STUDIES IN THE IRON AGE POTTERY OF ISRAEL

TYPOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL ASPECTS

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ORNA ZIMHONI
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Editors' Foreword

Orna Zimhoni died on 29 December 1996 at the age of 45 after a long illness. She completed her archaeological studies at Tel Aviv University, working at the Institute of Archaeology since 1975. As the recorder of the archaeological excavations at Tel Masos, Tel Lachish, Tel ʿEton, Beitar, Tel Jezreel, and as the pottery expert of the renewed excavations at Tel Megiddo, Orna had the opportunity to study in depth all aspects of Iron Age pottery in the Land of Israel, both southern and northern, in view of all its archaeological, historical and biblical implications.

By the time of her death Orna had written or published several studies on the Iron Age pottery of these sites, but her long years of work and study had only begun to bear fruit. At the time of her death Orna was preparing the final publications of the Iron Age pottery from Tel Lachish, Tel Jezreel and Tel Megiddo. While already gravely ill she resolutely struggled to continue her scholarly work, and in fact her last article, concerning the pottery of Tel Jezreel (reproduced here as Chapter 2), was nearly completed during her last day of work at the Institute.

Although her lifework, tragically, was left uncompleted, Orna managed in her various written works to deeply impact the study of Iron Age pottery in the Land of Israel. Therefore, the Institute of Archaeology has decided to collect in one volume her important studies — published and unpublished — not only as a proper memorial to appear on the first anniversary of her death, but a most useful scientific publication, an essential tool to anyone dealing with Iron Age archaeology and history in the Land of Israel.

We decided to include five works in the book: two papers on Tel Jezreel, one article on Tel ʿEton and one on Lachish Levels III and II — these having been published in *Tel Aviv* — as well as her unpublished M.A. thesis on Lachish Levels V and IV pottery. We excluded from this compilation three of her studies: a report on the Iron Age pottery of Tel Masos (see V. Fritz and A. Kempinski, eds., *Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen auf der Ḫirbet el-Mšāš (Tēl Māśōś)*, Wiesbaden, 1983, pp. 127–130), as it does not relate to the more general problems discussed in the other studies included; her article, written with S. Bunimovitz, on '"Lamp-and-Bowl" Foundation Deposits in Canaan' (see *IEJ* 43, 1993, pp. 99–125); and her reports on the pottery from the Late Bronze Age gate and the Iron Age strata of Megiddo (completed after her death by I. Finkelstein and to be published in the forthcoming Megiddo excavation report), because these articles deal with Late Bronze Age pottery or were co-authored by other scholars.

The five studies are arranged in chronological order, and we have attempted to present them as published at the time by Orna. The reader will naturally notice that each study was written and published independently and at a different juncture. This, of course, is unavoidable.

In the articles reproduced from *Tel Aviv*, we introduced only trivial editorial changes and updated some bibliographical entries. For the convenience of the reader, we also added plans of Tel Jezreel and Tel Lachish, indicating excavation areas and some of the loci mentioned in the text. Regarding the M.A. thesis, much more work had to be invested. The study was written in Hebrew, and Orna did not manage during her lifetime to complete its adaptation for publication. The study was translated into English by Alan Paris, and some editorial changes had to be introduced. However, the final product truly represents Orna Zimhoni's original analysis and conclusions.

A number of people were of great help in the production of the book: Jared L. Miller, the manuscript and production editor, who did his utmost to produce the book to the highest possible standard; Ada Perry, who prepared the illustrations; Ora Paran who produced the plans; and Noga Blockman and Yulia Gotlieb, who helped with various technical matters. Shimon Chen and Graph-Chen Press undertook the printing.

The publication of the book was made possible by the generous support of the following: the special funds of the Rector of Tel Aviv University, Prof. Dan Amir; the Director General of Tel Aviv University, Mr. David Lanir; the School of Jewish Studies, managed by the school secretary, Mr. Gideon Spiegel; and the Institute of Archaeology, headed by Prof. Israel Finkelstein. We are grateful to them all.

Both of us studied, excavated and researched with Orna for more than a quarter of a century. She was an excellent student, inspiring colleague and loyal friend. We hope this volume will be an appropriate token in her memory.

Lily Singer-Avitz and David Ussishkin

CHAPTER 1

THE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM TEL JEZREEL: AN INTERIM REPORT*

This interim report presents part of the Iron Age ceramic repertoire recovered from Areas A, C and D during the first two seasons of excavations at Tel Jezreel (see general plan in Fig. 1.1; for stratigraphy and additional plans see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1992). The pottery analysis is still at an early stage, and therefore the conclusions are incomplete. The correlation between the different areas, and comparisons with other sites, is based only on the vessels restored so far and on general impressions of the finds in the field. Furthermore, the upper Iron Age levels uncovered in the excavated areas were destroyed by later settlements on the tel, from the Persian period onward, particularly by the graveyard of the Arab village of Zer'in. The only indication of these levels consists of unstratified sherds found above the remains of the Iron Age enclosure.

AREA D

The largest number of Iron Age vessels was found in two adjoining casemate rooms in Area D. In Room 725 the pottery was found, probably on a floor, above the constructional fill of brown soil which filled the room. In Room 643 the situation was different: the constructional fill had been dumped only in the lower part of the room, leaving an open space beneath floor level. Broken vessels, particularly storage jars and bowls, as well as pieces of *tabun*s (ovens) were uncovered in this space. The fact that most of the broken vessels discovered here could be restored probably indicates that this pottery assemblage originated nearby and fell into this space from a floor located at a higher elevation. It is unclear whether the vessels collapsed into this open space at the time of the enclosure's destruction or whether they were swept into it when the area was prepared for habitation in a later period.

Pottery considered to belong to a later stage of the Iron Age than that described above was found above the casemate room walls together with Persian, Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine sherds. However, a later corresponding Iron Age level was not uncovered.

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* Appeared in *Tel Aviv* 19, 1992, pp. 57–70.

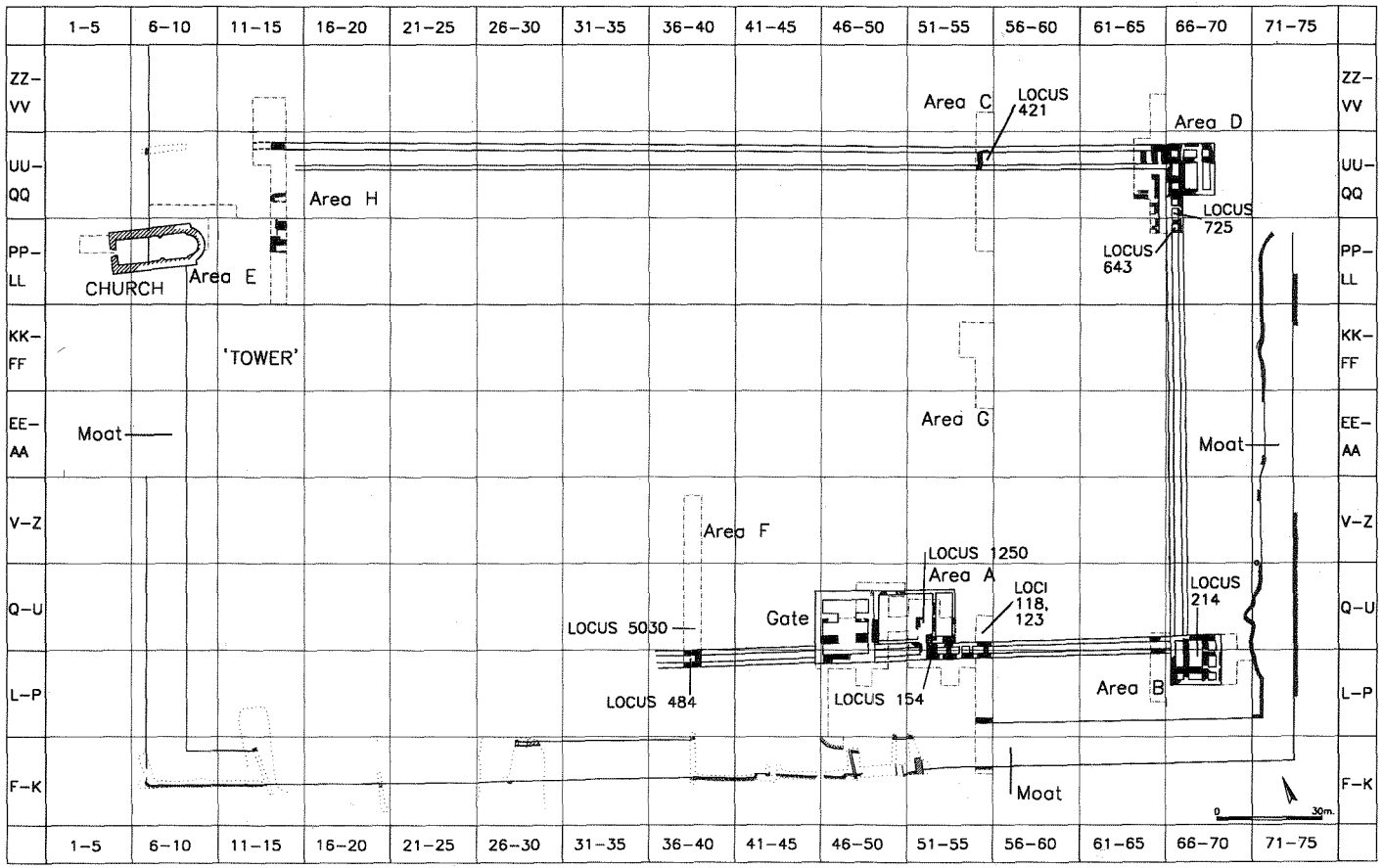

Fig. 1.1. General Plan of Tel Jezreel

The Pottery

Since sorting and restoration work is still in its early stages, some of the repertoire is still unavailable. Therefore, the pottery discussed here represents only types present in substantial quantities. Unfortunately, such an arbitrary collection may omit precisely the vessels which would enable determination of the exact date of the assemblage. Figures 1.2–1.10 present only representative vessels of each type, not all restored examples.

The two predominant bowl types are characterized by a distinctive ware and surface treatment. The clay, light yellowish throughout, is mixed with numerous very large grits, up to 3 mm., which left negative imprints as they came off in the firing process or during daily use. The roughness of the inner surface was caused by careless smoothing. The bowls are also characterized by thin, watery, orange slip smeared unevenly on the inside. A band of slip often appears on the upper part of the outer face, leaving drip marks down the side. In the figures this surface treatment is marked with a different shading pattern (raster) from the scattered X's of the common red slip. No vessels slipped in this way were burnished. Unfortunately, it is not possible to trace this unique group of bowls through drawings in archaeological reports. Personal examination of the vessels themselves is therefore required.

With the exception of one disc-based bowl (Fig. 1.2:3), this treatment is characteristic of only the first two bowl types:

Flat-based straight-walled bowls (Figs. 1.2:1–2; 1.3:1–2). The base of these bowls is almost flat, sometimes elevated in the centre. String-cut marks are noticeable on some bases. Although the bowl is rather small and the rim is thin, the relatively thick base renders a heavy appearance. The rim is usually plain, sometimes slightly flattened. Most of the bowls of this type are characterized by the above-mentioned surface treatment. However, some are made of the same clay without the thin orange slip (Fig. 1.2:4–5), and a few are made of different kinds of clay without slip or burnish.

Flat-based rounded-walled bowls (Figs. 1.2:6–8; 1.3:3–5). These bowls are made of clay similar to that of the above-mentioned bowls, and most bear the same thin orange slip, although a few are unslipped (Fig. 1.2:9). The upper walls of this bowl type are rounded.

Rounded bowls of dark brown clay (Figs. 1.2:10–11; 1.3:6–7). Unlike the former bowls, these are made of finer ware, but with many small grits which left negative imprints on the surface. The walls are thin and even from the plain rim to the base. In all but one case these bowls lack any slip or burnish.

Carinated ring-based bowls (Figs. 1.2:12; 1.3:8–10). The characteristic features of these bowls are a brown to orange-red variation in slip hues and very dense hand-burnishing on the inside, as well as on the outside down to the

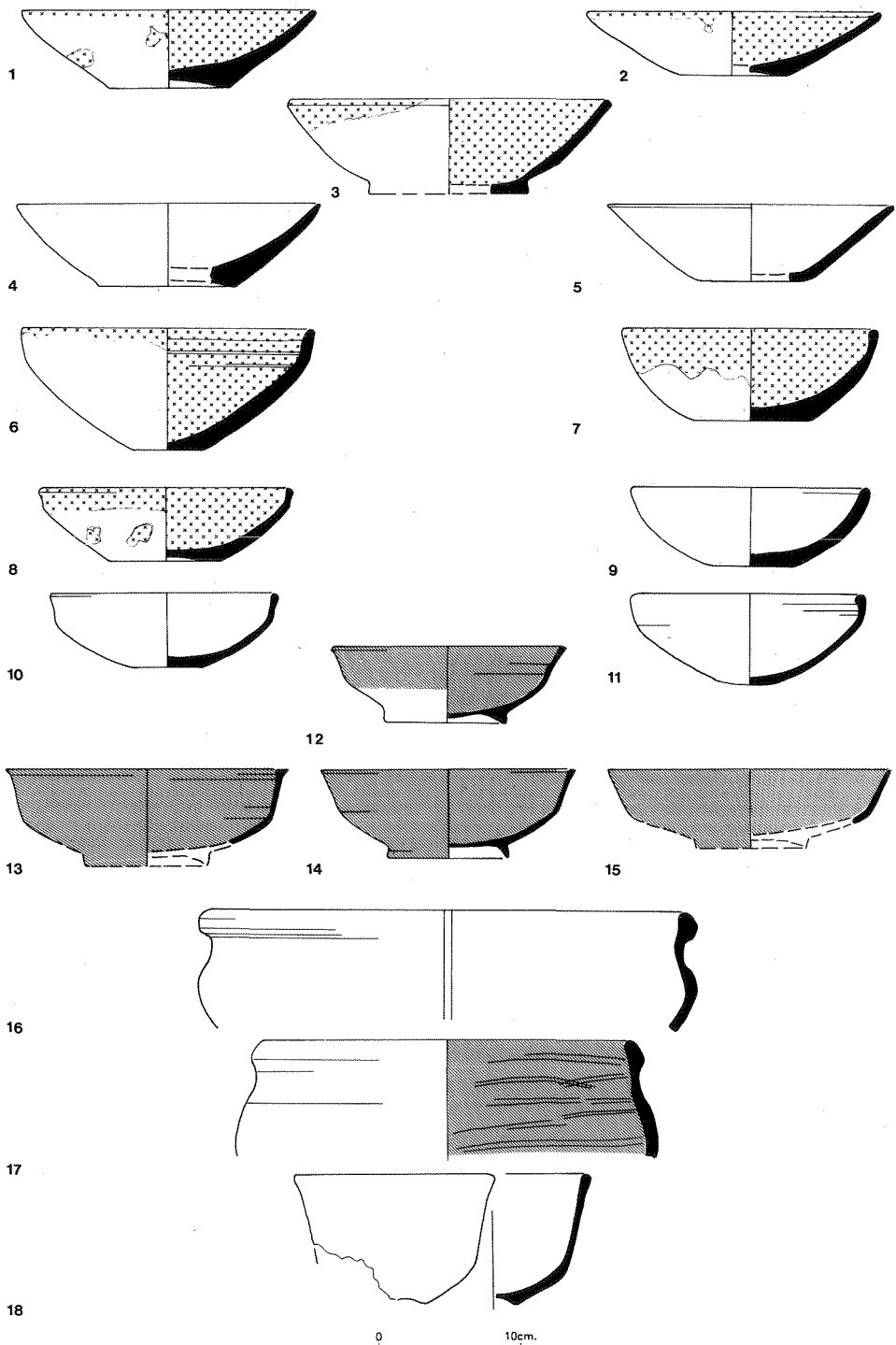

Fig. 1.2. Area D, Locus 725: Bowls.

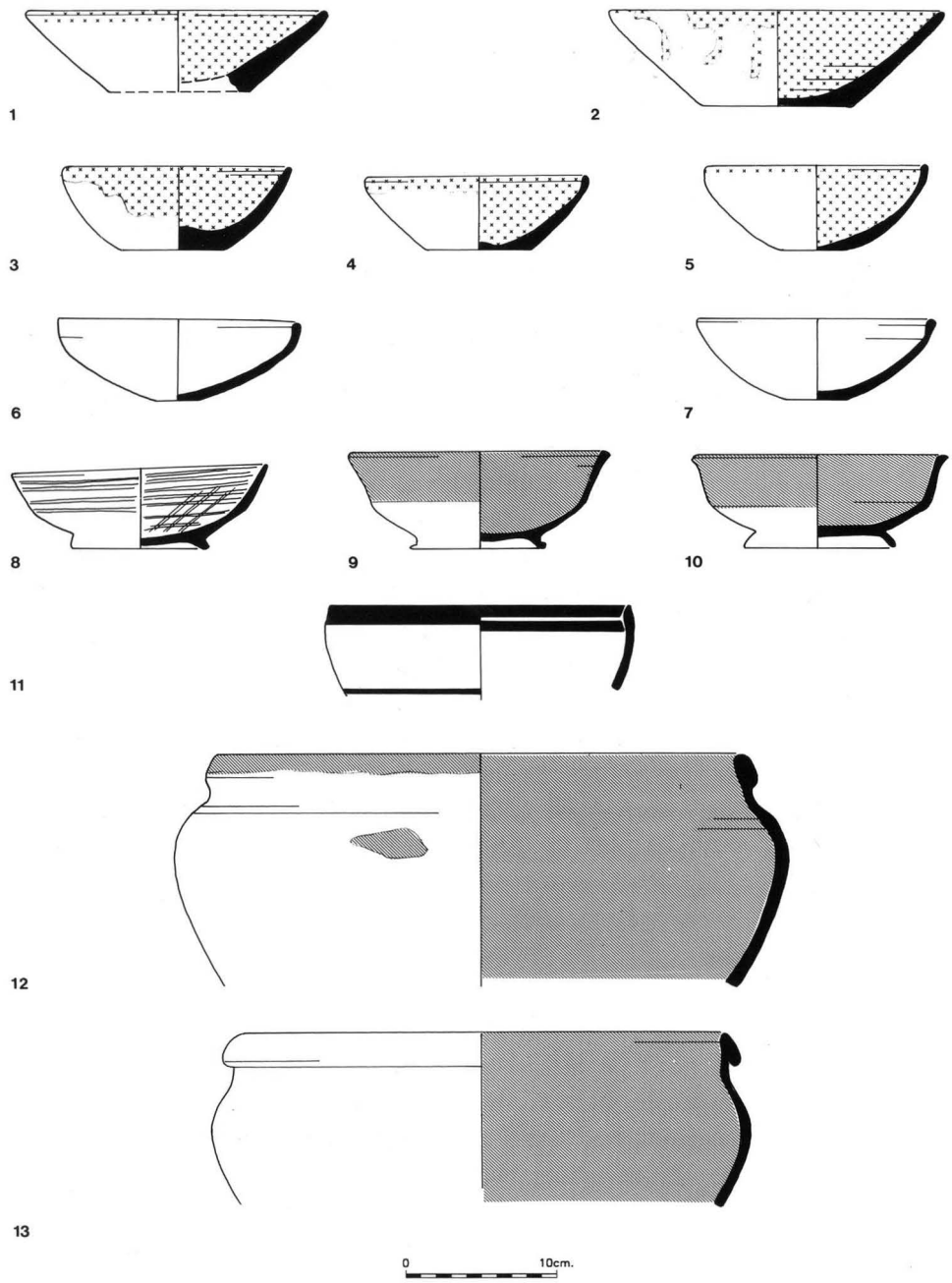

Fig. 1.3. Area D, Locus 643: Bowls.

carination point. The walls are thin, the rims are either thin and plain or ledged, and the base either consists of a thin high ring or is slightly high footed.

Carinated lustrous red-slipped bowls (Fig. 1.2:13–15). These are also carinated ring-based bowls; however, they are made of well-levigated clay with delicate walls, and the entire surface, including the bottom of the base, is covered by thick, dark red slip, burnished to a lustrous effect. The black core probably indicates a special firing technique. Kenyon mentioned this group of vessels in the Samaria excavation report (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:105).

Kraters (Figs. 1.2:16–17; 1.3:12–13). Kraters are made of reddish-brown clay, sometimes bearing brown-red or orange slip and uneven horizontal hand-burnishing. They are handleless and have thick folded rims.

Cypriot 'red on black' ware (Fig. 1.3:11). A few sherds, mainly of bowls, were found in this area, as in all excavation areas.

Grooved-base bowl (Fig. 1.2:18). This is a rare type of bowl, 13 cm. in diameter and 10 cm. deep, made of yellowish clay with thin walls and a plain rim. The base was designed in an unusual fashion: after removing the bowl from the wheel, the base was scraped with a sharp instrument, then deeply grooved. The vessel was found incomplete and reconstructed according to a similar bowl exposed in Stratum IVA at Megiddo (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Pl. 26:79).

Cooking pots (Figs. 1.4:1–6; 1.5:1–5). Unfortunately, no cooking pots were found complete. This assemblage should be approached with caution, since it is possible that sherds from other levels are included. The rims are elongated or short with a low ridge either pinched and protruding or simple and folded.

Storage jars (Figs. 1.4:7–11; 1.5:6–10). The rims in Figure 1.5 represent complete vessels, as yet unrestored. Very few cylindrical holemouth jars were found in this area (Fig. 1.4:11), whereas Area A yielded a significant number of examples (see below).

AREA A

In this area the stratigraphic picture is slightly clearer than in Area D. In Sq. Q/55 rooms from two superimposed levels or domestic layers containing ovens and pottery were uncovered. The stratigraphic correlation between these rooms and the casemate wall of the enclosure is still uncertain. At present, it seems that Loci 118 and 123 of the lower level are contemporary with the casemate wall and were destroyed at the same time. The floor of the upper level was laid about 40 cm. above a section of the destroyed casemate wall, and the oven on this floor lies almost exactly above the oven in Locus 118. It is still unclear whether there was another Iron Age settlement above the upper floor, which, as in Area D, had been damaged by later occupations and the Moslem graveyard.

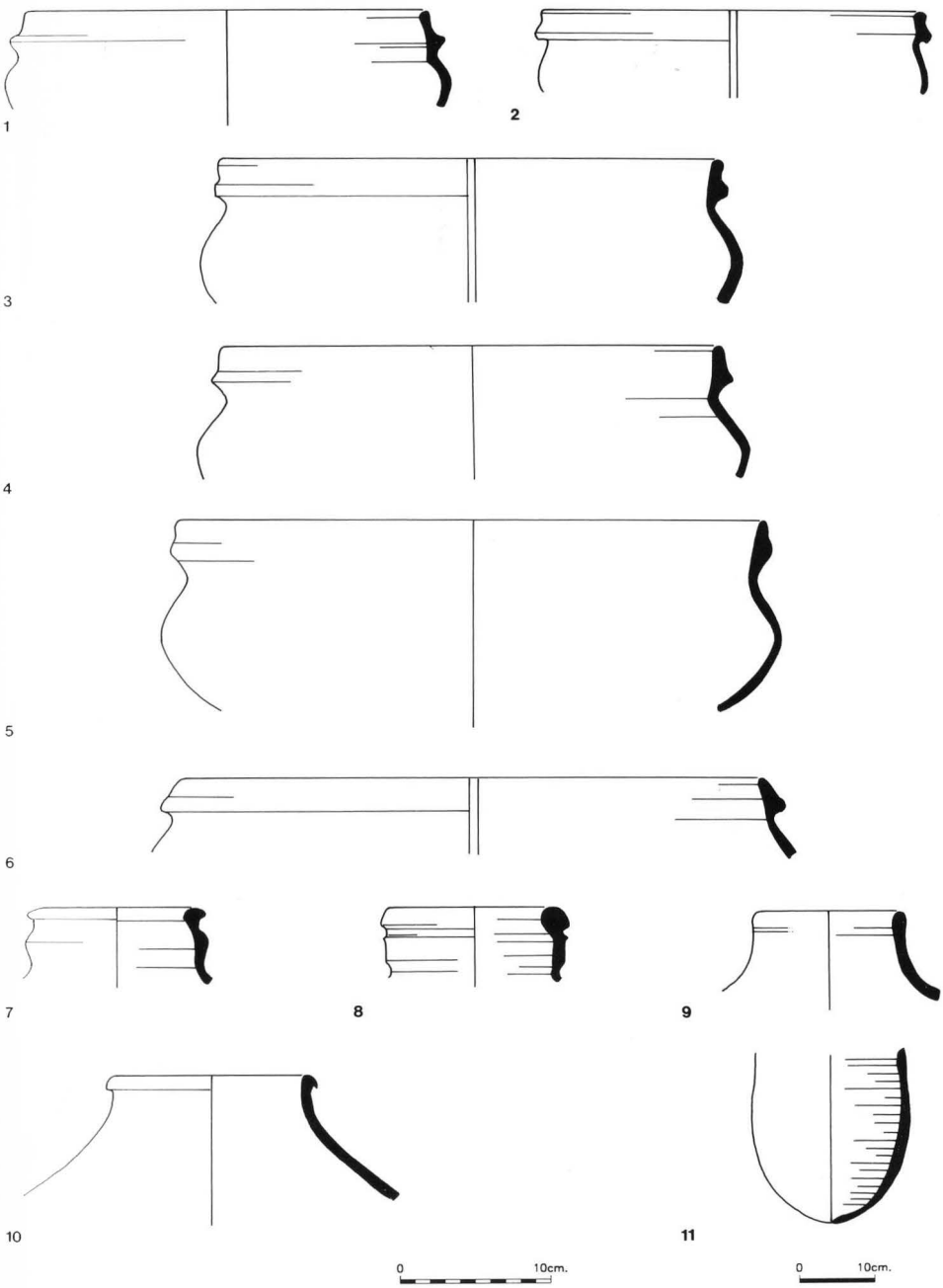

Fig. 1.4. Area D, Locus 725: Cooking pots (1–6); storage jars (7–11).

Since the two rooms of the lower level were only partially excavated, the finds were fragmentary. Broken vessels were found scattered on the floor and inside the ovens. Many vessels were only partly restorable, and in some cases large body segments of storage jars were found, baseless or rimless, indicating that the missing parts probably remain outside the excavated area.

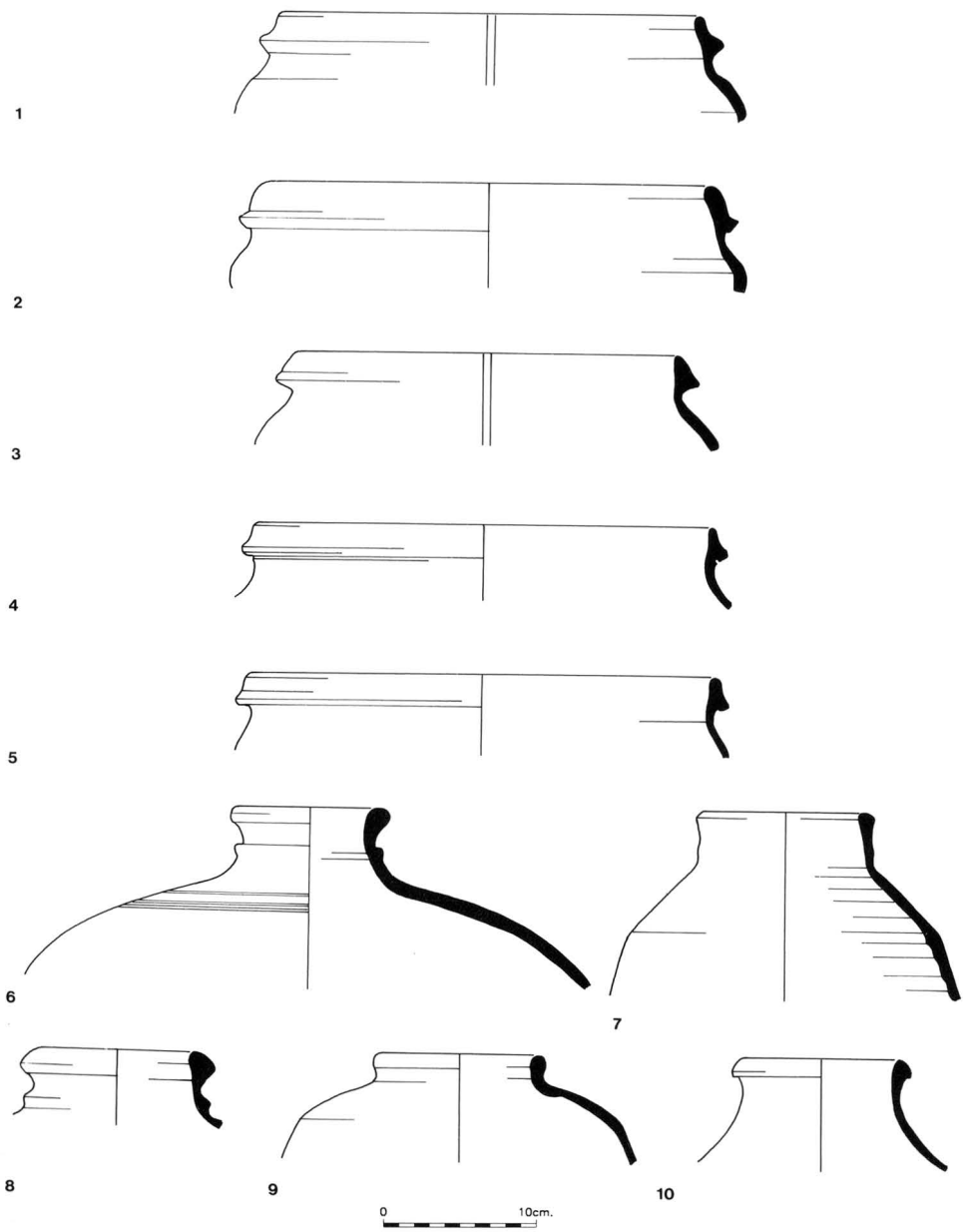

Fig. 1.5. Area D, Locus 643: Cooking pots (1–5); storage jars (6–10).

The Pottery

At least two storage jars were found in Room 118. On one of them red stripes had been freely painted with a broad brush, and the paint had dripped down around the handles (Fig. 1.7:18). A few sherds of cylindrical holemouth jars were found (Fig. 1.7:16–17) along with fragments of flat-based, rounded or straight-walled bowls with thin orange slip, too small to be drawn (see similar types from Area D, Fig. 1.2:6–8).

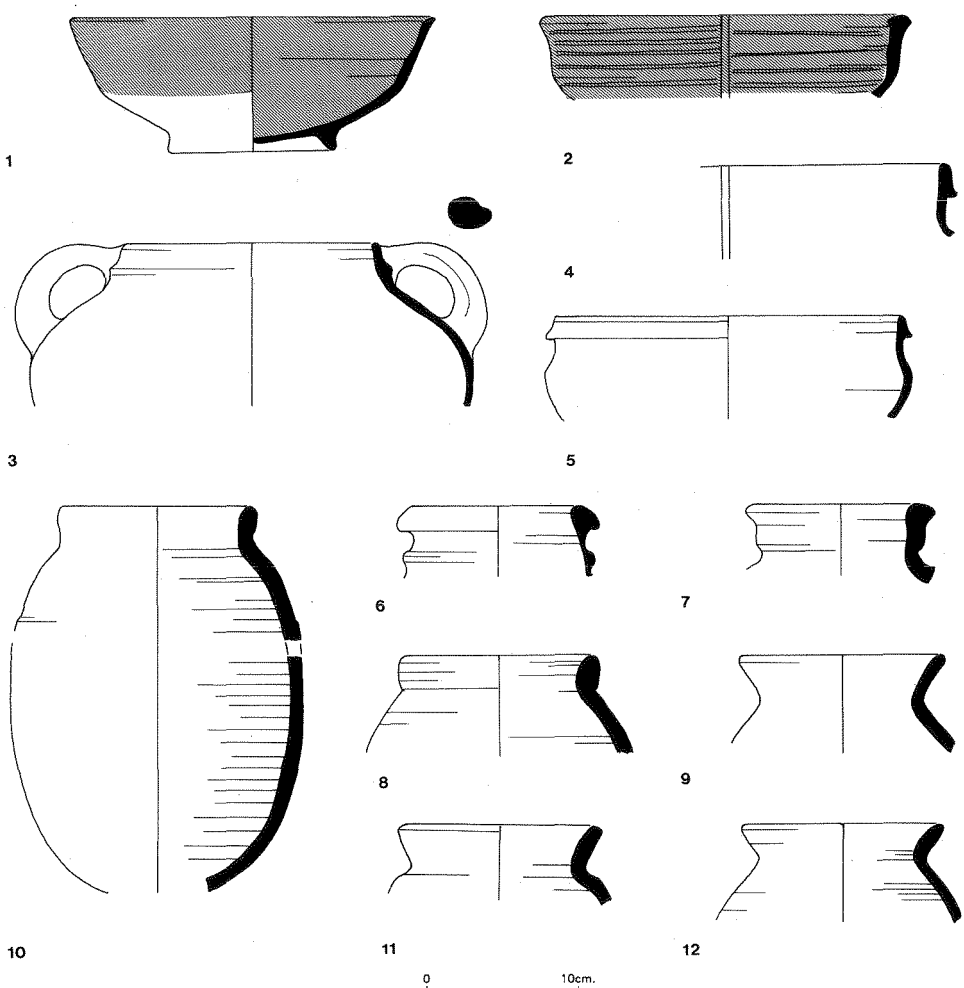

Fig. 1.6. Area A, Locus 123: Bowls (1–2); cooking pots (3–5); storage jars (6–7); cylindrical holemouth jars (8–12).

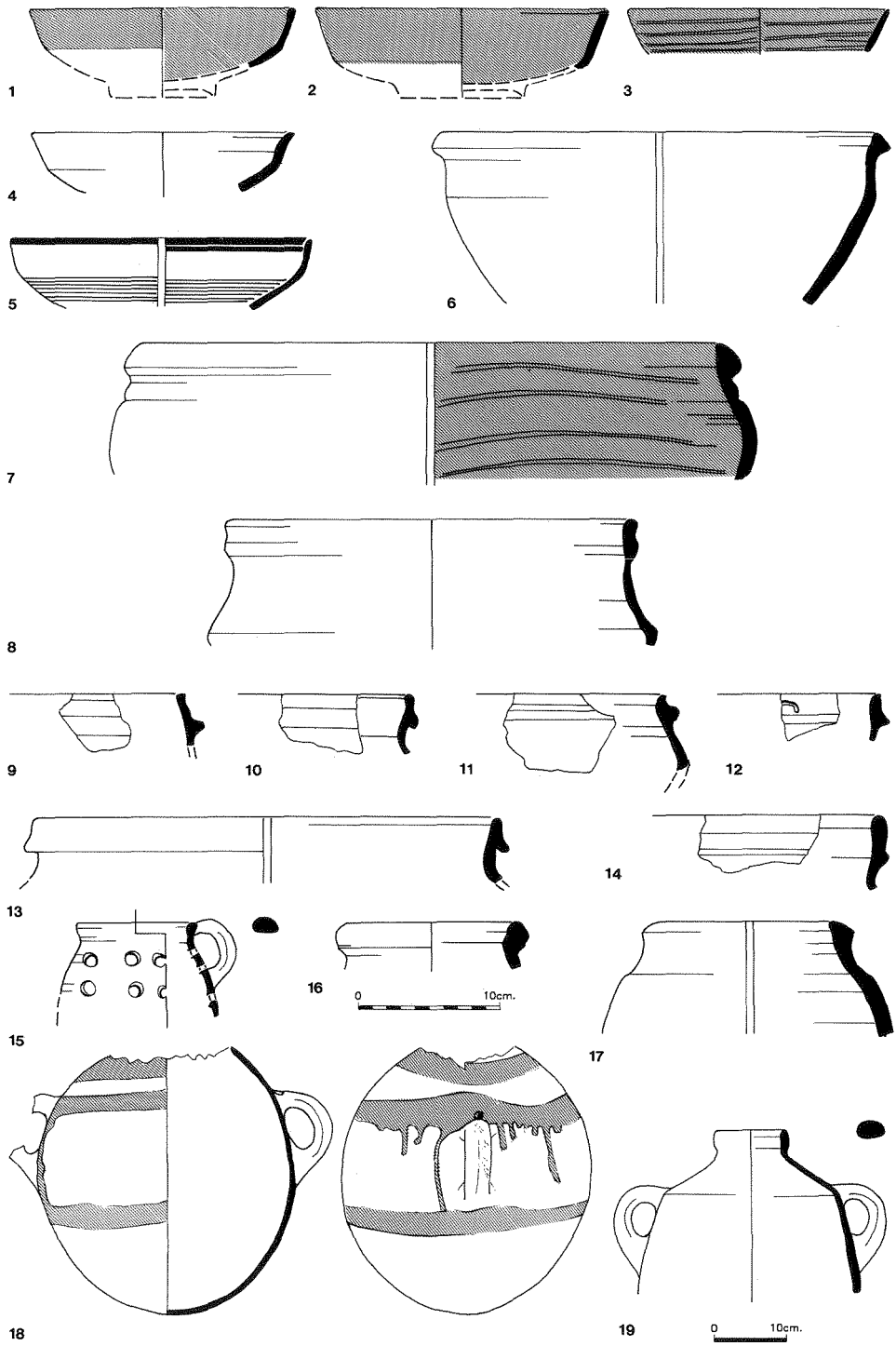

Fig. 1.7. Area A, Locus 118: Bowls (1–7); cooking pots (8–14); jug (15); cylindrical holemouth jars (16–17); storage jars (18–19).

Other vessels include: one krater; carinated, red-slipped burnished bowls (Fig. 1.7:1–2); a few sherds of cooking pots, most with a protruding ridge in the lower section of the rim. Part of an incision can be seen on one of the cooking pots (Fig. 1.7:12). Room 123 contained mainly various types of cylindrical holemouth jars (Fig. 1.6:8–12) and a carinated, red-slipped burnished bowl (Fig. 1.6:1). The bowls, the krater and the cooking pots from Area A are similar to those found in the casemate rooms of Area D (Figs. 1.2–1.3).

On the floors of the upper level were found a krater, a large jug and fragments of bowls and storage jars. Only a few of the storage jar rims resemble those of Area D. The rest of the finds appear to belong to different types. As the nature and date of this level are not yet understood, this pottery is not discussed here.

AREA C

A small quantity of pottery fragments was found in this area, originating in the brown, almost sterile, soil of the constructional fills of the Iron Age enclosure. As the pottery from the constructional fills uncovered in Areas A, B and D has not yet been examined, our observations are limited to the sherds from the fills in Area C. The soil for the fills could have been taken from an earlier level, i.e. a pre-enclosure settlement on the site proper, from the slopes of the tel or from its immediate vicinity. However, the scarcity of sherds would seem to indicate that the soil for the fills was brought from an uninhabited area. Therefore, there is no reason to exclude the possibility that the sherds from Area C date to the period of construction of the enclosure.

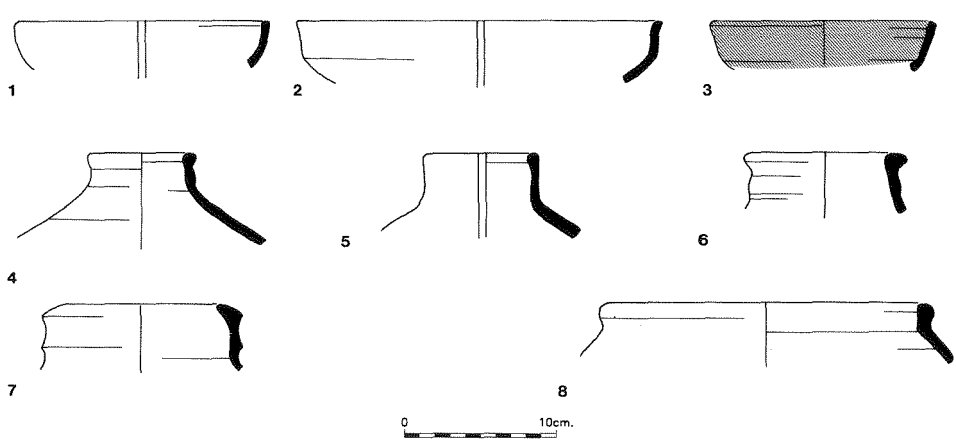

Fig. 1.8. Area C, fill: Bowls (1–3); storage jars (4–8).

Figure 1.8 presents the diagnostic sherds found in the constructional fill (apart from body-sherds and tiny rims). The scarcity of clearly datable types increases the difficulties in identifying the period they represent. It seems at present that they all belong to the pottery horizon of Area D.

Locus 421, situated 30 cm. above bedrock on a compact surface probably connected to Wall 501, is of stratigraphic value. It contained a large, slipped and burnished krater (Fig. 1.9:1), a handleless krater (Fig. 1.9:2), flat bases of three orange-slipped bowls (Fig. 1.9:4) and a rim of a rounded bowl of dark brown clay (Fig. 1.9:3). Significantly, a grooved-base bowl, like that from Area D (Fig. 1.2:18), was found here (Fig. 1.9:5). The similarity between the finds from this locus and those from Area D, particularly the two unusual vessels, supports the assumption that the walls surrounding Locus 421 originate in the same level.

THE LATER IRON AGE SETTLEMENT

Sherds dating to the 8th century B.C.E., presumably from a severely damaged level later in date than the enclosure and the assemblages described above, were found in various places on the tel. Thick-rimmed cooking pots found in all

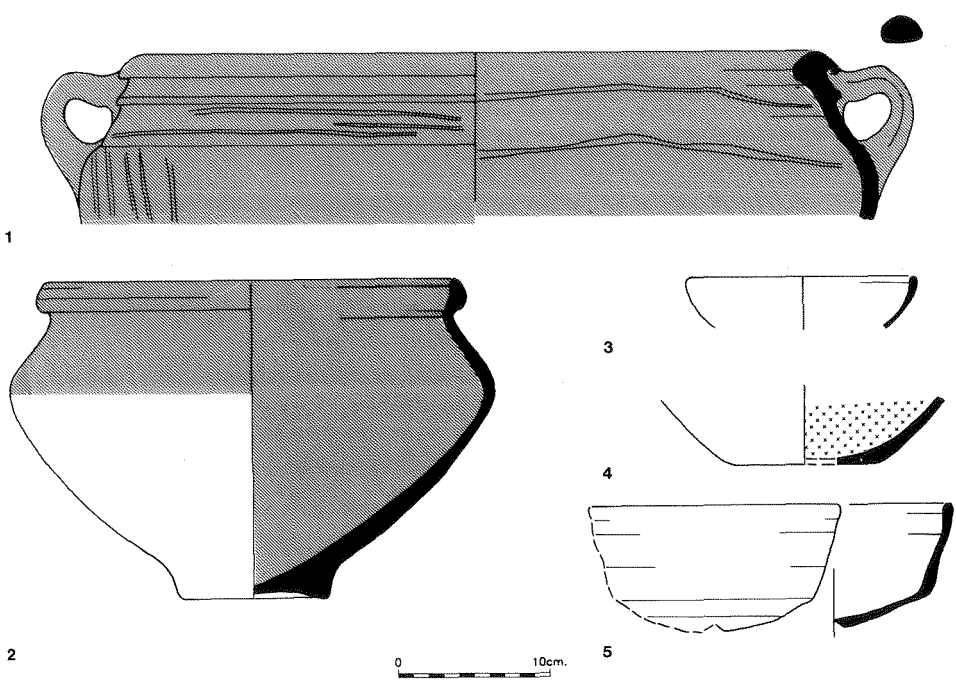

Fig. 1.9. Area C, Locus 421: Kraters (1–2); bowls (3–5).

excavated areas (Fig. 1.10:1–2) are evidence of an 8th-century settlement. A base of a wedge-shaped decorated bowl, found unstratified in Area D (Fig. 1.10:3), suggests a 7th- to 6th-century B.C.E. settlement (Zertal 1989) and extends the distribution of this uncommon pottery type.

THE POTTERY OF TEL JEZREEL — PROBLEMS IN COMPARISON AND DATING

Four sites were selected for this preliminary attempt at dating the pottery of Tel Jezreel by comparison with other northern assemblages:

Samaria. Biblical accounts of the time of the House of Omri direct one first and foremost to Samaria. Even at this initial stage of research, the similarity between Jezreel and Samaria is evident in the construction of the enclosure and its fills, as well as in the pottery. Parallels to the pottery from Jezreel appear mainly in Periods I–III of Samaria, e.g. the flat-based rounded bowls (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957: Fig. 4:2–4) and the carinated ring-based bowls, occasionally with black core (*ibid.*: Fig. 4:10–11), which appear in Period III. Similar cooking pots appear in all three periods.

Kenyon based her arguments for the dating of Samaria on biblical accounts. Hence, she dated the first three periods to the time of Omri, Ahab and Jehu, i.e. to the first three quarters of the 9th century. Recently, new studies following Aharoni, Amiran and Wright have challenged afresh Kenyon's dating of Periods I and II, raising the dates of some finds to the 11th through 9th centuries and relating them to a pre-enclosure settlement (Stager 1990; Tappy 1990). This subject must be analyzed again in the future when more data regarding the beginning of the Iron Age settlement at Tel Jezreel become available.

Megiddo. Megiddo, a key northern site geographically close to Tel Jezreel, is an obvious site at which to search for ceramic parallels. Flat-based rounded bowls (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Pl. 30:123, 131), carinated bowls (*ibid.*: Pls. 28:97; 30:126–127) and kraters (*ibid.*: Pl. 29:110) were found in Strata VA–IVB

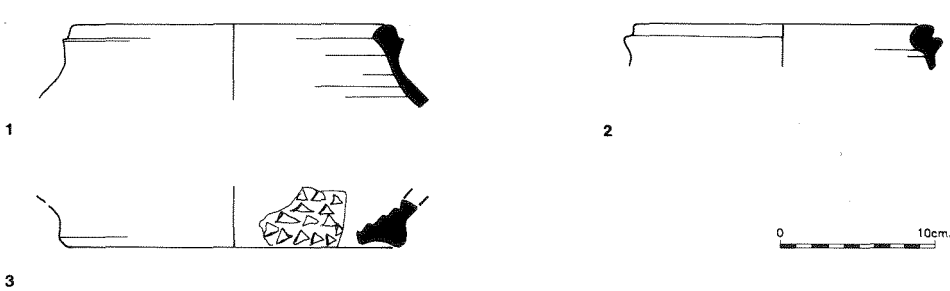

Fig. 1.10. Cooking pots (1–2); wedge-shaped decorated bowl (3).

and IVA, dated to the 10th to 9th centuries.

Taʿanach. Located halfway between Tel Jezreel and Tel Megiddo, this site yielded a large assemblage of vessels, uncovered in the Cultic Structure of Period IIB. Carinated bowls (Rast 1978: Figs. 45–46), kraters (*ibid.*: Figs. 42–43), cooking pots (*ibid.*: Fig. 49) and some of the storage jars found in this structure resemble the pottery from Jezreel. The pottery from Taʿanach was attributed to the 10th century, based on comparison with the pottery of Room 2081 in Stratum VA–IVB at Megiddo, which contained cultic vessels, and with that of Stratum X at Hazor. However, similar vessels were found in Period III contexts at Taʿanach dated to the 9th century.

Hazor. In the search for ceramic parallels this site is the most problematic of the four. Though it yielded many Iron Age stratigraphic assemblages, none are entirely parallel to that from Jezreel. However, comparable vessels were found in Strata X–VIII, dated to the 10th to 9th centuries. Similar cooking pots were found in Stratum VIII (Yadin *et al.* 1960: Pl. LVII). Flat-based rounded bowls appear in Strata X–IX (Yadin *et al.* 1958: Pl. XLV:5; Yadin *et al.* 1961: Pls. CLXXI:5; CLXXV:6). Apparently, the differences between Hazor and Jezreel are regional variations, seen for instance in the lack of carinated bowls and large kraters, which were replaced at Hazor by local types.

At this stage of the excavation of Tel Jezreel, a number of questions still await conclusive answers: Do the sherds from the constructional fills indicate a pre-enclosure settlement? Is the pottery assemblage originating from the casemate rooms in Area D identical to that from the rooms of the lower level in Area A, as suggested here? Do these assemblages date to the destruction period of the enclosure? Does the upper level exposed in Area A represent the last Iron Age occupation at Tel Jezreel, or was there another Iron Age level above it?

Finally, the pottery from Tel Jezreel is well integrated in the ceramic repertoire of the nearby sites of Samaria, Megiddo and Taʿanach. However, as our chronological conclusions are based on ceramic comparisons, two factors hinder more definite dating of the pottery: the primary stage of the ceramic research and the chronological uncertainties concerning the stratigraphy and material from other sites. Hence, the pottery discussed here can only be dated generally within the 10th to 9th centuries. At present, Ussishkin and Woodhead (1992) date the destruction of the enclosure to Jehu's rebellion, i.e. to the middle of the 9th century, on the basis of historical considerations. Hopefully, when more data is uncovered the destruction date of the enclosure will be archaeologically substantiated, and a more accurate date can be assigned to the pottery assemblage.

Acknowledgements

The pottery was restored in the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University by Yafit Wienner and Rachel Pelta, the figures drawn and arranged by Ada Perry. Idit Harel translated the manuscript from Hebrew. I wish to thank them all.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF POTTERY FIGURES

Fig. 1.2: Locus 725:(1) 6944/1; (2) 6695/1; (3) 7117/1; (4) 6746/4; (5) 6745/2; (6) 7136/6; (7) 6600/2; (8) 7110/3; (9) 6746/3; (10) 6798/1; (11) 6792/1; (12) 6740/3; (13) 6812/1; (14) 6746/1; (15) 6752/4; (16) 7136/2; (17) 6771/1; (18) 7168/1, **Fig. 1.3:** Locus 643: 6660/1; (2) 6919/1; (3) 6944/3; (4) 6735/2; (5) 6967/1; (6) 6754/2; (7) 6764/3; (8) 6764/2; (9) 6767/2; (10) 6960/1; (11) 6117/1; (12) 6678/1; (13) 6691/2. **Fig. 1.4:** Locus 725: (1) 7136/5; (2) 7136/1; (3) 6705/1; (4) 6731/1; (5) 6705/2; (6) 7002/1; (7) 6752/5; (8) 6771/3; (9) 6724/1; (10) 6740/1; (11) 6703/2. **Fig. 1.5:** Locus 643: (1) 6665/1; (2) 6764/1; (3) 6655/2; (4) 6767/3; (5) 6944/2; (6) 6691; (7) 6730; (8) 6735; (9) 6744; (10) 6691. **Fig. 1.6:** Locus 123: (1) 1622/1; (2) 1602/1; (3) 1574/3; (4) 1628/2; (5) 1603/1; (6) 1546/1; (7) 1574/2; (8) 1602/2; (9) 1628/1; (10) 1621/1; (11) 1601/1; (12) 1613/1. **Fig. 1.7:** Locus 118: (1) 1556/1; (2) 1583/1; (3) 1576/2; (4) 1586/2; (5) 1109/1; (6) 1635/4; (7) 1586/4; (8) 1096/1; (9) 1586/3; (10) 1635/3; (11) 1635/1; (12) 1096/3; (13) 1635/2; (14) 1108/1; (15) 1096/4; (16) 1548/1; (17) 1567/1; (18) 1576/3; (19) 1560/3. **Fig. 1.8:** Sq. RR/55: (1) 4161/1; Sq. PP/55: (2) 4064/1; Sq. QQ/55: (3) 4190/1; Sq. PP/55: (4) 4064/2; (5) 4007/2; (6) 4007/3; Sq. UU/55: (7) 4185/1; Sq. PP/55: (8) 4007/1. **Fig. 1.9:** Locus 421: (1) 4197/1; (2) 4197/3; (3) 4197/2; (4) 4197/5; (5) 4197/4. **Fig. 1.10:** (1) 6599/1; (2) 6536/1; (3) 6056/1.

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CHAPTER 2

CLUES FROM THE ENCLOSURE FILLS: PRE-OMRIDE SETTLEMENT AT TEL JEZREEL*

The preliminary reports from Tel Jezreel (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1992; 1994; 1997) devoted much attention to the constructional fills found in association with the main Iron Age enclosure. (For a general plan of the enclosure see Fig. 1.1.) It is now possible to discern three distinct types of fill according to their composition. The first, a red-brown soil, is characteristic of the local environment, and its discovery beneath walls founded on bedrock, such as those of the gate, suggests that it was present as a natural feature on the tel itself. At other locations, it seems likely that the soil was deliberately brought from elsewhere in the locale, providing supporting material for monumental construction (e.g. the southeast corner tower in Area B and casemate wall in Area F; Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994:25, 38). Fills composed of this soil were almost devoid of pottery.

The second type of fill employed in building the Iron Age enclosure constituted a rich, grey-brown soil, immediately identifiable as tel debris, from which many Bronze Age sherds were recovered (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994:21–23, 42–43). This fill is associated primarily with the gatehouse, and it may be surmised that the foundations of the gate were supported by material obtained from earlier occupations of the tel itself.

A third type of fill was observed at two locations in Area A. Whereas the two fills described above were directly associated with the foundation of site fortifications or of walls within the enclosure, so far this third type appears exclusively as a supporting layer beneath floors, overlying the above-mentioned red-brown soil. In the first location, a fill layer of small stones interspersed with white plaster (Locus 135) was observed ca. 20 cm. beneath the packed-earth floor of Room 118 in Sq. Q/55, directly above and sealing the usual red-brown constructional fill of the enclosure (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1992:19; Figs. 5–6). Between this fill layer and the floor of Room 118 a number of sherds was found. The second location of this kind of fill, forming a layer ca. 30 cm in height, was discovered in Squares R/51–52, again directly above the typical red-brown constructional fill (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997:26–28). It constituted an admixture of red soil, small lumps of plaster and grey tel debris and contained a dense cluster of pottery. A thick plaster floor was laid over this fill and is associated with the building abutting the eastern wall of the enclosure's gatehouse. In particular the floor segment in Locus 1250 in Sq. R/52 should be noted (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997: Fig. 20). The pottery found within this fill

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comprised large Iron Age sherds, mainly of bowls and cooking pots, as well as body-sherds of storage jars, some partially restorable, and bearing a strong resemblance to pottery recovered from the enclosure itself. The composite nature of this assemblage indicates that the fill was taken from an accessible and relatively intact domestic context. Such readily available material may have been used where necessary to raise the level of the underlying soil, providing an even surface on which floors could be laid.

The possible existence of settlements at Tel Jezreel which predate the Omride enclosure has been noted by Williamson (1991:76), who based his conclusions on biblical sources, which may indicate occupation during the Iron I period (Josh. 19:18) and the presence of a town during the latter part of the United Monarchy (1 Kgs. 4:12). Excavation at the tel has concentrated upon tracing the extent and plan of the Omride enclosure, however, and conclusive evidence of earlier habitation at the site has not been forthcoming. Traces of such pre-enclosure settlements, which may have been located on the slopes of the tel, could have been effaced as a result of natural erosion or by the destructive effects of monumental building activity. In most cases the Omride enclosure walls, some founded on bedrock, were robbed to their very roots. According to the stratigraphic and ceramic evidence, removal of stones took place directly after the destruction of the enclosure during the Iron Age. Massive building activity, occasionally reaching bedrock, was also undertaken during the Byzantine period and involved the reuse of Iron Age foundations, further contributing to the eradication of earlier settlements.

With regard to the possibility that an investigation of the central part of the tel would reveal well-preserved evidence of pre-Omride settlement, the lack of stratigraphic accumulation in the eastern part of the tel (Area G) and the high elevation of the bedrock (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994:45) should be noted. This provides further indication of the rapid and ongoing re-appropriation of the whole site and its contents and offers little promise for the identification of a site which predates the Omride enclosure. It follows that an analysis of the constructional fills found in association with the enclosure itself currently provides our main source of clues as to the existence of pre-Omride settlements at the site.

Most of the pottery sherds recovered from the fills belong to known vessel types, but individual samples were too badly preserved for presentation. As a result, the vessels presented here represent a limited sample of the variety of forms which predate the Omride enclosure. It should be recalled that such forms were also discovered in dumps or accumulated debris which postdate the destruction of the main enclosure, the contents of which lie beyond the scope of our present enquiry (Bronze and Early Iron Age vessels best represented by examples from the post-enclosure debris, however, have been included here). While these early vessel forms indicate the presence of settlements which predate the Omride enclosure,

they provide no information regarding the dimensions and duration of such habitations, nor the degree of continuity between one occupation and another.

THE CERAMIC EVIDENCE FROM THE FILLS OF THE MIDDLE BRONZE – IRON AGE SETTLEMENTS

The Middle Bronze Age

Storage jars (Fig. 2.1:1–3). Fig. 2.1:1 is an elongated folded rim with a narrow ridge at the edge of the fold. It is typical of the early stage of the period. Fig. 2.1:2 is a moulded rim, also typical of MB IIA. It is whitewashed and decorated with black and red painted bands. The base in Fig. 2.1:3 is heavy and flattened.

Krater (Fig. 2.1:4). Fig. 2.1:4 has a thickened inverted rim.

The Late Bronze Age

Bowls (Fig. 2.1:5–11). Fig. 2.1:5 has straight walls with a plain rim, while the bowls in Fig. 2.1:6–9 have rounded walls with thickened rims folded over on the inside. Fig. 2.1:10–11 are high ring-bases. Fig. 2.1:11 is whitewashed with brown decoration and belongs to the Chocolate-on-White family.

Kraters (Fig. 2.1:12–15). Fig. 2.1:12–13 are large open kraters with two handles. Fig. 2.1:14–15 are closed kraters with triangular everted rims.

Cooking pots (Fig. 2.1:16–20). All of these cooking pots have triangular everted rims. Fig. 2.1:16–17 can probably be dated to the early stage of the period.

Jugs (Fig. 2.2:1–2). Fig. 2.2:1 is from a biconical jug, whitewashed and decorated with black and red paint. Fig. 2.2:2 is from the neck of a jug decorated with black and red horizontal painted bands and vertical metopes.

Storage jars (Fig. 2.2:3–4). Fig. 2.2:3 is part of the neck of a storage jar, whitewashed and decorated with black and red paint. Fig. 2.2:4 has the rounded and thickened rim typical of Canaanite storage jars.

Pithos (Fig. 2.2:5). This pithos sherd is extremely thick with horizontal ridges around the circumference of the neck of the vessel.

The Early Iron Age

Philistine Bowl (Fig. 2.2:6). Fig. 2.2:6 is the rim of a Philistine bowl decorated with black and red paint.

Chalice (Fig. 2.2:7). Fig. 2.2:7 is the rim of an open bowl decorated with black and red horizontal painted bands.

Jugs (Fig. 2.2:8–9). These are both rims with ridges underneath.

Cypriot Ware (Fig. 2.2:10–11). Fig. 2.2:10 is a jug decorated with black and red painted bands. Its unusual red clay possibly indicates that it is not of local manufacture. Fig. 2.2:11 is the body-sherd from a flask decorated with black concentric circles. Its unusual grey clay may also indicate its non-local origin.

FIGURE 2.1. MIDDLE (1–4) AND LATE BRONZE AGE (5–20) POTTERY FROM THE FILLS

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Findspot*
1.	Storage jar	11837/1	Debris in Sq. S/48 (Locus 1492)
2.	Storage jar	10520/1	Debris in southwest corner of Sq. Q/46 (Locus 1101)
3.	Storage jar	10540/1	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994:19; Fig. 18)
4.	Krater	10568/1	Locus 1078 in Sq. R/47 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
5.	Bowl	10548/1	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
6.	Bowl	10548/2	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
7.	Bowl	10541/1	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
8.	Bowl	10548/3	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
9.	Bowl	11863/1	Debris in Sq. T/49 (Locus 1505)
10.	Bowl	10416/1	Debris in left, front gate chamber, Sq. Q/46 (Locus 1072)
11.	Bowl	10523/1	Locus 1078 in Sq. R/47 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
12.	Krater	11770/1	Debris in Sq. S/48 (Locus 1486)
13.	Krater	10996/1	Locus 1142
14.	Krater	11871/1	Debris in Sq. T/49 (Locus 1515)
15.	Krater	11896/1	Debris in Sq. S/49 (Locus 1519)
16.	Cooking pot	10511/1	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
17.	Cooking pot	10523/2	Locus 1078 in Sq. R/47 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
18.	Cooking pot	10540/1	Locus 1089 in Sq. R/46 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)
19.	Cooking pot	10498/1	Fills in Locus 1100, Sq. P/46 (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997: Figs. 8, 12)
20.	Cooking pot	10583/1	Locus 1078 in Sq. R/47 (see *ibid.*:19; Fig. 18)

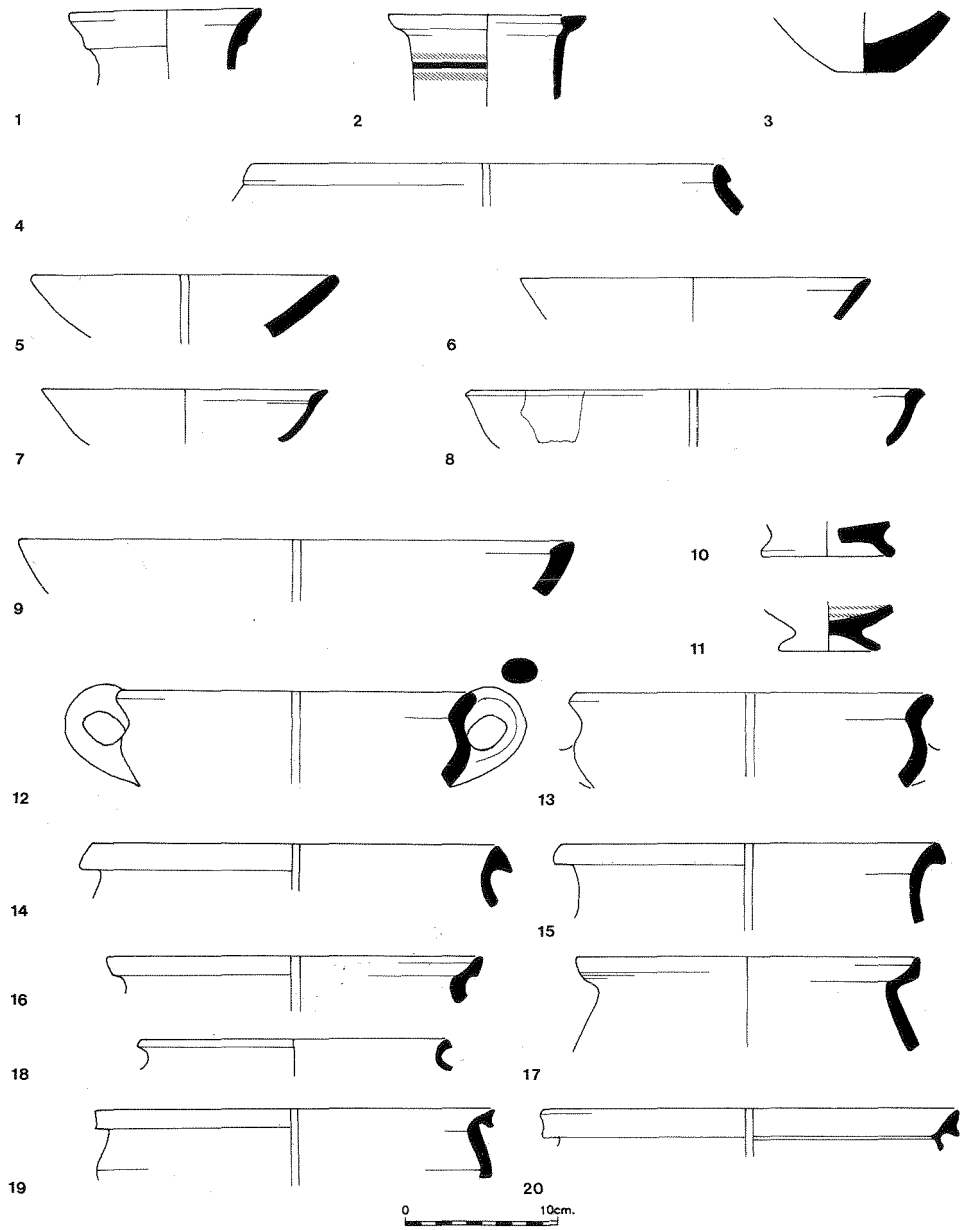

Fig. 2.1. Middle (1–4) and Late Bronze Age (5–20) pottery from the fills.

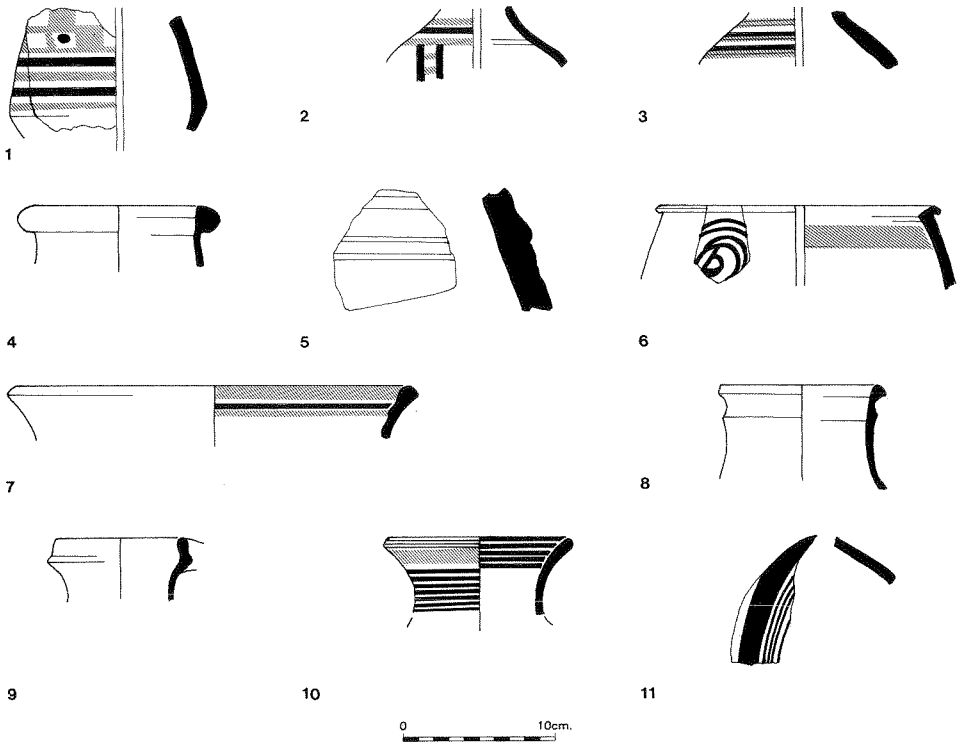

Fig. 2.2. Late Bronze (1–5) and Early Iron Age (6–11) pottery from the fills.

FIGURE 2.2. LATE BRONZE (1–5) AND EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE FILLS (6–11)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Findspot*
1.	Jug	12917/1	Area A3, Locus 1822
2.	Jug	1879/1	Locus 162, Sq. Q/47 (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994: Fig. 18)
3.	Storage jar	1879/2	Locus 162, Sq. Q/47 (see *ibid.*: Fig. 18)
4.	Storage jar	11869/1	Debris in Sq. S/48 (Locus 1505)
5.	Pithos	10459/1	Locus 1078 in Sq. R/47 (see *ibid.*: 19; Fig. 18)
6.	Bowl	1850/1	Locus 162, Sq. Q/47 (see *ibid.*: Fig. 18)
7.	Chalice	12677/6	Fills in Sq. O/46 (Locus 1742)
8.	Jug	10493/1	Fills in Locus 1100, Sq. P/46 (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997: Figs. 8, 12)
9.	Jug	11842/1	Fills in Sq. T/49 (Locus 1481)
10.	Jug	11817/1	Fills in Sq. S/48 (Locus 1492)
11.	Flask	11867/1	Fills in Sq. S/49 (Locus 1509)

The Middle Iron Age

Most of the vessel types found in this fill are known types discussed in Zimhoni 1992 and Chapter 1 of this volume.

Bowls:

1. Flat-based, straight-walled bowls (Fig. 2.3:1–3). The rim of these bowls is plain. The base is flat and bears string-cut marks. They are neither slipped nor burnished (cf. Zimhoni 1992: Fig. 1:4–5; also this volume, Fig. 1.2:4–5).

2. Flat-based, rounded-walled bowls (Fig. 2.3:4–5). Made of light, yellowish clay, unevenly smeared with watery orange slip on the inside, extending over outside rim. They are unburnished (cf. *ibid.*: Fig. 1:7–8; also this volume, Fig. 1.2:7–8).

3. Rounded bowls of dark brown clay (Fig. 2.3:6–9). These bowls are made of a fine clay containing many small grits. They are neither slipped nor burnished (cf. *ibid.*: Fig. 1:10–11; also this volume, Fig. 1.2:10–11).

4. Carinated ring-based bowls (Fig. 2.3:10–15). The walls of these bowls are slender, the rims either narrow and plain or ledged. The base is formed by a thin, elevated ring. They are characterized by brown to orange-red slip and feature dense hand-burnish inside, as well as outside down to the point of carination (cf. *ibid.*: Figs. 1:12; 2:8–10; also this volume, Figs. 1.2:12; 1.3:8–10).

FIGURE 2.3. MIDDLE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE FILLS

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Findspot*
1.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997: 28; Fig. 20)
2.	Bowl	11042/1	Fills in Sq. R/52 (Locus 1873)
3.	Bowl	11042/2	Fills in Sq. R/52 (Locus 1873)
4.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
5.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
6.	Bowl	11042/3	Fills in Sq. R/52 (Locus 1873)
7.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
8.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
9.	Bowl	15541/17	Fills in Sq. R/51 (Locus 2707)
10.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
11.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
12.	Bowl	11554/11	Fills in Sq. R/51 (Locus 2707)
13.	Bowl		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
14.	Bowl	15529/8	Fills in Sq. R/51 (Locus 2707)
15.	Bowl	11068/1	Fills in Sq. R/52 (Locus 1873)
16.	Bowl	15541/4	Fills in Sq. R/51 (Locus 2707)
17.	Krater		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)

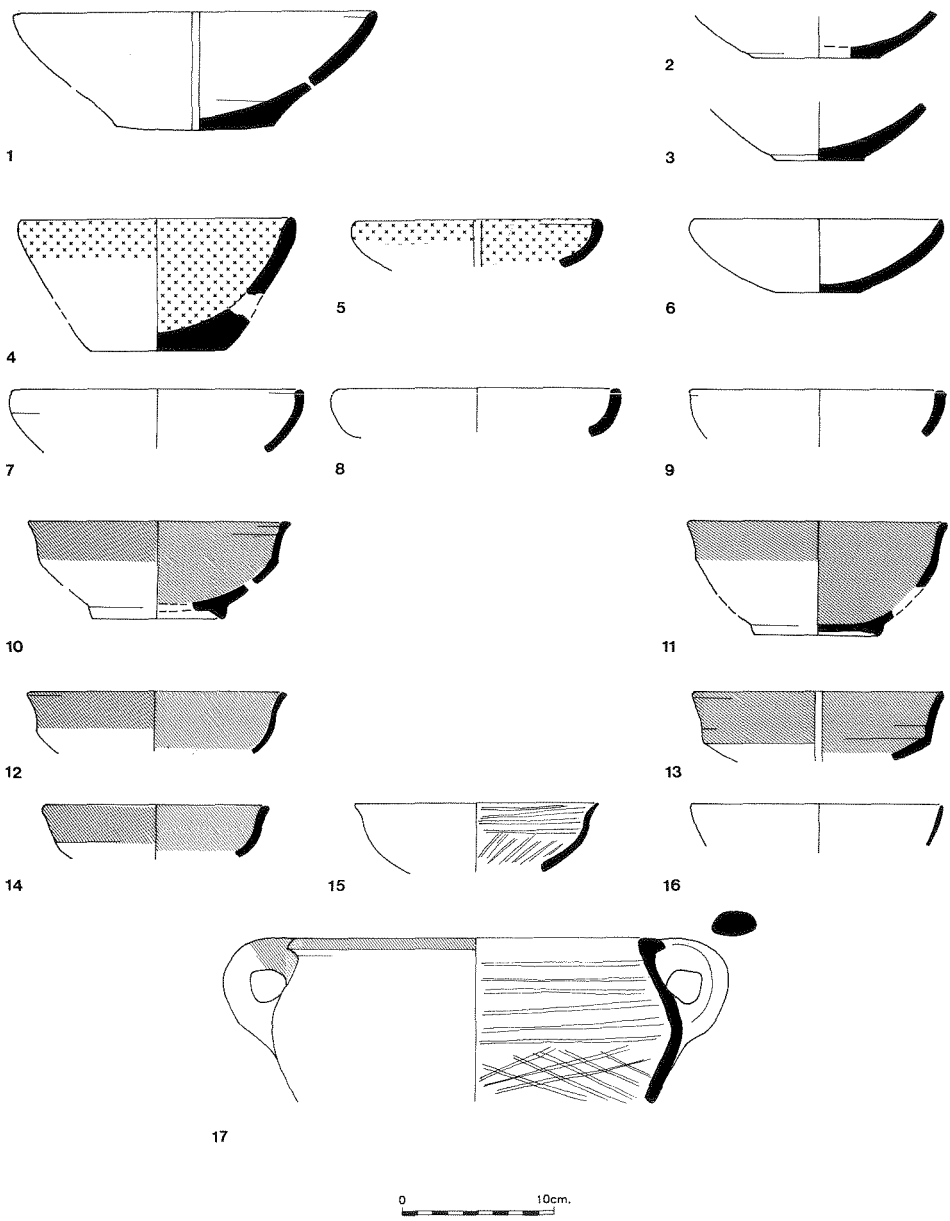

Fig. 2.3. Middle Iron Age pottery from the fills.

Fig. 2.3:16 is a bowl with rounded walls of a type which was not found in the enclosure. It is made of a fine, well-levigated, light clay and closely resembles the Samaria Ware pottery.

Krater (Fig. 2.3:17). Fig. 2.3:17 is a large, hand-burnished krater showing traces of red slip (cf. Zimhoni 1992: Fig. 8:1; also this volume, Fig. 1.9:1).

Cooking pots (Fig. 2.4:1–4). All of these cooking pots have elongated rims with a protruding ridge in the lower section of the rim (cf. Zimhoni 1992: Fig. 3:1–5; also this volume, Fig. 1.4:1–5).

Storage jar (Fig. 2.4:5). Fig. 2.4:5 has a plain straight rim.

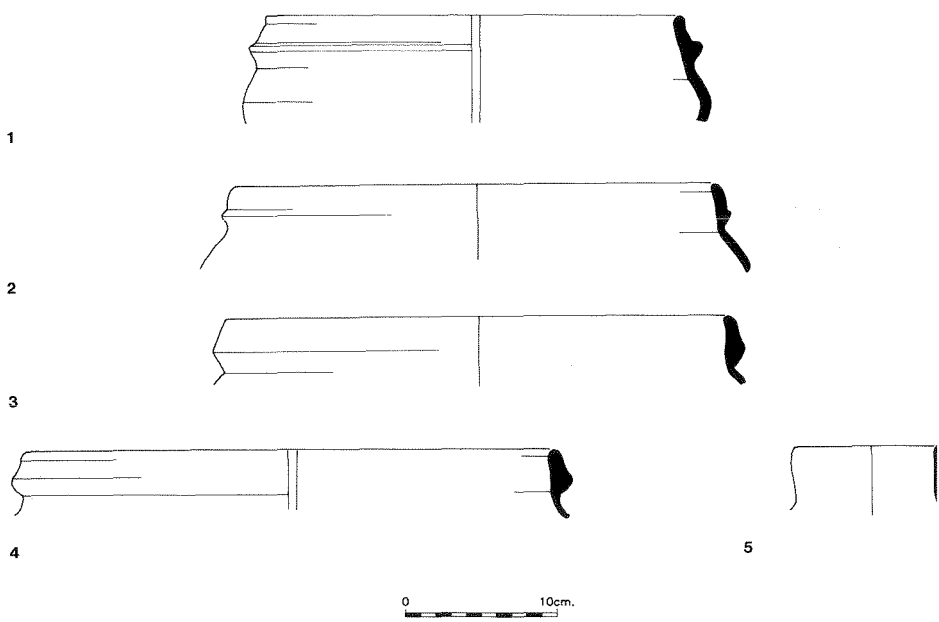

Fig. 2.4. Middle Iron Age pottery from the fills.

FIGURE 2.4. MIDDLE IRON AGE POTTERY FROM THE FILLS

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Findspot*
1.	Cooking pot		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997:28; Fig. 20)
2.	Cooking pot		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
3.	Cooking pot		Fill beneath Floor 1250, Sq. R/52 (*ibid.*)
4.	Cooking pot	15542/21	Fills in Sq. R/51 (Locus 2707)
5.	Storage jar	15541/27	Fills in Sq. R/51 (Locus 2707)

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The six seasons of excavation at Tel Jezreel exposed partial and complete rooms belonging to the Omride enclosure. The associated ceramic finds varied little from one area of excavation to another, only marginally expanding the range of types described in Zimhoni 1992 (see Appendix and Editor's Note below). The latter report stressed the connection between the ceramic assemblage from Jezreel and those from the nearby sites of Ta'anach and Megiddo. It seems that the destruction of Stratum VIA at Megiddo marks a turning point in the ceramic development of the region, ushering in a new horizon which preserved only minor elements of its predecessor. A clear resemblance is observed between the pottery from Stratum VA–IVB at Megiddo and that found on floors of the destroyed enclosure at Jezreel. The comparability of these assemblages forms the starting point for a chronological reconsideration of pottery found in earlier stratigraphic contexts at both sites.

Parts of buildings assigned to Stratum VB (Lamon and Shipton 1939: Fig. 5) were identified in several areas at Megiddo. Pottery from this stratum was found only in Area B beneath Palace 1723 and its courtyard (Stratum VA–IVB) and was discovered *in situ*. There is a clear resemblance between these assemblages and those found on the floors of Stratum VA–IVB. This is essentially a typological observation which is difficult to confirm quantitatively, due to the nature of the Chicago excavation report, and is based on the comparison of bowls and storage jars. Cooking pots, generally the most sensitive component of typological comparison, are totally absent from the published report of Stratum VA–IVB, while only four were published from Stratum VB (Types 17, 19–21).

At Jezreel, as noted above, no element of pre-enclosure buildings was found, and the existence of an earlier settlement is predicated upon the pottery recovered from the fills which supported the floors of the enclosure rooms. Here, quantitative comparison is precluded by the small size of the ceramic sample, but, in contrast to Megiddo, bowls and cooking pots form the bulk of the assemblage, while storage jars are absent. A strong resemblance was observed between the assemblages of the fills and those found on the enclosure floors.

Thus, a strong similarity between ceramic assemblages, spanning two distinct levels at both Jezreel and Megiddo, has been noted. Unfortunately, there is insufficient evidence to establish the duration of individual phases at either site. It is clear, however, that the ceramic contents of the four deposition phases discussed all fall within the same cultural horizon, which also encompasses assemblages from other sites in the region. While it may broadly assumed that typologically similar assemblages are closely related in time, the pace of change within the ceramic repertoire of this period remains unclear. Nevertheless, it seems reasonable to assume that the ceramic tradition exhibited by the assemblages found upon the

floors of the Omride enclosure persisted without major changes for a considerable length of time in the Jezreel Valley.

The similarity between the pottery from the enclosure at Jezreel and that from Stratum VA–IVB at Megiddo and the conclusion that both settlements were apparently destroyed support the assumption that these sites coexisted for a certain period of time. However, the resemblance of these assemblages to their stratigraphic predecessors does not necessarily imply that the two sites were founded simultaneously, a conclusion which can only be validated by a wider variety of sources.

The association of the Jezreel enclosure with the House of Omri and the possible assignment of its demise to the second half of the 9th century B.C.E. — as a result of either Jehu's revolt (as suggested in Ussishkin and Woodhead 1992:53) or Aramaean campaigns (as suggested in Na'aman 1997) — would present a chronological guide for dating other archaeological strata in northern Israel. The widely accepted chronological anchor, founded upon the assumption that Shishak destroyed Megiddo Stratum VA–IVB and other northern sites in his campaign of ca. 925 B.C.E., is difficult to reconcile with the above dating of the Jezreel enclosure. Adoption of the latter chronological anchor for Megiddo and other sites would imply a difference of eighty years or more between the terminal dates of their ceramic repertoires and that of the Jezreel enclosure. The existence of comparable ceramic repertoires in an earlier stratigraphic stage at both of the above sites makes such a gap seem even more anomalous. It may be concluded that the ceramic finds from Tel Jezreel warrant a reevaluation of the date of similar pottery assemblages from Megiddo and other sites in northern Israel.

APPENDIX (see Editor's Note at end of chapter)

Presented below is the pottery from three loci in the Omride enclosure, complementing the assemblages presented in Zimhoni 1992 and in Chapter 1 of this volume.

The first pottery assemblage (Figs. 2.5–2.7) was found in Installation 154 in Area A, a plastered installation incorporated into the casemate wall near the city gate (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994:12–13; Figs. 6, 12). The northern part of the installation contained numerous vessels. Hardly any of these could be completely restored, indicating that the assemblage was not found *in situ*. It appears that these vessels were stored at a higher level, possibly on what may have been the roof of the installation, and fell inside when the roof collapsed.

The Locus 154 assemblage includes vessels of types uncovered in the earlier excavation seasons: a flat-based and straight-walled bowl (Fig. 2.5:1); a carinated ring-based bowl, red slipped and hand burnished (Fig. 2.5:2); and an unusual

groove-based bowl (Fig. 2.5:3) (cf. Zimhoni 1992:61; Fig. 1:18; also this volume, Fig. 1.2:18). There is a large quantity of handleless kraters which are red slipped and hand burnished (Fig. 2.5:4–7), as well as elongated-rimmed cooking pots (Fig. 2.6:1–2). A large group of cylindrical holemouth jars with various types of rims is represented in Fig. 2.7.

FIGURE 2.5. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 154

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*
1.	Bowl	1985/2
2.	Bowl	1950/1
3.	Bowl	1984/1
4.	Krater	1985/1
5.	Krater	1951/2
6.	Krater	1944/1
7.	Krater	1938/1

FIGURE 2.6. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 154

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*
1.	Cooking pot	1944/2
2.	Cooking pot	1951/1
3.	Cooking pot	1935/2
4.	Jug	1985/3
5.	Jug	1908/1
6.	Storage jar	1876/1
7.	Storage jar	1838/1

FIGURE 2.7. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 154

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Photograph*
1.	Holemouth jar	1890/1	Fig. 2.13:5
2.	Holemouth jar	1826/1	Fig. 2.13:6
3.	Holemouth jar	1889/1	Fig. 2.13:7
4.	Holemouth jar	1889/2	
5.	Holemouth jar	1853/1	
6.	Holemouth jar	1888/1	
7.	Holemouth jar	1935/1	
8.	Holemouth jar	1783/1	

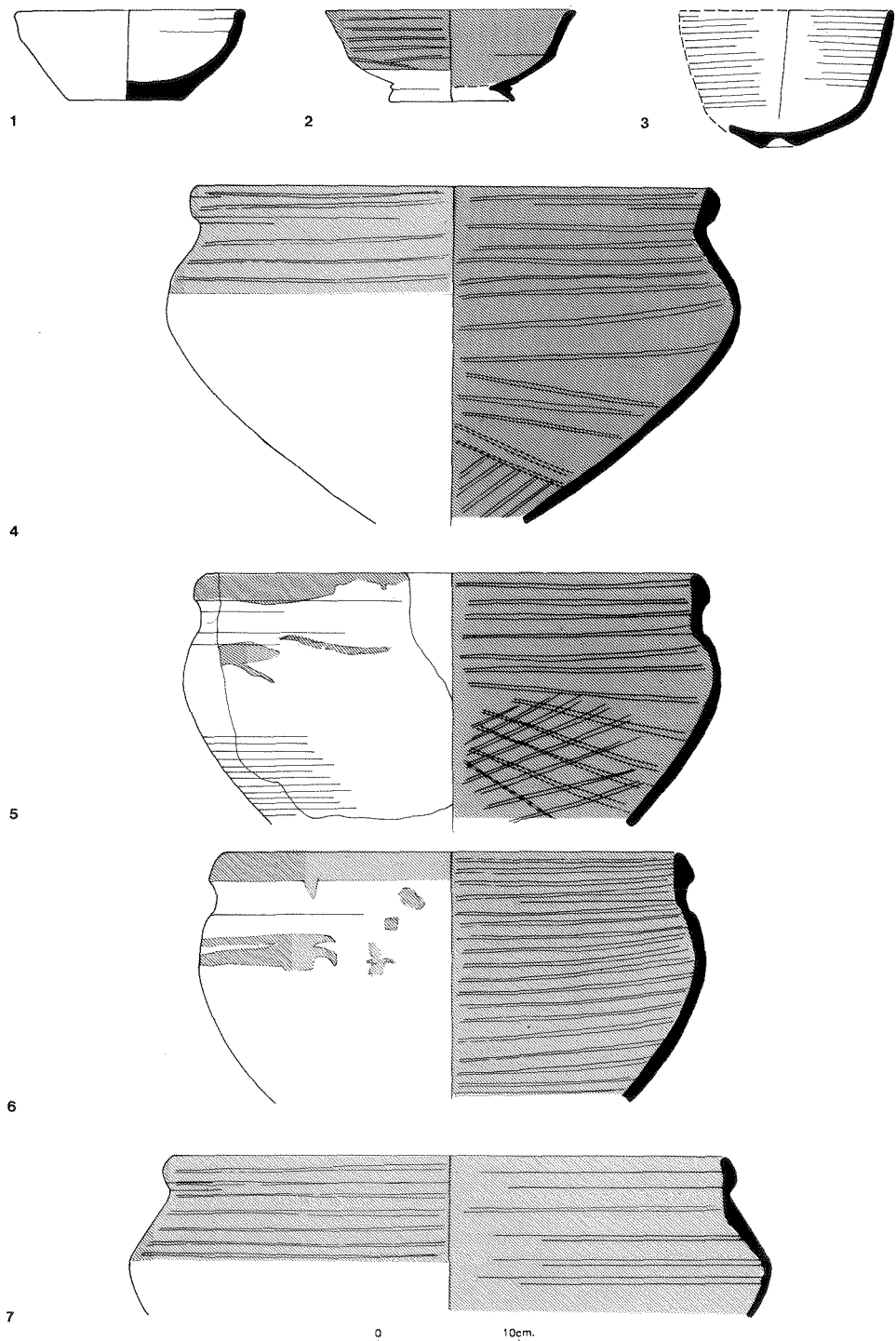

Fig. 2.5. Pottery from Locus 154.

