowls was found at Jalame in the factory dump from the second half of the 4th century CE, and was considered as local production (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988: 41-43, Fig. 4-3). Another bowl with a similar rim was found in a wine-press tank at Jalame and was assigned a slightly later date, to late 4th and the beginning of 5th century CE (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988: Fig. 4-3: 19).

II. Beakers (Figure 1: 2-3)

Two pushed-in, tubular bases are considered to be beaker fragments. They are the same as Barag's Type 4.5, which was found within the Byzantine period factory area at Samaria. However, this type is typical of the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods. Based on parallels from a tomb at Even-Menahem, Barag found it more suitable to date this type of beaker to the 4th century CE (Barag 1970: 142-143, Pl. 32: 4.5). Such beakers with pushed-in bases appeared in small numbers in the factory dump and in the wine press tank at Jalame (Weinberg and Goldstein 1988: 62, Fig. 4-24: 187; late 4th or the beginning of 5th centuries CE). Further parallels were found in the wine press at Akhziv, dated to the 4th century CE (Syon 1998: 95, Fig. 15, 23, 24), at Tirat HaCarmel (Pollak 2005: 14, 16, Fig. 4: 30, 31) and at Khirbat el-Ni'ana where they date to the Late Roman and Early Byzantine periods (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: 90, 93, Fig. 8: 11, 12).
III. Stemmed Goblets (Wineglasses; Figure 1: 4-6)

Stemmed goblets are one of the most common glass vessels of the Byzantine period, appearing mainly in the 6th and 7th century CE and the shape continues into the Early Islamic period. Roman stemmed goblets are known as well, although they are rare (Barag 1970: 146, Pl. 33: 5.2-5.10).

At Bat Galim three base fragments were classified as stemmed goblets. They represent two typologically different sub-types which differ in their mode of production, and are attested to in sites other than Bat Galim.

Sub-type 1: Blown stemmed goblets with folded tubular bases (figure 1: 4, 5). Goblets of this type vary in their stem sizes and forms. A wide range of vessels of this sub-type, recovered in sites in Jordan, were presented by Dussart as Type BIX.1. All of them are dated to the Byzantine or late Byzantine period, specifically, to the 6th and 7th centuries CE (Dussart 1998: 115-117, Pl. 27, for further discussion and references see pp. 120-121 there). Other examples include a knobbled stem goblet from Khirbat el-Ni’ana as well as goblets from the Painted Tomb at Migdal Ashqelon and Khirbat Tabaliya (Giv’at Hamatos), which are similar in form to our figure 1: 4 (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: 90, 91 and 93, Fig. 8: 17; Katsnelson 1999: 70, 71, Fig. 2: 14; Gorin-Rosen 2000: 84-86, 165, 166, Fig. 2: 15). Several stemmed goblets were found at Tirat HaCarmel and Tel Tannim (Pollak 2005: 15, 16, Fig. 4: 36-39; Pollak 2006: 172-173, Fig. 135: 83-93, further references therein).

Sub type 2: Goblet with tooled solid stem and foot (figure 1: 6). Bat Galim specimen is a fragment of solid, knobbled stem and solid, tooled foot. Some of these goblets were most probably produced in two separate parts, the lower tooled and the upper blown, as Barag’s Type 5.7 (Barag 1970: 147, Pl. 33: 5.7). Another example is a solid stemmed goblet that was found in the north-west Church at Sussita (Hippos). Its upper part is mold blown with a geometrical net pattern while the beaded stem and solid foot are tooled. The goblet was dated by parallel from Horvat Karkur to the Late Byzantine - Umayyad period (Burdajewicz 2006: 130, Fig. 1: 15, with further reference therein). The method of production is less evident in the examples from Jordan, some of which are dated to Late Byzantine period, but which are mostly assigned to the Umayyad period (Dussart 1998: Type BIX.2, Pp. 121-124, Pl. 29).

At Bet Shean all the stemmed goblets from the Umayyad period have a solid, tooled stem and foot (Hadad 1998a: 49, Pl. 16: 284-291).

IV. Stemmed Oil Lamps (Figure 2: 7-10)

A single specimen of a hollow stem lamp (figure 2: 7) and eight specimens of solid stem lamps (figure 2: 8-10) were recovered at Bat Galim. The solid stems are tooled to form uneven, carelessly shaped beads; these lamps are therefore assigned to the solid beaded (or knobbled) stem sub-type.

