

HERODIUM

Final Reports of the 1972–2010 Excavations
Directed by Ehud Netzer

Volume I **Herod's Tomb Precinct**

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CHAPTER 9
THE GLASS FINDS
FROM THE AREA OF HEROD'S TOMB

Ruth E. Jackson-Tal

Some 110 glass fragments were found in the tomb area, of which 27 identifiable vessels and small finds are discussed and presented below in a catalogue.¹ The vessels were made by sagging, free-blowing, and mold-blowing. The glass assemblage consists mainly of bowls and beakers; bottles were found in smaller numbers. Most of the vessels were made of colorless glass, and a few were of green and yellowish-brown glass. They were covered with black, silver, and white weathering and a shiny iridescence. The other 80 glass fragments are made up of 17 grooved cast bowls, five wall fragments and bases with vertical tooled ribs, five rounded beaker rims, two incised wall fragments, two bottle necks, and two tubular bases, the rest being unidentifiable small wall fragments.

The stratigraphic context in which the catalogued items were found ranges more or less from the earliest to the latest occupation of this area. The earliest context with regard to the glass finds belongs to the stage of the ritual bath (*miqveh*) revealed to the north of Herod's tomb, which predates the latter. The following context postdates this *miqveh*, but predates the creation of the artificial mount. Next in line is the stage that postdates the late stairway (and the creation of the artificial mount), and thus also the construction of Herod's tomb; it should most probably be dated after Herod's death, but prior to the First Jewish Revolt. Most common are the contexts relating to the First Revolt and postdating the destruction of the mausoleum. In particular, the huge refuse dump, revealed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway featured many finds. This dump seems to have been created at the end of the First Revolt by the Roman army who took control of the Mountain Palace-Fortress and apparently cleaned up 'garbage' left there by the earlier occupants.² Alternatively, but less likely, it might have been the result of earlier clean-up operations by the rebels themselves, near the end of the revolt. The latest context featuring catalogued finds postdates the First Revolt and extends up to the time of the Bar-Kokhba Revolt.

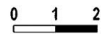
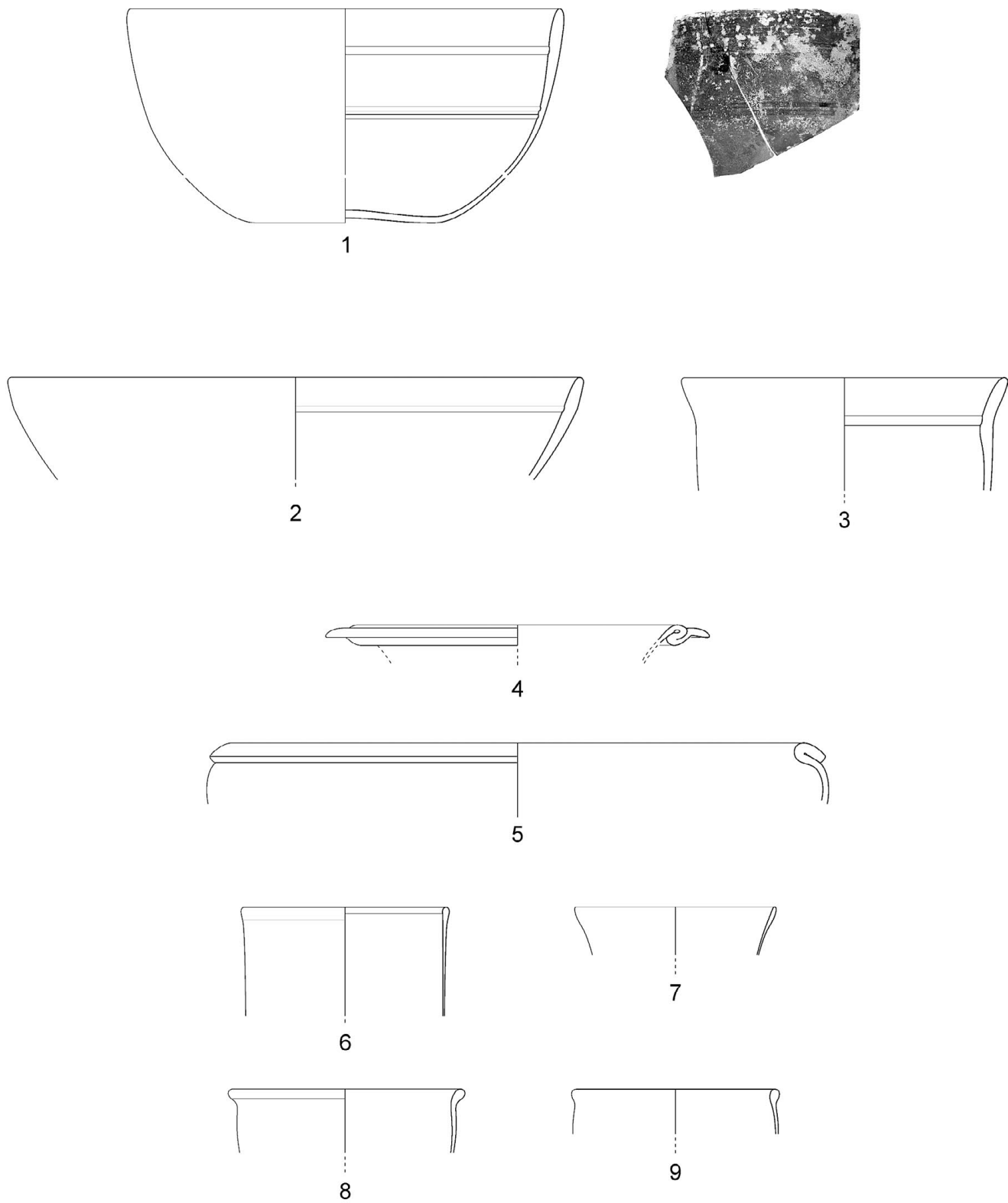
LINEAR-CUT BOWLS (Pl. 9.I: 1–3)