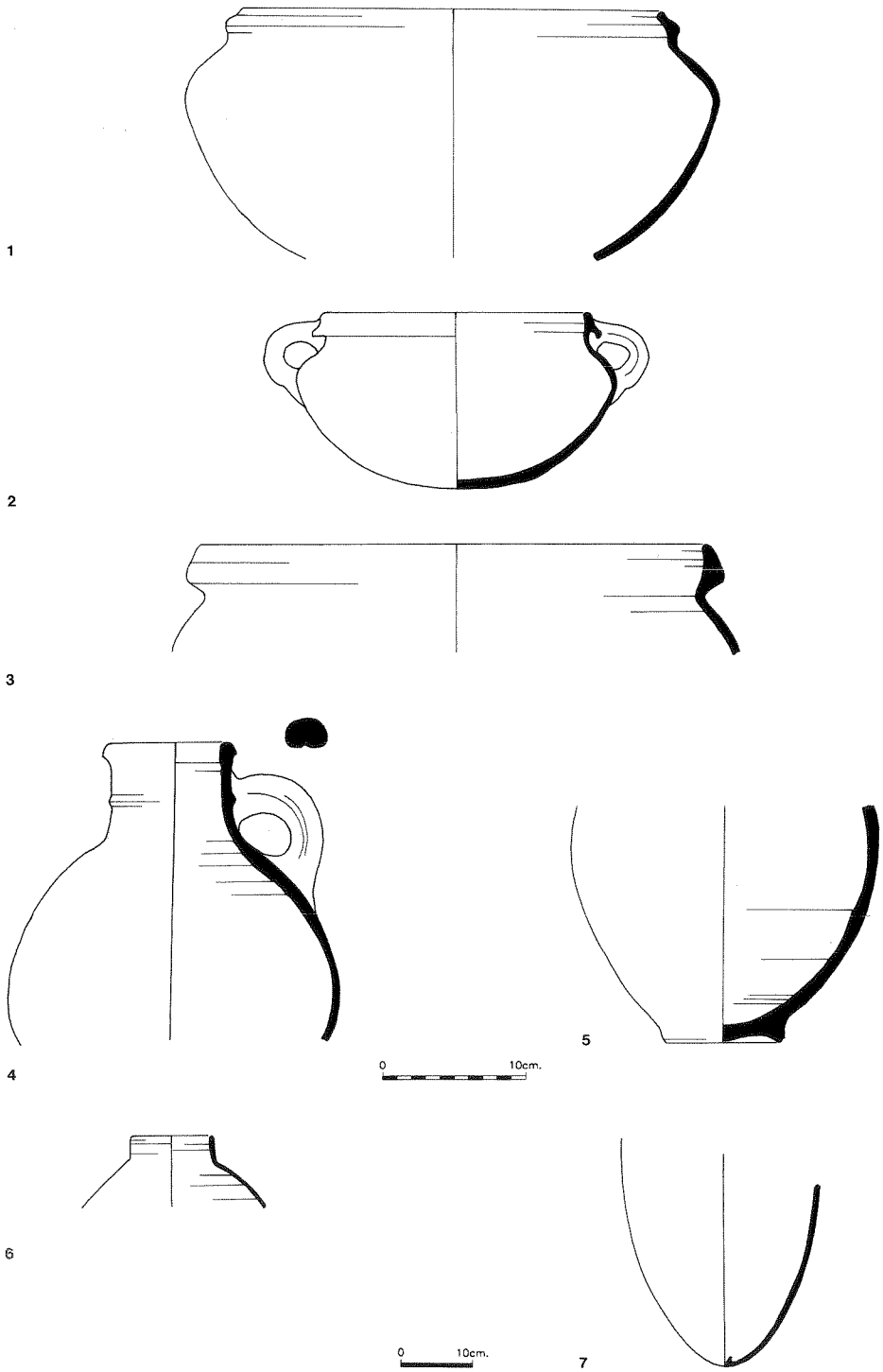

Fig. 2.6. Pottery from Locus 154.

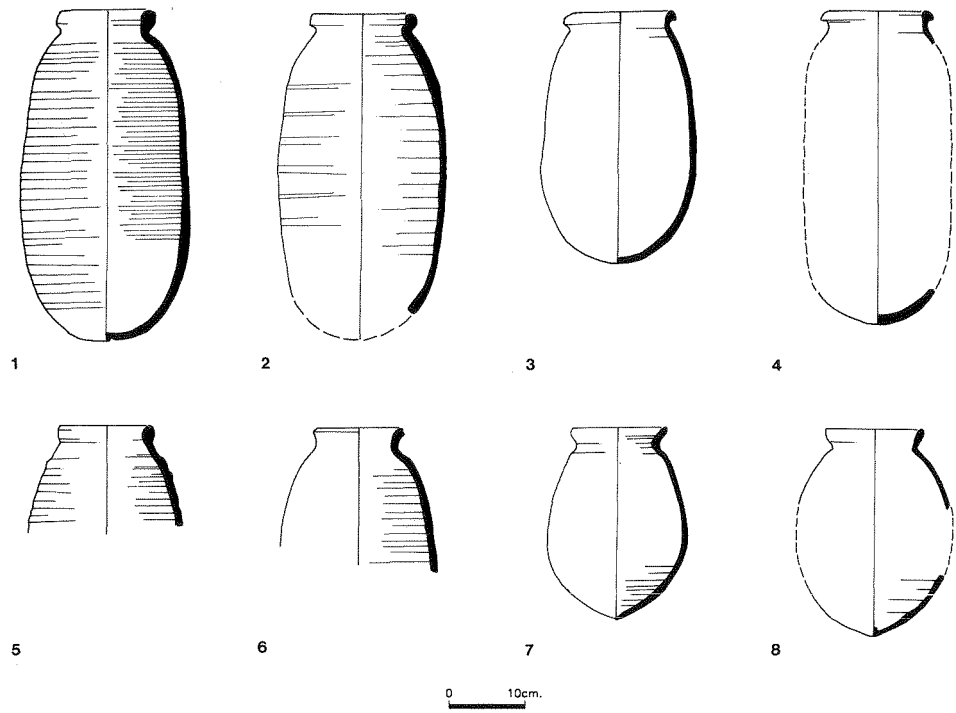

Fig. 2.7. Pottery from Locus 154.

The second assemblage (Figs. 2.8–2.11) was uncovered in the destruction debris of Locus 214 in Area B, the central unit of the southeast corner tower of the enclosure (Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994:26–28; Figs. 33; 35–36). A clay stopper, apparently belonging to a storage jar from this assemblage, has been published by Shuval (1994).

In Locus 214 almost the same types of vessels were encountered: the flat-based, straight-walled as well as rounded-walled bowls (Fig. 2.8:1–3); carinated red-slipped bowls (Fig. 2.8:4–6); closed kraters (Fig. 2.8:7–10); and elongated-rimmed cooking pots (Fig. 2.9:1). However, some new vessel types were found which had not previously been presented, such as a four-handled krater made of a light coloured clay with an interior and exterior red wash (Fig. 2.8:12). The closed type of cooking pot with two handles (Fig. 2.9:2) is also encountered for the first time at Jezreel. The single-handled and ridge-necked jug (Fig. 2.9:3) is red slipped and vertically burnished. The elongated juglet (Fig. 2.9:6) apparently has a pinched rim and red slip. The small juglet with a pointed base (Fig. 2.9:7) belongs to the 'black juglets' group, though its clay is dark brown. The stand represented in Fig. 2.9:8 (see also Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994: Fig. 37) has thick walls and four loop handles attached to the upper part.

FIGURE 2.8. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 214

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Photograph*
1.	Bowl	3554/3	
2.	Bowl	3517/1	
3.	Bowl	3590/1	
4.	Bowl	3315/1	
5.	Bowl	3544/1	
6.	Bowl	3404/1	
7.	Krater	3176/1	Fig. 2.14:1
8.	Krater	3315/2	
9.	Krater	3468/1	
10.	Krater	3517/2	
11.	Krater	3364/1	
12.	Krater	3539/1	Fig. 2.14:2

FIGURE 2.9. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 214

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Photograph*
1.	Cooking pot	2324/1	
2.	Cooking pot	3609/1	
3.	Jug	2703/1	
4.	Jug	2523/1	
5.	Jug	2393/1	
6.	Juglet	3397/1	
7.	Juglet	3596/1	
8.	Stand	3429/1	Fig. 2.14:3; also Ussishkin and Woodhead 1994: Fig. 37.

FIGURE 2.10. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 214

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Photograph*
1.	Storage jar	3313/2	Fig. 2.13:1
2.	Storage jar	3554/2	
3.	Storage jar	2115/1	Fig. 2.13:2
4.	Storage jar	3313/1	Fig. 2.13:3
5.	Storage jar	2525/1	
6.	Storage jar	3582/1	

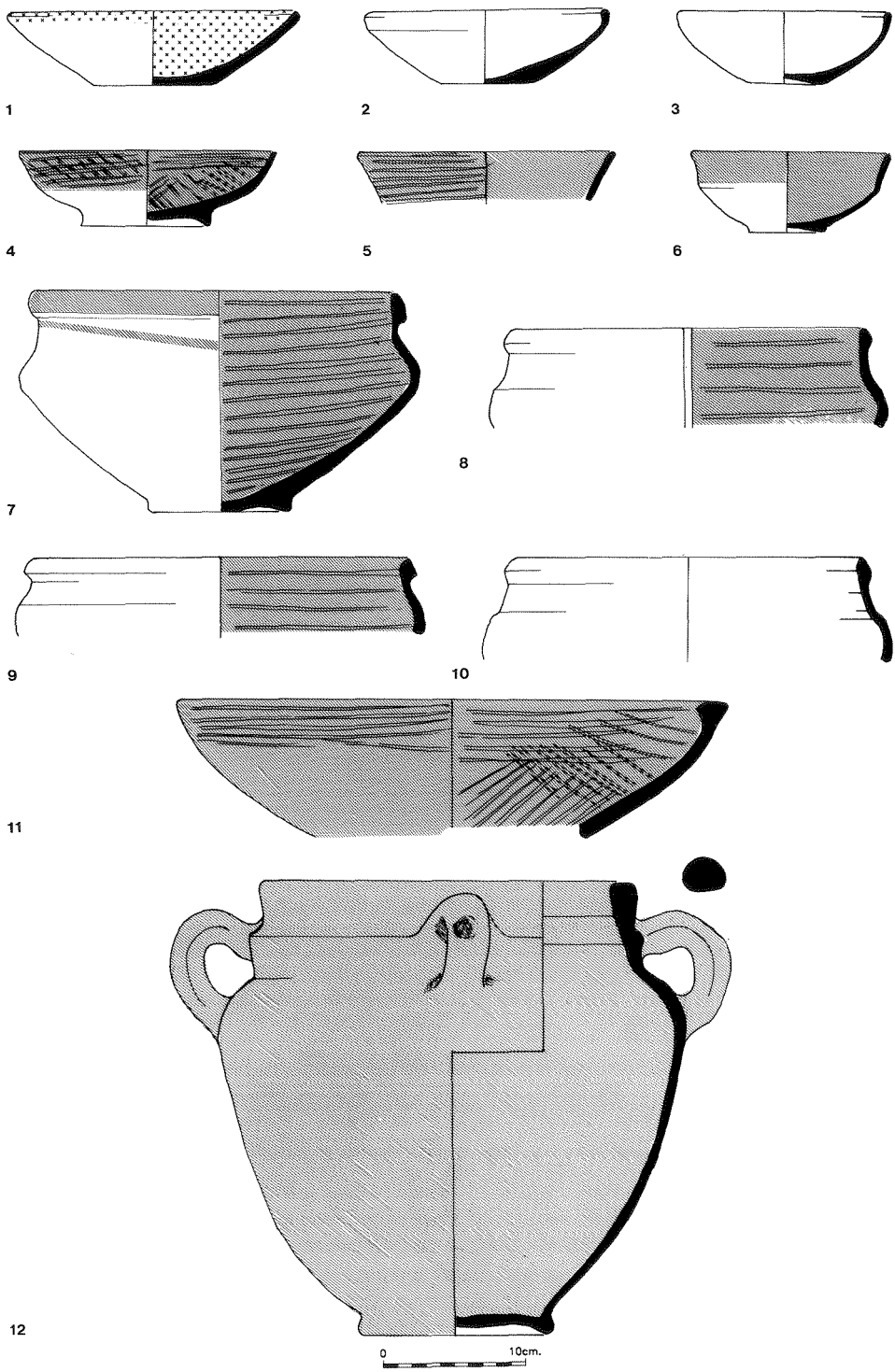

Fig. 2.8. Pottery from Locus 214.

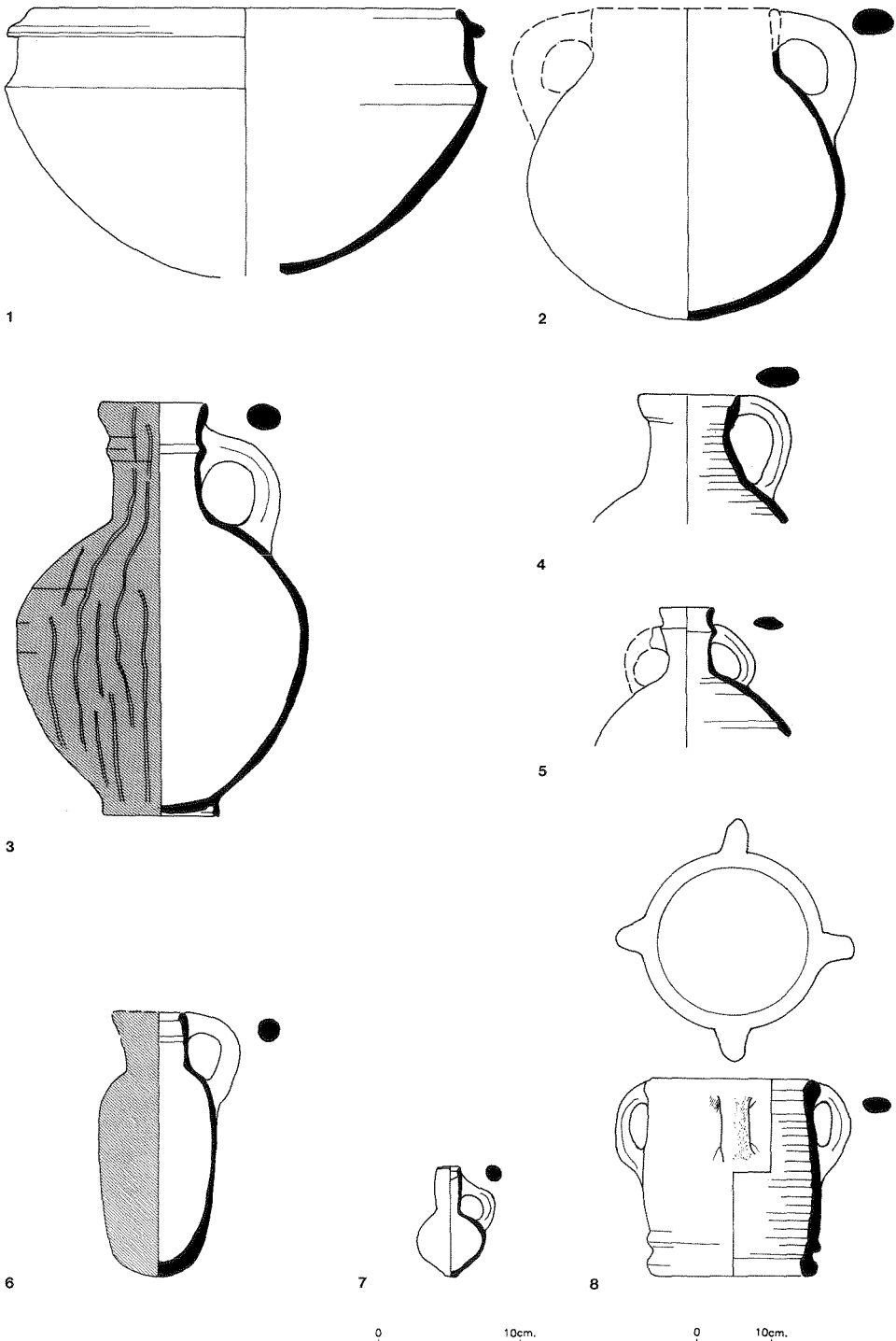

Fig. 2.9. Pottery from Locus 214.

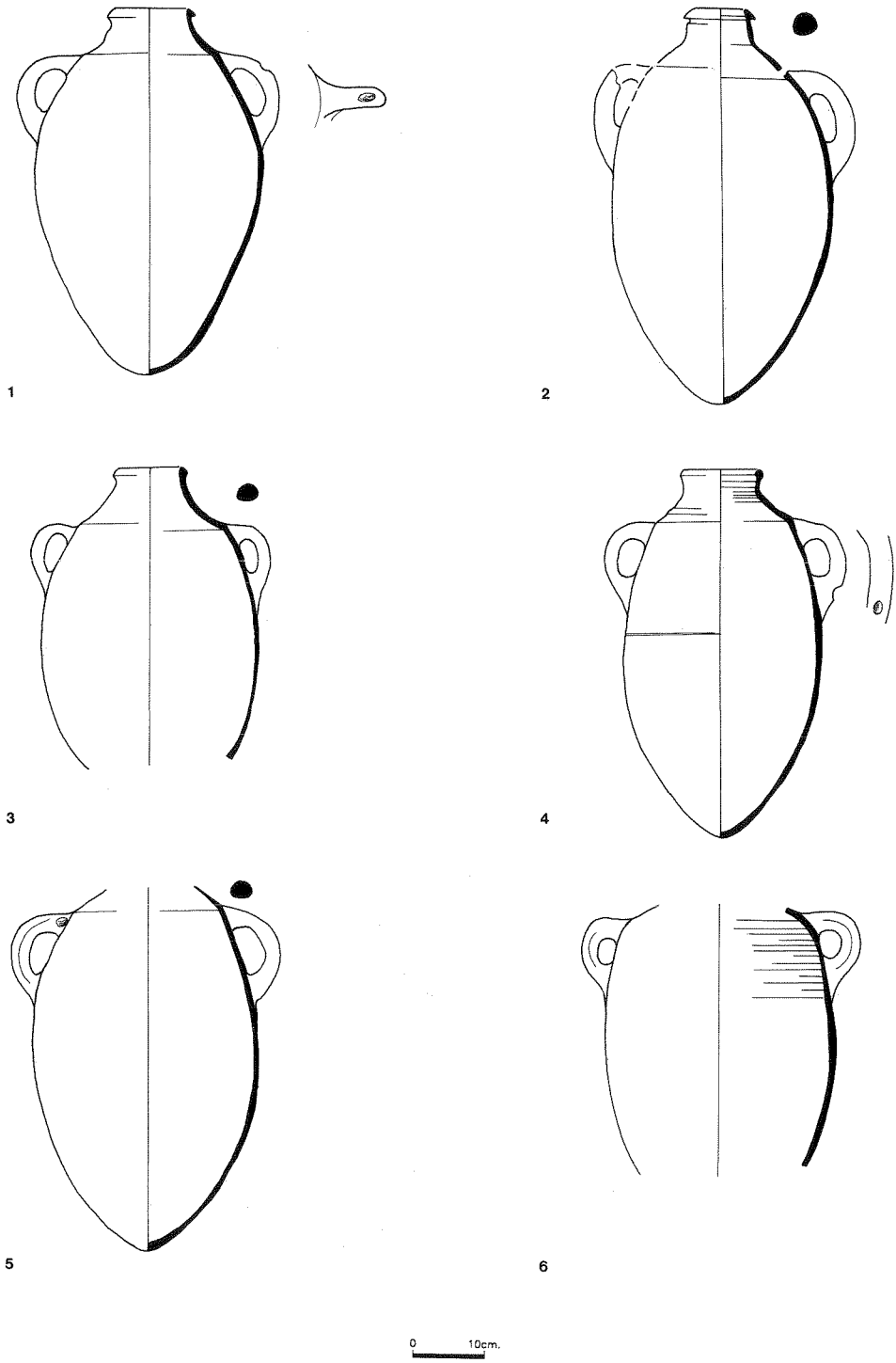

Fig. 2.10. Pottery from Locus 214.

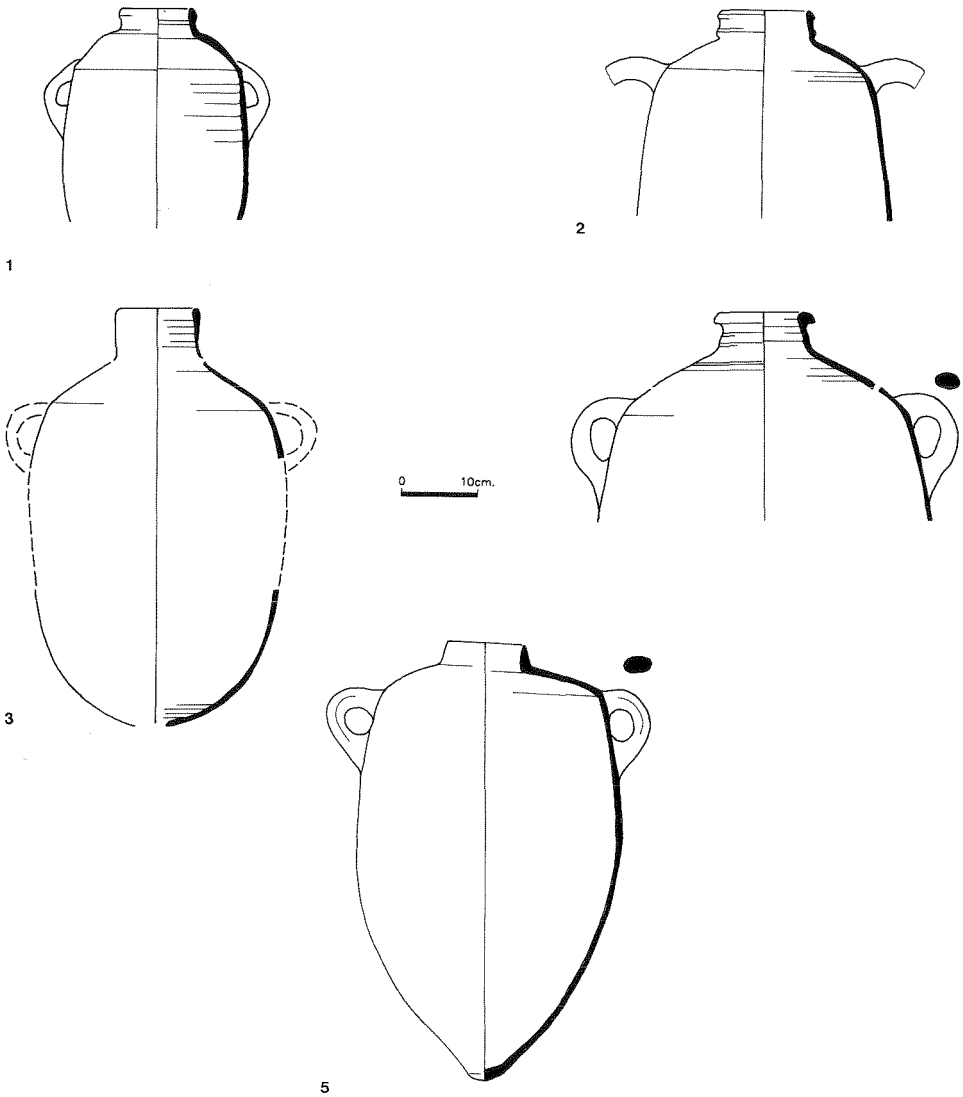

Fig. 2.11. Pottery from Locus 214.

FIGURE 2.11. POTTERY FROM LOCUS 214

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Photograph*
1.	Storage jar	3554/1	
2.	Storage jar	2899/1	
3.	Storage jar	3232/2	
4.	Storage jar	3616/1	
5.	Storage jar	3398/1	Fig. 2.13:4

Locus 214 presents a large group of relatively complete storage jars (Figs. 2.10 and 2.11), only the rims of which were previously encountered in the 1992 publication. The storage jar in Fig. 2.11:5 is particularly interesting. While most of the ceramic repertoire uncovered in the various loci is homogenous in its appearance and resembles the repertoire known from Samaria, Megiddo and Ta'anach (Zimhoni 1992:69; also this volume, Chapter 1:25–26), this type of storage jar has close parallels in the southern coastal plain and even in Judah (Zimhoni 1990:27–29; Fig. 17:3, Group IIIE; also this volume, Chapter 5:235–239; Fig. 5.18:3). Although this type of jar is best known from the late 8th and 7th centuries B.C.E., it is sometimes encountered earlier; e.g. at Tel Michal XIV–XIII (Singer-Avitz 1989: Figs. 7.1:17–18; 7.3:14) and Arad XI (Aharoni 1981: Fig. 9:5).

The third pottery assemblage was found in Room 484, a casemate room uncovered in Sq. P/38 of Area F (Fig. 2.12:1–5), and in the adjoining Room 5030 (Fig. 2.12:6–7), the latter apparently a domestic unit, as a *tabun* was found within (on these loci see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1992:47; 1994:37–39; Figs. 51–55). A fine carved bone or ivory scaraboid was uncovered in Room 484 (Ussishkin

FIGURE 2.12. LOCUS 484 (1–5), AND LOCUS 5030 (6–7)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Photograph*
1.	Krater	4419/1	
2.	Bowl	4587/1	
3.	Cooking pot	4410/1	
4.	Cooking pot	4419/2	
5.	Juglet	4412/1	Fig. 2.14:4
6.	Holemouth jar	4953/1	Fig. 2.13:8
7.	Holemouth jar	4945/1	

FIGURE 2.13. LOCI 214 (1–4), 154 (5–7), 5030 (8)

No.	*Type*	*Drawing*
1.	Storage jar	Fig. 2.10:1
2.	Storage jar	Fig. 2.10:3
3.	Storage jar	Fig. 2.10:4
4.	Storage jar	Fig. 2.11:5
5.	Holemouth jar	Fig. 2.7:1
6.	Holemouth jar	Fig. 2.7:2
7.	Holemouth jar	Fig. 2.7:3
8.	Holemouth jar	Fig. 2.12:6

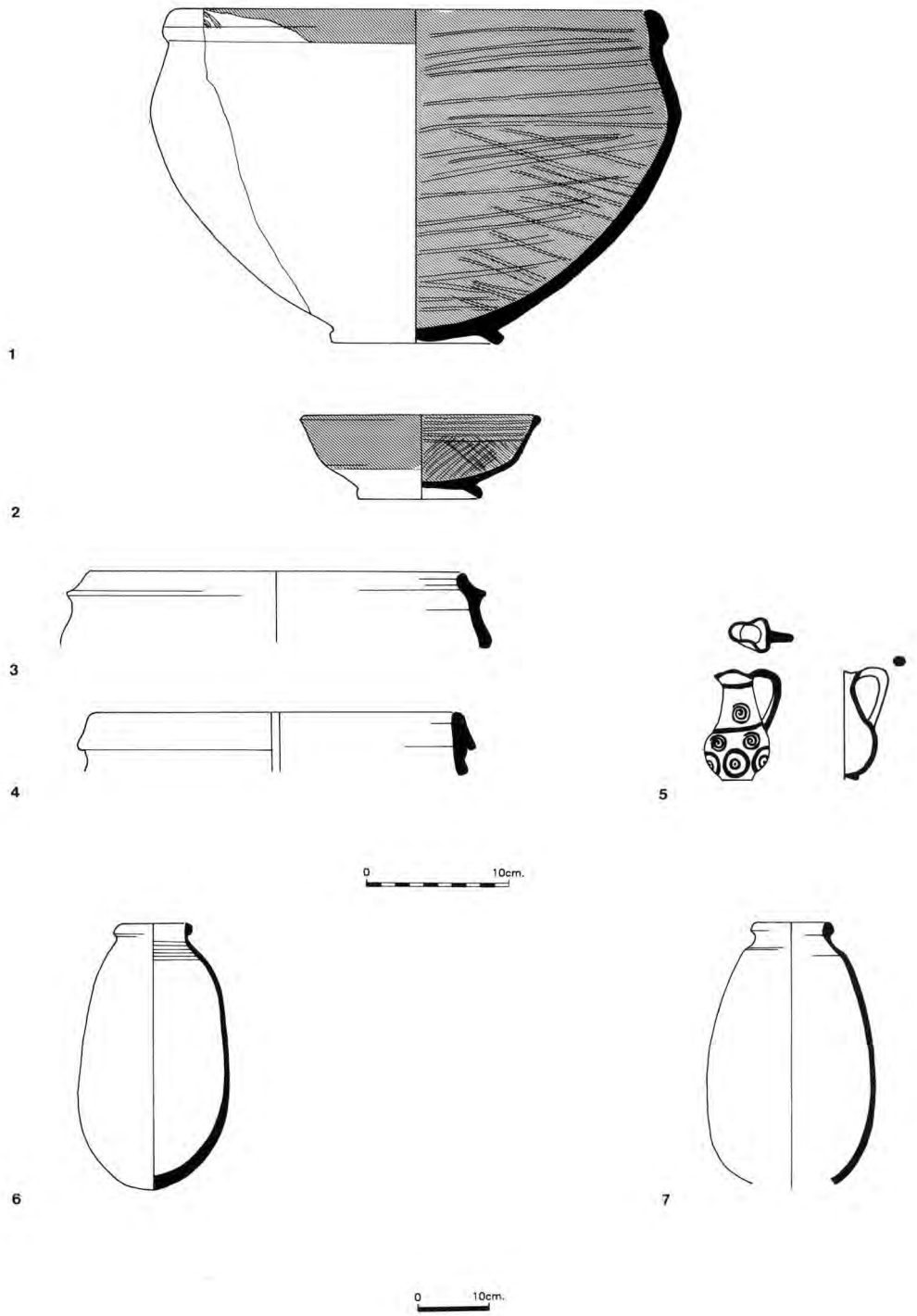

Fig. 2.12. Pottery from Locus 484 (1–5), and Locus 5030 (6–7).

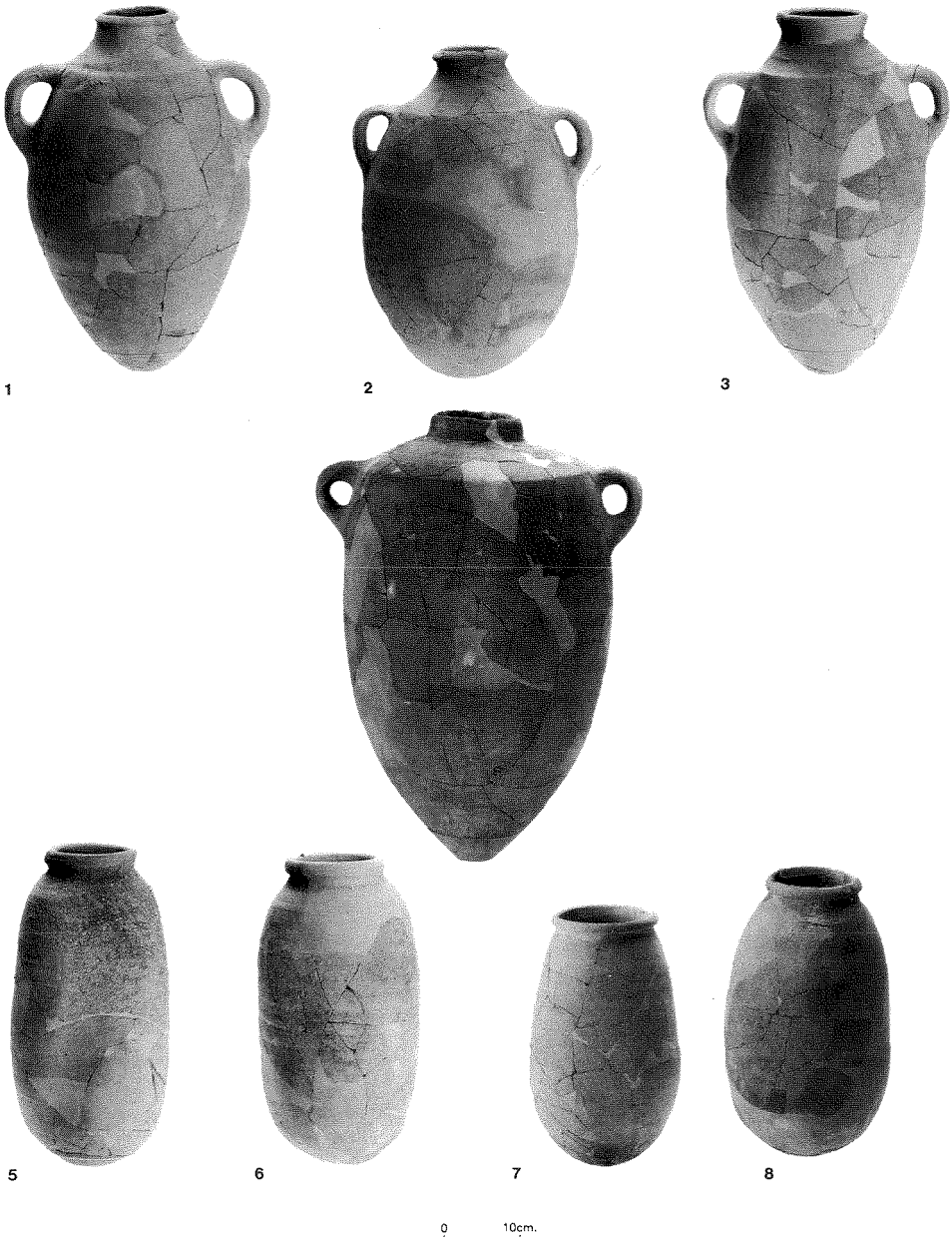

Fig. 2.13. Pottery from Loci 214 (1–4), 154 (5–7), 5030 (8).

and Woodhead 1992:47; Fig. 38:B). The bowl shown in Fig. 2.12:2 was in fact found in the 'robber trench' of the casemate wall near Room 484, and it is assumed that it fell there after the wall was robbed.

Room 484 contained a handleless krater (Fig. 2.12:1); a carinated red-slipped bowl (Fig. 2.12:2); elongated-rimmed cooking pots (Fig. 2.12:3–4); and a 'Red-on-Black' miniature juglet decorated with concentric circles and horizontal bands (Fig. 2.12:5). Cypriot 'Red-on-Black' ware is nearly absent from Jezreel, with the exception of a few sherds, mainly of bowls (Zimhoni 1992:61; Fig. 2:11; also this volume, Chapter 1:18; Fig. 1.3:11).

Room 5030 yielded an enormous number of cylindrical holemouth jars. Only two of them were complete (Fig. 2.12:6–7), but there were large fragments from some 30 other jars which could not be restored. The locus also contained a few sherds of carinated lustrous red-slipped bowls (Zimhoni 1992:61; Fig. 1:13–15; also this volume, Chapter 1:18; Fig. 1.2:13–15).

A ridge-necked globular jug (Reg. No. 10636) appears in Fig. 2.15:1. The jug is carelessly decorated and has one handle which stretches from the ridge to the body. It was found in the 1996 excavation season out of stratigraphic context in Area A, Sq. S/49; it probably originated in the building to the east of the enclosure's gate. Three red concentric circles decorate opposite sides of the body, and horizontal bands appear on the rim, neck and body. Two of the horizontal bands intersect the vertical circles. Below the handle and opposite is a stylized floral pattern fill (for the stylized tree as an isolated symbol see Keel and Uehlinger 1995:268; Abb. 235a, b, c). A prominent knob is in the centre of each group of circles. The coarse clay is dark grey with many large white grits, and the whole vessel is coated with a cream wash.

The ridge-necked globular jug is one of the more recognizable shapes attributed to the Phoenician ceramic repertoire. This class of jug had a long period of use in the Phoenician Iron Age. The painted decoration is commonly bichrome, although some examples are polychrome or even monochrome (Anderson 1990:41). In the early stages of its development the jug decoration was composed of concentric circles, but later the painted decoration was applied

FIGURE 2.14. POTTERY FROM LOCI 214 (1–3), 484 (4)

No.	*Type*	*Drawing*
1.	Krater	Fig. 2.8:7
2.	Krater	Fig. 2.8:12
3.	Stand	Fig. 2.9:8
4.	Juglet	Fig. 2.12:5

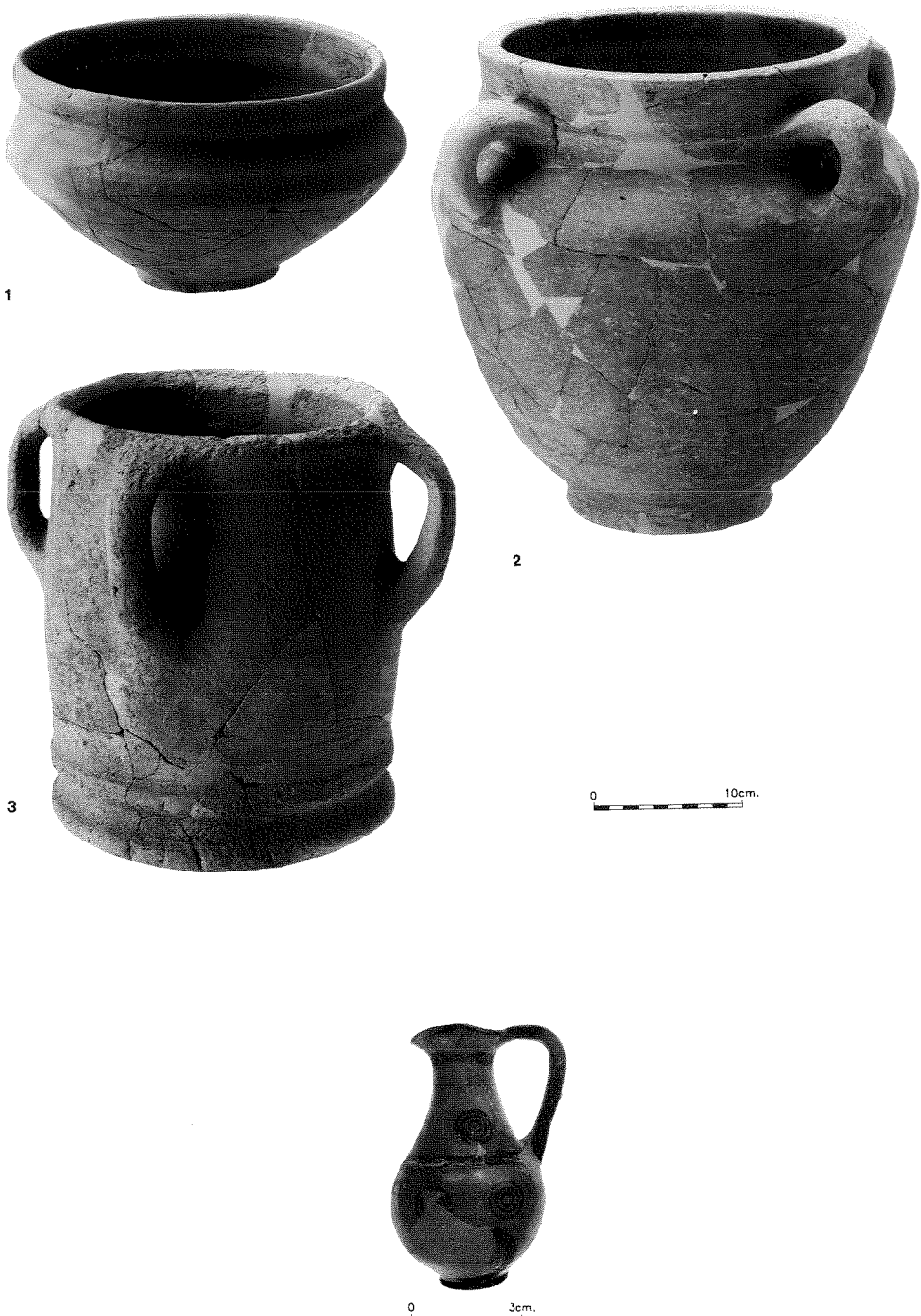

Fig. 2.14. Pottery from Loci 214 (1–3), 484 (4).

horizontally around the vessel (*ibid.*:46). Both types are well known in northern Israel and Lebanon (Birmingham 1963:36–37; Anderson 1990:42).

The jug from Tel Jezreel is exceptional in the way it combines the two styles, i.e. vertical circles and horizontal bands. Another curious feature is the knobs that appear on this type of vessel, an uncommon addition, though known from Cypriot barrel juglets. According to preliminary analysis of the clay by Y. Goren, the vessel was not locally manufactured and probably originated somewhere on the Lebanese coast. Although the jug was not found in a secure stratigraphic context

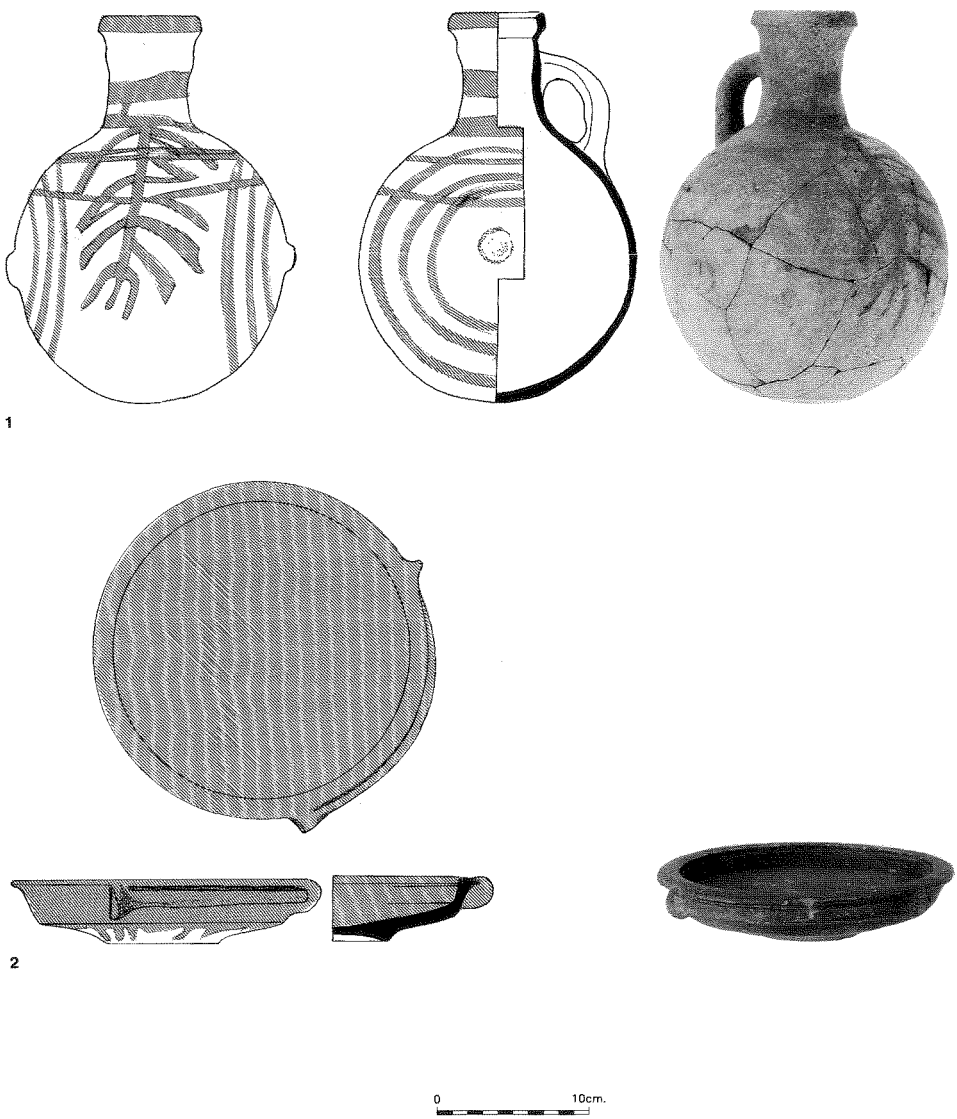

Fig. 2.15. A ridge-necked globular jug and a Late Iron Age bowl.

and is without accompanying vessels, it fits the chronological time frame of the pottery assemblages found in the Iron Age enclosure.

Presented in Figure 2.15:2 is a unique bowl (Reg. No. 15538) found complete in Sq. T/50, which is in the fills postdating the enclosure's destruction. The bowl dates to the time of the later Iron Age settlement and possibly was placed in a grave (see Ussishkin and Woodhead 1997:32). It is a carinated bowl with a ring base. A bar handle runs around the flattened rim. The thick walls are red slipped and wheel burnished on the inside, while the exterior is slipped and burnished only above the carination line. The bowl is similar to Assyrian bronze bowls like the one found nearby in Grave 1260 (*ibid.*: Fig. 30).

***Note by Editor of* Tel Aviv** (D.U.)

This, Orna Zimhoni's last article, was written shortly before her untimely death. The text was dictated to D. Wengrow and completed on her last day of work in the university. She was not satisfied with the wording of the last paragraph and intended to redraft it; however, fast deterioration in her health prevented her from doing so. The last, summarizing paragraph was therefore redrafted by the Editor and D. Wengrow. Hopefully it faithfully represents Orna Zimhoni's views.

Orna Zimhoni assembled the sherds she decided to include in this paper, but managed only to describe some bowl sherds. Their proper presentation in this paper was completed by L. Singer-Avitz.

As stated above, ceramic material from the Omride enclosure does not feature here. A comprehensive publication of this pottery repertoire was one of the tasks which Orna Zimhoni began, but was prevented from completing. We decided to add an appendix to this paper which includes the three important assemblages, as well as two unique vessels uncovered in the excavation out of stratigraphic context since the publication of her first report on the Jezreel pottery (Zimhoni 1992; also this volume, Chapter 1). The material was arranged with the aid of L. Singer-Avitz.

The pottery figures were drawn and arranged by A. Perry. The photographs were taken by P. Shrago. The ceramics were restored by the Restoration Department of the Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University.

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CHAPTER 3

LACHISH LEVELS V AND IV: COMMENTS ON THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF JUDAH IN THE IRON AGE II IN THE LIGHT OF THE LACHISH POTTERY REPERTOIRE*

INTRODUCTION

Ruth Amiran's book describing the period-by-period development of pottery in Israel devotes an important chapter to the Iron Age. In her discussion of Iron II pottery, she notes that 'the material from levels V–IV at Lachish is scanty, and not enough is known about it' (Amiran 1969:200). This view has prevailed since Tufnell published the Lachish final report in 1953 (Tufnell 1953). There are several reasons for this, including the complicated publication format of the final report and the fact that settlement strata were not excavated — most of the published material was from tombs. References to the Lachish report have been mainly for comparative typology of specific vessels, generally accepting the dates assigned by Tufnell. This attitude toward the pottery of the early Iron Age settlement phases at Lachish, Levels V–IV, is distinct from the viewpoint concerning the pottery of Levels III–II. In the latter Tufnell created the typological and chronological framework which still serves as the basis for research concerning pottery of the 8th-7th centuries B.C.E. in Judah.

THE PROBLEM OF DATING

The time period between the 10th and the beginning of the 6th centuries B.C.E. includes few historical events useful to the archaeologist dealing with the material culture of Iron II in Judah. Late in the period, the destruction caused by Sennacherib's 701 campaign and the final destruction of Judah by the Babylonians in 587/6 create a chronological framework into which settlement remains and vessel assemblages may be inserted, thereby providing at least a partial view of 8th- and 7th-century B.C.E. Judah.

In the first part of the period, however, the only chronologically relevant episode is Shishak's campaign, which took place in ca. 927 B.C.E. Unlike events previously mentioned, identification of archaeological strata destroyed during Shishak's campaign and of associated pottery assemblages is a matter of controversy (Dever 1990:125, and in particular, 128, note 12; Ussishkin 1990:74;

* Presented as M.A. thesis to Tel Aviv University in 1995.

Finkelstein 1996). The extent of the destruction in Judah as a result of Shishak's campaign is unclear, particularly in the Negev region (Na'aman 1992:81–83 and bibliography). No destruction levels at Judean sites are universally recognized as resulting from Shishak's campaign (concerning the controversy over the dating of Arad, see Herzog *et al.* 1984:8; Zimhoni 1985:86; also this volume, Chapter 4:206–207). Dating at many sites, therefore, is based upon unverified historical and biblical events.

A further tool utilized by researchers in dating involves the data which have accumulated from excavations in the northern part of the country (see Finkelstein 1990:114–117 and bibliography). Archaeologists have dated strata and pottery at southern sites utilizing ceramic parallels from northern sites. There are three reasons why this is an unsatisfactory situation:

1. The dates of strata at northern sites are themselves problematic. Comparative studies of key northern sites — Samaria, Megiddo and Hazor — present different dates for the same strata (Wightman 1990).

2. Accepted comparative typological studies based upon similarities between groups of vessels increasingly lead to the view that most of the vessels utilized in each region of the country were locally produced (few of the petrographic analyses have yet been published). Most vessels had only a regional distribution over a limited area. Few vessels enjoyed distribution over wider areas. Although aware of regional differences, many researchers, overcome by the temptation to present new chronological parallels, have published important studies which ignore such differences (Kenyon in Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:198–209; Aharoni and Amiran 1958:181). This weakness characterizes many final excavation reports and articles to this day. No one has yet delimited an area of distribution for any Iron II vessel. The interesting attempt by Wood (1990) emphasizes the need for serious work in this direction.

3. Many studies have dealt with the transition from hand- to wheel-burnishing as a useful feature for comparative purposes and dating. Slip and burnish have been regarded as characteristic of the Land of Israel as a geographical entity. Changes in slip and burnish are commonly viewed as having taken place simultaneously throughout the country. The possibility that differences in slip and burnish may reflect regional differences, or that the use of similar slip and burnish does not necessarily imply synchronism, has not been considered.

One is faced with a long time period during which various changes took place. The lack of reliable available data makes it impossible to date these changes with certainty at present. As a result, the study of the ceramics of this period has nearly reached a dead end. The problem of characterizing and differentiating between assemblages belonging to the 10th-9th centuries B.C.E. is

particularly acute. In most studies, pottery assemblages are defined as belonging to the 10th-century ceramic repertoire, while 9th-century ceramic assemblages are defined and dated to this period solely on the basis of the stratigraphic sequence in which they were located.

Each of the excavators of Lachish, for their own reasons, independently dated Levels V and IV to the 10th and 9th centuries (Tufnell 1953:52–54; Y. Aharoni 1975a:14–15; Ussishkin 1983:171–173). However, they did not deal specifically with the question of which ceramic assemblages are characteristic of each level. The excavators' views, particularly those of Tufnell who presented the most comprehensive study of pottery, are only partially known on the basis of information scattered in their research publications.

Given the lack of absolute dates, one may question the advantage of a study based upon the finds from Lachish over one based upon finds from other sites which also have a continuous stratigraphic sequence containing pottery. In the Lachish sequence, two large, well-dated pottery assemblages were found in Levels III and II. The absolute dates for all of the other sites in Judah are based upon these levels. For our purpose, the pottery assemblage of Level III, being stratigraphically closer to Level IV and securely dated to 701 B.C.E., is the more important of the two. The vessel assemblages from Levels V and IV are of a different character (smaller, consisting mainly of sherds and not securely dated). Still, all four assemblages were found within a stratigraphic sequence and constitute links in a single chain. Therefore, there is a greater advantage in presenting the undated Lachish assemblages and examining them in relation to dated ones from that site, than in studying pottery from sites which have no securely dated strata.

Any study of a ceramic assemblage, particularly one concerned with material from a site as large and important as Lachish, should aim ultimately at precisely dating that assemblage. However, for the reasons mentioned above it is clearly impossible to propose absolute dates for Levels V and IV at Lachish and the vessels found in them and at other sites in the region. On this basis, it has been concluded that there is no point in attempting to re-utilize the same research methodologies in dealing with the general dates proposed so far for these strata. Other methods must be found for dating, though not necessarily methods yielding absolute dates.

AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

The primary aim of this study is the presentation of the array of typological data which characterizes the pottery from Levels V and IV. Because considerable similarity was initially observed between the vessels from these two levels, a

methodology based essentially upon quantitative analysis of their ceramics was chosen. In this manner, the degree of similarity between the pottery from the two levels was examined, as were quantitative changes among similar vessel types from both levels. Identifying vessel types, those vessels which appear in only one of the two levels at Lachish, were located and isolated. With the aid of the identifying vessel types, it became possible to draw parallels between Lachish and strata at other sites or finds encountered during survey. The combined data array — typological, quantitative and comparative — is based upon a comparison of the entire assemblage rather than upon single vessels.

The lack of quantitative data from other sites renders comparison with Lachish impossible at this stage. Only limited use has been made of typological comparison between vessels from Lachish and similar ones from other sites. Noting the appearance of a specific vessel is important when there are criteria for precise dating of the vessel at the other site (as already noted, such criteria do not exist), or when its appearance at a specific site is significant from the standpoint of geographical distribution (a worthy topic beyond the scope of this study).

STRATIGRAPHY

Level V

The settlement at Tel Lachish (Fig. 3.1) was reestablished following a gap between Level VI (the Late Bronze Age city which was destroyed in the mid-12th century) and Iron Age Level V. No remains indicative of any settlement between these two strata have yet been found on the mound. Level V is defined as a new settlement on the tel. It is encountered above the remains of Level VI and beneath the monumental buildings of Level IV. It is a difficult stratum to characterize and understand for two reasons: The three expeditions which worked on the tel uncovered few and scattered structural remains belonging to it. Pottery from these loci is sparse or non-indicative. This leaves room for several different interpretations, each of which should, however, be based upon a comparison of the stratigraphy and pottery of Levels V and IV.

In Area S (Fig. 3.1:10), beneath the stone base of a structure (which may be identified as a tower) of the Level IV city wall, fragments of Level V walls and floors were encountered. Most of the walls were incorporated into the stone base of the city wall, but portions of these walls extended beyond the outer line of the city wall. No building remains or floors were found within the city wall (Ussishkin 1983:116; Fig. 9). It is unclear if all traces were removed by the builders of Level IV or if no buildings had ever stood there. The scanty remains are insufficient to demonstrate a clear plan of even a single structure. Traces of ash were found

among these remains; however, due to the limited area excavated, one cannot be sure that this reflects destruction by fire. The location of structural remains at the edge of the tel shows that the city was unfortified by a city wall during that period. The small area uncovered does not permit one to determine if a ring of houses was built all around the tel, serving as a fortification. Few pottery sherds were found upon the floors.

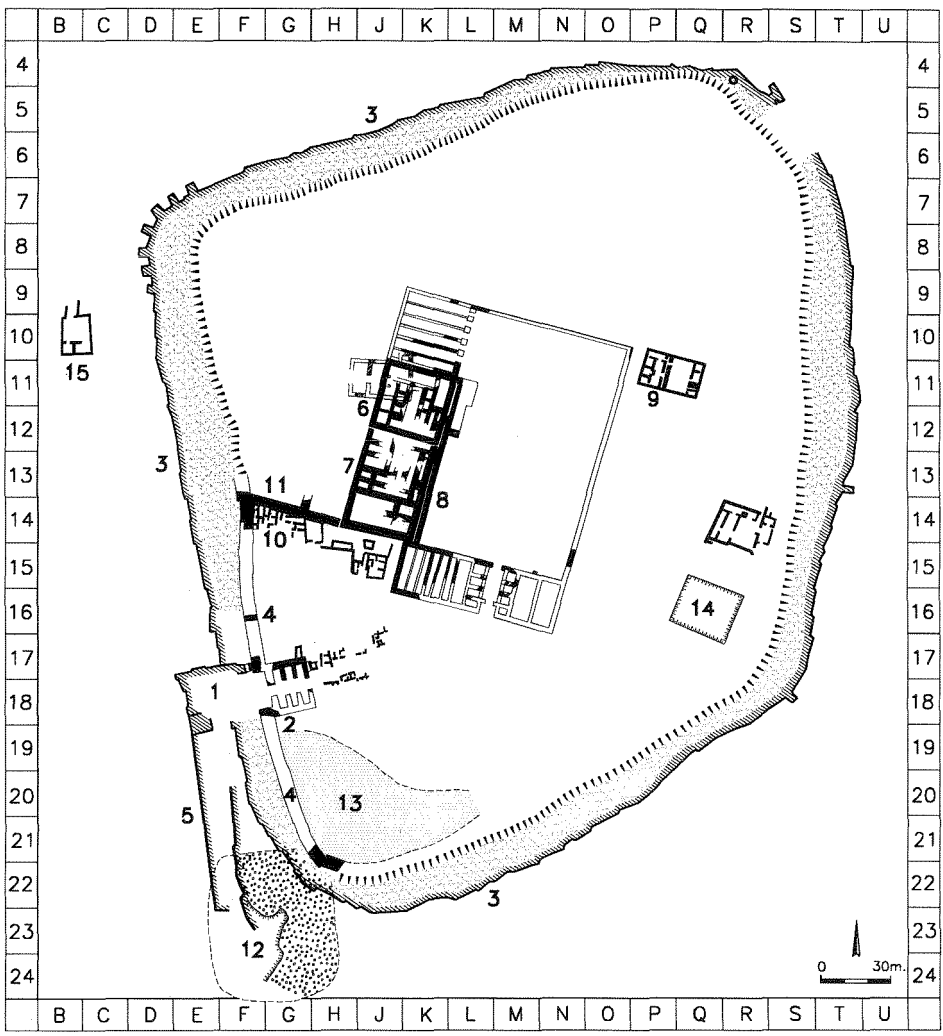

Fig. 3.1. Tel Lachish. 1. Area GW: the outer city gate; 2. Area GE: the inner city gate; 3. The outer revetment wall; 4. The main city wall; 5. Wall 'a' and Locus 4421; 6. Podium A; 7. Podium B; 8. Podium C; 9. The Solar Shrine; 10. Area S; 11. The enclosure wall; 12. The siege ramp; 13. The counter-ramp; 14. The Great Shaft; 15. The Fosse Temple.

In Area GE (Fig. 3.1:2), excavation by probe, intended to check the foundations of the Level IV–III inner city gate, uncovered a plastered surface attributed to Level V beneath the fill of the gate foundations (Ussishkin 1978:59–60; Fig. 17). The absence of *in situ* pottery and the small dimensions of the probe do not permit interpretation of these finds.

Aharoni's expedition attributed six small, unconnected excavated areas in the vicinity of the 'Solar Shrine' (Fig. 3.1:9) to Level V. The largest of these was a cult room measuring 3:30 x 2.30 m., which appears to have had an entrance on the north side. This area was badly eroded, and south of it nothing above Level VI was preserved. To the east of the cult room, worked stones, interpreted as *mazzebot,* and a burnt wooden beam, interpreted as an Asherah, were found. This area was regarded by Aharoni as a *bamah*, and according to him, portions of it continued to be used in Levels IV and III, at which time the cult room had already gone out of use (Y. Aharoni 1975a:30). The stratigraphic position of these remains is not, however, entirely clear. Their relation to the cult room, from which they are entirely cut off, remains unresolved. The pottery assemblage found in the cult room does not contribute to clarification of the stratigraphy. It consists mainly of chalices, stands, jugs and juglets of limited typological use. The entire area was found covered by fallen debris. According to Aharoni, this is evidence that the city 'was sacked and burned to the ground' (Y. Aharoni 1975a:12). It is noteworthy that the final excavation report does not mention signs of ash or burning in either the cult room or the vicinity of the *mazzebot.*

The most significant and problematic finds for understanding the nature of Level V are those connected with the Judean palace-fort enclosure. The substructure of the palace-fort was excavated by the British. They labelled the northern part, a nearly square structure, Podium A (Tufnell 1953:78–86; Fig. 1:6). Upon it, they believed, was built Palace A, which they attributed to Level V. Similar in form and built against the southern wall of the former, a large rectangular structure, which the British labelled Podium B (Fig. 3.1:7), extended to the south, upon which was built Palace B, attributed to Level IV. The final phase of the palace was found in Level III. During this phase a narrow strip, Podium C, was added along the entire eastern side of Podia A and B (Fig. 3.1:8), and Palace C was constructed on the enlarged substructure. This division was adopted in the preliminary reports of the renewed excavations (Ussishkin 1978; 1983). Lately, Ussishkin has advocated a different division, according to which both Podia A and B were constructed at the same time as parts of a single palace, Palace B, corresponding to Level IV (Ussishkin, oral communication).

All that remains of the palace-fort is the elevated stone substructure, as the superstructure has not been preserved, excepting some floor segments of Palace C. The inner walls of Podium A create a square, box-like structure in the centre,

apparently surrounded by rectangular box-like chambers. All were filled with mound debris mixed with numerous sherds, most dating to pre-Iron Age periods, particularly the Late Bronze Age, and but few Iron Age sherds. During the course of the renewed excavations, some of these constructional fills were excavated, as well as the fill which supported the palace podium on the outside. Podium A was built upon scanty remains of walls and fragmentary floors which extended outward beneath its northeastern corner. Nearby, the British also uncovered several pits. Red-slipped and burnished Iron Age pottery sherds were found in association with the wall and floor fragments, as well as in two of these pits. These remains were defined in the first preliminary report of the renewed excavations as an early phase of Level V, while Palace A, erected on Podium A, was defined as a later phase of this stratum (Ussishkin 1978:26–27).

In view of these data, there are two possibilities for reconstructing the initial Iron Age settlement in Level V:

1. In the first phase, dwellings, apparently scattered in various locations on the tel, were constructed. Evidence for this phase includes the structures and pits found in the centre of the tel beneath Podium A. The topography of Tel Lachish at the beginning of the Iron Age was quite different from today. The high part of the tel was at the centre, slightly east of the eastern wall of Podium B. The large structures of the Late Bronze Age were built to the west of this part, raising the elevation of this area. When they were destroyed, their destruction debris remained here. The poor structures indicative of the beginning of Level V were established upon this debris, no effort having been made to level the surface beforehand. The houses at the edge of the tel excavated in Area S may date to any phase prior to the construction of the Level IV city wall. They were possibly built during this phase, though they may also have been built during the later phase of Level V. During the later phase, the buildings at the centre of the tel were destroyed, and Palace A was built, perhaps by a governmental decree. This fortress-like building, crowning the summit, controlled the surrounding area. The location for Palace A was likely selected because it was the highest part of the tel during that period. Construction of the palace directly upon the destruction debris of the previous buildings without any preliminary levelling of the surface created differences of 2–4 m. in the height of different parts of the substructure of the edifice.

In the palace-fort area there may be evidence for two phases in Level V. In other parts of the tel, particularly in the residential area uncovered beneath the Level IV city wall, no such evidence was encountered.

2. The other possibility for reconstructing the initial settlement is to suppose, as Ussishkin has recently proposed, that Level V consists of one phase only, during which Lachish was a rural settlement with few buildings, its periphery perhaps

protected by a belt of houses. Palace B, constructed upon Podia A and B, and additional annexed buildings were all constructed during the period represented by Level IV.

Level IV

In this stratum, monumental structures, including the gate, city wall, enclosure wall (Fig. 3.1:11) and Palace B, were constructed. These served as a single, stratigraphically linked system of structures (Ussishkin 1978:46–51). Despite the fact that after Level IV some of its components ceased to be used or were modified, they remained landmarks in the city until the end of the Iron Age.

In the vicinity of the inner city gate in Area GE, strata preceding Level III were hardly excavated. In at least one place, however, part of a floor associated with Level IV was uncovered, indicating the presence of dwellings behind the inner gatehouse in this stratum too.

Podium B is a rectangular structure. Its four exterior walls surround a network of box-like chambers filled with debris and sherds. It is built against the southern exterior wall of Podium A and in a similar fashion, with the following differences: It is divided internally into rectangular rather than square chambers; it is built of *nari* limestone, while Podium A is constructed of *mizzi* limestone; on the east and west, its exterior foundation walls are supported by a constructional fill of earth and sherds, retained by brick walls oriented north to south. The British report does not mention fills or retaining walls surrounding Podium A.

The fill which supported the foundations of Podium B on the western side was covered, at least partially, by an outer layer of white lime plaster, which perhaps served to channel rainwater which drained from the palace-fort (Ussishkin 1983:117). The lime-plastered surface reached the enclosure wall which connects the palace-fort and the city wall (Fig. 3.1:11). Near the palace-fort it sloped sharply to the south and west, becoming more gentle nearer the city wall. The lime-plastered layer was not found near the city wall, and it is not clear if originally it had reached the wall. Ussishkin believes that the exposed plastered surface was part of the original architectural scheme, meant to leave the monumental palace-fort looming above its surroundings. In a later phase of Level IV, domestic structures were erected on the plastered surface (Ussishkin 1978:50–51). Another possibility is that the plastered surface layer, which served to protect the foundations of the palace-fort against water and erosion, was not originally intended to be visible. Houses would thus have been constructed upon it as soon as it was completed.

The dwellings of Level IV were exposed in an area bordered on the north by the enclosure wall, on the west by the city wall and on the south and east by the edges of the trench (Area S; see Fig. 3.1:10). Because of the nature of the

excavation, the house plans are fragmentary; however, it is clear that they stood against the city wall which served as the western wall of some of them. The plan of the Level IV structures, determined to a great extent by the sloping surface created by the constructional fills to the west of the palace-fort, remained virtually unchanged through the stratum. In most cases, the buildings had a single floor upon which layers of earth, ash and potsherds accumulated. In a few cases, two floor layers were noted and defined as the earlier and later floors of a structure. The basic plan of the Level III houses closely resembles that of Level IV. Some of the earlier walls remained unchanged, while strengthening walls were added to others. In some cases, internal spaces were divided differently. Level III floors were extremely close — about 10–20 cm. — to those of Level IV, and in the course of the excavation, it was frequently difficult to differentiate between them.

In Area S at least three structures were identified: the western building next to the city wall, the middle building and the eastern building, the latter standing a metre higher than the former two, built against a terrace wall intended to overcome the area's sloping topography. Along the southern edge of the trench were exposed parts of other buildings; however, it is possible that the pits and ash layers found in them indicate that they were open areas or external domestic courtyards.

In summary, the Level IV plan of Iron Age Lachish remains unique in the archaeology of the Land of Israel during this period. The contrast between large, planned public areas of the palace-fort complex, indicative of the city's important administrative role, on the one hand and the unplanned residential quarters on the other is striking (Herzog 1992:258). In other Iron Age cities, buildings public and private were oriented (generally perpendicular or parallel) in relation to the city gate and wall. The orientation of peripheral and radial streets, which create residential quarters, also relate to the gate and wall. Lachish is the only city in which another focal point exists: the palace-fort complex located near the centre of the tel. All the dwellings discovered, as well as one street, were constructed in relation to it. One would expect that if the city gate, city wall and Palaces A and B were planned and built together (as Ussishkin has recently proposed), the buildings would be oriented either perpendicular or parallel to the city wall. As the plan of the city reveals, however, the palace-fort was not oriented in relation to the city wall. A possible explanation is that the palace-fort was constructed at a time when the city had no clear architectural orientation. This would mean that Palace A was constructed separately, during a phase in which the city was unfortified and had still not been established as an administrative centre. The location of Palace A was selected in consideration of the topography during the period, establishing the city's plan for generations to come. Whether Palace A was built before Palace B or both were constructed together in Level IV, there is clear evidence for a change or a process of change in the conceptualization of the settlement. It is clear that at an

early stage in the development of the Iron Age settlement, the importance of the location of the tel was recognized, and the process of restoring it to its Late Bronze Age greatness had already begun.

STRATIGRAPHIC ASCRIPTION OF THE POTTERY

The comparative analysis in this study is based on pottery found in contexts of different character — constructional fills in the Judean palace-fort and fills and floors in Area S. This fact and the great similarity observed between the Level V and IV finds largely dictated the presentation of the pottery from the first stages of research. The vessels from both levels are presented in classes formed on the basis of common typological criteria rather than on the basis of structures, rooms and the finds within them, data which will appear in the final excavation report. We consider it important to present the data as impartially as possible, in the form of tables which accompany the discussion of all classes of vessels. These tables present the basic data, including the number of different vessels found in each type of fill and in each level. For the purpose of definition in the tables, the fills and levels in which vessels were found are given names which define the stratigraphic relationship between them.

Definition of fills

Pod. A. Fills from Podium A. The stratigraphy shows that Podium A was constructed during, not at the beginning of, Level V. It was erected upon the remains of buildings attributed to the beginning of this level.

Pod. B. Fills from Podium B. Stratigraphically associated with Level IV.

Fills of IV. Fills outside Podium B which was excavated in Area S. These fills were intended to support the walls of Podium B from the outside. They were deposited when the podium was constructed in Level IV. The fills are stratigraphically situated above the debris of Late Bronze Age Level VI and below the white lime-plastered layer which sealed the fills from above.

Definition of pottery found in fills

Sherds from different periods were found in the three fills noted above, particularly from the Early and Late Bronze Ages, but also from the Iron Age. Our working supposition in this case is that pottery found in earth taken from the constructional fills of the podium derives from the phase preceding its construction. Because of the way in which the podium was built and filled, the theoretical possibility that sherds from the period of the construction of the podium may be found in the fills seems unlikely. Iron Age pottery found in the fills of Podia A and B, as well as pottery found in the fills supporting the outer

walls of the podium, is therefore assigned to Level V. Sherds found in the fills are treated as belonging to a homogeneous assemblage, despite the likely possibility that these sherds may belong to several phases of Level V. The similarity noted between most of the vessel classes in the different phases of Level IV (see section 'The Pottery' below) allows one to infer similarity between the ceramic phases of Level V as well.

Definition of strata in Area S in relation to the pottery found therein

V. Floors of Level V rooms in Area S and the sherds found on these floors. Only parts of rooms preserved beneath the city wall of Level IV were uncovered.

IV–C. White lime-plastered face of the fills and pottery found upon it. The plastered layer sealed the fills supporting the outer walls of the palace-fort; sherds found upon it are contemporary with the earlier period of Palace B and belong to Level IV.

IV–B. Earlier floors of Level IV dwellings and the sherds found upon them.

IV–A. Later floors of Level IV dwellings and the sherds found upon them.

The pottery found in the three phases of Level IV represents, for the purposes of this discussion, a single ceramic assemblage (see section 'The Pottery' below).

Locus 4421 in Area GW

In our analysis, the pottery from Locus 4421 constitutes an additional ceramic assemblage. Its stratigraphic context is not as clear as one would like. Locus 4421 is located west of Wall 'a', which supports the roadway ascending to the city gate (Fig. 3.1:5). In the course of the excavation, this locus was defined as belonging to Levels IV–III. In it were found many ceramic vessels, mostly bowls. The pottery did not appear to belong to an accumulation of vessels upon a floor, nor to a fill. It seemed, instead, to have been a vessel dump, apparently cleared from inside a building or buildings which stood nearby. This assemblage is typologically unique. In the course of our discussion a possible place for it within the general typology of the Lachish pottery will be proposed.

THE POTTERY

Introduction

One of the guiding principles behind the renewed excavations at Lachish, outlined at the beginning of the first preliminary excavation report (Ussishkin 1978:3–6), was its close connection with the previous excavations at the tel. Study of the Lachish pottery from Levels V and IV, as well as other Iron Age levels at Lachish, was also undertaken with this in mind. The first phase of this

research, therefore, involved study of Tufnell's methodology, with the idea of utilizing it for analysis of the pottery from the renewed excavations. It was hoped that the creation of another system for discussion of the finds from the site could be avoided.

The British excavation, as published in Tufnell 1953, is presented in three complementary ways:

1. Stratigraphic discussion presenting the levels and main finds; later, the excavation areas and the loci, arranged in a numerical order, are discussed.

2. The pottery is presented in plates of drawings according to the numerical order of vessel types as defined by Tufnell. The division into 'types' is extremely detailed, slight variations warranting a separate type.

3. The discussion of pottery is done according to 'class' — Tufnell's terminology — which groups types with common characteristics. The classes reflect Tufnell's views concerning the typological development of pottery vessels at Lachish during the Iron Age, while comparing it to pottery from other sites. The numbering of vessel classes reflects the chronological order of their appearance. Therefore, Bowl Class B.1 includes vessels from the early tombs, while Class B.14 is comprised of bowls from the Persian period.

In reality, this complicated system made it difficult to use the final report and was not adopted in later publications. It would appear that important conclusions and observations have been ignored as a result of the report's complexity. In order to compare finds uncovered in the renewed excavations with those published by Tufnell, it was necessary to reconstruct the latter report along lines acceptable today, which present the ceramic assemblage by locus and stratum. It was concluded that it is not possible to utilize Tufnell's classes today. The stratigraphic dimension, particularly as Levels V and IV were hardly excavated, does not always find expression. Therefore, vessels from different levels have been included within the same class. For this reason, it became necessary to create a new framework of classes based upon stratigraphy. It should be noted, nonetheless, that the Lachish report was the first to provide attention to quantitative parameters of the appearance and disappearance of vessels in certain levels and to study the presence or absence of slip and the use of hand- vs. wheel-burnishing. Information about these features was presented in tabular form, providing the number of vessels with similar features from among a total number of vessels. The table in Tufnell 1953:261 even presents these data in percentages. In the final reports of pottery from large-scale excavations in the Land of Israel which appeared after the Lachish report this method was not adopted. Only years later was importance finally attached to the data which Tufnell presented in 1953.

Today, most final excavation reports dealing with pottery create a series of types and subtypes for the sake of convenience in processing and publishing the

material. The commonly utilized term 'type' serves to define a group of vessels sharing common characteristics. There are many ways to classify, number and present vessels. It is difficult to find two publications which use the same method, and the use of a typology established by another researcher is exceptional.

It was decided to examine the vessels from Levels V and IV on the basis of shared characteristics. The vessels were assigned to groups on this basis. The term 'group' was selected in order to present vessels sharing common characteristics. In my opinion, it is more appropriate than the term 'type', which is common in the pottery literature. Choice of the term 'group' is, in fact, a repetition and continuation of Tufnell's reasoning. She utilized the terms 'type' and 'class' in the sense of their primary dictionary definitions: the class encompasses several types and is therefore the broader of the two concepts. However, it was decided to use in the study of pottery from the renewed excavations the term 'group' rather than Tufnell's 'class' to avoid unnecessary confusion. (Note, accordingly, that Bowl Class B.*n*, with a period, denotes Tufnell's designation throughout this chapter, while Group B-*n*, with a hyphen, denotes the present author's designation).

The parallels mentioned from the final British report relate to vessels which could be identified most precisely with the vessel groups being discussed, both in form and treatment. The vessels selected are only those identified by Tufnell as belonging to early Iron Age phases, not those found in Levels III and II. Thanks to the kind help of Ms. Pamela Magrill, the complete vessels presently kept in the storerooms of the British Museum were examined, and many of the parallels from the final British report are based upon examination of the vessels themselves.

Nature and Classification of Ceramic Data Base as Presented in the Distribution Tables

In the framework of this study, all pottery retained during the renewed excavations was examined following field classification. The retention policy for sherds in the renewed excavations at Lachish was selective — all rims were retained, while bases and body-sherds were retained only if they were slipped, burnished or had some other special characteristic. Handles were generally not retained. It must be emphasized that in the two levels under consideration, there were hardly any complete vessels, despite considerable efforts on the restoration table to join as many fragments from each vessel as possible. The situation is such that pottery found in both fills and upon floors consisted almost entirely of fragments rather than entire vessels. For this reason, only rims were taken into consideration in estimating the total number of vessels, and classification of the vessels is based primarily upon rim form. A meticulous examination of vessel fragments and rims upon the restoration table prevented counting twice those sherds which probably

belong to a single vessel. Hence, each rim-sherd which could be classified represents an entire vessel for the purposes of this study. As a result, the number of vessels registered represents the minimum number of vessels found in the excavated area for each level, not the actual number of vessels, which was undoubtedly greater.

Our study does not include all types of vessels, focusing only upon bowls, cooking pots and storage jars. These three types were found in considerable quantities and therefore lend themselves to the discernment of differences between the two levels. The jugs, juglets and lamps were found in small quantities, and their state of preservation was relatively poor, making it difficult to recognize relationships among them. It seems, therefore, that the Lachish finds cannot, at present, make any significant new contribution to that which is already known about these vessel types. The jugs and juglets, even if slipped and burnished, have not been included in the numerical totals presented in the discussion of surface treatment.

The vessel groups are unequal in the number of vessels included in each. Some encompass large numbers and a great variety of vessels, sometimes reaching several dozen, while other groups include fewer than five vessels. It might have been possible to relate them as individual vessels; however, they are included within the framework of groups, mainly in view of their importance and position in the typological development of vessels from Level V to Level III. Single vessels, mainly bowls with unusual design, were not included in the discussion or in the vessel count.

The Problematic Nature of the Level V Ceramics

Excavation of the fills and the overlying levels was not uniform in extent. As a result, the absolute quantity of vessels found differs from place to place. In Area S, for example, where excavation was extensive, a large quantity of vessels was uncovered, both from the three building phases of Level IV (IVc–a) and from the underlying fills (Fills of IV), which contained pottery attributed to Level V. On the other hand, Level V buildings and floors were uncovered over a limited area, yielding a surprisingly scant 30 vessel fragments, including 21 bowls which could be classified. The fills in the foundations of the palace-fort (Pod. A and Pod. B) were also examined only in narrow soundings, which yielded but a small amount of pottery: from the Podium B fills there came only 54 classifiable Iron Age vessel fragments, while 19 classifiable Iron Age vessel fragments were found in the Podium A fills.

As stated, the tables accompanying the discussions of the vessel groups present the number of vessels in each group separately, according to findspot, i.e. either a floor or one of the fills. Obvious in the tables is the small number of

vessels representing the ceramic repertoire of Level V — those vessels found upon the floors of dwellings of this level — vs. the large number of vessels found upon Level IV floors. Attempts made to separately compare the quantities of vessels from floors did not produce results worth presenting. The small sample does not allow one to propose the existence or absence of a vessel group or changes in the number of vessels in each of the Level V vessel groups as compared to those of Level IV. To make comparison possible, it was decided to include the small amount of pottery from Level V floors with the larger quantity of pottery found in fills, which as stated, was also attributed to this level, and to

TABLE 1. COMPARISON OF OVERALL NUMBER OF VESSEL GROUPS IN LEVELS V AND IV

Level	*Bowls*	*Cooking Pots*	*Cooking Jugs*	*Jugs*	*Juglets*	*Storage Jars*	*Hm. Jars; Others*	*Total*
V	360	41	59	18	13	61	4	556
IV	432	52	135	24	14	141	6	804
Total	792	93	194	42	27	202	10	1360
% V	65%	7%	11%	3%	2%	11%	0%	100%
% IV	54%	6%	17%	3%	2%	18%	0%	100%

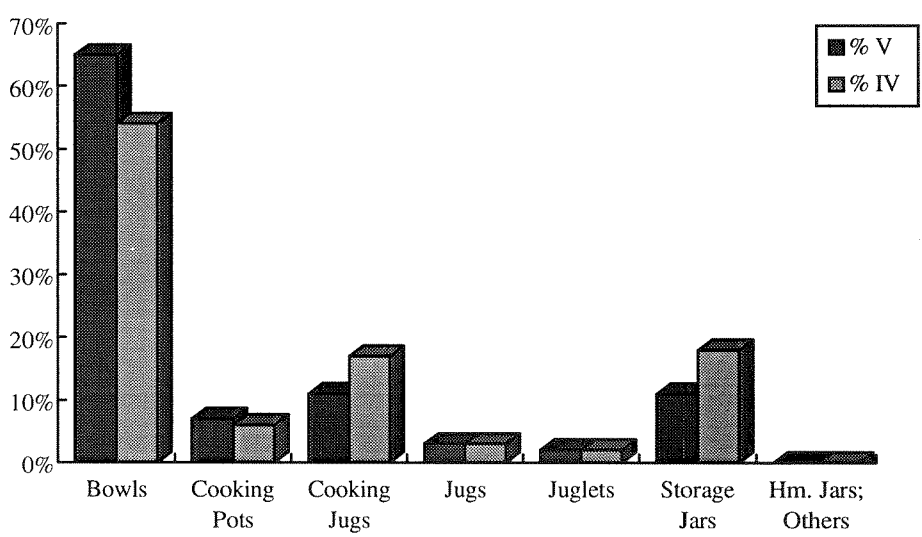

Fig. 3.2. Comparison of percentage of vessel groups in Levels V and IV.

use these together as the database for Level V. The total number of identified vessels found on Level V floors and in fills whose pottery was attributed to this level is defined in the tables as 'V Total'. This total number serves as the basis for the summary tables and diagrams in which the data is presented as percentages.

The upper phases of Level IV consist mainly of evidence for repairs and increases in floor elevation in buildings retaining their same basic plans. For most of the vessel groups, differences in appearance in different phases is not typologically significant, nor is it significant in terms of their percentage of all finds. Accordingly, it was decided here, too, to treat the entire body of finds as the data base for this level, and in the tables and diagrams the total number of vessels appears as 'IV Total'. Considerable and meaningful differences between the phases have been noted in the discussion section. The comparisons between Level V and Level IV pottery are thus based upon the summarizing data, and the discussion section and summary tables and diagrams present these data as percentages.

In the illustrative figures, selected vessels from each group are depicted (sometimes all of the vessels found are illustrated). These show the large variety of vessel forms. In most of the figures, a scale separates the vessels found in Level V (top of figure) from those found in Level IV (bottom of figure).

This study is based on 1360 vessel fragments. Their division into levels and groups of vessels is shown in Table 1 and in the diagram in Fig. 3.2.

Bowls and kraters

General observations

There is no joint between sides and base of most of the bowls presented here. This made it difficult to obtain a general impression of vessel form, and subsequently, to classify the vessels. The criteria for classification were primarily the size of the bowls and rim form. Base forms were considered for entire vessels or where it was possible to associate base and rim with certainty. Despite this difficulty, most of the fragments found were large enough to determine vessel form. Surface treatment of the bowls, consisting of different combinations of slip and burnishing, also influenced the division into groups, but will be treated under a separate section heading. With the exception of one group of bowls, burnishing was executed by hand.

Bowls are divided into four general types on the basis of size: small bowls, approximately 10–15 cm. in diameter; medium-sized bowls, approximately 15–20 cm. in diameter; large bowls, approximately 20–30 cm. in diameter; vessels with larger diameters than the above, classified as kraters. The depth of the bowls varies in accordance with vessel diameter. Some of the groups are borderline

between classification as bowls and kraters. Their assignment is based upon additional features, such as the thickness of the sides and the presence or absence of handles.

The discussion of the bowl groups follows an order based upon general form: shallow bowls, rounded bowls, rounded-carinated bowls, carinated bowls, large bowls and kraters. The subdivision for discussion of each of the basic forms was determined by rim form: plain rim, moulded rim and flattened rim. Bowls of unusual design were not counted and are not discussed.

The discussion of each major bowl group is accompanied by a table which presents the number of vessels found in each level or phase on the basis of surface treatment. For small groups, and those which represent vessels without surface treatment, only the number of vessels found in each level is presented.

Table 2 and the diagram in Fig. 3.3 show the division of the bowls by general form, their number in each level and their percentage among all bowls in the level. The rise in the percentage of rounded-carinated bowls from 11% in Level V to 21% in Level IV is obvious. There is a simultaneous decrease in the percentage of carinated bowls from 16% in Level V to 9% in Level IV. The percentage of rounded bowls remains stable.

TABLE 2. DIVISION OF BOWL GROUPS IN LEVELS V AND IV

	Round bowls B-2 – B-10	*Round Carinated Bowls* B-11 – B-15	*Carinated Bowls* B-16 – B-18	*Large Bowls & Kraters* B-20 – B-27	*Others* B-1, B-19	*Total*
Level V	168	34	47	48	6	303
Level IV	198	75	32	38	20	363
Total	366	109	79	86	26	666
% V	55%	11%	16%	16%	2%	100%
% IV	55%	21%	9%	10%	6%	100%

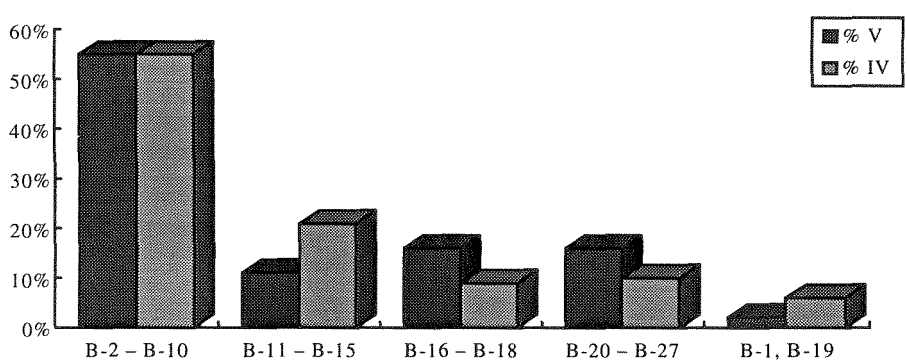

Fig. 3.3. Percentage of bowl groups in Levels V and IV.

Shallow Bowls: Group V–IV: B-1

Description. Small, almost completely flat bowls with flat or slightly convex disc base. The walls are relatively thin, ending in a rim of the same thickness, either rounded or cut and straightened. The walls are straight from base to rim or slightly thickened at the middle and slightly everted to form the rim. The bowls are made of brown or light yellowish clay and are not slipped or burnished (Fig. 3.4).

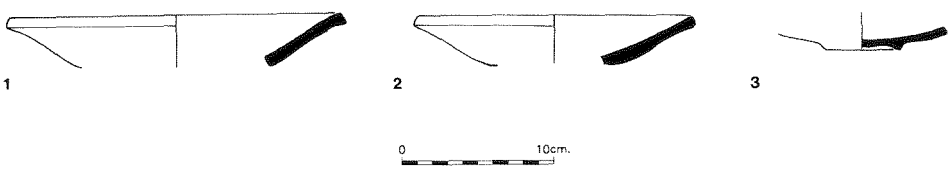

Fig. 3.4. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-1 in Level IV.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Types B.8:1–2; B.10:61; B.11:63, 64.

Discussion. Tufnell noted three classes of shallow bowls, but did not define a class of bowls lacking slip and burnish. Most of the bowls published in Tufnell 1953 originate from Levels III and II and are red slipped and densely wheel burnished to high luster in a circular pattern. Some of the bowls are unslipped, generally burnished in a widely spaced spiral pattern. Except for a few types, such as those with stepped sides (B.11:560), the profile of most of the bowls is similar in all levels. This would suggest that this type began to appear in Level V and continued in use through Levels IV, III and II. The basic form remained the same, the changes being the slip and wheel-burnishing added in Levels III and II. It is, therefore, difficult to define the unslipped bowls as characterizing a particular level. They should be dated on the basis of other vessels in the assemblage. In Levels V and IV they constitute a small percentage — 1% –2% — of all bowls (Table 3; Fig. 3.68).

TABLE 3. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-1 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

V	IV Fills	IVc	IVb	IVa	Total V	Total IV
-	6	-	3	1	6	4

Rounded Bowls: Groups V–IV: B-2 – B-10

GROUP V–IV: B-2

Description. The rounded bowls belong to the largest bowl group, which includes many types with similar profile but a large variety of forms and sizes. The

bowls of Group V–IV: B-2 are small and have a plain rounded rim of the same thickness as the walls (Fig. 3.5). The largest measure approximately 15 cm. in diameter and the walls are 0.4–0.6 cm. thick. The walls are generally rounded at the vessel midpoint and occasionally on the upper third. Some of the bowls are very small; the upper portion of the wall of some splays slightly outward, creating a soft carination; the walls of others are nearly hemispherical. The bases are low ring or disc bases. Surface treatment is extremely varied, combining different techniques of slip and burnish. Most common is a hand-burnishing of varying density upon slip on the inner portion of the bowl, while the upper part of the interior is burnished with horizontal lines and the centre in different directions.

