THE CHRONO-TYPOLOGICAL POTTERY SEQUENCE FROM THE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE PALACE AT KABRI: SOME PRELIMINARY RESULTS[1]

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Introduction

The ceramic assemblages retrieved from Area D-West at Tel Kabri during the renewed excavations in 2005–2011 enable to present a chrono-typological scheme that accompanies the presentation of the preliminary stratigraphic sequence of the palace (Yasur-Landau, Cline and Goshen, this volume). Besides their chronological value, these assemblages offer an opportunity to gain insights into patterns of consumption of pottery in a palatial setting, and to address questions of regionalism in Middle Bronze Age ceramic production.

The ceramic sequence from Kabri spans from the early–mid-MB I[3] to the late MB II. Although not all phases are equally represented, it adds to the rather fragmentary picture of ceramic sequences from MB palaces: most palatial structures, such as those at Lachish, Hazor, Megiddo, Tell el-ᶜAjjul and Shechem are very fragmentary (Lachish Levels P-5–4: Ussishkin 2004, 146, 152–154, Figs. 4.9, 4.17; Hazor Stratum 3: Yadin et al. 1989, 138–149; Megiddo Strata XI–X; Loud 1948, 92, Pls. 309–310; Tell el-ᶜAjjul Palace I: Petrie 1932, 2–3, Pl. XLV; for Shechem, see Herzog 1997: 141 with earlier references) – some so much so that even their function as palaces is debated. In some of these cases, the excavation and publication of the palaces were done using methods that do not allow proper correlation between the finds and the edifices anyway (e. g., Tell el-ᶜAjjul, Megiddo and Shechem) and, in most, the span of the ceramic sequences within the MBA is either partial or interrupted. Even the masterful treatment of the pottery from the Aphek palaces by Beck and Yadin (Beck 2000a, 2000b, 2000c; Yadin 2009a, 2009b) demonstrates the movement of the MB I and II palaces back and forth between Areas X and A (Yadin 2009b), providing several short sequences, with a hiatus between MB I and MB II.

Two monumental edifices are expected to provide important sequences for the MB I: The first is a large structure at Tell Ifshar, in the Sharon Plain, awaiting final publication (see Marcus, Porat and Paley 2008). It has an impressive stratigraphic sequence that yielded restorable pottery, providing a ceramic sequence spanning the MB I. The second is the palatial mud-brick structure at Tell el-Burak (Kamlah and Sader 2003; Badreshany 2005; Badreshany and Kamlah 2013), which is expected to yield an important sequence for the MB I in the Phoenician Coast.

[1] I present here some intermediate pottery analyses conclusions from my ongoing Ph.D. research titled "The Role of International Trade in the Formation of a Mediterranean Coastal Economy: The Case Study of the Middle Bronze Age Polity of Kabri" at the Department of Maritime Civilizations, University of Haifa. I would like to thank the directors of the Kabri expedition and my Ph.D. advisors, Assaf Yasur-Landau from the University of Haifa and Eric H. Cline from the George Washington University. Thanks are extended also to Nurith Goshen and Alexandra Ratzlaff, my co-supervisors, whose field notes and stratigraphic reports for Areas D-West, D-West East and D-South 2 I rely on throughout my work. This study has been partially funded by the ISF (grant 848/10). The pottery has been restored and drawn at the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies.

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[3] In this study I embrace Kenyon's nomenclature, using the terminology MB I and MB II (Kenyon 1973) to describe the urban periods following the non-urban Intermediate Bronze Age (Kenyon's Intermediate EB–MB). When not quoted directly, references to studies using the terms MB IIa and MB IIb have been changed accordingly. I use the term late MB II to designate the latest phase in the palace at Kabri, since an MB III phase cannot be distinguished in it (see, also Maeir 2010, 161). The term MB III is used only in the discussion of Tomb 902, which displays the latest MB ceramic assemblage found in Kabri (see Bietak 2007, 272–275; Maeir 2010, 114).

Ägypten und Levante/Egypt and the Levant 24, 2014, 365–395

Over the last two decades or so, great advances have been made in the study of MB pottery. Regional works have been published on the Jordan Valley (Maeir 2002, 2010) and on the Akko Valley (Peilstöcker 2005), demonstrating that there is much typological variability between the regions in Canaan, but also enough similarities to allow for chronological correlation. General and cross-regional comparative studies have been published as part of the vast ongoing project synchronising between the MB chronologies of the Levant with Egypt (e. g., Bietak 2000, 2002, 2003, Bietak and Czerny 2007; Maguire 2009; and see, earlier, Bietak 1991). A few of these works that discuss ceramic typology are Cohen's (2002) review of MB I settlement and typology in Canaan, Maguire's (2009) comprehensive study of Cypriot pottery in the Levant, and Bietak's (1991) seminal work on the cultural link between Egypt and the Levant as demonstrated in Tell el-Dabᶜa.

Also, many works and reports have been published over the last decade for sites on the northern Canaanite and the Phoenician Coast (e. g., Beeri 2008 for Akko; Doumet-Serhal 2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2006, 2009 for Sidon; Kamlah and Sader 2003; Badreshany 2005; Badreshany and Kamlah 2013 for Tell el-Burak, and so forth). This increasing wealth of typological evidence enables to correlate between sites in this continuum, and allows us to place Kabri in it.