These bowls can be identified as linear-cut bowls, dated to the last quarter of the first century BCE and the first half of the first century CE (Grose 1979: 63–65). They were probably produced by the sagging technique, deriving from casting, where a rounded glass disc is placed on or in a rounded mold in the furnace until it slumps into the desired shape (Grose 1989: 194). Some 20 linear-cut bowl fragments were found at the tomb, three of which are presented here. Bowl no. 1 has a complete profile,

indicating it was deep with two sets of horizontal grooves on the interior. Bowl no. 2 was probably conical with a single remaining horizontal groove on the interior, and bowl no. 3 was probably deep with straight walls and a single remaining horizontal groove on the interior.

Similar bowls of these various shapes have been found throughout Israel, in contexts dated from the mid-first century BCE to the first century CE (Jackson-Tal 2009: 222–223, Type 2.A.5, Fig. 5.4: 1–13). At Herodium, the various fragments of bowl no. 1

CHAPTER 9: THE GLASS FINDS



Pl. 9.I. Glass bowl fragments found in the tomb area.

were found below the upper floor, in front of the ritual bath (*miqveh*) revealed to the north of Herod's tomb, and predating it. Bowl no. 2 came from inside the pool to the west of the mausoleum, from a layer predating the First Revolt; bowl no. 3 was revealed in a refuse dump exposed to the east of the eastern boundary wall of the tomb's precinct, which predates the creation of the artificial mount.

1. L.A2920–6560, L.A2928–6584, L.A2930–6608. Complete profile. Yellow-brown with white and silver weathering and iridescent film. Straight, rounded thickened rim and rounded wall with three grooves on the interior. Flat base. Rim diam.: 14 cm. Base diam.: 6 cm.
2. L.A2660–5445. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Slightly flaring, rounded rim and curving wall with one groove on the interior. Rim diam.: 18 cm.
3. L.A2545–5074. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Flaring rounded rim and straight wall with one groove on the interior. Rim diam.: 10 cm.

BOWL WITH DOUBLE TUBULAR FOLD (Pl. 9.I: 4)

Bowls with double tubular folds below their rims or on the wall were common throughout the Roman period and are dated according to their fabric, location, the shape of their fold, and the archaeological context. The bowls were free-blown and the folds tooled. This bowl has an outsplayed rim with a double tubular fold just below it.

Similar bowls have been found in Israel, mainly in contexts dated to the late first century CE (Jackson-Tal 2009: 239–240, Type 3.A.7, Fig. 15.5: 1–6). At Herodium, the context in which bowl no. 4 was found has a rather wide time span (postdating the First Revolt), since it came from a baulk that was dismantled at some point during the excavations.

4. L.A2747–6109. Rim fragment. Colorless with bluish tinge. Silver weathering and iridescent

film. Outsplayed rounded rim with double tubular fold below. Rim diam.: 12 cm.

BOWL WITH FOLDED RIM (Pl. 9.I: 5)

Bowls with folded rims were common in ancient Israel throughout the Roman period, and therefore their exact date is uncertain.

Similar bowls were found mainly in contexts dated to the time of the Bar-Kokhba Revolt, but earlier examples dated to the first century CE are also known (Jackson-Tal 2009: 238–239, Type 3.A.5, Fig. 5.14: 1–7). At Herodium, bowl no. 5 was revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

5. L.A2658–6074. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with greenish tinge. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Incurving and outfolded rim. Beginning of rounded wall. Rim diam.: 19 cm.

BOWLS/BEAKERS WITH STRAIGHT WALLS (Pl. 9.I: 6–9)

This type of small bowls or beakers with straight walls and straight or flaring thickened rounded rims has a shape that is simple to produce and use. Therefore it was very common in ancient Israel and the Roman Empire throughout the Roman period. In Israel such vessels are known in contexts dated to the first–early second century CE (Jackson-Tal 2009: 246, Type 3.A.17, Fig. 5.18: 1–2, 4–7). They were free-blown with no further decoration.