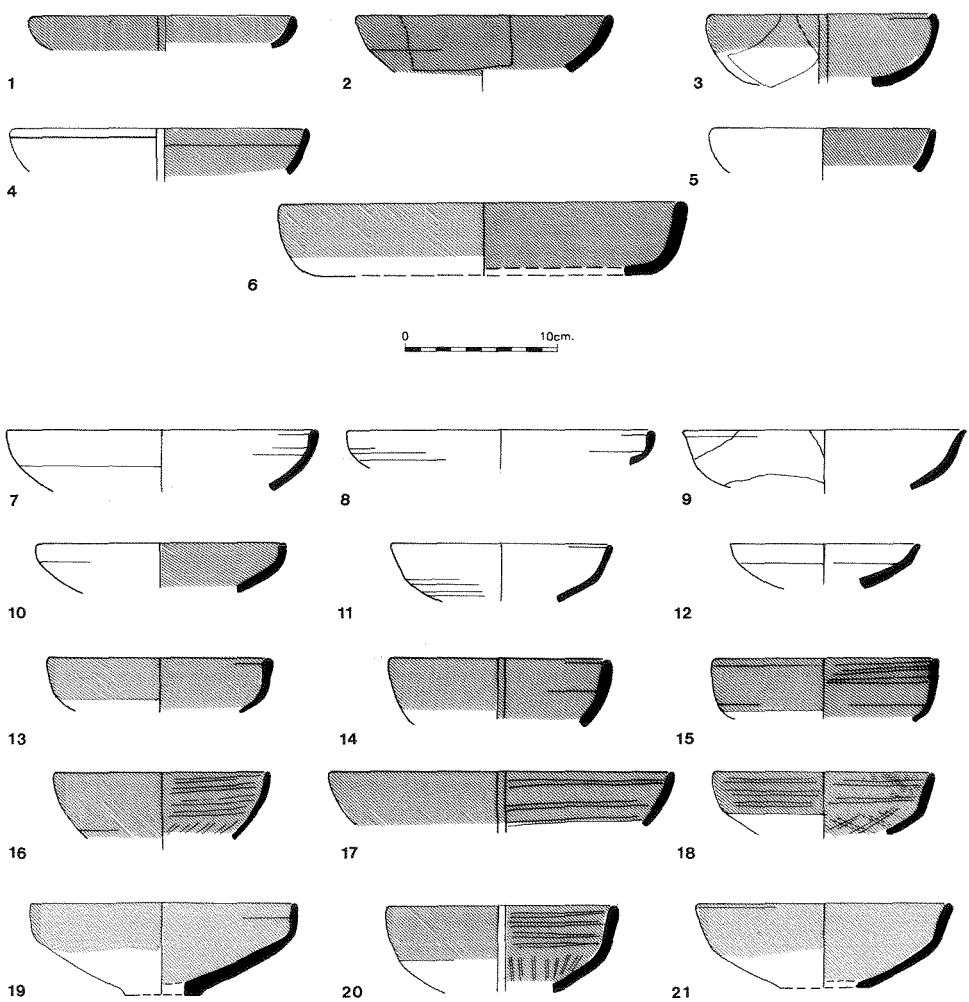

Fig. 3.5. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-2. Level V: Nos. 1–6; Level IV: Nos. 7–21.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.4: Types 4, 6–8, 13, 15, 18, 21.

Discussion. Tufnell included these bowls in Class B.4 (Tufnell 1953:271), which includes mainly types from tombs attributed to Levels V and IV. There is no typological difference between the bowls appearing in Level V and those from Level IV. The small rounded bowls almost disappear in Level III, having been replaced by carinated bowls. The rounded bowls constitute 18% of all bowls in Level V and 29% of those in Level IV. Only a quarter of all these bowls in Level V was unslipped and unburnished, while in Level IV the percentage increases to approximately half of the bowls in this group, which clearly demonstrates the trend toward decline in slip and burnish as the Iron Age progressed. Red slip disappears almost entirely, replaced by spiral or circular burnishing.

Note on Table 4. In addition to the bowls counted in the table, plain rounded rim fragments too small to provide indication of the shape of the vessel sides (rounded like bowls in Group V–IV: B-2 or carinated like those in Group V–IV: B-16) were found. There was a total of 31 such red-slipped and burnished fragments, 28 in Level V and 3 in Level IV.

TABLE 4. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-2 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	6	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	6
V	3	-	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	2	3
IV Fills	46	11	-	18	10	3	31	2	1	1	35	35
V Total	55	11	1	24	12	3	40	2	1	1	43	44
IV c	39	18	-	12	5	4	21	-	-	-	21	21
IV b	51	14	2	9	5	1	17	2	18	-	35	37
IV a	14	4	1	3	3	2	9	-	1	-	9	10
IV Total	104	36	3	24	13	7	47	2	19	-	65	68
Total V+IV	159	47	4	48	25	10	87	4	20	1	108	112

GROUP V–IV: B-3

Description. Large, deep, rounded bowls, thicker than those of Group V–IV: B-2, but with similar rounded rim. Though only five of these were found, their shape demands classification as a separate group (Table 5; Fig. 3.6).

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Misc., Type 619.

TABLE 5. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-3 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
V Total	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV c	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV b	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV a	2	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	2
IV Total	4	-	1	1	2	-	4	-	-	-	3	4
Total V+IV	5	-	1	2	2	-	5	-	-	-	4	5

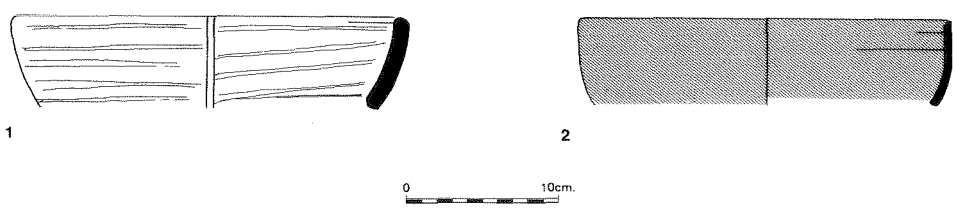

Fig. 3.6. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-3 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: B-4

Description. Rounded, roughly formed, shallow bowls (Fig. 3.7). The walls are thick and the rims are equally so. The exterior of the rim is accentuated by a concavity with a groove beneath it. A total of three such bowls was found: two in Level V, one of which is slipped, and one unslipped bowl in Level IV.

Parallels. No parallels were found in the British excavations.

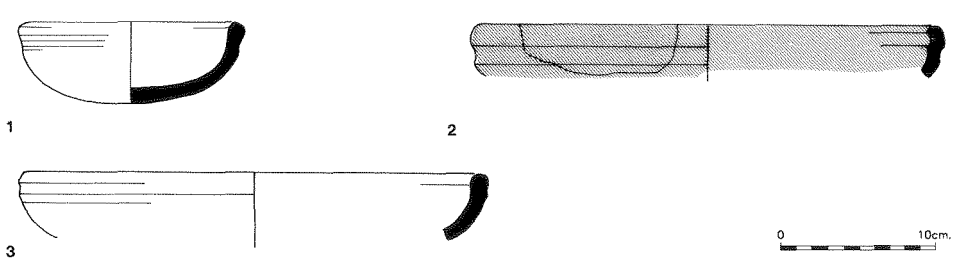

Fig. 3.7. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-4.

GROUP V–IV: B-5

Description. Large and medium-sized bowls, 25–30 cm. in diameter, with rounded walls and thickened rims in a variety of forms (Figs. 3.8–3.9). The bowls have two or more grooves on or below the outer part of the rim. Typical rim forms include rounded, inward-folded rims, some with a groove instead of the inward fold, and slightly everted rims. In some cases, there is plastic decoration in the form of groups of up to three rounded knobs just below the rim in the vicinity of the external grooves. Nearly all of the vessels are slipped and burnished.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.2: Types 22, 24, 28, 103, 104, 591–597.

Discussion. This group of bowls constitutes one of the five largest groups in these levels. In Level V it comprises 11% of all bowls, and in Level IV, 6% (Fig. 3.68). Such bowls are typical of numerous pottery assemblages from the southern and coastal regions belonging to this period, including ones found at Ashdod, Tel Masos and Tel Beer-sheba. The presence of two examples in Strata XI and X at Tell Qasile (Mazar 1985:38) is indicative of the first appearance of these bowls at a time when Philistine ware was still common. The significant decline in the quantity of such vessels in Level IV indicates the end of their production. Group V–IV: B-5 bowls no longer appear in Phase IVa, the latest phase of Level IV, or in Level III (Table 6).

TABLE 6. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-5 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Pod. B	10	1	3	5	-	1	9	-	-	-	6	9
V	3	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	3
IV Fills	18	-	5	7	5	1	18	-	-	-	13	18
V Total	33	2	8	16	5	2	31	-	-	-	23	31
IV c	14	1	4	2	5	-	11	1	1	-	9	13
IV b	9	1	-	4	4	-	8	-	-	-	8	8
IV a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Total	23	2	4	6	9	-	19	1	1	-	17	21
Total V+IV	56	4	12	22	14	2	50	1	1	-	40	52

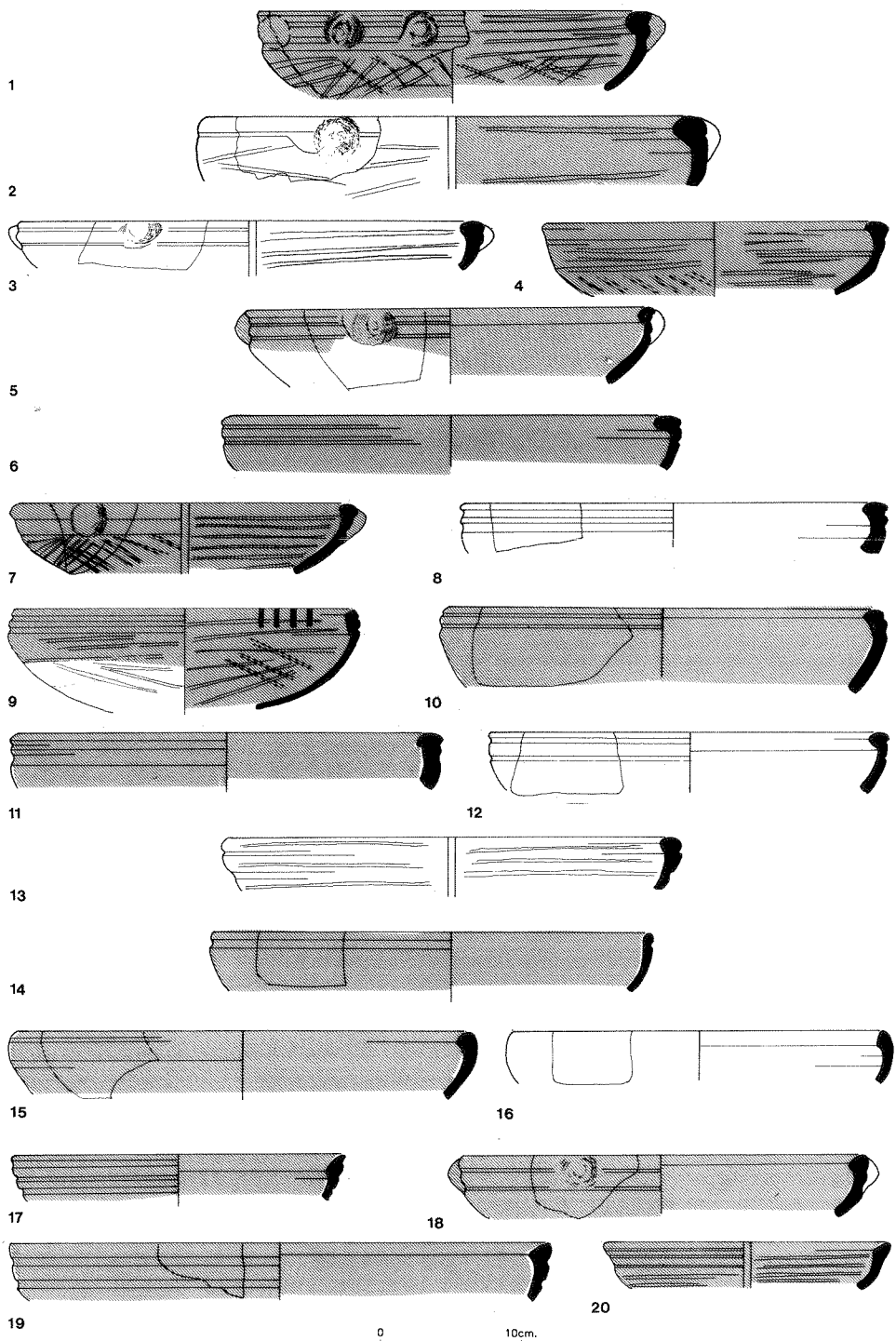

Fig. 3.8. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-5 in Level V.

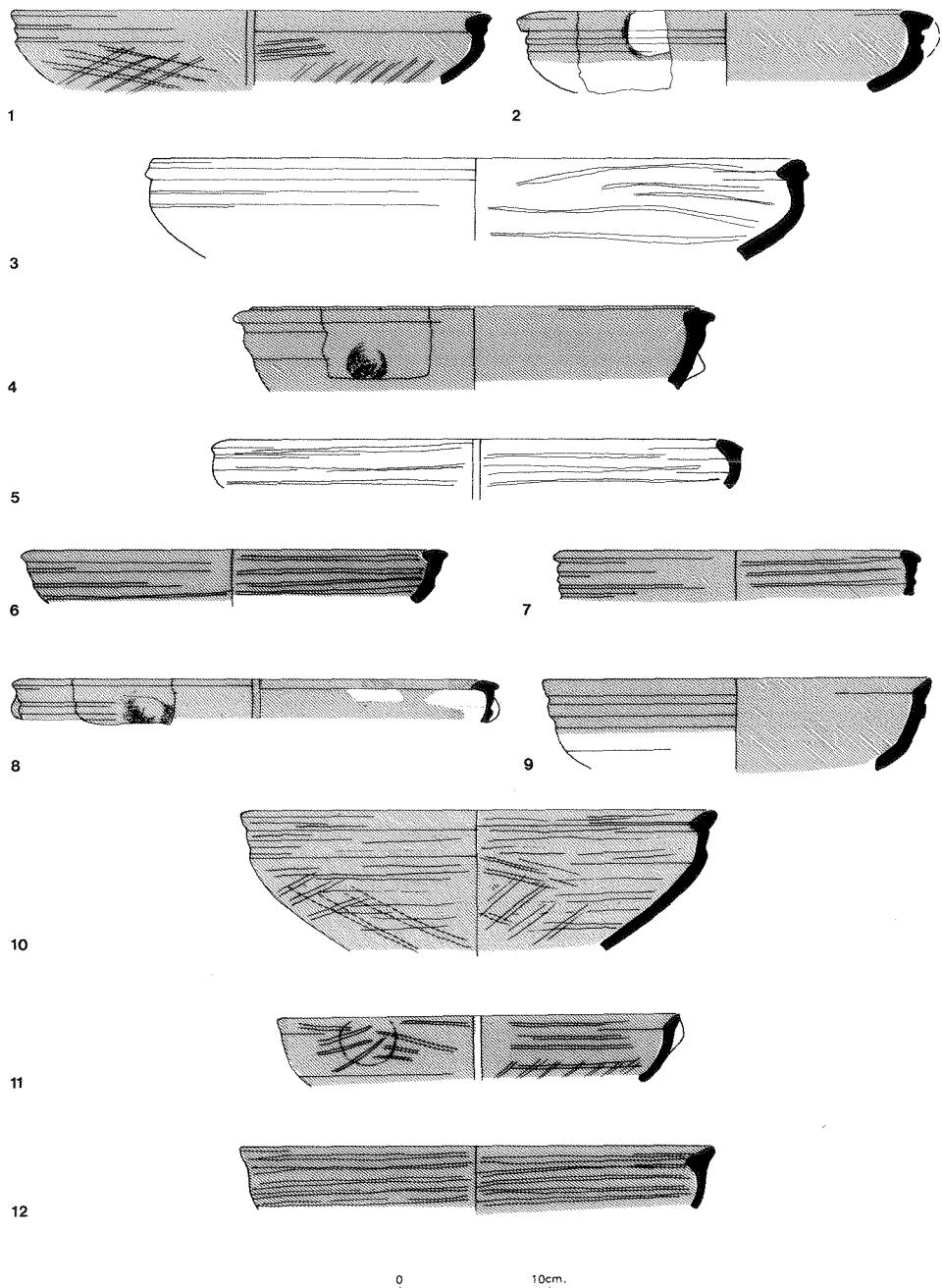

Fig. 3.9. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-5 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: B-6

Description. These medium-sized bowls have a round profile (Fig. 3.10). The upper walls of most are inverted, forming a sort of soft carination in the upper half. The walls are relatively thin, ending in a rounded rim, with one or more grooves on the exterior. Surface treatment includes various combinations of slip and burnish. Some of the vessels are without surface treatment.

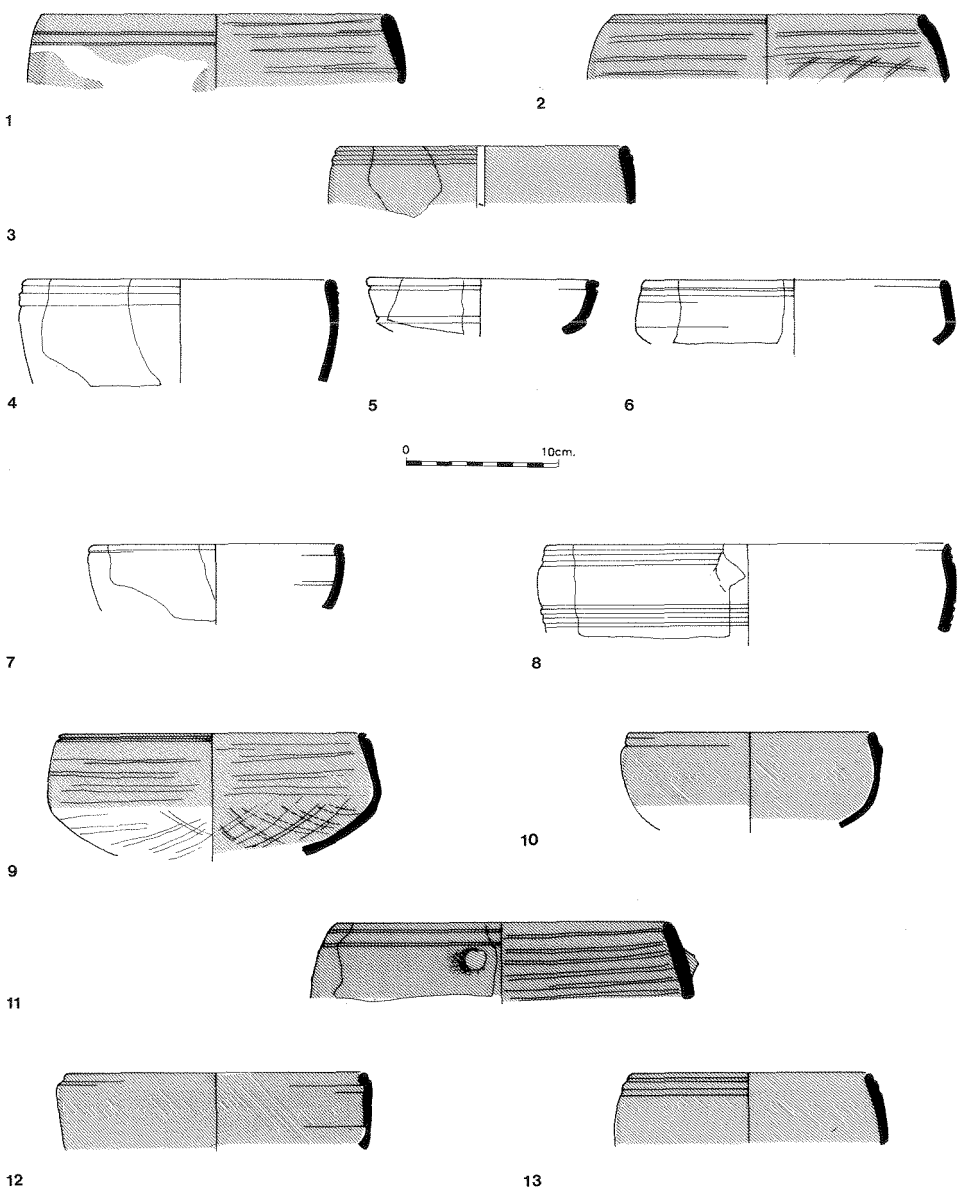

Fig. 3.10. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-6. Level V: Nos. 1–6; Level IV: Nos. 7–13.

TABLE 7. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-6 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	9	1	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	-	8	8
V	3	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV Fills	13	7	4	1	1	-	6	-	-	-	2	6
V Total	26	11	4	2	9	-	15	-	-	-	11	15
IV c	7	2	-	3	1	-	4	1	-	-	5	5
IV b	10	2	1	4	2	-	7	1	-	-	7	8
IV a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Total	17	4	1	7	3	-	11	2	-	-	12	13
Total V+IV	43	15	5	9	12	-	26	2	-	-	23	28

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.2: Types 132–133, 588–590.

Discussion. Tufnell included these bowls in her Class B.2, together with bowls from Group V–IV: B-5 described above, and noted that they appear early. The grooves associated with the rim appear in both groups, indicating a similar concept, though the bowls are distinct in size and form. Also in this group the decline is apparent in Level IV, where they constitute 5% of all bowls as opposed to 9% in Level V (Fig. 3.68). Group V–IV: B-6 bowls no longer appear in Level IVa, the latest phase of Level IV, or in Level III (Table 7).

TABLE 8. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-7 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV Fills	5	1	1	1	1	-	3	-	1	-	3	4
V Total	6	1	1	1	2	-	4	-	1	-	4	5
IV c	3	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	2	3
IV b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV a	6	1	1	-	1	1	3	2	-	-	4	5
IV Total	9	1	2	1	2	1	6	2	-	-	6	8
Total V+IV	15	2	3	2	4	1	10	2	1	-	10	13

GROUP V–IV: B-7

Description. Bowls with rounded walls (Fig. 3.11). The rim is formed by thickening the walls of the bowls and flattening their upper edge. This flattening of the upper edge of the rim is characteristic of vessels in both levels. No parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. This group of bowls constitutes only 2% of all bowls in Levels V and IV (Table 8; Fig. 3.68). It is one of the smallest groups, indicative of the great variety of bowl forms during these periods.

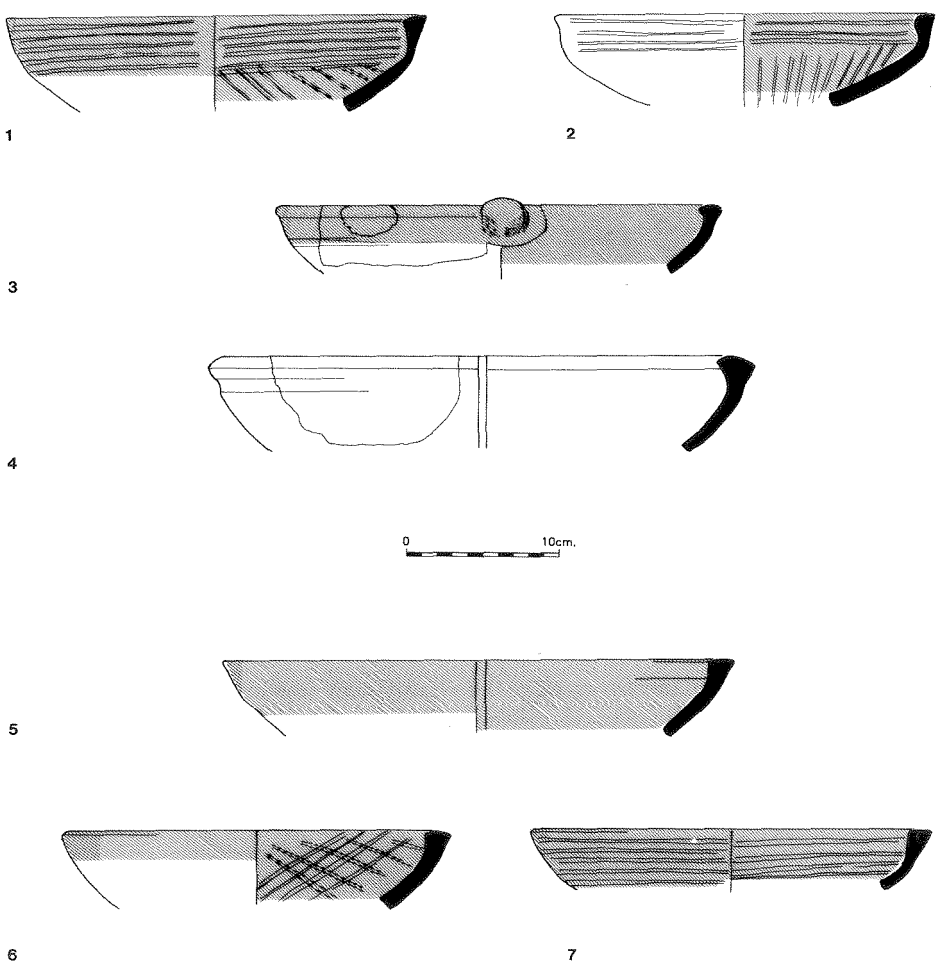

Fig. 3.11. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-7. Level V: Nos. 1–4; Level IV: Nos. 5–7.

GROUP V–IV: B-8

Description. Large bowls with rounded walls and inward-thickened rims (Fig. 3.12). The exterior of the rim is formed with a slight indentation, created by pressing the walls while emphasizing the thickening of the rim. Sometimes the indentation is accentuated by a fine groove.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.1: Type 598.

Discussion. Only one bowl appears in Level V. In Level IV these constitute 3% of all bowls (Table 9; Fig. 3.68).

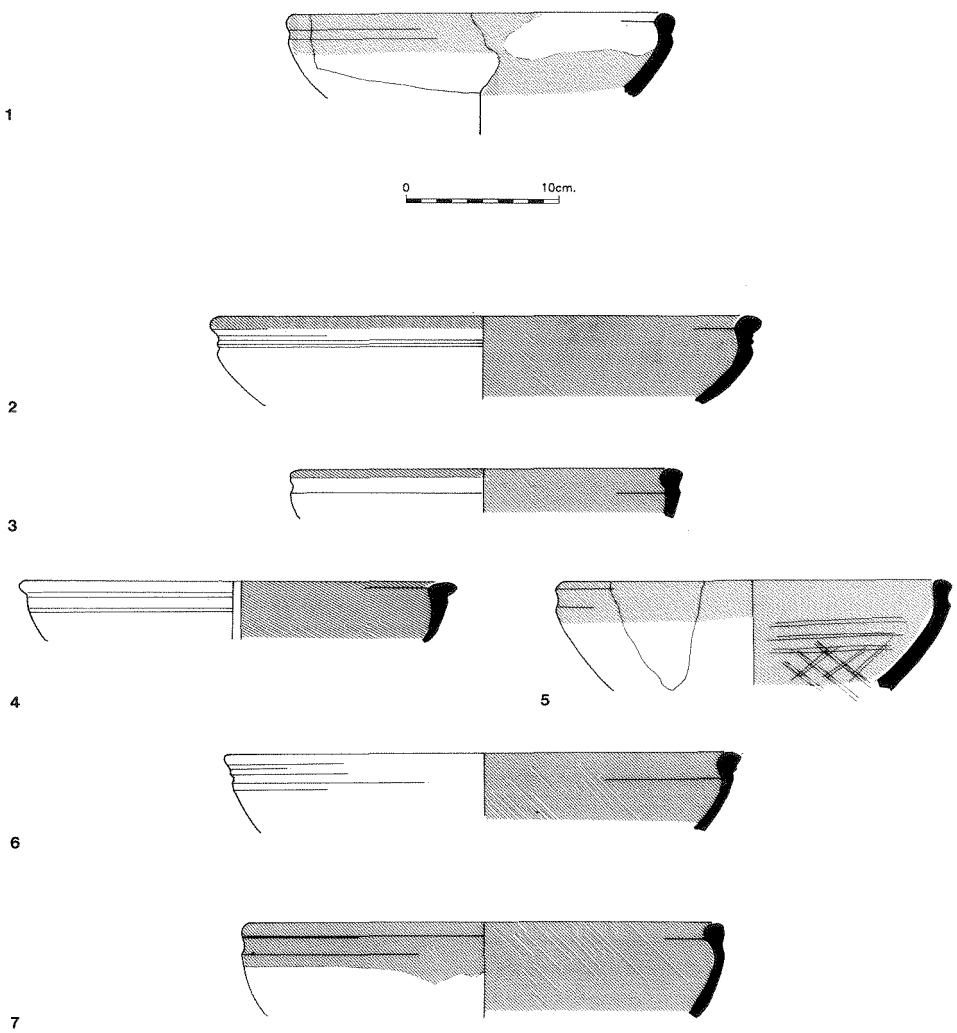

Fig. 3.12. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-8. Level V: No. 1; Level IV: Nos. 2–7.

TABLE 9. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-8 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV Fills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V Total	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV c	5	-	-	-	3	1	4	-	-	1	5	5
IV b	6	-	-	1	2	2	5	-	-	1	6	6
IV a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Total	11	-	-	1	5	3	9	-	-	2	11	11
Total V+IV	12	-	-	1	5	4	10	-	-	2	12	12

GROUP V–IV: B-9

Description. This group includes medium and large bowls of which hardly two are alike (Figs. 3.13–3.14). They have rounded walls and a low ring base. The rim, slightly thicker than the walls, may be: slightly inward thickened; pronounced with an inward fold; inward folded and evenly pulled outward, sometimes with a fine groove on the everted portion. Different combinations of slip and burnish appear alongside a few bowls without surface treatment.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.7: Type 581.

Discussion. This group is the second largest, constituting 14% of all bowls in Level V. In Level IV they decline to 7% of all bowls (Table 10; Fig. 3.68).

TABLE 10. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-9 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Pod. B	3	-	-	1	2	-	3	-	-	-	3	3
V	6	1	-	-	3	2	5	-	-	-	5	5
IV Fills	33	4	6	12	3	5	26	-	1	2	23	29
V Total	43	5	6	14	8	7	35	-	1	2	32	38
IV c	10	1	1	4	3	1	9	-	-	-	8	9
IV b	13	2	3	2	5	-	10	-	1	-	8	11
IV a	4	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	2	-	4	4
IV Total	27	3	4	6	9	2	21	-	3	-	20	24
Total V+IV	70	8	10	20	17	9	56	-	4	2	52	62

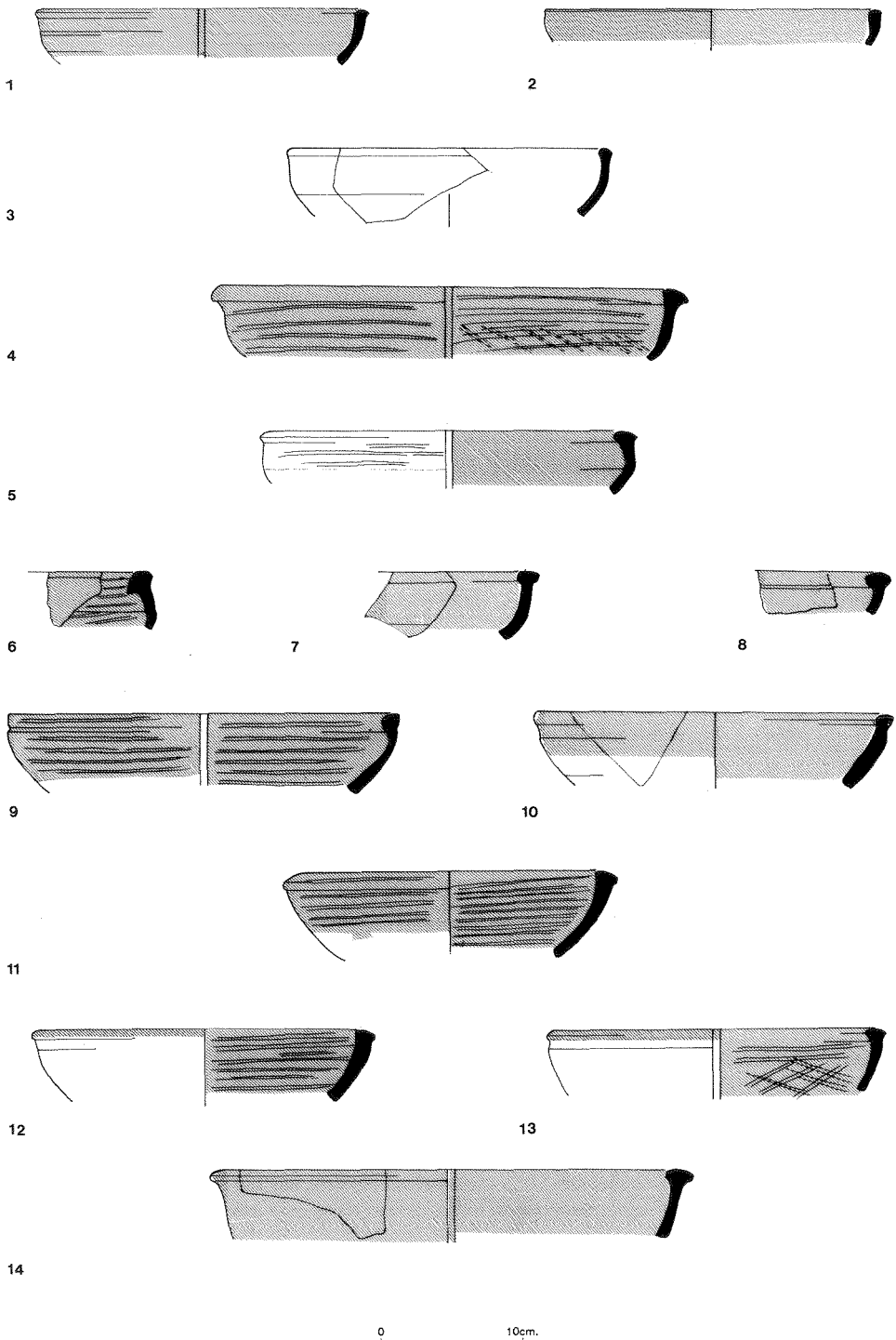

Fig. 3.13. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-9 in Level V.

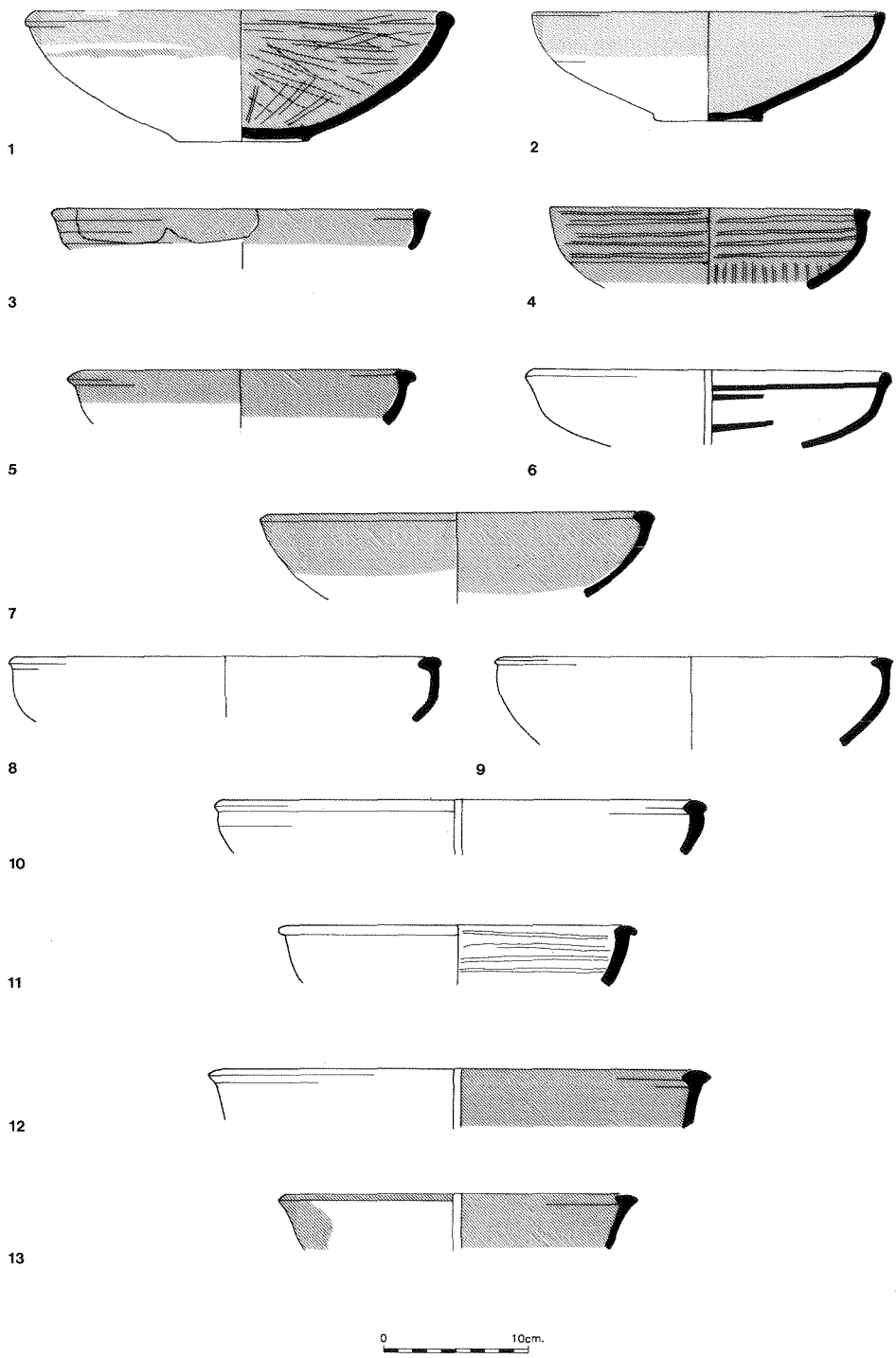

Fig. 3.14. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-9 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: B-10

Description. A small group of bowls with rounded walls, characterized by a rim formed by light pressure upon and outward turning of the upper edges of the walls (Table 11; Fig. 3.15). There is a complete bowl in this group (Fig. 3.15:2) which provides a prime example of one of the more elaborate types of burnishing of the period on its interior (the prevalence of burnishing will be dealt with in the section, 'External Treatment of Bowls', below). The interior of the bowl is divided into six triangular fields, each of which is quite densely line burnished parallel to the rim. At the intersection between any two fields the burnishing lines cross.

Parallels. No parallels were found in the British excavations.

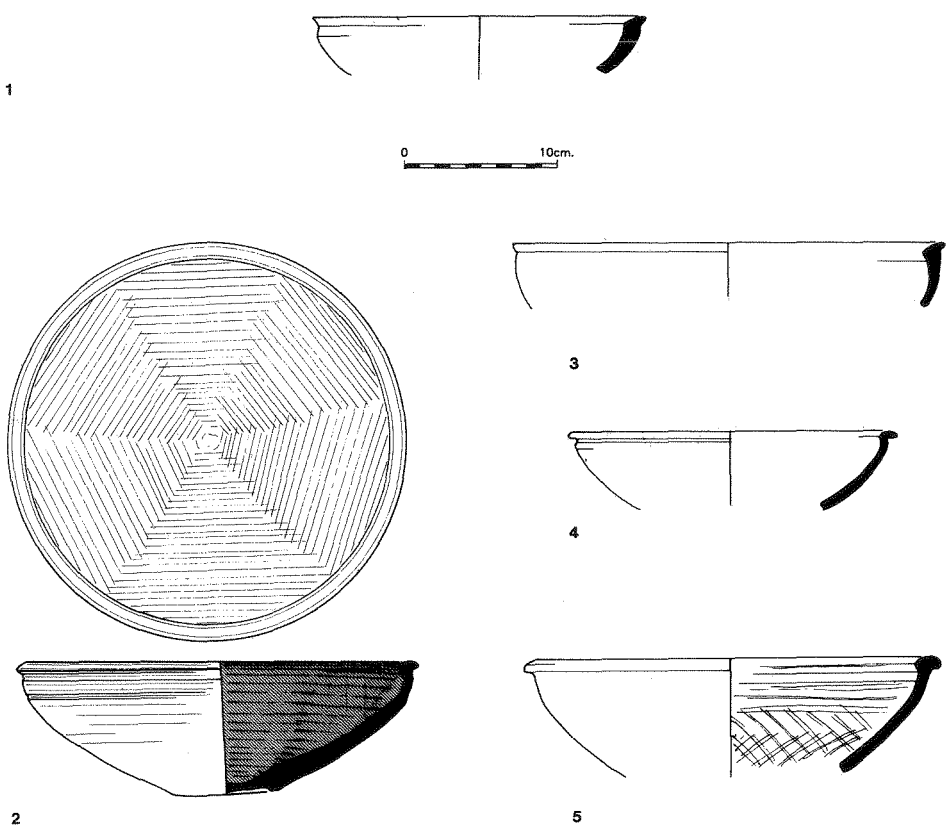

Fig. 3.15. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-10. Level V: No. 1; Level IV: Nos. 2–5.

TABLE 11. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-10 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV b	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV a	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
IV Total	4	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
Total V+IV	5	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2

Rounded-Carinated Bowls: Groups V–IV: B-11 – B-15

GROUP V–IV: B-11

Description. Small or medium-sized bowls with rounded-carinated walls (Table 12; Fig. 3.16). The upper edge of the walls is slightly thickened. The everted rim was formed by a light outward pressure on the walls. Two bowls have handles, a relatively rare feature among small and medium-sized bowls from

TABLE 12. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-11 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
V Total	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
IV c	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV b	2	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	2
IV a	5	1	-	2	-	2	4	-	-	-	4	4
IV Total	8	2	1	2	1	2	6	-	-	-	5	6
Total V+IV	10	3	2	2	1	2	6	-	-	-	5	7

these levels. The surface of one bowl (Fig. 3.16:4) is slipped with a dark brown wash. The vertical, upper inner part of the bowl is horizontally burnished with lines running parallel to the rim, while the lower interior is burnished with long parallel lines perpendicular to the former. The burnishing pressed the slip into the clay, resulting in lines of two colours: the dark colour of the unburnished slip and the light colour of the burnished lines, which exposed the original colour of the vessel surface.

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

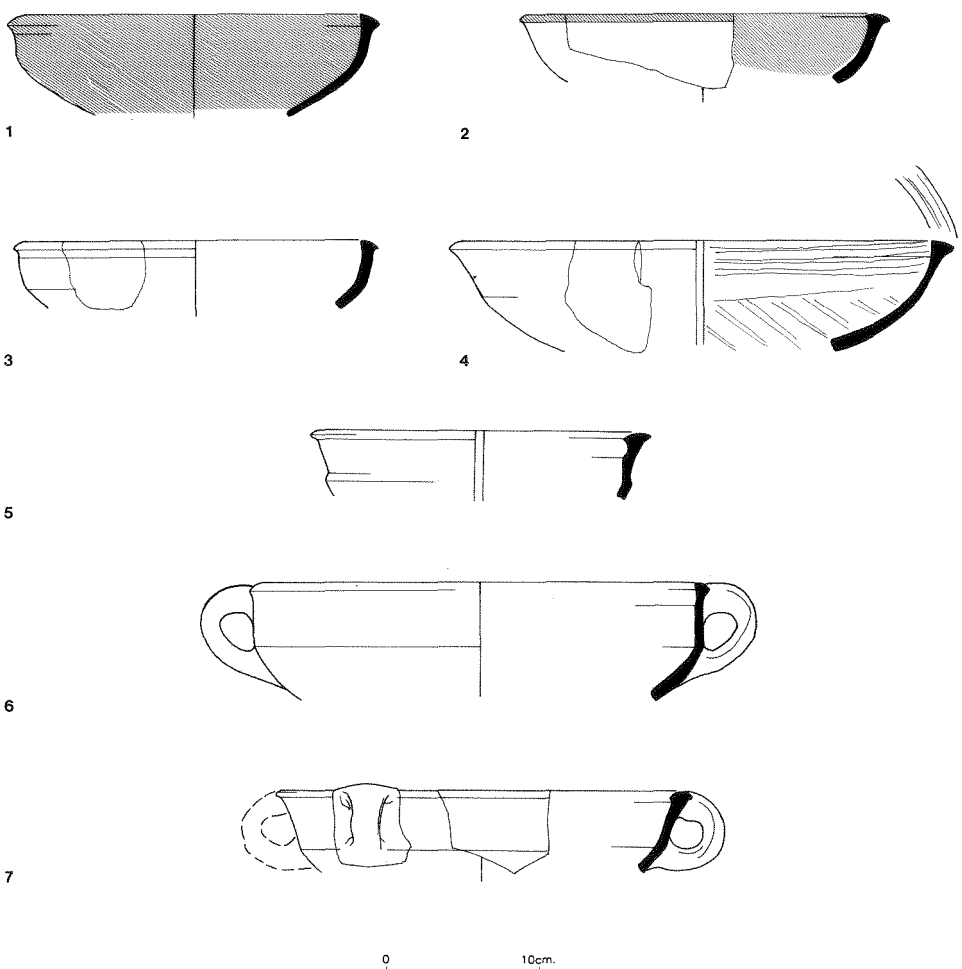

Fig. 3.16. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-11 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: B-12

Description. Small and medium-sized bowls, relatively thin and well made, with rounded-carinated, slightly everted walls and disc or low-ring base (Table 13; Fig. 3.17). Within this class there are two kinds of rims: the upper part of the one is rounded; the upper edge of the rim of the other has been slightly straightened and is sometimes slightly inverted. Some of the bowls have bar handles. Several bowls in this group have a special surface treatment: the vessel was slipped with a wash the colour of the clay with a very dark, overlying, uneven brownish-red wash, creating bands and blotches. The result of this treatment creates a two-toned effect, i.e. the light colour of the clay and the dark slip. Upon this special slip, the bowls were burnished in the standard fashion. On one bowl (Fig. 3.17:17) the slip was applied in a technique usually used in burnishing, i.e. horizontal bands in the interior near the rim and parallel lines at the centre of the bowl running perpendicular to the rim.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Types B.7: 656; B.10: 102.

Discussion. These bowls constitute 3% of the total in Level V, increasing to 8% in Level IV (Fig. 3.68). The second type of rim (straightened) is more common in Level IV bowls than in those of Level V.

TABLE 13. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-12 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Pod. B	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
V	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
IV Fills	7	1	1	-	2	1	4	-	2	-	5	6
V Total	10	1	2	2	2	1	7	-	2	-	7	9
IV c	4	1	-	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	3
IV b	16	-	-	11	3	-	14	2	-	-	16	16
IV a	11	-	-	2	8	-	10	-	1	-	11	11
IV Total	31	1	-	16	11	-	27	2	1	-	30	30
Total V+IV	41	2	2	18	13	1	34	2	3	-	37	39

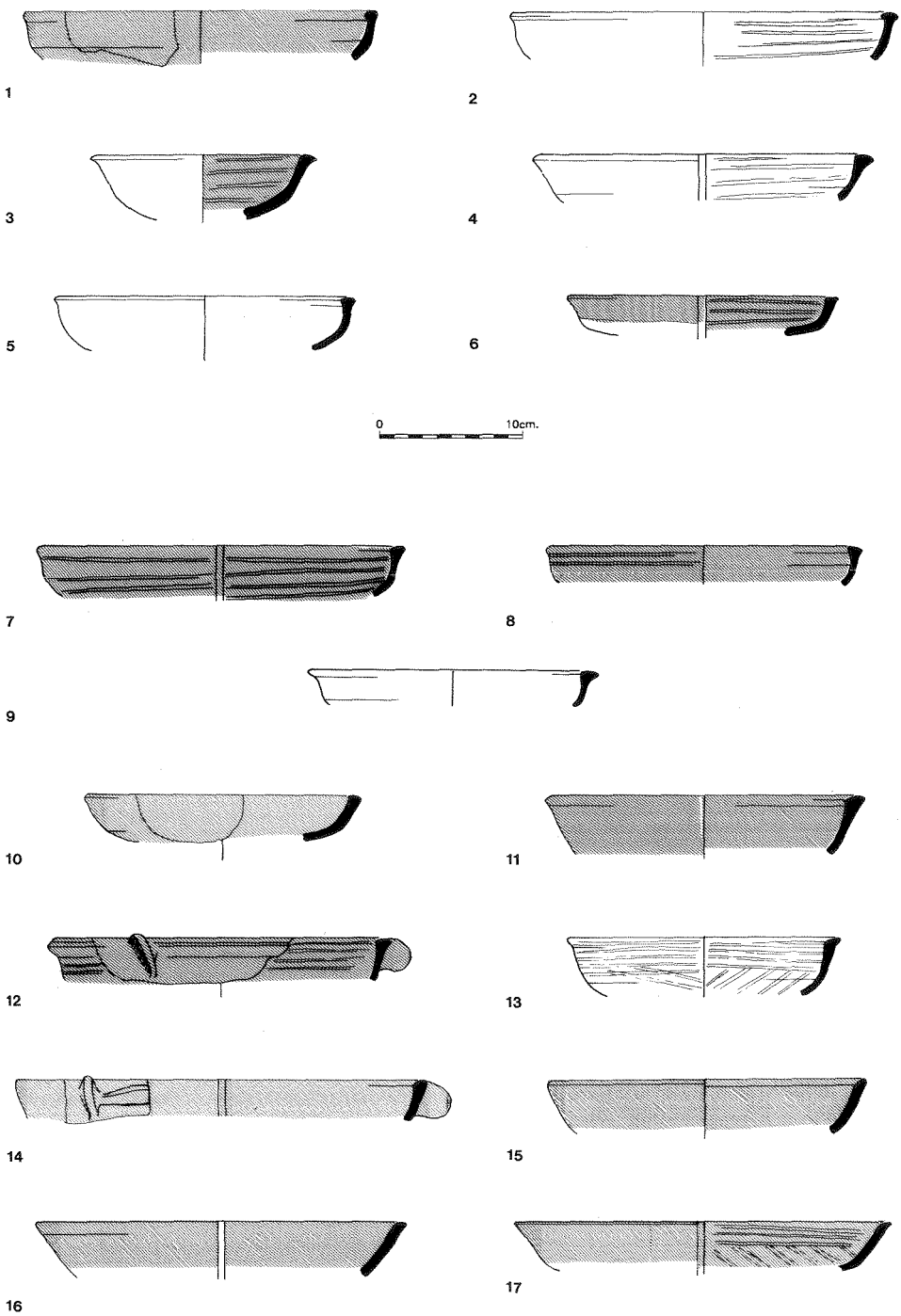

Fig. 3.17. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-12. Level V: Nos. 1–6; Level IV: Nos. 7–17.

GROUP V–IV: B-13

Description. Small bowls, delicately formed, despite the large amount of small grit in the clay (Table 14; Fig. 3.18). The bowls have thin, rounded-carinated and slightly everted walls. The rim was made by straightening the upper edge of the wall and pressing it slightly outward. Characteristic of this group is the absence of slip and burnish.

Parallels. No parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. A single bowl occurs in Level V. Eight such bowls appeared in Level IV — 2% of all bowls (Fig. 3.68). As in Group V–IV: B-12, there is a tendency toward straightened upper rims.

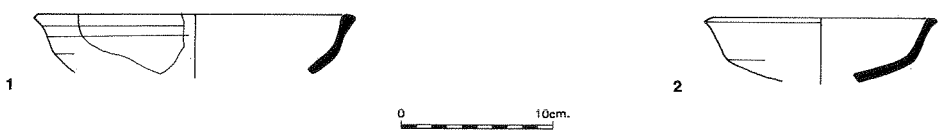

Fig. 3.18. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-13 in Level IV.

TABLE 14. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-13 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

V	IV Fills	IVc	IVb	IVa	Total V	Total IV
-	1	-	4	4	1	8

GROUP V–IV: B-14

Description. Medium-sized, rounded-carinated bowls with blunt carination (Table 15; Fig. 3.19). The rim is plain, generally rounded. Nearly all vessels have plastic decoration, i.e. bar, lug or horizontal lug handles. Surface treatment is varied: some bowls are unslipped while others are slipped and burnished. Two bowls (Fig. 3.19:1–2) have special surface treatment. They are of light orange-pink clay and well smoothed inside and out with no signs of burnishing.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.4: Types 99–101, 105.

Discussion. This is the fifth largest group of bowls, constituting 7% of Level V bowls, declining to 4% in Level IV (Fig. 3.68).

TABLE 15. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-14 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	20	2	6	8	3	-	17	1	-	-	12	18
V Total	21	2	6	8	4	-	18	1	-	-	13	19
IV c	6	2	1	2	-	-	3	1	-	-	3	4
IV b	7	-	1	4	-	-	5	1	1	-	6	7
IV a	2	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV Total	15	3	2	6	1	-	9	2	1	-	10	12
Total V+IV	36	5	8	14	5	-	27	3	1	-	23	31

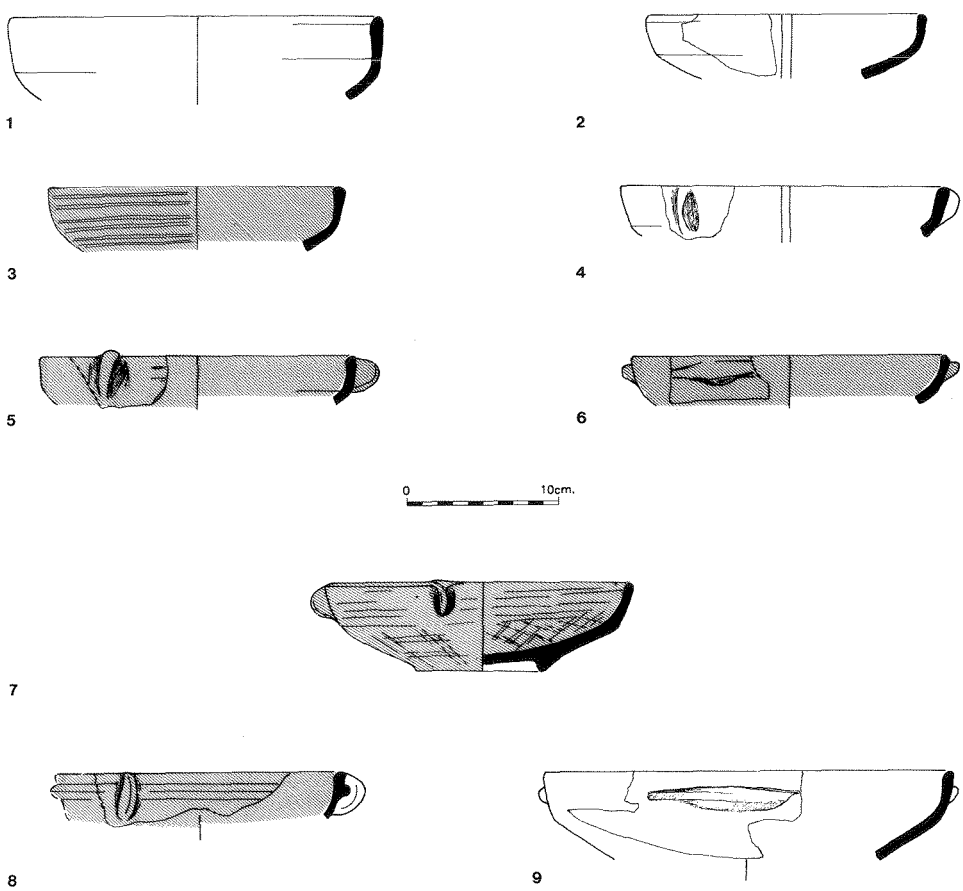

Fig. 3.19. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-14. Level V: Nos. 1–6; Level IV: Nos. 7–9.

GROUP V–IV: B-15

Description. Rounded-carinated bowls no more than 17 cm. in diameter (Table 16; Fig. 3.20). The upper third of the walls is slightly everted. The rim is plain and rounded and the base is generally a low disc base. Typical of these bowls is light brown clay, sometimes with many white grits, and the absence of slip and burnish. The clay is very similar to that of the shallow bowls of Group V–IV: B-1. Also included in this group are thin bowls of finer clay with smaller grits. One of these bowls is inconsistently hand burnished.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Types B.7: 9; B.12: 569.

Discussion. This group does not occur in Level V and begins to appear only in Level IV, where it constitutes 4% of all bowls (Fig. 3.68). It should therefore be recognized as an identifying vessel type. Though similar bowls, also lacking slip, continued to be produced in Level III, they sometimes have spiral wheel-burnished interiors.

TABLE 16. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-15 IN LEVELS V AND IV

V	IV Fills	IVc	IVb	IVa	Total V	Total IV
-	-	3	7	3	-	13

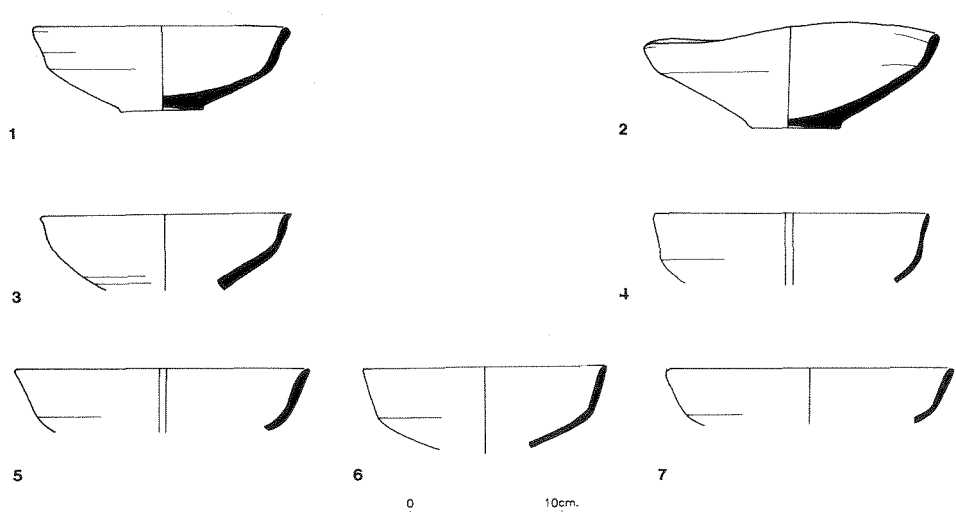

Fig. 3.20. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-15 in Level IV.

Carinated Bowls: Groups V–IV: B-16 – B-18

GROUP V–IV: B-16

Description. Small and medium-sized bowls with carination on the upper quarter of the walls, sometimes accentuated by a sharp ridge (Table 17; Fig. 3.21). The walls above the carination are either straight or everted, creating a slight concavity between the carination and the rim. The rim is rounded, sometimes slightly thickened, and the base is usually a ring base. Several bowls with thin, straight walls were found, the upper part of the rim of which is straightened. Surface treatment consists of different combinations of slip and burnish.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.5: Types 42–43, 55.

Discussion. This is the fourth largest group of bowls, constituting 13% of all bowls in Level V, declining to 8% in Level IVa, the last phase of Level IV. The trend toward decline in production of bowls with carination in the upper quarter of the walls is apparent here, as demonstrated in Table 2 and the diagram in Fig. 3.3. This process apparently started in Level IVa, which portrays a decline in the percentage of these bowls, 8%, as compared to 15% in Level IVb. In Level III there is a change in the shape of carinated bowls: the carination becomes more rounded and is located at the midpoint or the lower third of the side (see below, Group V–IV: B-17).

TABLE 17. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-16 IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Pod. B	4	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	4	4
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	33	2	4	8	16	1	29	-	1	1	27	31
V Total	38	2	4	10	16	1	31	1	3	1	32	36
IV c	13	5	1	5	2	-	8	-	-	-	7	8
IV b	8	-	2	2	3	-	7	-	1	-	6	8
IV a	7	-	1	3	3	-	7	-	-	-	6	7
IV Total	28	5	4	10	8	-	22	-	1	-	19	23
Total V+IV	66	7	8	20	24	1	53	1	4	1	51	59

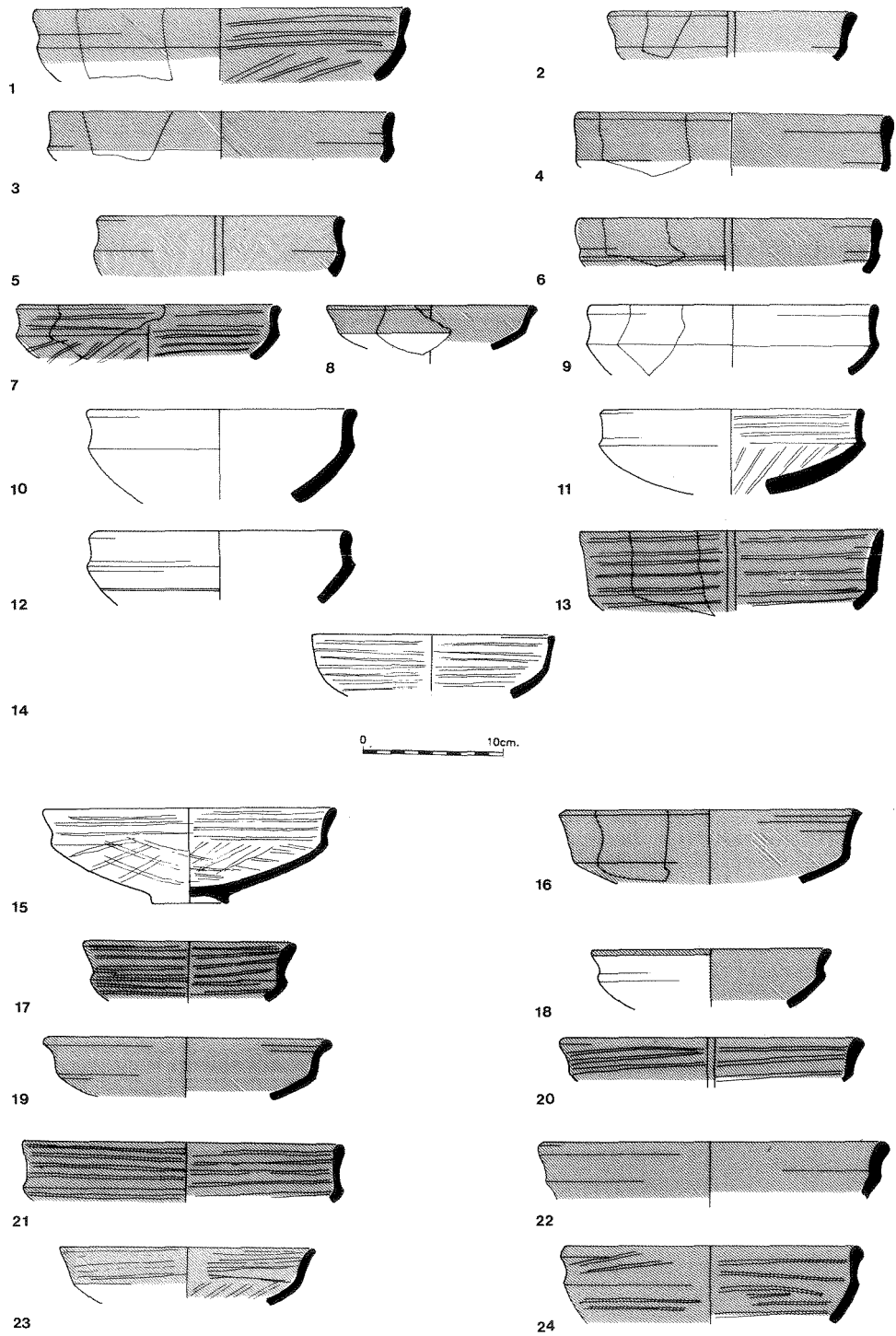

Fig. 3.21. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-16. Level V: Nos. 1–14; Level IV: Nos. 15–24.

GROUP V–IV: B-17

Description. Bowls with carination near the rim. The walls are 0.7–1.0 cm. thick, thicker than those in Group V–IV: B-16. The rim is slightly thickened and moulded. These bowls are slipped and burnished (Table 18; Fig. 3.22).

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.1: Types 85, 620, 625.

Discussion. These bowls constitute 3% of all bowls in Level V. None were found in Level IV, making this an identifying vessel type for Level V. Their absence from Level IV is indicative of the decline in the number of bowls in which carination is found on the upper quarter of the sides, noted above for Group V–IV: B-16 as well.

TABLE 18. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-17 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	3	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Pod. B	2	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	4	-	1	1	1	1	4	-	-	-	3	4
V Total	9	1	1	4	2	1	8	-	-	-	7	8
IV c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV b	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total V+IV	9	1	1	4	2	1	8	-	-	-	7	8

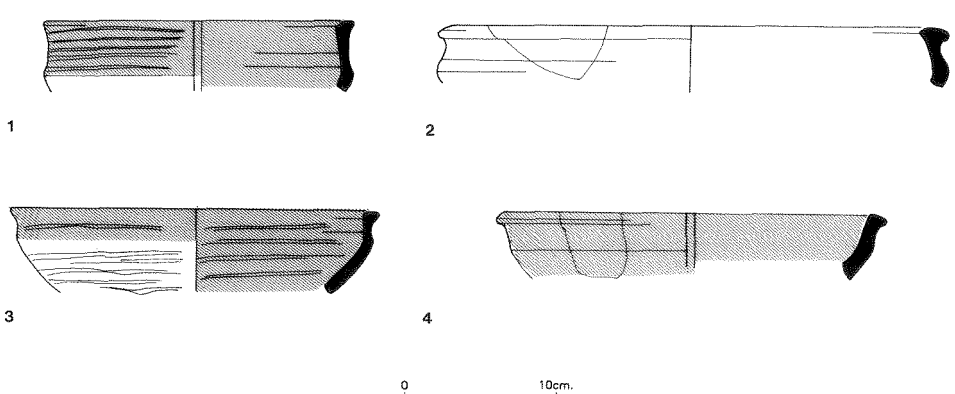

Fig. 3.22. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-17 in Level V.

GROUP V–IV: B-18

Description. Medium-sized carinated bowls. From the point of carination, the wall is slightly everted (Fig. 3.23). The rim was created by slightly thickening the wall, pulling it outward and straightening the upper part to create a ledged rim. Judging only from the small fragments available, it seems that at least two bowls (Fig. 3.23:3–4) were densely wheel burnished on the interior.

Parallels. In Tufnell's Class B.7 several types of bowls are included (Nos. 47, 48, 49) with wheel- or hand-burnishing which are similar to the bowls presented here.

Discussion. These bowls do not appear at all in Level V. In Level IV there are only five, constituting 1% of all bowls. This group is therefore an identifying vessel type. This would appear to be the only bowl group in Level IV with wheel-burnishing. Wheel-burnishing thus first appears on a new type of vessels which did not exist in Level V. Alongside the vessels which were burnished using the common technique of hand-burnishing, there were vessels burnished in a new fashion upon the wheel. The forms and wheel-burnishing of these bowls are directly related to Group L bowls from Locus 4421 and to bowl types which Tufnell identified in the tombs. These bowls will be discussed in greater detail below.

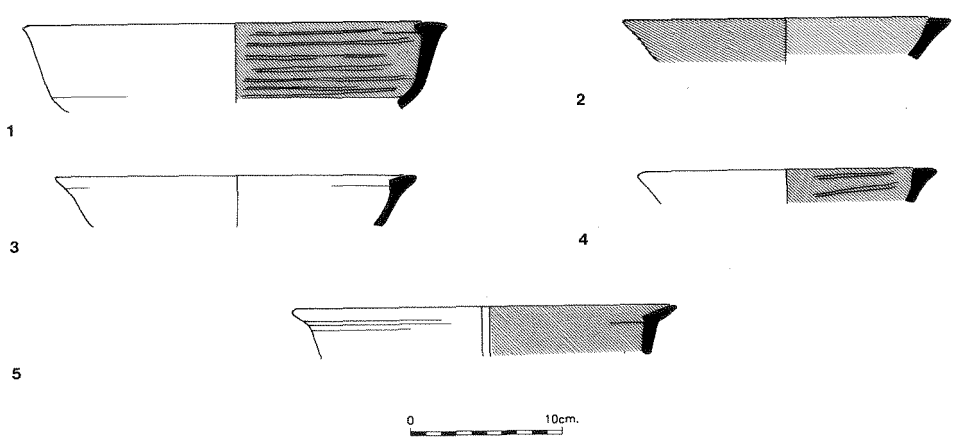

Fig. 3.23. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-18 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: B-19

Description. Included in this group are plain, thin and very delicate rim fragments, nearly all slipped and hand burnished. These would seem to belong to

small bowls with everted walls which have a rounded carination near the base (Fig. 3.24). The base itself is broad, rounded at the edges and slightly convex at the bottom. Inside one bowl (Fig. 3.24:4) there is a shallow, round concavity at the centre of the base.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.6: Type 91.

Discussion. These bowls occur in Level IV (Table 19), but not in Level V. In Level IV they constitute 4% of all bowls and are therefore an identifying vessel type. These bowls were also found in Locus 4421 in Groups G and H, in which some are hand burnished and others wheel burnished. A more detailed discussion will be presented below in the section dealing with this locus and that discussing tombs.

TABLE 19. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-19 BOWLS IN LEVEL V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV c	6	-	-	5	-	-	5	1	-	-	6	6
IV b	3	-	-	2	-	1	3	-	-	-	3	3
IV a	7	1	-	1	2	1	4	2	-	-	6	6
IV Total	16	1	-	8	2	2	12	3	-	-	15	15
Total V+IV	16	1	-	8	2	2	12	3	-	-	15	15

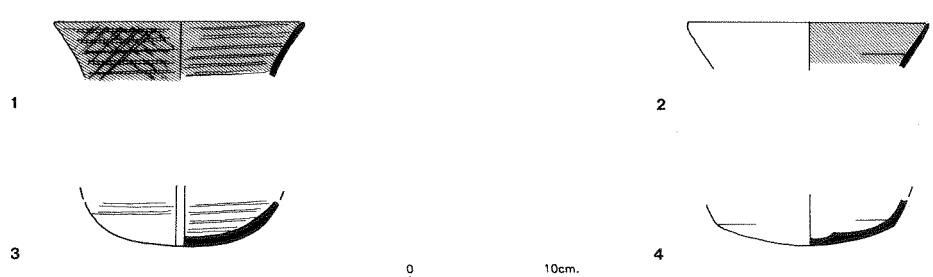

Fig. 3.24. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-19 in Level IV.

Large Bowls and Kraters: Groups V–IV: B-20 – B-27

GROUP V–IV: B-20

Description. Large bowls, 30–40 cm. in diameter and up to 30 cm. deep, with a shaped-folded rim, generally projecting inward and outward (Fig. 3.25). The walls are carinated and slightly everted. All of the bowls from this group are made of light brown clay with orange or yellowish tones. With the exception of one, which has a slip slightly darker than the colour of the clay, they are not slipped. Some of the vessels are burnished, generally on the interior, in horizontal, unevenly spaced lines. Included in this group are two bowls with handles.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class B.1: Type 623.

Discussion. No bowls of this group, excepting the handled bowls, were found in Level V (Table 20). In Level IV they constitute 2% of all bowls and are thus an identifying type. They do not continue in Level III in which new bowl designs appear.

TABLE 20. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-20 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
V Total	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV c	3	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
IV b	4	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
IV a	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
IV Total	9	4	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
Total V+IV	10	4	5	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	1	6

GROUP V–IV: B-21

Description. Large bowls, approximately 40 cm. in diameter, with a thickened and folded rim (Fig. 3.26). In some, the rim protrudes outward and is flattened on top. The walls are slightly carinated and rounded inward. These bowls lack slip, but most have horizontal, unevenly spaced burnish on the interior. At least one example has handles.

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. These bowls constitute 3% of all bowls in Level V. Only one was found in Level IV (Table 21; Fig. 3.68). In Level V there are thus some vessels reflecting an earlier design tradition, which nearly disappeared in Level IV.

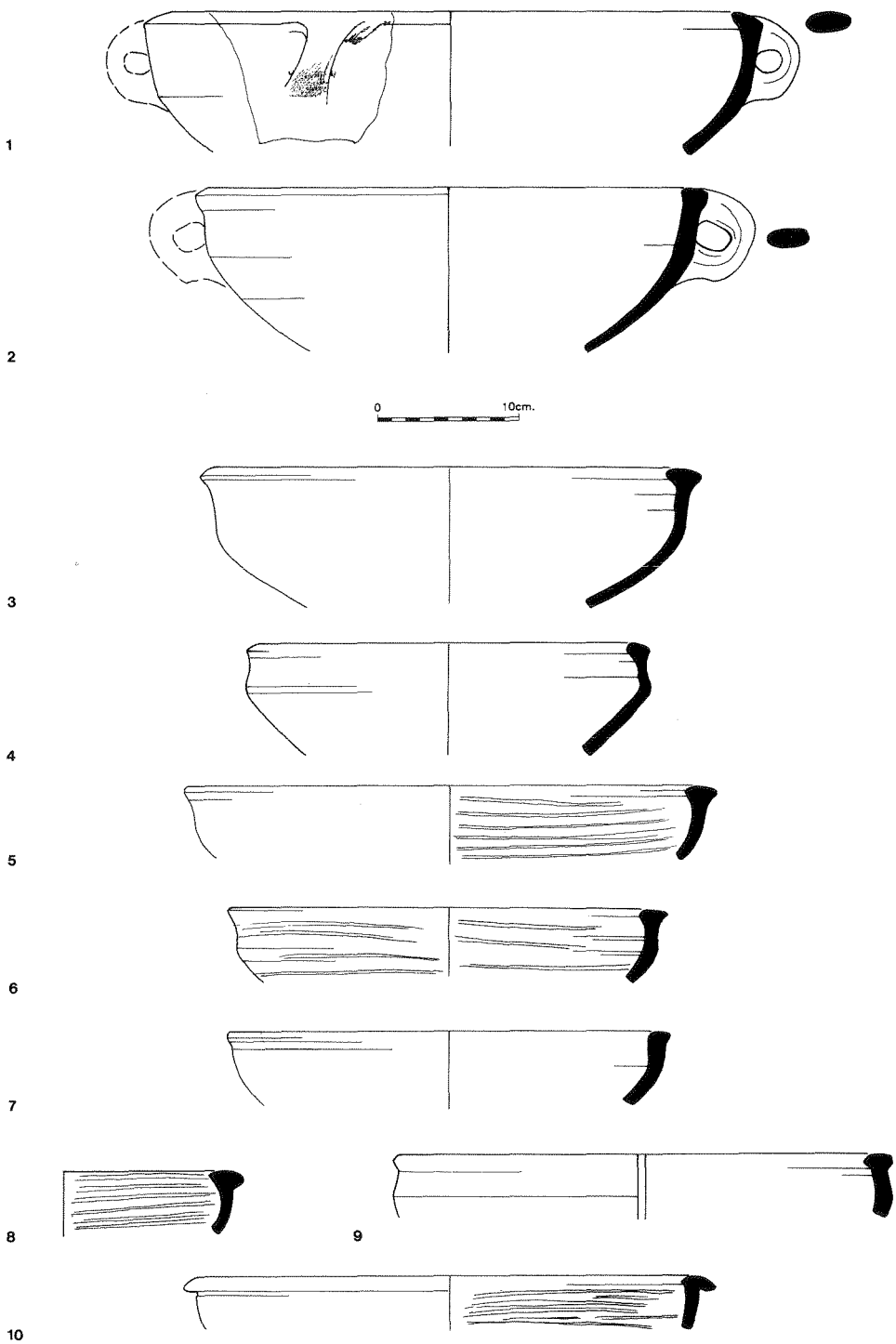

Fig. 3.25. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-20. Level V: Nos. 1–2; Level IV: Nos. 3–10.

TABLE 21. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-21 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pod. B	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	7	1	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
V Total	9	3	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
IV c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV b	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total V+IV	10	4	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6

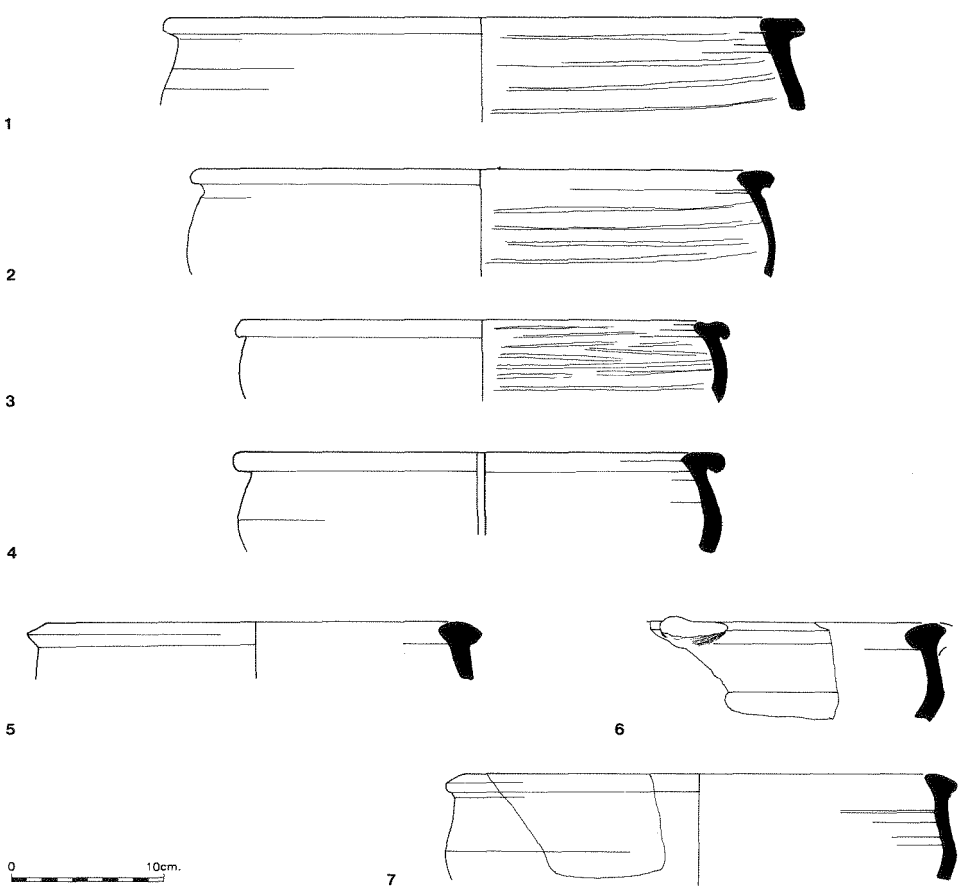

Fig. 3.26. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-21 in Level V.

GROUP V–IV: B-22

Description. Large bowls with carinated walls rounded inward (Fig. 3.27). The rim is thickened and folded outward, sometimes very obviously. At least one of the bowls has handles. The bowls are slipped inside, and in one case, outside as well. They are hand burnished.

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. These bowls constitute but small percentages of the bowls in both levels: 2% in Level V and 1% in Level IV (Table 22; Fig. 3.68). These are also remnants of vessel types of an earlier design tradition which gradually disappeared, and of which no trace remains in Level III.

TABLE 22. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-22 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Level	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	In & keel out	Inside	Total Burnish	All over	In & keel out	Inside	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
Pod. A	5	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	5	5
Pod. B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV Fills	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
V Total	5	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	5	5
IV c	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
IV b	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
IV a	2	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	2
IV Total	3	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	3	3
Total V+IV	8	-	-	1	1	6	8	-	-	-	8	8

GROUP V–IV: B-23

Description. Medium-sized, relatively deep bowls with a thickened, outward-folded rim (Fig. 3.28). The walls are carinated. All are slipped on the interior, while only the rim or upper part of the exterior is slipped. The interior of the bowl has a horizontal burnish from the rim to the carination and an irregular or radial burnish from there down. One bowl (Fig. 3.28:1) has relatively thin walls for its size. These bowls have no handles.

Parallels. Generally, these bowls are similar to those of Tufnell's Class B.1.

Discussion. A single example was found in Level V, while in Level IV these bowls constitute 1% of all bowls (Table 23; Fig. 3.68).

TABLE 23. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-23 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

Pod A	IVa	IVb	Total V	Total IV
1	2	3	1	5

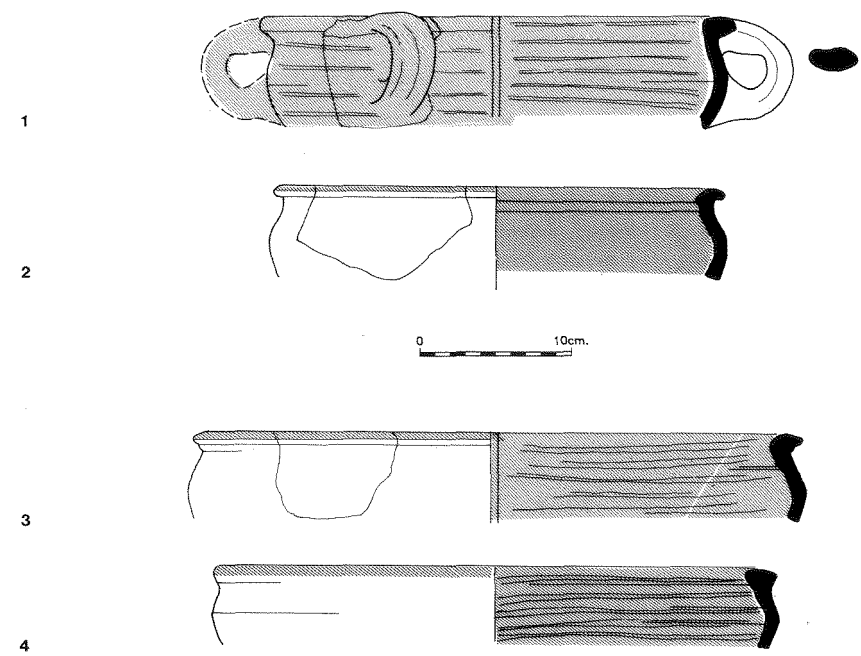

Fig. 3.27. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-22. Level V: Nos. 1–2; Level IV: Nos. 3–4.

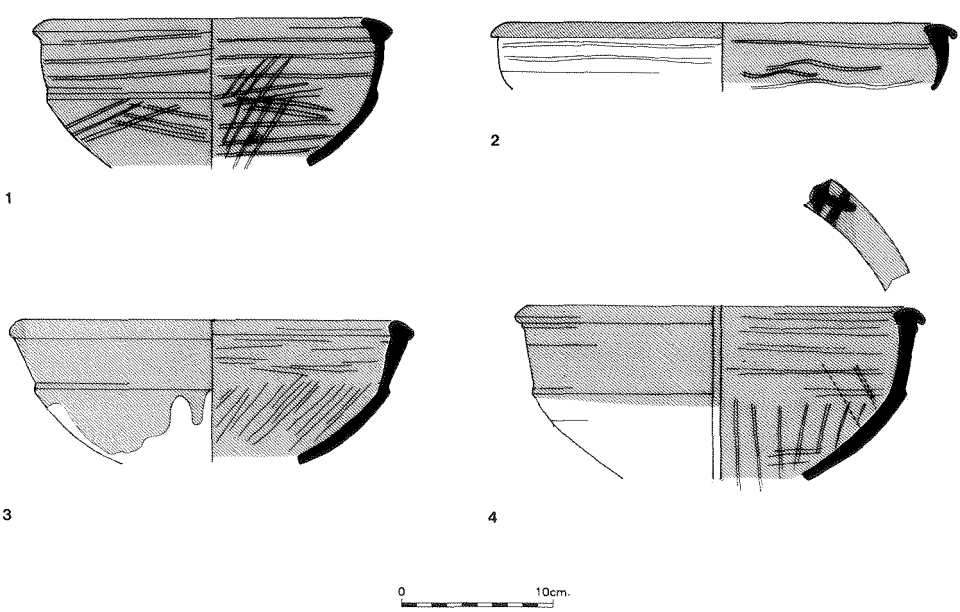

Fig. 3.28. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-23 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: B-24

Description. Kraters, at least one with handles, with a thickened, outward-folded rim (Fig. 3.29). They are characterized by red slip on the interior and a band of slip emphasizing the rim on the exterior. This kind of slip is unique to these kraters. The burnish on the krater in Fig. 3.29:3 created black bands on its surface.

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. Only four examples of this group were found, two from Level V and two from Level IV, and these are not identical in form. Still, the clay and treatment obliged their separate classification from the other vessels.

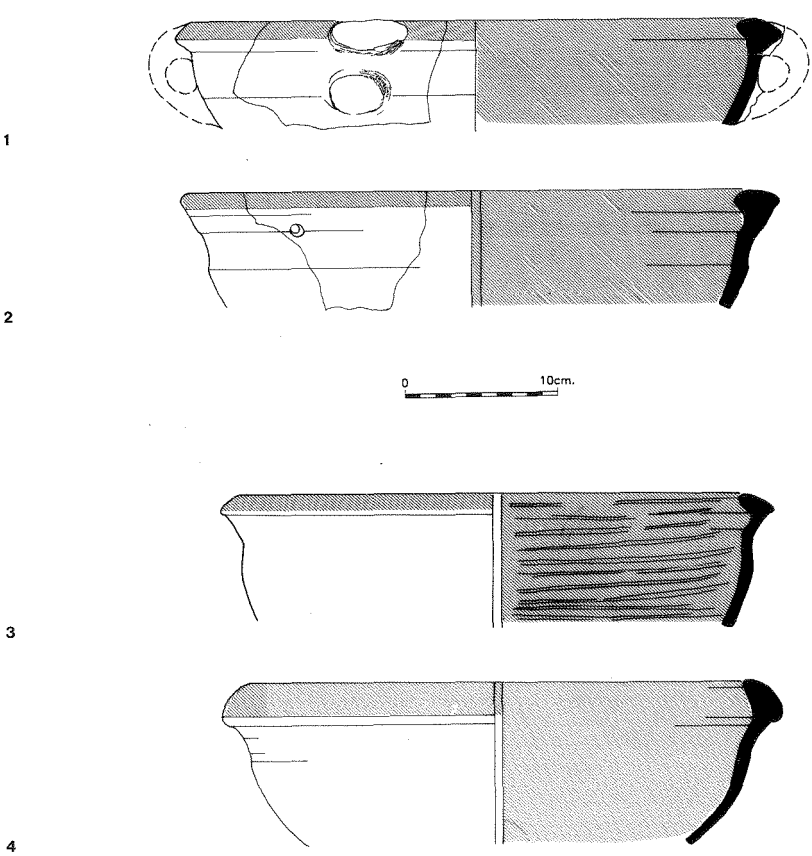

Fig. 3.29. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-24. Level V: Nos. 1–2; Level IV: Nos. 3–4.

GROUP V–IV: B-25

Description. These kraters were classified together after due consideration because of their poor state of preservation (Table 24; Fig. 3.30). Only relatively small rim fragments of these large vessels remained, making it difficult in many cases to reconstruct the form of the entire vessel. Common to all these kraters is a thick, folded rim, brown clay, thick, red slip in which the entire vessel was covered, and relatively dense horizontal burnishing. There are several types of kraters in this group: those with a straight 'neck' and a prominent ridge at the bottom of the neck (Fig. 3.30:1, 2), those with straight upper walls (Fig. 3.30:4–7, 14–15) and kraters with upper walls rounded inward (Fig. 3.30:9–11, 16–17).

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. These kraters constitute 6% of all bowls in Level V, declining to 2% of all bowls in Level IV. This illustrates the decline in production of these vessels. In Level III, straight-walled kraters disappear entirely, and only kraters with rounded walls and rim characteristic of this level occur.