The published MB pottery sequences from the Kempinski and Niemeier's excavations at Kabri relied mostly on assemblages coming from contexts outside the palace (Kempinski, Gershuny and Scheftelowitz 2002). The lion's share of the published pottery derives in tombs and a smaller part, from domestic contexts in Kempinski's Area C.

Kempinski and Neimeier's expedition differentiated between MB I pre-palatial Stratum 4 and MB II palatial Stratum 3 (e. g., Kempinski 2002b, 5), which was further divided into three stages in Area D-West (Oren 2002). Stages 3a–c are architectural stages referring to floor raising detected in probes, and to the addition of walls in the palace halls (ibid.: 58–67). Most palace assemblages published in the 2002 report (Kempinski et al. 2002) are associated with the last palace Stage 3c, since the excavations were focused on horizontal exposure of the palace and seldom continued below the latest palace floors. The other stages of the palace are considerably less represented in the ceramic report: a scarce amount of pottery is known from 3a (see Oren 2002, 58–61), namely rimless jars embedded in the palace floor (e. g., Kempinski et al. 2002, Fig. 5.51: 2–3) and not a single published sherd was connected with Stage 3b (see Oren 2002, 63). Stratum 4 is represented ceramically by a jar and a bowl found in a probe near a palace wall in Area D, and by a handful of sherds from a pre-palatial three-room structure in Area F (Oren 2002, 55).

The renewed excavations at Kabri, began in 2005, under the direction of Assaf Yasur-Landau and Eric H. Cline. One of the aims of this project is to elucidate the chronological sequence of the palace from its formation stage to its demise (see Yasur-Landau *et al.* in this volume). Over the last years we have broadened the excavation areas significantly and continued to excavate through Kempinski and Neimeier's Stage 3c floors, collecting data concerning these less-known ceramic stages (Yasur-Landau and Cline 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011; Yasur-Landau *et al.* 2012).

In this paper I aim to present a chrono-typological ceramic sequence from Kabri from its pre-palatial phases to the last days of the palace. The pottery will be compared with that from other sites to establish a relative chronological scheme for Kabri allowing its synchronisation with other Levantine sites, specifically with sites in its region. I will follow the changes apparent in assemblage composition and in the nature of pottery quality from phase to phase, in order to determine the evolving trends and patterns of the consumption of pottery in the palace.

The pottery sequence presented here is based mostly on finds from the 2008–2011 seasons of excavations in Area D-West. Loci chosen for presentation are those from well-stratified, sealed contexts that can be safely connected to architectural phases in the palace and, when possible, also to one another. Most indicative MB pottery collected in the selected loci is shown in the plates. In some cases, especially when loci are abundant with pottery, several representative examples of each type were chosen for drawing and the presence of additional pottery is noted in the text.

In order to establish a relative chronology for Kabri, comparisons were sought first in Aphek – the site with the largest well-published MB palatial assemblage – and in Megiddo, whose ceramic corpus remains broadly referenced in comparative studies, making it a significant chronological anchor for synchronisations between Canaanite sites. Sites in Kabri's vicinity and in its broader periphery were then consulted to establish region-

Fig. 1 Plan of Area D-West; location of pottery contexts marked in grey.

al correlations: first and foremost is Akko, displaying the largest western Galilee assemblage from stratified habitation levels for this period, and then sites such as Hazor, Byblos, Sidon and Tell el-Burak. For discussions of common types and for special types, I extended the comparative base to farther sites. Parallels to imported Canaanite types found in Tell el-Dabᶜa offered insights into possible cultural and temporal synchronisations between Kabri and Egypt.

A comprehensive chrono-typological and functional study of the pottery from all areas in Kabri will be published in the final report on the excavations at the site, where it will be supplemented by petrographic and residue analyses results.

Phase DW VII: Pre-Palace (Loci 2068 and 2070)

The earliest phase in Area D-West (Phase DW VII)[4] is represented by floors and walls or installations belonging to pre-palatial domestic structures. The pottery associated with Phase DW VII derived from two contexts found east of palace Wall 733: In 2008 the area under Kempinski's Floor 703 was excavated (Fig. 1; southern room), as well as the area north of Wall 731 (Fig. 1; northern room), which delineates Room 703 in its north. Here series of occupational phases, fills and a burial associated with them were uncovered, the earliest of which predate the construction of the early palace.

The earliest loci below Wall 731, is a pre-palatial beaten-earth floor (L2068, L2070) found in relation to the scant remains of single-row walls. These loci were poor in finds, but contained the remains of vessels that can all be dated to MB I phases and some EBA sherds that are not presented here.