Similar bowls were found at 'En Boqeq (Jackson-Tal 2000: 75–76, Fig. 4.2: 9), En Gedi (Jackson-Tal 2007: 477, Pl. 2: 2), in the City of David in Jerusalem (Ariel 1990: 156, 163, Figs. 30: GL24, 33: GL90–GL94), and other sites. At Herodium, the context in which bowl no. 6 was found, immediately below an ash layer relating to a baking oven (*tabun*) built by the rebels, dates it to the beginning of the First Revolt, after the destruction of the mausoleum. Bowls nos. 7 and 9 were revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and

those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Jewish Revolt. Bowl no. 8 post-dates the First Revolt.

6. L.A2929–6589. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Straight thickened and rounded rim. Straight thin wall. Rim diam.: 6.4 cm.
7. L.A2655–5428/1. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Slightly flaring rounded rim. Tapering thin wall. Rim diam.: 6.2 cm.
8. L.A2599–5257. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Flaring thickened rounded rim. Straight thin wall. Rim diam.: 7.2 cm.
9. L.A2655–5428/2. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Flaring thickened rounded rim. Straight thin wall. Rim diam.: 6.2 cm.

BOWL WITH VERTICAL RIBS (Pl. 9.II: 10)

This is a small bowl, with an outfolded rim, decorated with uneven tooled vertical ribs. Such bowls are known from Early Roman contexts, especially during the late first–early second century CE (Jackson-Tal 2009: 243–244, Type 3.A.13, Fig. 5.16: 14–17). Usually, only the typical solid, slightly splaying bases and ribbed walls are preserved. The example found at the site is important because it is one of the few known ones with a complete profile, here indicating the size and shape of the vessel, the rim shape, and type of ribs. Three other ribbed base fragments of this type were found in the tomb area.

Bases with vertical ribs were found in Early Roman contexts in the City of David, Jerusalem (Ariel 1990: 161–163, Fig. 33: 84), in Khirbet Qumran (Wouters et al. 2002: Figs. 4: 2; 19), in the Cave of Horror (Barag 1962: 213, Fig. 18), Rujm el-Bahr (Bar-Adon 1989: 14, Fig. 11a: 15), the Cave of the Pool (Avigad 1962: 178, Fig. 6: 2), and in Stratum 2b at Ashdod, dated to the Herodian period (Barag 1971: 204, no. 14, Fig. 105: 11). At Herodium, bowl no. 10 was revealed in the refuse

dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

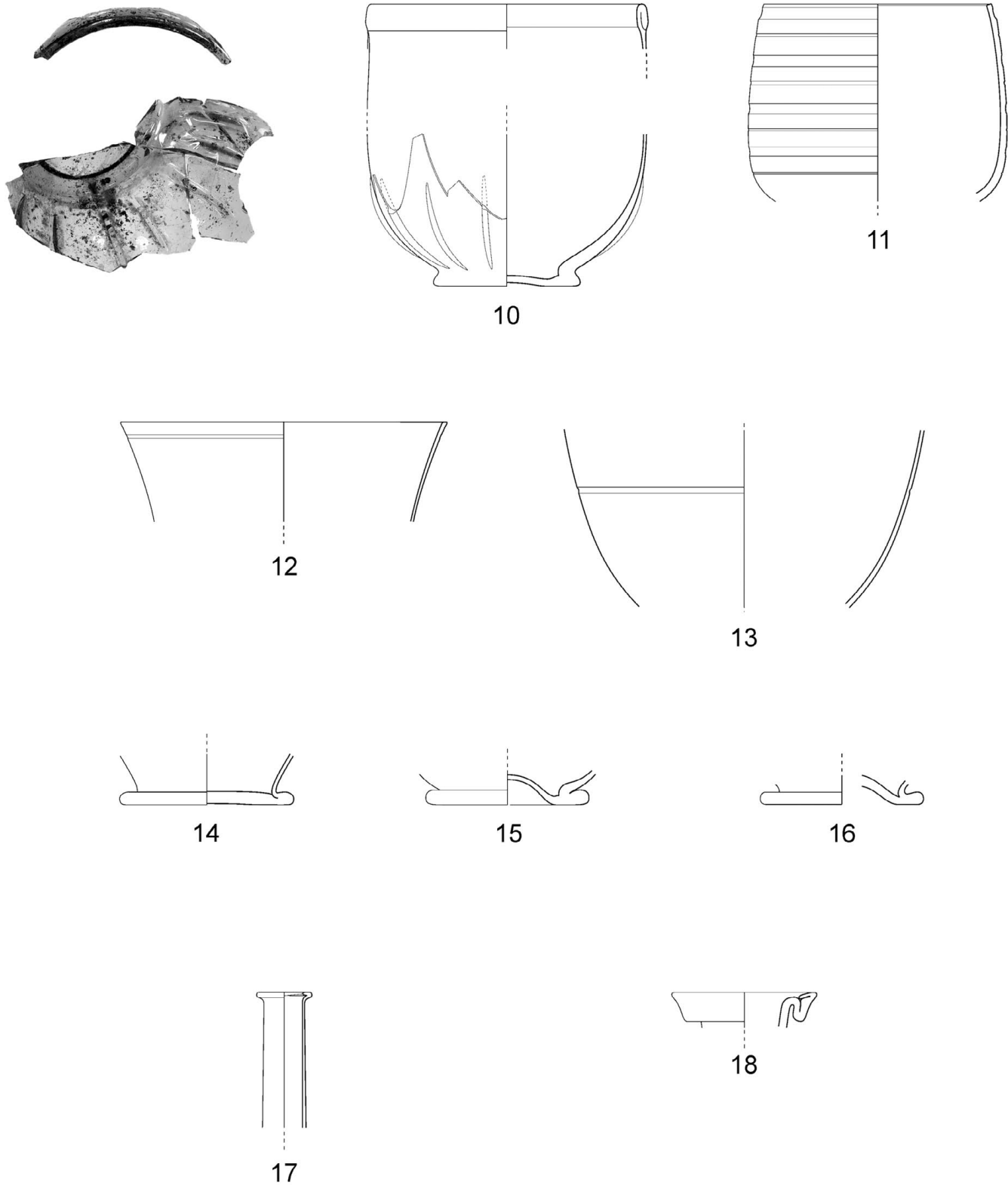
10. L.A2591–5189/1. Separate rim-and-wall fragment and base-and-wall fragment. Colorless with greenish tinge. Black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Straight outfolded rim. Flat solid base, slightly concave in the center. Rounded thin wall with remains of seven thin tooled vertical ribs, of different heights. Rim diam.: 7.6 cm. Base diam.: 4 cm.