TABLE 24. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-25 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

Pod A	Pod B	V	IV Fills	IVc	IVb	IVa	Total V	Total IV
2	4	1	10	3	2	1	17	6

GROUP V–IV: B-26

Description. Kraters with a thickened, folded rim (Fig. 3.31). They are 30 cm. in diameter, the walls being slightly inverted or straight and inclined inward. The clay is yellowish brown and the vessels are not slipped. One of them is irregularly burnished on the exterior.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Misc., Type 500.

Discussion. These kraters constitute 2% of all bowls in Levels V and IV (Table 25; Fig. 3.68).

TABLE 25. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-26 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

V	IV Fills	IVc	IVb	IVa	Total V	Total IV
-	6	4	1	1	6	6

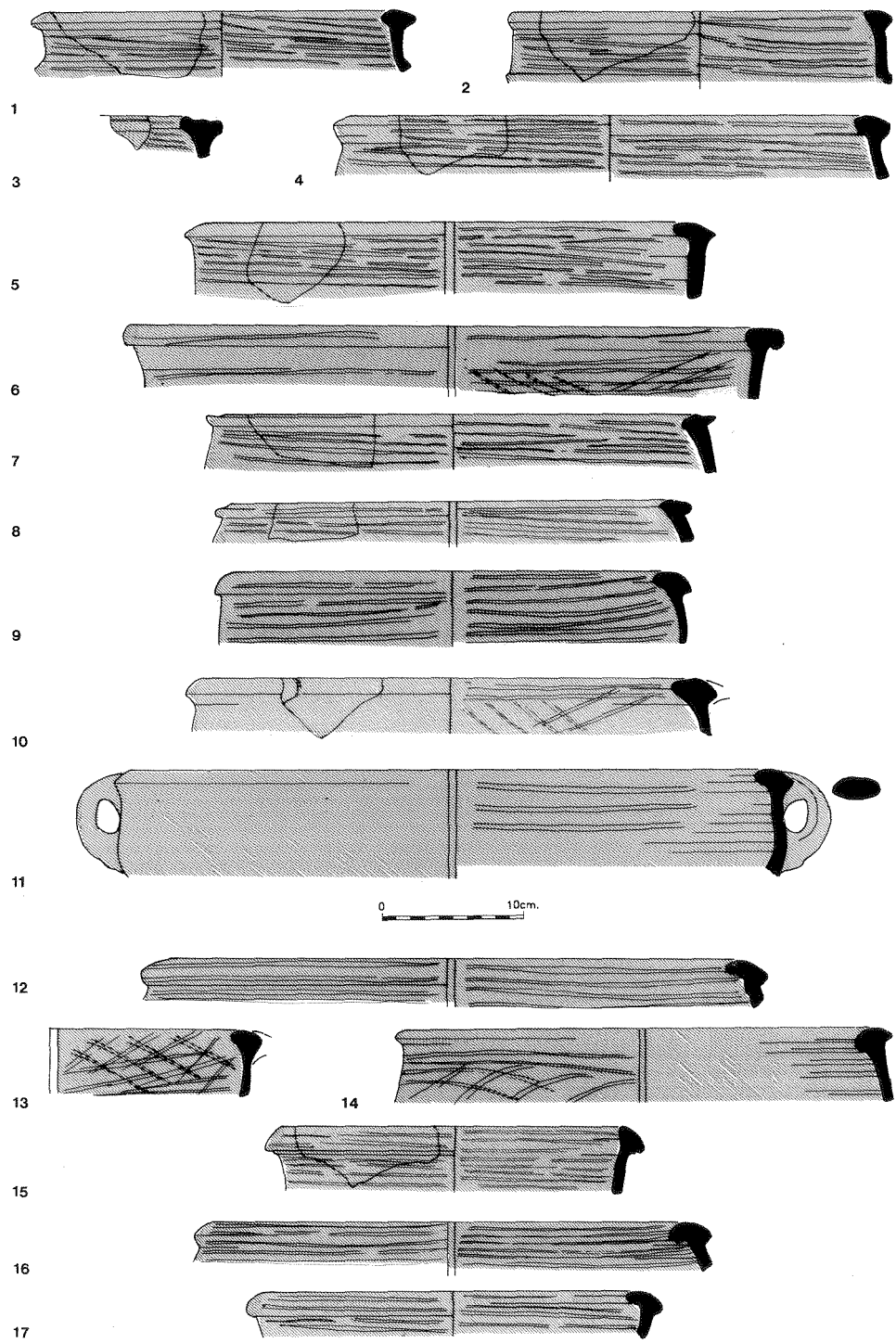

Fig. 3.30. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-25. Level V: Nos. 1–11; Level IV: Nos. 12–17.

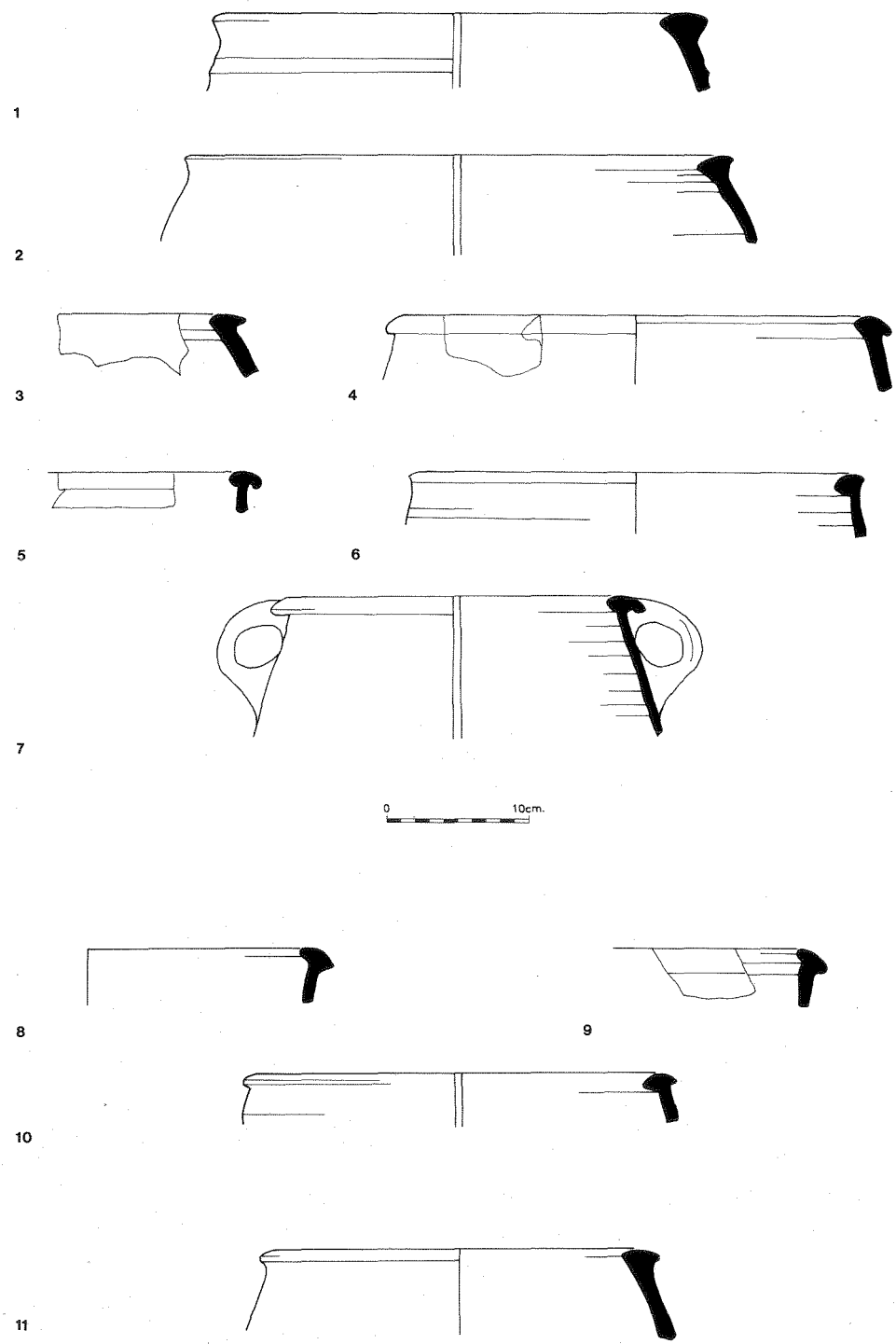

Fig. 3.31. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-26. Level V: Nos. 1–7; Level IV: Nos. 8–11.

GROUP V–IV: B-27

Description. Large, deep kraters, resembling barrels, 30–40 cm. in diameter, with two or more handles (Fig. 3.32). The rim is thick and folded inward or outward. Sometimes a groove accentuates the area of the inward fold. The walls are straight or inclined inward near the rim. Two vessels have a sort of straight neck, accentuated at the bottom by a ridge, apparently indicating the place where the handles extended to the rim. These vessels are not slipped or burnished.

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. These kraters were found in similar quantities in each level and constitute 2% of all bowls (Table 26; Fig. 3.68).

TABLE 26. DIVISION OF GROUP V–IV: B-27 BOWLS IN LEVELS V AND IV

V	IV Fills	IVc	IVb	IVa	Total V	Total IV
-	7	3	1	2	7	6

Plastic Decoration

Some of the bowls have plastic decoration of one of the following three types:

1. A group of up to three rounded knobs. These small lumps of clay were manually applied to the walls of the vessel. The lugs appear on only one side of the vessel. In groups of three, they occur only on vessels belonging to Group V–IV: B-5. As single lugs, they appear on vessels belonging to Groups V–IV: B-7 and B-15.

2. Small lug handles applied to the walls of the vessel. These have a narrow rectangular cross section and appear in two forms: a) Groups of three separate lugs applied at an equal distance from each other on one side of the bowl. b) Two lugs with a small, thin clay coil between them, pressed horizontally to the body of the bowl. These decorations appear on bowls belonging to Group V–IV: B-14.

3. 'Bar handles', formed from two small lugs connected by a carefully rolled clay coil, which was attached to the wall of the vessel with thinned clay rather than the application of pressure with the fingers. The bar handle occurs on bowls in Groups V–IV: B-12 and B-14.

To summarize, plastic decoration is found on very few vessels, a total of 23 from the two levels. In Level V, 4% of all bowls have plastic decoration. In Level IV only 1% are decorated in this manner. Bar handles and small lug handles occur on bowls in Group F in Locus 4421 (see discussion below). Plastic decoration does not occur in Level III.

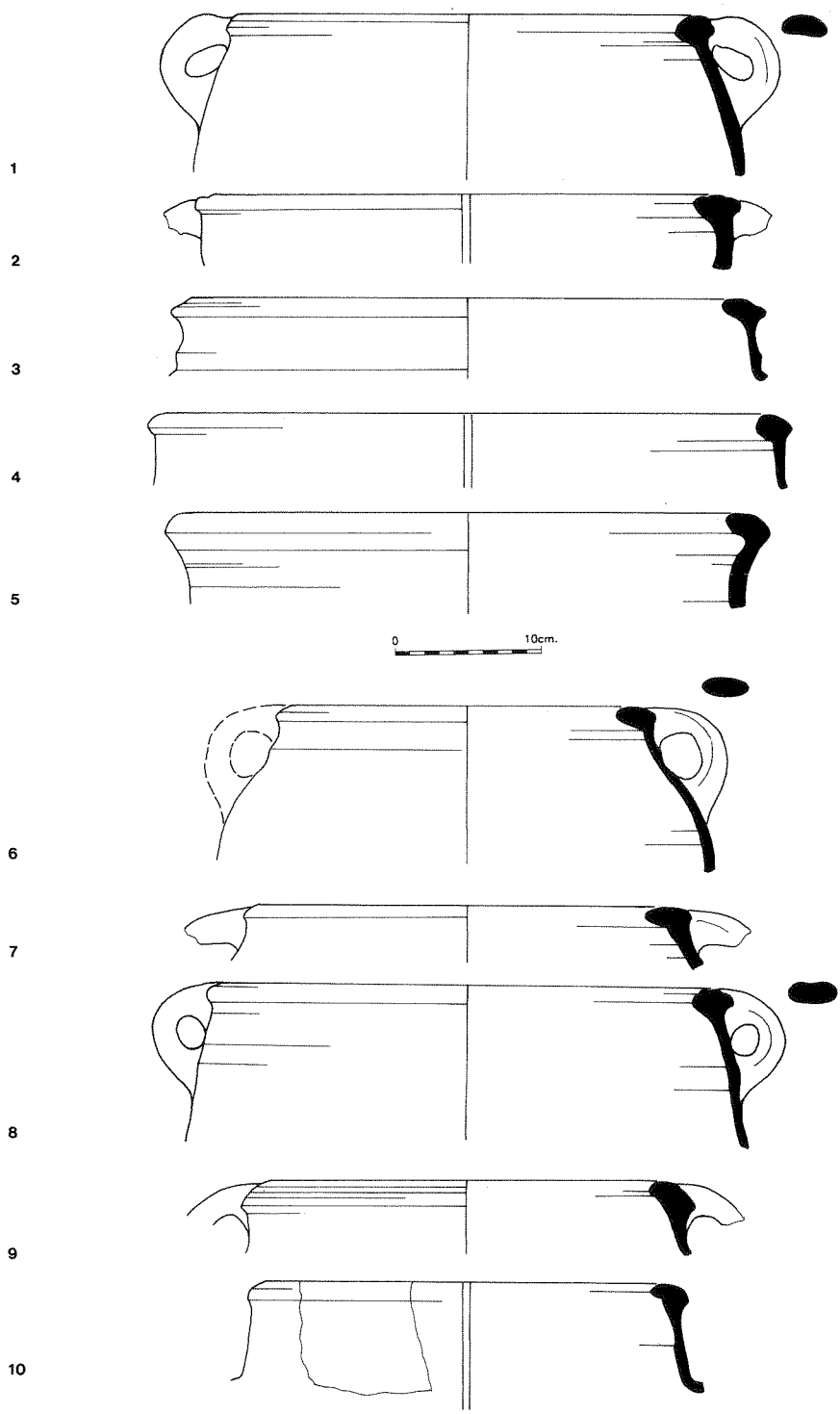

Fig. 3.32. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-27. Level V: Nos. 1–5; Level IV: Nos. 6–10.

Varia

Presented in Figure 3.33 are several vessels whose original form is difficult to establish. Numbers 1–4 from Level V and Number 5 from Level IV appear to be deep bowls resembling holemouth jars with inverted walls and an outward-folded rim. They are made of light-coloured, brown or pink clay with very large grits which protrude from the thin walls of the vessel. On the basis of their form and the special material utilized, these vessels would appear to have served a specific function.

Number 6 from Level IV (in Fig. 3.33) is a unique vessel, resembling a holemouth jar, with thin walls and a narrow mouth. Numbers 7–8 are also difficult vessels to classify. These are possibly stand fragments. Number 9 would appear to be a bowl, similar to some bowls in Group V–IV: B-9 (Fig. 3.14:8–9). The clay of this vessel (Fig. 3.33:9) is identical to that of Number 8 (Fig. 3.33), having the same colour and containing a large number of grits. They are therefore presented together.

Surface Treatment of Bowls

The predominant feature characterizing the pottery of Levels V and IV at Tel Lachish is the red slip which is often hand burnished. This surface treatment, mainly typical of bowls but also occurring on jugs and juglets, has a great many variations. The variety of forms and combinations in which the slip and burnish occur indicate that their application went beyond the primary, practical aim of creating a less permeable vessel surface.

Attempts to find a connection between the different combinations of slip and burnish and the forms of specific vessels did not succeed. Nearly all groups of vessels contain red-slipped and burnished examples of different types: examples with partial surface treatment and examples entirely lacking surface treatment. It is indeed difficult to find two entirely identical vessels because of the great diversity in surface treatment. In a period during which painted vessels were rare, the creativity of the potter appears to have been revealed in the manner in which a vessel was slipped and burnished.

The discussion about slip and burnish is based entirely upon their application on bowls. Their use on closed vessels, also very common, is generally limited to vertical-line burnish of varying density. These vessels were not included in the discussion due to their rarity at Tel Lachish.

The pie chart in Figure 3.34 clearly shows the percentages of bowls with and without surface treatment. Included are all types of bowl surface treatment, ranging from burnish only to slip and burnish over the entire surface. The data for

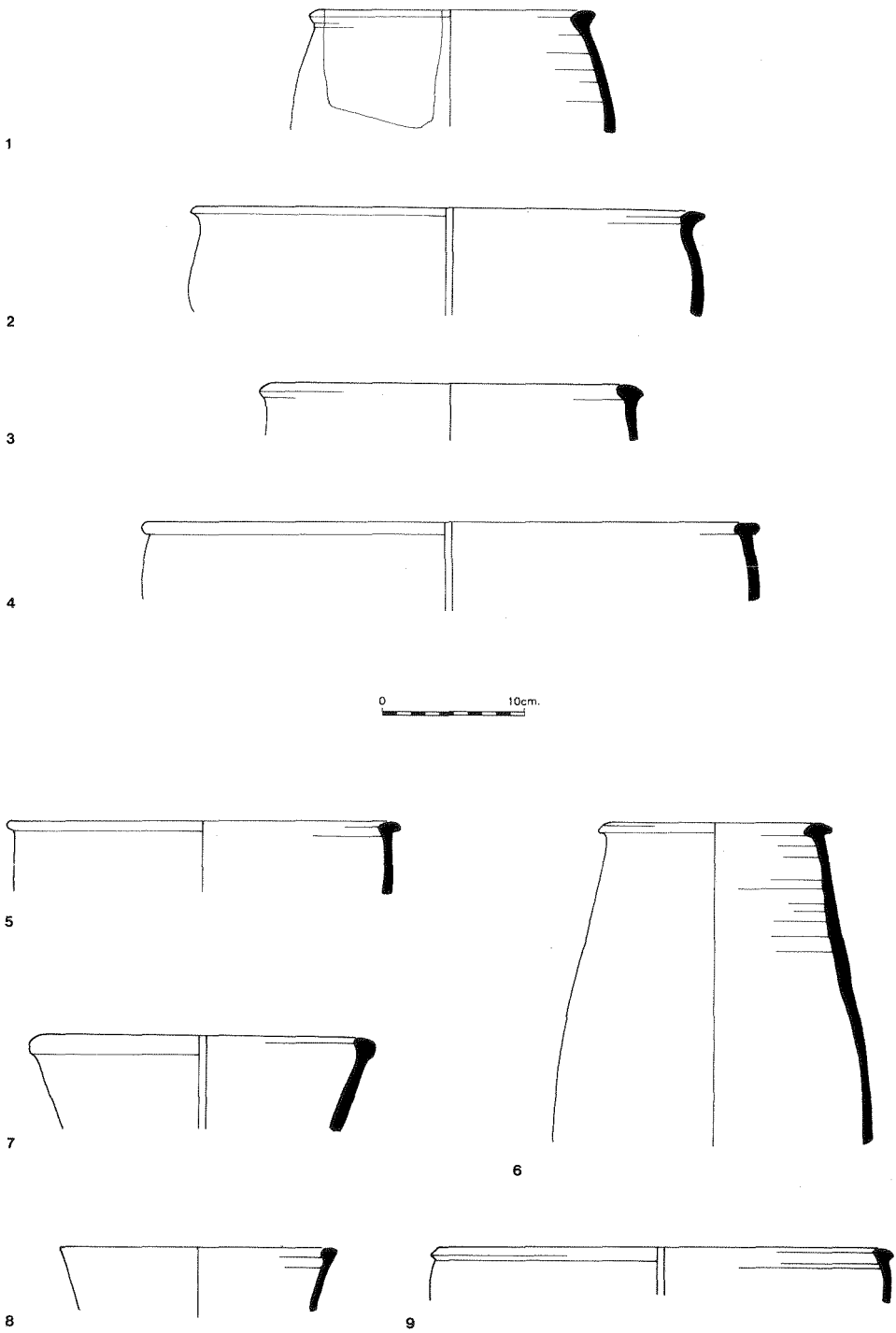

Fig. 3.33. Varia. Level V: Nos. 1–4; Level IV: Nos. 5–9.

this pie chart were taken from the following tables, which summarize the different surface treatments utilized on bowls of Levels V and IV.

Level V: 80% of the bowls have surface treatment; 20% do not.

Level IV: There is a decline to 72% in the number of bowls with surface treatment. Untreated vessels constitute 28% of all bowls.

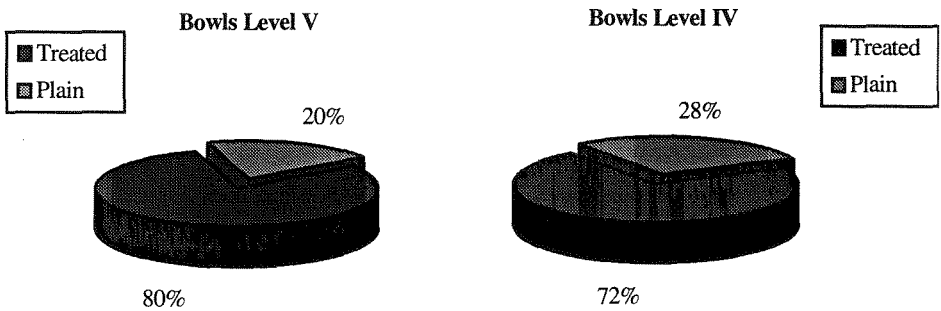

Fig. 3.34. Pie-charts indicating surface treatment of bowls.

SLIP

The bowls in the levels studied were slipped in one of the following ways: Interior and exterior entirely covered by slip; interior only covered by slip; interior and upper part of exterior covered by slip. In the latter case, the line marking the end of the slipped part of the exterior generally followed some outstanding feature in the external design of the vessel, such as rounding of the side, carination or a rib. In rare cases, bowls were externally slipped only.

The slip occurs in a variety of shades of red, red-brown, brown and orange-pink. The varied appearance of the vessels was achieved by applying slips of varying densities, ranging from dense slip, giving the vessel a uniform coating, to thin, giving the surface a mottled appearance. The manner in which the slip was applied and the implement used by the potter to apply it also contributed to the diversity in vessel appearance. Bands often appear on the vessel surface, indicating that a brush was utilized. In a few cases, the potter utilized two shades of slip; application of a base coat, which was usually red, followed by a dark brown, nearly black, brush-applied slip.

The diversity of slip colours indicates the chance manner in which the potter achieved colour. The firing process likewise contributed to this variety. Accordingly, the colour of bowls from Levels V and IV is meaningless and

chronologically insignificant. It is the use of slip, rather than the precise colour of the slip that is relevant.

Stratum V: 66% of all bowls are slipped.

Stratum IV: 62% of all bowls are slipped.

BURNISH

Burnish occurs in a variety of forms, generally as an accompaniment to or finish on the slipped surface. Only a small number of bowls are burnished without slip. The nature of the burnishing was dictated by the size and form of the bowl, the burnishing implement, and of course, the technique used by the potter. This is not the appropriate place to explore ceramic production technologies during the Iron Age or the first appearance of red slip and burnish. These topics have already been discussed by Albright in the Tell Beit Mirsim final report. Most of his terminology and definitions are still in use. In Stratum B3 Albright found pottery vessels characterized by two types of burnish, to which he referred as 'chordal line-burnishing' and 'hand-turning method'. In the latter type, the vessel was burnished while being slowly turned by hand, creating discontinuous burnishing lines. This was defined as a transitional technique between hand- and wheel-burnishing (Albright 1932:67–68). The burnish applied to bowls from Levels V and IV at Lachish fits Albright's definitions. Today, it is generally referred to as 'hand-burnishing', 'irregular burnishing' or 'pattern burnishing'. There is a variety of different burnishing techniques, all executed with the vessel held in the potter's hands or upon his lap. A variety of examples of the different techniques occur at Lachish. The most common are:

1. Very dense burnish lines running in different directions and covering most of the bowl surface, giving it a smooth uniform appearance.

2. Intersecting burnish lines running in different directions with spaces between them, creating the appearance of the 'irregular burnish'. The thickness and density of the lines are determined by the size of the part of the burnishing implement which comes into contact with the vessel surface and the amount of pressure applied by the potter.

3. Groups of parallel burnish lines which divide the bowl surface into sections or other patterns. This type of burnish is best appreciated on entire bowls. The absence of complete bowls in this assemblage creates the impression that this is a rare type of burnish technique, which in fact is not the case.

4. Irregularly spaced, discontinuous lines of burnish upon the upper interior or exterior part of the vessel, running parallel to the rim of the bowl. The discontinuities indicate the places where the potter paused in order to turn the bowl. The rest of the vessel's exterior surface is burnished with intersecting lines with spaces between them. In many cases, the interior of the bowl was also

burnished while turning the bowl, producing parallel lines, and occasionally, crude circles with irregular spaces between them.

The pie-charts in Figures 3.35 and 3.36 summarize the techniques used in surface treatment in Levels V and IV.

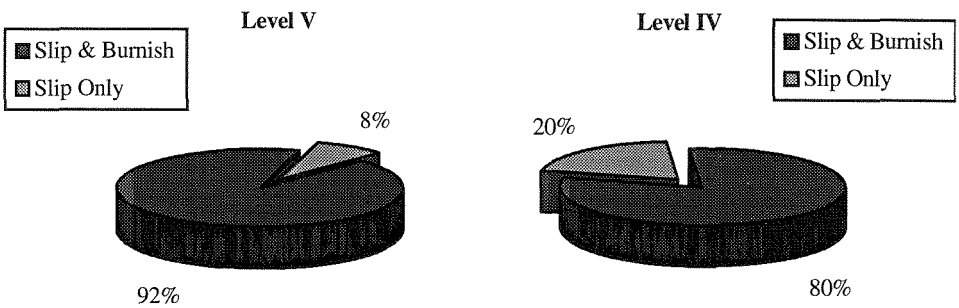

Fig. 3.35. Pie-charts summarizing the techniques used in surface treatment of bowls.

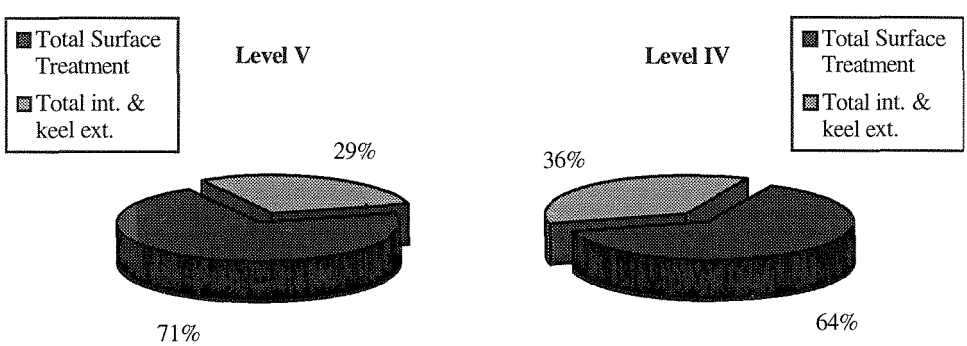

Fig. 3.36. Pie-charts summarizing the application of slip on bowls.

Level V. Slipped and burnished vessels constitute 92% of all bowls. Vessels with slip constitute only 8% of all vessels.

Level IV. Slipped and burnished vessels decline to 80% of the total, while vessels with slip increase only to 20%.

Level V. A total of 29% of all bowls with external surface treatment are slipped on the interior and on the upper portion of the exterior.

Level IV. Such vessels increase to 36%. (It must be noted that on the basis of a different calculation, which compares the ratio of all slipped vessels to those with slip on the interior and upper portion of the exterior, the ratio between levels remains similar: 35% in Level V and 41% in Level IV.)

Discussion

The data presented above give a uniform picture of the manner of the external treatment of bowls in Levels V and IV (see Tables 27–28). The use of red slip was widespread. The percentage of slipped bowls in each of the two levels is over 60%. In Level III, on the other hand, there began a sharp drop in the percentage of slipped bowls to 25%–30% (a precise evaluation will become available only following the completion of the study of the pottery from Level III). Tufnell (1953:261) already noticed the gradual decline in slipped bowls during the Iron

TABLE 27. SUMMARY OF LEVEL V BOWL GROUPS AND THEIR SURFACE TREATMENT

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Group	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
B - 1	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 2	55	11	1	24	12	3	40	2	1	1	43	44
B - 3	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
B - 4	2	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
B - 5	33	2	8	16	5	2	31	-	-	-	23	31
B - 6	26	11	4	2	9	-	15	-	-	-	11	15
B - 7	6	1	1	1	2	-	4	-	1	-	4	5
B - 8	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
B - 9	43	5	6	14	8	7	35	-	1	2	32	38
B - 10	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 11	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
B - 12	10	1	2	2	2	1	7	-	2	-	7	9
B - 13	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 14	21	2	6	8	4	-	18	1	-	-	13	19
B - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 16	38	2	4	10	16	1	31	1	3	1	32	36
B - 17	9	1	1	4	2	1	8	-	-	-	7	8
B - 18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 20	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
B - 21	9	3	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
B - 22	5	-	-	1	-	4	5	-	-	-	5	5
B - 23	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
B - 24	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
B - 25	17	-	-	17	-	-	17	-	-	-	17	17
B - 26	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 27	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	303	62	41	101	63	20	225	4	8	4	200	241

Age, in the course of which only the interior of bowls was slipped. By the end of the Iron Age, as wheel-burnishing became entrenched, bowls were not slipped at all. In Tufnell's view, the decline in the use of slip stemmed from the inability of potters in the southern part of the country to obtain, for a variety of reasons, the raw materials from which the slip was prepared.

Burnish was also widespread in Levels V and IV. In Level V it covered 74% of all bowls; in Level IV a decline began in the use of burnish, which covered only 60% of all bowls. In these levels the wheel-burnishing technique was not yet utilized and hand-burnishing predominated. Three bowl fragments showing signs of wheel-burnish are therefore exceptions. Among the bowls found in Level III, Tufnell estimated that 37% of the burnished bowls were wheel burnished (Tufnell 1953:261). A quantitative analysis has yet to be undertaken for material recovered during the renewed excavations.

TABLE 28. SUMMARY OF LEVEL IV BOWL GROUPS AND THEIR SURFACE TREATMENT

				Slip + Burnish				Slip				
Group	Total	Plain	Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Burnish	All over	Int. & keel ext.	Int.	Total Slip	**Total Surface Treat.**
B - 1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 2	105	36	3	24	13	7	47	2	19	1	66	69
B - 3	1	-	1	1	2	-	4	-	-	-	3	4
B - 4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 5	23	2	4	6	9	-	19	1	1	-	17	21
B - 6	17	4	1	7	3	-	11	2	-	-	12	13
B - 7	9	1	2	1	2	1	6	2	-	-	6	8
B - 8	11	-	-	1	5	3	9	-	-	2	11	11
B - 9	27	3	4	6	9	2	21	-	3	-	20	24
B - 10	4	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
B - 11	8	2	1	2	1	2	6	-	-	-	5	6
B - 12	31	1	-	16	11	-	27	2	1	-	30	30
B - 13	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 14	15	3	2	6	1	-	9	2	1	-	10	12
B - 15	13	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 16	28	5	4	10	8	-	22	-	1	-	19	23
B - 17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 18	4	-	1	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	3	4
B - 19	16	1	-	8	2	2	12	3	-	-	15	15
B - 20	9	4	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
B - 21	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B - 22	3	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	3	3
B - 23	5	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
B - 24	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
B - 25	6	-	-	6	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	6
B - 26	6	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
B - 27	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	363	102	35	94	69	21	219	15	26	4	229	264

Tufnell maintained that the gradual transition from hand- to wheel-burnishing 'cannot be underestimated as a guide to chronological development'. In her typological division Tufnell hoped to show that this development matched the development in vessel form which forms the basis of typology (1953:262). Her observations concerning hand- and wheel-burnished bowls were primarily based upon bowls of her Classes B.6 and B.7. In several tombs, vessels from the same class were found next to each other, some hand burnished and others wheel burnished. For example, two tombs containing similar assemblages, which appear to reflect a short period of use, should be cited: First, Tomb 224 in which 11 Class B.6 bowls (our Group V–IV: B-19 — rounded bowls with a thin rim and a broad, circular base) are hand burnished and 2 bowls wheel burnished; of Class B.7 bowls (our Group V–IV: B-11 or B-12 — bowls with an outward-straightened rim and a very flat disc or ring base), 7 are hand burnished and 1 wheel burnished. A total of 8% of the vessels were wheel burnished. Second, Tomb 1004 in which wheel-burnishing constitutes 10%: One bowl each of Classes B.6 and B.7 are wheel burnished.

Aharoni reports the presence of wheel-burnished sherds in the cultic room of Level V (Y. Aharoni 1975a: Pl. 41:6, 10, 13) next to hand-burnished vessels. In his opinion, the finds from this level fit the general picture at sites such as Hazor, Stratum XB, Megiddo, Stratum VA, and others where, during the second half of the 10th century, wheel-burnished vessels occur. Therefore, Level V at Lachish also represents the transition period between hand- and wheel-burnishing (*ibid.*:1975a:14). It should be noted, however, that the sherds mentioned by Aharoni could be attributed to Groups V–IV: B-2, B-16 and B-25, as defined above. No wheel-burnished bowls are known from any of these three groups. Neither are these sherds of the bowl types with two kinds of burnish mentioned by Tufnell. These sherds possibly have parallel burnish lines made by hand and were mistakenly identified as wheel burnished. Otherwise, it is difficult to explain these anomalies among the large number of vessels found at Lachish.

Hand- and Wheel-Burnish as a Tool for Dating

The first to consider the possibility that the transition from hand- to wheel-burnishing could be chronologically significant was Albright, during the period of his research at Tell Beit Mirsim. Albright recognized the uncertainty of the data, which prevented him from demonstrating internal development within Stratum A at Tell Beit Mirsim. Nonetheless, he distinguished between earlier and later forms, as well as different types of burnish in the pottery vessels of this stratum. In summarizing the discussion of pottery from Stratum A, Albright emphasized the importance of the wheel-burnished pottery so

typical of the stratum as one of the keys to Iron Age chronology (1943:152–154). Since then, Albright's conclusion has been adopted in more recent excavation reports and studies of pottery.

A review of all sites and a reexamination of the appearance of slipped and hand-burnished vs. wheel-burnished pottery will not be attempted here. Nonetheless, even a cursory glance leaves the impression that Albright's conclusions from Tell Beit Mirsim achieved widespread acceptance without sufficient scrutiny. By decreeing equality between sites in Judah and in Israel, neither Kenyon's research (in Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957) nor that of Aharoni and Amiran (1958) contributed to the issue of slip and burnish. The problem will be illustrated with the aid of pottery from Hazor, upon which Aharoni and Amiran based their research (1958:179). They claimed that the full transition to wheel-burnishing began in Stratum VIII at Hazor, on the basis of a group of vessels finished with an unusual burnishing technique, which parallels a similar group found by Kenyon in Stratum III at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:94–95). This is a small and special group of bowls with a dense and shiny wheel-burnish, later referred to by Wright (1959:23) as 'Samaria Ware A', which is distinct from the well-known Samaria bowls. Aharoni and Amiran's conclusions concerning the date of the transition from hand- to wheel-burnishing, based in effect upon the characteristics of a group of vessels given an unusual surface treatment atypical of the standard burnish, achieved acceptance in the literature.

In a reexamination of the Hazor final reports (Yadin *et al.* 1958; 1960; 1961; 1989), which aimed at examining the use of slip and burnish at the site, all published bowls were counted. On the basis of the description accompanying the plates, unburnished bowls were separated from hand- and wheel-burnished examples, slipped bowls and 'Samaria bowls'. The following results were obtained:

Among the published bowls in reports on Strata XI–III, the two kinds of burnish occur together in all strata. There are at least twice as many hand- as wheel-burnished bowls in all strata. In Strata XI–IX the percentage of hand-burnished bowls is a maximum of 36% and a minimum of 13% in each stratum. The percentage of wheel-burnished bowls in these strata is not greater than 10%. The percentage of slipped bowls in these strata is 18%–44%.

In Strata VIII–V, wheel-burnished bowls constitute no more than 5% of all bowls, while the percentage of hand-burnished bowls in these strata is 8%–18%. In Stratum VIII the percentage of slipped bowls is 47%, declining in Stratum VII to approximately 23%. In Strata VI–V the percentage is 12%–33%.

These data indicate that, contrary to the situation at Lachish, neither hand- nor wheel-burnish is characteristic of the Hazor pottery assemblage. While some

vessels are slipped, these do not occur in the large quantities indicated by the data from Lachish. The decline in use of this technique at Hazor is not as conspicuous as it appears to have been at Lachish.

The immediate conclusion from the above is that the simultaneous use of two burnishing techniques at Hazor over a lengthy period does not enable one to use data from this site in relation to the question of the transition from hand- to wheel-burnish. The evidence from Hazor indicates that wheel-burnishing was known at Hazor during a time when only hand-burnishing was used at Lachish. Wheel-burnishing, therefore, was not a technological discovery which affected pottery production in the entire country, but was used regionally and appears to have been a fashion. It is clear from some Lachish tombs and from the finds in Locus 4421 that similar vessels, some hand burnished and others wheel burnished, were produced in Judah over a period of time of unknown duration. Mass production of vessels in the course of Level III apparently resulted in the replacement of hand-burnish by wheel-burnish. The significant change in burnishing technique thus occurred simultaneously with the change in vessel repertoire.

It is thus apparent that a reexamination of the surface treatment of vessels at each individual site is necessary. The preliminary conclusions presented in prior studies cannot be considered reliable. The transition from hand- to wheel-burnish appears to have been gradual, taking place at a different time and in a different manner in each region. The first attempts at wheel-burnishing, undertaken on vessels of the previous repertoire, cannot, therefore, constitute a chronological datum. Thus, absolute dates such as those presented by Kenyon at Samaria (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:205), claiming that full hand-burnishing essentially disappeared in 880 B.C.E., were unfounded.

Cooking Pots

GENERAL REMARKS

The cooking pots found in these levels are all similar in general form, i.e. exhibiting a wide opening and shallow body. Therefore, division into groups was based upon rim form. All appear to have two handles, though it is possible that some lack handles. Nearly all are made of clay rich in chalk grits approximately 1 mm. in diameter. Only a few (such as those belonging to Group V–IV: CP-1) have grits up to 4 mm. in diameter. The diversity of forms is matched by a variety in clay colour and grit density. The British excavations, it must be recalled, did not reach domestic areas below Level III; therefore only a few cooking pots were found.

GROUP V–IV: CP-1

Description. This group of cooking pots is characterized by a rim which is rounded at its upper edge and smooth on the outside, nearly forming a short, narrow neck the same thickness as the walls (Fig. 3.37). There is a graduation between the neck and the body of the vessel. The body widens and is rounded toward the base. Included in this group are several pots with a rounded, smooth rim which is slightly inverted or everted (Fig. 3.37:4; 6). These should perhaps be defined as cooking kraters.

Parallels. No exact parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. This group of cooking pots is the most common at Lachish, constituting 31% of all cooking pots in Level V and 37% in Level IV. Distribution of this type has not yet been determined. It is not found at Tel Beer-sheba or Tel Masos, but two examples have been found at Arad (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 3.2:15–16) and in the renewed excavations at Tel Beth-shemesh (courtesy of Shlomoh Bunimovitz). The large concentration of cooking pots at Lachish is probably indicative of their production in a manufacturing centre in the vicinity.

GROUP V–IV: CP-2

Description. Cooking pots characterized by a rim slightly thicker than the walls and single (Fig. 3.38:1–3; 5; 8–11) or multiple grooves, usually with a small ridge protruding from the bottom of the rim (such as Fig. 3.38:3; 9). The basic form of the rim varies; no two are identical. Sometimes there is a pronounced concavity where the rim is attached to the body of the vessel (Fig. 3.38:2; 11).

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Types 684; 685; 687; 694.

Discussion. This group of cooking pots constitutes 15% of all pots in Level V, increasing in Level IV to 36% of all pots. Unlike the cooking pots in Group V–IV: CP-1, which have smooth, straight rims, the grooved pots appear at many sites in Judah, including Tel Beer-sheba (Y. Aharoni 1975b: Fig. 5:8–9. This figure presents vessels from Stratum IV, a correction kindly provided by Lily Singer-Avitz), Arad, Tell Beit Mirsim and Tel ʿEton (Zimhoni 1985:72; also this volume, Chapter 4:186–188), as well as in the recent excavations at Tel Beth-shemesh (courtesy of Shlomoh Bunimovitz). It is noteworthy that apparently this pot is not found at Gezer. In Lachish Level III the open, grooved cooking pot is no longer in use.

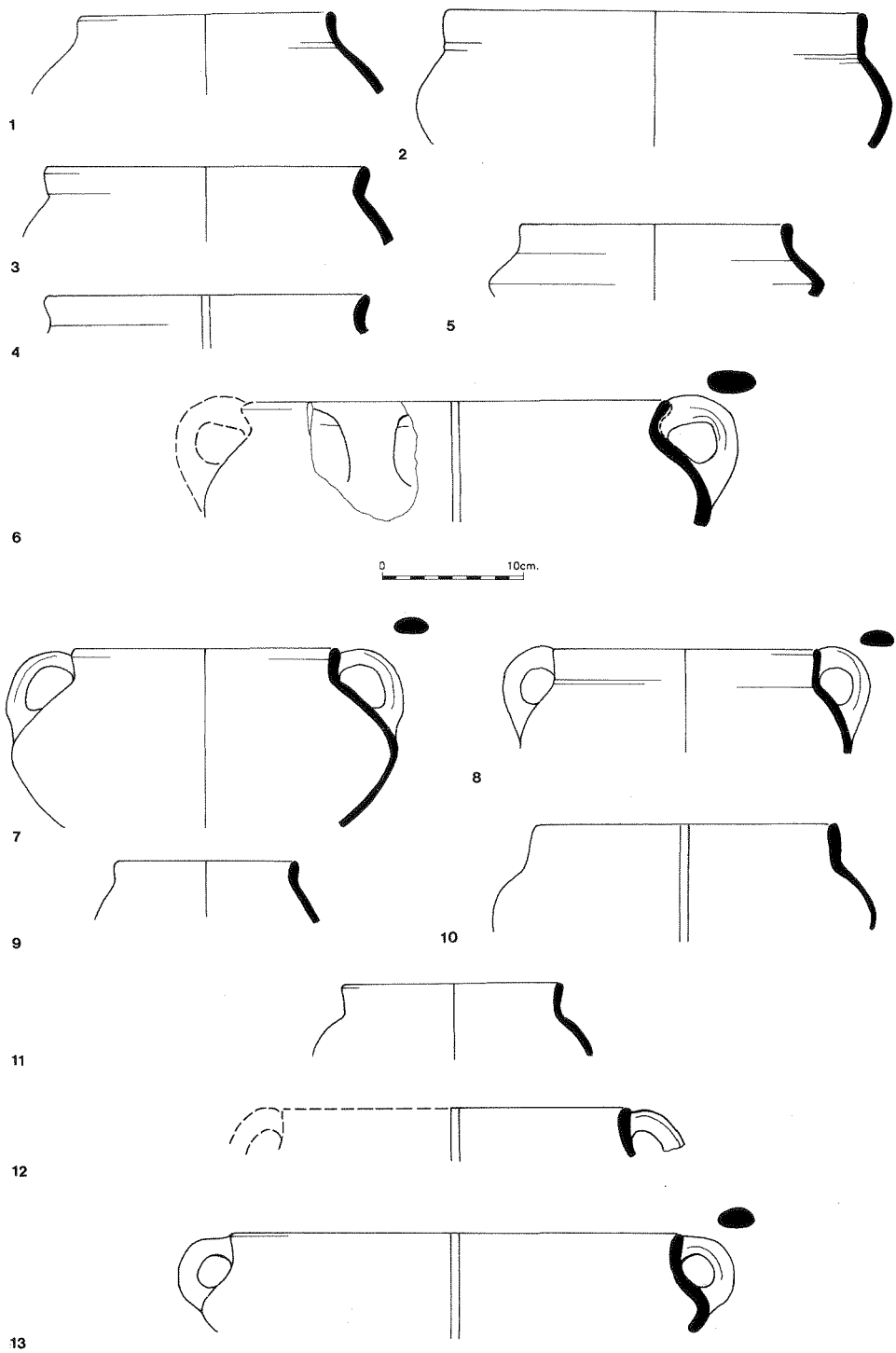

Fig. 3.37. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-1. Level V: Nos. 1–6; Level IV: Nos. 7–13.

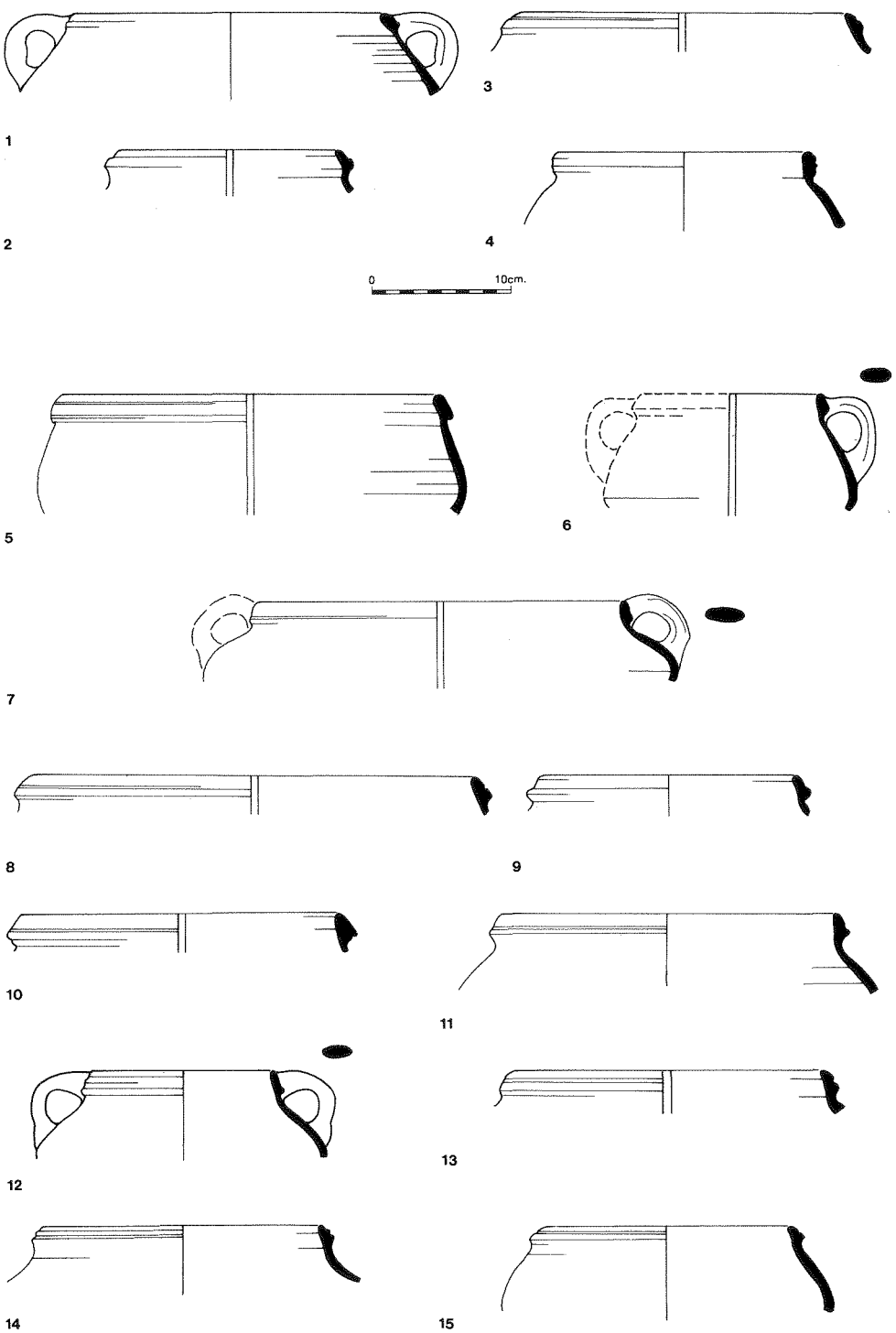

Fig. 3.38. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-2. Level V: Nos. 1–4; Level IV: Nos. 5–15.

GROUP V–IV: CP-3

Description. The rims of these cooking pots are characterized by a broad external concavity which creates a pronounced ridge at the bottom of the neck (Fig. 3.39). In this group as well there is a wide range of rim designs. Sometimes, the concavity and ridge are less pronounced and appear as a slight inturning of the rim bordered by two fine ridges. The upper edge of the rim is rounded or slightly pinched.

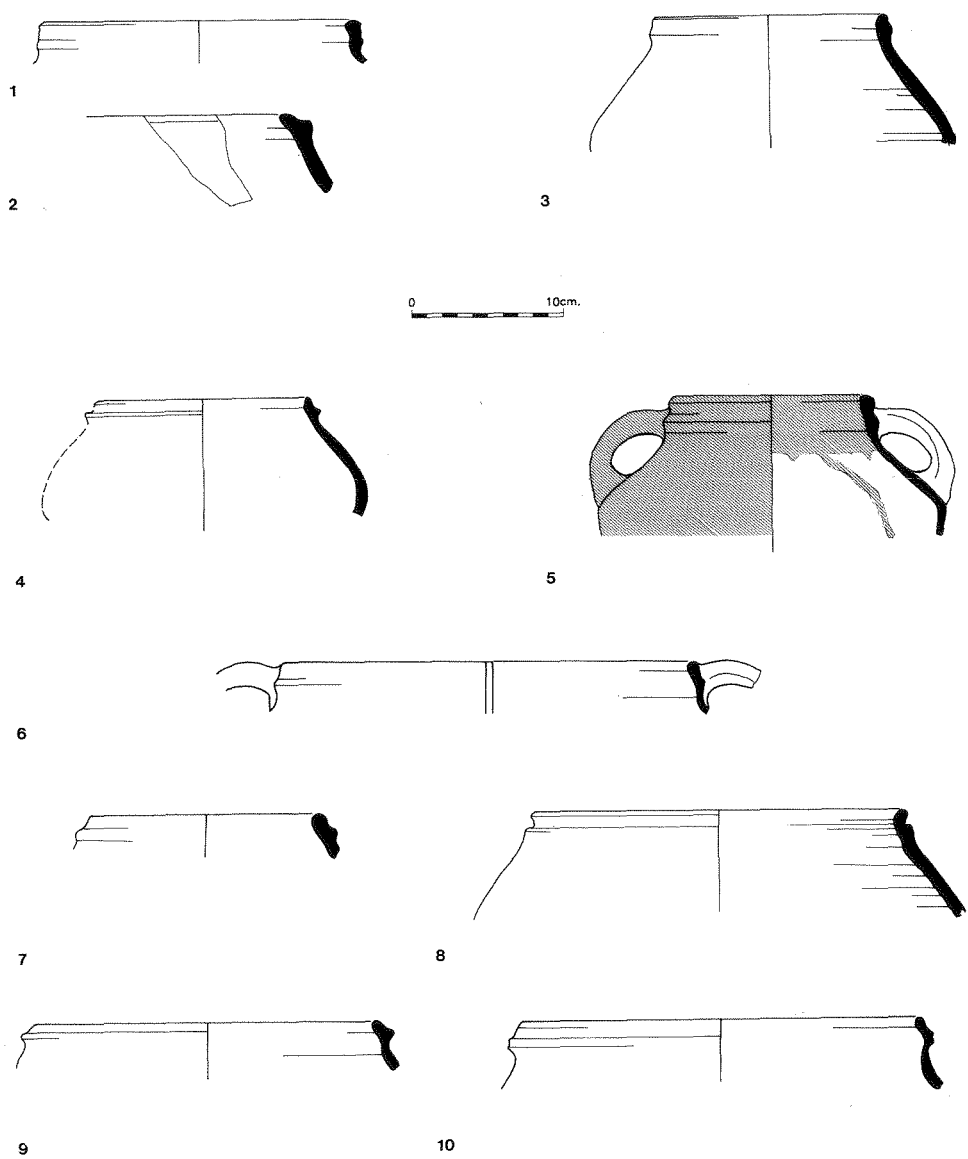

Fig. 3.39. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-3. Level V: Nos. 1–3; Level IV: Nos. 4–10.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Type 693.

Discussion. This group is not large, constituting 12–15% of the cooking pots in both levels. It consists of a range of variants of the concavity and ridge element. It is of interest that of all the elements characterizing cooking pots in these levels, these elements remained and are typical of the open cooking pots of Level III. Despite this, there is no direct typological link between Group V–IV: CP-3 and the later cooking pots.

GROUP V–IV: CP-4

Description. Cooking pots with a thick rim and pronounced ridge in their lower part (Fig. 3.40).

Parallels. No parallels were found in the British excavations.

Discussion. These are identifying cooking pot types found in Level V only. They constitute 12% of all cooking pots in this level. The five pots found at Lachish are remains of an early type which enjoyed wide distribution in the north and south (for parallels and distribution, see Brandfon 1984:44; Fig. 20:11–12). Only on the basis of quantitative comparison of its appearance at other sites will it be possible to determine whether its appearance at Lachish indicates a decline in its use, which would make it the latest, or if the small percentage it constituted at Lachish is also typical of its appearance at other sites.

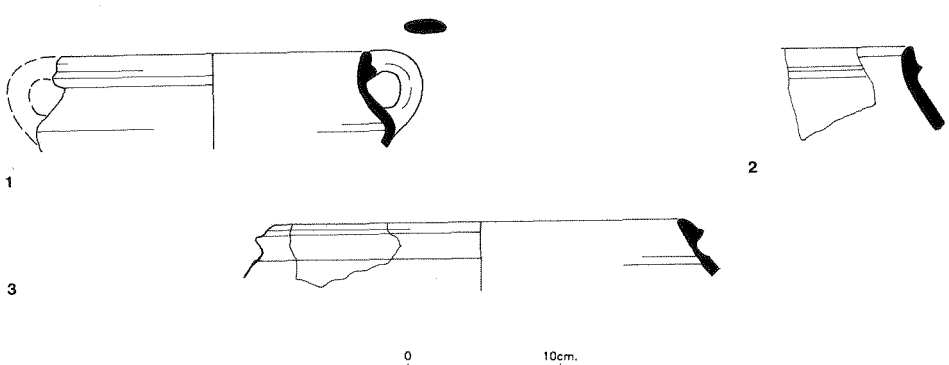

Fig. 3.40. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-4 in Level V.

GROUP V–IV: CP-5

Description. Cooking pots with a short rim, slightly thicker than the walls, with a fine ridge at its bottom (Fig. 3.41). These cooking pots do not occur at all in Level V. In Level IV they constitute 13% of the pots, and thus, they are included among the identifying cooking pot types of this level.

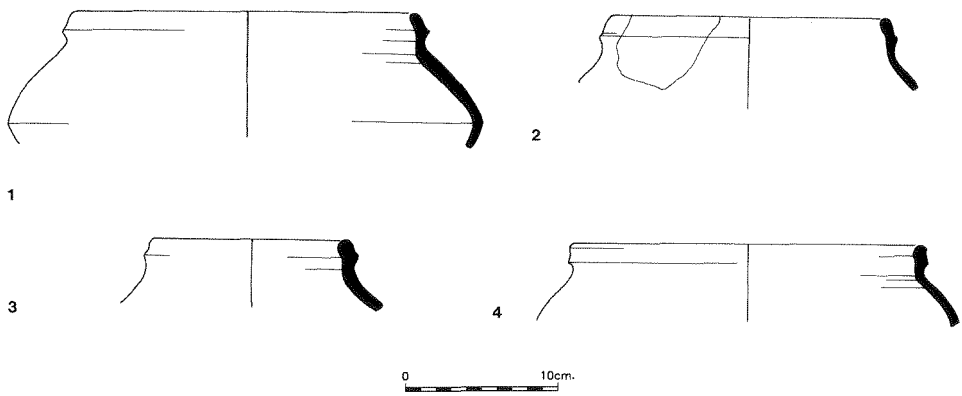

Fig. 3.41. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-5 in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: CP-6

Description. This group includes a variety of rims, all markedly inverted, sometimes creating an almost horizontal rim (Fig. 3.42). Most are inward thickened at the upper edge. Sometimes the inward folding of the rim creates a concavity in the interior of the vessel where the walls are extremely thin.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Type 693.

Discussion. These cooking pots appear in Level V only and are identifying cooking pot types. This is the second largest group, constituting 24% of all pots. They appear at southern sites, including Strata IX–VII at Tel Beer-sheba (Brandfon 1984: Figs. 18:4; 22:1–3, and parallels presented there). Determination of the length of the period during which these cooking pots occur requires a comparative quantitative examination of their appearance at the various sites.

GROUP V–IV: CP-7

Description. These cooking pots have a very thick rim, double the thickness of the walls (Fig. 3.43). They resemble the cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-6 of Level V in that they also have inverted rims. These pots were found in Level IV only and are few and exceptional. They should not, therefore, be regarded as the successors of Group V–IV: CP-6. None appear in Level III.

Cooking Jugs

Description. Cooking jugs with a high neck, plain or slightly thickened and rounded rim, one handle extending from the neck to the shoulder and a nearly globular body (Fig. 3.44). Two types of cooking jugs were found; the difference between them is the clay from which they are made. One type includes cooking jugs made of brown-reddish coloured, well-levigated clay (Fig. 3.44:1–7); the other type includes jugs made of yellow-grey or light brown clay with small chalk grits.

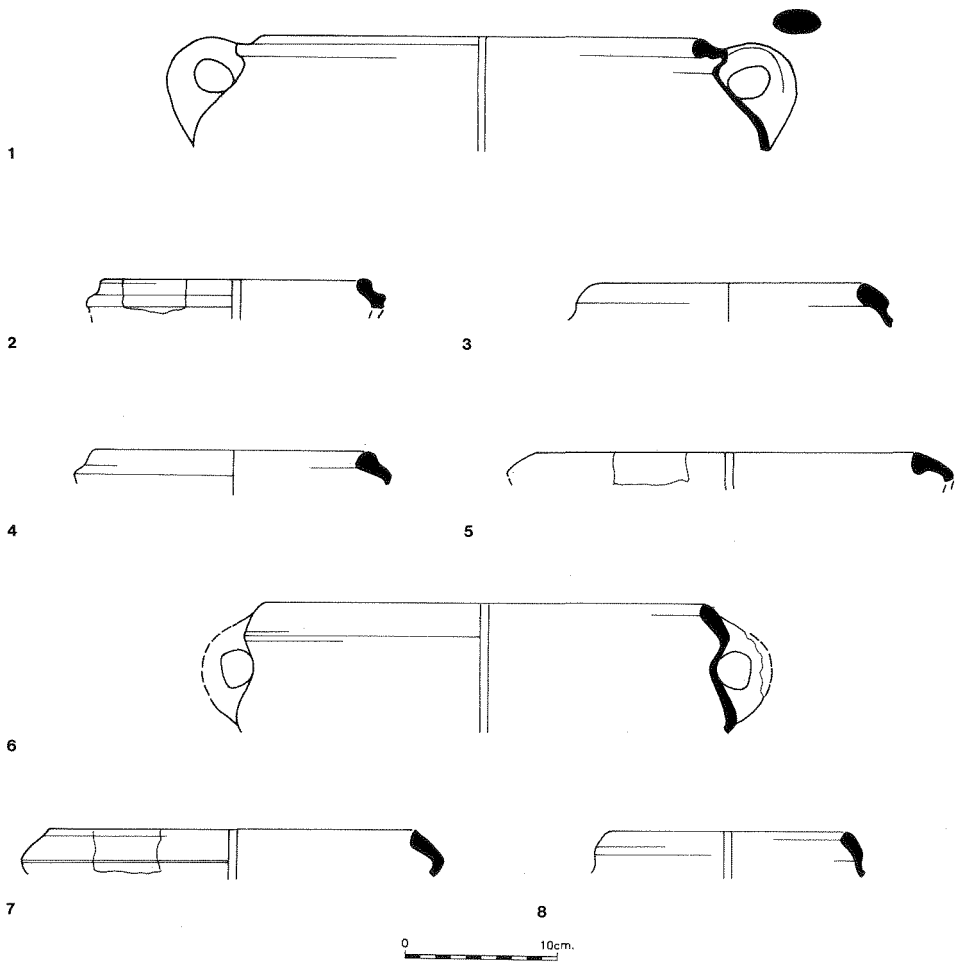

Fig. 3.42. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-6 in Level V.

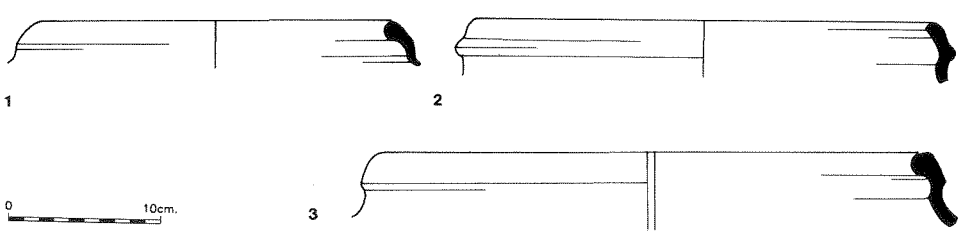

Fig. 3.43. Cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-7 in Level IV.

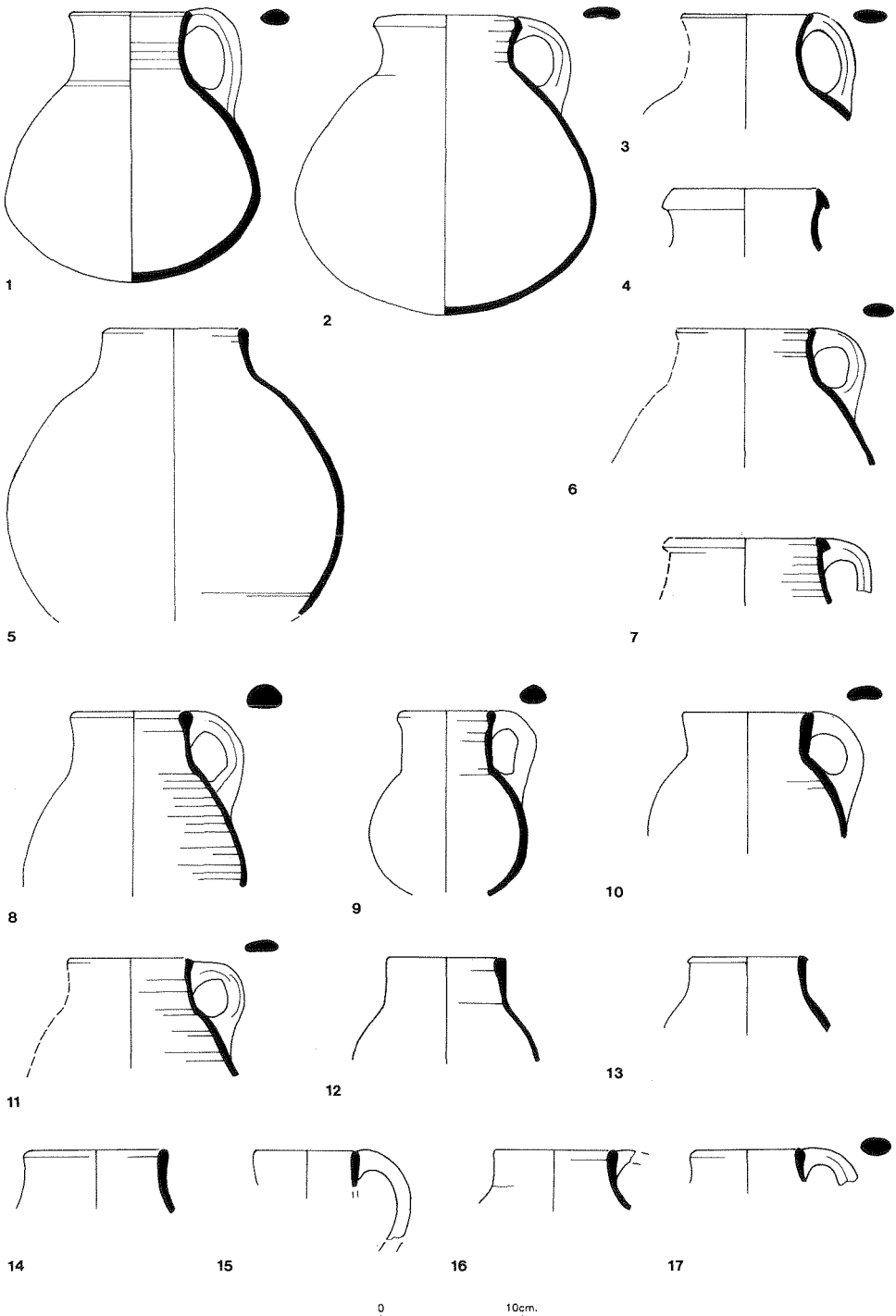

Fig. 3.44. Cooking jugs. Level V: Nos. 4, 10–11, 13, 16; Level IV: Nos. 1–3, 5–9, 14–15, 17.

Discussion. Cooking jugs constitute 11% of all vessels in Level V and 17% of all vessels in Level IV. They are similar in form in both levels. In Level III the cooking jug nearly disappears, and its place in the kitchen is taken by a cooking pot with a high, grooved neck.

The data related to the cooking pots of Levels V and IV are summarized in Table 29 and in the pie-charts in Figure 3.45.

TABLE 29. DIVISION OF COOKING POT GROUPS IN LEVELS V AND IV

Level	CP - 1	CP - 2	CP - 3	CP - 4	CP - 5	CP - 6	CP - 7	Total
Pod. A	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pod. B	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	8
V	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
IV Fills	8	6	4	5	-	6	-	29
V Total	15	6	5	5	-	10	-	41
IV c	10	3	-	-	1	-	2	16
IV b	4	3	2	-	5	-	-	14
IV a	3	14	6	-	1	-	1	25
IV Total	17	20	8	-	7	-	3	55
Total	32	26	13	5	7	10	3	96
% V	37%	15%	12%	12%	0%	24%	0%	100%
% IV	31%	36%	15%	0%	13%	0%	5%	100%

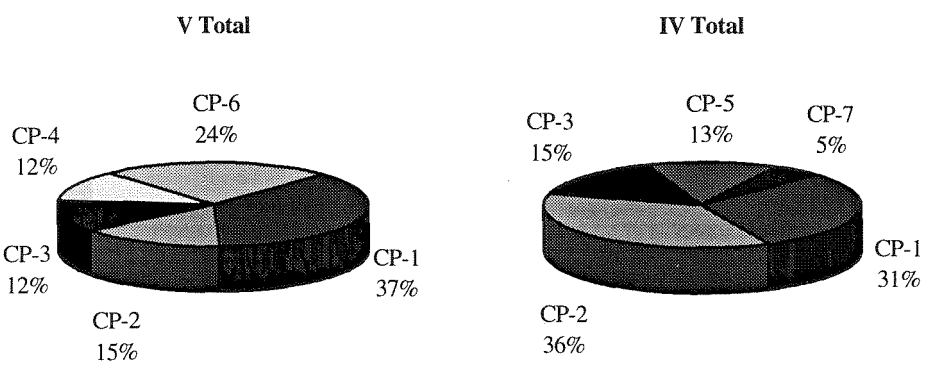

Fig. 3.45. Pie-charts indicating division of cooking pot groups in Levels V and IV.

Storage Jars

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The discussion that follows is based upon 202 storage jar rims which were found in the two levels. Despite the efforts made upon the restoration table, no single storage jar could be entirely restored. As mentioned earlier, the storage jars in the collections of the British Museum were examined in order to obtain an idea concerning complete storage jars. Hence, some of the parallels from the British final report which are mentioned below are based upon the examination of the actual vessels.

The maximum height of the storage jars is approximately 40 cm. Maximum diameter is 30 cm. Some of them are extremely heavy in relation to their size. Most have an oval body, two handles and a small rounded base. The primary differences between them are in the rim design and the manner in which the shoulder is rounded. As the vessels are represented by rim-sherds, these have been divided into groups according to the height of the neck — the highest neck measures 3–4 cm., the lowest approximately 2 cm. — and according to the rim and neck design. Two groups are characterized by a special kind of clay, and on the basis of this criterion, slightly different types were included in the same group. Most of the vessels, however, are made of clay of similar appearance; yellowish-brown or brown-pink with small grits roughly 1 mm. in diameter.

In these levels no identifying storage jar types were encountered. The groups which will be discussed below appear in both levels, sometimes in similar percentages. Except for a few casually shaped vessels, the storage jars presented below do not appear in Level III.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-1

Description. These storage jars have a high neck which ends in a plain and rounded rim (Fig. 3.46). The rim of a few vessels is slightly straightened at the upper end (Fig. 3.46:7). The neck itself is straight or inverted. There is a moderate transition between neck and shoulder, and the shoulder is sometimes rounded and sometimes has a rounded carination.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class S.1: Types 468; 475.

Discussion. This is one of the two largest groups of storage jars. It constitutes 23% of the storage jars in Level V, increasing slightly to 27% in Level IV. Tufnell (Tufnell 1953:312) already noticed that the entire class does not occur in Level III, and this has been confirmed by the renewed excavations. On the other hand, such storage jars do occur in early tombs: Type 468 occurs in Tombs 223; 224 (2); 521; 4005; 6011. Type 475 occurs in Tombs 521 and 6011 (8).

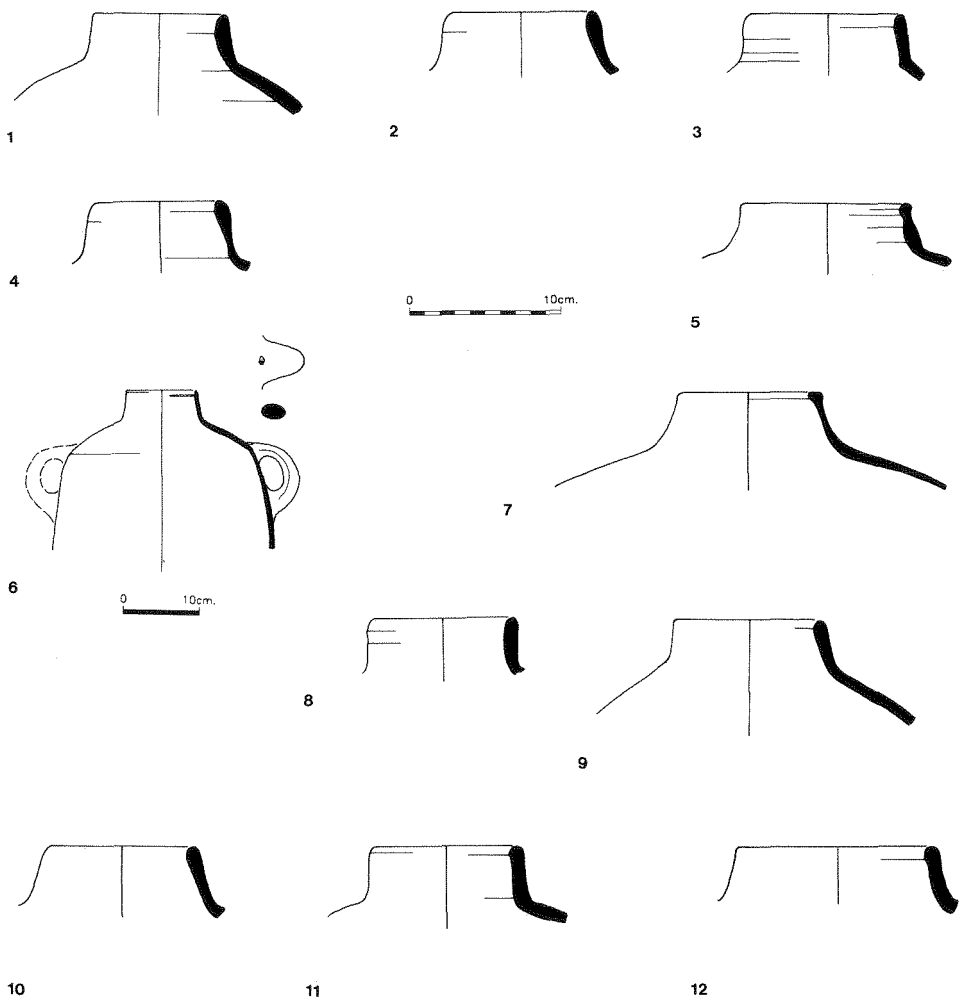

Fig. 3.46. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-1. Level V: Nos. 1–5; Level IV: Nos. 6–12.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-2

Description. Storage jars with a plain, rounded rim and high neck, which is externally treated in one of three ways: a very slight rib at the middle of the neck; sometimes the rib is emphasized by two delicate grooves (Fig. 3.47:10–11); a very shallow concavity running around the middle of the neck (Fig. 3.47:3, 8).

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class S.4: Type 480.

Discussion. This is the fourth largest group; 10% of all storage jars in Level V, 11% in Level IV.

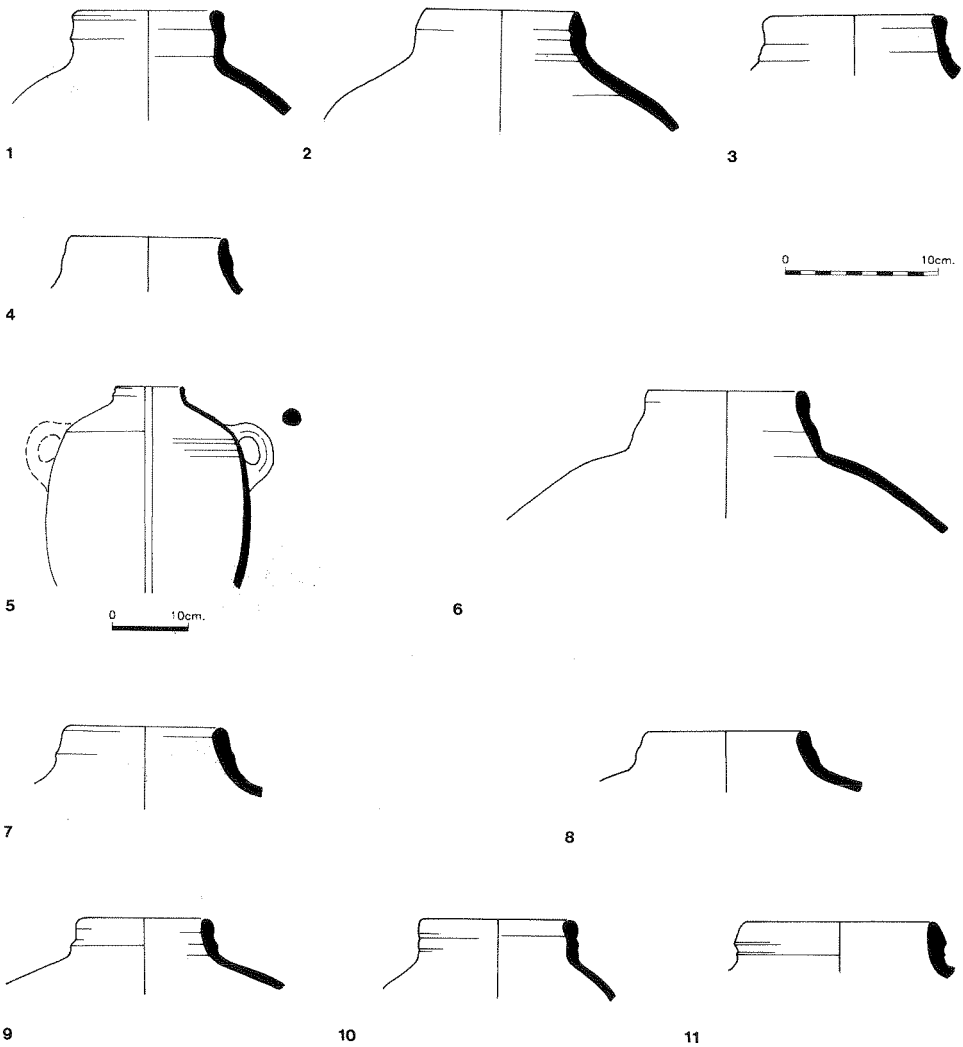

Fig. 3.47. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-2. Level V: Nos. 1–3; Level IV: Nos. 4–11.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-3

Description. Typical of this group of storage jars is the high neck with an emphasized groove. The groove appears near the rounded rim (Fig. 3.48:1–3; 6–8) or in the middle of the neck (Fig. 3.48:4–5; 9–11).

Discussion. This group is one of the two largest groups of storage jars. In Level V it constitutes 21% and in Level IV 29% of all storage jars. Tufnell did not publish any comparable storage jar, and such jars were possibly not utilized as burial offerings. It must be noted that storage jars with a grooved neck rarely appear in Level III; only two such jars were counted in the Level III repertoire of complete storage jars.

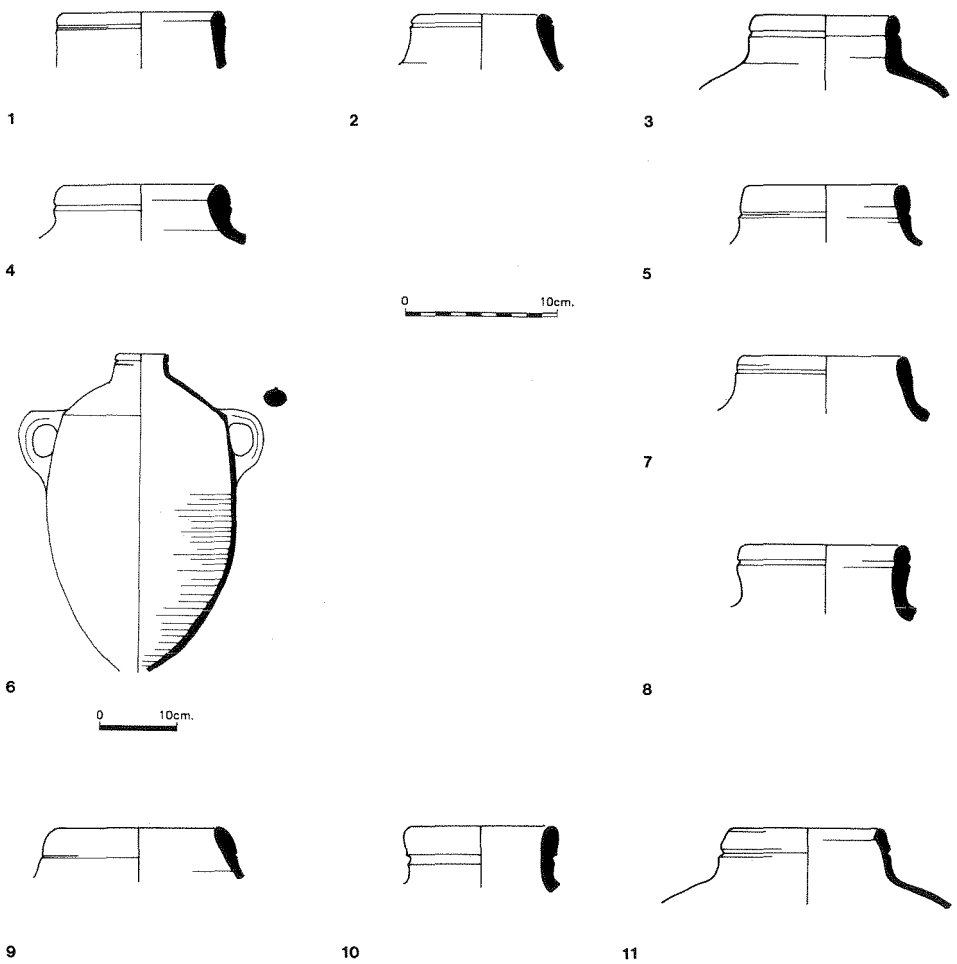

Fig. 3.48. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-3. Level V: Nos. 1–5; Level IV: Nos. 6–11.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-4

Description. These vessels are characterized by a folded neck, straight or slightly inverted; the fold essentially creates the jar rim (Fig. 3.49). It is approximately 2–3 cm. high. The rim itself is plain, rounded or straightened in its upper part. The transition between neck and shoulder is emphasized by a groove marking the fold.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class S.1: Type 473.

Discussion. Based on results of the renewed excavations, this group is the fifth in size. It constitutes 13% of all storage jars in Level V and 6% in Level IV. Type 473 was found in Tombs 116; 123; 182; 218; 223; 230; 4005.

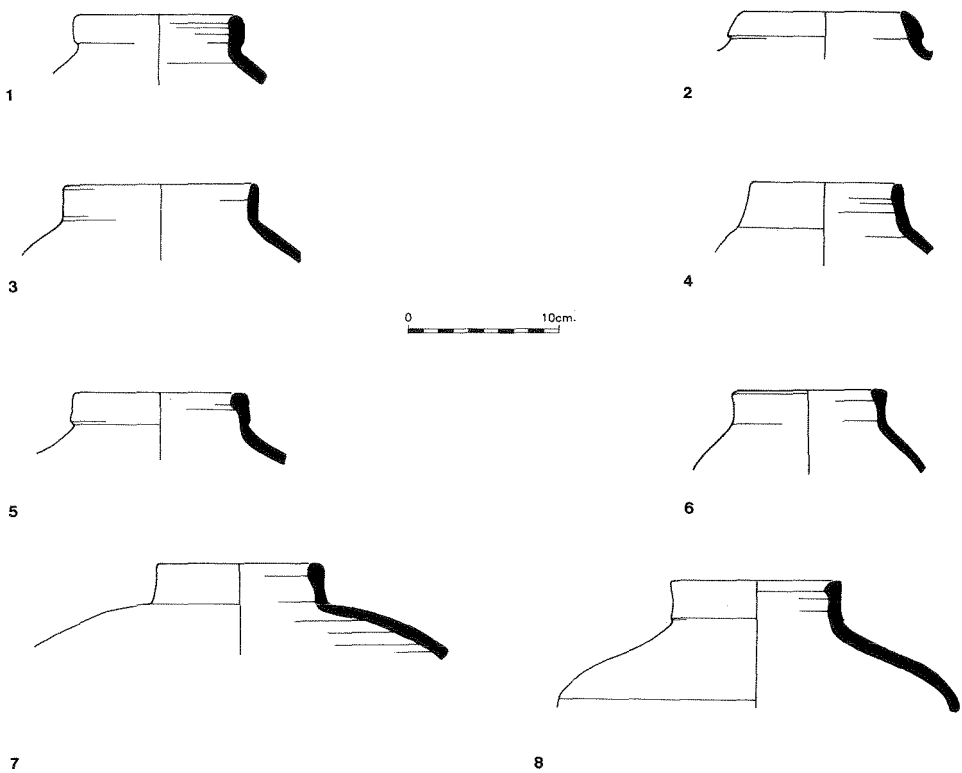

Fig. 3.49. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-4. Level V: Nos. 1–4; Level IV: Nos. 5–8.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-5

Description. These storage jars have a short neck, relatively thick compared to the walls, which in fact may be described as a thickened and rounded rim (Fig. 3.50). Here too, the neck appears to be folded. In one case the joint between neck and shoulder is grooved.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class S.1: Types 474; 476.

Discussion. These storage jars are also included in Tufnell's Class S.1 (above) and were found in many of the early tombs: Type 474 was found in Tombs 118; 223 (2); 224; 507. Type 476 was common in early tombs and was found in Tombs 116; 110; 152; 191; 128; 251; 1002; 1004; 6006 (2); 6024 (2).

On the tel, this group constitutes 20% of the storage jars in Level V. Their numbers decline to 14% in Level IV, and it is the third largest group of the storage jars.

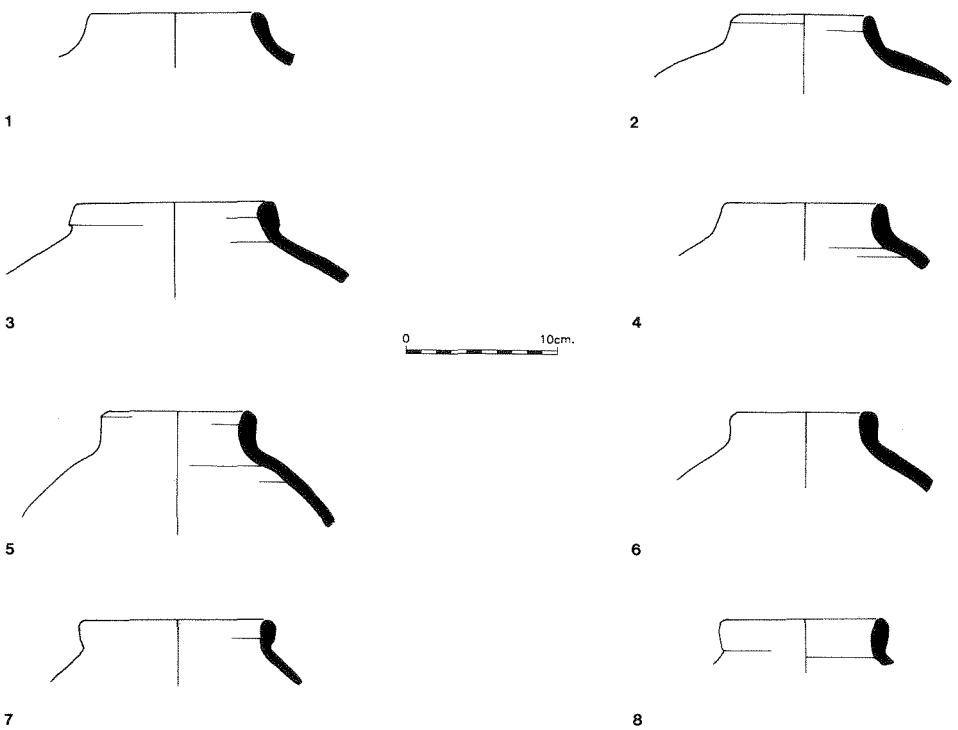

Fig. 3.50. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-5. Level V: Nos. 1–4; Level IV: Nos. 5–8.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-6

Description. Solitary storage jars belong to this group, which is characterized by a pronounced gutter on the inner side of the neck (Fig. 3.51). The neck itself is short and ends in a rounded rim. It is joined to the slanted shoulder of the jar. This group includes two vessels with rims which differ from the others: One rim resembles those of Group V–IV: SJ-5; however, it also has an interior gutter, though a very shallow one (Fig. 3.51:1). The second is a thick rim with a circular section (Fig. 3.51:2), greater in diameter than the average for storage jars. It is not clear to what kind of vessel it belonged.

Discussion. This is the sixth largest group of storage jars, constituting 7% of the total in Level V and 4% in Level IV.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-7

Description. The vessels belonging to this group were found broken at the joint between neck and shoulder (Fig. 3.52). They have a thin neck, 4 cm. high. Despite differences in rim form, it is important to present them as a single group,

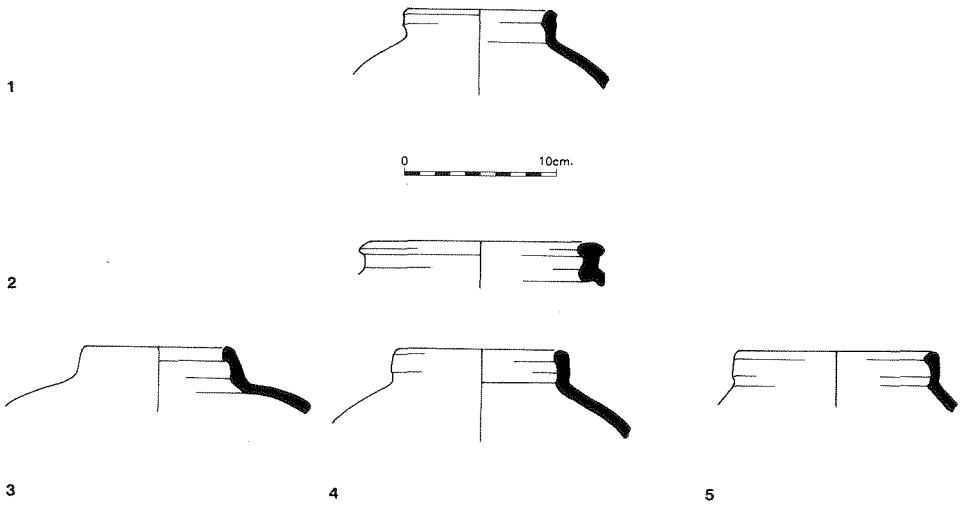

Fig. 3.51. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-6. Level V: No. 1; Level IV: Nos. 2–5.