Hollow stem lamps dated to the Byzantine and in some cases to the Umayyad period have been found in many sites such as Caesarea (Peleg and Reich 1992: 155, Fig. 20: 1-9),
**Figure 1**: Bowl with out and down folded rim, beakers and stemmed goblets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>L108, B1025/1</td>
<td>Bowl</td>
<td>Rim diameter 20.0 cm; Pale greenish-blue glass; Intensively weathered, rough surface, severely pitted, iridescent; Whitish shiny layer of weathering under brown coat (or deposits), all flaking easily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>L100, B1008/1</td>
<td>Beaker</td>
<td>Base diameter 4.8 cm; Folded, tubular, splayed out base ring, pushed up-rounded center with pontil scar; Bluish green glass, contains many small bubbles; Whitish, shiny, flaking weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>L120, B1063/1</td>
<td>Beaker</td>
<td>Base diameter 5.5 cm; Folded, tubular, splayed out base ring, pushed up center with glass remains of the pontil; Bluish green glass, contains some minute bubbles; Whitish, shiny, filmy weathering, iridescence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>L120, B1063/3</td>
<td>Beaker</td>
<td>Base diameter 5.0 cm; Folded tubular foot with glass remains of the pontil and knobbed stem of goblet; Olive green glass, contains minute bubbles; Whitish, shiny, filmy (thin) weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>L120, B1063/2</td>
<td>Stemmed goblet</td>
<td>Base diameter 6.5 cm; Folded, tubular, pushed up foot of goblet with small pontil scar, short stem; Deep bluish green glass, contains many minute, small and some elongated bubbles; Remains of whitish, shiny, thin layer of flaking weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>L108, B1025/2</td>
<td>Stemmed goblet</td>
<td>Beaded long stem of goblet. The tooled foot and pontil mark are partly preserved; Deep bluish green glass contains small bubbles, some of them elongated; Remains of whitish shiny weathering.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rehovot in the Negev (Patrich 1988: 136, Type B, dated to the 5th-7th centuries CE), and Shavei-Zion (Barag 1967: Fig. 16: 25, dated to the 5th-6th centuries CE). Also comparable are Mount of Olives lamps of Barag's Type 13.6, which are dated to the end of the Byzantine period (Barag 1970: 183, Pl. 40: 13.6). Similar hollow stem lamps from sites in Jordan were also dated to the Byzantine or the Umayyad periods (Dussart 1998: 86-88, Type BVI.211, Pl. 16: 1-5, further discussion and references therein). Similar stemmed-lamps were found at Migdal Ashqelon (Katsnelson 1999: 79, Fig. 5: 5), at Tel Tanninim (Pollak 2006: 167-168, Fig. 133: 69) and a complete profile - at Khirbat el-Ni’ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: 116-117, Fig. 22: 6, 8).

Lamps with beaded solid stems were found mainly in Umayyad contexts at Bet Shean, Tiberias and Beirut (Hadad 1998a: Type 2, p. 50, Pl. 17: 299-307; Hadad 1998b: 66, 68-69, Fig. 2: 14-22; Lester 2004: 195-197, Fig. 7.11: 135; Foy 1996: 94-95, Fig. 2: 4041; Foy 2000: 242-245, Figs. 4: 610, 6: 12-18, 7: 18-22). Specimens from Jerash in Jordan also support the Umayyad dating (Dussart 1998: 88, Pl. 16: 13, 17, Type BVI.23). A similar lamp stem from Sussita was dated based on parallels (Burdajewicz 2006: 131-132, Fig. 1: 25, see further discussion therein).

V. Double tube cosmetic container (Figure 2: 11)

A single fragment of the lower part of a double tube with a pontil scar was found in Bat Galim. From this fragment, it can be clearly seen that a cylindrical tube was folded in its center to form the double tube vessel.

Double tube cosmetic vessels are limited to the Eastern Mediterranean region, i.e. Israel, Jordan and Syria, and are dated from the 4th century CE into the Byzantine period (Barag 1970: 175-179, Pl. 39: 12.1-12.8). These vessels served to contain cosmetic powders such as kohl, and in some cases, such as in the late 4th to first quarter of the 5th century CE tomb at Giv‘at Sharet (Seligman et al. 1996: 50. 59, Fig. 17), were found together with a bronze spatula. Spatulae or rods from other materials, such as bone or glass, have been found in association with double tubes cosmetic vessels in other sites (Israeli 2001: 243, 247, 248). These vessels have plain and decorated variations as shown by the large collection of vessels found at Khirbat el-Ni’ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: 108-114, Figs. 16-20, see further discussion and references therein).

VI. Bottles (Figure 2: 12-15)

The bottle rim displayed in figure 2: 12 is upright and wide. It probably belongs to medium sized bottle with wide, cylindrical neck. Rims of this type are found on bottles with a variety of body shapes, and thus no particular body shape may be inferred. Bottles with this type of rim appeared in the Roman period, continued throughout the Byzantine and into the Early Islamic period. A Roman age parallel is a 4th century CE bottle with simple upright rim from cave 3 in the cemetery of Horbat Rimmon (Gorin-Rosen 2004: 114-116, Fig. 2: 7). Many similar Byzantine period rims, as well as a few late Roman and early Islamic rims were
found in Jordan and have been classified as Dussart's Type BX.5311 (Dussart 1998: 152-153, Pl. 44: 1-6). Several similar rims were found at Tel Tanninim, one of them retrieved from a sealed loci dated to the Late Byzantine and Umayyad periods (Pollak 2006: 179-180, 192, Figs. 140: 140-143, 152: 142, further references therein).