INCISED BEAKERS (Pl. 9.II: 11–13)

This type of beakers, with wheel-cut horizontal incisions, is known from the second half of the first century to the fourth century CE (Isings 1957: 48–49, Form 34). Such vessels are known from late first- to second-century CE contexts in the eastern and western parts of the Roman Empire and probably served as drinking vessels. Three examples were found at the site. These are light yellow and colorless, rounded and conical vessels with straight rounded and truncated rims, and narrow and wide exterior incisions.

In Israel such vessels are known from contexts dated to the first–early second century CE (Jackson-Tal 2009: 261–262, Type 3.B.2, Fig. 5.30: 7–15; 5.31: 1–12). A similarly decorated beaker and cup were found in Burial Cave 1 at Akeldama, Jerusalem, dated to the first century CE (Winter 1996: 95–96, Fig. 5.1: 1). Other vessels were found in Area A of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, in Stratum 6 dated to the end of the second century BCE and beginning of the first century CE, and in mixed loci (Gorin-Rosen 2003: 382–383, Pls. 15.2: G18; 15.8: G88–G89), in Area E of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 2006: 254, Pl. 10.5: G66–G67), in Cave VIII/9 and Cave VIII/28 in the Judean Desert dated to the time of the Bar-Kokhba Revolt (Jackson-Tal 2002: 127, 167–168, Fig. 1: 3–4; Gorin-Rosen 2002: 144, Fig. 1: 4), and at Machaerus in a Herodian context (Loffreda 1996: 115, Fig. 52: 1–3, 7–11). At Herodium, beakers nos. 11, 12, and 13 were revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late

HERODIUM I: HEROD'S TOMB PRECINCT



Pl. 9.II. Glass fragments found in the tomb area.

0 1 2

stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

11. L.A2590–5177/1. Rim-and-wall fragment. Light yellow with iridescent film. Slightly incurving, cut rim, and rounded wall curving toward the base, with horizontal grooves and incisions on the exterior. Rim diam.: 6.2 cm.
12. L.A2655–5428/3. Rim-and-wall fragment. Colorless with remains of thick black weathering and iridescent film. Slightly flaring, rounded rim. Thin tapering wall with remains of a single incision on the exterior, below the rim. Rim diam.: 9 cm.
13. L.A2590–5177/2. Wall fragment. Colorless with little silver weathering. Curved thin wall with remains of a single incision on the exterior, toward the base.
14. L.A2646–5366. Complete base and beginning of wall. Colorless with greenish tinge. Thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Flat, low tubular base with pontil scar (2 cm). Beginning of curving thin wall. Base diam.: 4.8 cm.
15. L.A2655–5428/4. Base fragment and beginning of wall. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Concave low solid base and beginning of thin wall. Base diam.: 4.4 cm.
16. L.A2655–5428/5. Base fragment and beginning of wall. Light green, with silver weathering. Low solid base. Base diam.: 4.4 cm.

LOW TUBULAR AND SOLID BASES (Pl. 9.II: 14–16)

Low tubular and solid bases were common for various bowl types throughout the Roman period, and therefore their exact date is uncertain. We can assume they belonged to bowls and beakers of the types presented above, which are mainly from the Early Roman period.