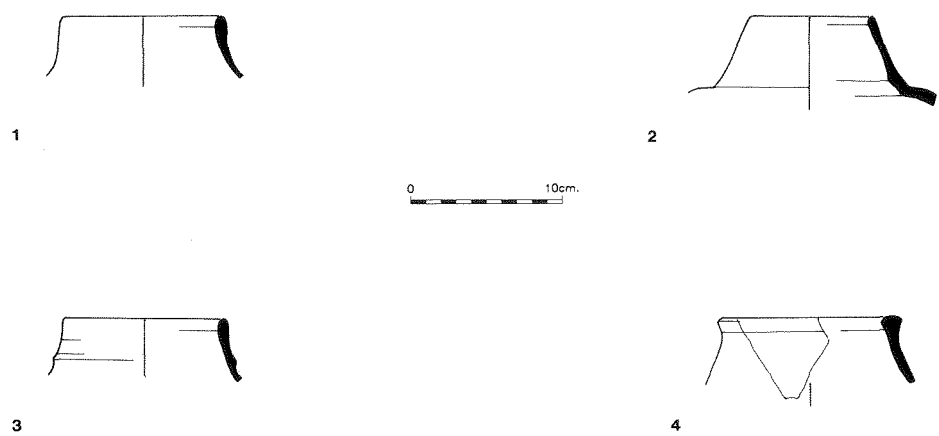

Fig. 3.52. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-7. Level V: Nos. 1–2; Level IV: Nos. 3–4.

since the material from which the vessels are made, brown-red clay with many white grits, similar to the clay of the Judean Royal storage jars (*lmlk* storage jars; see Chapter 5) of Level III, differs from that of the other storage jars.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class S.1: Type 477.

Discussion. These vessels constitute only 3% of all storage jars in Level V and 4% in Level IV. The thin, high neck makes it possible to identify a similar storage jar found in Tomb 521. Despite the similarity in clay and rim form to the Royal Judean storage jars of Level III, this two-handled storage jar has so far not been shown to be the predecessor of the Royal Judean storage jar type.

Nonetheless, in the future, its possible identification in considerable numbers in contemporary strata at other sites and comparative examinations of clay composition may well shed new light on the relatively sudden appearance of the Royal Judean storage jar in Level III.

GROUP V–IV: SJ-8

Description. The storage jars of this group differ from the other storage jars, both in design and fabric (Fig. 3.53). They have a high neck, generally with one or two pronounced horizontal ribs. The rim is shaped and has a triangular cross section. The base of these vessels is broad and flatter than those of other storage jars. This group includes storage jars of various neck and rim types, but all are made of the same special clay characterized by sandy appearance, a very light colour, i.e. pink or yellow, and the presence of iron oxide.

Parallels. Tufnell 1953: Class S.4: Type 481.

Discussion. These constitute 3% of all storage jars of Level V and 4% of those in Level IV. This group is similar to a storage jar from Tomb 6011, among the earliest of the Iron Age tombs published by Tufnell. The search for parallels to this storage jar group is presently at a dead end. The ribbed neck is a

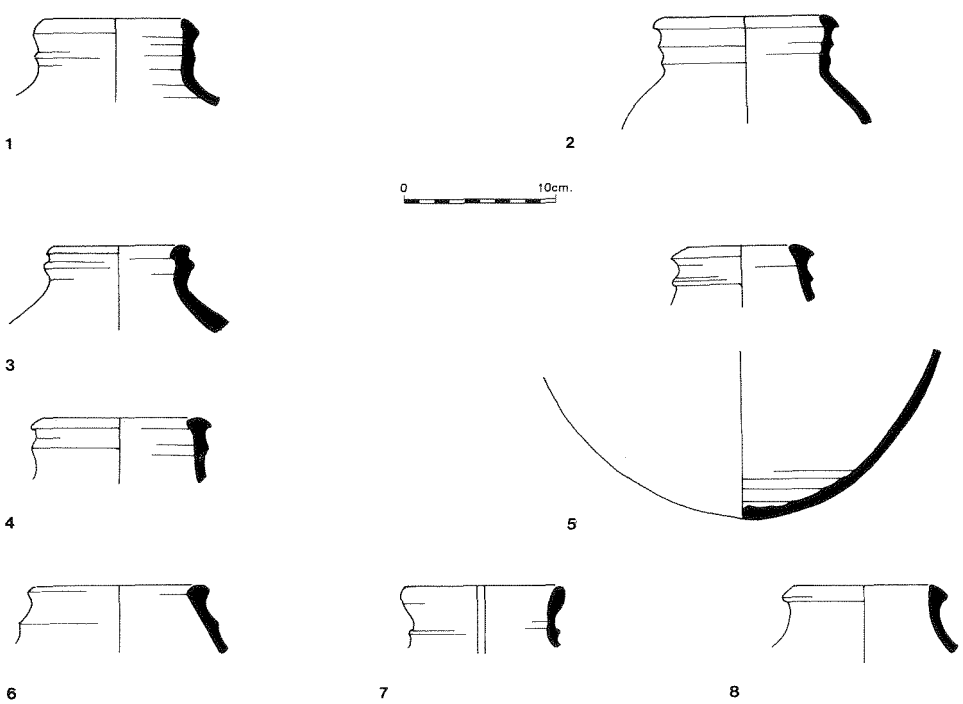

Fig. 3.53. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ-8. Level V: Nos. 1–2; Level IV: Nos. 3–8.

misleading element. In drawings of vessels it might lead to comparison with inappropriate vessels types, such as the 'Hippo storage jars', typical of the north of the country. Because of the unusual clay which characterizes this group, the vessels themselves must be viewed.

GROUP V–IV: SJ VARIA

Description. The relatively small sherds made precise definition of these vessels difficult (Fig. 3.54). They would appear to be rims of the holemouth type, as they are thickened at the edge and inverted. Until an entire vessel is found, it will be difficult to determine to what type of vessels these rims belong. They

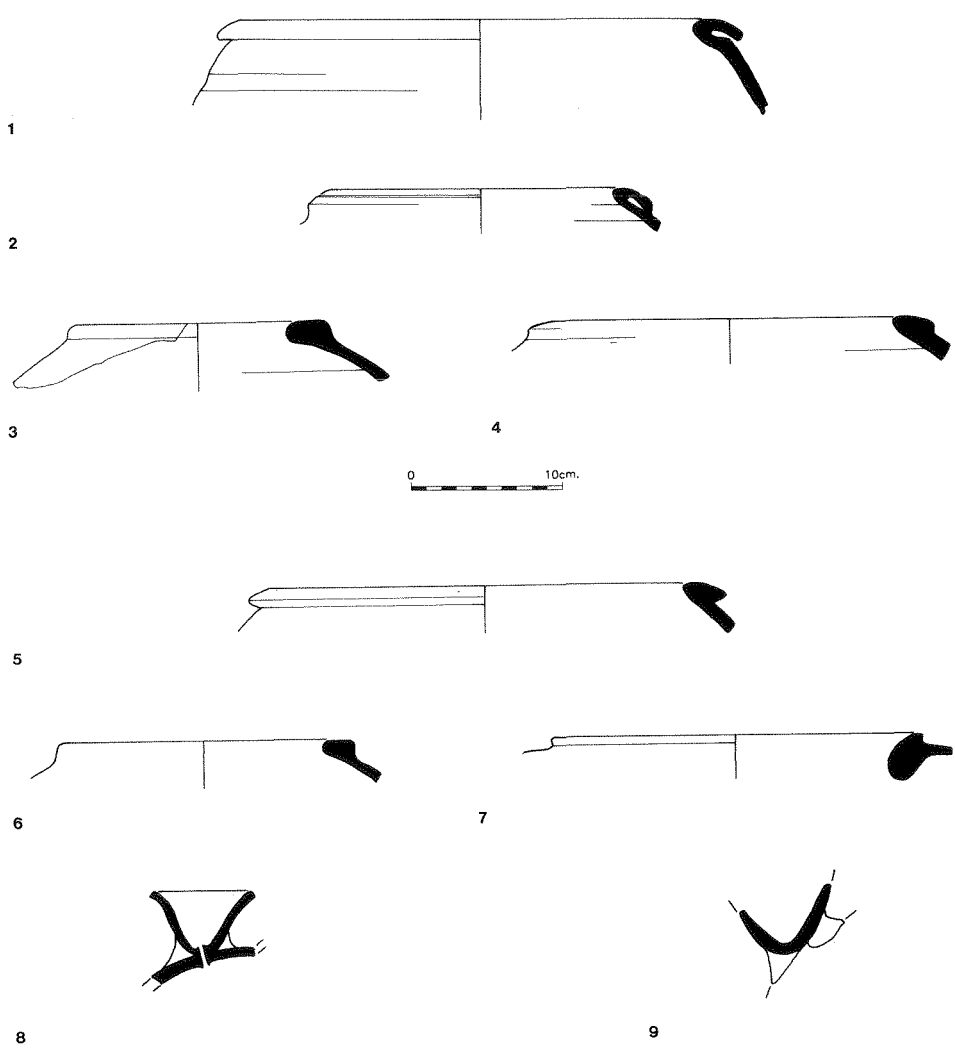

Fig. 3.54. Storage jars of Group V–IV: SJ Varia. Level V: Nos. 1–4; Level IV: Nos. 5–9.

appear to be similar to holemouth storage jar rims common in Level III; however there are other possibilities, such as deep, closed kraters. Only one pithos rim-sherd (Fig. 3.54:7) was encountered in Level IV. Two fragments of storage jars with spouts (Fig. 3.54:8–9) were also found. The small number of storage jar rims discussed here indicates that storage jars of this group first appeared prior to the 8th century, but were rare during this period. In addition to these, in Area GE, Level IV, a fragment of a 'torpedo storage jar' was found, the only one encountered thus far prior to Level III. The storage jars belonging to this group were not included in the statistical pottery summary.

A numerical and graphic summary of the storage jars from Levels V and IV is presented in Table 30 and in Figure 3.55.

TABLE 30. DIVISION OF STORAGE JAR GROUPS IN LEVELS V AND IV

Level	SJ - 1	SJ - 2	SJ - 3	SJ - 4	SJ - 5	SJ - 6	SJ - 7	SJ - 8	Total
Pod. A	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pod. B	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3
V	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	6
IV Fills	13	6	8	8	10	3	2	1	51
V Total	14	6	13	8	12	4	2	2	61
IV c	17	5	6	2	8	3	4	-	45
IV b	12	9	27	4	9	3	2	6	72
IV a	9	1	8	3	3	-	-	-	24
IV Total	38	15	41	9	20	6	6	6	141
Total	52	21	54	17	32	10	8	8	202
% V	23%	10%	21%	13%	20%	7%	3%	3%	100%
% IV	27%	11%	29%	6%	14%	4%	4%	4%	100%

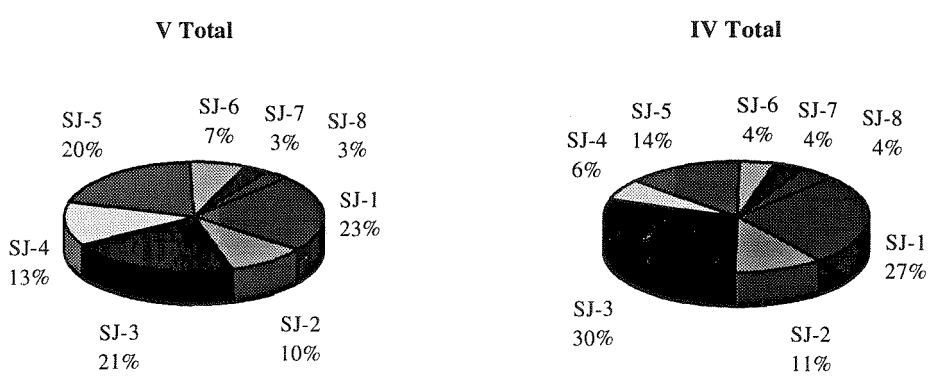

Fig. 3.55. Pie-charts indicating percentages of storage jar groups in Levels V and IV.

The Bowls from Locus 4421 in Area GW

PROVENANCE

As noted in the introduction, the stratigraphic provenance of the vessels is problematic. They were found in the course of excavation of a square opened to examine the fill which supported Wall 'a' of the roadway ascending to the Levels IV–III city gate (Fig. 3.1:5). This indicates that they are earlier than the period of use of the roadway in Level III and earlier than the pottery assemblages associated with the destruction of Level III. There is, however, no way to determine when in the course of constructing the roadway the fill was laid. This vessel deposit primarily included bowls and single vessels of other types. At least 300 bowls, complete or large fragments, and at least 140 rim and base fragments were found which could be assigned to groups. The many complete bowls indicate that in dumping the fill, a nearby structure was cleared. The ambiguous nature of the location and dissimilarity to other assemblages known from Lachish (in Level IV only a few bowls similar to those of this assemblage were found) make it necessary to discuss and classify these bowls separately.

GROUP A

Description. Very flat bowls, reaching approximately 20 cm. in diameter. The rim is plain and slightly thicker than the walls. The base is flat or a very low disc. The bowls are unslipped and unburnished and made of light coloured, yellowish-grey or brown-orange clay with many small chalk grits. Three variants have been noted:

1. Bowls with straight sides (Fig. 3.56:1–2):	30 bowls.
2. Bowls with slightly stepped sides and everted rim (Fig. 3.56:3–5):	20 bowls.
3. Bowls with slightly convex sides (Fig. 3.56:6–7):	10 bowls.

Discussion. The first two variants are similar in form, clay and the absence of surface treatment to bowls of Group V–IV: B-1 described above. The difference is in the number of vessels; four bowls in Level IV vs. 50 in this deposit. As stated, similar bowls continue to appear in Level III; however, these are generally wheel burnished in a circular pattern (Zimhoni 1990: Fig. 3:7; 10; also this volume, Chapter 5: Fig. 5.4:7, 10). Summing up, the large number of bowls indicates that they belong to a period during which use of these types was very widespread. Their rarity in Level IV hints at the possibility that they are later than Level IV assemblages. On the other hand, the fact that among this large group of bowls there is not a single burnished bowl makes it difficult to assume that these vessels belong to an assemblage from the end of Level III.

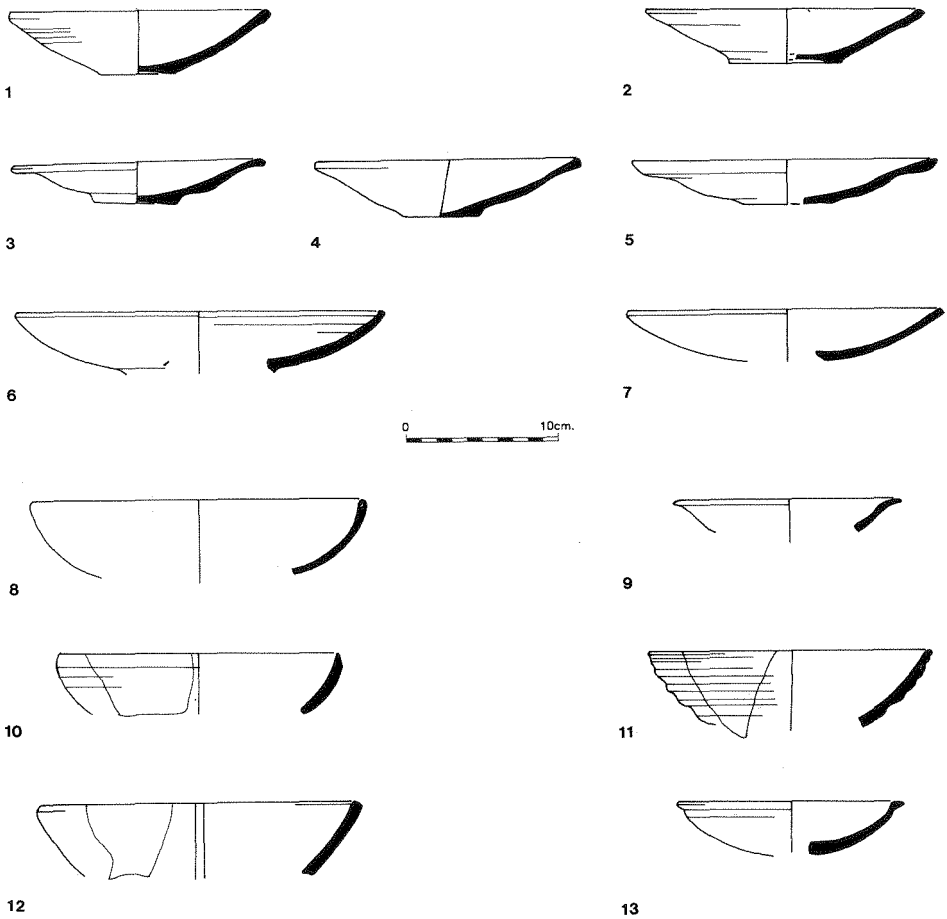

Fig. 3.56. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group A: Nos. 1–7; Group B: Nos. 8–13.

GROUP B

Description. Broad bowls of similar dimensions and clay to the bowls of Group A. They have a plain rim and rounded walls, 0.5–0.6 cm. thick, and lack slip or burnish (Fig. 3.56:8–10; 12). Bases which may be clearly attributed to these bowls have not been found. Two of the bowls (Fig. 3.56:11, 13) are smaller than the rest and their rims are slightly everted.

A total of 15 bowls was found. No similar bowls were uncovered in Level IV assemblages.

GROUP C

Description. Approximately hemispherical bowls; diameter not more than 15 cm., thin walls, 0.2–0.4 cm. The rim is plain and of the same thickness as the walls

or thinner. The bowls are made of well-levigated clay. Characteristic of this group is a wide variety of slip and burnish and combinations thereof. Three bowls are particularly noteworthy: Two bowls (Fig. 3.57:4–5) lack slip and are light yellowish-brown in colour with very dense irregular burnish on the interior. The third bowl (Fig. 3.57:6) is also burnished on the outer edges; the thickness of the walls, colour of the clay and burnish give it an ostrich-eggshell appearance.

A total of 28 bowls with the following surface treatments was found:

1. Red-slipped interior and exterior edges: 22 bowls.
2. Horizontal, irregular or hand-burnished interior: 21 bowls.
3. Dense, hand-burnished interior: 1 bowl.
4. 'Eggshell' appearance: 1 bowl.
5. Black slipped, irregularly burnished: 1 bowl.
6. No surface treatment: 1 bowl.
7. Wheel burnished at irregular intervals on interior: 1 bowl.

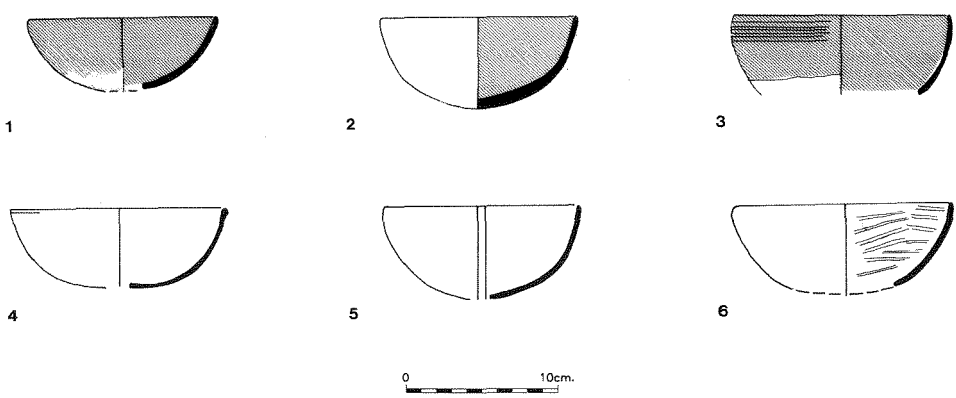

Fig. 3.57. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group C.

GROUP D

Description. These thin, rounded bowls with a plain rim are similar in size and form to Group C bowls. The upper part of the walls received special treatment in various ways: an interior ridge near the rim; rim area slightly everted and grooved on the exterior; upper part of bowl inwardly thickened. A total of 8 bowls was found (Fig. 3.58) with the following surface treatments:

1. Red-slipped interior and exterior edges: 1 bowl.
2. Irregularly burnished slip: 1 bowl.
3. No surface treatment: 6 bowls.

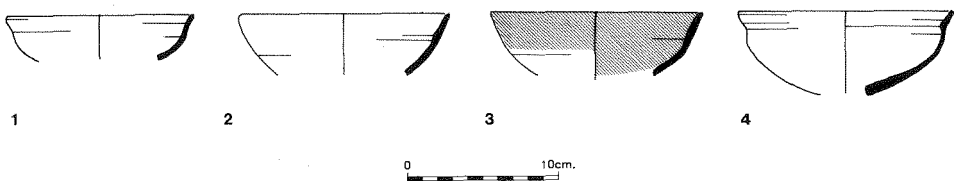

Fig. 3.58. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group D.

GROUP E

Description. Bowls with rounded walls, particularly thin and fine, approximately 15 cm. in diameter (Fig. 3.59). Two-thirds of the way up the wall is a carination or groove from which the wall opens outward, ending in a thin, plain rim. The delicate workmanship and form are reminiscent of the 'Assyrian' bowls dated to the end of the 8th century B.C.E. The clay is orange or red-brown and wheel burnished at irregular intervals. One fragment (Fig. 3.59:7) has hand-pattern burnish. A total of 12 examples was found.

Discussion. A similar bowl, Type 611 from Tomb 120, was included in the British report (Tufnell 1953:323) among the various bowls (Misc.). No bowls of this type were found in Level IV.

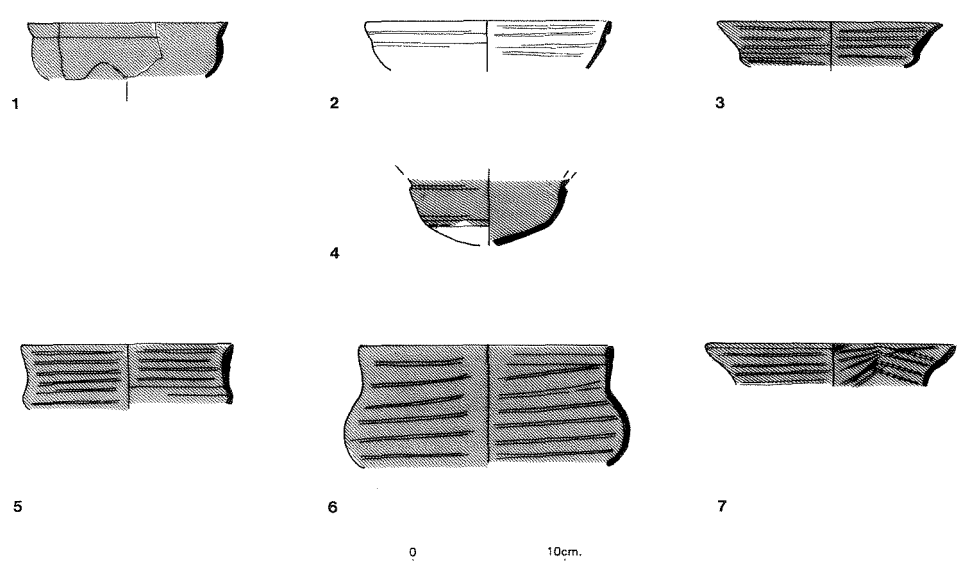

Fig. 3.59. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group E.

GROUP F

Description. Rounded bowls, 15 cm. in diameter with a plain rim, characterized by a bar-like decoration on one side of the bowl along a third of its circumference (Fig. 3.60). The walls are 0.3 cm. thick and delicately shaped in a manner similar to the bowls of the groups discussed above. Unlike them, however, the slipped and burnished bowls of this group are made of clay combined with considerable chalk grit. The bowls lacking slip are treated in a manner similar to the ostrich-eggshell style bowl of Group C. While no join between bowl and base could be made, these bowls would appear to have stood on low disc bases.

A total of 20 bowls was found, two with small lug handles:

1. Red-slipped interior and edge of exterior:	13 bowls.
2. Pattern or irregularly burnished interior on slip:	2 bowls.
3. Pattern or irregular burnish, unslipped:	3 bowls.
4. No surface treatment:	1 bowl.
5. Wheel-burnish on both sides:	1 bowl.

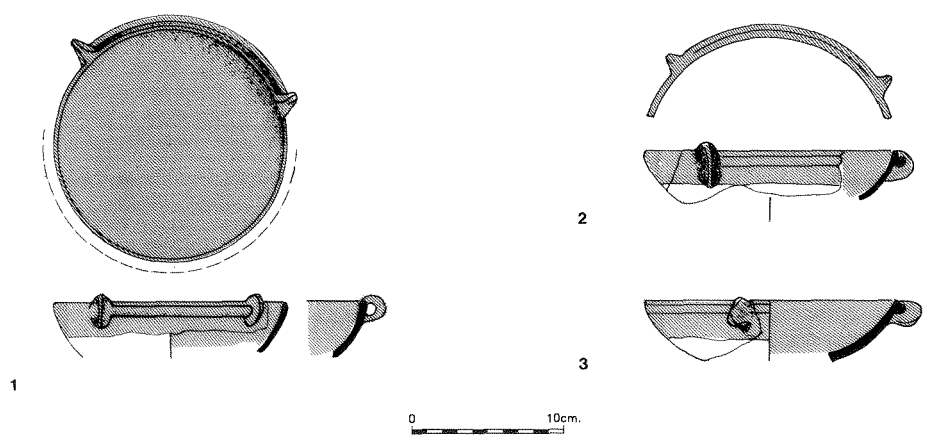

Fig. 3.60. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group F.

GROUP G

Description. A large group of bowls with nearly identical measurements, but clay colour and surface treatment varying considerably (Fig. 3.61:1–16). The diameter measures ca. 15 cm. A blunt carination occurs at the joint between the base and the walls of the bowls. The base is broad, ca. 10 cm. in diameter. The bowl is thrown from the centre of the base upward; when it is placed upon a flat

surface, the centre of the base is the only part that touches that surface. Despite the use of clay rich in grits, these bowls are created with considerable delicacy. The walls become thinner toward the rim. In several cases, the burnish upon the bowls is not well preserved; therefore, mainly the signs of contact between the burnishing tool and the bowl are visible today, while the gloss itself has disappeared over the years.

A total of 16 complete bowls was found, treated as follows:

1. Slipped interior and slipped exterior to line of base:	2 bowls.
2. Densely hand-burnished interior:	1 bowl.
3. Hand-burnish in circles at irregular intervals on interior:	1 bowl.
4. Hand-burnish in patterns on slip on interior:	1 bowl.
5. Slipped and densely wheel-burnished interior; slipped exterior up to line of base:	3 bowls.
6. Slipped and densely wheel-burnished interior:	4 bowls.
7. Slipped interior and exterior; dense wheel-burnish:	1 bowl.
8. White wash on interior; wheel burnished:	1 bowl.
9. Unslipped; widely spaced wheel-burnish on interior:	2 bowls.

A total of 80 rims was found, treated as follows:

1. Slipped interior; burnished:	73 rims.
2. Slipped interior and exterior; burnished:	21 rims.
3. Slipped; unburnished:	2 rims.
4. Densely hand burnished:	8 rims.
5. Irregularly hand burnished:	6 rims.
6. Surface untreated:	7 rims.
7. Dense wheel-burnish or widely spaced circles:	72 rims.

44 bases were treated as follows:

1. Unslipped:	2 bases.
2. Dense wheel-burnish:	6 bases.
3. Wheel burnished in widely spaced circles:	at least 11 bases.

GROUP H

Description. These bowls are similar in design, size and surface treatment to those of Group G; however, all have a shallow concavity at the centre of the base in the interior (Fig. 3.61:17–22). This is reminiscent of the concavity on the 'fish

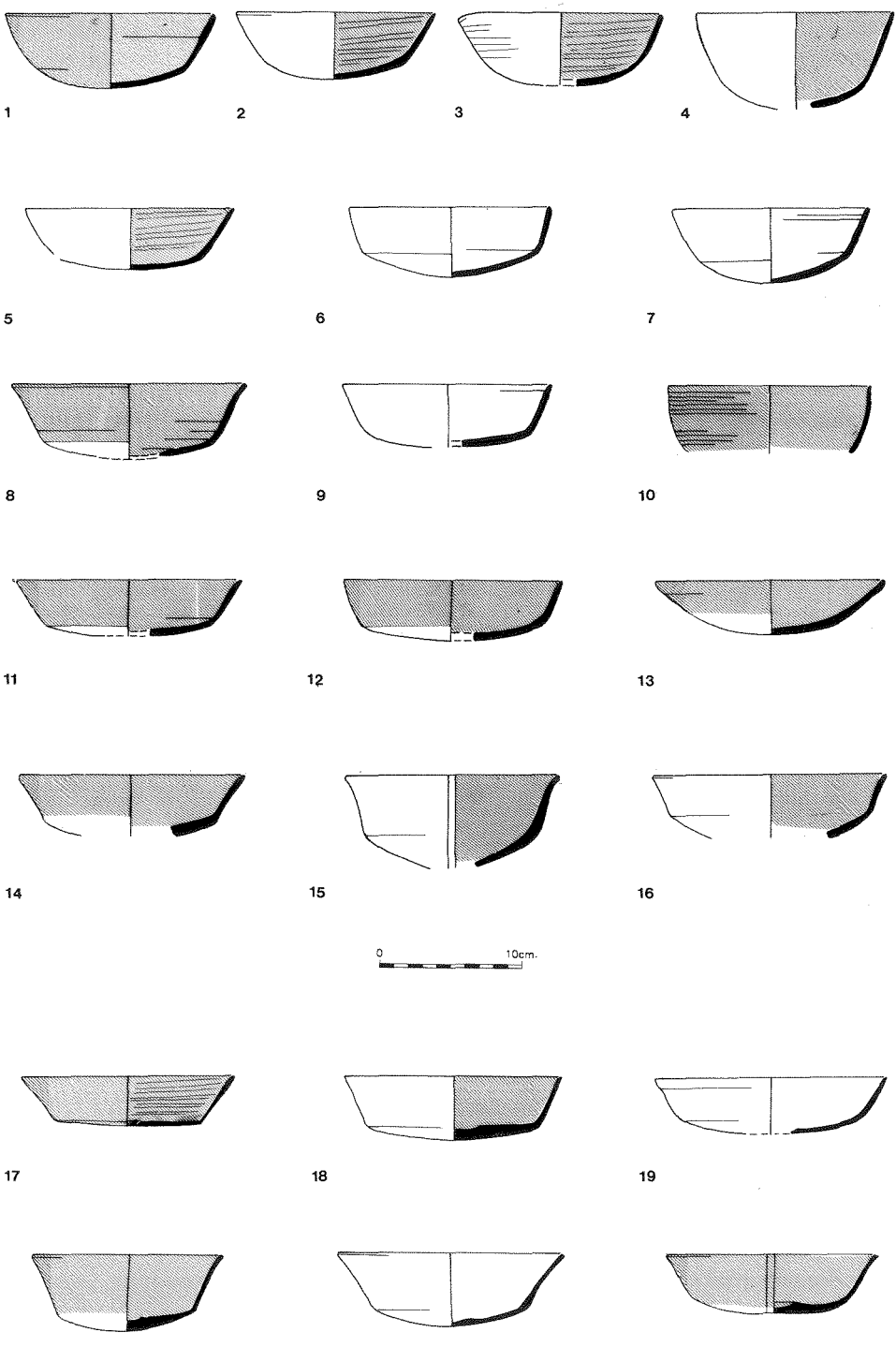

Fig. 3.61. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group G: Nos. 1–16; Group H: Nos. 17–22.

bowls' of the Hellenistic period. These bowls may be assumed to have had a special function.

A total of five complete bowls and 21 bases was found:

1. Slipped interior and on exterior to the line of the base; wheel-burnish: 3 bowls.
2. Unslipped; dense wheel-burnished interior: 3 bowls.
3. White wash on interior and exterior; unburnished: 1 bowl.

Bases:

1. Slipped interior and on exterior to the line of the base; dense wheel-burnish: 10 bases.
2. Slipped as above; irregular burnish: 4 bases.
3. Burnish (type of burnish difficult to define): 7 bases.

Discussion of Groups G–H: The bowls are characterized by thin, everted walls, low carination where the walls attach to the base and a broad, rounded base. Few fragments of such bowls (Group V–IV: B-19) were found in Level IV, where they represent 4% of all bowls in that level. In the deposit being examined here, bowls from both groups constitute at least 14% of all bowls. In assemblages associated with the destruction of Level III, bowls with similar walls and low carination were found; however, the innovation in the design of later bowls is, in most cases, the addition of a small base, generally flat or disc shaped. The late bowls are all wheel burnished and some slipped. In Groups G–H as well the appearance of wheel-burnished bowls side-by-side with hand-burnished bowls is striking. This phenomenon was not noted among the hand-burnished Level IV bowls. These data indicate that the bowls of Groups G–H are more developed than those which appeared in Level IV, but they still lack the features of Level III bowls. It would seem, therefore, that they should be viewed as a transitional assemblage between the two levels.

The thin bowls with a rounded base were included by Tufnell in Class B.6, which includes Types 88, 91 and 93, which have a concave base, similar to those from Group H. Tufnell noted that these bowls appear with hand-burnish or wheel-burnish (Tufnell 1953:272), a phenomenon also noted in regard to the bowls in this assemblage. Tufnell also noted hand- and wheel-burnish on the same bowl and regarded this combined technique as evidence of 'the transitional nature of the form'. The bowls were found in several tombs (Tufnell 1953:272), however not in those in which grooved bowls of Groups V–IV: B-5 and B-6, typical of Levels IV and V, were found. Tufnell's explanation of the artifacts from the tombs is related to her proposal that these vessels belong to a transitional assemblage.

GROUP I

Description. Small bowls, approximately 15 cm. in diameter, blunt carination on the lower third or middle of the bowl and a low disc base, 5 cm. in diameter. Plain rim, sometimes the same thickness as the 0.4–0.5 cm. walls, sometimes thinner (Fig. 3.62:1–4). The bowls are unslipped. Two of the five bowls show signs of burnish, apparently widely spaced wheel-burnishing.

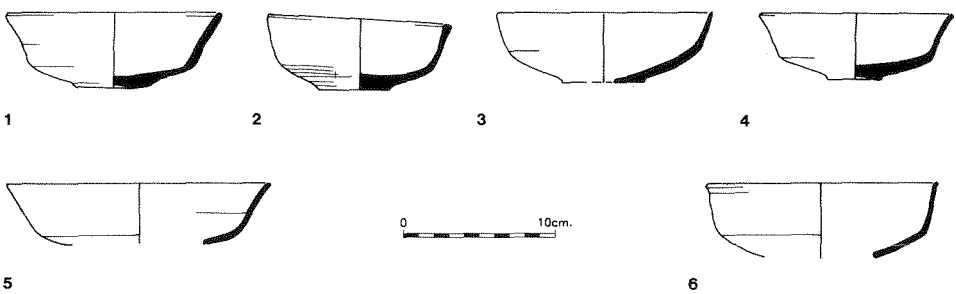

Fig. 3.62. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group I: Nos. 1–4; Group J: Nos. 5–6.

GROUP J

Description. Bowls similar in dimensions to those of Group H, but the carination is lower and sharper, and the walls are everted (Fig. 3.62:5–6). The rim is plain and thinner than the walls. Some show signs of slip of the same colour as the clay and are unburnished. Thirty-three bowl fragments were found, but these possibly include fragments from Group I bowls. Likewise, 15 disc bases, which appear to be related to these bowls, were uncovered.

A certain similarity between these bowls and some of the bowls of Groups H-G is apparent. The difference between them is that the unslipped bowls have a disc base, while the slipped bowls of Groups H-G have a broad, rounded base.

Discussion of Groups I–J: Several bowls in both groups are similar to the Group V–IV: B-15 bowls of Level IV. In the latter, the group constitutes 4% of all bowls, while in this deposit they constitute 12% of all the bowls. Unlike the bowls found in Level IV, which entirely lack burnish, some of the bowls in this deposit are hand or wheel burnished. From this standpoint, these bowls surprisingly resemble those found in Level III, which include several wheel-burnished examples (Zimhoni 1990: Fig. 3:8, 9, 11; also this volume, Chapter 5: Fig. 5.4:8, 9, 11).

GROUP K

Description. Small, carinated bowls, somewhat similar in shape to Group J bowls which have a plain rim, while bowls from Group K have a straightened, slightly everted rim and are unslipped. Bases which may be related to these bowls with certainty were not found. The bowls may be divided into two types: 1) Thin bowls (Fig. 3.63:1–5, 7) with walls 0.4 cm. thick, made of well-levigated clay. Of these, 15 sherds, eight densely wheel burnished, were found. 2) Bowls with 0.7 cm. thick walls (Fig. 3.63:6, 8) with many grits. These are also unslipped and show no signs of burnish. Twenty sherds were found.

Discussion. There is some similarity between these bowls and those of Group V–IV: B-13, found in Level IV. In Group V–IV: B-12 there are also bowls with a straightened, everted rim, similar to the rim in this group. Possibly bowl Type B.7:9, which according to Tufnell is unburnished, is similar to these bowls.

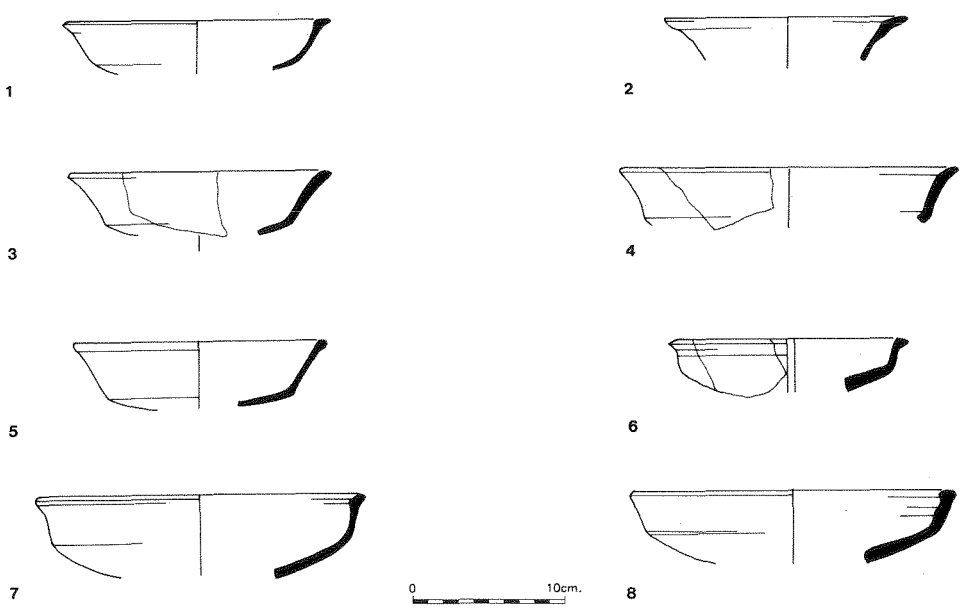

Fig. 3.63. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group K.

GROUP L

Description. Broad bowls with diameters up to 30 cm., carinated or carinated-rounded walls and flattened, slightly everted rims (Figs. 3.64–3.65). In some of these bowls, the upper edge of the bowl was folded inward and pressed, straightened and pulled outward. As a result, a pronounced groove was created on

the inside of the rim. These bowls have a disc base (8 bases were found) or a shallow ring base (14 bases were found). The clay is a variety of brown-orange shades, and nearly all have a surface treatment on at least the interior. A special 'coloured' slipping technique may be observed on some of the bowls (Fig. 3.64:1–5). The surface of the bowls was unevenly slipped on the interior with a thin slip in colours different from the typical red. The colours achieved are pink-brown and dark grey. The bowls appear as if they were covered with stripes of various shades after they were burnished (wheel-burnish in dense circles or hand-burnish). The burnishing technique observed on the 'coloured' bowls of Level IV, i.e. parallel lines along the edge of the rim and diagonal lines on the interior, does not appear on these bowls.

Thirty-two bowls and 30 rim-sherds were found, treated as follows:

1. Slipped interior and exterior up to line of carination:	16 bowls and rim-sherds.
2. Slipped interior and exterior:	2 bowls and rim-sherds.
3. Slipped interior:	14 bowls and rim-sherds.
4. Burnished, unslipped:	16 bowls and rim-sherds.
5. No surface treatment:	1 example.
6. Hand burnished:	4 bowls and rim-sherds.
7. Wheel burnished:	17 bowls and rim-sherds.

Discussion. There is an obvious similarity between these bowls and bowl rims belonging to Group V–IV: B-18 in Level IV. This is the only group in Level IV in which some of the bowls were wheel burnished. The Group V–IV: B-18 bowls constitute 1% of all bowls in Level IV, while in the deposit under discussion, the Group L bowls constitute over 9% (based on a count of complete bowls). It would therefore seem that the vessels began to appear as early as Level IV, while this deposit is indicative of their floruit. These bowls are included in Tufnell's Class B.7 (Tufnell 1953:273–274). Of particular importance are Types 9; 40; 46–48. These appear mainly in Tombs 224 and 1002 and are hand or wheel burnished. For that reason, Tufnell attributed these bowls as well to the transitional classes. Tufnell also attributed to Class B.7 bowls found in vessel assemblages associated with the destruction of Level III. In the renewed excavations, bowls with an everted rim have been found in Level III; however, these differ in design from the bowls of Group L. It will be necessary to examine in the future their percentages.

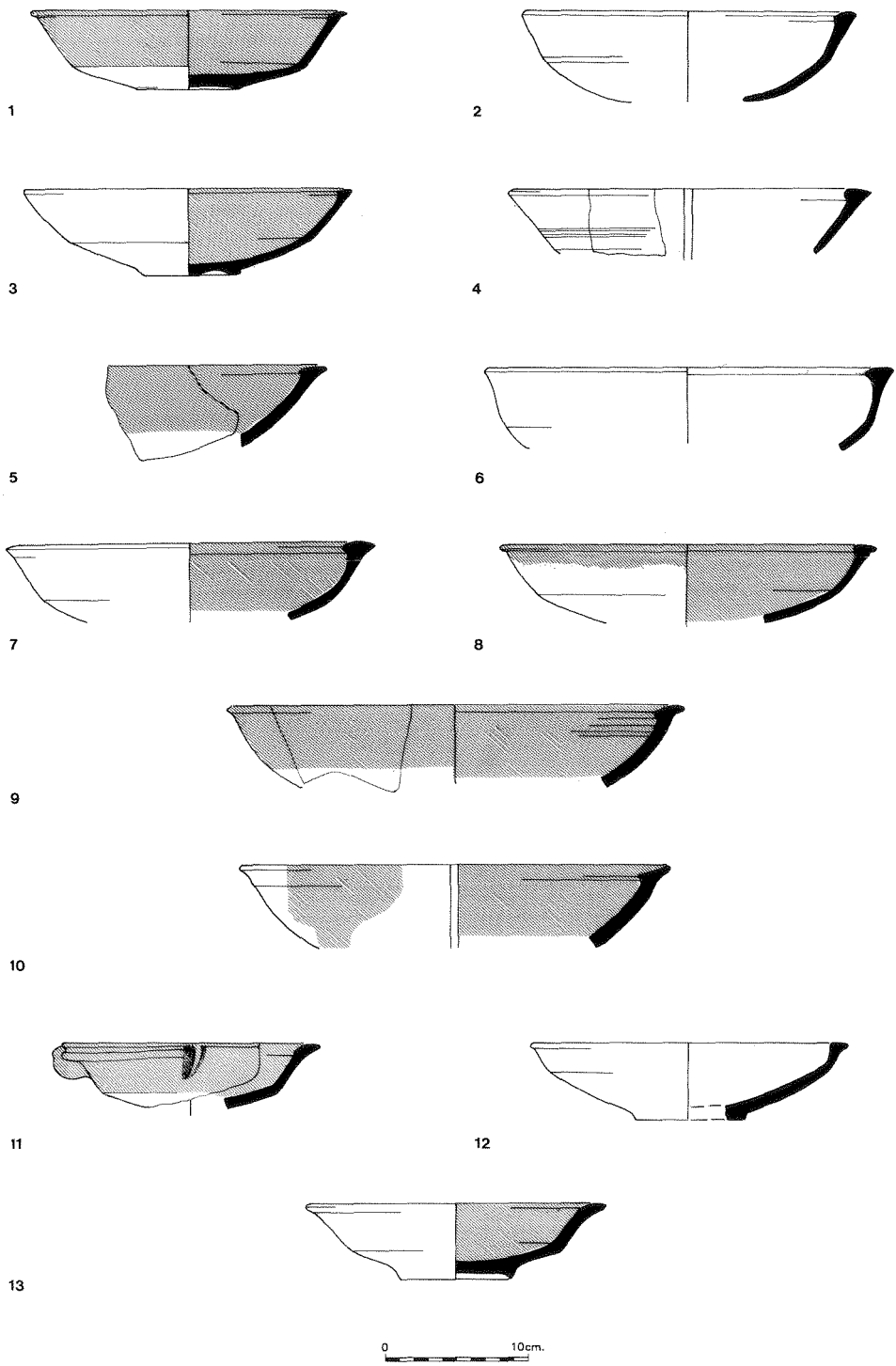

Fig. 3.64. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group L.

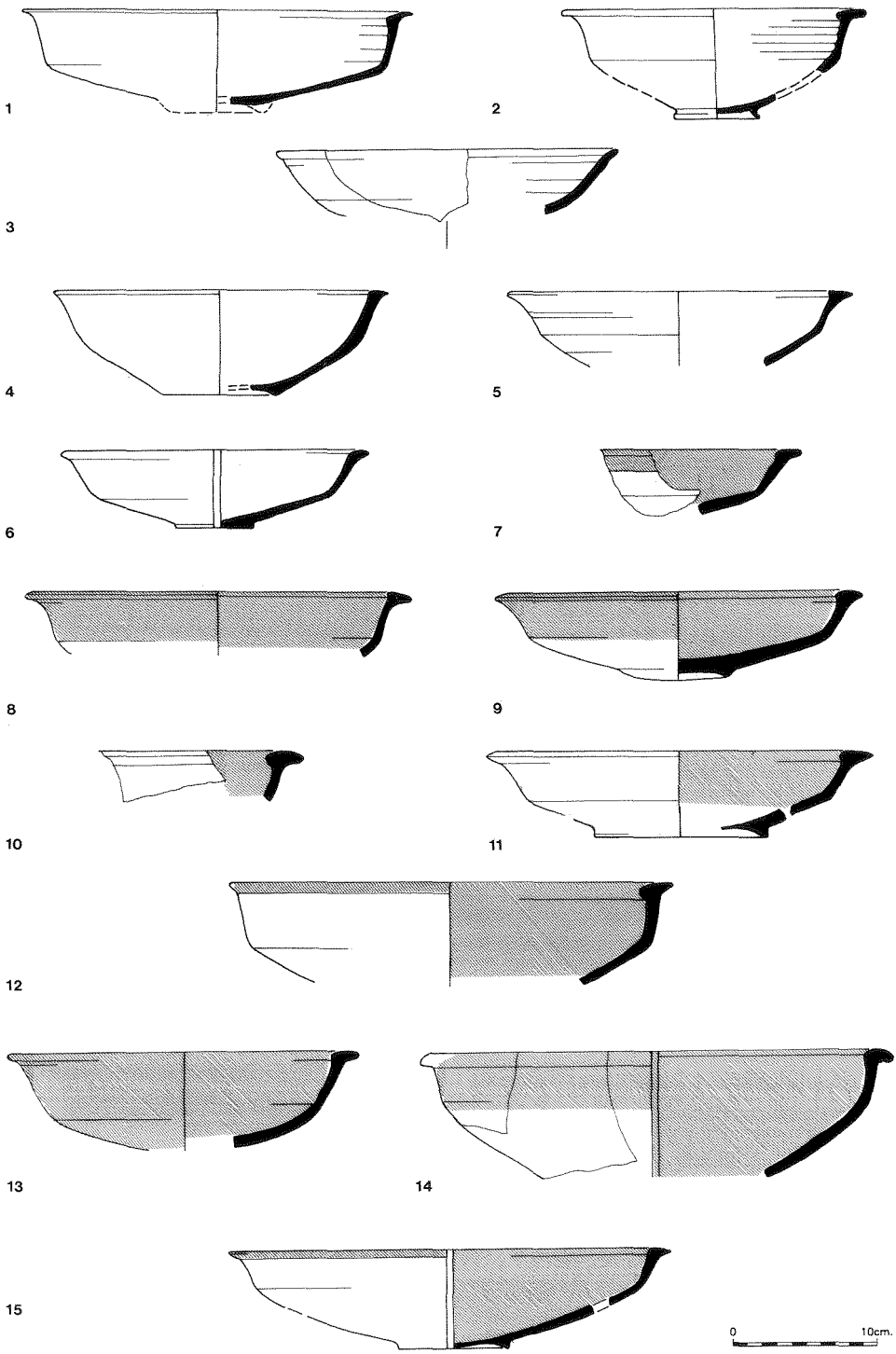

Fig. 3.65. Bowls from Locus 4421: Group L.

VARIOUS BOWLS

In addition to the groups of bowls surveyed above, several bowls of various types, primarily larger and deeper bowls, have been found (Figs. 3.66–3.67). Among them are bowls with a folded rim, or a rim with a circular section, and bowls with handles, of which only two were found. Some of these bowls are hand burnished, while others are wheel burnished.

Summary and Conclusions

Comparison of the bowls from Locus 4421 with those from Levels V and IV shows similarities between some of the groups and use of similar techniques for

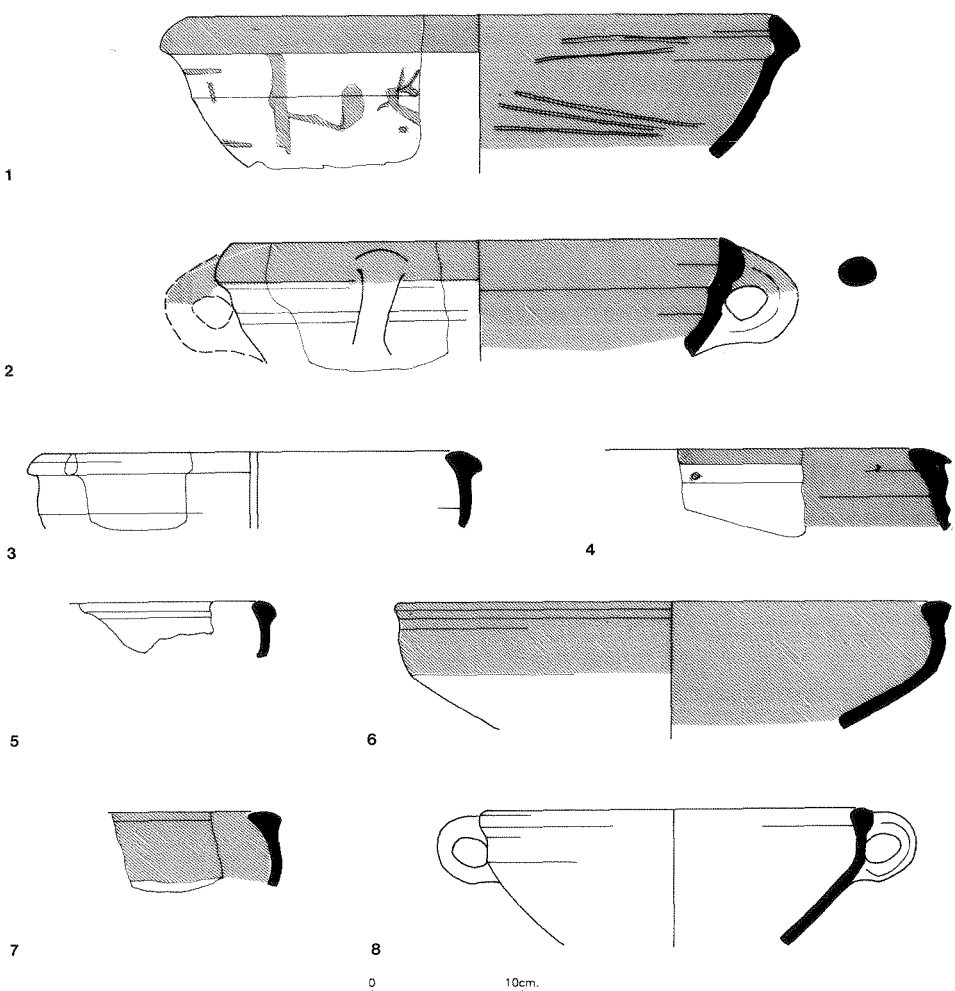

Fig. 3.66. Various bowls from Locus 4421.

surface treatment. Despite this, and because of the uniqueness of the assemblage and the vague nature of its findspot within the stratigraphy, it would not have been correct to combine the quantities of vessels from this locus with those appearing in the tables presenting quantities of vessels from Levels V and IV. As shown above, the number of bowls and their percentage in the assemblage increases considerably in this locus vs. that in parallel groups in Level IV: The flat bowls of Group A vs. those of Group V–IV: B-1; the rounded bowls with a thin rim (Groups G–H vs. Group V–IV: B-19); the small, carinated bowls of Groups I–J, vs. Group V–IV: B-15; and the large carinated bowls with everted rim (Group L vs. Group V–IV: B-18).

In addition, in six groups of bowls out of the 12 found in Locus 4421, wheel-burnishing was discerned alongside hand-burnishing. The percentage of wheel-burnished bowls differs from group to group; however, in Group G, the largest of the groups, some 70% of the complete bowls are wheel burnished, and on the basis of the sherds, the percentage may be even higher. It should be

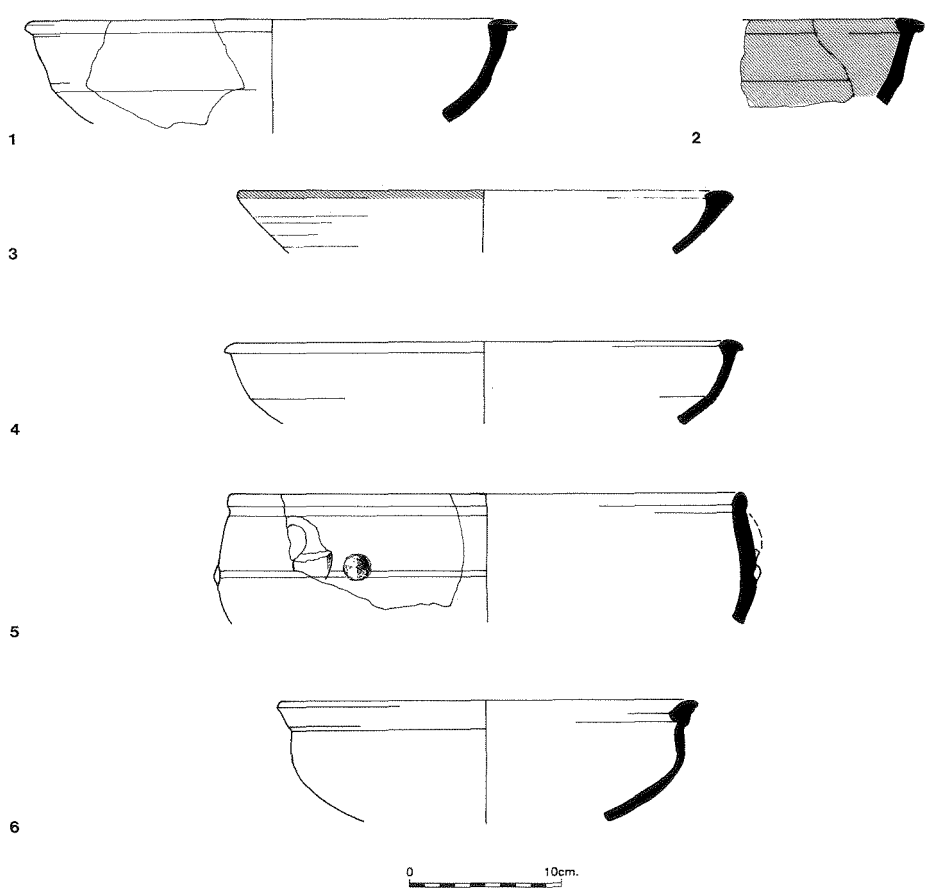

Fig. 3.67. Various bowls from Locus 4421.

recalled that wheel-burnish was observed in Level IV only in Group V–IV: B-18, where it constituted but 1% of all sherds in the level.

Two of the groups also appear at the time of the destruction of Level III; flat bowls belonging to Group A and the burnished types of Groups I–J. The wheel-burnished bowls of Group G also occur, generally, with the addition of a small disc base.

From these data, two possible interpretations can be presented: The first is that this is an additional assemblage from Level IV, perhaps originating in a special structure (possibly a cultic room) in which special vessels not found in Level IV households were preserved. Possibly, the distinct use to which these bowls were put explains their form and different surface treatment.

The second possible interpretation, which better fits the typological development of Lachish pottery, is that this assemblage does not belong to Level IV, but is later in date. The difference between it and the Level IV assemblage indicates an advanced phase in the typological development observed at Lachish. The bowls were treated using a new technique, wheel-burnish, though their form still followed the conventions of the Level IV vessel repertoire. Next to these bowls there is an increase in the appearance of bowls with forms which appear later in Level III. This may provide a hint that this is a pottery assemblage later than the vessels found upon the Level IV floors, but still earlier than the vessels found in association with the destruction of Level III.

It thus seems possible that at the edge of the tel, far from the intensively inhabited residential area at the summit, there remains, despite stratigraphic ambiguities, evidence for the vessel repertoire current during this relatively short period of time. It may be regarded as a transitional assemblage located between the ceramic tradition of Level IV potters and that of the 'industrial revolution', the results of which are observed in the pottery assemblage of Level III (see 'General Summary and Conclusions' section below). Tufnell's observations, based upon finds from the tombs, agree with and complement the proposed existence of a transitional group.

NOTES CONCERNING THE IRON AGE TOMBS

A number of cemeteries were uncovered in the British excavations in the vicinity of Tel Lachish. These included many Iron Age tombs: Cemeteries 100 and 200 are located west of the tel, and some of the tombs were dug directly above the Fosse Temple (Fig. 3.1:15); Cemetery 500 is located at the foot of the southwestern corner of the tel in the area of the British expedition's camp; Cemeteries 4000 and 6000 are adjacent to the northeastern corner of the tel, while Cemetery 7000 is located south of the tel.

There are several types of Iron Age tombs, including graves dug into the ground for burial of individuals and multi-chambered tombs for multiple burials carved into the soft rock at the foot of the tel. Many of these tombs were already cut during the Middle or Late Bronze Age and were reused for burial during the Iron Age. Sometimes, the tombs were utilized for residential purposes or for industry.

In the final report (Tufnell 1953), Tufnell described the tombs and the finds in them, dated them and even established the relationship between them and the continuity of their use on the basis of similar ceramic assemblages and small finds (most of the vessels published in Tufnell 1953 originated in tombs). Tufnell also devoted attention to many of the distinctions that will be noted here. Still, due to the awkward nature of the publication, this information is scattered among discussions of classes of pottery and the descriptions of finds from the tombs. Now with the finds from the renewed excavations available, it is easier to return to Tufnell's conclusions and present them once more in a clearer fashion.

Since the publication of Tufnell 1953, the period of use of the tombs and their relation to one another have been discussed in essays by three scholars: Kenyon (Crowfoot, Crowfoot and Kenyon 1957:204–209; 1976) compared the finds from these tombs to the finds from Samaria in order to demonstrate her claims concerning the late date of Level III at Lachish and of Stratum II at Beer-sheba. Wright (1961:119, 121) presented in tabular form the chronological sequence of the various tombs. His sequence differs only slightly from that proposed by Tufnell. McClellan (1975) performed a quantitative analysis of the appearance of vessels in tombs and presented the tombs of Levels V–III in an order similar to that proposed by Tufnell.

Examination of Tufnell 1953 shows that most of the Iron Age tombs (some 60%) date to Levels V and IV. Approximately 10% date to Level III, while the rest are dated to Level II. In the course of examining the tombs, an attempt was made, which failed in most cases, to locate identifying vessel types of a specific level, i.e. V, IV or III, and with the help of these, to draw parallels between each level and contemporary tombs. The location of identifying vessel types from these levels in a tomb could also indicate the period of its use. On the other hand, the absence of vessels characteristic of any particular level in the tomb would prohibit precisely placing the tomb within the chronological scheme of tomb usage. Likewise, an attempt was made to identify vessels in the tombs similar to those found in Locus 4421, which possibly represent the transitional phase between the ceramic culture appearing in Levels V and IV and that of Level III. For several reasons it became clear that it would be difficult to achieve precise parallels between the tombs and the mound levels: about half of the tombs, mostly individual burials, contained few vessels, or vessels found in Level V as well as Level IV, and were thus non-

indicative. The search for a precise parallel was also hampered by the rarity of cooking pots in tombs. Cooking pots were found in only two tombs, Nos. 189 and 218; these are of Type 444 and have a grooved rim. Jugs and juglets, on the other hand, constitute a high percentage of the vessels from the tombs, many of them unique, apparently selected as burial gifts for that reason. Few such vessels occurred in levels on the tel.

These limitations left only a limited number of vessels that could serve as parallels between the tel finds and those from the tombs. Bowls belonging to six groups of bowls from Levels V and IV and the black juglet whose form changes in Level III were utilized for comparison with tomb finds.

1. Bowls with a grooved rim of Groups V–IV: B-5 and B-6 are easily identified. These bowls characterize Level V, constituting 10% of all bowls, and Level IV, in which their percentage diminishes to only 5% of all bowls. In the last phase of this level, Level IVa, these bowls are missing altogether. Therefore, their presence in the tombs indicated below identifies these tombs as among the earlier ones.

Bowls of Group V–IV: B-5 (Tufnell 1953: Class B.2) were found in Tombs 196, 218, 523, 4010 and 6024. Bowls of Group V–IV: B-6 were discovered in Tombs 191 and 6024.

2. The rounded bowls with a broad base and a thin rim of Groups V–IV: B-19 were found only in Level IV (4% of all bowls). Similar bowls from Groups G–H in Locus 4421 constitute 28% of all bowls found in that locus. As stated above in the discussion on Locus 4421, these appear to be the latest bowls made in the design tradition of the Level IV vessels; they have hand- or wheel-burnish and occur in Level III, where they are generally wheel burnished with a small disc base. If the thin bowls are the latest in the assemblage, the tombs in which they were found are later than those containing grooved bowls. The presence of both types, such as in Tomb 218, indicates lengthy use of the tomb.

The bowls with a broad base (Tufnell 1953: Types 88–94) were found in Tombs 154, 159, 169, 218, 223, 224, 507 and 1002.

3. The bowl with a straightened rim. Several of these appeared in Group V–IV: B-12, and they are typical of Level IV. Group V–IV: B-18 (1% of the bowls) is found only in Level IV, and at least two bowls were wheel burnished. In Locus 4421 two classes of bowls with everted, straightened rim were found: small bowls belonging to Group K, some wheel burnished (5% of bowls); and larger, thicker, slipped and wheel- or hand-burnished bowls belonging to Group L (9% of all bowls).

The bowls with a straightened rim (Tufnell 1953: Types 9; 39; 40; 46–48) were found in Tombs 107, 120, 160, *218*, *224*, 526, and *1002* (italicized numbers indicate tombs in which thin-rimmed bowls were also found).

4. The black juglet appears at Lachish, as well as other sites in Judah, in two forms: the earlier, characteristic of Level IV, has a rounded body, a long, thin neck and a handle extending from the middle of the neck to the shoulder. The surface is densely burnished with vertical lines. Common in Level III is a small and short grey juglet with a body widening in the middle and becoming pointed near the base and a handle extending from rim to shoulder. The burnish is careless and widely spaced, sometimes in a zigzag pattern. In some of the tombs (below in italicized numbers) there were juglets of the two types.

The black juglet typical of Level IV comes from Tombs *107*, 116, *117*, *120*, 152, 154, 159, *160*, 218, 224, 230, *1002*, 1004 and 6025.

The black juglet typical of Level III was found in Tombs *107*, *117*, *120*, 132, *160*, 526 and *1002*.

Note: in Tombs 107, 120, 160, 526 and 1002 the later black juglet was found together with later straight-rimmed bowls.

Notes on the Chronological Sequence of the Tombs

Tufnell summarized her conclusions regarding the period of use of the tombs and graves and their sequence in tabular form (Tufnell 1953:50), reproduced below in a simplified manner. Question marks following Levels V–IV indicate her doubts

Date B.C.E.	*Level*	*Tombs*
1200	Destruction of Level VI	
1050		Cave *6024*
1000		*521;* 523
	Level V?	
950		*223;* 110; 118; 518; 4005; 6011
		120; 107; 108; 117; 196
		218; 189; 192; 193; 194; 6006
900	Level IV?	
		116
850		*224;* 167; 169; 182; 230; 507
		147; 152; 154; 159
		1004
800		*1002;* 219; 4026; 4027
	Level III Structures	
750		160; 191; 229
		4010
		132
700		526

concerning the date of the levels' genesis and the period of time to be assigned to each. In view of the new finds from these levels and the reexamination of some of the vessels at the British Museum, several observations concerning the chronological order proposed by Tufnell are presented below. The discussion will focus upon the larger tombs which were rich in finds, highlighted in the reproduction of Tufnell's table by italicized numbers.

CAVE 6024

This cave served as a dwelling. Vessel form and surface treatment led Tufnell to conclude that this is the earliest Iron Age vessel assemblage found outside the tel. She noted the use of a special technique for spreading the slip without burnish and believed that the treatment of the vessels was never completed (Tufnell 1953:250). No parallels to this special surface treatment have been found, not even in the renewed excavations. Of the vessels in the assemblage, 28% are unique among the tomb assemblages published by Tufnell. These include vessels of uncertain function. Some of the bowls resemble those in Groups V–IV: B-5 and B-6, which occur in Levels V and IV. The bowl of Type 85 is similar to Group V–IV: B-17 bowls, which occur only in Level V. The similarity confirms Tufnell's conclusion concerning the early date of the assemblage.

TOMB 521

An earlier date was assigned to this undisturbed tomb on the basis of the many burnished vessels found there, as opposed to the unburnished vessels in the next two tombs (below). It contained two special storage jars, Types 477 and 480. The former may probably be identified with Group V–IV: SJ-7. It is difficult to determine the date of this tomb in the sequence. It is nonetheless clear that it contained no vessels indicating an earlier rather than a later assemblage.

TOMB 223

Two thirds of the bowls in this tomb lack slip or burnish. In form and appearance they are reminiscent of the rounded-carinated bowls of Group V–IV: B-15, typical of Level IV. A rounded bowl with a thin rim from Group V–IV: B-19 or Groups J-H also occurs. No bowls of Groups V–IV: B-5 or B-6 occur in the tomb. It seems possible, therefore, that the tomb should be placed later in the sequence of tombs, perhaps parallel to the late phase of Level IV.

TOMB 120

This tomb belongs to a group of tombs (including Tombs 107, 108 and 117) which were reused several times. Tufnell supposed that the tomb had been hewn during the Late Bronze Age and was utilized for ordinary burial during the 10th and 9th

centuries. This dating relies upon bone and faience artifacts and pottery similar to the vessels found in Tomb 218. The impressive finds in this tomb (as well as in the other tombs in this group) were the bones of 1,500 individuals, piled in the centre of the tomb, and skulls found near the wall. At the top of the pile were found animal bones. The condition of the bones, some burnt, disarticulated and thrown into the tomb, indicate that they were transferred here from elsewhere. Some observations concerning the bones follow:

1. The bones in Tomb 120 were found in an unusual state. According to the description in the final report, the bones would appear to have been thrown into the tomb through an opening in the ceiling. The separation of crania and their arrangement along the wall at the back of the tomb would appear to indicate that this was done intentionally, and could only have been done in the context of secondary burial.

2. The bones (Risdon 1939) are predominantly those of young individuals, as opposed to those found in most tombs. The age distribution of a living population would appear to be represented here.

3. Contrary to Starkey's view that those buried here perished in the massacre of 701 B.C.E., Risdon (1939:106) believed that their deaths were caused by 'some catastrophe, such as pestilence or earthquake [which] overtook the population of Lachish'.

4. The anthropological data led Risdon to suggest that the population buried in this tomb was of Egyptian origin. This is not supported by the other finds in the tombs or the fact that Lachish was a Judahite city. On the other hand, Keith (1940) explained Risdon's interpretation as resulting from his study of the Egyptian bones available to Risdon for comparative study. Keith maintained that the remains represent a 'Mediterranean' population which penetrated Egypt during the transition to the Dynastic period, and was defined as Egyptian by Risdon. This note calls into question the identification of those buried at Lachish as Egyptians. (It must be noted that Tufnell was aware of Keith's observation which is cited in the report on the animal bones by D.M.A. Bate in Tufnell 1953:411).

Grooved bowls were not found in the tomb. Most of the bowls in this tomb have a straightened rim. A fragment of a thin carinated bowl of Type 612, similar to the Group E bowls in Locus 4421, was found. Also found in this tomb were fragments of four cooking pots, Types 684, 685, 687 and 503 (mistakenly identified in the final report as a holemouth jar), which belong to Group V–IV: CP-2 of Levels V and IV, and Type 693, which apparently belongs to Group V–IV: CP-6, found in fills and attributed to Level V. Also found in the tomb are vessel types, mostly sherds, characteristic of Level III. These include two fragments of cooking pots with a high, grooved neck; a small cooking pot of the short, broad type; and a fragment of a holemouth jar. Also found were two complete kraters

similar to those found in Level III structures and a fragment of a storage jar identified as Type 472, also from Level III. The complete krater of Type 86 is not similar to the Level III kraters and would appear to be earlier. One cooking pot fragment is attributed to Type 462, generally regarded as the cooking pot typical of Level II. While Tufnell identified cooking pots of this type in some of the Level III loci, this would appear to be a mistake. Tufnell emphasized the difference between the finds from this tomb, consisting of a surprisingly high percentage (45%) of sherds, and the complete vessels found in the other tombs.

In summary, the findings from this tomb are problematic. The absence of bowls from Groups V–IV: B-5 and B-6, the multiplicity of bowls with straightened rims and the bowl from Group E may indicate that the tomb is later than the series of tombs contemporary with Level IV. According to Tufnell, these vessels belong to the original burial phase, while the many bones belong to a later phase. In her view, the domestic vessel fragments from Level III support Starkey's interpretation of the bones. The presence of vessel fragments rather than complete vessels also demands an explanation. Reconsideration of all the above data does not enable the solution of the main problem, i.e. the connection between the skeletal remains and the ceramic and other finds. It is not clear if the bones were brought to the tomb together with the earlier vessels, deposited there at a later date together with the later vessels or deposited in the tomb without pottery and other objects. It is therefore impossible to date the skeletal remains in this tomb. The similarity in the quantity and condition of the bones to those found in Tomb 1002 (below) and the different dates given to the two tombs do not facilitate solution of this problem.

Tomb 218

Tufnell noted the similarity between several vessels in this tomb and those found in Tombs 223 and 521, which she classified as early in the series. Two storage jars, Types 473 and 476, and a grooved cooking pot, Type 444 typical of Level IV, were found in the tomb. Tufnell noted two bowl fragments of Type 48, bowls with a straightened rim (mentioned above), as a link between the vessel assemblage from the tomb and assemblages in later tombs 224, 1004 and 1002. To these should be added bowl Type 89 with a rounded base and a thin rim. Because of the similarity between vessels in this tomb and vessels found in tombs defined as earlier as well as later, Tufnell proposed that burial in this tomb continued over a relatively long timespan. Tufnell mentions two exceptional bowls, Types 73 and 81, generally found in Level III rooms, and hints at the possibility that these bowls began to appear early on. Examination of the bowl of Type 73 shows that it does not belong

to the type Tufnell indicated, but to Group V–IV: B-11 of Level IV. In summary, this tomb is, in effect, the only one in which vessels representative of many of the vessel classes typical of Level IV were found. This tomb would appear to have been in use during the course of Level IV.

TOMB 116

Tufnell established that this tomb was in use over a relatively short period of time and observed similarity between vessels found in it and part of the pottery assemblage found in Tomb 218. Bowls with a grooved rim and bowls with a straightened rim are absent. These data suffice only for attribution of the tomb's date to the course of Level IV.

TOMB 224

Tufnell dated this tomb to those of later date, mainly because of the decline she noted in slip and burnish — most of the bowls are slipped only on the interior and upper part of the exterior. As indicated in the discussion of slip techniques, this phenomenon is typical of Level IV and is not a useful chronological datum. In this tomb, wheel-burnished bowls appear for the first time, e.g. two rounded bowls of Types 89–90 and a carinated bowl with straightened rim of Type 39. These are similar to the rounded bowls of Groups G–H and to the bowls with straightened rims of Group L, which were found on the tel in Locus 4421. Wheel- and hand-burnished bowls were found side-by-side in these groups. Tufnell noted ten unslipped and unburnished bowls of Type 9, identical to the carinated bowls of Group V–IV: B-15 which began to appear in Level IV. It would appear that the similarity between the bowls from this tomb and bowls found in Locus 4421 may indeed indicate a late date for the tomb.

TOMB 1002

This burial pit was the richest of the tombs found at Lachish. It contained 650 vessels and other objects. Numerous bones were found widely scattered in a poor state of preservation, and some were apparently burned before being thrown into the pit. Signs of burning were also found upon many of the vessels, though there was no sign of a burnt stratum in the tomb itself. Tufnell noted the similar state of the bones in this tomb and those in Tomb 120. She described them as secondary burials, but ignored this similarity in her dating, assigning a different date to each tomb and their bone depositions. In Tomb 1002, vessels were found in a good state of preservation, unlike the fragments characteristic of Tomb 120. The finds were divided into three groups, according to the order in which they were deposited in the pit from bottom to top. In each group there was a similar breakdown of vessel types. Therefore, Tufnell assumed that they represent similar periods of use. In this

tomb, a large group of cooking pots was found, most with a high, grooved neck such as appears in Level III. A cooking pot of Type 462 and a lamp with a high base, typical of Level II, were also uncovered here. The date proposed by Tufnell for the beginning of use of the tomb is 810 B.C.E., on the basis of wheel-burnish on approximately 34% of the bowls whose treatment could be classified, as opposed to 14% with hand-burnish. A third of the bowls with a straight rim (Tufnell's Class B.7) were hand burnished, while the rest were wheel burnished. Tufnell dated the end of the tomb's use to 710 B.C.E., prior to the destruction of Level III, on the basis of the rarity of Class B.13 bowls typical of Level III (Tufnell based this upon the findings from Samaria, where such bowls began to appear only after 720 B.C.E.). In effect, of this class only two bowls of Type 75, whose surface treatment could not be identified, were found. In this tomb, as in Tomb 120, the problem is identifying to which phase of the tomb's use the large quantity of bones belongs.

TOMB 1004

This tomb, according to Tufnell, is contemporary with Tomb 224. In addition to rounded bowls and bowls with a straightened rim, a shallow bowl of Type 61, a parallel of Group A, also appears in this tomb. This and the other parallels to the assemblage from Locus 4421 indicate a late date.

Summary of Findings from the Tombs

Reexamination of the vessel assemblages found in the tombs in light of finds from the renewed excavations in Levels V and IV supports many of Tufnell's conclusions concerning the chronological sequence of the tombs. The similarity between Level V and IV assemblages makes it possible to identify only Cave 6024 with Level V. The assemblages in Tombs 224, 1002 and 1004 apparently belong to the end of Level IV or the beginning of Level III. These include bowls with a straightened rim and rounded, wheel-burnished bowls with a broad base. Tufnell noted that in Tombs 107, 117, 132, 160, 229, 526, 1002 and 4010 vessels typical of Level III, and perhaps even of Level II, were also found. In the other tombs, however, the assemblages do not contain vessels later in date, making it possible to include the types found in them in the ceramic repertoire of Levels V and IV on the tel.

GENERAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Pottery

Three types of vessels from Levels V and IV at Lachish were examined in detail: bowls, cooking pots and storage jars. These were divided into 42 groups on the basis of typological criteria. The number of examples in each group was quantified.

The similarities and differences between the two levels were strengthened using a quantitative comparative method, which was selected as the research methodology for the present study. Only with a summary of the number of items included in a specific group in one level, and comparison with their numbers in the other level, was it possible to indicate the differences between the levels, manifested in the increase or decrease in numbers of vessels belonging to a specific group in each level.

This processing revealed only eight identifying vessel types, i.e. vessel groups which appear in only one of the two levels, among the 42 vessel groups examined. Three of these identify Level V and five identify Level IV. The contribution of the identifying vessel types is in providing a tool for dating a stratum or strata at other excavated sites (or survey sites) in which similar vessels have been identified as being contemporary with the level in which they are found at Lachish. In cases where the identifying vessel types are not present, for reasons connected with geographical distribution rather than chronology, only quantitative comparison of all vessel groups might offer a possibility of identifying contemporary levels at different sites.

Bowls. In the two levels, 27 groups of bowls were discerned. A large number of uniquely designed bowls have not been included in the discussion. There are, in fact, differences in design even between similar bowls, and no two bowls are truly identical. In this period, during which decorated vessels were rare, the creativity of the potter was expressed in the richness of basic forms and the varied surface treatment.

The diagram in Fig. 3.68 presents a comparison of the bowl groups in the two levels. The small percentage represented by each group is obvious: most constitute less than 5%; three of them constitute approximately 10%, and only one group, the rounded bowls of Group V–IV: B-2, constitutes 20–30%.

Four groups are common to only one of the two levels: these are the identifying bowl groups for these levels: Group V–IV: B-17 is found only in Level V. Groups V–IV: B-15, B-18 and B-19 began to appear in Level IV.

In eight groups there is an increase in the percentage of bowls from Level V to Level IV, and in eight groups a decrease in the percentage of bowls from Level V to Level IV. The rest of the groups are found in both levels in similar percentages.

An increase in the percentage of bowls from Level V to Level IV is observed for five groups from which only one bowl was found in Level V: Groups V–IV: B-3, B-10, B-13, B-20 and B-23.

An increase in the percentages of bowls from Level V to Level IV is apparent for three groups: V–IV: B-2, B-11 and B-12.

In Level IV, an increase in the percentage of bowls with a straightened rim in Groups V–IV: B-11, B-12, B-13 and B-18 should be emphasized.

A decrease in the percentage of bowls from Level V to Level IV is observed in two groups from which only one bowl was encountered in Level IV: Groups V–IV: B-4 and B-21.

A decrease in the percentage of bowls from level V to Level IV is perceptible in six groups: V–IV: B-5, B-6, B-9, B-14, B-16 and B-25.

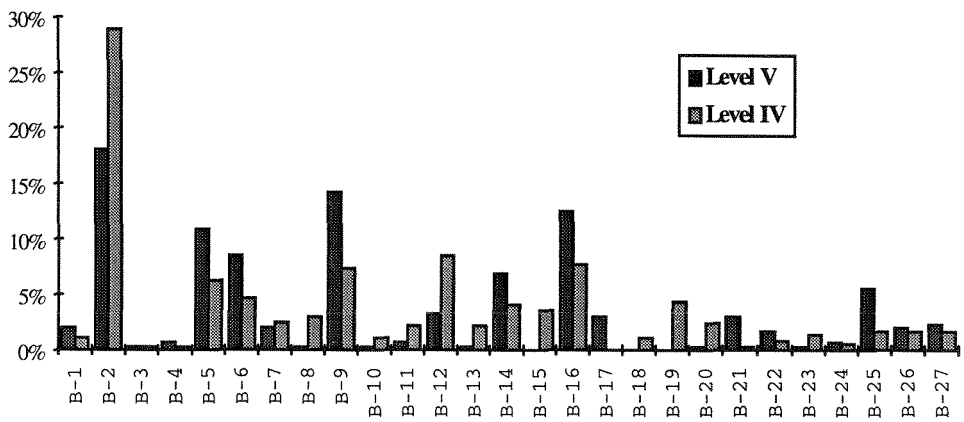

Fig. 3.68. Diagram presenting relation in percent between bowl groups in Levels V and IV.

Cooking pots. In the two levels together, seven groups of cooking pots were noted. Three of these (Groups V–IV: CP-1, CP-2, and CP-3) appeared in both levels. Of the other four, two different ones appeared in each level. The four identifying cooking pot groups are Groups V–IV: CP-4 and CP-6, found only in Level V, and Groups V–IV: CP-5 and CP-7, appearing only in Level IV.

The diagram in Fig. 3.69 presents the relation between the cooking pot groups of the two levels.

A limited pattern of distribution was observed for the cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-1, which have a vertical, rounded rim. The geographical distribution of the sites at which it is found requires further research. Therefore, it is difficult thus far to attribute chronological significance to the non-appearance of this cooking pot group in the southern part of the country. On the other hand, cooking pots of Group V–IV: CP-4, which began to appear in assemblages earlier than that of Level V at Lachish, are widespread, for instance at ʿIzbet Sartah (Finkelstein 1986:70). Their appearance at Lachish is the last phase of the use of this group of cooking pot.

Open cooking pots constitute 7% of all cooking pots in Level V and 6% in Level IV. If the cooking jugs are added to these, they reach 18% in Level V and

23% in Level IV. In Level IV there is no parallel to the grooved cooking pot with a high neck that is typical of Level III, and perhaps the cooking jug served for preparing those dishes which required a more closed vessel. From a functional point of view, the closed cooking pot is the only real innovation in the Level III pottery repertoire. At Gezer, the closed cooking pot appeared only after Stratum VIA, the end of which is dated to 733 B.C.E. Like Level IV at Lachish, only open cooking pots were found in Stratum VIA. Based upon this, Gitin (1990:223–224) concluded that the closed cooking pot began to be used only in a later phase.

Cooking pots are the most obvious sign of the changes which began in a variety of vessel types between Level V and Level IV. The findings from Lachish reiterate the fact that cooking pots are the most reliable typological tool for classifying vessel assemblages and establishing relative chronologies of ceramic assemblages from different sites.

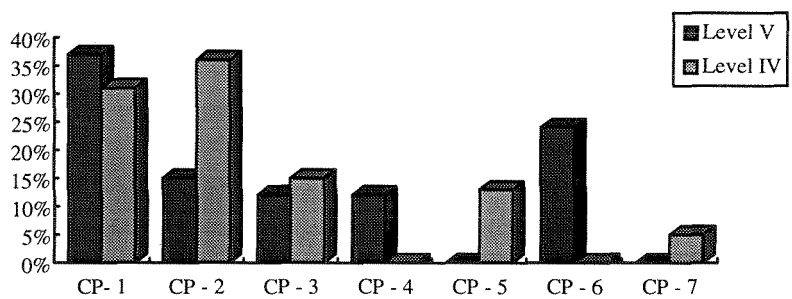

Fig. 3.69. Diagram presenting relation in percent between cooking pot groups in Levels V and IV.

Storage jars. Eight groups of storage jars were found in Levels V and IV. The change in the percentage of storage jar groups is the main difference between the storage jars in the two levels. Here, as in the other types of vessels, the craftsman's personal treatment of the vessel is reflected in the rim design.

The diagram in Fig. 3.70 shows that only small changes, between 1% and 9%, were noted among the vessel groups in each level. This conclusion does not allow the utilization of the storage jars as identifying vessel types. This conclusion differs from the conclusion that emerged from comparison of the storage jars in Levels III and II at Lachish, in which there is a great difference between the storage jars, enabling their use as identifying vessel types (Zimhoni 1990:48; also this volume, Chapter 5:257–258).

Comparison of the storage jars found in Levels V and IV with those found in Level III shows that the simple neck and rim form, dictated by the functional nature of the storage jars, generally persists in Level III. On the other hand, there is a change in the size and general form of the vessels. In Levels V and IV there appear only two-handled storage jars of small proportions, 40 cm. high, 30 cm. maximum diameter, some surprisingly heavier than one would expect from their appearance. (We learned of the data concerning storage jar capacity and weight after examining the complete storage jars from Lachish in the collection of the British Museum. These belong to the same groups as those storage jars discussed in this study.) On the other hand, the storage jars with two handles from Level III are larger, up to 50 cm. high and over 30 cm. in diameter. Together with these are found high-capacity storage jars with four handles, which do not appear at all in previous levels, as well as pithoi and holemouth storage jars which are very rare. Storage jars constitute 11% of all vessels in Level V and 18% of all vessels in Level IV. The storage jars of Level III have not yet been counted, but in Stratum II at Tel Beer-sheba, they make up a similar percentage of all vessels (oral information by Lily Singer-Avitz). This is an interesting phenomenon, which awaits further supporting data from other sites, according to which the relative numbers of storage jars did not change significantly, while their capacity increased. The growth in storage jar capacity during the 8th century indicates an increase in the food supplies stored in the vessels. There are several possible reasons for this, including growth in agricultural surplus and its processing, requiring larger containers; changes in the trade or taxation network, which required transfer of larger quantities of food; or perhaps a change in family size, which made necessary storage of larger quantities of food within the household.

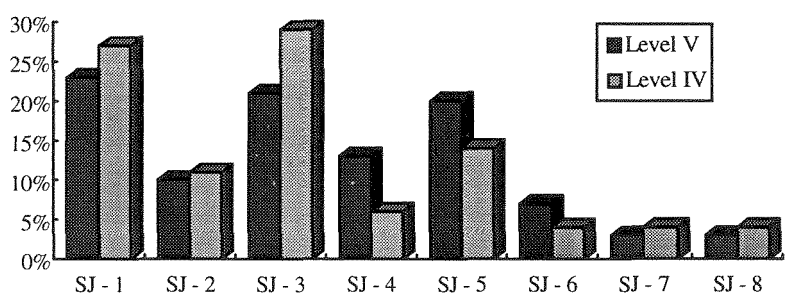

Fig. 3.70. Diagram presenting relation in percent between storage jar groups in Levels V and IV.