Figure 2: Oil lamps, cosmetic container and bottles.
Excavation at Bat Galim: The Glass Vessels

Figure 2: Oil lamps, cosmetic container and bottles (continuation).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
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<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>L104, B1020/1</td>
<td>Oil lamp</td>
<td>Lower part of hollow stem, cylindrical, with glass remains of the pontil; Maximum width 1.6 cm; Green glass; Whitish, shiny weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>L111, B1045/1</td>
<td>Oil lamp</td>
<td>Long solid stem of lamp; 6.0 cm length, 1.65 cm maximum diameter; Tooled to form irregular, faded beads, with pontil scar; Bluish green glass; Whitish, shiny weathering under a yellowish layer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>L111, B1041/1</td>
<td>Oil lamp</td>
<td>Long solid stem of lamp; 5.5 cm length; Lower part tooled to form uneven beaded shape, with rough scar and glass remains of the pontil; Preserves the opening toward cup or bowl of the lamp; Green glass contains impurities; Translucent, iridescent weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>L111, B1041/2</td>
<td>Oil lamp</td>
<td>Part of tooled solid stem, probably beaded, with pontil scar; Deep green glass; Whitish-pearly weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>L109, B1043/1</td>
<td>Cosmetic container</td>
<td>Lower part of double tube with pontil scar, 1.0 cm diameter; Deep green glass; Translucent, iridescent layer under whitish, shiny layers of weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>L112, B1044/1</td>
<td>Bottle</td>
<td>Rim diameter 7.0 cm; Simple upright rim, neck wall slightly tapers downward; Light green glass contains minute bubbles; Whitish shiny weathering above translucent layer of iridescence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>L112, B1050/1</td>
<td>Bottle</td>
<td>Rim diameter 6.2 cm; Infolded rim and neck fragment; Light, pale green glass, contains small and medium size bubbles; Whitish, shiny, flaking weathering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>L111, B1037/1</td>
<td>Bottle</td>
<td>Rim diameter 2.7 cm; Rim and long cylindrical neck fragment, rim partly infolded, lopsided, careless manufacture; Pale green glass contains bubbles, some vertically elongated; Whitish, shiny weathering on interior, iridescence outside.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>L111, B1037/2</td>
<td>Bottle</td>
<td>Lower body fragment curving toward base. Diameter of vessel approximately 6.0 cm; Decorated with vertical ribs, widely spaced; Pale greenish hue glass; Iridescent surface.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A fragment of bottle with infolded rim and cylindrical neck is illustrated in figure 2: 13. Similar rims have been assigned dates through the late Roman and Byzantine periods. This includes an example found at Tell Tanninim which was dated by parallels to the Byzantine period (Pollak 2006: 181, Fig. 141: 154), a rim from Jerash which was dated to mid 7th century CE (Type BX.5321), a specimen from Ain ez-Zara in Jordan which was dated from the second half of the 4th to the first quarter of the 6th century CE (Dussart 1998: 153-154, Pl. 44: 21, 22), and one from Migdal Ashqelon which was dated to between the mid 5th to the 7th century CE (Katsnelson 1999: 72-74, Fig. 3: 8).
The fragment in figure 2: 14 belonged to a bottle with long cylindrical neck with thin walls. It was either manufactured carelessly or it partially collapsed, thus the rim is partly folded inside and a ridge is formed on part of the neck. Such bottles are common in the Byzantine period, e.g. in Nir Galim, Hammat Gader and other sites (Gorin-Rosen 2002: 123-124, Fig. 2: 6; Cohen 1997: 422, 426 (Type 2a), Pl. VIII: 6, 7, further references therein).

The body fragment in figure 2: 15 is decorated with vertical ribbing, probably pinched. The fragment is curving toward the base, but there is no indication as to the angle of the wall. The body appears to have been pear shaped rather than globular. Bottles with vertical rib decoration are known from the Roman period, from the 2nd-3rd centuries CE into the 4th century CE (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: 107; Weinberg and Goldstein 1988: 81). Several bottles with vertical ribbing from the early Islamic period were recovered at Caesarea (unpublished).

Several other bottle fragments are too small to be accurately illustrated. This group includes the thick flat base of a medium size globular bottle made of bluish green glass; concave bases of various sized bottles of thin, green and bluish-green glass that recall a base fragment from Tel Tanninim (Pollak 2006: 182, 183, Fig. 142: 166, 169); and a funnel shaped mouth and cylindrical neck decorated with applied thick trail of similar color to the vessel, probably similar to 5th-6th centuries CE bottles recovered at Khirbat el-Ni‘ana (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 2007: 100-103, Fig. 13: 1, 2).

Summary

Of the few glass fragments found in the excavations at Bat Galim, most can be assigned to the Byzantine and Umayyad periods. The earliest vessels are dated to the late 4th and early 5th centuries CE. The assemblage contained mainly bottles, stemmed goblets and stemmed lamps, which are characteristic of the 5th-7th centuries CE. Only a single fragment of a bowl was recovered. Given the absence of stratigraphic contexts at the site, there is no need for analysis of the assemblage beyond the typological discussion above.

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