Similar bases are known from the time of the Bar-Kokhba Revolt at 'Ain-ʿArrub in the Hebron Hills (Tsafrir and Zissu 2002: 27–28, Fig. 17: 7–8), the El-Jai cave, north of Jerusalem (Eshel, Zissu, and Frumkin 1998: 97, Fig. 2: 3), caves at Ketef Jericho (Eshel and Zissu 1998: 139–140, Fig. 5: 1, 3, Fig. 6: 2), and in the Cave of the Pool (Avigad 1962: 178, Fig. 6: 6). Others were found in an Early Roman context in the *miqveh* at Alon Shevut (Gorin-Rosen 1999: 85, Fig. 1: 6–7), at 'Ain ez-Zara (Dussart 1997: 97, Pl. 23: 6, 6a, 6b), and in the *Officina* at 'En Boqeq (Jackson-Tal 2000: 76, Fig. 4.2: 10). At Herodium, the context in which base no. 14 was found postdates the First Jewish Revolt. Bases nos. 15 and 16 were revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

BOTTLE WITH INFOLDED RIM (Pl. 9.II: 17)

Infolded rims and cylindrical narrow necks could belong to pear-shaped or candlestick bottles. Both types are known from the Early Roman period, although the candlestick type was in use for a longer duration. Pear-shaped bottles from the first century CE are known to have been used throughout the Roman Empire (Isings 1957: 42–43, Form 28b).

Numerous pear-shaped bottles have been found throughout Israel (Jackson-Tal 2009: 251–252, Type 3.A.26, Fig. 5.22: 1–19), mainly in burial caves in Jerusalem, dated up to 70 CE, e.g., in Dominus Flevit (Bagatti and Milik 1958: 141, Fig. 33: 1–2, 5), in Binyamin Mitudela Street (Rahmani 1961: 114–116, Pl. 17: 6), in Ben-Zvi Avenue (Bahat 1982: 68, Fig. 2: 8–9), and in the Akeldama tombs in the Kidron Valley (Winter 1996: 96, Fig. 5.2: 1–2). Candlestick bottles were common in ancient Israel from the end of the first to the beginning of the third century CE (Jackson-Tal 2009: 253–257, Type 3.A.29, Figs. 5.24–5.26). Vessels with a similar rim were found in the Burnt House in Jerusalem, dated to the first century CE, up to 70 CE (Israeli 2010: 226, Pl. 6.2: G34–G35). Although the exact shape of this bottle is difficult to determine, its delicate form and fabric strongly suggest an Early Roman dating. At Herodium, bottle no. 17 was revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum

and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

17. L.A2655–5428/6. Rim-and-neck fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Slightly flaring and infolded rim. Narrow cylindrical neck. Rim diam.: 1.4 cm.

BOTTLE /JUG WITH UNFOLDED AND UPFOLDED RIM (Pl. 9.II: 18)

Unfolded and upfolded rims are very typical of Early Roman bottles and jugs (Isings 1957: 22–23, 40–41, Forms 6, 26a). Similar bottles and jugs were found in an Early Roman context, first–early second century CE, in the Cave of the Letters (Barag 1963: Fig. 38: 1, 8), in Tomb 22 between Nahsholim and Habonim (Ovadiah 1985: 163, Pl. XL: 4), in a burial cave at Kafr Yama (Arbel 1999: 37*, Fig. 70: 5), in Burial Cave 3 near Kabri (Stern and Gorin-Rosen 1997: 5, Fig. 3: 12), in a burial cave at Hagosherim (Ovadiah 1999: 37*, Fig. 3: 4), and in Burial Cave 2 near Tel Qedesh (Edelstein 2002: 100*, 259, Fig. 2: 4). At Herodium, bottle no. 18 was revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

18. L.A2758–6133. Rim-and-beginning-of-neck fragment. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering. Downfolded, unfolded, and upfolded rim and beginning of cylindrical neck. Rim diam.: 4 cm.