The Red-Slipped Burnished Ware Family and Transition to Mass Production

Red slip and hand-burnish are the most characteristic features of the pottery repertoire of Levels V and IV. They appear on bowls, jugs and juglets. Most of the bowls found in both levels were externally treated, after removal from the potter's wheel, with slip, hand-burnish or a combination of the two. The number of bowls receiving treatment is close to 80% of all bowls in Level V and 72% of all bowls in Level IV. Among all of the externally treated bowls, the majority (92% in Level V; 80% in Level IV) received combined treatment. Approximately 60% of the bowls in each of the levels were slipped only. In these levels, the use of slip and burnish, which began during Iron I with a much smaller percentage of red-slipped and burnished vessels (demonstrated by Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993:160; Table 18.6), reaches a peak. For the sake of comparison, data from Tel Qasile are also presented: in Stratum XII the slipped bowls constitute 8% and in Stratum X increase to 18% of all bowls; in Stratum X red-slipped bowls or slipped and burnished bowls constitute 36% of all bowls (Mazar 1985:86). The extensive use of slip and burnish would appear to have resulted from several factors: they create a less permeable vessel surface; raw materials for production of the red shade of slip were readily available; demand for red-slipped and burnished vessels may have started as a popular fashion prior to large-scale production. The large number of bowls with slip only indicates that, from a functional standpoint, burnish was of secondary importance. The careless manner in which the burnish was executed, or alternatively, the extreme care exercised in executing pattern burnish, indicates that burnish was regarded by the potter as decoration.

The numbers show that in these levels the red-slipped and hand-burnished vessel family reached its floruit. At some point, apparently the end of Level IV or the beginning of Level III, the technique of wheel-burnishing was developed. Evidence for this includes the bowls of Group V–IV: B-18 and the bowls of Locus 4421, in which slipped and hand-burnished bowls were found next to similar wheel-burnished ones. The finds from this locus apparently typify the last phase of use of the red-slipped and hand-burnished vessels. In the course of Level III, other vessel families developed, the routine use of slip was abandoned, and the percentage of slipped vessels declined to 35%.

There are several differences between the characteristics of the pottery from Levels V and IV and that of the end of Level III. The first obvious difference is the colour of the pottery. The red shade, which characterizes the colour of the clay and the colour of the slip on bowls and jugs in Levels V and IV, seriously decreases in Level III. The colour of clay in Level III is lighter, and most of the slipped vessels have a slip matching the colour of their clay. The second difference is the decline in the production of burnished vessels in general and the complete disappearance of

the technique of hand-burnishing in particular. Spiral wheel-burnishing, generally with wide spaces between burnished rings, is typical. Among the reasons for the decline in burnishing could be the production of higher quality vessels using less permeable materials which do not require additional treatment to improve their surface. The burnish remained, therefore, as a design element, intended as an aesthetic device on the vessel surface. The third difference is perceived upon comparison of the variety of pottery vessel forms utilized in the different levels. The richness of vessel forms in Levels V and IV and the external treatment which gives each vessel a unique appearance are no longer present in Level III, in which the variety of forms is smaller and the vessels in each class are uniform in design.

In the Tell Beit Mirsim final report, in a discussion of pottery from Stratum A, Kelso and Thorley noticed the skill of the potters who produced vessels in this stratum: 'In craft terms these bowls show the work of skillful craftsmen working fast, thereby producing good wares at minimum price' (Kelso and Thorley 1943:132). This conclusion holds true for all the pottery found in Judah dated to the 8th century. Mazar (1990:509) also insisted that the mass production of wheel-burnished pottery was carried out in specialized workshops, whose wares were spread to far regions. The uniformity of pottery forms in Level III, the result of mass production, contrasts with the richness of forms in Levels V and IV, which reflects small-scale production and a lack of standardization. It may be supposed that during this period pottery was not produced in specialized workshops, but in small workshops which produced small quantities of vessels giving each vessel an individual appearance. No examination has yet been undertaken of the geographical distribution of the vessel types presented in this study. It would appear to have been limited, unlike the wide range of Level III vessels.

Judah's Industrial Revolution and its Effects on Iron Age Internal Division

The terminology of the *New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land* is commonly accepted, according to which the sub-period between the reigns of David and the destruction of the First Temple (1000–586 B.C.E.; see Introduction to Vol. 1 of the Hebrew edition) is defined as Iron II. This is subdivided into three phases, based mainly upon historical considerations. Thus, the dividing line between Iron IIA and Iron IIB is 900 B.C.E., and that between Iron IIB and Iron IIC, 700 B.C.E. On the other hand, in consideration of changes in pottery culture which became evident during the excavation of Hazor (Aharoni and Amiran 1958), Amiran (1969:191) divided the later part of the Iron Age differently. The period between 1000–918/900 was termed Iron IC; the period

between 900–586 B.C.E., Iron II, was subdivided into two phases, Iron IIA giving way to Iron IIB at 800 B.C.E.

The study of the pottery of Lachish, which exhibits stages in the development of pottery in Judah, should adopt the general division of the Iron Age into three parts (without entering here into their subdivision) based upon the following considerations: From the standpoint of material culture, two ceramic cultures have been distinguished in the second part of the Iron Age. First, an older culture, represented at Lachish in Levels V and IV and characterized by red-slipped, hand-burnished vessels, produced on a small scale in local workshops in a large variety of forms. Second, a later culture, represented at Lachish by Levels III and II, characterized by light coloured, wheel-burnished wares; forms are standardized and there is relatively little variety; mass production and broad distribution; larger storage jars than previously. From the standpoint of material culture, the dividing line between these phases lies at some point in the beginning of Level III.

The tripartite division of Iron II emphasizes the pronounced change in the material culture in Judah during the course of Level III at Lachish, sometime during the 8th century. If the data from Lachish are summarized, developments which at first glance do not seem to fit one another may be noted. Lachish was resettled during the Iron Age, and an unwalled settlement, Level V, was constructed. Later, according to some researchers, Palace A was constructed. In Level IV, the settlement concept was modified: Around the palace-fort, constructed (or enlarged) in this level, were built a governmental enclosure and domestic areas; the city was surrounded by walls with a gate. For reasons not entirely clear, some of the structures were destroyed, marking the end of Level IV. The city plan, restored in Level III, is nearly identical to the preceding one, and the absence of a layer of collapse between floors of dwellings of these two levels indicates immediate repair of the destruction caused at the end of Level IV. Thus, despite the destruction, there was clear continuity at Lachish between Level IV and Level III, in contrast to the change in settlement concept which occurred between Level V and Level IV.

The change in the realm of pottery does not match that of the settlement data. Contrary to the change in the character of the settlement between Levels V and IV, there is clear continuity in the ceramic culture, which in fact continues an even earlier cultural tradition which is not found at Lachish. On the other hand, a drastic change in the ceramic culture does take place during Level III, a period of extensive building and continuity.

The new and different character of the later material culture which typifies Level III is not limited to pottery alone. In addition, the introduction of a uniform accurate weights system (Kletter 1991:124, 137) and the widespread appearance of

statuettes in human and animal forms, largely absent from Levels V and IV at Lachish, should be mentioned. During this period in Judah, an integrated economic network has been discerned: No evidence for industrial settlements has been found, and the economy was organized around a framework of private households. Parallel to this private economy was a governmental economy, attending to the king's household, the ministers and the administration (Eitan-Katz 1994:79–80).

These data allow one to suppose that in order to maintain the governmental economy mechanisms of transfer (or marketing, in modern terms) of agricultural produce became necessary. This necessitated the use of larger and easily transportable storage vessels with similar proportions. This need to maintain the governmental economy possibly led to a sort of industrial revolution, which expressed itself in the production of new types of pottery and led to the change in the ceramic culture. The processes which made this revolution possible are the subject of biblical, historical, social and economic research. Unfortunately, the data available for such research are poor and difficult to interpret. Yet it is clear that during this period the governmental system took shape in Judah and gained strength over a long period of tranquillity. This constituted a suitable background for the development of trade, organized around a system of standard weights. For the development of trade and for the supply of the government's needs it was necessary to have safe and convenient trade routes. These made it possible to increase the geographical distribution of household pottery. As a result, the basic ceramic assemblage found in every household in Judah is uniform.

Relative or Absolute Date — Are There Data for Dating Levels V and IV?

From the case of Lachish one may learn that the two networks, settlement and ceramic, developed independently. It is therefore clear that building periods and ceramic periods must also be separately dated on the basis of different criteria. Kenyon made such a division in the Samaria final report. Ofer recently commented on this, noting that 'a clear terminological distinction must be made between the relative dating of stratigraphy-pottery and an absolute historical date' (Ofer 1993:28). Unfortunately, the first secure historical date at Lachish for the Iron Age is the destruction of the city by Sennacherib in 701 B.C.E. The once acceptable attempts to relate the construction of Palace A or the construction of Level IV with the list of fortifications of Rehoboam in 2 Chr. 11:5–10 no longer stand up to criticism (Fritz 1981; Na'aman 1986). On the other hand, the proposal that the destruction of Level IV be viewed as the result of an earthquake (First proposed by M. Kochavi), possibly during the days of Uzziah (Ussishkin 1977:52), explains the finds in the field in a logical fashion and should not be rejected. From biblical

synchronism (Amos 1:1), in absolute terms, the event could have taken place between the years 785–748 B.C.E., probably during the second quarter of the 8th century. It is possible that the construction of Level III commenced during that time period.

Acceptance or rejection of this date is most significant in determining the beginning of the development of the vessel assemblage, which was found, broken and burnt, upon the floors of destroyed Level III structures. In this developed and unified assemblage, there are no remains of any vessels which were in use during Level IV. Therefore, the logical period of its development would be during the second half of the 8th century. The length of the transition period between the earlier and later assemblages is not known, and it may be supposed that it differs from one site to another. It is difficult to reconstruct the nature of the transitional assemblage. Only the anomalous nature of the vessel assemblage from Locus 4421, within the entire Level IV assemblage, made it possible to identify it as part of the transitional assemblage. A more advanced phase of the transitional assemblage, consisting mainly of the new vessels but retaining several vessels which preserve the earlier tradition, is apparently found at Tel ʿEton (Zimhoni 1985:88; also this volume, Chapter 4:208).

The switch from hand- to wheel-burnish cannot serve as a criterion for dating. This process took place in different regions at different times. It appears that in Judah, the impetus to utilize wheel-burnishing was also among the signs of the industrial revolution in pottery production. Therefore, the transition from hand- to wheel-burnishing is later than had been supposed until now and took place simultaneously with the change from the previous ceramic repertoire to the one known from Level III.

Most difficult of all is the task of determining the date of Levels V and IV. On the basis of the above, it may be supposed that the red-slipped and burnished vessel family, which characterizes Level IV, continued to be produced at least until the beginning of the 8th century, and apparently even later. Therefore, it seems that at least during the second half of the 9th century, the vessel assemblage found in Level IV at Lachish was in use. The dating of Level V is the most difficult problem, as it is the most distant level from that for which there is a firmly established date, the destruction date of Level III, and due to the absence of other clear historical dates. The only datum relevant to dating this level is the great similarity between its assemblage and that of Level IV. The correct way to continue investigating the problem of the date of these levels is a large-scale examination, ignoring historical considerations, of the pottery assemblages from as many sites as possible, using the typological and quantitative perspectives presented in this study. The placement of all this data in a comparative chart, based upon the similarity and difference between

assemblages, will reveal the relative chronological order of their development. Only then, with presentation of the data in an objective fashion, will it be possible to attempt to assign absolute dates.

LOCUS AND REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF POTTERY FIGURES

Fig. 3.4: (1) 3642 40155/2; (2) 3570 8349/1; (3) 3641 40161/2. **Fig. 3.5**: (1) 3665 40774/1; (2) 3522 8337/1; (3) 3565 11027/1; (4) 3661 40402/5; (5)3661 40402/2; (6) 3026 7739/4; (7) 3692 41831/1; (8) 3710 41753/1; (9) 3642 40155/1; (10) 3564 40795/2; (11) 3692 40921/1; (12) 3664 40454/1; (13) 3649 40227/4; (14) 3557 40908/2; (15) 3664 40707/1; (16) 3670 40917/1; (17) 3676 40843/2; (18) 3646 40287/1; (19) 3647 40488/1; (20) 3676 41316/1; (21) 3646 40275/2. **Fig. 3.6**: (1) 3635 40058/2; (2) 5520 8755/1. **Fig. 3.7**: (1) 3664 40736/1; (2) 3011 7548/2; (3) 3565 11068/1. **Fig. 3.8**: (1) 3005 7593/1; (2) 3022 7591/1; (3) 3017 7500/2; (4) 5520 8755/4; (5) 3026 7634/1; (6) 3661 40402/1; (7) 5520 8755/3; (8) 3011 7534/1; (9) 3665 40609/1; (10) 3026 7616/1; (11) 3037 7724/1; (12) 3570 11032/1; (13) 3039 7708/3; (14) 3552 8299/7; (15) 3011 7548/3; (16) 3570 11033/1; (17) 3552 8299/3; (18) 3026 7634/2; (19) 3026 7646/1; (20) 3025 7632/2. **Fig. 3.9**: (1) 3710 41645/1; (2) 3710 40281/1; (3) 3710 40407/1; (4) 3610 8940/4; (5) 3710 41078/2; (6) 3670 40712/1; (7) 3649 41595/1; (8) 3648 40223/3; (9) 3646 40682/2; (10) 3647 40205/2; (11) 3646 40631/1; (12) 3648 41505/1. **Fig. 3.10**: (1) 3589 41707/1; (2) 3661 40417/1; (3) 3665 40741/4; (4) 3036 7704/1; (5) 3552 8310/10; (6) 3037 7709/3; (7) 3646 40300/4; (8) 3642 40166/1; (9) 3641 40170/3; (10) 3647 40419/1; (11) 3632 40237/2; (12) 3632 40237/1; (13) 3646 40470/1. **Fig. 3.11**: (1) 3570 8349/6; (2) 3665 41788/1; (3) 3552 8310/5; (4) 3552 8299/1; (5) 3692 41642/1; (6) 3670 40917/2; (7) 3670 40711/10. **Fig. 3.12**: (1) 3661 404851/1; (2) 3643 40185/1; (3) 3664 40538/1; (4) 3557 8449/1; (5) 3664 40587/1; (6) 3676 41332/1; (7) 3676 40567/1. **Fig. 3.13**: (1) 3661 40812/1; (2) 3017 7500/1; (3) 3552 8347/7; (4) 3579 8482/1; (5) 3661 40444/2; (6) 3037 7709/1; (7) 3025 7632/1; (8) 3665 40520/1; (9) 3570 8383/4; (10) 3570 11019/3; (11) 3552 8283/3; (12) 3570 11004/2; (13) 3661 40615/2; (14) 3552 8310/2. **Fig. 3.14**: (1) 3649 40238/1; (2) 3646 40782/1; (3) 3646 40497/2; (4) 3557 40263/1; (5) 3648 41505/2; (6) 3642 41048/1; (7) 3614 40437/1; (8) 3664 40538/3; (9) 3676 40902/1; (10) 3649 41057/1; (11) 3648 41483/1; (12) 3614 8964/2; (13) 3618 13559/1. **Fig. 3.15**: (1) 3665 41673/1; (2) 3549 8485/1; (3) 3647 40684/1; (4) 3618 13560/2; (5) 3618 13560/1. **Fig. 3.16**: (1) 3621 40120/1; (2) 3610 8945/1; (3) 3610 40098/1; (4) 3557 8453/1; (5) 3606 41396/1; (6) 3632 8543/2; (7) 3642 40349/2. **Fig. 3.17**: (1) 3552 8299/2; (2) 3570 8385/2; (3) 3552 8337/18; (4) 3665 40427/1; (5) 3665 40255/1; (6) 3570 8349/9; (7) 3632 40155/1; (8) 3621 40142/2; (9) 3632 40826/1; (10) 3632 40155/1; (11) 3636 41736/1; (12) 3618 13563/1; (13) 3649 41569/1; (14) 3646 40249/1; (15) 3608 40144/2; (16) 3649 41569/2; (17) 3610 40084/1. **Fig. 3.18**: (1) 3552 8337/5; (2) 3610 40143/1. **Fig. 3.19**: (1) 3565 11057/2; (2) 3552 8337/2; (3) 3552 8283/1; (4) 3552 8347/3; (5) 3552 8310/4; (6) 3552 8310/12; (7) 3692 41152/4; (8) 3647 40682/1; (9) 3614 40437/2. **Fig. 3.20**: (1) 3647 40218/1; (2) 3647 40205/1; (3) 3648 41535/3; (4) 3647 40205/5; (5) 3610 40131/1; (6) 3641 40183/2; (7) 3557 8453/2. **Fig. 3.21**: (1) 3570 11054/1; (2) 3670 40829; (3) 3570 11032/2; (4) 3570 11045/2; (5) 3039 7772/1; (6) 3005 7677/1; (7) 3552 8347/1; (8) 3552 8299/5; (9) 3570 11021/1; (10) 3570 11019/1; (11) 3579 42195/2; (12) 3579 42678/1; (13) 3026 7743/1;

(14) 3552 11026/2; (15) 3710 41773/1; (16) 3649 40227/1; (17) 3646 40551/1; (18) 3670 40870/1; (19) 3549 8486/3; (20) 3618 13559/2; (21) 3692 41210/1; (22) 3691 41316/2; (23) 3587 8873/1; (24) 3710 41215/1. **Fig. 3.22**: (1) 3570 8362/1; (2) 3026 7752/4; (3) 5520 8755/2; (4) 3005 7735/1. **Fig. 3.23**: (1) 3642 40349/1; (2) 3676 40843/1; (3) 3642 41035/1; (4) 3610 40143/3; (5) 3610 8945/2. **Fig. 3.24**: (1) 3649 40155/3; (2) 3649 40155/2; (3) 3647 40419/2; (4) 3572 8487/1. **Fig. 3.25**: (1) 3552 8337/15; (2) 3614 40420/1; (3) 3664 40678/1; (4) 3643 41757/1; (5) 3641 40183/1; (6) 3710 41078/1; (7) 3610 40143/2; (8) 3670 40844/1; (9) 3670 40844/2; (10) 3606 41348/1. **Fig. 3.26**: (1) 3579 8699/1; (2) 3579 8441/1; (3) 3570 11004/1; (4) 3570 8383/6; (5) 3005 7611/2; (6) 3552 8337/10; (7) 3648 40223/2. **Fig. 3.27**: (1) 3570 11028/1; (2) 3552 8310/9; (3) 3649 40238/4; (4) 3564 40813/1. **Fig. 3.28**: (1) 3646 40385/1; (2) 3618 8887/2; (3) 3641 40170/1; (4) 3649 40227/2. **Fig. 3.29**: (1) 3552 8337/13; (2) 3552 8337/9; (3) 3608 40018/1; (4) 3608 13545/1. **Fig. 3.30**: (1) 3552 8347/4; (2) 3552 8310/8; (3) 3017 7613/1; (4) 3026 7616/3; (5) 3005 7584/5; (6) 3579 42195/1; (7) 3026 7752/3; (8) 3039 7773/6; (9) 3579 42160/1; (10) 3039 7708/1; (11) 3579 8774; (12) 3676 40902/2; (13) 3661 40443/1; (14) 3676 41781/1; (15) 3647 40471/1; (16) 3676 41806/1; (17) 3664 40568/1. **Fig. 3.31**: (1) 3552 8347/2; (2) 3579 41882/1; (3) 3552 8310/3; (4) 3026 7627/1; (5) 3552 8310/1; (6) 3664 40538/2; (7) 3570 8349/7; (8) 3557 40263/2; (9) 3670 40713/1; (10) 3632 40237/5; (11) 3676 40489/1. **Fig. 3.32**: (1) 3632 8674/1; (2) 3579 42265/1; (3) 3552 8299/4; (4) 3579 42160/2; (5) 3570 8349/8; (6) 3648 40223/1; (7) 3632 40410/1; (8) 3646 40287/2; (9) 3557 40535/1; (10) 6058 40748/2. **Fig. 3.33**: (1) 3570 11019/2; (2) 3552 11206/1; (3) 3552 11044/2; (4) 3552 11047/1; (5) 3642 40276/2; (7) 3649 40227/3; (8) 3664 40587/2; (9) 3557 40908/1. **Fig. 3.37**: (1) 3570 11019/4; (2) 3552 8283/2; (3) 3552 8347/6; (4) 3026 7739/5; (5) 3037 7724/2; (6) 3618 13524/2; (7) 3641 40161/1; (8) 3710 41662/1; (9) 3692 41179/1; (10) ?; (11) 3557 40264/1; (12) 3632 40331/1; (13) 3642 40276/1. **Fig. 3.38**: (1) 3570 8383/2; (2) 3665 40426/1; (3) 3570 8349/2; (4) 3552 8337/17; (5) 3710 41488/1; (6) 3618 8887/1; (7) 3649 40165/3; (8) 3632 8524/1; (9) 3557 8523/1; (10) 3557 40890/2; (11) 3549 8486/2; (12) 3618 13556/2; (13) 3618 13560/3; (14) 3608 40144/1; (15) 3618 13546/1. **Fig. 3.39**: (1) 3039 7773/4; (2) 3570 8349/3; (3) 3665 40765/1; (4) 3610 8940/1; (5) 3557 8330/1; (6) 3549 8513/2; (7) 3647 40352/1; (8) 3579 40016/1; (9) 3647 40205/3; (10) 3549 8513/1. **Fig. 3.40**: (1) 3552 8337/16; (2) 3552 8310/6; (3) 3552 8347/5. **Fig. 3.41**: (1) 3579 8433/1; (2) 3646 40300/1; (3) 3647 40684/2; (4) 3621 40377/1. **Fig. 3.42**: (1) 3589 42220/1; (2) 3026 7739/3; (3) 3570 8383/3; (4) 3570 11004/4; (5) 3026 7739/2; (6) 3574 8363/1; (7) 3037 7728/1; (8) 3037 7751/1. **Fig. 3.43**: (1) 3658 40636/1; (2) 3614 8964/1; (3) 3676 41599/2. **Fig. 3.44**: (1) 3587 8912/1; (2) 3692 41166/1; (3) 3692 42877/1; (4) 3552 8337/4; (5) 3692 41152/2; (6) 3632 40155/2; (7) 3632 40155/4; (8) 3692 44455/1; (9) 3549 40366/4; (10) 3570 11005/1; (11) 3026 7775/1; (12) 3649 41511/1; (13) 3665 40741/2; (14) 3661 40634/2; (15) 3646 40275/1; (16) 3570 11064/2; (17) 3646 40204/2. **Fig. 3.46**: (1) 3570 11032/2; (2) 3552 8347/9; (3) 3661 40402/4; (4) 3026 7616/2; (5) 3005 7705/1; (6) 3692 41255/1; (7) 3618 13524/1; (8) 3676 40970/1; (9) 3692 41255/2; (10) 3649 40238/5; (11) 3646 40204/1; (12) 3632 40842/1. **Fig. 3.47**: (1) 3552 8337/12; (2) 3570 11004/3; (3) 3552 40065/1; (4) 3574 8384/1; (5) 3643 40590/1; (6) 3549 8296/2; (7) 3647 40192/2; (8) 3648 41535/2; (9) 3643 40198/1; (10) 3676 41599/3; (11) 3641 40183/3. **Fig. 3.48**: (1) 3661 40615/4; (2) 3039 7773/2; (3) 3026 7752/1; (4) 3552 8299/6; (5) 3661 40384/1; (6) 3647 40210/1; (7) 3648 41535/1; (8) 3646 40275/3; (9) 3632 40155/3; (10) 3646 40300/6; (11) 3641 40183/4. **Fig. 3.49**: (1) 5520 8740/1; (2) 3574 8394/1; (3) 3570 11032/4; (4) 3570 11045/3; (5) 3648 40323/1; (6)

3618 40852/1; (7) 3549 40413/1; (8) 3618 13556/1. **Fig. 3.50**: (1) 3570 11058/1; (2) 3005 7705/2; (3) 3570 11032/3; (4) 5520 8416/1; (5) 3661 40634/1; (6) 3649 40238/3; (7) 3670 40870/2; (8) 3642 40251/1. **Fig. 3.51**: (1) 3037 7709/2; (2) 3632 40841/1; (3) 3692 41315/1; (4) 3643 40197/1; (5) 3632 40225/2. **Fig. 3.52**: (1) 3570 8389/1; (2) 3565 8321/1; (3) 3632 40214/1; (4) 3647 40218/2. **Fig. 3.53**: (1) 3570 1102/2; (2) 3665 40778/1; (3) 3646 40385/2; (4) 3692 41127/2; (5) 3692 41879/1; (6) 3710 40387/1; (7) 3557 40516/1; (8) 3649 40174/1. **Fig. 3.54**: (1) 3570 11038/2; (2) 3570 8349/5; (3) 3552 8347/8; (4) 3005 7523/1; (5) 3670 40766/1; (6) 3635 40058/1; (7) 3632 40155/5; (8) 3692 43805/1; (9) 3664 41407/2. **Fig. 3.56**: (1) 4421 38597/5; (2) 4421 38552/3; (3) 4421 38744/6; (4) 4421 38800/5; (5) 4421 38552/2; (6) 4421 38824/2; (7) 4421 38966/3; (8) 4421 38538/7; (9) 4421 38504/3; (10) 4421 38515/4; (11) 4421 38538/4; (12) 4421 38504/1; (13) 4421 38504/2. **Fig. 3.57**: (1) 4421 38775/2; (2) 4421 38847/1; (3) 4421 38657/3; (4) 4421 38698/4; (5) 4421 38690/2; (6) 4421 38775/3. **Fig. 3.58**: (1) 4421 38504/4; (2) 4421 38602/2; (3) 4421 38515/2; (4) 4421 38514/2. **Fig. 3.59**: (1) 4421 38538/5; (2) 4421 38863/2; (3) 4421 38800/5; (4) 4421 38642/6; (5) 4421 38514/4; (6) 4421 38744/8; (7) 4421 38538/8. **Fig. 3.60**: (1) 4421 38847/4; (2) 4421 38847/2; (3) 4421 38602/1. **Fig. 3.61**: (1) 4421 38525/1; (2) 4421 38642/1; (3) 4421 38744/1; (4) 4421 38515/3; (5) 4421 38597/1; (6) 4421 38632/1; (7) 4421 38824/2; (8) 4421 38744/3; (9) 4421 38800/3; (10) 4421 38824/3; (11) 4421 38996/5; (12) 4421 38975/4; (13) 4421 38863/1; (14) 4421 38472/2; (15) 4421 38602/4; (16) 4421 38552/4; (17) 4421 38515/1; (18) 4421 38975/3; (19) 4421 38538/3; (20) 4421 38975/2; (21) 4421 38975/5; (22) 4421 38690/1. **Fig. 3.62**: (1) 4421 38642/2; (2) 4421 38744/2; (3) 4421 38744/5; (4) 4421 38657/2; (5) 4421 38642/3; (6) 4421 38685/1. **Fig. 3.63**: (1) 4421 38698/5; (2) 4421 38719/2; (3) 4421 38698/7; (4) 4421 38966/4; (5) 4421 38698/6; (6) 4421 38525/2; (7) 4421 38744/7; (8) 4421 38674/4. **Fig. 3.64**: (1) 4421 38674/1; (2) 4421 38602/3; (3) 4421 38472/1; (4) 4421 38685/2; (5) 4421 38575/4; (6) 4421 38642/4; (7) 4421 38597/2; (8) 4421 38698/1; (9) 4421 38614/1; (10) 4421 38514/5; (11) 4421 38733/1; (12) 4421 38975/1; (13) 4421 38515/5. **Fig. 3.65**: (1) 4421 38775/1; (2) 4421 38575/5; (3) ?; (4) 4421 38966/6; (5) 4421 38698/8; (6) 4421 38800/4; (7) 4421 38758/1; (8) 4421 38642/5; (9) 4421 38927/1; (10) 4421 38538/6; (11) 4421 38597/3; (12) 4421 38472/3; (13) 4421 38800/1; (14) 4421 38575/1; (15) 4421 38538/2. **Fig. 3.66**: (1) 4421 38525/5; (2) 4421 38698/2; (3) 4421 38733/4; (4) 4421 38552/6; (5) 4421 38800; (6) 4421 38674/2; (7) 4421 38581/1; (8) 4421 38800/2. **Fig. 3.67**: (1) 4421 38514/3; (2) 4421 38733/5; (3) 4421 38575/3; (4) 4421 38847/3; (5) 4421 38525/3: (6) 4421 38966/2.

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CHAPTER 4

THE IRON AGE POTTERY OF TEL ʿETON AND ITS RELATION TO THE LACHISH, TELL BEIT MIRSIM AND ARAD ASSEMBLAGES*

In the salvage excavation conducted in 1977 at Tel ʿEton (Tell ʿAitun) by the Lachish Archaeological Expedition, two Iron Age II strata were exposed (Ayalon 1985). Due to the limited scope of the excavation only parts of rooms were uncovered, and only a very small number of complete pottery vessels were retrieved; moreover, their restoration turned out to be extremely difficult because of the poor preservation of the material, which was both badly charred and heavily encrusted.

Prior to this excavation, the Iron Age pottery of Tel ʿEton was known only from the tombs excavated by D. Ussishkin (1974) and V. Tzaferis (1982). Although a thorough exploration of the site has not yet been undertaken, a limited survey was recently carried out by Yehudah Dagan, who kindly permitted the examination of the material collected from the surface, almost all of which was very similar to that uncovered in the excavations. There was one high-footed lamp that could possibly be later, but otherwise there was nothing dating to the end of the Iron Age (although there was a small amount of Persian period material).

When sorting the pottery from the excavation, representative examples were kept of all the ceramic types. Although the sherds were not actually counted, the published material nevertheless provides a fair picture, not only of the pottery types, but of their respective quantities as well. The statistics for the slipped ware were compiled from the material illustrated here, which is quantitatively reflected by the non-published material.

Two neighbouring sites have been chosen for the ceramic comparison; Tel Lachish and Tell Beit Mirsim. Lachish, located 11 km. northwest of Tel ʿEton, provides a firm stratigraphic and chronological framework for the pottery, while Tell Beit Mirsim, which is situated even closer to Tel ʿEton, has, as would be expected, a very similar assemblage. Parallels are also drawn from other sites in southern Judah, notably Khirbet Rabûd (ancient Debir), Tel Beer-sheba and Tel Arad. The finds from the latter site and the historical and chronological interpretation recently given to them (Herzog *et al.* 1984) will be reappraised here in the light of the comparative pottery from Lachish and Tel ʿEton.

As for Tel Lachish, our ceramic comparisons are drawn from the pottery recovered in the two major excavations at the site. Comparisons for vessel types

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* Appeared in *Tel Aviv* 12, 1985, pp. 63–90.

from the British excavations conducted by the Wellcome-Marston Archaeological Research Expedition are taken from Tufnell 1953: Pls. 79–104. The material uncovered in the renewed excavations carried out by Tel Aviv University (Ussishkin 1978; 1983) is still mostly unpublished. Comparisons are drawn from the Iron Age material at its interim stage of research and publication.

Since the pottery of the two strata at Tel ʿEton is markedly similar, the discussion will be according to ceramic types rather than strata, proceeding from open to closed vessels. The pottery illustrations, however, are arranged according to strata and loci (for location of loci, see Ayalon 1985: Table 1; Figs. 2–4).

THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGE

Comparison of slipped bowls and kraters: Tel ʿEton, Lachish and Tell Beit Mirsim

Although bowls and kraters are richly represented at Tel ʿEton, their state of preservation is unfortunately very poor, even in the richest loci. Complete vessels are very rare. Their most characteristic feature is the surface treatment. More than 70% of the bowls from both strata were slipped; about 60% were both slipped and burnished. This feature should be given its proper weight when comparing the Tel ʿEton pottery with that of other sites. Eight criteria have been chosen in defining the finishing treatment (Table 1).

TABLE 1. SURFACE TREATMENT OF BOWLS AND KRATERS

Surface treatment	*Stratum I*		*Stratum II*		*Both Strata*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
Red slipped, not burnished	1	3.2	4	19.0	5	9.6
Orange slipped, not burnished	1	3.2	1	4.8	2	3.8
Red slipped, hand burnished	7	22.6	11	52.4	18	34.6
Orange slipped, hand burnished	10	32.3	2	9.5	12	23.0
Non-slipped, wheel burnished	3	9.7	2	9.5	5	9.6
Slipped, wheel burnished	3	9.7	-	-	3	5.7
Non-slipped, hand burnished	2	6.4	-	-	2	3.8
No treatment	4	12.9	1	4.8	5	9.6

As a rule, either of two types of slip was applied to these vessels. The first is a very solid colour of one of two hues: a) reddish-brown to very dark purplish-red; b) orange in various shades, ranging from brownish-orange to pinkish-orange. At Tel ʿEton there is a slight increase in the percentage of orange-slipped bowls in Stratum I (the later stratum), but (particularly in view of the small size of the sample), no

particular significance should be attached to this phenomenon. What is important is that there is a substantial quantity of slipped ware in both strata.

The second type of slip is thin and watery and lacking in strong pigment. For lack of a better term, this study shall employ the term 'wash', although this term was long ago assumed to denote 'slip applied after firing' (see Albright 1943: 105–106; Tufnell 1953: 259–262), whereas the present usage will refer to a surface treatment before firing. This watery slip is more or less the same colour as the vessel itself, sometimes slightly pinkish. The terminological difference may be demonstrated utilizing the common bowls of Level III at Lachish published by the British expedition (also richly represented in the renewed excavations). In Tufnell 1953, Types 73 and 75 are described as red slipped, whereas, according to our terminology, most of these types from our excavations were not slipped but treated with a wash before firing. The implications of the statistical evidence of these two types of slips will be further expanded below.

Another typical feature of the pottery in both strata at Tel ʿEton is the hand-burnishing appearing on most of the slipped vessels. This is applied to the slipped surface only, sometimes to just part of it. Occasionally the inside of the bowl is burnished, but the rim, although slipped, is not. Only two bowls were burnished without any slip at all. Since the material consists mainly of small fragments, it is difficult to discern typical Iron Age burnishing patterns. However, most of the bowls seem to have horizontal burnishing with the lines running parallel to the rim. The distance between the burnishing strokes is uneven, ranging from a few scattered lines or unequally spaced clusters of lines to very thick strokes that cover almost the entire surface of the vessel. The strokes are not continuous, and it can easily be seen where the potter interrupted his circuit in order to rotate the vessel again.

Wheel-burnishing, which appears as evenly spaced circles, is applied to only about 15% of the combined total of the bowls in both strata; only 10% or so of these wheel-burnished bowls were slipped. In some heavily slipped bowls, both hand and wheel burnished, the lines have a very dark, almost black chroma.

In order to draw a comparison between the red-slipped bowls from Tel ʿEton and Lachish, let us first determine the ratio between slipped and unslipped vessels at Lachish. Obviously, the only statistical data available to us come from the material published in the excavation report. Tufnell summarized her observations on this subject in a table (Tufnell 1953:261), but the data there refer mainly to hand- and wheel-burnishing, and the subject of slip is scarcely mentioned. Since the means are not available to reexamine this material according to our criteria, Tufnell's descriptions have had to be relied upon. The (published) red-slipped bowls found in Level III loci in the British excavations were counted (excluding the material from contemporary graves, which will be dealt with elsewhere). It was

found that only 35% of the bowls from the tel are slipped, including those described by Tufnell as washed (after firing) or pink slipped (probably what we would call unslipped or washed). If Tufnell's washed and pink-slipped categories are excluded, the number of bowls that are really slipped is even less, about 25%.

This percentage drops even further when analyzing the Level III material from Areas G and S in the new excavations (not yet published). Only complete vessels were counted. Of these, only 15% are red slipped. Perhaps the statistical differences between our data and those of the British expedition are due to the different terminology used.

In Level IV (of the new excavations) the percentage of red slip is much higher and seems to approach 50%. However, in our preliminary study, only the larger rim-sherds from Area S were counted. (A quantitative study of the Level IV loci and contemporary tombs from the British excavations has not yet been undertaken). Perhaps the comprehensive study of all the Level IV material from all the excavated areas (including vessels that are insufficiently complete to warrant drawing) will change our statistical results.

At Tell Beit Mirsim, 35% of the bowls were red slipped according to Albright. This means that if the same criteria are used, the ratio between slipped and unslipped bowls is similar to that established for Lachish. It should be remembered, however, that the pottery from Stratum A at Tell Beit Mirsim was published as a single assemblage with no allocation to the subphases of the stratum. Perhaps some quantitative changes in the red-slipped vessels used during the timespan of Stratum A would become apparent if the material could be assigned to its proper phases.

In conclusion, the ratio between slipped and unslipped bowls at Tel ʿEton (70:30) in Strata II–I is closer to that established for Lachish Level IV (50:50) than that of Level III (25:75 or 35:65, depending on whether the statistics are taken from our excavations or those of the British). On the other hand, in Tell Beit Mirsim Stratum A this ratio is similar to that of Lachish Level III.

Bowls

Bowls with plain rim (Figs. 4.1:1, 2, 6; 4.3:6; 4.4:1; 4.5:1–3). These are rounded bowls with slightly carinated walls at midpoint. The rim is plain with the same thickness as the rest of the wall, sometimes slightly thicker (Fig. 4.1:6). Similar bowls were found in Level III at Lachish, both by the British expedition (Types 9, 13, 570) and in the new excavations (Ussishkin 1978; 1983). They also appear at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 64:7, 10; Albright 1943: Pl. 25:15, 17). The same bowls, which have close parallels in the tombs at Tel ʿEton, were found in Level IV at Lachish (in the new excavations). The bowl of Fig. 4.1:2, which has a shallow depression in the centre of the inside surface, is of particular

interest. Parallels are known from Level IV at Lachish but not from Level III. There are also some examples with this depression at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 65:2, 4).

Bowls with turned-over rim (Figs. 4.1:4; 4.3:8; 4.4:8–9; 4.5:6–8, 10; 4.6:3, 6; 4.7:4–6). These bowls, when a complete profile is available (see Fig. 4.5:8), are also carinated. They are the most common bowl type in Level III at Lachish and appear in many variants — Types 73, 75, 83 in the British excavations and numerous examples in the new excavations. The type is not represented in Level IV. Circular wheel-burnishing is very common on the Lachish specimens, and five of the wheel-burnished bowls at Tel ʿEton belong to this type. It is also common at Tel Beer-sheba (Y. Aharoni 1973: Pl. 59:63–65), at Khirbet Rabûd (Kochavi 1974: Fig. 3:7) and in the Tel ʿEton tombs (Ussishkin 1974: Fig. 8:9).

Ledge-rimmed bowls. The walls of these bowls are slightly carinated. The flat ledge rim appears in two variants, the first slightly everted (Figs. 4.1:3, 5; 4.3:9; 4.4:9; 4.8:7) and the second sharply everted (Figs. 4.3:1; 4.4:2, 7; 4.8:2, 5). Both types are common at Lachish in Level III, both in the British excavations (Types 46–48, 51) and in ours; they appear already in Level IV. Their surface treatment, slip and burnishing, is similar to that of the Tel ʿEton bowls. They are also found in the tombs of Tel ʿEton (Ussishkin 1974: Fig. 8:4, 6) and at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pls. 65:21–22; Albright 1943: Pls. 21:10–12; 26:1). An almost exact parallel to one of our specimens (Fig. 4.3:1), which has a sharp ridge on the upper part of the wall, was found at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 51:13). This group of bowls also includes an exceptional specimen (Fig. 4.8:2), which has a very thick, modelled, ledge-shaped rim. No parallels have yet turned up at Lachish, but there is one at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 65:1).

Bowls with internally thickened rim (Figs. 4.3:2–3; 4.4:6; 4.5:5; 4.6:5; 4.8:1). This type is rare in Level III at Lachish. So far, it has been found only in the British excavations (Types 599, 602). It also appears in Level IV. A similar bowl is seen in Albright 1932: Pl. 65:20b.

Kraters

The kraters have a globular body and, whenever preserved, a ring base. Since the material consists mostly of sherds, it is difficult to know whether they had two or four handles. Most of them are red slipped on the interior and rim with hand-burnished exteriors. The rims are similar, but have three variants:

Thickened, rounded rim (Figs. 4.1:7–9; 4.4:10; 4.5:9; 4.6:1). These rims are typical of Level IV in the British excavations, but no examples have yet turned up in ours. In the British report it is also difficult to find exact parallels, but Type 630

seems to be similar. A good parallel comes from Tell Beit Mirsim Stratum A (Albright 1943: Pl. 26:A8).

Thickened rim, slightly inverted (Figs. 4.1:11–12; 4.6:2). A few examples of this type are known from the Level III excavations of the British expedition (Types 644, 655), but have not yet turned up in the new excavations. This rim is also known from Level IV.

Hammer-shaped rim, sharply inverted (Figs. 4.1:10, 13; 4.4:5; 4.7:1). This type is so far known sporadically from the British excavations (Type 657).

It therefore seems that the kraters from Tel ʿEton are generally most similar to those from Lachish Level IV. The variants of this group represent the last phase in the evolution of the krater, which is more typical of Iron Age I. A good

FIGURE 4.1. BOWLS OF LOCUS 14 (STRATUM II)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	167/1	Yellowish; very few medium-sized grits; red slip inside and outside down to keel; black colour inside with unevenly spaced wheel-burnish.
2.	Bowl	167/2	Yellowish-orange; very few tiny grits; evenly spaced wheel-burnish inside and outside down to keel.
3.	Bowl	124/1	Brownish-yellow; many medium-sized grits.
4.	Bowl	147/4	Brown; many large grits; orange wash; horizontal hand-burnish inside and on rim at distances of 1 cm.
5.	Bowl	147/5	Brownish-pink; many medium-sized grits; pink wash inside.
6.	Bowl	174/1	Brown; many medium-sized grits; red slip inside and on rim; unevenly spaced horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
7.	Bowl	142/1	Brown-grey; few medium-sized grits; reddish-grey slip inside and on rim; dense burnish over slip.
8.	Bowl	147/1	Orange-brown; medium-sized grits; red slip inside and on rim; traces of burnish outside.
9.	Bowl	147/7	Brown; many medium-sized grits; red slip inside and on rim; traces of horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
10.	Bowl	147/2	Light brown; very many large grits; red slip inside and on rim; traces of burnish over slip.
11.	Bowl	147/3	Brown; very many large grits; red slip inside and on handle; unevenly spaced hand-burnish over slip. Fingerprint.
12.	Bowl	147/6	Brown; many small grits; orange slip inside and on rim; unevenly spaced hand-burnish over slip.
13.	Bowl	142/3	Light brown; many medium-sized grits; thin red slip inside and on rim, spilling over rim.

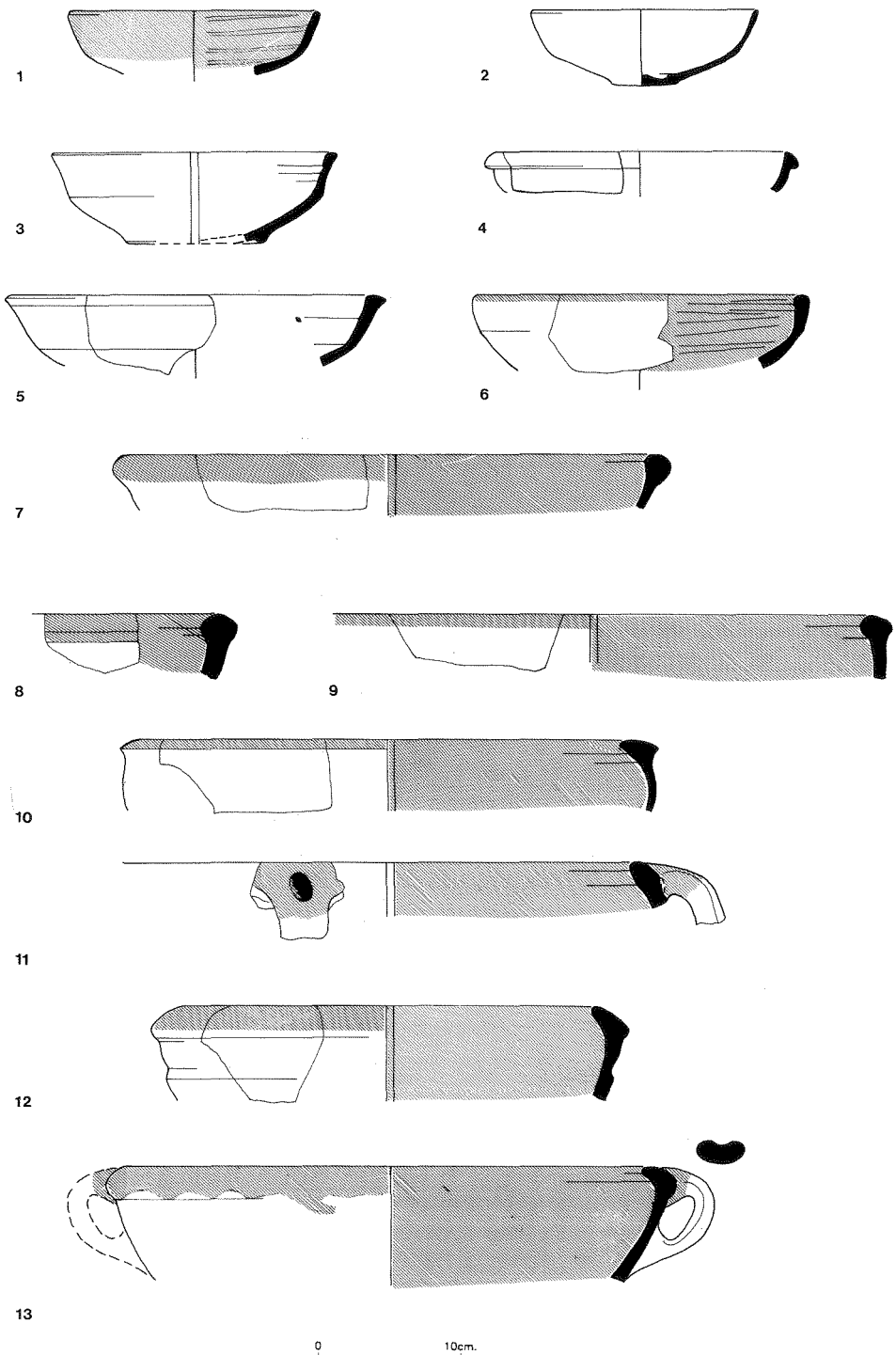

Fig. 4.1. Bowls of Locus 14 (Stratum II).

example of such an earlier assemblage is the Stratum VI kraters from Beer-sheba (Herzog 1984: Fig. 27:3–12). The Level III kraters at Lachish differ from their antecedents in the shape of the rim, the location of the ridges and the carination of the body and, particularly, in the surface treatment, i.e. the disappearance of red slip and the appearance of wheel-burnishing.

Cooking pots

These are basically of two types, both apparently two handled.

The first (Fig. 4.5:11) is made of a well-levigated brownish-red clay. It has a globular body, small mouth and a high neck with three narrow ridges and a slight carination at the bottom. This type is very rare on the mound at Tel ʿEton (only one other fragmentary specimen was found), but in Level III at Lachish it is quite common (Type 456). It is also known at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1943: Pl. 19:7) and in the Tel ʿEton tombs (Ussishkin 1974: Fig. 8:12). It is absent from Level IV at Lachish.

The second type, shallow with a wide mouth and made of a coarse, light brown clay rich in chalky grits, has several rim variants.

1) The first variant (Figs. 4.2:1; 4.3:11; 4.5:12–13; 4.6:9; 4.7:8) has a short, straight neck and thickened rim, is almost flat on top and has a shallow groove either in the middle of the flat top or just below it on the exterior. This pot is common in Lachish Level III, both in the British excavations (Type 441) and ours.

2) The body shape of the second variant is the same (Figs. 4.3:5; 4.7:7), but the rim has a sharp ridge on the exterior. This variant is also common at Lachish

FIGURE 4.2. POTTERY OF LOCUS 14 (STRATUM II)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Description*
1.	Cooking pot	123/3	Brown; many large grits.
2.	Jug	133/3	Brownish-pink; many medium-sized grits.
3.	Jug	136/1	Brown; many medium-sized grits; hole drilled in base.
4.	Holemouth jar	174/2	Brown; many small grits.
5.	Krater	142/1	Greenish-white; very few small grits.
6.	Stand	159/1	Brown-orange; many small grits.
7.	Lamp	142/2	Greenish-white; few tiny grits.
8.	Storage jar	123/1	Light brown; many small grits.
9.	Storage jar	136/1	Light brown; many small grits
10.	Storage jar	123/2	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
11.	Storage jar	147/7	Dark brown; many very small grits; coat of white plaster outside covering cracks in base.

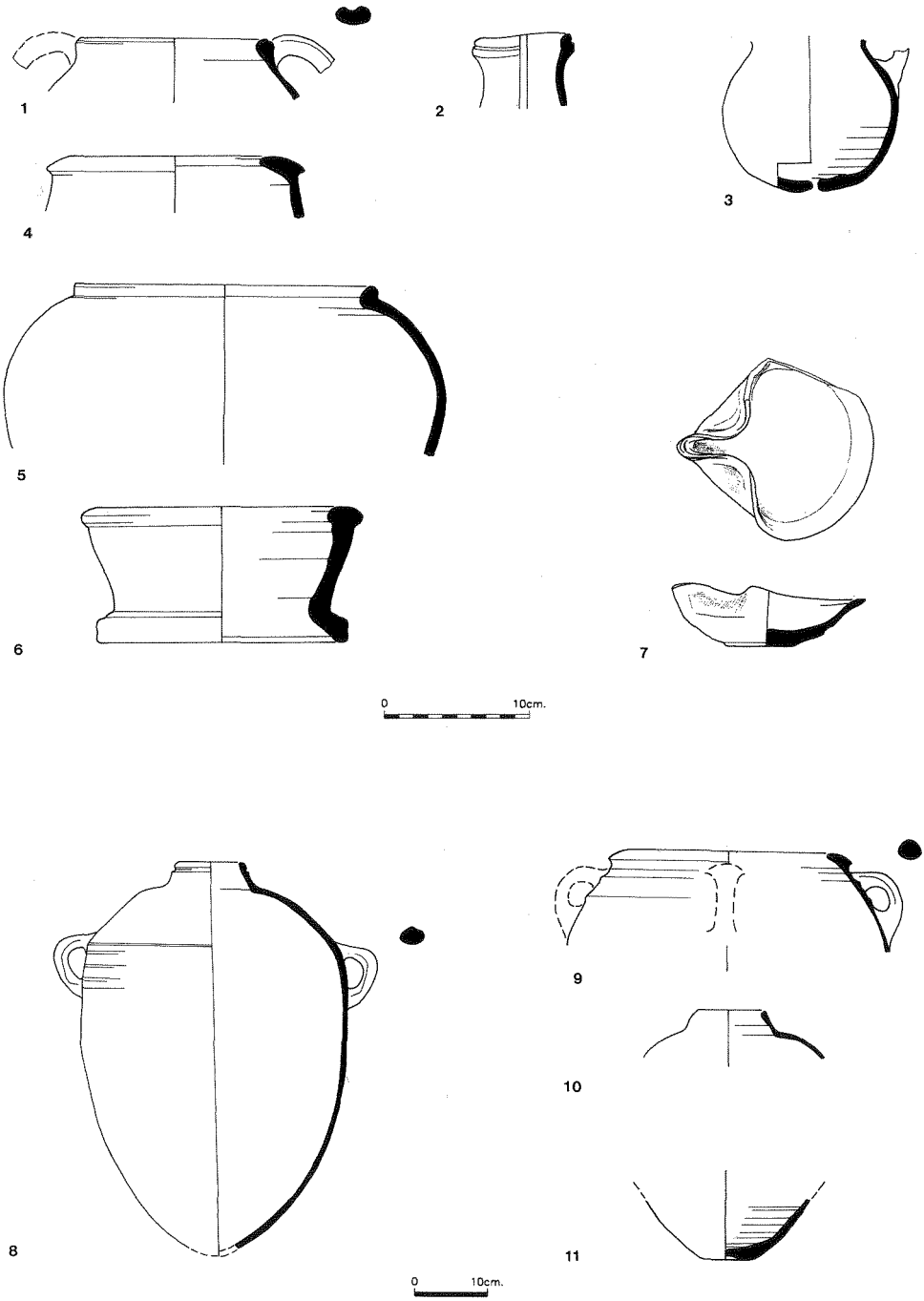

Fig. 4. 2. Pottery of Locus 14 (Stratum II).

in both the British excavations (Type 442) and ours. It also appears at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 55:5) and Khirbet Rabûd (Kochavi 1973: Fig. 3:11).

3) The variant of Fig. 4.4:12 has no exact parallels. A similar cooking pot appears at Lachish in the new excavations and at Beer-sheba in Stratum II (Y. Aharoni 1973: Pl. 66:12). The same rim occurs in Level IV at Lachish, but the ware is completely different. From Stratum VI at Beer-sheba (Herzog 1984: Fig. 28:2) and Arad Stratum XII (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 2:2, 6) there are similarly modelled rims. If it is assumed that the rim shape is not accidental and that it represents a type of cooking pot, its prototype should be sought in the earlier phases of Level IV at Lachish, perhaps even Level V. The prototypes of variants 1–3 also appear in Lachish Level IV, but differ from the later versions in rim morphology and fabric.

4) The triangular-sectioned rims with three grooves (Figs. 4.4:11; 4.8:6) are made of clay of a different composition than the rest of the cooking pots. At

FIGURE 4.3. POTTERY OF LOCI 22, 27 AND 29 (STRATUM II)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Locus*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	145/2	22	Brown-grey; many tiny grits; red-black slip inside; diagonal, unevenly spaced hand-burnish inside; dense horizontal hand-burnish on rim.
2.	Bowl	145/1	22	Brown-orange; many large grits; red slip inside and outside down to keel.
3.	Bowl	162/1	27	Light brown; many tiny grits; red slip inside.
4.	Bowl	162/2	27	Yellowish-brown; very few small grits; fine ware; brown slip inside covered by unevenly spaced spiral burnishing, creating black colour on slipped parts.
5.	Cooking pot	152/1	27	Brown; many small grits.
6.	Bowl	160/3	29	Brown; few tiny grits; red slip inside and outside down to keel; double-outlined circular hand-burnish spaced 1 cm. apart.
7.	Bowl	160/1	29	Brown-orange; many large grits; red slip inside and on rim.
8.	Bowl	160/4	29	Brown-orange; few very small grits; dense circular wheel-burnish inside.
9	Bowl	116/1	29	Brown; many very small grits; red slip inside and outside down to keel; unevenly spaced horizontal hand-burnish.
10.	Cooking pot	119/2	29	Dark brown; very few tiny grits.
11.	Cooking pot	116/1	29	Brown; many medium-sized grits.
12.	Storage jar	160/2	29	Brown; very few tiny grits.
13.	Krater	160/5	29	Light brown; many medium-sized grits. Mending holes.

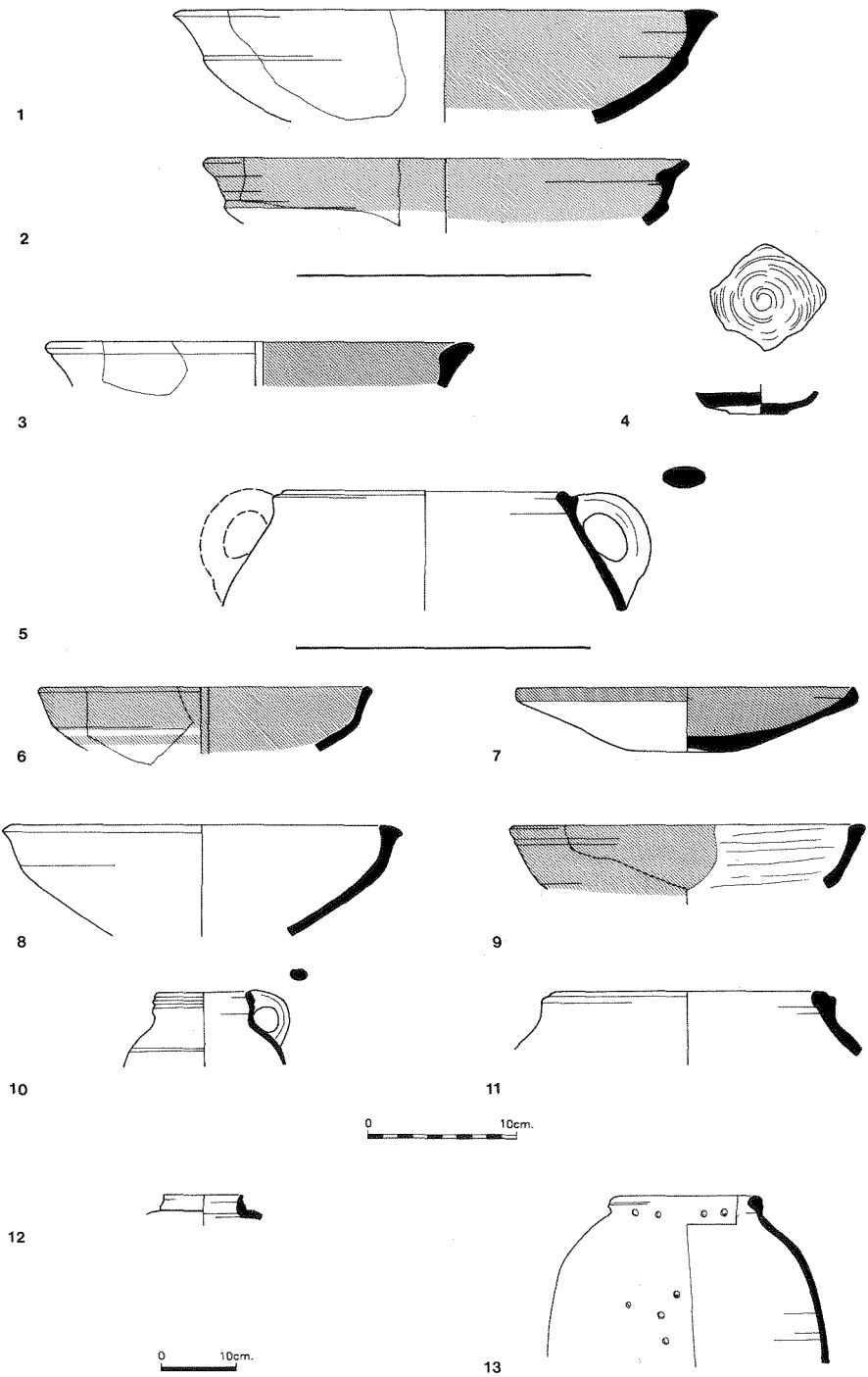

Fig. 4.3. Pottery of Loci 22, 27 and 29 (Stratum II).

Lachish this variant occurs only in Level IV. A similar type is known from Arad Stratum XII (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 2:3) and Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 55:9).

In conclusion, most of the cooking pots from Tel ʿEton have affinities with those from Lachish Level III. A few variants from Tel ʿEton that are missing from Lachish III are more typical of Level IV, perhaps even earlier.

Jugs and juglets

Only a few of the jug and juglet fragments were large enough to warrant drawing. The yellowish-brown juglet of Fig. 4.6:4 is that of Lachish Level III (Type 309). It is a close relative to the more common family of juglets made of greyish clay with dense burnishing. The jug of Fig. 4.8:10 is known from Lachish Level III as Type 271. An almost identical specimen was found in the tombs at Tel ʿEton (Ussishkin 1974: Fig. 9:2). The jug of Fig. 4.3:10 resembles a cooking pot in

FIGURE 4.4. POTTERY OF LOCI 9, 12 AND 21 (STRATUM I)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Locus*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	143/1	21	Brown; many very small grits.
2.	Bowl	143/2	21	Brown; many small grits; light red slip inside and on rim; unevenly spaced burnish over slip.
3.	Jug	143/3	21	Brown-orange; many tiny grits.
4.	Jar	113/1	9	Light brown; many small grits.
5.	Bowl	114/1	9	Brown-orange; many small grits; orange-brown wash inside and over rim; unevenly spaced horizontal hand-burnish.
6.	Bowl	118/4	12	Brown-orange; many tiny grits; thick brown-orange slip inside and out; dense horizontal burnish over slip.
7.	Bowl	118/3	12	Brown; many tiny grits; thick brown-pink slip inside and out; dense horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
8.	Bowl	132/1	12	Brown-orange; many tiny grits; orange slip inside and over rim.
9.	Bowl	132/2	12	Brown; many small grits; blackish-brown slip inside; dense horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
10.	Bowl	121/2	12	Brown; many tiny grits; orange slip inside and on rim; unevenly spaced horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
11.	Cooking pot	118/1	12	Greyish-brown; many tiny grits.
12.	Cooking pot	118/2	12	Brown; many small grits.
13.	Jug	118/5	12	Light brown; very many small grits.
14.	Pithos	121/1	12	Pinkish-brown; many tiny grits.
15.	Chalice	118/6	12	Yellowish-brown; many small grits.

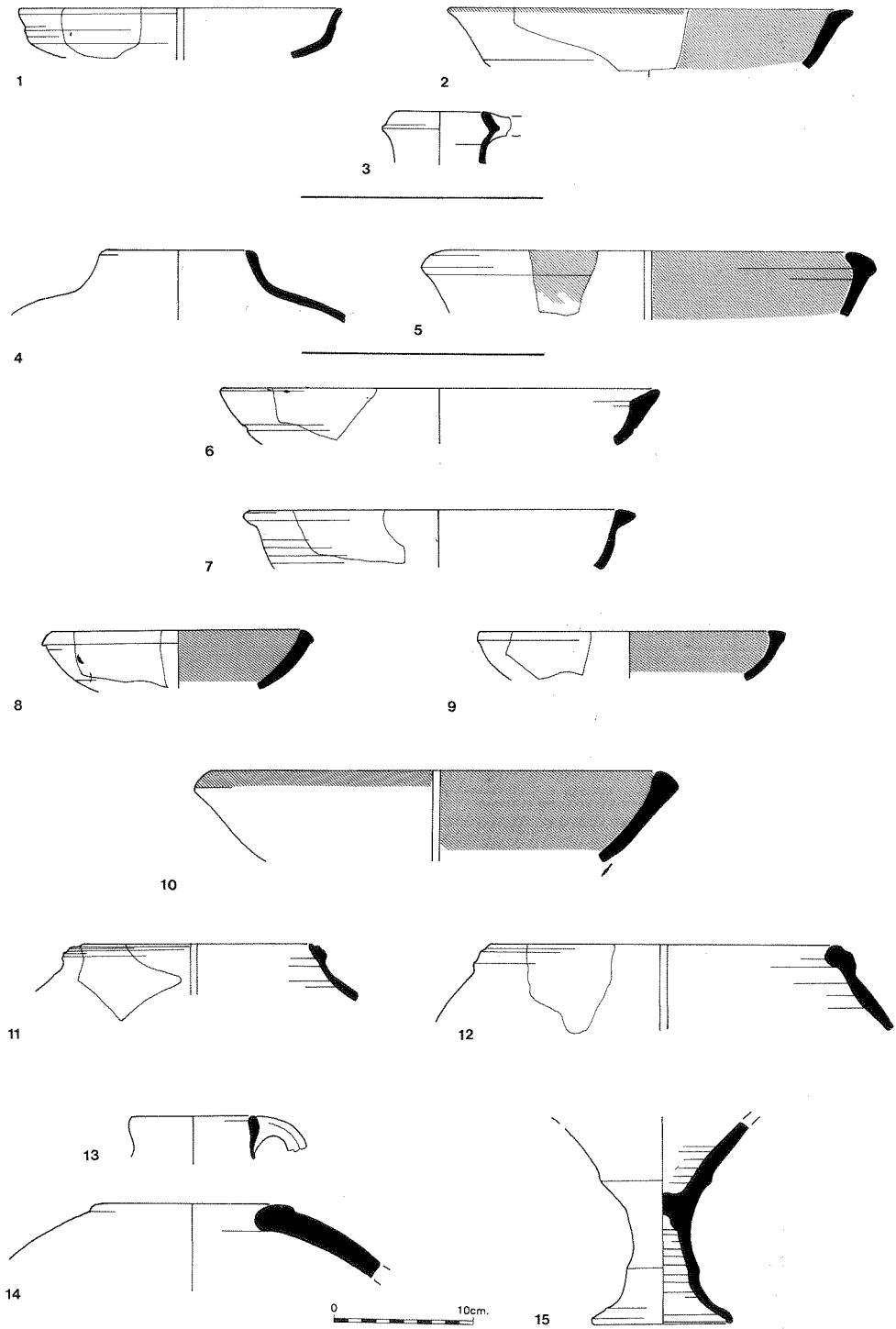

Fig. 4.4. Pottery of Loci 9, 12 and 21 (Stratum I).

every respect, including the colour of the clay (it also has soot on its base), except that it has only one handle. It might best be defined as a cooking jug. There are no exact parallels. The rim of the pot of Fig. 4.4:13 belongs to a cooking jug of the type known from Level IV at Lachish. The same shape appears in Level III, but the clay composition is more characteristic of Level IV.

Stands (Figs. 4.2:6; 4.5:14; 4.6:12)

Stands such as these were classified as Type 400 by the British excavators at Lachish. They are found in Level III of the new excavations and in Stratum A at Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1932: Pl. 71:10–12).

Chalice (Fig. 4.4:15)

This chalice is unusual in that it is deep, almost V-shaped, whereas most of the chalices of the period are rounder and shallower. A similar chalice from the British excavations at Lachish was classified as Type 662.

FIGURE 4.5. POTTERY OF LOCUS 6 (STRATUM I)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	115/1	Brown-orange; few small grits; orange slip inside and out; unevenly spaced horizontal wheel-burnish inside.
2.	Bowl	101/1	Brown-orange; few tiny grits; red slip inside and out; horizontal wheel-burnish spaced 3 mm. apart inside.
3.	Bowl	115/2	Brown-orange; few tiny grits; orange slip inside; unevenly spaced horizontal hand-burnish.
4.	Bowl	106/1	Reddish-brown; many small grits.
5.	Bowl	101/2	Greyish-brown; very few tiny grits; reddish-grey wash inside; irregular hand-burnish over wash.
6.	Bowl	101/3	Brown-orange; many tiny grits.
7.	Bowl	115/3	Brown; very few tiny grits; unevenly spaced horizontal wheel-burnish.
8.	Bowl	112/1	Brown-orange; few small grits; regular wheel-burnish spaced 0.5 cm. apart.
9.	Bowl	111/1	Brown; many small grits; reddish-brown slip inside, spilling outside onto rim; unevenly spaced horizontal hand-burnish.
10.	Bowl	107/1	Pinkish-brown; very few tiny grits; dense hand-burnish inside.
11.	Cooking pot	101/4	Reddish-brown; very few tiny grits.
12.	Cooking pot	112/2	Brown; many large grits.
13.	Cooking pot	115/4	Brown; many large grits.
14.	Stand	106/3	Pinkish-brown; very few tiny grits.

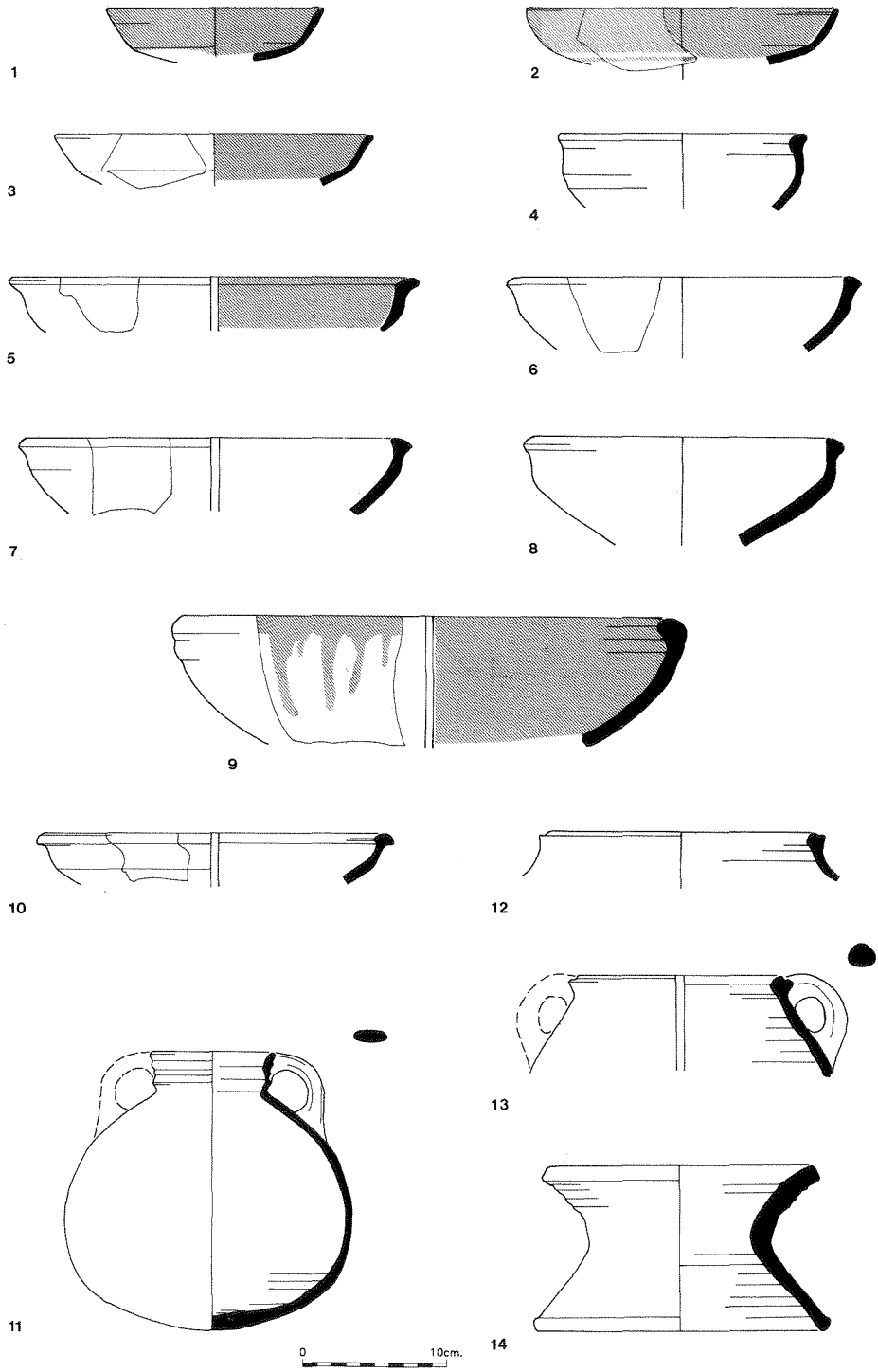

Fig. 4.5. Pottery of Locus 6 (Stratum I).

Storage jars

The storage vessels of Tel ʿEton fall into six categories: three types of holemouths, two types of necked jars and pithoi.

Small cylindrical holemouths (Figs. 4.2:4; 4.6:11; 4.8:8). These rims come from small handleless jars that differ from the rims of the more common type of cylindrical holemouth (from Tel Beer-sheba, for example) in that they are not grooved. No complete specimens were found. This type is very rare at Lachish, and only three of the holemouths there have this smooth rim (Type 391); but at Tell Beit Mirsim there are several examples (Albright 1932: Pl. 52:3–5). This jar seems to be characteristic of the hill country of Judah.

Holemouth storage jars (Figs. 4.2:9; 4.7:9–11). Like the above type, none of these storage jars could be completely restored. However, complete specimens usually have four handles, three ridges in the shoulder area, a swollen body and a very low ring base. In the British excavations at Lachish they are classified as Type 490. They are very common in Judean sites during Iron Age II. Analogies come from Tell Beit Mirsim (Albright 1943: Pl. 13:2) and Beer-sheba (Y. Aharoni 1973: Pl. 58:33–36).

Storage kraters (Figs. 4.2:5; 4.3:13). Due to the ambiguous nature of these vessels, one might also designate them as holemouths with rounded rims. Since

FIGURE 4.6. POTTERY OF LOCI 3 AND 7 (STRATUM I)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Locus*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	103/3	3	Brown-grey; many small grits; orange-grey slip inside; dense horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
2.	Bowl	103/2	3	Brown-orange; many large grits; orange wash inside; horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
3.	Bowl	103/4	3	Light brown; many medium-sized grits; horizontal hand-burnish inside and on rim.
4.	Juglet	103/1	3	Yellowish; very few large grits.
5.	Bowl	126/1	7	Brown; many tiny grits; few very large grits; thick red slip inside and out; dense horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
6.	Bowl	127/2	7	Pinkish-brown; many medium-sized grits.
7.	Jug	109/1	7	Brown-orange; very few tiny grits; orange-red wash inside and out.
8.	Jug	109/2	7	Brown; few tiny grits; traces of red slip.
9.	Cooking pot	109/3	7	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
10.	Storage jar	127/1	7	Orange; many medium-sized grits.
11.	Holemouth	127/3	7	Dark brown; very few small grits.
12.	Stand	135/1	7	Brown-orange; many medium-sized grits.

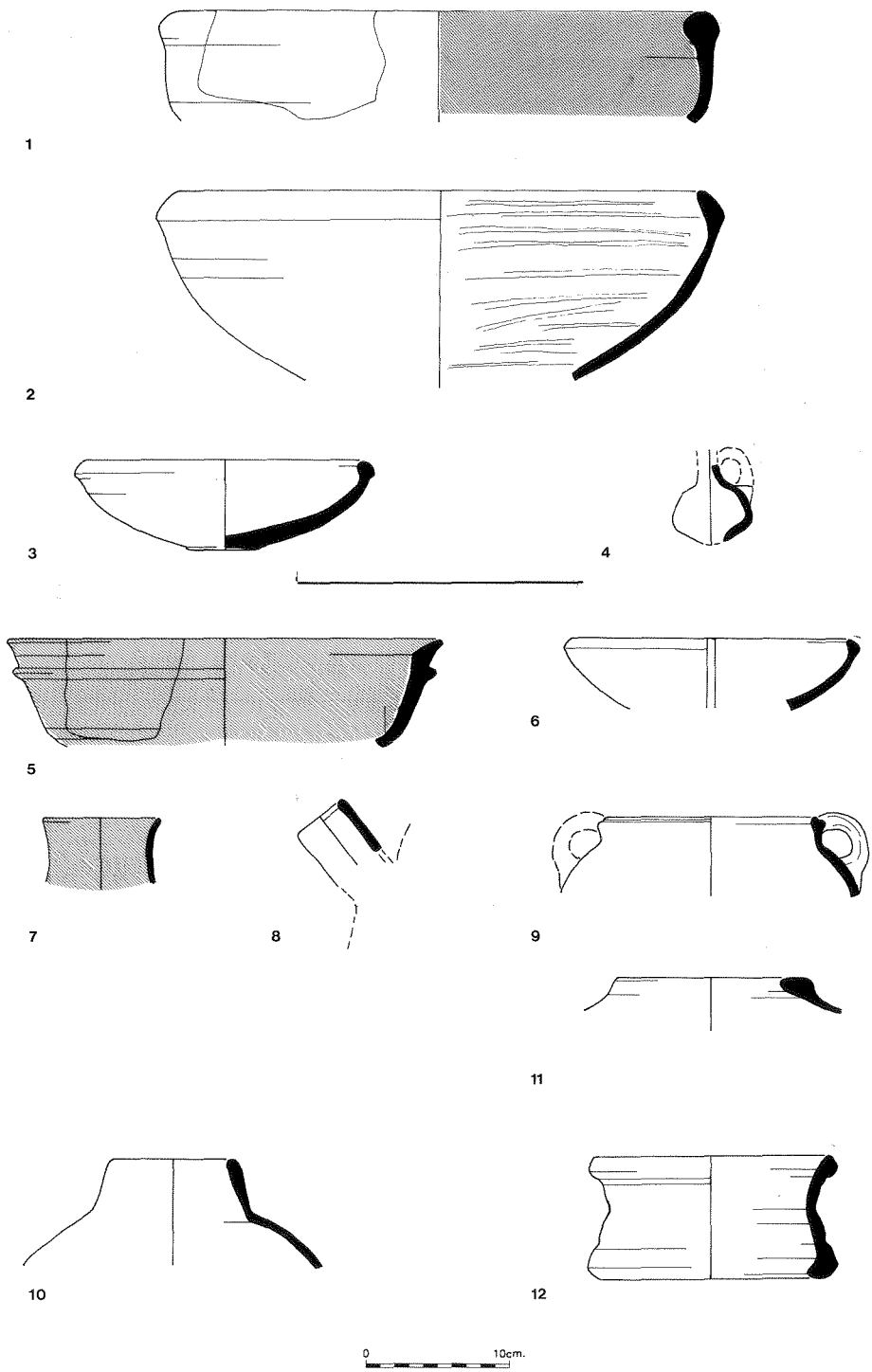

Fig. 4.6. Pottery of Loci 3 and 7 (Stratum I).

they were somewhat warped during firing and the bases of both are missing, it is difficult to determine their original shapes. Such vessels are unknown from Lachish. There are two vessels at Tell Beit Mirsim with similar rims (Albright 1932: Pl. 52:12–13) that appear to be of the same type.

Necked storage jars (Figs. 4.2:8; 4.7:12, 16). These oval storage jars have a rounded, slightly flattened base and a carinated shoulder accented by a ridge at the point where the handles are attached. Two of the specimens have two handles, whereas the third has four. The sides of the neck slope inward like a truncated cone, ending in a slightly thickened rim. The necks of the two complete specimens are grooved on the upper third, a phenomenon that is typical of Level IV at Lachish. The complete specimens are about 55 cm. high. The shape and shoulder ridge of the four-handled type are well known on a group of four-handled jars belonging to the family of royal storage jars, found in large quantities in Level III in the new excavations at Lachish, whereas there were very few of the two-handled type at Lachish (Type 467 of the British excavations). Similar jars are known at Beer-sheba (Y. Aharoni 1973: Pl. 57:12–16), but they are only about 45 cm. high.

FIGURE 4.7. POTTERY OF LOCUS 4 (STRATUM I)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	150/1	Brown; many tiny grits; red slip inside and on rim.
2.	Jug	150/2	Dark brown; few tiny grits.
3.	Storage jar	150/3	Yellowish-brown; many medium-sized grits.
4.	Bowl	120/2	Pinkish-brown; many medium-sized grits; light pink slip inside; traces of wheel-burnish.
5.	Bowl	120/1	Grey-brown; few tiny grits; wheel-burnish 0.5 cm. apart inside and out.
6.	Bowl	134/1	Pinkish-brown: many large grits.
7.	Cooking pot	120/3	Light brown; many large grits.
8.	Cooking pot	120/4	Pinkish-brown; many medium-sized grits.
9.	Storage jar	134/3	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
10	Storage jar	134/4	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
11	Storage jar	122/1	Light brown; many medium-sized grits; fingerprint on handle.
12	Storage jar	177/2	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
13	Storage jar	168/2	Yellow-brown; many medium-sized grits.
14	Storage jar	168/1	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
15	Storage jar	177/1	Light brown; many medium-sized grits.
16	Storage jar	125/1	Orange-brown; many medium-sized grits.

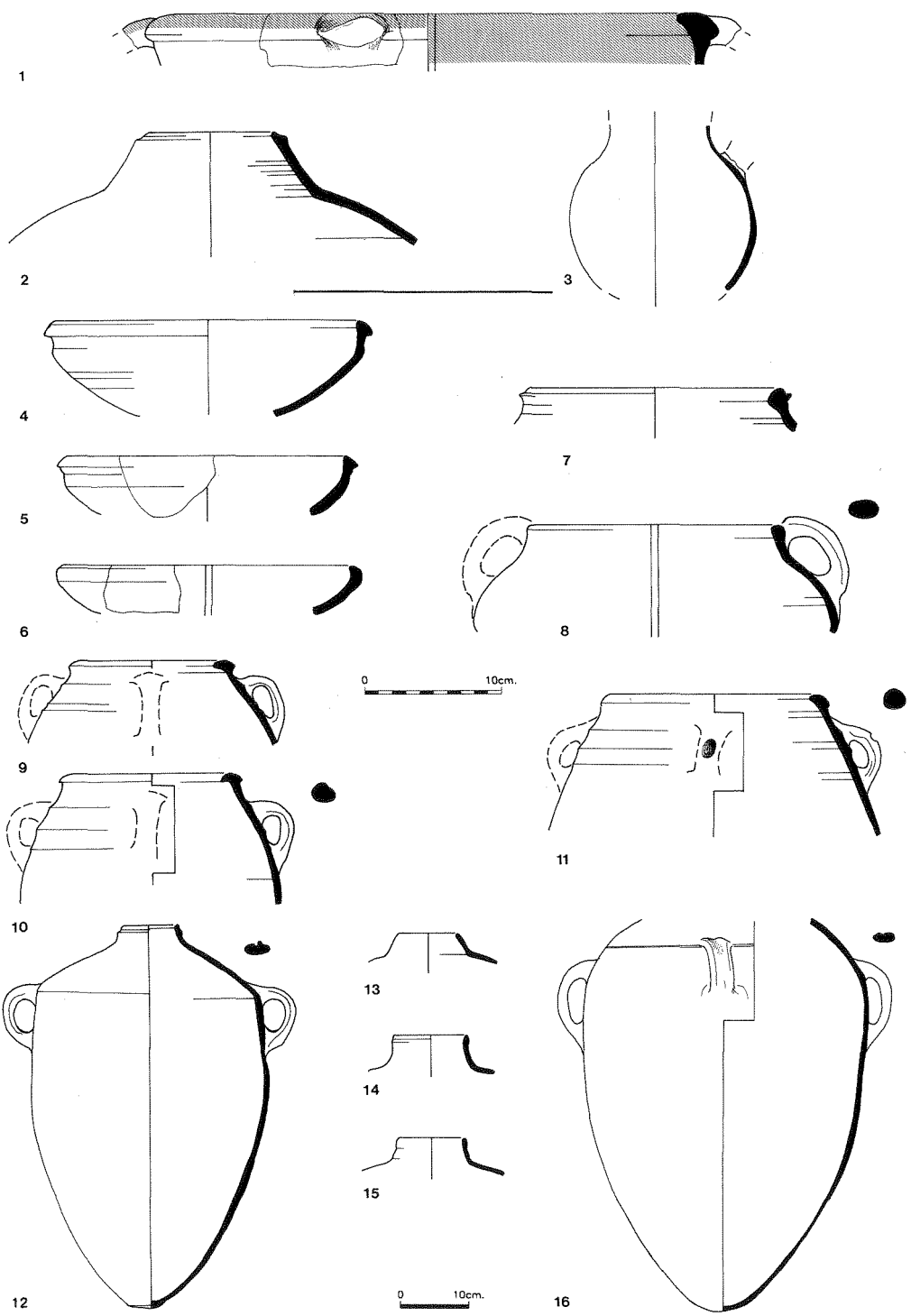

Fig. 4.7. Pottery of Locus 4 (Stratum I).

In Figs. 4.2:10; 4.4:4; 4.6:10; 4.7:13–15 are a number of rim fragments of unrestorable jars that are difficult to assign to either of the above types.

Triangular-rimmed storage jars (Fig. 4.3:12). These are known already in Level IV at Lachish; the specimens of Level III were classified as Type 472 by the British expedition.

Pithoi (Figs. 4.4:14; 4.8:3, 11). These first appeared in Level IV at Lachish. In the British excavations, where they were classified as Type 466, they came from Level III.

A COMPARISON OF THE STRATIGRAPHY AND CHRONOLOGY OF LACHISH, TELL BEIT MIRSIM AND ARAD

Lachish

The Level IV–III loci on the mound at Lachish from which our ceramic comparisons were drawn are stratigraphically secure. The parallels from Level IV are all taken from loci of the new excavations. It should be noted that for some of the vessels found at Tel ʿEton the best parallels come from the tombs at Lachish, particularly those considered by Tufnell as contemporary with Level IV.

FIGURE 4.8. POTTERY OF LOCI 10, 15 AND 17 (STRATUM I)

No.	*Type*	*Reg. No.*	*Locus*	*Description*
1.	Bowl	108/1	10	Brown-orange; many medium-sized grits; red slip inside and on rim; unevenly spaced hand-burnish over slip.
2.	Bowl	108/3	10	Brown; many medium-sized grits; thin red slip inside and on rim; horizontal hand-burnish on rim.
3.	Pithos	128/1	10	Yellowish-brown; many large grits.
4.	Bowl	108/2	10	Pinkish-brown; many medium-sized grits; orange wash inside; traces of burnish.
5.	Bowl	129/2	15	Brown; many small grits; red slip inside and on rim; dense horizontal hand-burnish over slip.
6.	Cooking pot	129/1	15	Light brown; many small grits.
7.	Bowl	138/4	17	Orange; many small grits; orange slip inside; dense hand-burnish inside and on rim.
8.	Holemouth	138/1	17	Brown; many small grits.
9.	Holemouth	138/2	17	Yellowish-brown; many small grits.
10	Jug	138/3	17	Orange; many medium-sized grits.
11	Pithos	138/5	17	Yellowish-brown; many small grits.

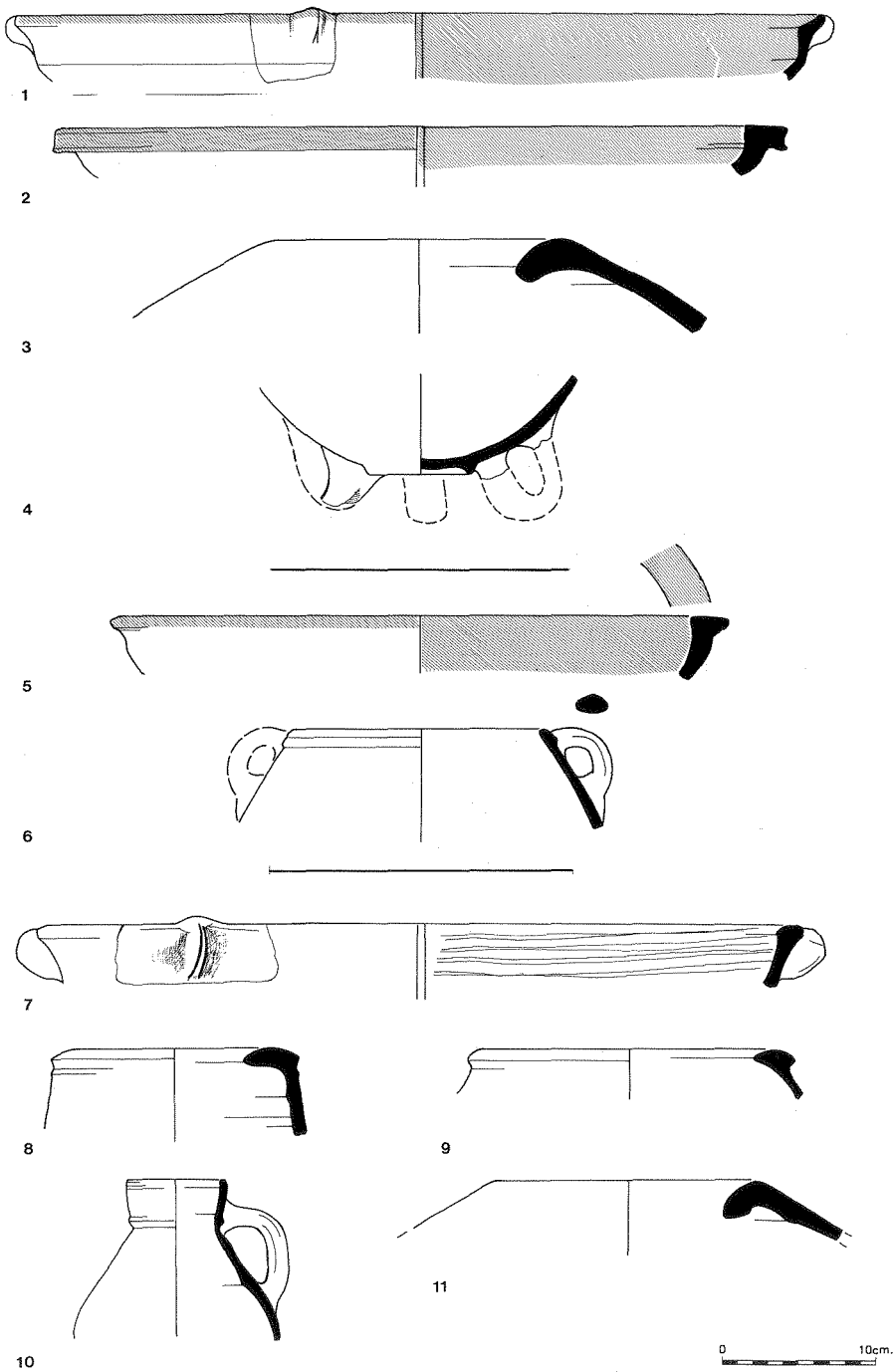

Fig. 4.8. Pottery of Loci 10, 15 and 17 (Stratum I).

However, it is best to treat this tomb material with caution until its relationship to Levels IV and III is finally determined; hence citing parallels from this material has been avoided.

Level III at Lachish was destroyed by Sennacherib in 701 B.C.E. This and the date for the destruction of Level II are the two pivotal points of the Iron Age chronology of Lachish. The rich ceramic assemblages of Level III that were sealed under the destruction debris represent the final phase of the city on the eve of its destruction, not the phase of its inception or the duration of its existence. On the other hand, Level IV did not suffer total destruction, and its most important structures, its city gate, wall and palace, continued to exist into Level III. A number of pottery-bearing floors in a well-stratified sequence were distinguished in Level IV, but preliminary analysis of the pottery reveals no significant typological differences between the repertoires of the various phases. Unfortunately, there is no ceramic assemblage in Level IV that was sealed by a layer of burnt debris like that of Level III. Neither is the date of Level IV completely certain. Three possible dates have been suggested by the excavators of the site. According to Tufnell (1953:53–54), the erection of Palace B (= Level IV) could have been the work of Jehoshaphat in the beginning of the 9th century, while Aharoni proposed a date around the end of the 9th or the beginning of the 8th century for the termination of Level IV (Y. Aharoni 1975:45). In Ussishkin's opinion (1983:173), the division of the United Monarchy (930 B.C.E.) is the *terminus post quem* for the beginning of this level. It therefore seems that the city of Level IV flourished and came to an end sometime during the 9th century. In spite of the lack of precise dating of this level, its well-stratified assemblages (which differ substantially from those of Level III) are useful for comparisons with material at Lachish itself (Level V) and other sites.

Upon examination, it seems that the assemblages of various strata in Judean sites, such as Tel ʿEton, may be integrated into a ceramic sequence according to their degree of resemblance to the Lachish assemblages, including the assemblages from those sites that are not as well dated as Level III and II. Hopefully, additional assemblages found in secure stratigraphic context, even if undated, will help to fill the gaps in our knowledge of the ceramic development of Iron Age II.

Tell Beit Mirsim

Albright himself was aware of the stratigraphic and ensuing typological difficulties encountered during the excavation of Stratum A at Tell Beit Mirsim and suggested dividing it into two phases, A_1 and A_2. However, except for references to a few floors, fragmentary walls and a number of vessels, Albright was unable to define either the plan or finds of Stratum A_1 (Albright 1943:40, 64–65, 152–154). He

pointed out a number of structures in Stratum A_2 in which there were several building phases, repairs and superimposed floors (*ibid.*: 41–48). These he attributed historically and chronologically to the final years of the Judean Monarchy (*ibid.*: 66–68).

In the last decade several studies have been published that touch on the subject of the stratigraphy and finds of Stratum A. Y. Aharoni dealt with some of the stratigraphic problems in his attempt to determine the date of the 'West Tower', which was partially built over the ruins of the casemate wall. On the basis of the pottery, Aharoni suggested (Aharoni and Aharoni 1976:73) that the city of Stratum A_2 and the casemate wall surrounding it were destroyed in 701 B.C.E. during the campaign of Sennacherib. However, in his opinion, during the reign of Josiah (640 B.C.E.) a small settlement was built over the stumps of the city walls and structures of Stratum A_2 that lasted until the end of the First Temple Period (Y. Aharoni 1982:261–262, 266). It is to this phase (Stratum A_3 in his terminology) that he ascribes the erection of the West Tower and the buildings in the southeastern sector of the tel. The two jar handles with the inscriptions of *lʿlyqm nʿrywkn* were found nearby. Aharoni, following Albright, dated these seals to the reign of Jehoiachin (Albright 1943: 66–67, n. 9), thereby assigning the final destruction of Tell Beit Mirsim to the end of the Judean Monarchy.

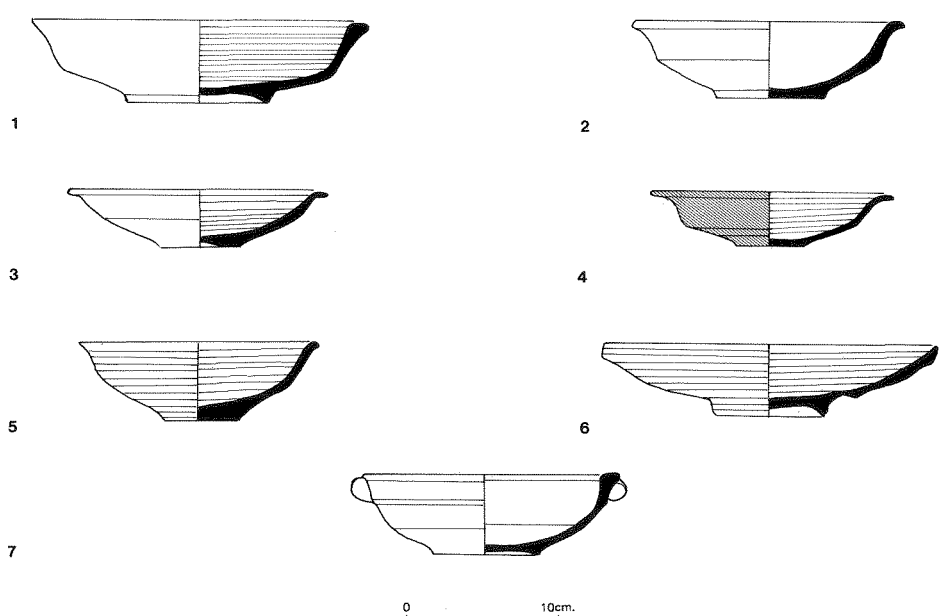

Fig. 4.9. Tel Beit Mirsim bowls attributed to Stratum A_1: (1) Albright 1932: Pl. 65:27; (2) *ibid.*: Pl. 65:20a; (3) *ibid.*: Pl. 65:26; (4) *ibid.*: Pl. 65:23; (5) Albright 1943: Pl. 21:7; (6) *ibid.*: Pl. 21:6; (7) *ibid.*: Pl. 26:2.

On the other hand, it is clear that, though the West Tower was a later addition, Albright had no doubt that the city wall continued to function throughout the lifetime of the settlement. He even remarked that since the city wall 'is known to have been standing in the last short phase of the history of Tell Beit Mirsim,' it would be most unlikely that the large stones that were used to build the walls in Squares SE 12–13 and 22–23 were taken from it (Albright 1943: 65–66). Shiloh (1978:36–37), in his study of Israelite city planning, follows Albright in assigning the West Tower to Stratum A.

It therefore seems that during the final phase of Tell Beit Mirsim all the important architectural elements of the town still existed: the casemate wall, the West Tower and most of the other structures. The repairs and new walls in the southeastern sector should therefore be attributed to the phase prior to the destruction of the city wall.

According to Ussishkin (1976:11), the stamp seals of *lʿlyqm nʿrywkn* and the royal seal impressions found in the final destruction level were impressed, one next to the other, on the same storage jars. The abundance of jars bearing royal Judean seal impressions that were sealed in the destruction debris of Lachish Level III provides their date (Ussishkin 1977:56), thereby also dating the *lʿlyqm nʿrywkn* seals to the campaign of Sennacherib. A similar chronological conclusion was independently reached by Cross (1983;58), who checked the appearance of the name *ywkn* on various seals and seal impressions and dated the stamp impressions to the end of the 8th century on the basis of linguistic, onomastic and paleographic criteria.

As Y. Aharoni pointed out, a comparison of the ceramic assemblage of Tell Beit Mirsim Stratum A with that of Lachish Level III shows the contemporaneity of the two levels. On the other hand, there is no vessel in the Tell Beit Mirsim report that is later than Level III. It is reasonable to assume that if there had existed at Tell Beit Mirsim, as Aharoni suggested, any settlement at all that could be dated a century or so later, some evidence, even the slightest, would have survived.

The combination of these arguments supports the conclusion that the Stratum A settlement at Tell Beit Mirsim and its various phases existed only until 701 B.C.E. At present, it seems that there is insufficient evidence for the proposal that the settlement was renewed at a later period.

Regarding the ceramic assemblage of the earlier phases of Stratum A, Albright already pointed out various bowls that should be attributed to phases earlier than the destruction level, namely Stratum A_1. These earlier attributions were made mainly on typological grounds, but some of them are supported by stratigraphic considerations (Albright 1943:153–154). These bowls appear in Fig. 4.9. Most of them have an everted ledge rim. Additional vessels from other loci at

Tell Beit Mirsim are mentioned earlier in this study among the comparisons to the Tel ʿEton bowls and kraters. These types may be earlier, although it is possible that they are types that continued in use to the end of the Iron Age settlement at Tell Beit Mirsim. Unfortunately, in most cases, these particular bowls were the only finds in their respective loci, and even when there were other vessels in the same locus, they were types lacking any diagnostic value.

To this group of bowls should be added the fragments that appear in Albright 1943: Pl. 72B (particularly Nos. 7 and 15, which came from ledge-rimmed bowls). These were slipped and burnished by an entirely different technique from that used on the vessels of Stratum A_2 (Pl. 72A). However, there is no information with which to check the stratigraphic context from which these vessels came.

Since all the evidence points to the destruction of Stratum A in 701 B.C.E., it is possible that one of its early phases, perhaps A_1, represents a ceramic phase composed of earlier types (like those appearing in Stratum B_3) and later types (like those in Stratum A_2). It would seem that such a conjectural stratum is the place to seek the parallels to the Tel ʿEton assemblage.

Arad

In a summary recently published by Z. Herzog, M. Aharoni, A.F. Rainey and S. Moshkovitch (Herzog *et al.* 1984) dealing with the history and stratigraphy of Arad, the authors present their historical and stratigraphic interpretations of the various strata and their ceramic assemblages, emphasizing the Iron Age. The six Iron Age strata at Arad, in their opinion, represent chronological continuity anchored in historical events dating from the 12th-11th centuries to the 6th century. Their dating of the pottery has been dictated by this historical scheme.

Several questions come to mind when perusing this article, particularly regarding the ceramic assemblages and the dates the authors have assigned to them, as compared to the assemblages now known to us at Lachish and other Judean sites.

At Iron Age Arad the authors follow Y. Aharoni in defining six strata, which can be subdivided on the basis of their fortification systems into four phases:

1) Stratum XII: village settlement
2) Stratum XI: casemate fort
3) Strata X–VII: fort with solid wall
4) Stratum VI: casemate fort

Examination of the pottery of these strata, however, shows a tripartite division: each group is composed of a number of strata with similar pottery, but there is a marked difference between the assemblages of the three groups: a) Strata XII–XI; b) Strata X–VIII; c) Strata VII–VI.

STRATA VII–VI

Since the pottery of Stratum VII is practically identical to that of Stratum VI, it is surprising that during what appears to be a relatively short period the fortifications changed so radically, from the solid wall that had existed ever since Stratum X to a casemate fort. It is also difficult to understand why the Elyashib seals and archives were found in two different strata. Yadin (1965; 1979:219–222) is of the opinion that the casemate fort actually belongs to the Hellenistic period (Stratum IV), since some of the ashlars incorporated into its walls were dressed with a toothed pick. His suggestion that the Elyashib seals and letters all belong to the same stratum (*ibid.*: 222; 321, n. 49) sounds logical. Elyashib's seals and letters were found on either side of the thin internal wall running parallel to the southern wall of the Stratum VII fort (Herzog *et al.* 1984: Fig. 23) at a difference in height of only about 35 cm. (see Y. Aharoni 1981: plan on pp. 6–7, Loci 637 and 779).

Neither does there seem to be any reason on paleographic grounds for isolating the letters (Nos. 31, 32, 34) found with Elyashib's seals in Stratum VII from his Stratum VI archives. Aharoni's conclusions on the subject may require reassessment. According to him (Y. Aharoni 1981:131), the main difference between the inscriptions of the two strata is to be found in the development of the letter *yod*. Among the ostraca that he attributed to Stratum VII, only three were stratified, while the rest were assigned to it on paleographic grounds. On only one of the ostraca found with the Elyashib seals does the letter *yod* appear (No. 31). Unlike the rest of the correspondence in the Elyashib archives, this inscription is a list of names and commodities, which may perhaps explain the difference in handwriting between it and the others. A similar case in the Lachish archives was pointed out by A. Lemaire. In Ostracon No. 1, which is also a list of names (Torczyner *et al.* 1938:23), the letter *yod* differs from the *yod*s of the other ostraca found on the floor of the guardroom (interestingly enough, the *yod* of Lachish Ostracon No. 1 is very similar to that appearing on Ostracon No. 31 from Arad). Aharoni thought that the different shape of the Lachish *yod* was due to letter No. 1 being earlier than the others (Y. Aharoni 1981:131). However, a better explanation is that a list of names could be written by any literate person — perhaps one of the officers of the fort — not necessarily by an experienced scribe. A similar case is the Ostracon of Aḥiqam from Ḥorvat ʿUza, published by Beit-Arieh, who presents the opinion of Y. Naveh that this was the work of a man who knew how to write but was not very proficient at it (1986–1987:36). This seems to be the best explanation for different handwriting styles found in the same archive in the same stratum. Hence there is nothing in the paleography of Ostracon 31 that prevents assigning the archives of Elyashib and the room where his seals were found to the

same stratum, particularly in view of the small number of stratified ostraca belonging to Stratum VII.

The ceramic assemblages of both strata are identical and very similar to that of Lachish Level II. It is difficult to imagine that in this short period (also noted by the authors of the article under discussion) the plan of the fort was changed completely. The possibility should be considered that the pottery-bearing floors of Strata VII–VI are simply phases of the same stratum, all related to the solid wall, whereas the fortifications assigned to Stratum VI are later in date.

STRATA X–VIII

The assemblage of Strata X–VIII differs completely from that of Strata VII–VI, as does the assemblage of Lachish Level III from that of Level II.

As noted above, the vessels of Strata X, IX and VIII are similar, a fact recognized by the authors; they also note the resemblance between Lachish Level III and Arad Stratum VIII (Herzog *et al.* 1984:19). Nevertheless, they date the destruction of Stratum X 'to not long after the middle of the 9th century B.C.' (*ibid.*: 12), i.e. some 150 years earlier than the destruction of Lachish Level III by Sennacherib. This date has recently been lowered somewhat by M. Aharoni (but not her colleagues), who now assigns the destruction of Stratum X to the first quarter of the 8th century (1985), a more acceptable date, since the pottery of Stratum X and Lachish Level III are strikingly similar. Compare, for example, the following vessels (note, however, that there is a typographical error in Fig. 13 of Herzog *et al.* 1984, the first five vessels being a duplication of those of Fig. 19):

Herzog *et al.* 1984	Tufnell 1953
Fig. 12:2	Pl. 79:16
Fig. 12:6	Pl. 80:73, 75
Fig. 12:8	Pl. 93:442
Fig. 12:11	Pl. 87:281
Fig. 12:13	Pl. 88:309
Fig. 13:3	Pl. 96:499
Fig. 13:5	Pl. 89:373

On the assumption that ceramic parallels indicate temporal proximity, the assemblage of Stratum X cannot be 150 years earlier; if it were, one would expect that alongside the 8th-century types, some earlier elements would be preserved, as was the case at Tel ʿEton. Since the Stratum X assemblage does not include earlier types like those of Strata XII–XI at Arad or Levels V–IV at Lachish, it is necessary to decrease the length of time between it and Stratum VIII and to date it somewhere within the last half of the 8th century.

Summing up, it seems that the architectural changes between these strata are not significant; all were made during the lifespan of the solid wall, both the architecture and pottery reflecting a natural and uneventful development of the fort.

STRATA XII–XI

Examination of the plan of these strata as published by M. Aharoni (1981:15) shows how little of their area, particularly of Stratum XII, was excavated. Underneath the superimposed forts the excavators reached this stratum in only a few spots. To the west of this area a number of closely crowded structures were discovered, including one pillared house. It seems that these structures were enclosed by a fairly thick wall with what appear to be offsets (M. Aharoni 1981: Fig. 1), whereas the authors describe the Stratum XII settlement as an 'unwalled village enclosed at some points by a low stone wall' (Herzog *et al.* 1984:2–3).

Over the ruins of Stratum XII a structure, identified as a fort — apparently double walled — with protruding towers, was erected in Stratum XI. Due to the term *ḥqrm* (forts) that precedes the two towns with the name Arad in Shishak's inscription, this fort is generally considered to be the 'Great Arad' of his Negev campaign (Y. Aharoni 1982:246), and hence its destruction is dated to 926 B.C.E. However, an examination of the pottery raises several difficulties: in the Stratum XII assemblage there is nothing that could be as early as the 12th-11th centuries, which is the date suggested for it by the authors. Moreover, the Strata XII and XI assemblages resemble each other very closely. (Locus 920, which was attributed by M. Aharoni to a late phase of Stratum XII could just as well belong to Stratum XI, since it is located east of the area in which the excavators reached this stratum, and there are no floors bearing Stratum XI pottery above it; its assemblage is identical to that published for Stratum XI). The pottery of both strata, particularly that of Stratum XI, is similar to the repertoire of Lachish Level IV. (Since, so far, there is very little ceramic material from Lachish Level V from the new excavations, it has not been referred to here; hopefully in the future it will be possible to check its comparability to Arad Stratum XII.)

The date of Arad Stratum XI should correspond to our suggested date for Lachish IV. This, of course, would eliminate the possibility that the fort of Stratum XI is to be identified with the town in Shishak's list.

In light of the above discussion, it seems that the Iron Age settlement history of Arad may be interpreted along the following lines.

The earliest settlement, Arad Stratum XII, was founded in the 10th century, and this may well be the town destroyed by Shishak. The double-walled Stratum XI fort, whose ceramic assemblage is close to that of Stratum XII, was erected on

its ruins. Since this assemblage is very similar to that of Lachish Level IV, it should be dated somewhere in the 9th century B.C.E.

Destruction of the Stratum XI fort was followed by an occupational gap. The new fort with a solid wall that was erected in Stratum X continued to exist through Stratum VI. The lifespan of this fort covered two ceramic periods: 1) the assemblages of the town of Strata X–VIII, which are similar to that of Lachish Level III, and hence should be dated close to the end of the 8th century; 2) the assemblages of Strata VII–VI, which differ totally from those of the previous three strata and are paralleled in Lachish Level II. These two strata belong to the last two phases of the solid-walled fort, while the casemate fort postdates the Iron Age settlement.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Tel ʿEton is one of a group of Iron Age settlements of the Judean Monarchy, which, with their accompanying cemeteries, lie in the border zone between the foothills and the western slopes of the Hebron hills. In addition to the two strata identified in the excavations, it seems that there was another stratum above them, but its date is undetermined, and it is possible that it does not belong to the Iron Age at all. (There are also additional strata underneath, but they have not yet been excavated.)

The ceramic assemblages of the two strata are very similar, and apparently there was practically no time gap between them that would have enabled new types to appear in the upper stratum. The pottery of the two strata is homogenous, consisting of the usual domestic repertoire known from numerous Iron Age sites, characterized by an abundance of red-slipped bowls. Hand-burnishing predominates, although there are a few vessels that were burnished on the wheel.

The various shades of slip are an important factor when making typological comparisons of ceramic assemblages. In my opinion, the application of slip should be considered a technique in its own right, not necessarily associated, as it usually is, with burnishing, whether by hand or by wheel. It should be looked upon as an independent phenomenon whenever and wherever it appears, and only afterward should the combination of slip plus burnishing be taken into account.

However, without a thorough reexamination of all the Iron Age pottery so far excavated, it is impossible to ascertain what the terms slip and burnish actually represent in the archaeological idiom, and therefore difficult to ascribe a chronological significance to the first appearance of slip in the Iron Age. In this brief analysis it would therefore be best to consider it a phenomenon whose initial date of appearance and duration have not yet been established. Nevertheless, it seems that in the geographical zone under discussion the use of red slip began to be less and less common toward the end of the 8th century.

In comparison to Lachish, the ceramic assemblage of Tel ʿEton can be divided into three groups:

1) Vessels that appear only in Level III, among which are the bowls with a turned-over rim, most of the cooking pots and the four-handled holemouth storage jars.

2) Vessels that appear in both Levels IV and III, which include the bowls with a plain rim and the ledge-rimmed bowls. Among the storage jars there also seem to be some types that are spread over Levels IV and III at Lachish.

3) Vessels that appear only in Level IV at Lachish, including the kraters and cooking pot variants 3 and 4. In addition to the morphological similarity to the specimens of Lachish Level IV, the resemblance is also evident in the extensive use of red slip and hand-burnishing on the bowls and kraters.

The major difference in the ceramic assemblages of the two sites is that at Tel ʿEton certain vessels typical of Level IV at Lachish appear together in the same locus as those typical of Level III. However, it should be remembered that the Lachish Level III assemblage came solely from the destruction level. At Lachish vessels that might be able to close the gap in our knowledge between Level IV and the final phase of Level III are missing completely. It is therefore suggested that the Tel ʿEton assemblage is contemporary with what could have been the pottery assemblage of the beginning of Level III at Lachish, a phase from which no comparative material is available. A provisional date would be between 850–750 B.C.E. The excavators of the tombs at Tel ʿEton came to the same conclusion (Ussishkin 1974:18; Tzaferis 1982:10).

The comparison between the assemblages of Tel ʿEton, Lachish and Tell Beit Mirsim may perhaps cast more light on the assemblage of the latter site than it contributes to establishing the chronological position of the Tel ʿEton assemblage. Apparently the situation at Tell Beit Mirsim is similar to that of Lachish Level III in that most of the vessels belong to the final destruction level of the town. From the preceding phase, the establishment of the town in Stratum A1, there is very little material. The scanty nature of the material, however, suggests that a complete assemblage would have been similar to that of the two strata at Tel ʿEton.

When comparing these assemblages with the Arad material, it seems that the dates given to Strata XII–X at the site should be lowered to somewhere in the 10th century for Stratum XII (possibly the settlement mentioned in Shishak's list), the 9th century for Stratum XI and the 8th century for Strata X–VIII.

Finally, it should be remembered that the conclusions regarding Tel ʿEton are based on a salvage excavation of limited scope. The picture might change if the site, particularly the upper stratum that represents the final settlement of the mound, as well as whatever strata lie underneath the two that were reached, were to be more extensively excavated.

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CHAPTER 5

TWO CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGES FROM LACHISH LEVELS III AND II*

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents two ceramic assemblages from the city gate area of Lachish uncovered in the excavations of the Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University, under the direction of D. Ussishkin.

These assemblages, chosen for their similar character and the large number of vessels in each, were retrieved from Room 4014 of Level III, adjacent to the inner city gate (Ussishkin 1978:56, 63–64; 1983:132), and Rooms 4084 and 4086 of Level II, adjacent to the main city wall near the inner city gate (Ussishkin 1978:57, 66–67; 1983:134, 136; Fig. 17). The area under discussion (Area GE) was excavated during the years 1974–1980, under the supervision of I. Eshel (For a plan of Lachish see Fig. 3.1 in this volume; for a plan of the inner city gate see Fig. 5.1).

Most of the pottery types found in Rooms 4014, 4084 and 4086 have long been known, and were published in Tufnell 1953 and Aharoni 1975. An attempt has been made in this study, on the basis of Tufnell's typological division, to integrate the new finds with the previously published material. However, Tufnell's division is of too wide a spectrum, grouping together pottery types from different levels. Therefore, to simplify treatment of such a large repertoire, the vessels in this study have been divided into groups according to general similarity of shape (similar proportions between rim, shoulder, handle, body and base) and design.

In the discussion of the different vessel types the importance of the study of the ware has been stressed. The abundance of vessels enabled their classification according to type of clay, as well as shape and size.

Figures 5.2–5.36 represent only the complete vessels found in the two assemblages. Incomplete vessels whose type could be identified are included in the total number of vessels of each group. Technical details, such as hue and surface treatment, are included in the discussion of the vessel groups and not in the description of the figures. The vessels from Level II are discussed as a single assemblage, although they were found in two different rooms of the same storehouse. It is indicated in the figures in which room the vessels were found.

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* Appeared in *Tel Aviv* 17, 1990, pp. 3–52.

The ceramic discussion consists of a description of the characteristics of each group and its stratigraphic context in the former excavations at Lachish. Since the dating of Levels III and II at Lachish is well established, no need was perceived to present comparisons for all the vessels under discussion. However, in the case of important groups, parallels are drawn from pottery recovered in Judah and the coastal plain to demonstrate the distribution or origin of the vessels.

Most of the discussion is focused on the storage jars, which make up the majority of the vessels. They were divided into groups identified by the level number, followed by a letter indicating its serial group number.

Discussion of the small number of vessels other than storage jars is limited. Locus 4014 of Level III contained nearly all types of cooking pots, bowls, jugs and lamps common in 8th-century Judah. Aharoni and Aharoni (1976) published a summary of the typology of these vessels and presented comparisons from the major sites in Judah.

The two ceramic repertoires discussed here include most of the storage jar types in use on the eve of the destruction of Levels III and II. These assemblages, however, lack certain types recovered from other loci of these levels, which will be published in the final excavation report.

Finally, it should be stressed that the starting point of the following discussion is the stratigraphy and chronology of Tel Lachish as presented in the preliminary excavation reports (Ussishkin 1978; 1983), i.e. a destruction date of 701 B.C.E. for Level III and a destruction date of 588/6 B.C.E. for Level II.

LEVEL III — ROOM 4014

Room 4014 is located near the northeastern corner of the Levels IV–III inner city gate, adjoining the outer face of the gate's northern wall (W402). The room is rectangular, measuring 4.50 x 1.60 m. The walls are built of small unhewn stones and a plastered brick superstructure. The floor is made of packed earth. A doorway, including a threshold slab of soft limestone 75 cm. wide, is situated in the eastern wall.

Traces of the conflagration which accompanied the destruction of the Level III gate area are well preserved in the room. Its great heat melted the bricks and turned their colour to reddish-yellow. Many sherds were found glued together by the hardened brick material, and their separation was possible only with a solution of 10% acetic acid. The original shape of some vessels was distorted, which caused great difficulties during the restoration process. Many sherds were burnt to a reddish-yellow colour, similar to that of the burnt bricks. Sherds mixed with brick debris were piled up to more than one metre above floor level. In addition to the pottery, grinding stones, stone stoppers (Fig. 5.2:8–9) and other

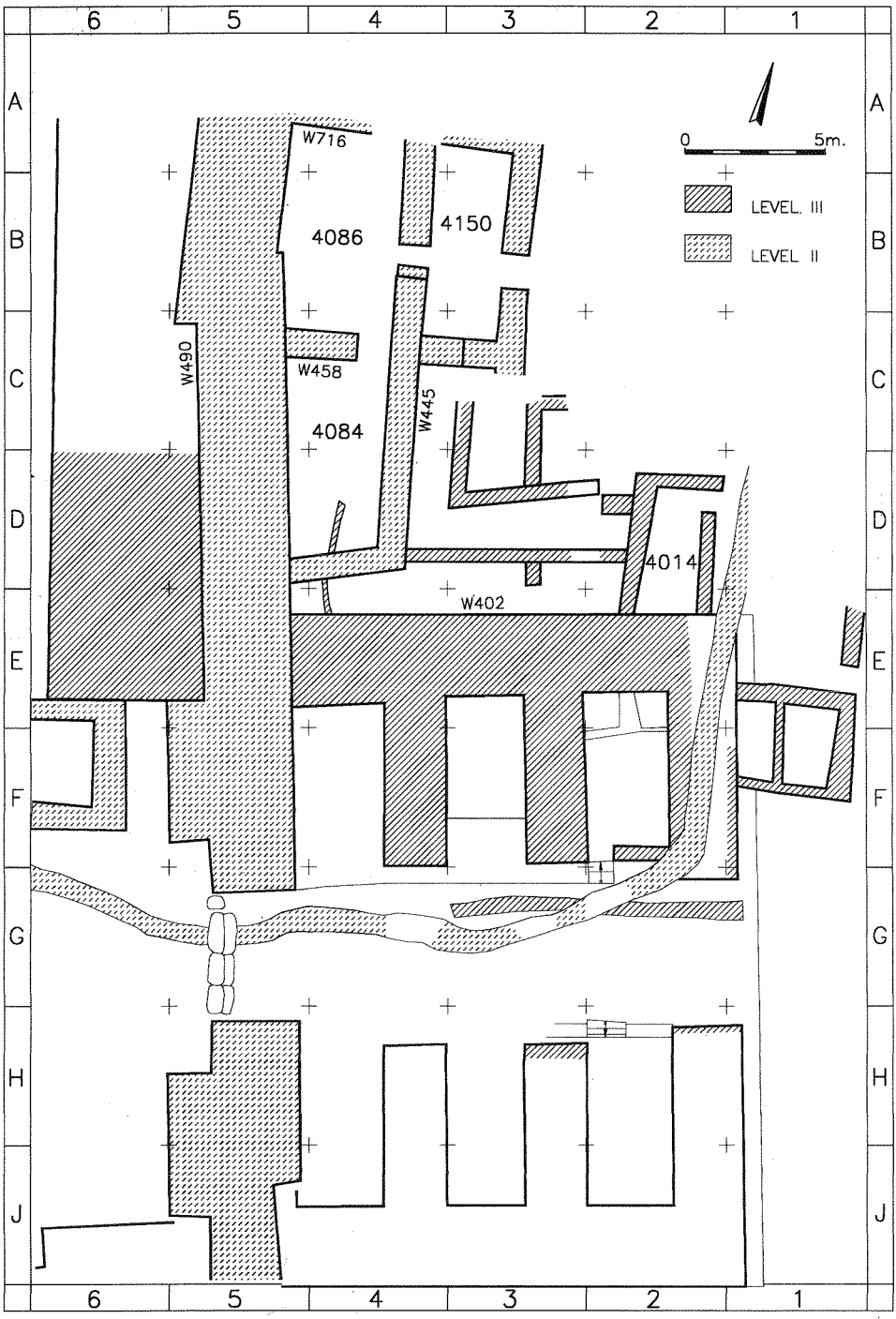

Fig. 5.1. Lachish: Schematic plan of the inner city gates of Levels IV–III and II.

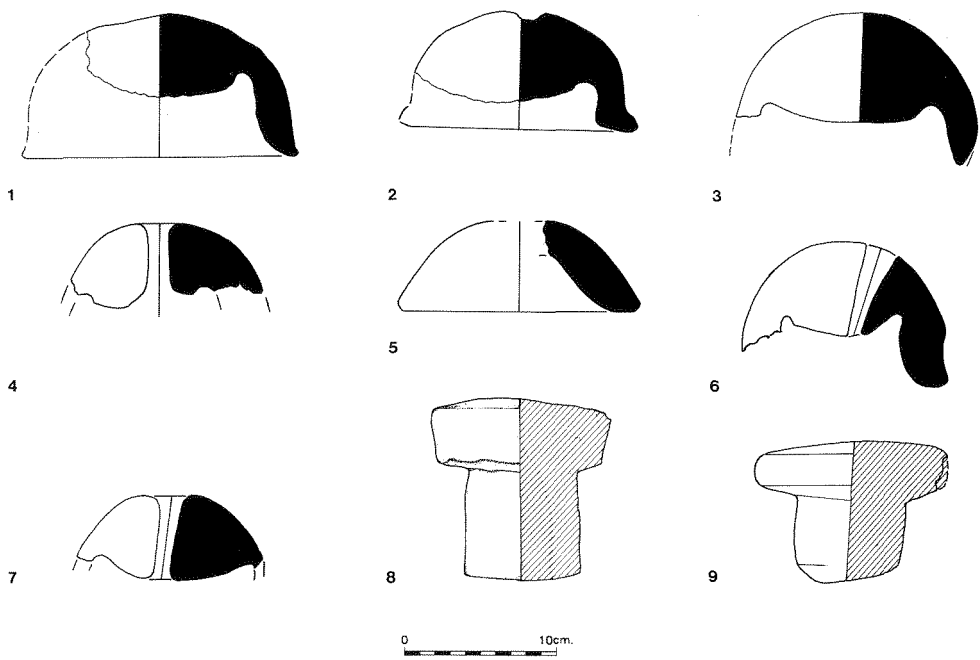

Fig. 5.2. Level III: Clay stoppers (1–7) and stone stoppers (8–9).

small finds were recovered from the room. These will be discussed in the final excavation report. Of the 80 vessels found in the room, 54 were storage jars, indicating that this was a storeroom. Although some grinding stones were found, the density of the vessels would not have permitted the preparation of food in the room.

The arrangement of the vessels in the storeroom

It is clear that the storage of such a great number of vessels on the floor of the room, which measured 7.20 m.^{2}, while allowing access to them, would have been impossible. The absence of charred wood in the debris filling the room indicates that wooden shelves were not constructed here. Hence, two alternative solutions for storing the vessels, while allowing comfortable access to them, may be proposed: a) Brick shelves were constructed along the walls to hold an upper row of vessels. In the course of destruction the brick walls collapsed making it difficult to discern the shelves during the excavation. b) The storage jars were stacked with the base of the upper jar lying between the shoulders of the bottom two jars.

The conclusion that some storage jars were placed above floor level may clarify the role of the oval openings drilled into the lower part of three jars

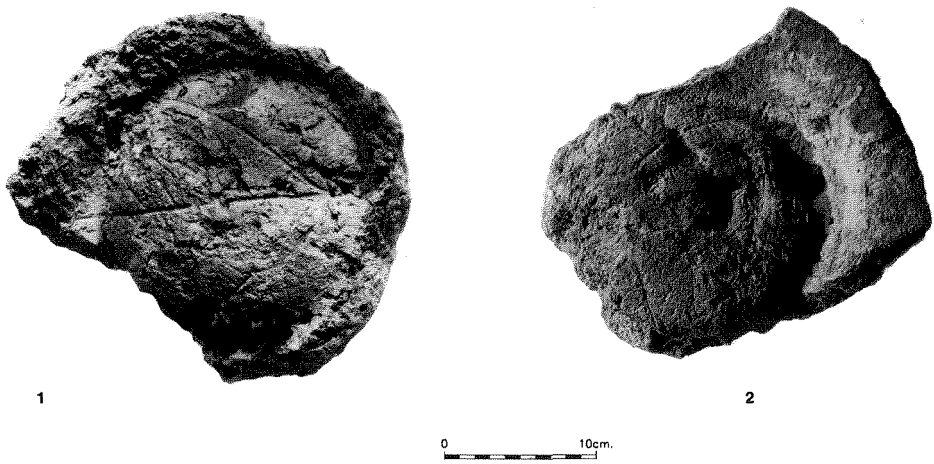

Fig. 5.3. Level III: Mud Stoppers.

(Figs. 5.10:1; 5.12:2; 5.16:7), through which some of the contents could have been removed without lowering the vessel. Two of these openings are quite large, measuring 3 x 4 cm., indicating the storage of dry stores which would not spill out of the opening. The jar in Fig. 5.16:7 has a small drilled hole, indicating the storage of a liquid, as the hole could be closed easily and quickly, avoiding any leakage.

Mud stoppers as evidence for the contents of vessels (Figs. 5.2:1–7; 5.3)

Evidence for the contents of the vessels is meagre. A few barley grains found in this room are the only direct evidence of the commodities stored here. Indirect evidence is provided by seven stoppers, made of unbaked mud with straw tempering similar to the brick material, which were burnt to a reddish-yellow colour in the conflagration. To form the stoppers, a lump of wet mud was placed on the jar mouth, then smoothed and flattened. While drying, the mud shrank and adhered to the vessel wall, its inner side impressed by the rim, neck and shoulder of the vessel. In order to unseal the vessel, the stopper had to be broken and removed; therefore, these stoppers apparently sealed jars whose contents had not yet been accessed (see Hope 1978).

It was difficult to ascertain to which jars the stoppers belonged. Apart from Stopper No. 5, which was smaller and shaped differently, all stoppers fit all jars of Groups IIIA and IIIB (*lmlk* and '*lmlk*-like' storage jars).

Three of the stoppers were vertically pierced. Pierced stoppers were used to seal jars which contained wine whose fermentation had not yet been completed.

Alternatively, the shoulder of the jar was pierced near the closed stopper (see Zevulun and Olenik 1979:26*–27*), this, perhaps, being the reason for the hole in Jar No. 15:2. These holes permitted carbon dioxide to be released (Lucas 1962:19). The pierced stoppers indicate that at least three jars contained wine. A similarly pierced stopper was found in Locus G.17:1095 with a storage jar of Tufnell's Type 484 (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 52:2).

Four stoppers, two of them pierced, still retain impressions of the leaves placed under the mud lumps to prevent pieces from falling into the liquid (see Fig. 5.3). Dr. Nili Liphschitz concluded that they could belong to any species of broad-leafed trees. (A similar leaf impression on the above-mentioned stopper, identified by the British excavation as a vine leaf, should therefore be reconsidered.) The similarity among the leaf impressions on all the stoppers suggests that all the jars were filled and sealed in the same place and that the leaves were plucked from a plant standing in the vicinity. In summary, with the possible exception of the smaller Stopper No. 5, all stoppers probably belonged to jars which contained the same contents, i.e. wine.

Since the intensity of the conflagration which destroyed the city was more severe in this room, the excavators assumed that the fire had been fueled by oil contained in the jars. Nevertheless, there is no archaeological data to support this assumption, and the intensity of the fire may have been caused by other factors.

LEVEL II ROOMS 4084 AND 4086

These storerooms are part of a large, partly excavated building with a paved courtyard, which was destroyed by fire during the destruction of the Level II city (see plan in Ussishkin 1983: Fig. 17). The two rooms were constructed as one unit, forming a long, narrow rectangle measuring 15 x 3.00–3.90 m. The Level II city wall (W490) forms the long western wall of the rooms. The entrance to the rooms was through the eastern wall (W445, the northern part of which was robbed in antiquity), leading from another room (No. 4150) and the adjacent courtyard. The northern wall of Room 4086 (W716) still lies under the baulk, and only its southern face was exposed. Partition Wall 458, 1 m. wide and 2.70 m. long, divided the unit into two rooms, each 7 m. long. An opening of 1.20 m. between W458 and the eastern wall connected the two rooms. A similar opening in the northern wall may have led to a third, similar room. The floor was 5–10 cm. thick. Floor and walls were plastered white.

During the destruction of the city the brick walls collapsed into the rooms and covered the floors and vessels with more than 1.20 m. of burnt brick debris and ashes.

The contents of the vessels and their arrangement in the storerooms

The large number of vessels found in the two rooms included jars, decanters and one krater. The predominance of storage jars and the absence of bowls and cooking vessels indicate that the rooms were used for storage.

In Room 4084 about 40 vessels were found near the entrance and the northern wall. The seven small decanters were found in the entrance itself. The southern part of the room was devoid of finds, except for one bone spatula.

In Room 4086 about 15 vessels were found, mostly in the southern part of the room near the southern wall and the entrance.

The storerooms could easily have contained a larger number of vessels. Most were concentrated near the entrances, leaving a large part of the storerooms empty. This may have been to facilitate distribution or due to a hurried removal of food immediately before the destruction. If the storerooms were usually kept full, then the small number of vessels testifies to low food supplies at the time of destruction.

In both rooms a large amount of carbonized wood was found, especially where the vessels were concentrated. Of the 22 samples collected, Dr. Liphschitz identified 13 as cedar of Lebanon, 5 as European olive, 3 as acacia, and 1 as terebinth (*Pistacia palaestina*) (Ussishkin 1978:66). The carbonized wood may have belonged to wooden shelves or stands on which the vessels were placed, or it may have come from beams incorporated into the building.

No material evidence indicating the contents of the vessels was found. However, ink inscriptions on two of the decanters identify the contents as 'smoked wine' or 'wine of *ʿashan*' (Inscription XXV; *ibid.*:83), and 'wine of black raisins' (Inscription XXX; *ibid.*:88; Lemaire 1980). The storage jar bearing Inscription XXIX may also have contained wine (Ussishkin 1978:88). Inscriptions on the other jars do not testify to their contents.

In contrast to the intense fire which destroyed the Level III storeroom, the fire which destroyed the Level II rooms did not reach such high temperatures, perhaps due to the type of stores. The bricks in the rooms were fired but not melted, and the colour of the vessels was not altered.

Notes on Level II loci published in Tufnell 1953 and Aharoni 1975

As opposed to the large quantity of pottery from Level III, only a small number of vessels was uncovered in a few Level II domestic structures. The richest assemblages were recovered from two rooms: Locus L.12:1065, excavated by the British, yielded 20 vessels, of which four were storage jars; Locus 24, excavated by Aharoni, in which 19 vessels were unearthed, nine of which were storage jars.

Level II vessels from five loci were published in Tufnell 1953. Locus K/L.14:1061, located in the plastered area east of the Level IV–III palace-fort, was

assigned by Tufnell to Levels III–II, but in view of the ceramic repertoire it seems to be associated with Level II. Locus K.14/15:1033 is situated to the east of the palace-fort, near its southern corner. Loci L.14:1057, L.12:1065 and L.12:1067 are located above destruction debris of the palace-fort near its eastern wall (Tufnell 1953:112–122; Pls. 115–116).

Five Level II loci excavated under the 'Solar Shrine' were published by Aharoni (1975: Pls. 47–50; Loci 3, 20, 24, 62, 64). In addition, it seems that part of Locus 63, which was assigned to Level III (*ibid.*: Pls. 45–46), belongs in fact to Level II. Most of the vessels from Locus 63 appear in other Level II loci. Special attention should be paid to the 'rosette' type storage jar found in Locus 63, as this is the only appearance of such a jar in an assemblage assigned to the 8th century, at Lachish or elsewhere (see Group II B). Only a few vessels, such as those published in Pl. 45:5, 13, 17–19, are types known from Level III. An examination of basket lists and loci logs shows that Locus 63 yielded two pottery concentrations: one near Locus 62 of Level II at an average elevation of 261.40–261.30 m., which is also the level at which the Locus 62 pottery was found; the other concentration, from which the few Level III type vessels were recovered, lay near the western edge of the excavated area at an average elevation of 261.80–261.60 m. It seems, therefore, that the Locus 63 pottery should be divided into two assemblages: the first, which is frequently referenced below, belongs to Level II together with Locus 62; the second, from the western part of the locus, belongs to Level III.

THE LEVEL III POTTERY

Bowls (Fig. 5.4)

Nos. 1–6. Thin-walled bowls with small, flat bases. No. 5 has a red slip. The rest are unslipped but have a thin reddish-orange wash (on the ratio between slipped and unslipped bowls at Lachish see Zimhoni 1985:65–68; also this volume, Chapter 4:180–182). Traces of careless wheel-burnishing can be observed. See also Tufnell 1953: Pls. 79:16; 89:572–573.

Nos. 8, 9, 11 and 12. Wider, open bowls. Nos. 9 and 11 show circular wheel-burnishing. Compare Tufnell 1953: Pls. 79:9; 98:571.

Nos. 7 and 10. Shallow bowls with circular wheel-burnishing. Compare Tufnell 1953: Pls. 80:61; 98:560.

Nos. 14 and 15. Carinated bowls with flanged rim and ring base. Compare Tufnell 1953: Pl. 79:46.

Nos. 16–21. Large bowls with variants of externally thickened or folded rims. All have ring bases and are covered with a thin wash, similar to that of the small bowls. Most of these bowls (Nos. 16–20) have widely spaced, circular

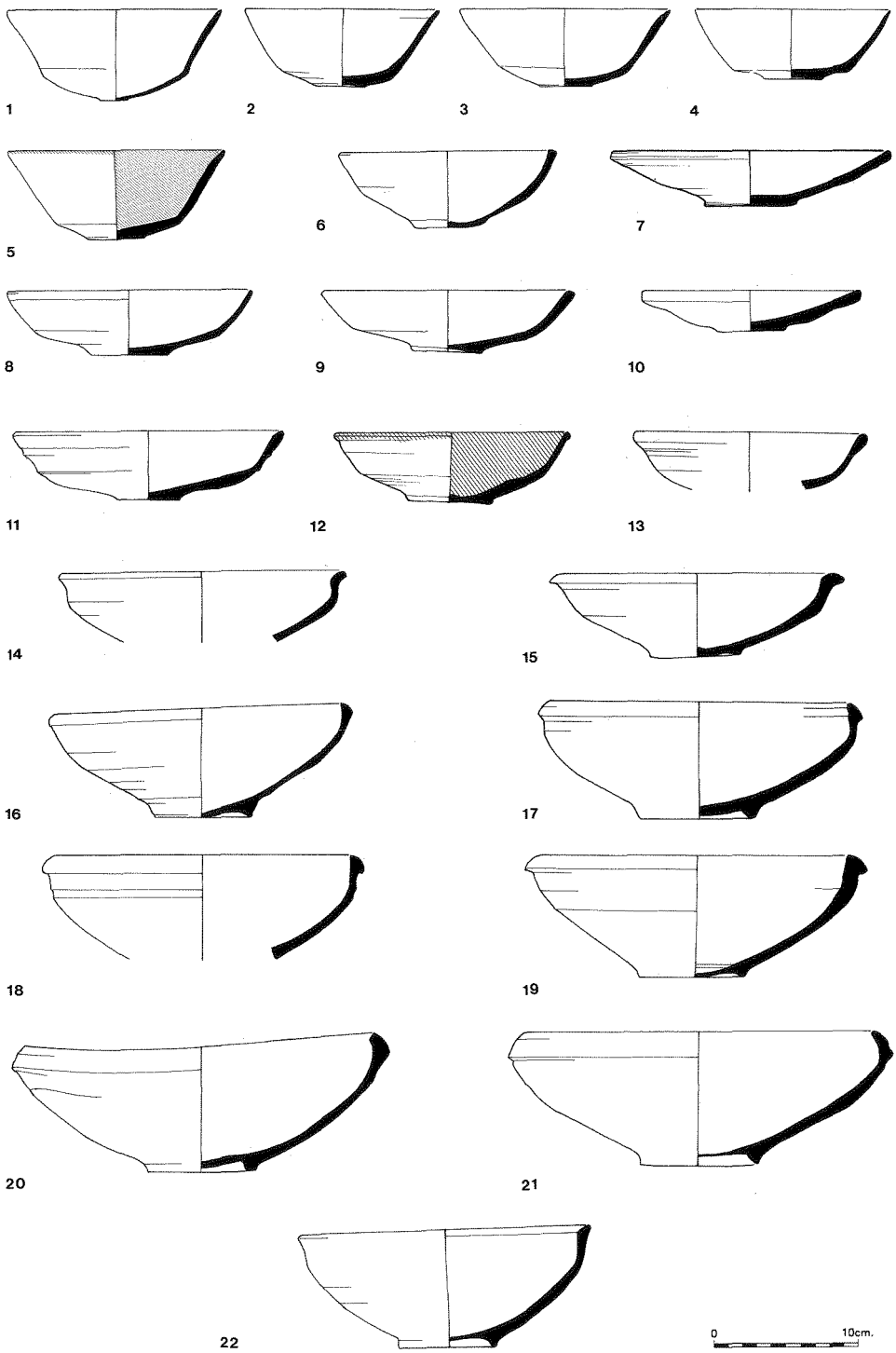

Fig. 5.4. Level III: Bowls.

wheel-burnishing. These are the most typical bowls of Level III. Compare Tufnell 1953: Pl. 80:75.

All the bowls are common in 8th-century Judah.

Kraters (Fig. 5.5)

One complete krater was found. It features an externally thickened, rounded rim, four handles, a ring base and traces of burnish on the interior and exterior. Two mending holes were drilled below the rim. The base has a round, filed opening, surrounded by four small drilled holes. The manner in which this krater was used is not clear. The round hole may have been sealed with a plug secured by means of the four small holes.

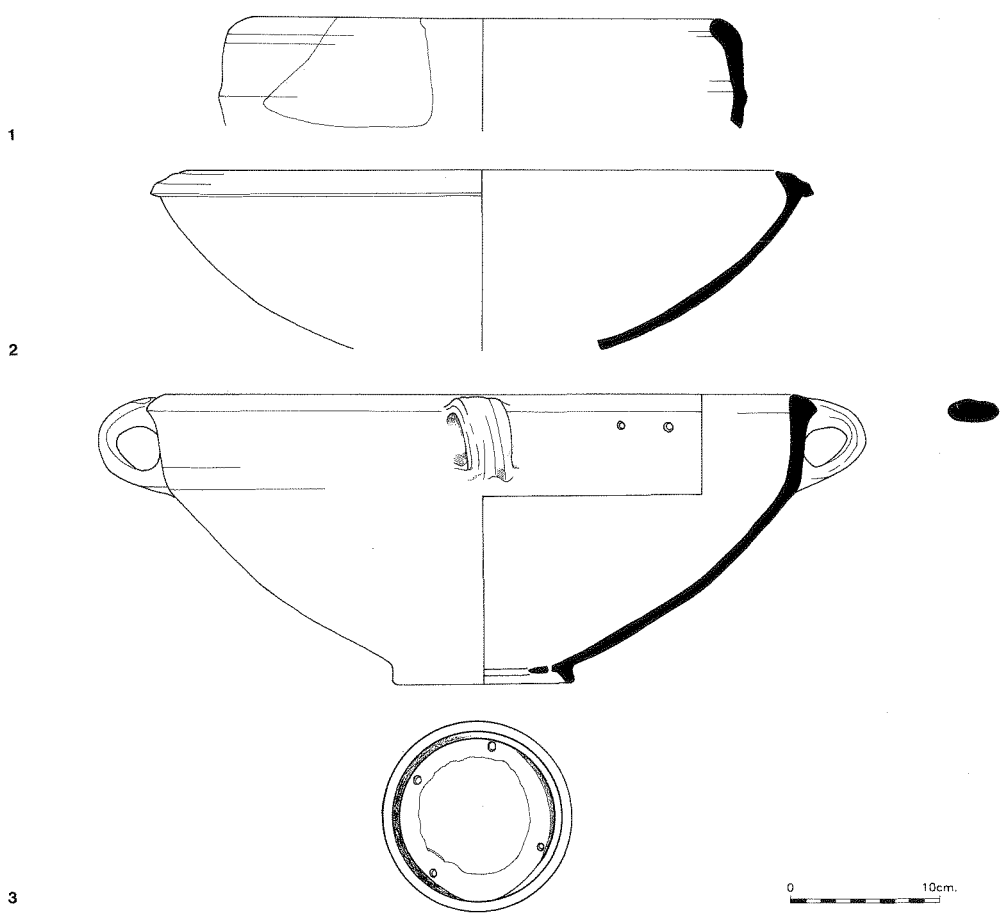

Fig. 5.5. Level III: Kraters.

Cooking pots (Fig. 5.6)

The cooking pots are of two types.

Nos. 1 and 2. Shallow cooking pots with a wide mouth and short neck. No. 1 has a thickened, slightly stepped rim. No. 2 has a thickened, flat rim with a shallow groove. Lime cement was used to repair cracks on the interior and exterior.

Nos. 3–9. A variation of the globular cooking pot with small mouth and high grooved neck. No. 5 is red slipped on the exterior. A break line has been covered with lime cement. Nos. 4 and 6 bear a potter's mark on the handle.

Cooking pots were published in Tufnell 1953: Pl. 93; note in particular Nos. 441, 456.

Jugs and juglets (Fig. 5.7:1–13)

Three jugs and ten juglets of common 8th-century Judean types were found. Only two vessels were red slipped (Nos. 8, 12). Nos. 4, 9, and 11 show traces of widely-spaced, sloppy, vertical burnish. Similar vessels appear in Tufnell 1953: Pls. 84, 88.

Juglet No. 13 is somewhat unusual in the assemblage. It is covered with a reddish-brown wash and dense vertical hand-burnishing. It features a large handle drawn upward. Five juglets of similar type recovered from tombs were published by Tufnell (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 88:303–305). Juglets with similar handles were found at Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 45:16–20). It seems that this juglet type originated in the coastal plain.

Lamps (Fig. 5.7:14–16)

Five lamps of the type most common in this period were unearthed. They have a thickened base upon which can be seen the string-cut and the potter's fingerprints. Compare Tufnell 1953: Pls. 150, 151.

STORAGE JARS

Judean storage jars

GROUP IIIA: ROYAL *lmlk* STORAGE JARS (Figs. 5.8–5.10; 5.11:1)

Eighteen storage jars from this group were found, three of which (Fig. 5.8:1–3) bear *lmlk* seal impressions (Ussishkin 1978:77; 1983:161). A storage jar handle bearing a private stamp (Ussishkin 1978:81) indicates that the room may have contained a fourth stamped jar. The jars have an oval body and a broad rounded shoulder, beneath which four wide two-ridged handles are attached. The neck is straight or slopes slightly inward. The thickened ring-like rim sometimes

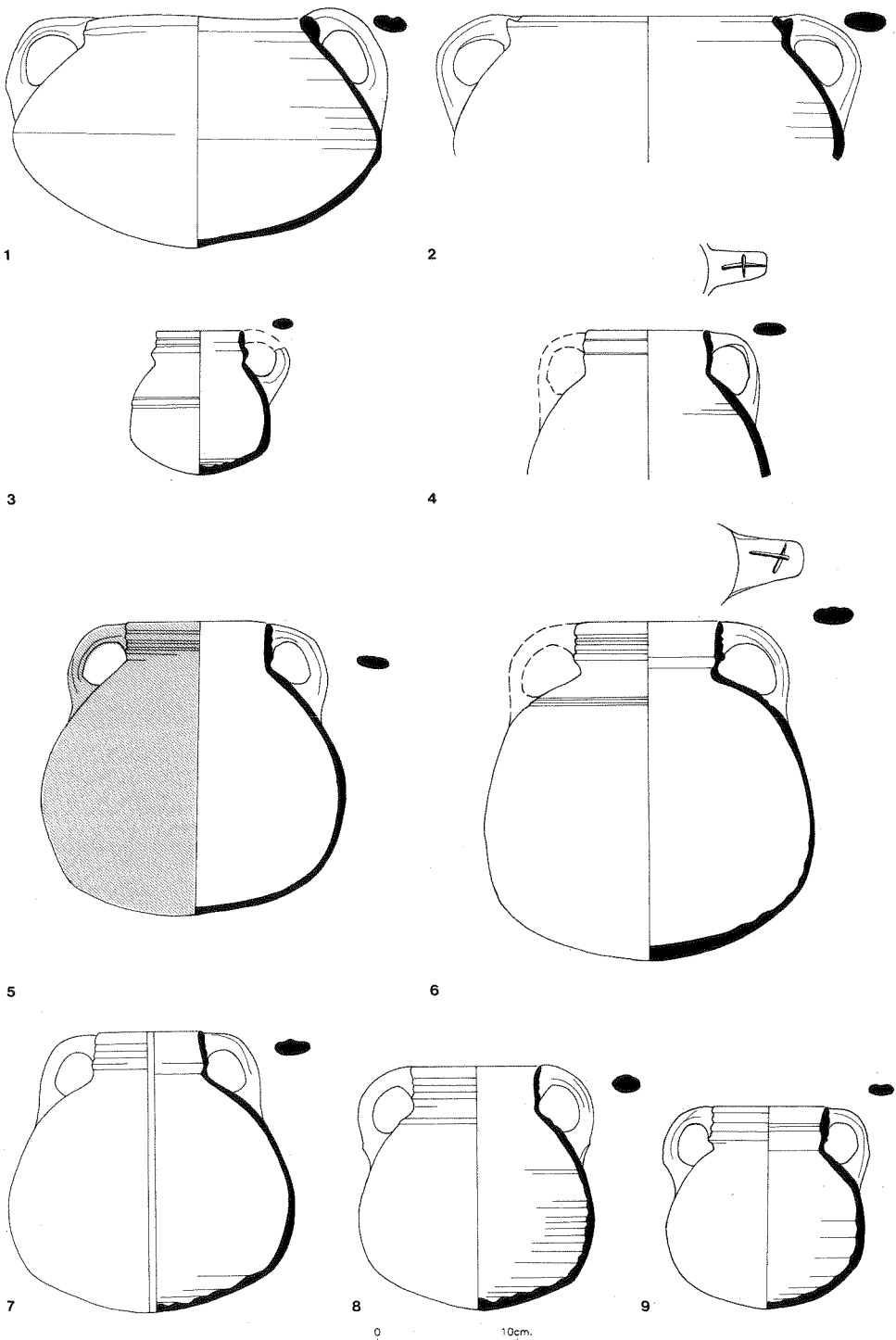

Fig. 5.6. Level III: Cooking pots.

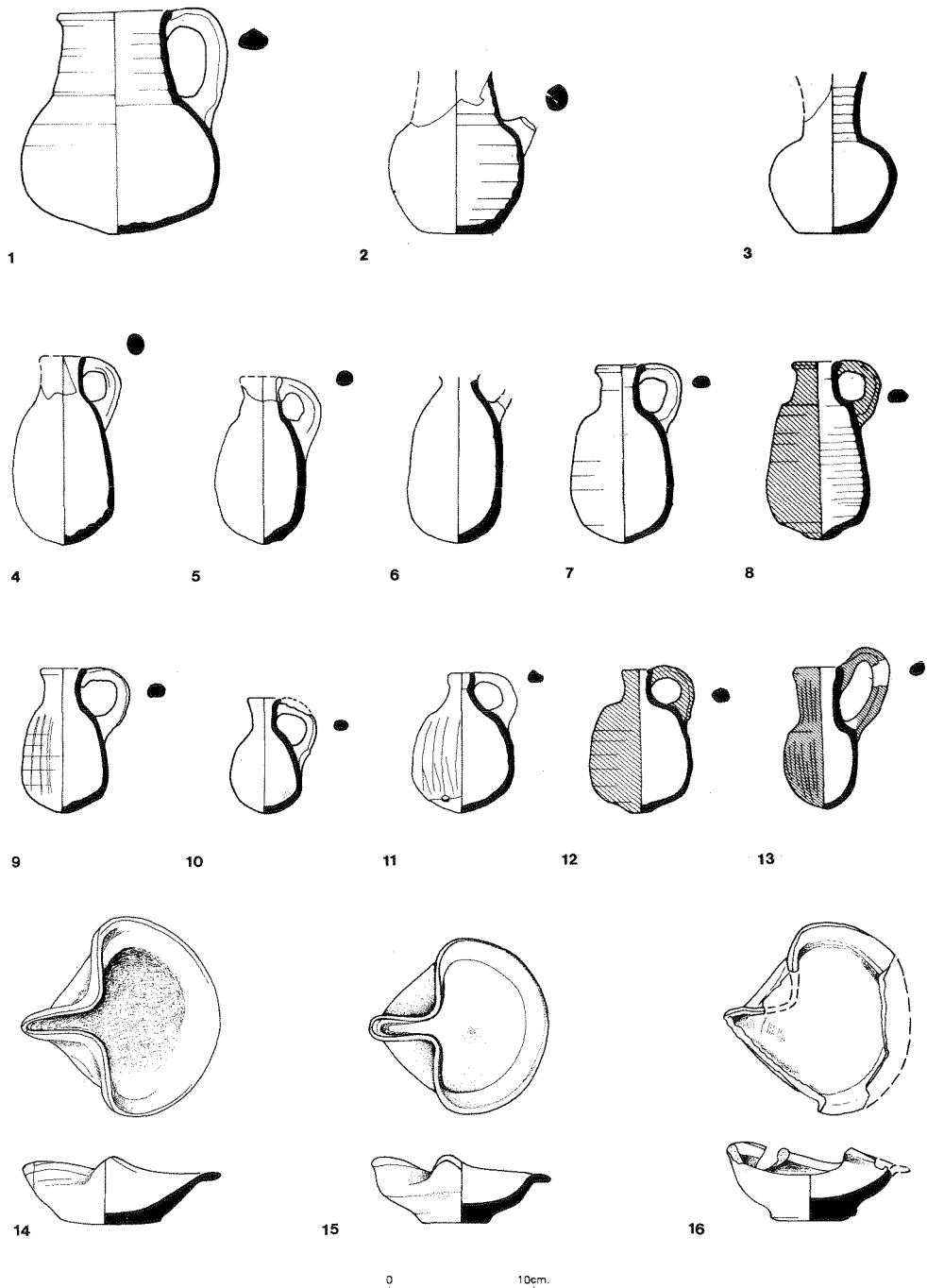

Fig. 5.7. Level III: Jugs (1–3), juglets (4–13), lamps (14–16).

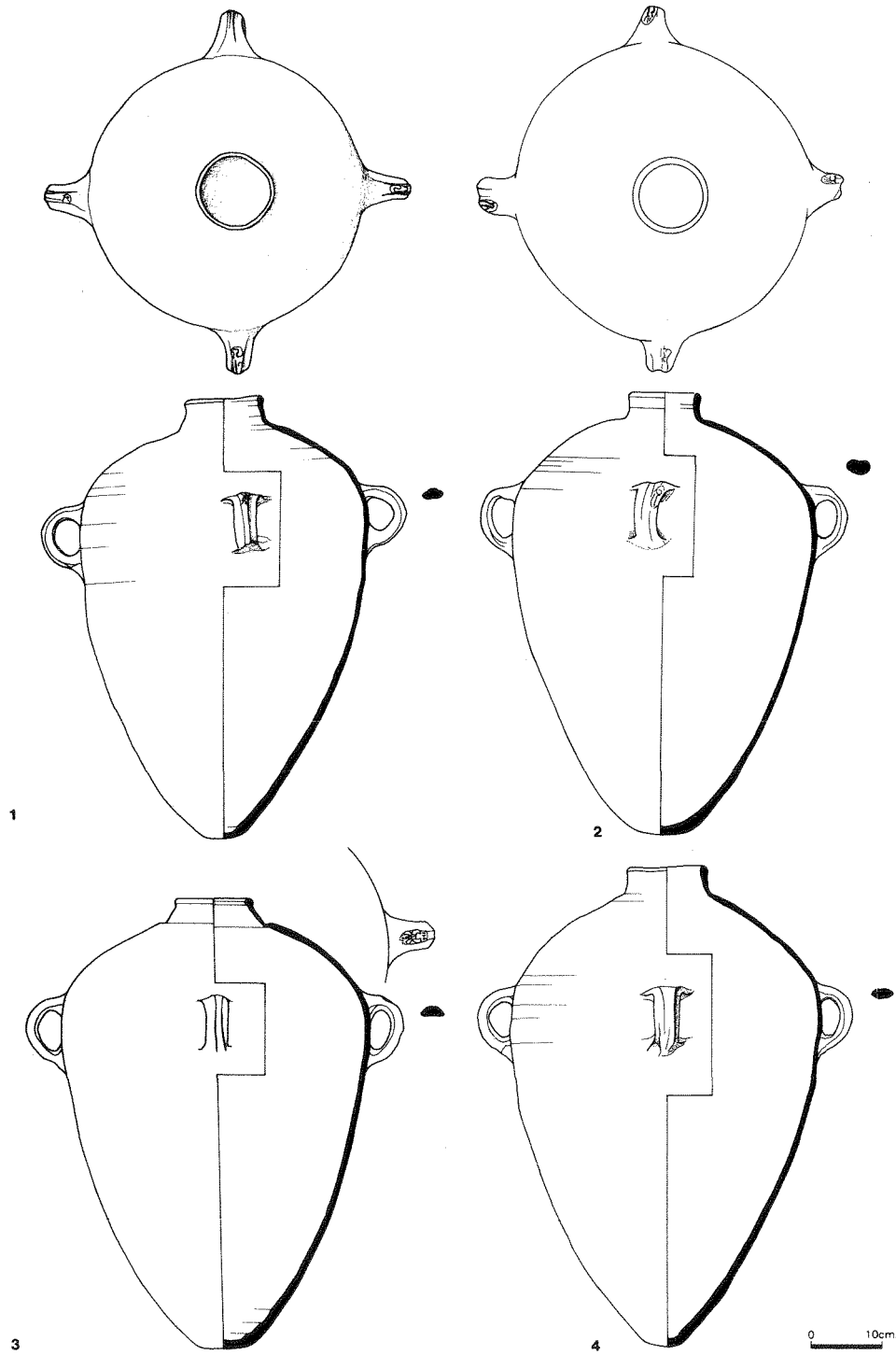

Fig. 5.8. Level III: Group IIIA. *lmlk* storage jars.

protrudes slightly outward, sometimes inward. The base is rounded. The average height is 50–60 cm. with a maximum diameter of 40 cm. Concerning their capacity see Ussishkin 1978:77–80; 1983:161–163.

The storage jars are well fired. The reddish-brown clay with white grits differs from that of the rest of the Level III vessels, assuring their identification even when they bear no impressions. Such storage jars were found in most of the important Level III loci and are characteristic of that level. Tufnell's classification of these vessels as Type 484 is generally accepted.

The function of *lmlk* storage jars is still not fully understood. At present it is not known where, how or when this storage jar type developed. Notably, it does not yet appear in Level IV at Lachish, dated to the 10th-9th centuries.

The wide distribution of this type and its subtypes attests to its popularity in 8th-century daily life. The subtypes and their relationship to the *lmlk* jars will be discussed in the following section.

The storage jars of Group IIIA are the largest among the closed storage vessel types of this period, but unlike the large pithoi, they could be easily transported.

Therefore they were apparently selected by the administrative authorities as the ideal storage vessel for food supplies on the eve of the revolt against Assyria. This explains the royal seal impressions they bear. Apparently these storage jars were not specifically made in preparation for the revolt, but rather production was simply continued, and those jars intended for official use were stamped.

Stamped jars are fewer than unstamped ones of the same type (e.g. in Locus 4014, of 18 jars only three or four were stamped), in line with the suggestion of Kelm and Mazar (1985:105) that from each series only one or a few jars were stamped.

The unstamped *lmlk* jars found at Tel Beer-sheba support the above assumption that this type of jar was regularly produced before preparations for the revolt began. If indeed Na'aman's (1986:13) dating of Tel Beer-sheba's destruction prior to Hezekiah's time is correct, it is not surprising that unstamped jars were found. However, one must bear in mind that one *lmlk* seal impression, although not stamped on a *lmlk*-type jar, was found at Beer-sheba. If the settlement still existed at the time of Sennacherib's campaign, the absence of *lmlk* impressions has to be explained in a different way. Perhaps Beer-sheba was not supplied by the official supply system which used the stamped jars. It is also possible that Beer-sheba received its supplies from a source other than the Shephelah (see Rainey 1982:60–61).

Another important fact should be mentioned. As has been noted (Ussishkin 1978:80; Barkay 1985:405), most of the seals were carelessly applied, resulting in the disfiguration of the symbol and the letters. From ca. 15% of the stamped handles found at Lachish, and 40% of the stamped handles found in Jerusalem (Barkay 1985:405), the city name is entirely missing. On many handles (no

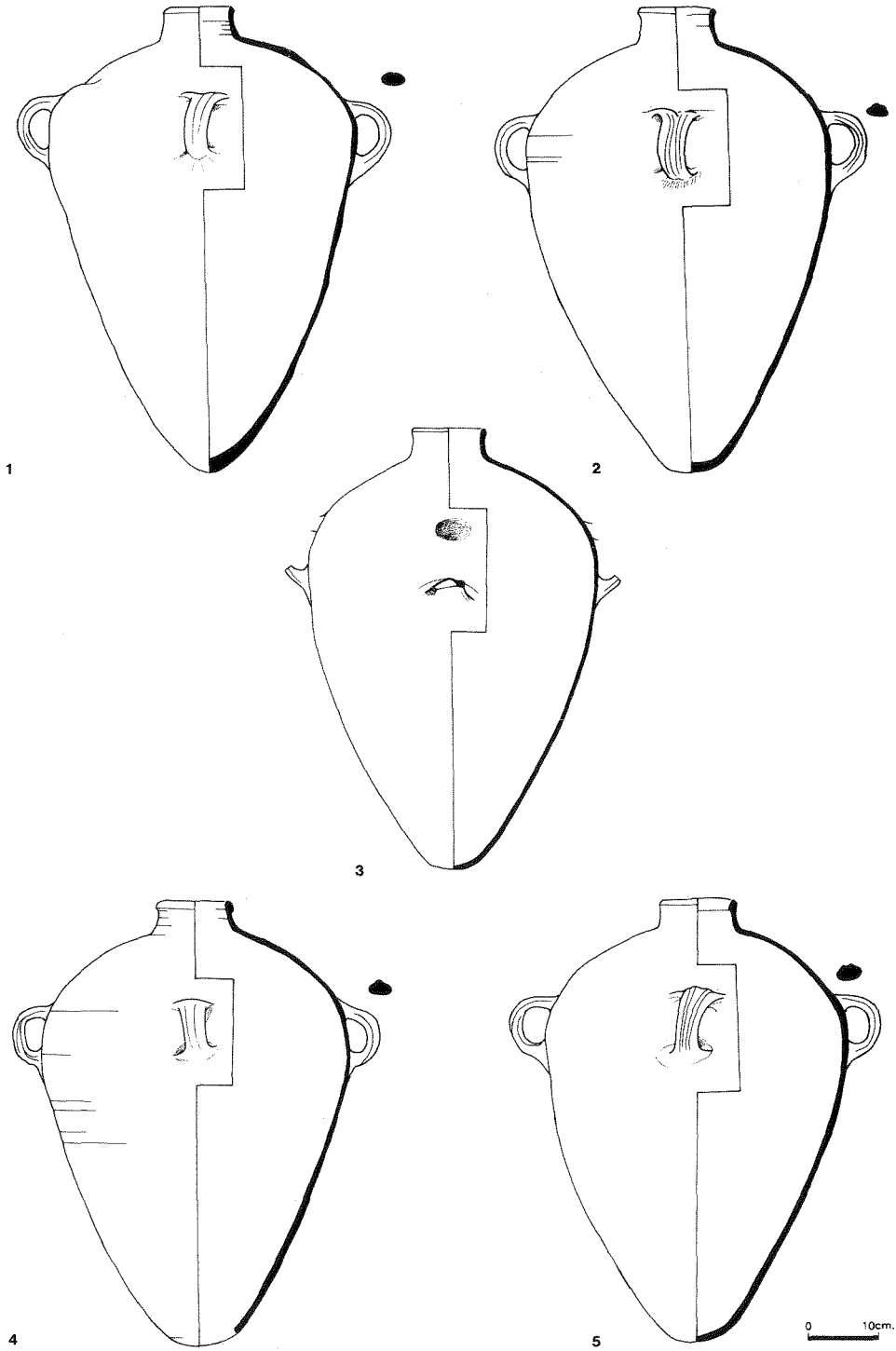

Fig. 5.9. Level III: Group IIIA. *lmlk* storage jars.

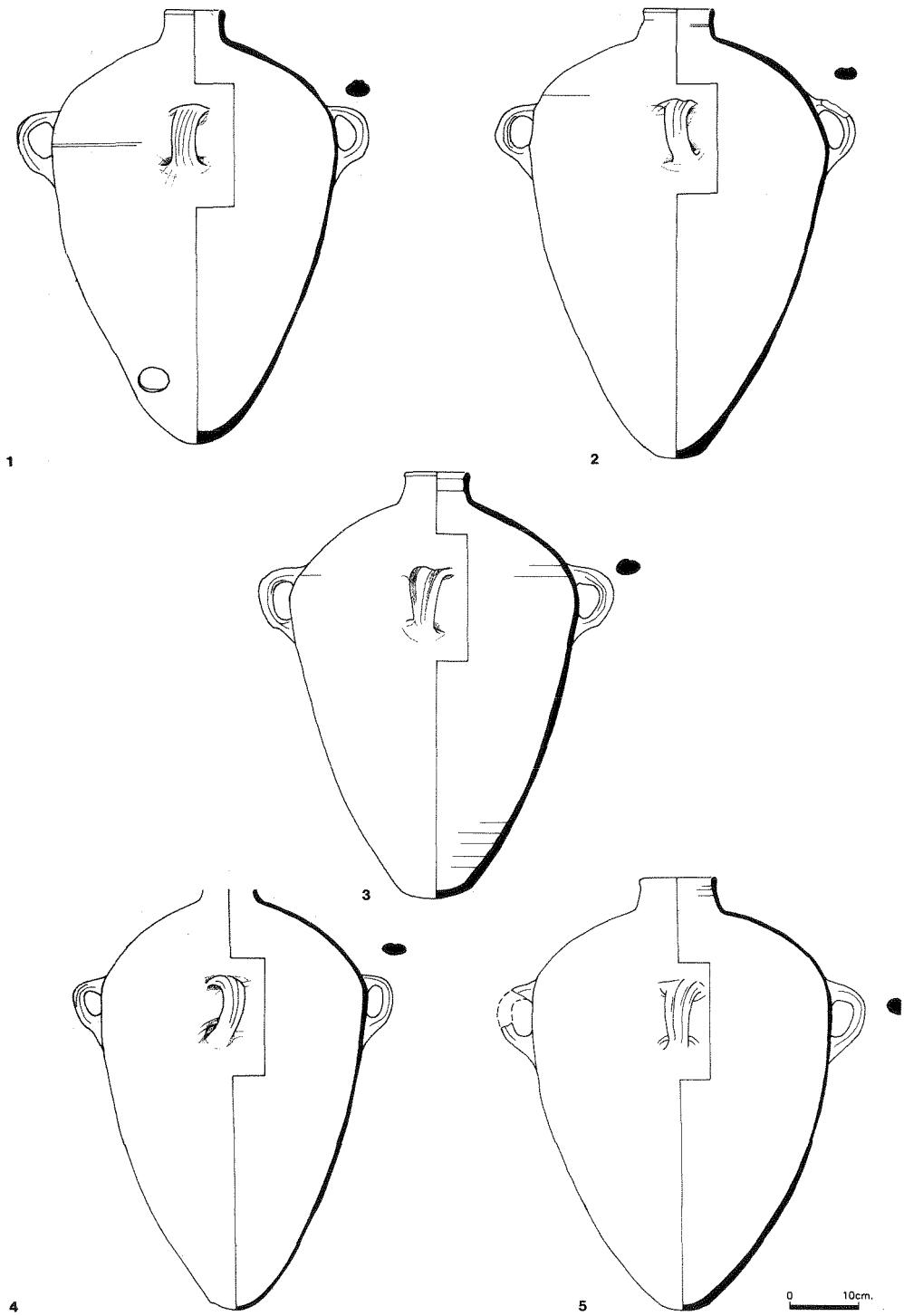

Fig. 5.10. Level III: Group IIIA. *lmlk* storage jars.

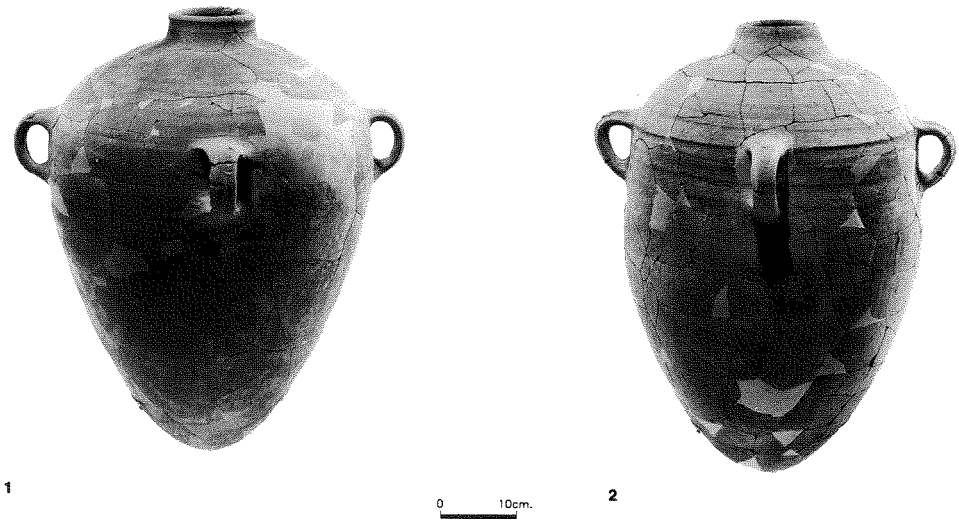

Fig. 5.11. Level III: Storage jars.

statistics are available) only part of the city name was stamped, and the reading is possible only after a close study. All this leads to the conclusion that in many cases the stamping itself was the important act, and the impressions were not necessarily intended to be read.

GROUP IIIB: '*lmlk*-LIKE' STORAGE JARS (Figs. 5.12–5.15; 5.11:2)

This group includes 21 jars. They are similar to the Group IIIA jars both in size and shape, but differ in a few details: the clay is light brown to yellowish with grey grits, the shoulder usually accented by a ridge at the point where the handles are attached, and in most cases the maximum diameter of the jar is smaller. The truncated neck ends in a rounded rim, smooth on the exterior and thickened on the interior. The slope between shoulder and neck is not accented. The handles, carelessly made, have one or two vertical ridges. The base is narrow and rounded. Two storage jars (Figs. 5.14:4; 5.15:2) bear a potter's mark on the handle, incised before firing. The body of one storage jar (Fig. 5.12:2) has an oval perforation measuring 4 cm.

Tufnell grouped these storage jars together with those of Group IIIA (i.e. Type 484); for example the storage jar shown in Tufnell 1953: Pl. 20:7, from Locus G.14:1001, which has an accented ridge on the shoulder.

It is often difficult to differentiate between the jars of the two groups on the basis of published drawings alone. Examination of the colour and type of ware and the accented shoulder are of great significance. Neutron activation analysis of

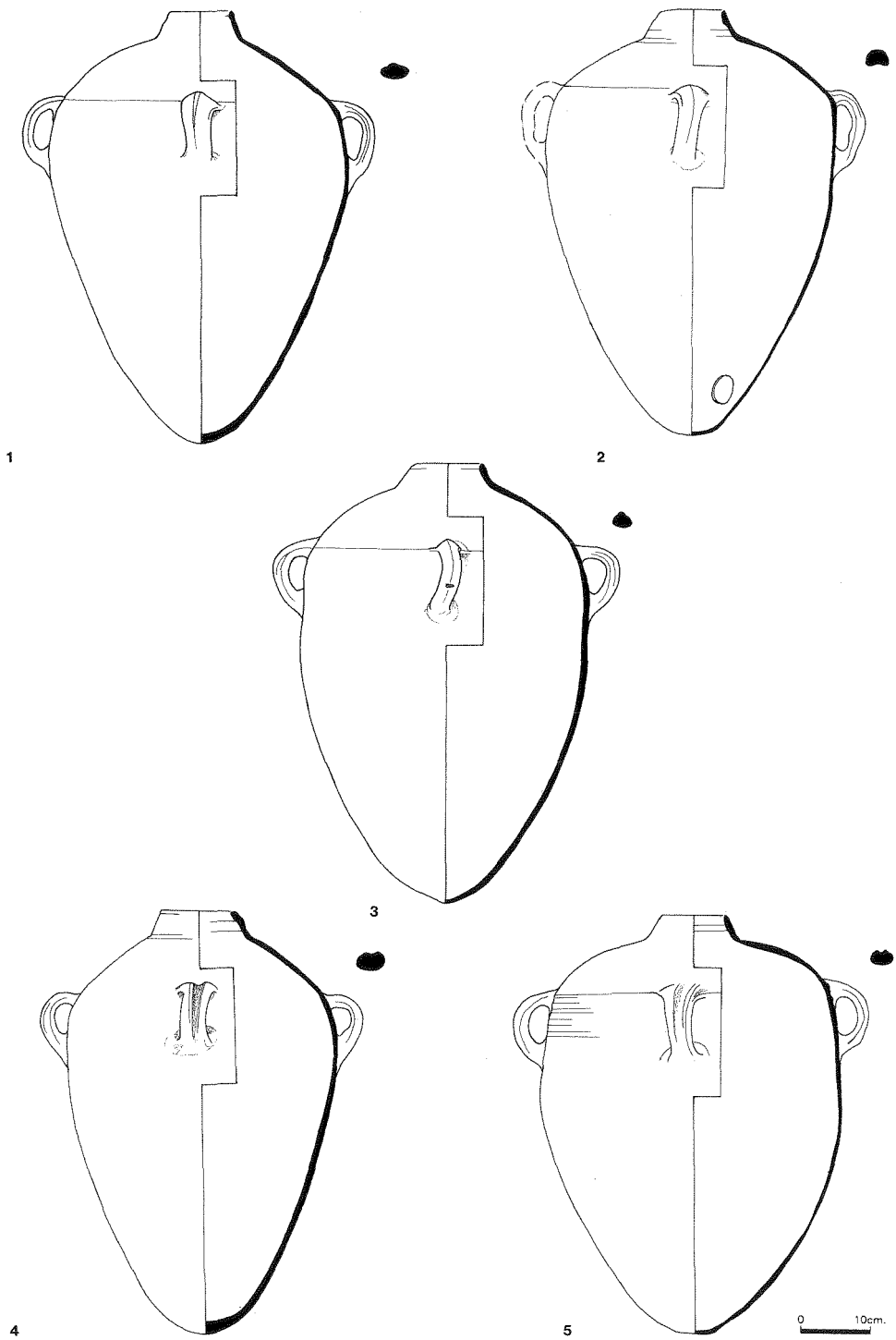

Fig. 5.12. Level III: Group IIIB. '*lmlk*-like' storage jars.

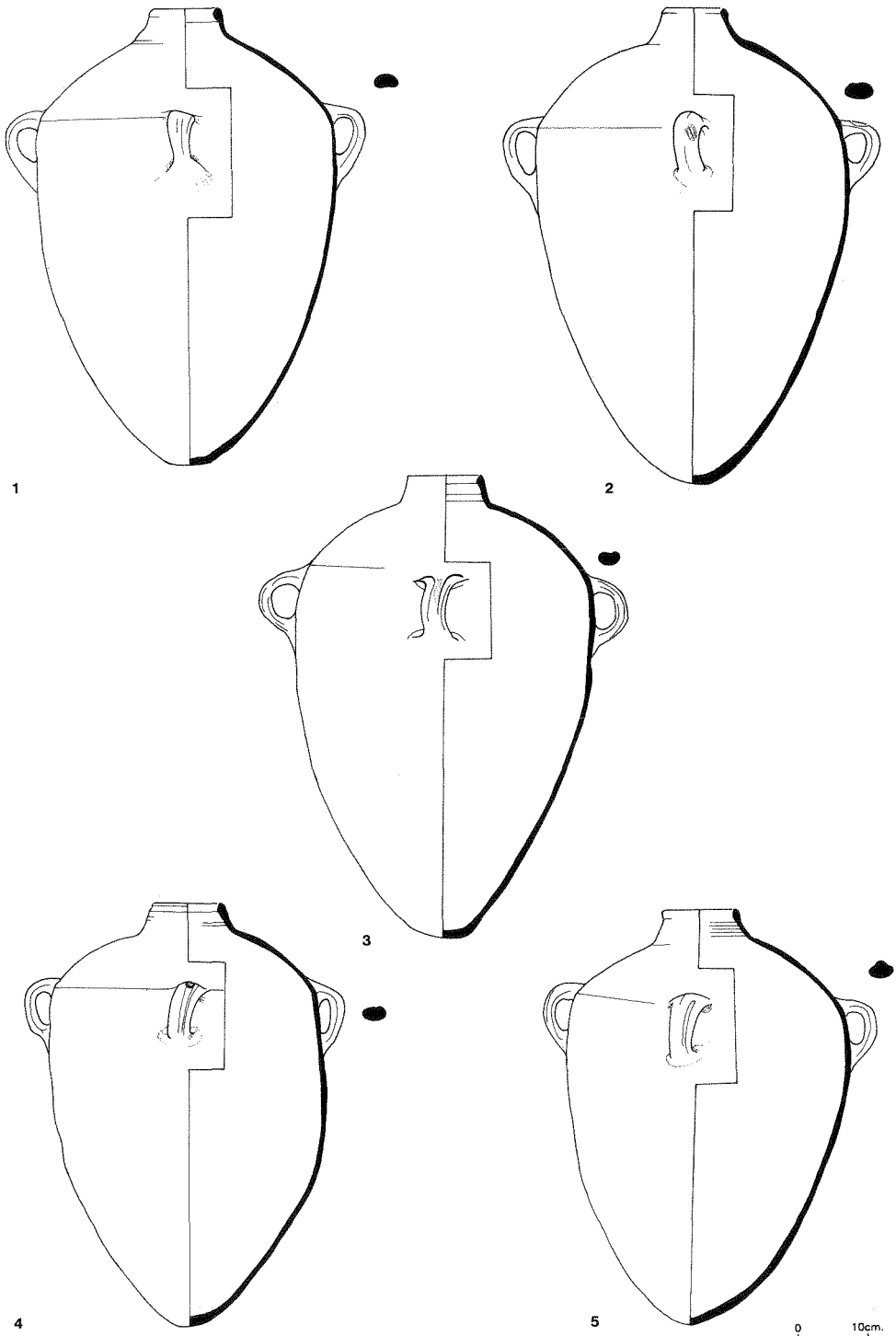

Fig. 5.13. Level III: Group IIIB. '*lmlk*-like' storage jars.