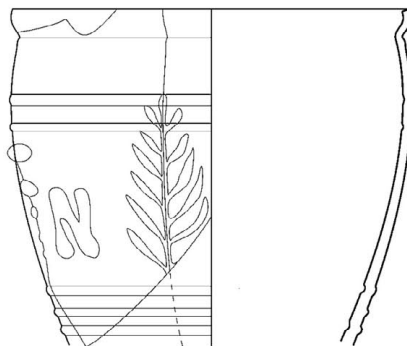
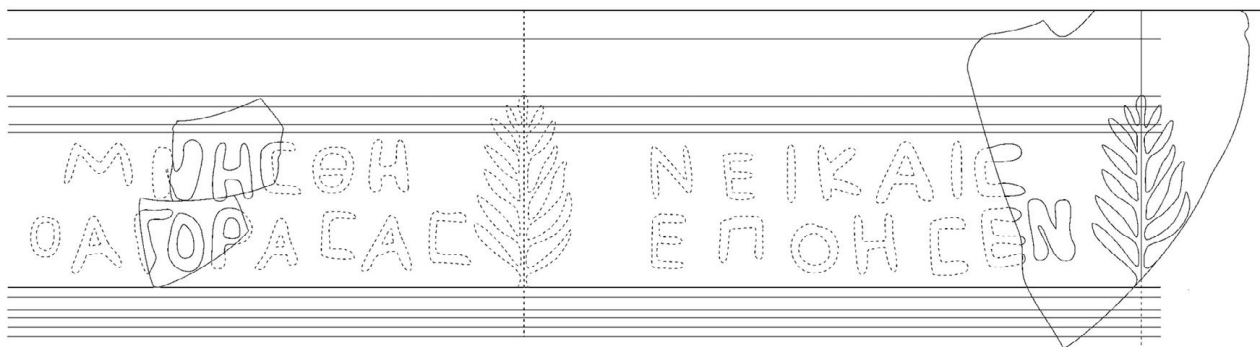
MOLD-BLOWN BEAKER WITH FORMULATED GREEK INSCRIPTION (Pl. 9.III: 19)

Two fragments of probably the same inscribed beaker with remains of a floral decoration and a mold-blown Greek inscription were found in the area of the tomb (Ills. 9.1–2). This beaker belongs to a group of Syro-Palestinian vessels with mold-blown, formulated Greek inscriptions dated to the second half of the first century CE. The inscriptions are of two types: names of the glassmakers and mottos. The

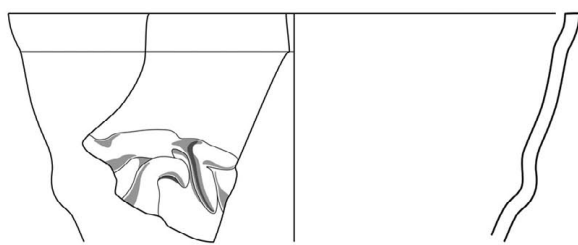
fragments found in the area of the tomb belong to a barrel-shaped beaker, produced in a three-part mold. The vertical palm leaves served to conceal the seams. The beaker bore two inscriptions. On one side: [M]NHC[ΘH O A]ΓOP[ACAC], “may the buyer be remembered.” On the other side: [NEIKAI]C or [MEGA]C [EΠOHC]EN or [EΠOHC]EN, “Neikais or Megas made it.” The letters NHC, from the word MNHCΘH (=remembered), ΓOP, from the word AΓOPACAC (=buyer), C and EN, from the words NEIKAIC or MEGAC EΠOHCEN (=Neikais or Megas made it), are the only parts of the inscriptions that partially survived. The inscriptions ran along the center of the beaker and were divided by vertical palm leaves into two parts. Below and above them were two horizontal ribs and palm leaf designs.

Fragments of beakers with a similar inscription were found at Masada, in a context dated no later than the year 66 CE (Barag 1991: 139; Stern 1995: 74), and perhaps at Caesarea, where only one part of the inscription survived, not revealing the name of the artist (Finocchi 1966: 267, Fig. 337), but claimed by Barag to belong to a Neikais beaker (Barag 1970: 102). The vessels produced by Neikais were only of one type, a barrel-shaped beaker. Another glass artist, named Iason, produced the same type of vessels and signed his name on them (Stern 1995: 73–74). They were greatly influenced by the works of Ennion, the glass artist who produced various elaborately decorated types of signed glass vessels as from the first quarter of the first century CE (ibid.: 69–72). The distribution pattern of this group points to the Syro-Palestinian coast, and the homogeneity of the beakers probably indicates that they were made in a single workshop (ibid.: 73–74). At Herodium, the fragments of beaker no. 19 were revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

19. L.A2591–5189/2, L.A2655–5397. Two separate fragments, probably from the same vessel. Large rim-and-wall fragment and two connecting small wall fragments. Colorless with greenish tinge. Little silver weathering. Flaring cut rim, curving wall with mold-blown design of horizontal ridges, palm tree covering the mold-seam

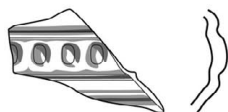


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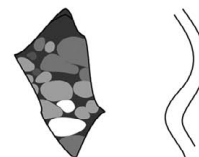


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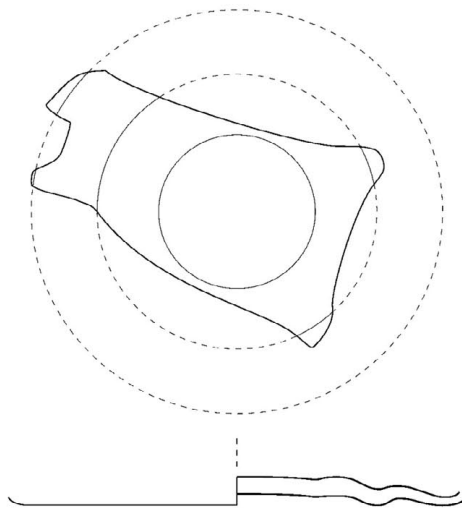
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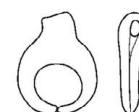
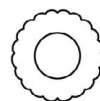
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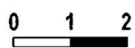
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Pl. 9.III. Glass fragments and other items found in the tomb area.