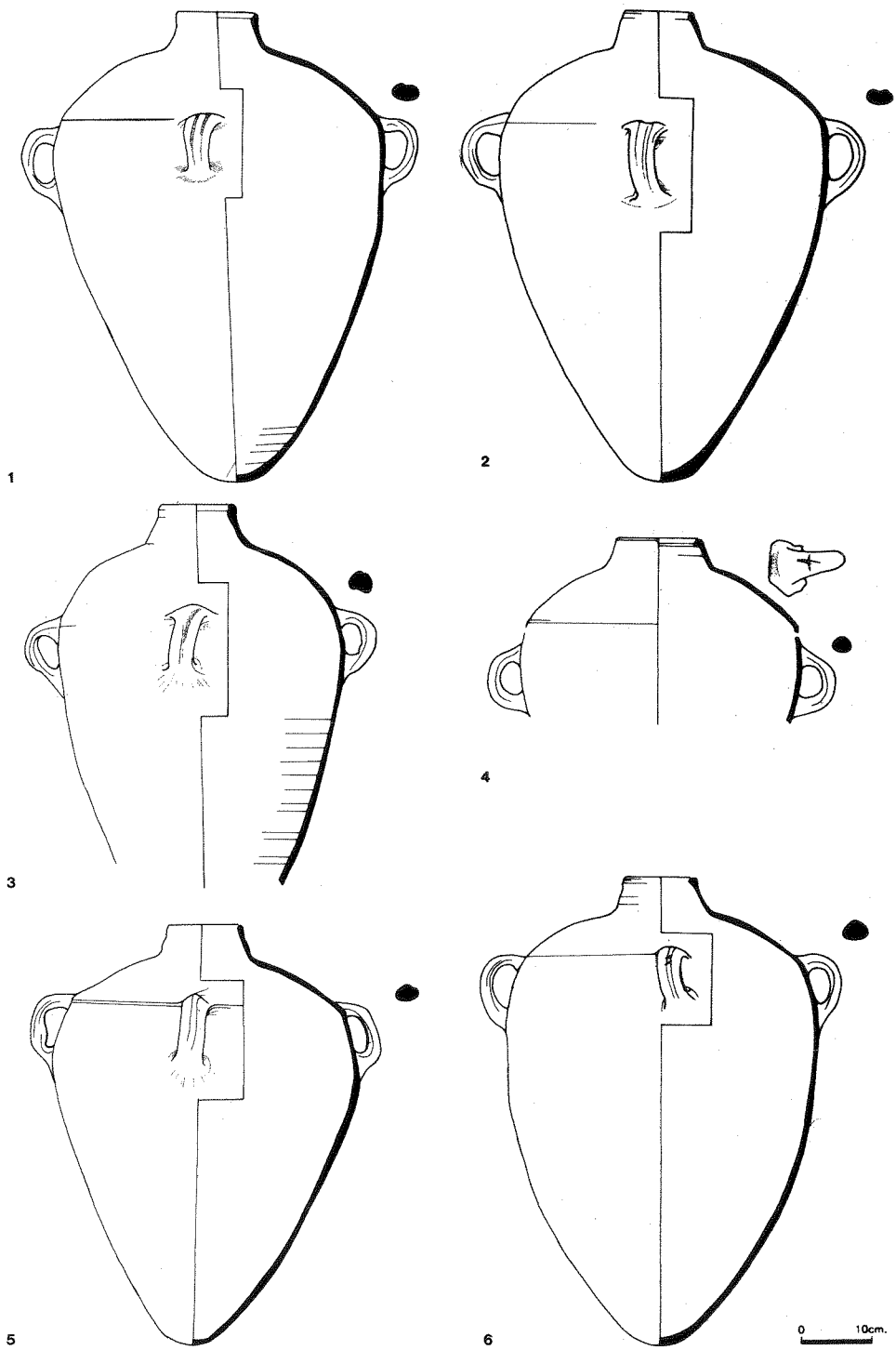

Fig. 5.14. Level III: Group IIIB. '*lmlk*-like' storage jars.

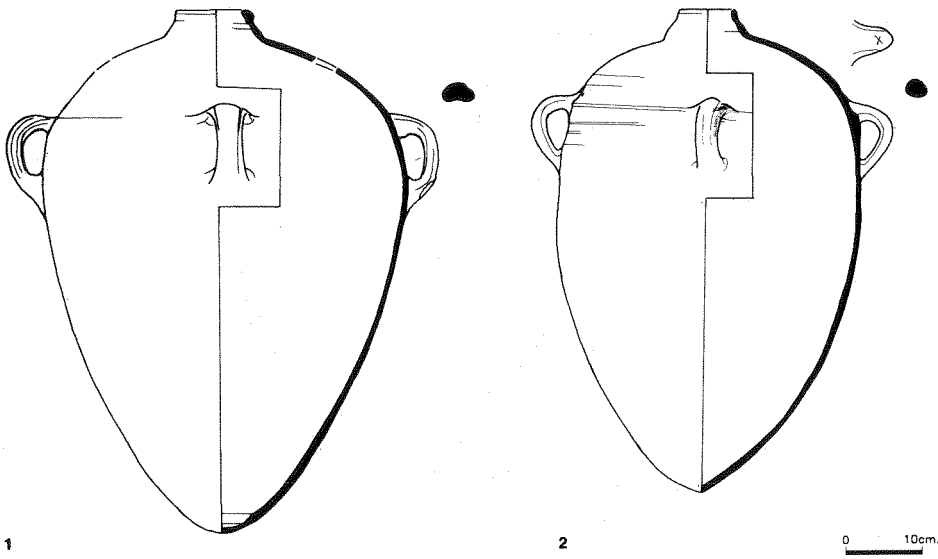

Fig. 5.15. Level III: Group IIIB. '*lmlk*-like' storage jars.

one storage jar of Group IIIB (Mommsen, Perlman and Yellin 1984:106; Table 2:60) found the clay composition to be identical to that of *lmlk* storage jars, except that it contained 15.2% calcium as compared to 6.5% in the *lmlk* group. However, the relationship between a certain shape and a certain kind of clay cannot be concluded from a single sample.

The Group IIIB jar type is known from Tel Beer-sheba (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 65:11). A third group, with a narrower body, a rim with a triangular section on the interior and whose colour and clay composition differ from those of the two above-mentioned groups, also appears there. (My attention was drawn to this fact by Lily Singer-Avitz, who is presently preparing the Beer-sheba pottery for publication).

The relationship between the *lmlk* and '*lmlk*-like' jars is problematic. At present it cannot be determined if one group appeared earlier than the other, although a chronological difference seems doubtful. Another explanation may lie in different workshops using different kinds of clay. It would be interesting to check if this theory is borne out by the distribution areas of these groups.

GROUP IIIC: TWO-HANDLED STORAGE JARS (Figs. 5.16–5.17)

This is the third largest group, containing seven two-handled storage jars. They are similar to the '*lmlk*-like' vessels (Group IIIB) in some details, such as the ridge above the handles and the type of clay, but smaller, 40–50 cm. in height, with a maximum diameter of 30 cm. (Fig. 5.17:1). They usually have a plain,

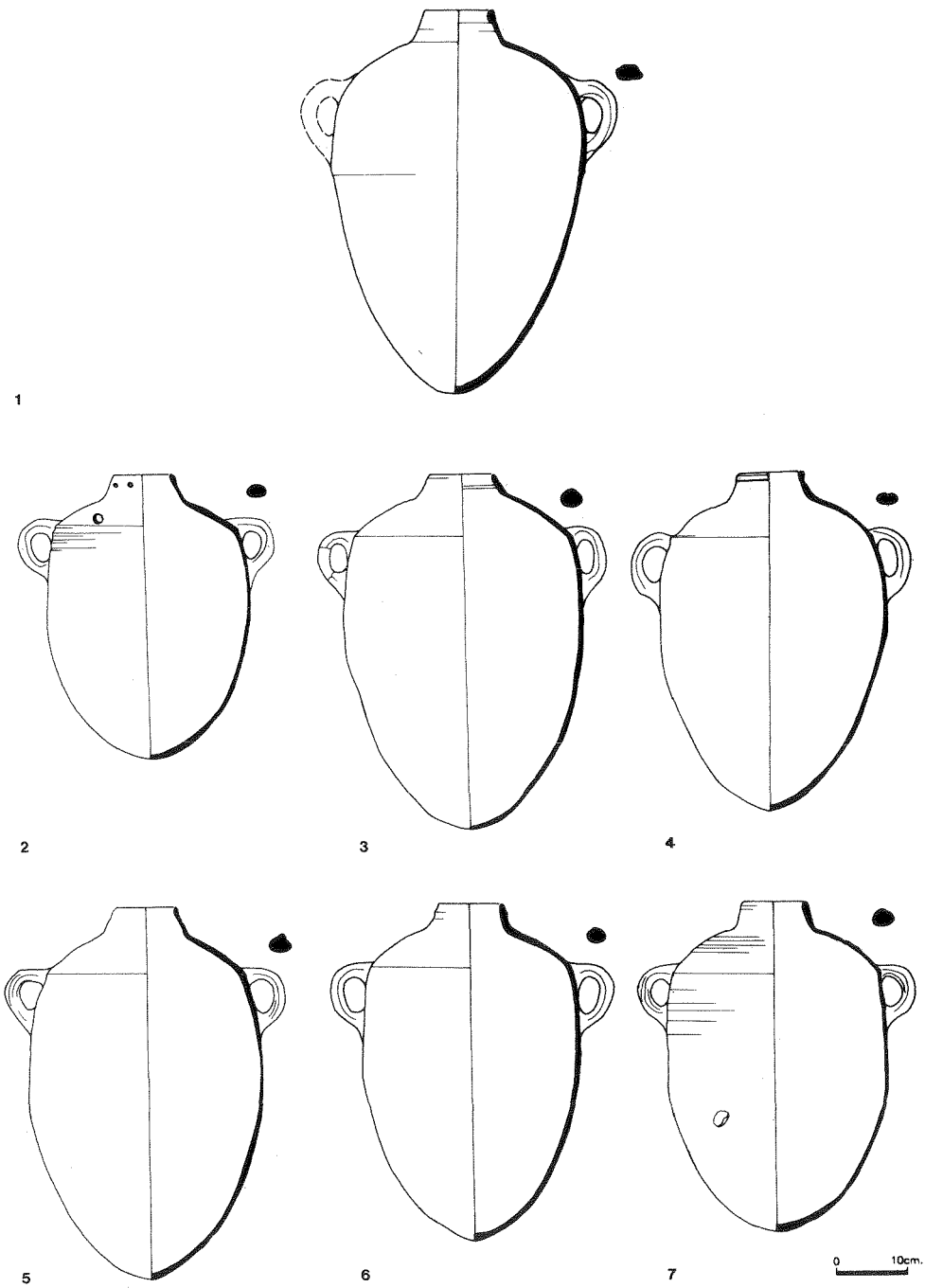

Fig. 5.16. Level III: Group IIIC. Two-handled storage jars.

rounded rim and a short neck sloping inward. Their base is more rounded and larger than that of the Group IIIB jars. The jar in Fig. 5.16:2 has two mending holes which were drilled into the rim and a larger hole in the body above the ridge. Jar No. 7 has a similar hole, although larger and in the lower third of the body. The handle of this jar was attached to the body with lime cement.

The storage jar in Figs. 5.16:1 and 5.17:2, measuring 50 cm. in height with two large ridged handles, is included in this group although its shape and clay type resemble those of the *lmlk* jars (Group IIIA). As only one storage jar of this type was found in the storeroom, it was not classified as a separate group.

Other examples of Group IIIC appear in Tufnell 1953: Pl. 94:467. They are also common at Tel Beer-sheba (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 57:8–16).

The British expedition unearthed the upper part of a storage jar with an incised inscription reading *bt lmlk*. Tufnell briefly referred to this vessel type, stating that it resembles, but is not identical to, '*la-melekh* jars' (Tufnell 1953:356). According to Inge (1940–1941:107), the inscription 'was from a jar with a similar neck and shoulder, though it was apparently rather smaller'. Albright (Albright 1943:58 n. 7) maintained that the size of the Lachish vessel recalled a four-handled storage jar type found at Tell Beit Mirsim, similar in shape to *lmlk* jars but smaller (Albright 1932: Pl. 32:4). However, a reappraisal of the evidence indicates that the four-handled storage jar from Tell Beit Mirsim probably belongs to the '*lmlk*-like' group (Group IIIB). As Inge suggested, the inscribed fragment from Lachish belongs to a smaller vessel, probably one with two handles, similar to the storage jars of Group IIIC. The ware, diameter of the mouth and length of the shoulder also fit the Group IIIC type.

Fig. 5.17. Level III: Storage jars.

'Coastal-origin' storage jars (Figs. 5.18–5.19)

GROUP IIID (Figs. 5.18:4; 5.19:4)

This group consists of one neckless storage jar with a narrow oval body tapering toward a rounded base. The rim is ring-shaped and the shoulder is carinated and narrow. The clay is reddish-brown and well levigated with very few grits. The metallic quality of the ware is entirely different from the rest of the vessels of this locus. Similar storage jars were found at Ashdod (Dothan 1971: Fig. 47:7) and constitute the majority of the assemblage at ʿAjrud (Ayalon 1995: Fig. 13:1–4). A similar rim is known from Ruqeish (Culican 1973: Fig. 4:21R).

It seems that this storage jar type originated in the coastal plain, whence it reached the inland sites. It continued to develop further in the 7th century, becoming higher and wider in Level II (Group IID, Fig. 5.26).

MISCELLANEOUS STORAGE JARS (Figs. 5.18:1–2; 5.19:1–2)

The storage jar in Figs. 5.18:1 and 5.19:1 has a convex-shaped neck, ending in a rounded rim. Its narrow horizontal shoulder is sharply carinated. Two handles with one ridge are attached to the body at the point of carination. The jar reaches its maximum diameter in the lower third of the body and ends in a rounded base. The clay is reddish-brown. No other specimens of this vessel were recovered at Lachish. A storage jar similar in shape was found at Ashdod (Dothan and Freedman 1967: Fig. 38:5); its neck, however, is not convex like that of the Lachish vessel.

The storage jar in Figs. 5.18:2 and 5.19:2 has a small body, swollen in its lower part and ending in a wide, rounded base. The short straight neck ends in a plain rim. The rounded shoulder is sharply carinated at the point where the handles are attached.

The difficulty in finding parallels to this vessel in the British excavation report may be due to imprecise drawing. Variants of this storage jar were found at ʿAjrud, one of which bears the inscription *lsrʿr* (Ayalon 1995: Fig. 11:3).

GROUP IIIE (Figs. 5.18:3; 5.19:3)

One example of this storage jar group was found in the storeroom. It is neckless and has a short rim, slightly rounded on the interior, with a triangular section. The shoulders slope obliquely and are sharply carinated. Two single-ridged handles, which are slightly drawn upward, are attached to the body at the point of carination. The body becomes wider toward the middle, round toward the bottom

and ends in a small, round flattened base with an accented edge. Made of reddish-pink clay and well fired, this storage jar is 48 cm. high.

The British expedition unearthed six similar storage jars, classified by Tufnell as Type 472, in five loci, two of which, K/J.14/15:1033 and 505, were associated with Level II. The other three loci, Tomb 120 and Loci J.15:1017 and H.14:1002, were associated with Level III. In H.14:1002 two storage jars were found, one of which bore an incised pattern. The renewed excavations confirmed Starkey's stratigraphic attribution of this locus to Level III (Ussishkin 1978:53 n. 4). In Tomb 120 and House 505 only fragments of this vessel type were found. The only complete storage jar from Level II Locus K/J.14/15:1033 could have been easily misidentified (on the difference between Level III and Level II storage jars see below, Group IIE). It should also be noted that this storage jar was found apart from the other vessels in this locus in a later excavation season (Tufnell 1953:113). Although recovered from different levels and probably composed of different types, Tufnell attributed all these storage jars to one type, 472,

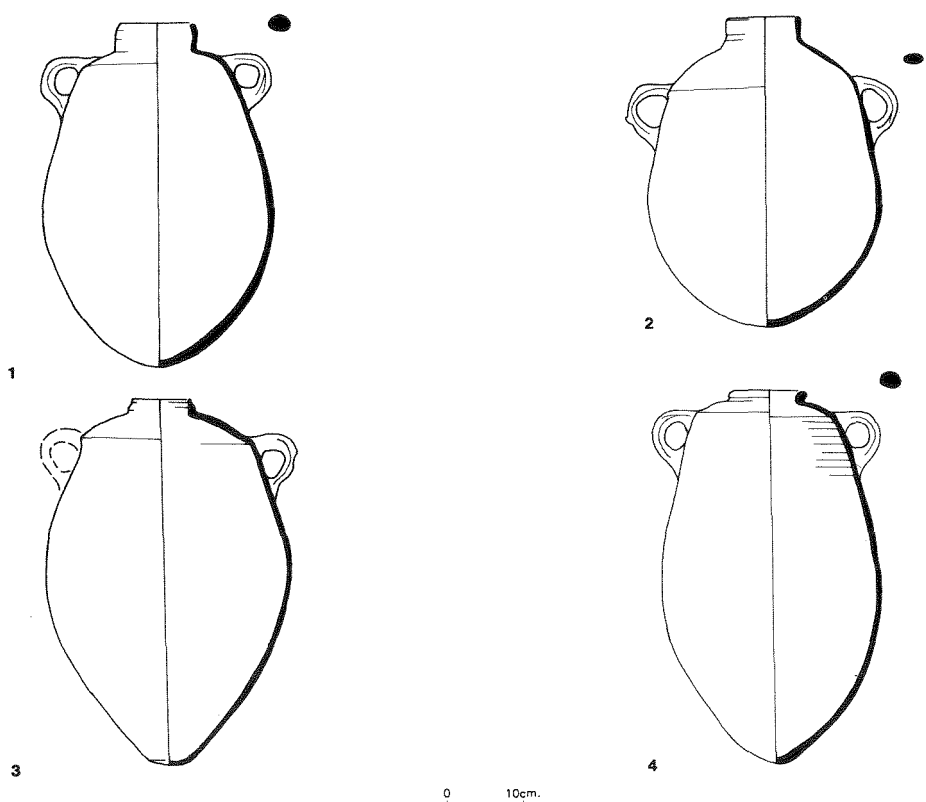

Fig. 5.18. Level III: 'Coastal origin' storage jars: Groups IIID (4), IIIE (3) and miscellaneous.

represented in the report by the storage jar with the incised pattern from Locus H.14:1002. In Level III Aharoni found the upper part of a storage jar of this type which bears an incised pattern (Aharoni 1975: Pl. 54:250). In the renewed excavations two more such storage jars bearing incisions were found in Locus 4083 of Level III, not far from Storeroom 4014 (Ussishkin 1983: Pl. 11).

Altogether eight storage jars of this type, measuring 45–50 cm. in height, have been recovered from Level III. Although only one jar was found in Room 4014, the discussion of this group and present parallels from other sites will be extended, in view of the fact that this jar type later developed into the popular storage jar of Level II, Group IIE (Figs. 5.28–5.29).

Tell Beit Mirsim. Only one vessel was published (Albright 1932: Pl. 53:5).

Tel Beer-sheba. Lily Singer-Avitz kindly assisted in the examination of the storage jars from Stratum II, where this jar type comprises one of the two most common groups (Aharoni 1973: Pl. 57:1–3). Some have incisions on the body,

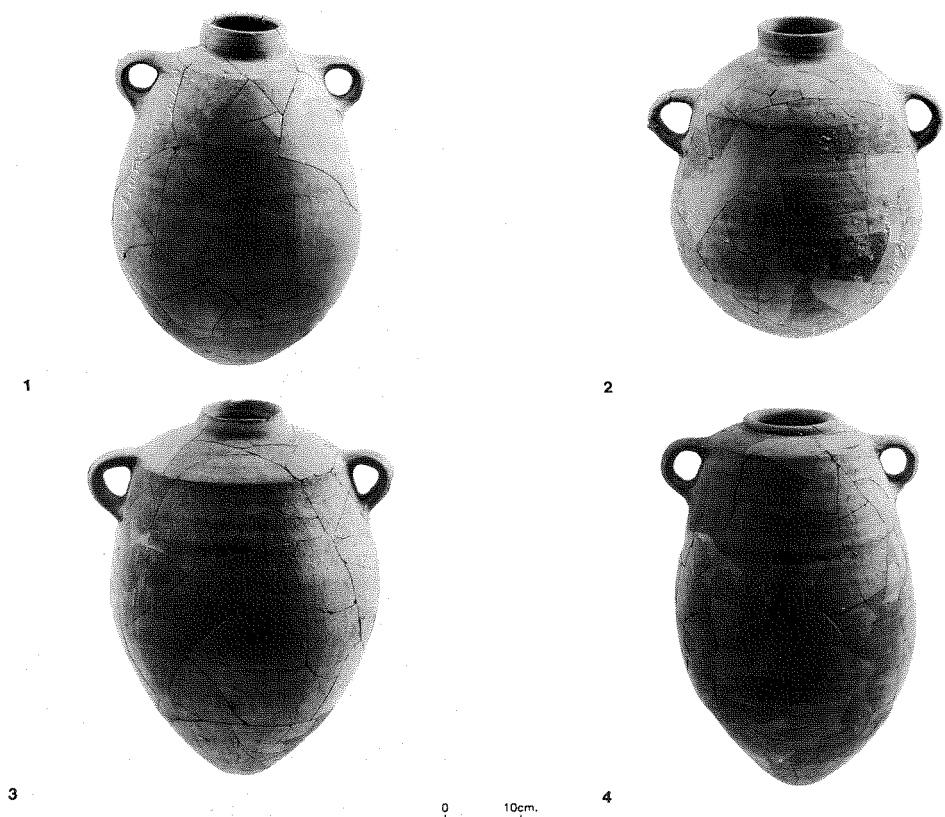

Fig. 5.19. Level III: 'Coastal origin' storage jars.

especially under the carinated shoulder (*ibid.*: Pls. 55:19; 57:3; and other unpublished examples).

Ruqeish. Several specimens of this jar type were found in tombs dated to the second half of the 8th century. One bears an incision (Culican 1973). Similar storage jars were found in the walled settlement (Oren *et al.* 1987:86; Illus. p. 87).

Tel Haror. The majority of the storage jars from Stratum G3 at Tel Haror resembles those of Group IIIE. Some bear a potter's mark designed as a palm frond or an octagon (Oren and Morrison 1986:75). Oren and Morrison dated this stratum to the end of the 7th and beginning of the 6th centuries on the basis of its resemblance to Stratum V at Tel Shera (*ibid.*: 65, 67, 75). Two of these vessels and a 'torpedo-shaped' storage jar found with them are illustrated (*ibid.*: Fig. 19). Similar torpedo-shaped storage jars and Group IIIE storage jars were found in the renewed excavations at Lachish (Locus 4083, Level III), but neither the jar under discussion nor the torpedo-shaped jar is known from Lachish Level II.

Tel ʿIra. Some examples of Group IIIE jars were found in a Stratum VII building (Beit-Arieh 1985:20, upper photo), most of which bear incised patterns. According to Beit-Arieh, this group antedates the assemblage recovered from the last phase of the casemate rooms. Some storage jars are identical to those from Beer-sheba Stratum II and Lachish Level III. He concludes, however, that these vessels are characteristic of the first half of the 7th century (Beit-Arieh 1987:35).

Arad. A similar storage jar was found in Stratum 8 (Aharoni and Aharoni 1976: Pl. 3:7). It seems that this vessel type is less common at Arad.

ʿAjrud. One storage jar of this type, also bearing an incised pattern, was uncovered in the pottery assemblage, dated to the end of the 9th, beginning of the 8th centuries (Ayalon 1995:13:6).

From the above list it appears that the Group IIIE storage jars are rare at Lachish, Tell Beit Mirsim and Arad, while quite common at the northern and western Negev sites, which maintained contact with the coastal plain. It is worth comparing the Lachish and Beer-sheba assemblages: Level III at Lachish yielded only eight storage jars of this type, whereas this type comprises one of the largest groups at Beer-sheba.

Characteristic of the storage jars from the above-mentioned sites are the incisions on the body, usually beneath the carination point, unknown on other vessels of 8th-century Judah. Incised letters are found on pithoi of this period, but any connection between the two phenomena is doubtful. Of the eight Group IIIE storage jars found at Lachish, four bear incised patterns. It is difficult to establish the ratio of incised to non-incised vessels at other sites, since the material has been only partly published.

Yadin (1974:34) maintained that two storage jars from Lachish and Beer-sheba (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 94:472; Aharoni 1973: Pl. 57:3), which bear incised

potter's marks in the shape of two horizontal isosceles triangles, were modelled by a single potter. Later, Yadin added a similar storage jar from Tel Shera and dated the three vessels, their assemblages and the loci from which they were recovered to the time of Josiah (Yadin and Geva 1983:252). However, the incision on the Tel Shera storage jar differs from the marks incised on the vessels from Lachish and Beer-sheba, which are indeed similar. The Tel Shera incision consists of three triangles filled with dots (kindly communicated by E. Oren).

GROUP IIIF (Fig. 5.20:1–3, 5)

This group includes four holemouth jars with small ring bases and three ridges below the rim at the point where the handles are attached. They appear in two sizes: two vessels measure 60 cm. in height, and two smaller ones are 45 cm.

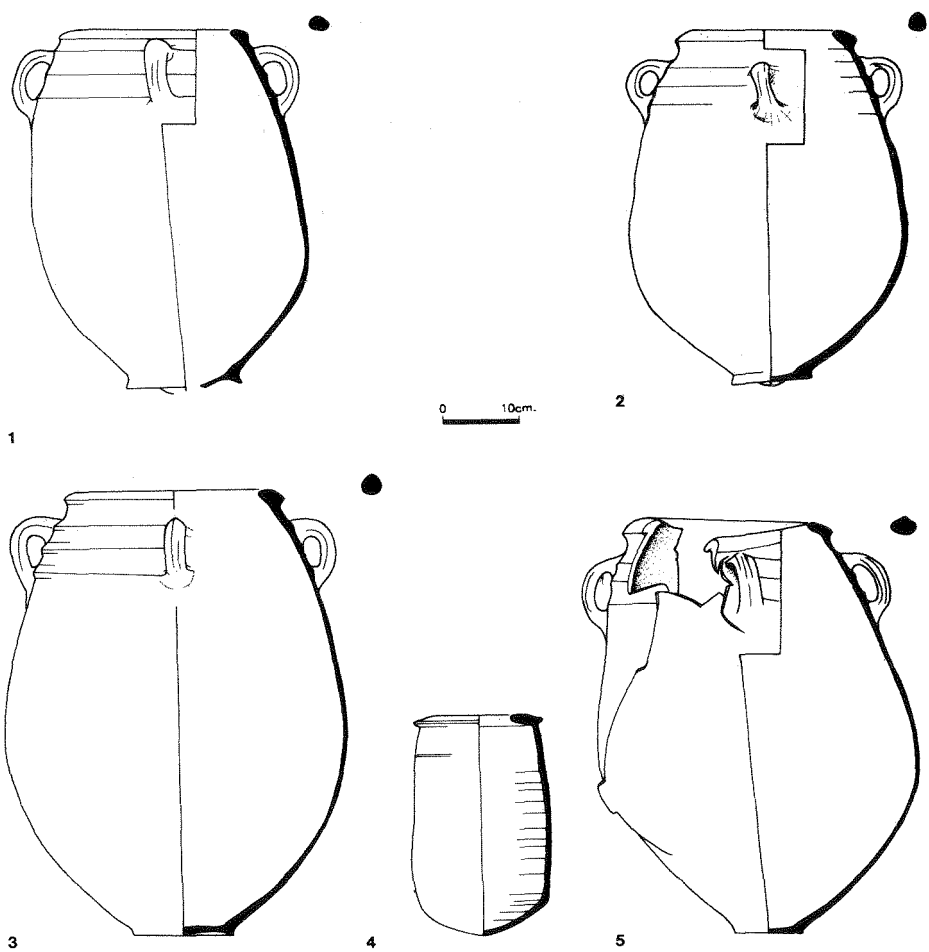

Fig. 5.20. Level III: Group IIIF.

high. They were severely warped by fire, and their colour changed from light brown to shades of red and yellow. For other examples see Tufnell 1953: Pls. 95:490; 96:499; Aharoni 1975: Pl. 54:320.

A fifth holemouth jar (Fig. 5.20:4) is 30 cm. high with a wide, smooth, ledged rim that protrudes from the vessel wall. It is made of well-levigated, yellowish-white clay, quite different from that of the other vessels found in this locus. Its wide, ridged rim differs from that of other holemouth storage jars found at Lachish and other contemporary sites.

THE POTTERY OF LEVEL II

Group IIA (Figs. 5.21:1–2; 5.22)

Jar No. 1 is reminiscent of *lmlk* and '*lmlk*-like' storage jars from Level III, but has a plain, rounded rim. The clay appears coarser and pinkish-brown on the exterior, grey and porous on the interior. Nearby was found the base of a similar storage jar (No. 2) with smoothed edges, perhaps reused as a large bowl.

So far, these are the only definite examples of this jar type in Level II. The storage jar found in Level II Locus K/L.14:1061, classified as Type 484 by Tufnell, may belong to the same group. Ussishkin (1977:57) saw in Jar No. 1 an indication that production of storage jars in the *lmlk* vessel tradition continued until the fall of the Judean kingdom. Similar conclusions were reached by Mommsen, Perlman and Yellin (1984:106; Table 2:58), who found that the composition of its

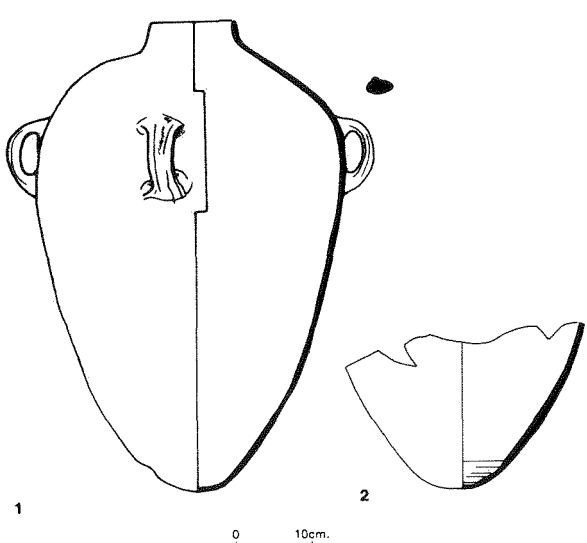

Fig. 5.21. Level II: Group IIA.

Fig. 5.22. Level II: Storage jar.

clay was identical to that of the stamped and non-stamped *lmlk* type jars from Level III. Kelm and Mazar (1985:114) interpreted the appearance of *lmlk* storage jars in 7th-6th-century assemblages in Judah as an indication of the continued use of vessels which had remained intact in the storehouses of Jerusalem.

However, our storage jar belongs to an entirely different 'production line' than the *lmlk* jars, despite the similarity in form, and should not be considered as a late example of this jar type.

Group IIB: 'Rosette' storage jars (Fig. 5.23)

These storage jars are oval shaped, ca. 65 cm. high. The short, slightly flaring neck ends in a plain rim. Below the sloping shoulder are four handles, each with two ridges. All the jars have rounded bases. Jars of this type usually bear a rosette stamp impression, although the storage jars of our assemblage were not stamped. These storage jars, Nos. 1–3 in particular, have the rounded body characteristic of Groups IIIA and IIIB, although they are more elongated and oval shaped (Aharoni 1975: Pl. 49:13–15).

The storage jars of this group differ from each other in some details:

Nos. 1–3 are thin walled, made of reddish, metallic ware with an abundance of small grits.

No. 6 has a thick wall and lacks the metallic quality.

No. 4 is slightly different from the others. It is wider, has a thick wall and is made of very light yellowish clay. Its neck and rim were broken during use, and the break was smoothed over. One handle was reattached to the vessel with lime cement. Flaws and holes in the body of the vessel were also mended with a similar material.

Tufnell classified these storage jars, found only in Level II, as Type 483 (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 95:483). However, in Aharoni's excavation one rosette type storage jar was found in Locus 63, assigned to Level III. The peculiarity of its appearance in Level III has already been pointed out by Kelm and Mazar (1985:119 n. 10). As discussed above, part of the assemblage of this locus, including this jar, should be attributed to Level II.

No. 5 (also photograph, Fig. 5.25:1) shows some similarities with the following Group IIC storage jars. It is a smaller version of the Group B vessels, and its ware is thin and fine, similar to that of Group C. The rim was broken and smoothed. The body has an oval hole 6 cm. long.

Altogether, 15 complete rosette type storage jars were found at Lachish: five by the British expedition, six by Aharoni and four from our storerooms. To these should be added 23 rosette-stamped handles found at Lachish. In Jerusalem 59 rosette-stamped handles were found, as were 42 at nearby Ramat Rahel

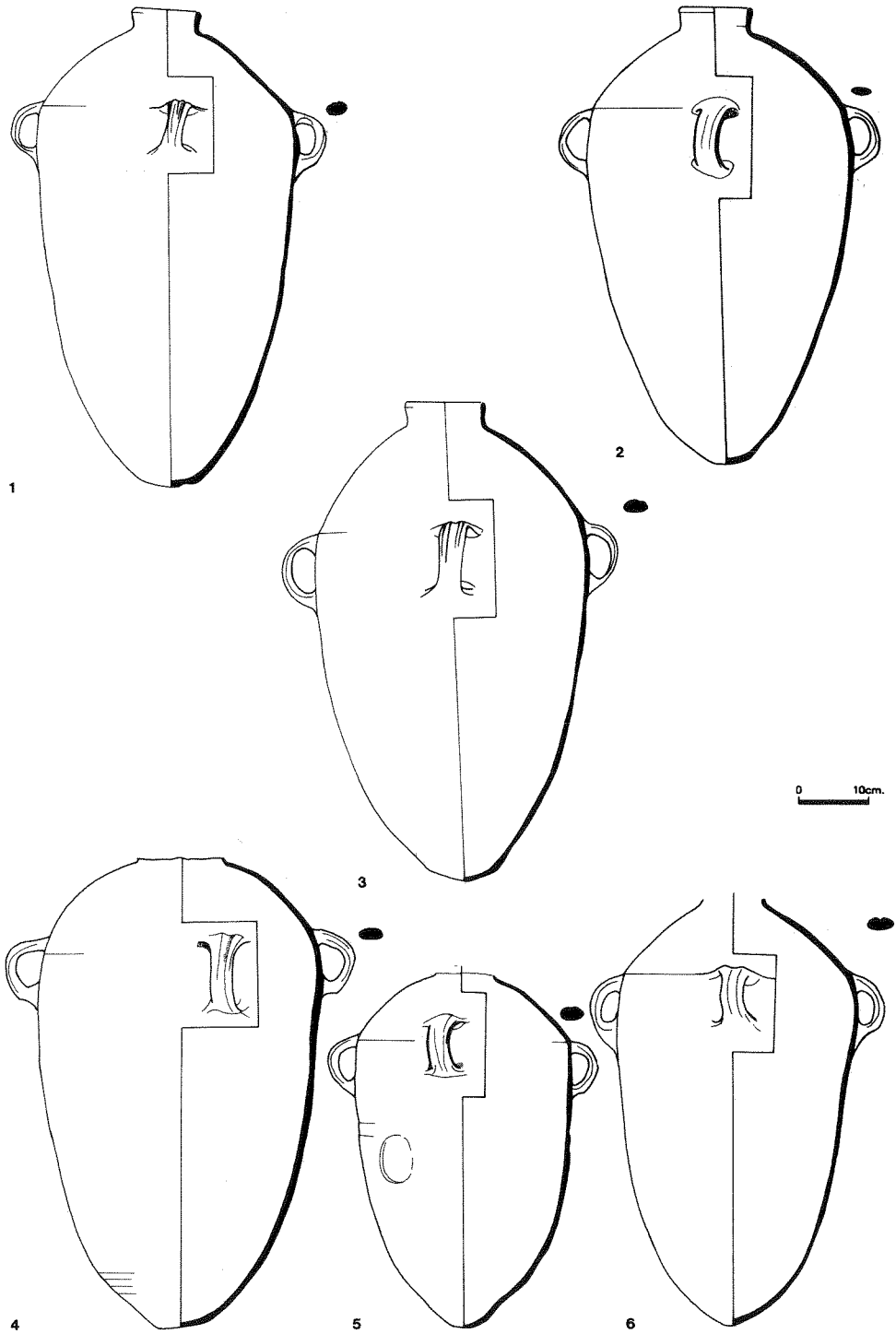

Fig. 5.23. Level II: Group IIB. 'Rosette' storage jars.

(Barkay 1985:406; see also, recently, Cahill 1995). Thirty-seven storage jars, the majority of which were of the rosette type, were discovered in Locus 818, Area G, in the City of David (Shiloh 1984:18; Pl. 30:2 features 14 rosette storage jars). In comparison, of the 60 storage jars found in our storerooms, only four are of the rosette type. It is apparent that at Lachish the rosette storage jar was not the typical one, whereas in Jerusalem and vicinity it formed a major part of the storage jar repertoire along with the bag-shaped storage jar (Mazar and Mazar 1989:16–17; Pls. 4–5). (I am indebted to A. de Groot for the information concerning the storage jars found at the City of David.)

Mommsen, Perlman and Yellin (1984:106–107; Table 2:111; 191) performed neutron activation analysis on two handles with rosette stamps from the City of David and Tel Batash and found their composition to be identical to that of the *lmlk* jars. This led them to suggest one production centre for all the vessels. They cautiously stated that such a conclusion was justified only if it could be proven that the composition of all rosette vessels was similar to that of the two handles checked.

Group IIC (Figs. 5.24; 5.25:2)

Six of the eight vessels of this group were found complete. These oval-shaped jars have a rounded shoulder and two handles. The neck, wider in its upper part, ends in a plain rim. They resemble the storage jars of Group IIB, but are smaller, 55 cm. in height. The capacity of Jar No. 1 is 20.85–21.15 litres.

Jars Nos. 1–3 and 6 are narrow and finely modelled. Jars Nos. 4 and 5, slightly wider than the others, are made of coarse clay and have a thick wall.

A comparison of Types 479 and 494 published in Tufnell 1953 (drawings and photos) with vessels of Group IIC shows that they comprise two variants of the same vessel group (see also Aharoni 1975: Pls. 45:16; 48:10; 49:11). The shoulder fragment bearing the inscription *btšyʿyt* (in the ninth...) (Tufnell 1953:339; Pl. 495:96) also belongs to this group. To this inscribed jar can be added the inscription on our Jar No. 1. The word *brbyʿyt* (in the fourth...) can be read with certainty (Ussishkin 1978:85–88, Inscription XXIX). The letter *beth* in the third line indicates the measure *bt* — ca. 21 litres — which is the jar's capacity. In addition, an inscribed storage jar from Arad Stratum VI (Aharoni 1981:40–41), in which the word *bšlyšyt* (in the third...) can be read with certainty, should be mentioned. This storage jar, of similar ware, is a smaller version, 32 cm. high, of the Group IIC vessels. A measurement of the jar's capacity revealed a volume of 5.25 litres (contrary to Aharoni's measurement of 8 litres). The three storage jars, then, are of the same type with inscriptions probably indicating regnal years.

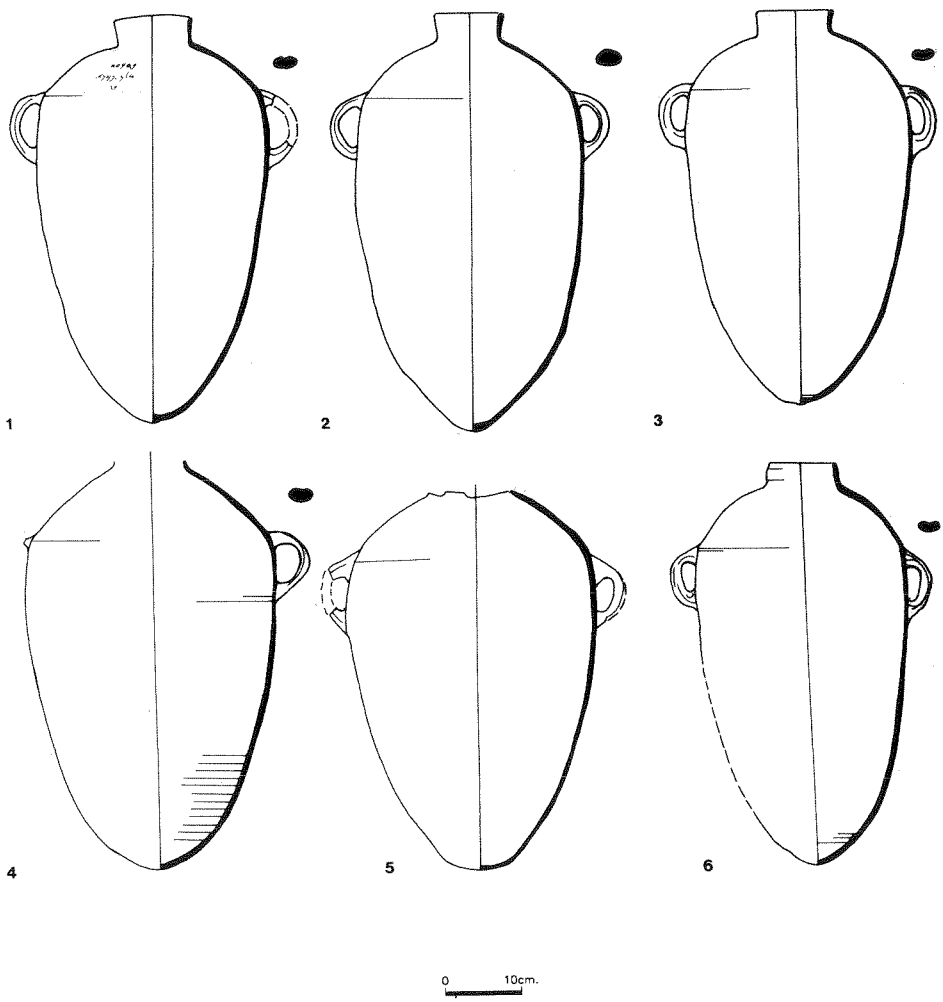

Fig. 5.24. Level II: Group IIC.

Storage jars of Groups IID and IIE: general note

These two groups developed from Groups D and E of Level III, which Tufnell classified as Type 472. Type 472 also included vessels from Level II loci, to be discussed below. Differentiation between these two groups cannot be made by examination of the upper part of the body alone. The jars are neckless with a short rim, triangular in section, and are characterized by a narrow, sharply carinated shoulder. The joint between rim and shoulder is indicated by a slight swelling on the interior. Their height varies between 50–65 cm., their maximum diameter is ca. 30–40 cm. These storage jars are well fired, nearly to a metallic quality. The clay is well levigated with few grits, varying in colour from light brown to orange or

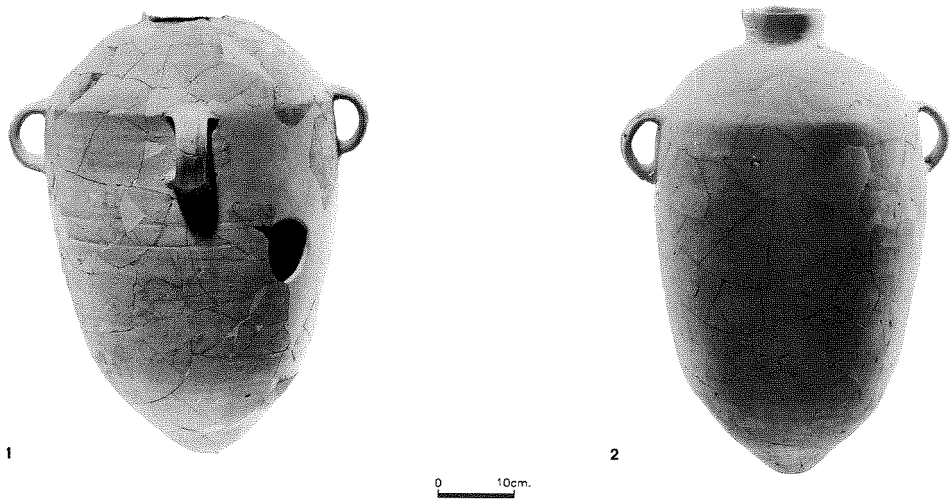

Fig. 5.25. Level II: Storage jars.

pink. The majority of these storage jars have a clay-coloured wash which has peeled off in some places. On some vessels can be seen vertical smoothing marks, resembling a non-shiny burnish. These marks may appear only on the shoulder, the upper body or only on the lower part of the vessel.

The storage jars of Groups IID and IIE differ mainly in their bases: those of Group IID have a large, rounded base, whereas the base of Group IIE is tapered.

Group IID (Figs. 5.26; 5.27:1)

The eleven vessels of this group have a long, swollen piriform body, which reaches its maximum diameter toward the lower third. The shoulder is either straight or slightly rounded. Two thick handles with one or two ridges are attached at the carination point. These handles continue the shoulder line or are drawn slightly upward. The base is rounded and ends in a small blunt point.

Two storage jars stand out in this group: No. 2, only 40 cm. high and of a smaller diameter, and No. 6, with a sharply carinated horizontal shoulder, its one remaining handle coarse and distorted, reminiscent of the handles from Level I. Below the handle is a heavily damaged inscription. Traces of an inscription (Ussishkin 1978:84, Inscription XXVI) are also found on Jar No. 1. The inside of this vessel is covered with a thin white wash, perhaps a caulking material. Traces of a watery wash can be seen on the exterior of Jar No. 10. The surface of Jar No. 11 was smoothed with a hard implement.

This jar type was not identified by Tufnell, although the incomplete vessel with painted ibexes and lotus shown in Tufnell 1953: Pl. 94:465 probably belongs to this group (see also Aharoni 1975: Pl. 48:8, 9, 16). This storage jar type was

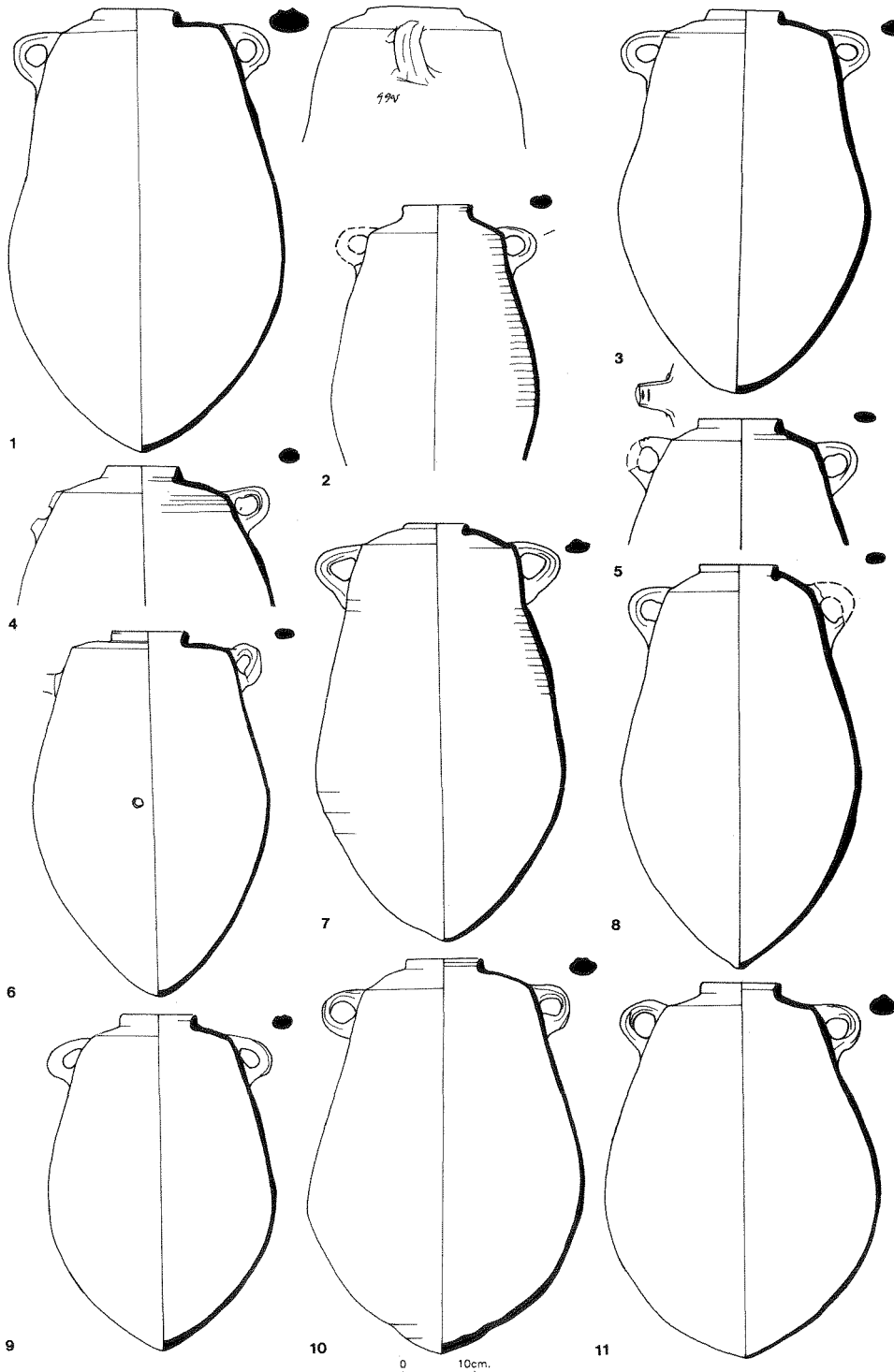

Fig. 5.26. Level II: Group IID.

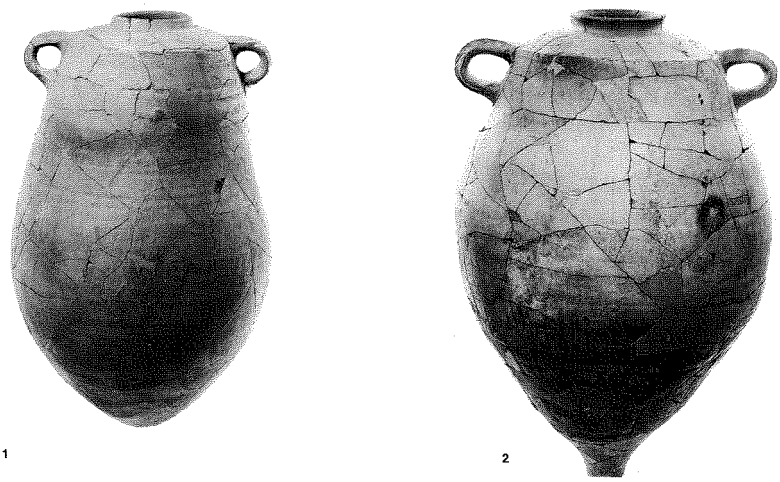

Fig. 5.27. Level II: Storage jars.

found at Ashdod (Dothan and Porat 1982: Fig. 22:3–4). Many examples of storage jars with swollen bodies, although with different types of rims, were recovered from Tel Miqne (Gitin 1989: Figs. 2.8–2.9). At Tel Batash it is the most prevalent type. According to Kelm and Mazar, 'the type appears to be characteristic of Philistia, although isolated examples also were found at Judean sites such as Lachish and Kadesh Barnea' (1985:111; Fig. 18:5). It now seems that also at Lachish Level II this jar made up a good part of the assemblage, while at other Judean sites it was rare. The significance of this observation will be discussed in the concluding section.

Group IIE (Figs. 5.27:2; 5.28; 5.29:1–5)

Fourteen storage jars of this group, 57–65 cm. in height, were recovered. They have a swollen piriform body, gradually tapering from its maximum diameter to a funnel-shaped base that ends with a small emphasized dome. The shoulder is carinated and slightly rounded. The short rim has a triangular section with a slight inward swelling like those of Group IID. A few rim variants can be noted: rounded (Fig. 5.28:8, 9); with an inner gutter (Fig. 5.29:2, 4); drawn outward (Fig. 5.28:1–3).

The surface of the jars in Figs. 5.28:1, 4 and 5.29:1 was vertically smoothed. The jar in Fig. 5.28:7 was smoothed only on its lower part (see also Aharoni 1975: Pls. 48:6; 49:17–19; 50:11).

Similar vessels were found at Tel Malhata (Kochavi 1993:936) and Kadesh Barnea (Cohen 1983: Illus. 20). The storage jar from the Ophel excavation in Jerusalem is also of this type and does not belong to the earlier type as inferred in the report (Mazar and Mazar 1989:36–37).

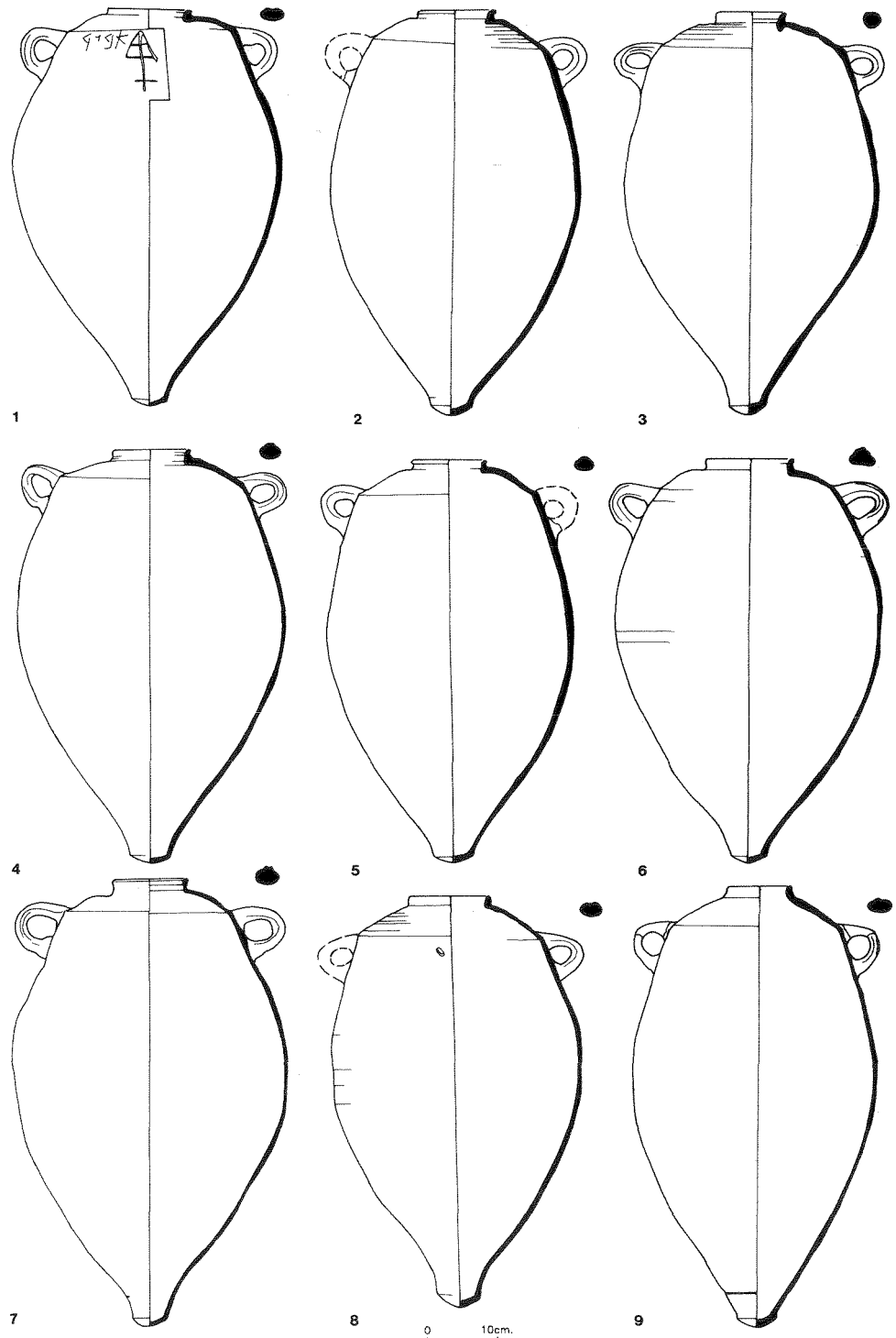

Fig. 5.28. Level II: Group IIE.

The storage jar in Fig. 5.29:5 is smaller, measuring 53 cm. high. The body tapers toward the domed base in a nearly straight line, lacking the swollen shape characteristic of the other storage jars of this group. In this respect this jar bears a strong resemblance to the Group IIIE storage jars (Tufnell's Type 472).

The storage jar in Fig. 5.28:1 bears an incised mark and the four first letters of the alphabet (Ussishkin 1978:81–82, Inscription XXIV). This incised inscription is an exception in the Level II assemblage, although incised patterns are common on Group IIIE storage jars from Lachish and other sites.

At first sight, the comparison of these storage jars with those of Group IIIE shows a great resemblance, particularly when viewing the published drawings

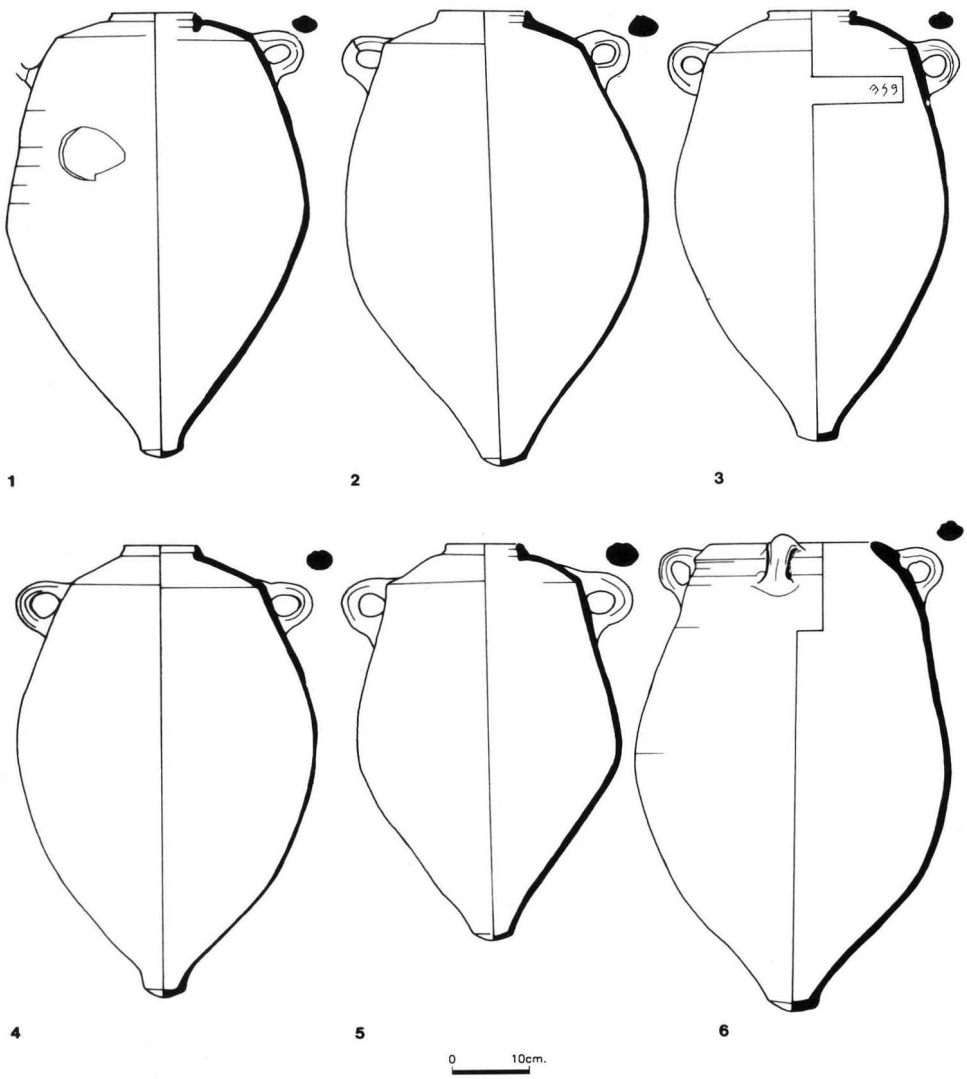

Fig. 5.29. Level II: Group IIE: Nos. 1–5; Group IIF: No. 6.

and not the vessels themselves. The fact that Tufnell included the four vessels from Level III with sherds of storage jars from Level II (see Group IIIE) in a single type, 472, demonstrates the difficulty of differentiation. Indeed, the upper part of the vessel, the sharply carinated shoulder and the short triangular rim, is similar in all the storage jars, but their lower part is different. The Level III storage jars measure 45–50 cm. in height, the body tapers toward a small rounded base, carinated at its edges. On the other hand, the Level II storage jars measure ca. 55–65 cm. in height, and the swollen, lower part of the body tapers toward a funnel-shaped base. The great resemblance between the earlier and later types would seem to indicate a continuity in the production of these vessels at a number of centres throughout the 8th to 6th centuries (see concluding section).

Finally, there is the question of the origin of this jar type. Unlike the vessels of Group IID, no significant assemblage of Group IIE vessels has yet been recovered from any coastal site. The typological resemblance between these two groups indicates a common origin, although there is the possibility that the Group IIE vessels were produced in a separate workshop whose products were distributed mainly to sites of the Shephelah and the western Negev. So far, Lachish is the only site dated to the first quarter of the 6th century from which a large group of such vessels has been recovered. The storage jars from Tel ʿIra and Tel Haror (see Group IIIE) are similar to those of Lachish Level III, but not to those of Level II. At present there is a slight incompatibility between the finds of Lachish and those of Tel ʿIra and Tel Haror, as the Tel ʿIra jars were dated to the first half of the 7th century, and those from Tel Haror were dated to the end of the 7th and the beginning of the 6th centuries. Only when the material from these sites and others is fully published will it be possible to trace the development of these storage jars through the period between the destruction of Level III and that of Level II.

Group IIF (Figs. 5.29:6; 5.30:1)

This storage jar type incorporates the upper part of the holemouth storage jar known from Level III (Group IIIF, Fig. 5.20) and the body and tapering base of Group IIE storage jars. However, unlike the holemouth storage jars from Level III, the handles of this jar type are attached to the rim itself and not below it. The only vessel of this type published so far was found at Ashdod (Dothan and Porat 1982: Pl. 23:1).

Handleless storage jars (Figs. 5.31; 5.33:1)

Seven vessels of this group were found, three of which are complete. Their height varies from 35 to 45 cm. Their cylindrical body ends in a rounded base and the short neck is surmounted by a thickened rim drawn outward and flattened on top.

Fig. 5.30. Level II: Storage jars.

Most of these vessels are made of greyish-brown clay with white lime grits resembling sand. Sometimes iron oxide grits appear in the clay.

On the body of Jar No. 4 can be seen the ending of an inscription, a letter and a dot, written in black ink. A hole in the body of Jar No. 2 measures 6 x 3 cm.

Similar vessels were published in Aharoni 1975: Pl. 54:170, and one was found at Ramat Rahel Stratum V (Aharoni 1962: Fig. 12:3, with handles mistakenly reconstructed; Aharoni 1964: Pl. 32:3).

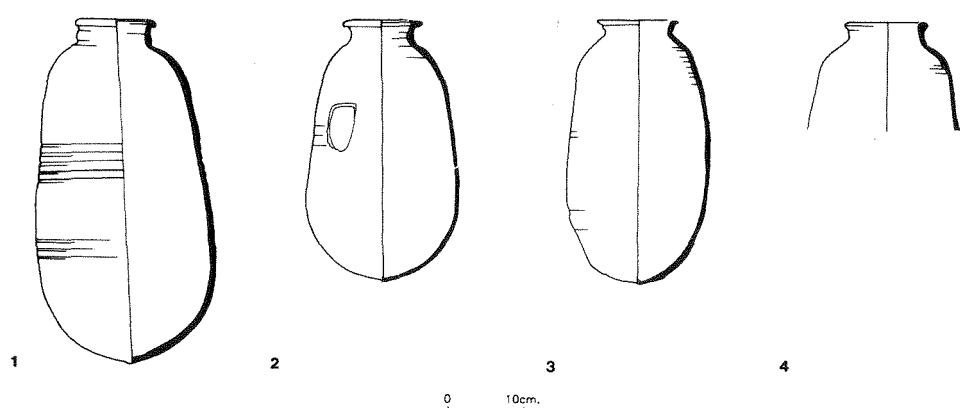

Fig. 5.31. Level II: Handleless storage jars.

Miscellaneous vessels

KRATER (Fig. 5.32:1)

Only one krater, 50 cm. high, was found. It has a tall, everted neck, a thickened, diagonally cut rim, a globular body with no handles and a ring base. It is well fired and unslipped and the clay is very light pinkish-brown. No similar kraters were found at Lachish, but a vessel bearing some likeness to ours was found at Tel Malhata (Kochavi 1993:936). At En-gedi Stratum V (Mazar, Dothan and Dunayevsky 1966: Fig. 12:15) a smaller, red-slipped krater was found.

SMALL JAR (Fig. 5.32:2)

This piriform jar, 35 cm. high, has a sloping shoulder and a straight neck that ends in a thickened rim. Two small, distorted strap handles are attached to the ridge at the edge of the shoulder. The vessel is made of thin, well-fired, yellowish-brown clay. No similar vessels are known from other sites.

PITHOS (Fig. 5.32:3)

Only one pithos was retrieved from the storeroom, the only example from this level. Its long, cylindrical body ends in a wide, rounded base, unlike the tapering body of the Level III pithoi (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 94:466). Its mouth is very narrow, the rim sloping inward. A deep gutter, which probably held the lid or stopper, separates the rim from the body. The two handles are attached below the shoulder. From below the handles to the point where the body begins to round toward the base, the exterior was scraped with a knife or some other blunt implement before firing, creating irregularly spaced horizontal lines of different lengths.

STORAGE JAR (Figs. 5.30:2; 5.32:4)

This long ovoid vessel with four handles resembles in shape and size the rosette storage jars of Group IIB. It is neckless with a round ring-like rim. The clay, different from that of the other vessels in this assemblage, is pinkish-brown with an abundance of large lime grits, which make the vessel appear rather coarse (compare Tufnell 1953: Pl. 95:482; Aharoni 1975: Pl. 48:15).

HOLEMOUTH STORAGE JAR (Figs. 5.32:5; 5.33:2)

Two storage jars of this type were found, one of them complete. It is 35 cm. high with a barrel-shaped body, four handles and a ring base. The holemouth rim has three grooves. The vessel is made of well-fired, yellowish-grey clay. A similar jar from Level II (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 95:492) has a rounded, swollen body. Another similar vessel was found at Tel Malhata (Kochavi 1993:936).

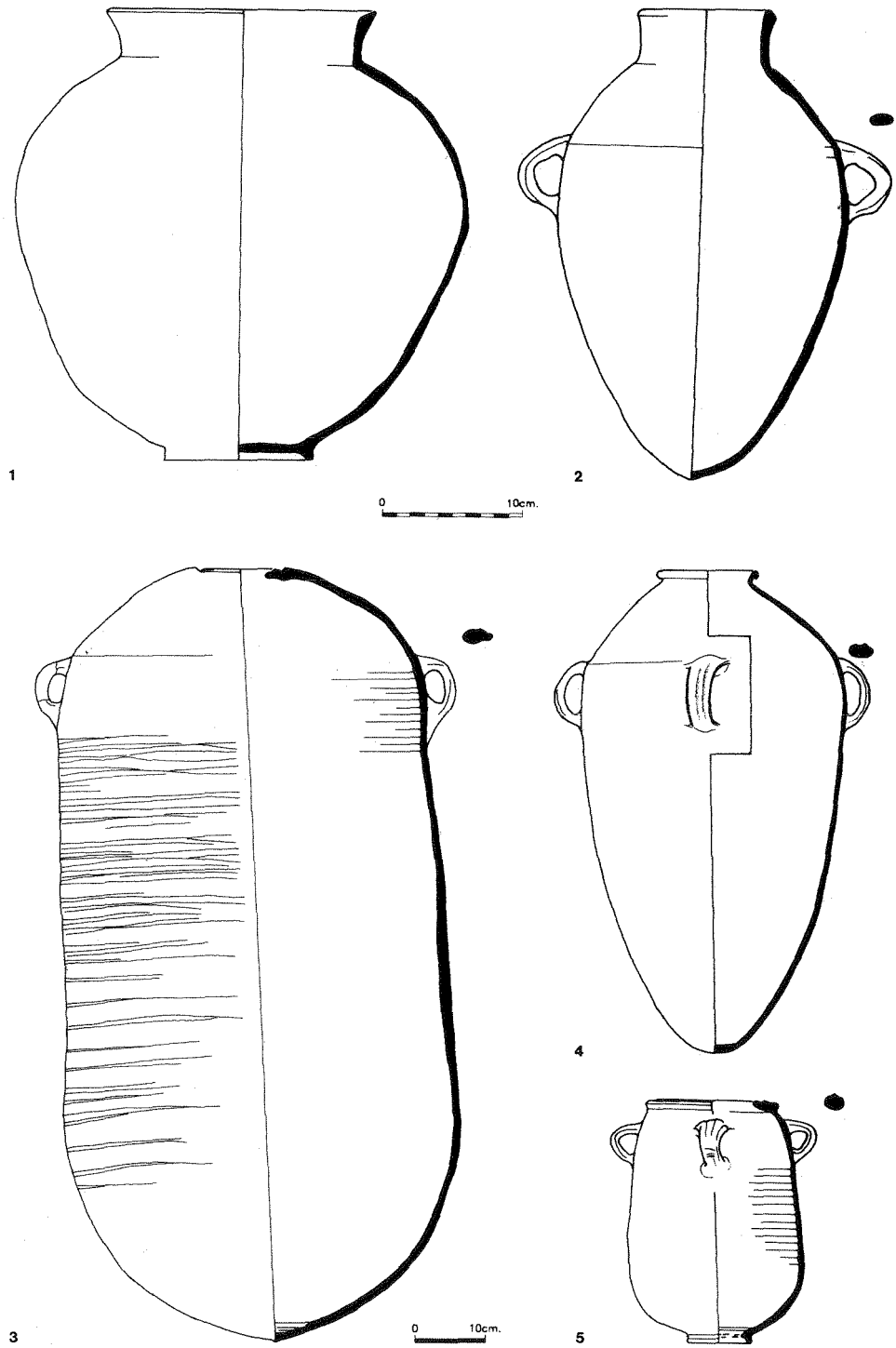

Fig. 5.32. Level II: Miscellaneous vessels.

DECANTERS

Three groups of decanters were found in the Level II storerooms.

Large decanters (Figs. 5.33:4; 5.34). Ten decanters of this type, 40 cm. high, were found, three of which were complete. The flaring rim is sometimes thickened and rounded, sometimes axe shaped. A wide, two-ridged handle is attached from the sharp ridge below the rim to the centre of the shoulder. The long, sloping shoulder joins the body in a sharp carination. The bag-shaped body ends in a small ring base. All the decanters are made of sandy clay, grey or light reddish in colour, sometimes with small iron oxide grits. The clay contained air bubbles which caused the walls of some vessels to be distorted during the firing process. Two decanters (Nos. 1 and 2) bear inscriptions on the shoulder testifying to their wine contents (Ussishkin 1978:83, 88). Traces of white caulking were found in Decanter No. 2. For additional decanters of this type see Tufnell 1953: Pl. 84:264; Aharoni 1975: Pl. 44:17–18.

Small decanters (Figs. 5.33:3; 5.35). Seven small decanters were found, made of greyish-brown clay similar to that of the large decanters. They are characterized by a thick wall and a sharp carination at the rim and near the base. Decanter No. 4 is lighter and burnished with irregular vertical strokes. Similar decanters were found in other Level II loci (Tufnell 1953: Pl. 87:277, 278; Aharoni 1975: Pl. 55:60).

Medium-sized decanter (Fig. 5.35:8). This decanter was still used after its rim and handle had broken off. It is difficult to determine the position of the handle, as the outer layer of clay has peeled off. The clay is similar to that of the other decanters.

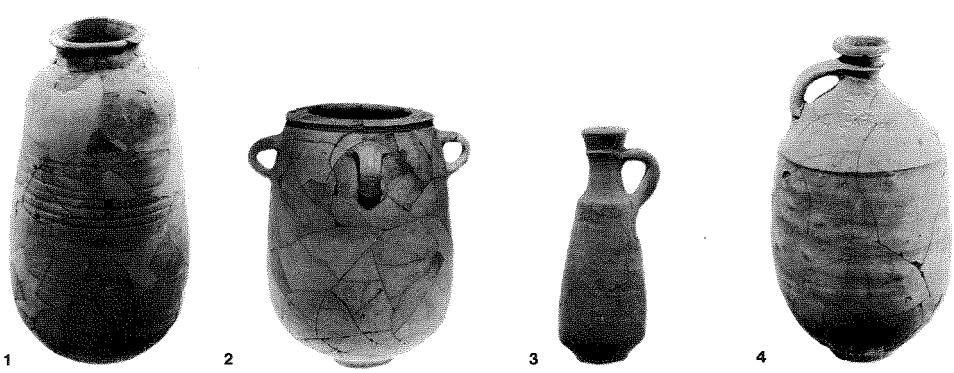

Fig. 5.33. Level II: Storage jars and decanters (not shown to scale).

Fig. 5.34. Level II: Decanters.

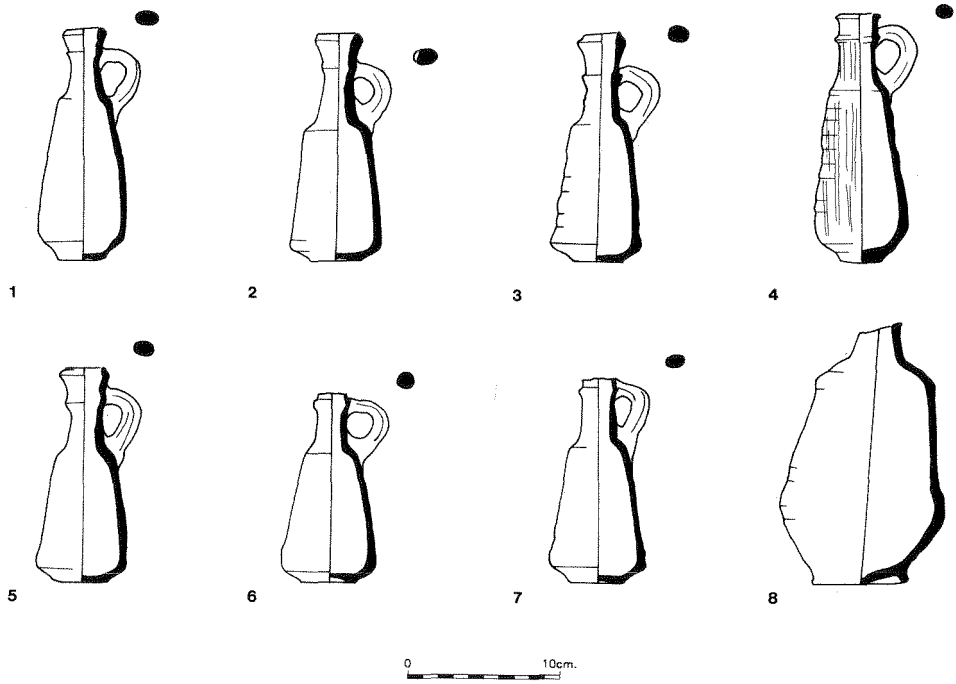

Fig. 5.35. Level II: Decanters.

LIDS (Fig. 5.36)

Eight ceramic lids were found, seven of them in Room 4086. Six lids are small, shallow, thick-based bowls, 10 cm. in diameter. Some are made of sandy clay, pinkish-grey in colour, very similar to that of the decanters. The lids were carelessly fashioned, and many retain marks of the string-cut.

Two lids, Nos. 7 and 8, are thick-based lamps in secondary use whose upper part was broken and smoothed.

There is at present no evidence as to which storage jars were covered by lids. The diameter of these lids fits well the large decanters as well as some types of storage jars.

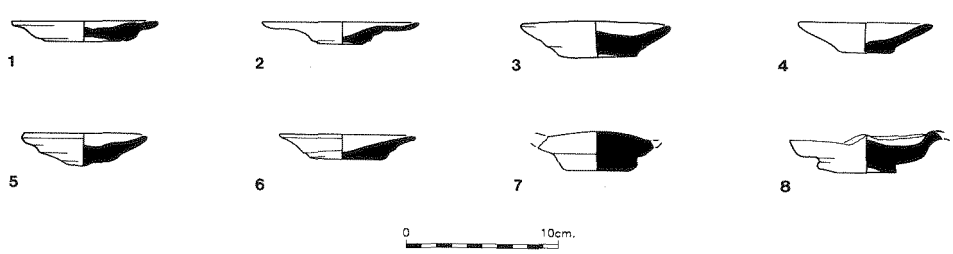

Fig. 5.36. Level II: Lids.

REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CERAMIC ASSEMBLAGES OF LACHISH AND OTHER 8TH- TO 6TH-CENTURY SOUTHERN SITES

The two assemblages discussed above have made an important contribution to our knowledge of the ceramic assemblages of Judah during the 8th to 6th centuries for two reasons: 1) The assemblages were found in rooms destroyed by fire during the city's destruction. The destruction dates, 701 for the destruction of Level III and 588/6 for that of Level II, are generally accepted. 2) The large quantity of vessels and the variety of types, especially storage jar types, enable the reconstruction of the characteristic ceramic repertoire, as well as unusual vessels, dating to the end of the 8th and the beginning of the 6th centuries in Judah.

Lachish lay in ruins most of the 7th century; therefore there is no evidence for the development of vessel types during this period. However, the well-dated earlier and later assemblages serve as invaluable reference points in the search for the missing phase at other sites.

The novelties of these ceramic assemblages can be summarized as follows: The assemblage from Locus 4014 of Level III, which is characteristic of the entire city, shows a uniformity of shape and is dominated by *lmlk* and '*lmlk*-like' storage jars, similar but smaller two-handled vessels and holemouth storage jars. These types can be defined as the typical Judean storage jars. The uniformity of this large assemblage is even more pronounced when one considers the relatively rare appearance of vessels which allegedly originated in the coastal plain area. Only five vessels, which differ from the rest in shape and ware, were recovered; one juglet (Fig. 5.7:13) and four storage jars (Fig. 5.18:1–4).

The assumption that the pottery assemblage of Lachish Level III is typical of the 8th-century Judean Shephelah and hill country is one of the cornerstones of pottery research of this period. A sharp distinction can be made between sites with pottery assemblages typical of the Shephelah and hill country and sites with pottery assemblages typical of the coastal plain. The distribution of the Shephelah hill-country assemblages matches very closely the extent of Hezekiah's kingdom on the eve of Sennacherib's campaign. Although Aharoni and Aharoni (1976) emphasized the similarity between the ceramic repertoires of Beer-sheba and Lachish, one should stress rather the differences between the two assemblages. A strong coastal influence is evident at Beer-sheba, whether resulting from geographical or chronological factors.

The ceramic uniformity of Lachish Level III and its orientation toward the Shephelah hill country are replaced in Level II by a more diverse, coastal plain-oriented assemblage. The Level II loci feature a wide range of types. Rosette storage jars, smaller, two-handled storage jars and various decanters are the typical Judean types. The straight-shouldered, swollen-bodied storage jars with or without

pointed bases, which form the two major groups (Groups IID and IIE), are characteristic of the coastal plain (on development and chronology of these vessels see discussion of Group IIE, above).

A study of the ceramic assemblages of Judean sites in the late 7th and the beginning of the 6th centuries shows a greater variety than in earlier decades and a new regional distribution. The assemblages are comprised of a similar ceramic repertoire, but with differing percentages. In Jerusalem the rosette storage jars are the most common, followed by bag-shaped storage jars. At Tel Malhata and En-gedi (Mazar, Dothan and Dunayevsky 1966: Fig. 22:4) bag-shaped storage jars are prevalent along with holemouth storage jars of various types. Notable is the rarity of the bag-shaped storage jar at Lachish, as well as at sites like Tel ʿIra, Tel Haror and Kadesh Barnea. The Lachish storage-jar assemblage presented in this chapter shows a strong resemblance to those of Tel Batash and Tel Miqne of the same period, whereas the affinity with the assemblages of Jerusalem, En-gedi and Arad is secondary. Negev sites such as Tel Malhata and Tel ʿIra also reveal varied assemblages with additional inclusions such as Edomite pottery.

After Sennacherib's campaign the internal economic system and centres of pottery production in the Shephelah and hill country were probably seriously disrupted. When pottery production and the marketing of commodities were restored, their range and function had changed. It may be assumed that the Shephelah was no longer the main source of vessels and food supplies for the entire Judean kingdom. The inhabitants of Judah turned to other centres where production had continued uninterrupted throughout the 8th and 7th centuries. The storage jars of Groups IID and IIE could have been produced at such centres. They are presumably a direct development from the type of storage jars dominant at Beer-sheba in the late 8th century, of which only a few examples were found at Lachish (Group IIIE). Such clear continuity of development over a hundred year period could only have been possible at a location with a continuous ceramic tradition, such as a site in the southern coastal plain.

The change in the economic balance from the 7th to 6th centuries resulted from the change in the general political situation, i.e. the impact of Assyrian domination of the entire region. The role of the kingdom of Judah within the Assyrian system and its economic floruit have been described by Naʾaman (1987). The Lachish ceramic assemblage reflects the environment of *Pax Assyriaca*, an open political and economic system under the aegis of the Assyrian Empire, conditions which continued to prevail later under Egyptian occupation (*ibid.*: 12). The diverse character of the ceramic assemblage complements the historical picture and can be understood in view of the political changes that took place during the period.

Acknowledgements

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REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF POTTERY FIGURES

Fig. 5.2: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10626/1; (2) 10602/2 (Fig. 5.3:2); (3) 10392/1 (Fig. 5.3:1); (4) 10602/1; (5) 10502/2; (6) 10512/1; (7) 10512/2; (8) 10372/50; (9) 10106/50. **Fig. 5.3**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) Fig. 5.2:3; (2) Fig. 5.2:2. **Fig. 5.4**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10089/1; (2) 10380/2; (3) 10496/1; (4) 10494/1; (5) 10498/1; (6) 10386/1; (7) 10105/1; (8) 10142/1; (9) 10412/2; (10) 10599/1; (11) 10363/1; (12) 10135/1; (13) 10347/1; (14) 30810/1; (15) 10386/2; (16) 10531/2; (17) 10531/3; (18) 10616/3; (19) 10135/2; (20) 10594/1; (21) 10393/2; (22) 10375/2. **Fig. 5.5**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10492/1; (2) 10479/1; (3) 10368/1. **Fig. 5.6**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10479/2; (2) 10389/2; (3) 10357/1; (4) 10450/3; (5) 10382/4; (6) 10580/1; (7) 10598/1; (8) 10432/1; (9) 10408/1. **Fig. 5.7**: Level III, Locus 4014: Jugs: (1) 10388/1; (2) 10497/1; (3) 10596/1; Juglets: (4) 10364/1; (5) 10449/2; (6) 30806/1; (7) 10431/1; (8) 10490/1; (9) 10404/1; (10) 10535/1; (11) 10623/1; (12) 10534/1; (13) 10385/1; Lamps: (14) 10412/3; (15) 10412/1; (16) 10491/2. **Fig. 5.8**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10074/1; (2) 10616/1 (Fig.10:1); (3) 10091/1; (4) 10075/1. **Fig. 5.9**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10380/1; (2) 10450/2; (3) 10111/1; (4) 10110/1; (5) 10122/1. **Fig. 5.10**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10606/1; (2) 10491/1; (3) 10615/1, (4) 10580/2; (5) 10407/l. **Fig. 5.11**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) Fig. 5.8:2; (2) Fig. 5.15:2. **Fig. 5.12**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10531/1; (2) 10122/2; (3) 10482/1; (4) 10376/3; (5) 10380/3. **Fig. 5.13**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10460/1; (2) 10502/1; (3) 10090/1; (4) 10450/1; (5) 10376/2. **Fig. 5.14**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10375/1; (2) 10503/1; (3) 10542/1; (4) 10459/1; (5) 10496/2; (6) 10466/1. **Fig. 5.15**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10466/2; (2) 10613/1 (Fig. 5.11:2). **Fig. 5.16**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10376/1 (Fig. 5.17:2); (2) 10432/3; (3) 10411/2; (4) 10393/4; (5) 10382/2 (Fig. 5.17:1) ; (6) 10373/3; (7) 10442/1. **Fig. 5.17**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) Fig. 5.16:5; (2) Fig. 5.16:1. **Fig. 5.18**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10313/1 (Fig. 5.19:1); (2) 10482/2 (Fig. 5.19:2); (3) 10084/1 (Fig. 5.19:3); (4)10475/1 (Fig. 5.19:4). **Fig. 5.19**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) Fig. 5.18:1; (2) Fig. 5.18:2; (3) Fig. 5.18:3; (4) Fig. 5.18:4. **Fig. 5.20**: Level III, Locus 4014: (1) 10382/3; (2) 10449/1; (3) 10432/2; (4) 10533/1; (5) 10393/3. **Fig. 5.21**: Level II, Locus 4084: (1) 11005/1 (Fig. 5.22); (2) 11014/1. **Fig. 5.22**: Level II: (1) Fig. 5.21:1. **Fig. 5.23**: Level II, Locus 4084: (1) 11002/1; (2) 10966/1; (3) 10964/2; (4) 10979/1; (5) 11006/1 (Fig. 5.25:1); (6) 10984/1. **Fig. 5.24**: Level II: (1) 110491/1; Locus 4086; (2) 10969/1; Locus 4084 (Fig. 5.25:2); (3) 30724/1 Locus 4086; (4) 11035/1; Locus 4084; (5) 10999/1; Locus 4084; (6) 30669/1;

Locus 4086. **Fig. 5.25**: Level II: (1) Fig. 5.23:5; (2) Fig. 5.24:2. **Fig. 5.26**: Level II: (1) 10706/1; Locus 4084 (Fig. 5.27:1); (2) 10978/1; Locus 4084; (3) 11043/1; Locus 4084; (4) 10986/1; Locus 4084; (5) 11116/1; Locus 4084; (6) 10990/1; Locus 4084; (7) 11121/1; Locus 4084; (8) 10938/1; Locus 4086; (9) 11041/1; Locus 4084; (10) 11027/1; Locus 4084; (11) 11028/1; Locus 4084. **Fig. 5.27**: Level II: (1) Fig. 5.26:1; (2) Fig. 5.28:7. **Fig. 5.28**: Level II: (1) 11025/1; Locus 4084; (2) 11042/1; Locus 4086; (3) 11048/1; Locus 4086; (4) 11036/1; Locus 4084; (5) 11034/1; Locus 4086; (6) 11045/1; Locus 4084; (7) 11057/1; Locus 4086 (Fig. 5.27:1); (8) 11038\1; Locus 4084; (9) 30730/1; Locus 4086. **Fig. 5.29**: Level II: (1) 11040/1; Locus 4084; (2) 11119/1; Locus 4084; (3) 11056/1; Locus 4084; (4) 30734/1; Locus 4086; (5) 10990/2; Locus 4084; (6) 11045/2; Locus 4084; (Fig. 5.30:1). **Fig. 5.30**: Level II: (1) Fig. 5.29:6; (2) Fig. 5.32:4. **Fig. 5.31**: Level II: (1) 30735/1; Locus 4086 (Fig. 5.33:1); (2) 30709/1; Locus 4086; (3) 10970/1; Locus 4084; (4) 11023/1; Locus 4084. **Fig. 5.32**: Level II: (1) 10981/1; Locus 4084; (2) 10987/1; Locus 4084; (3) 30655/2; Locus 4086; (4) 10964/1; Locus 4084 (Fig. 5.30:2); (5) 11022/1; Locus 4086 (Fig. 5.33:2). **Fig. 5.33**: Level II: (1) Fig. 5.31:1; (2) Fig. 5.32:5; (3) Fig. 5.35:1; (4) Fig. 5.34:2. **Fig. 5.34**: Level II: (1) 30696/1; Locus 4086; (2) 30655/1; Locus 4086; (3) 10881/1; Locus 4084 (Fig. 5.33:4); (4) 10684\1; Locus 4084; (5) 10730/1; Locus 4084. **Fig. 5.35**: Level II: Locus 4084; (1) 11070/1 (Fig. 5.33:1); (2) 11070/2; (3) 11070/3; (4) 11070/7; (5) 11070/6; (6) 11070/4; (7) 11070/5; (8) 10965/1. **Fig. 5.36**: Level II: (1) 30735/2; Locus 4086; (2) 30735/3; Locus 4086; (3) 10977/1; Locus 4084; (4) 10959/1; Locus 4086; (5) 10960/1; Locus 4086; (6) 30743/1; Locus 4086; (7) 30691/1; Locus 4086; (8) 10961/1; Locus 4086.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EI	Eretz-Israel. Archaeological, Historical and Geographical Studies
BASOR	Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
IEJ	Israel Exploration Journal
AASOR	Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
PEFQSt	Palestine Exploration Fund, Quarterly Statement
PEQ	Palestine Exploration Quarterly (continuation of *PEFQSt*)