III. 9.1. Mold-blown beaker with formulated Greek inscription. (Photo: T. Rogovski)



III. 9.2. Mold-blown beaker with formulated Greek inscription. (Photo: T. Rogovski)

mark, and remains of letters from the inscription. Rim diam.: 7 cm.

MOLD-BLOWN BEAKER WITH FLORAL DECORATION? (Pl. 9.III: 20)

A rim-and-wall fragment with an unknown mold-blown design was found at the site. The shape and

fabric of the vessel date it to sometime in the first century CE. At Herodium, beaker no. 20 was retrieved from the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

20. L.A2651-5376. Rim-and-wall fragment. Light green. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Straight cut rim. Tapering wall with mold-blown design. Rim diam.: 10 cm.

MOLD-BLOWN BEAKER WITH ALMOND DECORATION (Pl. 9.III: 21)

This small fragment is part of a beaker decorated with mold-blown almond bosses. This type was one of the most common mold-blown drinking vessels in the Roman Empire during the second half of the first century CE (Isings 1957: 45-46, Form 31; Stern 1995: 94, 103-108). However, it was not very common in ancient Israel (Jackson-Tal 2009: 277-278, Type 4.D.1, Fig. 5.41: 1-9).

Fragments of this type were found in Area E of the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem (Gorin-Rosen 2006: 254-255, Pl. 10.5: 68-69), at Masada (Barag 1991: 139), at 'Ain-ʿArrub (Tsafrir and Zissu 2002: 26, Fig. 17: 1), at el-Mefjer Cave, along the eastern escarpment of Jebel Quruntul (Jackson-Tal 2002: 110, 132, Fig. 6: 6), and at En Gedi (Jackson-Tal 2007: 480-481, Pl. 4: 10). An intact vessel of this type was revealed during excavations of a burial cave at Castra (Gorin-Rosen and Katsnelson 1999: 27*, Color Plate 1). At Herodium, beaker no. 21 was revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

21. L.A2762-6552. Wall fragment. Colorless with bluish tinge. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Straight wall with mold-blown almond.

MOLD-BLOWN BOTTLE (Pl. 9.III: 22)

This tiny wall fragment probably belongs to the lower part of a mold-blown hexagonal bottle, known

from the first century CE, especially along the Syro-Palestinian coast (Stern 1995: 74–86; Whitehouse 2001: 36–43). These bottles were decorated with six panels on the center, depicting diverse images and floral decorations on the upper and lower parts. The neck and rim were free-blown. The body was made in a three-part mold. The fragment in question is the narrow band located just below the panels and above the tapering base, decorated with an egg design, probably deriving from the architectural element of an egg-and-dart design. This fits the interpretation that these vessels, in their hexagonal shape and panel division, were an imitation of religious architectural structures (Stern 1995: 85). At Herodium, bottle no. 22 was revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

22. L.A2762–6146. Wall fragment. Light green. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Curved wall with mold-blown horizontal egg design, bordered by upper and lower horizontal ridges.

MOLD-BLOWN BEAKER BASE (Pl. 9.III: 23)

This base is decorated with three exterior mold-blown concentric circles. Bottles, jugs and beakers with such bases are known from the Early Roman period (Stern 1995: 277–279, 300–309, 313). A similar beaker base with almond-shaped bosses was found at En-Gedi (Jackson-Tal 2007: 481, Pl. 5:3). Perhaps such a base also belonged to the beaker with the almond decoration found in the area of the tomb. At Herodium, beaker base no. 23 was revealed in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

23. L.A2762–5530. Base-and-wall fragment. Light green. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Flat base with mold-blown circular designs on bottom side. Beginning of upcurving wall. Base diam.: 7.2 cm.

UNKNOWN VESSEL WITH APPLIED MARVERED BLOBS (Pl. 9.III: 24)

Blobbed marvered vessels were produced by a complicated and lengthy process. An initial parison was blown, rolled in chips of glass (usually in a contrasting color to that of the original parison), marvered, reheated, and further inflated (Whitehouse 1997: 207). The vessels are bichrome or sometimes even polychrome. The most common shapes are closed ones, mainly jars, jugs, oenochoae, and amphoriskoi, but cups/deep bowls and krateriskoi are also known, in smaller numbers (e.g., Harden 1987: nos. 44–45; Whitehouse 1997: nos. 360–365; Biaggio Simona 1991: Tav. 4: 176.4.054, 40: 176.1.006, 41: 176.2.019, 45: 176.2.233; Figs. 18, 21, 30, 35: 176.4.054; Kunina 1997: 106: no. 70, 109: no. 72, 149–153: nos. 115–118, 155: no. 120). Blobbed marvered vessels attributed to the eastern Mediterranean and southern Russia are present in museum collections (Harden 1987: 102), but those for which a place of origin is known came mostly from the western parts of the Roman Empire, especially from northern Italy (see Whitehouse 1997: 207 for detailed parallels).

Accordingly, Fremersdorf (1938: 116–121), who was the first scholar to deal with this group, suggested they were produced in northern Italy, by Syrian glass makers. Whitehouse (1997: 207) dated this group from the early first century to around 70 CE, after Fremersdorf (1938: 121) and according to evidence from archaeological excavations (Berger 1960: 34; Biaggio Simona 1991: 239–240). Two other fragments of blue glass decorated with white blobs were found at the site. The fragment from the area of the tomb is too small for attribution to a recognized type. It could perhaps belong to the carinated part of a krateriskos. No similar vessels from Israel have yet been published, and therefore these finds are an important contribution. Such fragments belong to a luxury vessel, probably imported from Rome for the use of the elite classes at Herodium.

At Herodium, vessel no. 24 was found in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt.

24. L.A2582–5129. Wall fragment. Blue with white blobs. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Carinated wall with applied white circular blobs on exterior.

RIBBED “MELON” BEADS (Pl. 9.III: 25–26)

These rounded ribbed beads were made of light blue faience. Faience is an artificial substance, easy to manipulate, and it can produce a variety of shapes through molding and firing (Zuckerman 1996: 277). This type of bead is quite commonly found in excavations in the area, in contexts dating mainly to the Roman and Byzantine periods, but also in earlier and later contexts.

Similar beads have been revealed in contexts dated to the Early Roman period at En Gedi (Chernov 2007: 524, 528, Pl. 10:9–11), in Tomb A2 at Jericho (Hachlili and Kilibrew 1999: 140–141, Fig. III. 86:2), in Tomb 4 at Tel Goded (Sagiv et al. 1998: 16*, Fig. 13: 12), in a tomb at East Shoam (Torge and Badhi 2005: 33*, Fig. 3: 8), at ‘Ein ez-Zeituna (Glick 2006: 62, Fig. 15: 7), and in Tomb 5 at Jatt (Porath et al. 1999: 45, Fig. 33: 2–3). At Herodium, bead no. 25 was found in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt. Bead no. 26 came from the area of the pool to the west of the mausoleum, in a context postdating the First Revolt.

25. L.A2655–5431. Bead fragment. Light blue. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Small circular squat ribbed frit bead. Round perforation. Diam.: 1.6 cm.
26. L.A2674–5508. Bead fragment. Light blue. Silver weathering and iridescent film. Small circular ribbed frit bead. Round perforation. Diam.: 1.6 cm.

PENDANT (Pl. 9.III: 27)

This rounded pendant was made by a simple tooling process and suspended in a necklace from its perforated upper loop. It has no exact parallels among the

Early Roman finds from this area, but its context dates it to sometime in the first century CE (it was found in the refuse dump exposed between the ruins of the mausoleum and those of the late stairway, which can be dated around the end of the First Revolt).

27. L.A2758–6142. Intact. Colorless with thick black and silver weathering and iridescent film. Uneven rounded pendant with upper loop showing horizontal perforation.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The glass finds discovered in the area of Herod's tomb at Herodium include fragments typical of the Early Roman period. They were produced by sagging, free-blowing, and mold-blowing. The vessels are of types dated to the first century CE; some are of a somewhat later date, representing later activity in the area. Therefore they usually cannot be attributed to the time of Herod's burial. The only vessels which can be attributed to the earliest stages are the local sagged linear-cut bowls and the imported blobbed vessel, dated to the first half of the first century CE. These constitute a small percentage of the glass finds (~20 %). The other vessels are dated mainly to the second half of the first century–early second century CE. They include a few high-quality items of tableware, representative of the social and financial status of the inhabitants of the site. The majority are plain everyday vessels. Most of the vessels are well known from excavations in Israel. Parallels were found in the vicinity of the site, mainly in Jericho, Jerusalem, and its surroundings, in contexts dated historically to the First Jewish Revolt and the Bar-Kokhba Revolt. Most of them were locally made, except for a few fragments which were probably imported from the west. The glass assemblage found at the site resembles those discovered in the Herodian palaces at Jericho and Cypros (Jackson-Tal 2013a, idem 2013b). Here too, the relatively small numbers of luxury ware is surprising, especially the relative rarity of high-quality, mold-blown vessels and other imported luxury ware, typical of palaces and affluent homes of the Early Roman period.

NOTES

1. I am deeply grateful to the late Professor Ehud Netzer for the opportunity to study this fascinating assemblage. I would also like to thank Rachel Chachy and Roi Porat for their help in stratigraphic matters, and Haim Cohen for expertly drawing the glass finds.
2. A phenomenon also attested at Masada, where the Roman garrison had cleared rubble in search of hidden loot (Netzer 1991: 625).

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