Bowls: Fig. 2:1 is a large red-slipped and burnished bowl with a high carination point and an everted rim. It also stands out in this assemblage

[4] For the chrono-stratigraphic scheme of the phases mentioned here, see Yasur-Landau, Cline and Goshen, this volume, Table 1.

in its light-orange/buff colour, fine levigation and firing, and lustrous burnish. While its large proportions are unusual, smaller examples of this type can be found in mid–late MB I phases in Akko Valley sites (Beeri 2008: 230). The closest parallels for this peculiarly large bowl outside Kabri come from MB I Stratum 4 at Tel Kisan (Abu-Hamid 2010, Fig. d.4.3: 7–8) and from Akko, where it appears later (Beeri 2008, Pl. 3: 46; Phase 3). Though this bowl type is uncommon at other

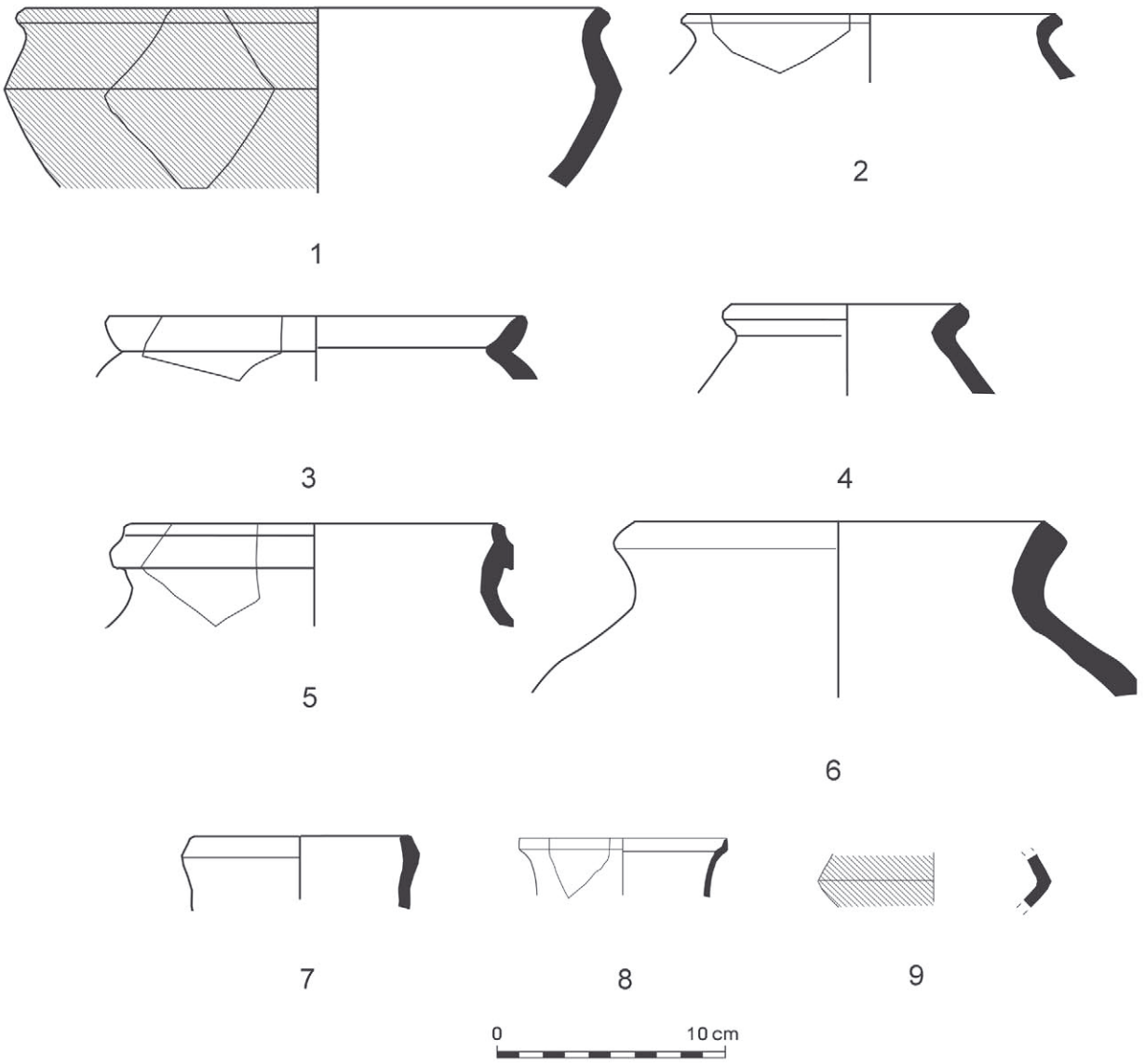

Fig. 2 Pottery from Loci 2068 and 2070; Phase DW VII.

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus	Comments
1	2070–1/1	Carinated bowl	2070	Red-slipped and burnished outside and inside rim
2	2068–2/13	Carinated bowl	2068	Miniature
3	2068–2/6	Cooking pot	2068	
4	2070–1/2	Cooking pot	2070	Miniature
5	2068–2/3	Storage Jar	2068	
6	2068–2/9	Storage Jar/Pithos	2068	
7	2068–2/11	Jug	2068	
8	2068–2/4	Jug	2068	
9	2068–2/5	Biconical Juglet	2068	Slipped and burnished

MB sites, similar bowls can be found in other assemblages in Kabri beginning in this early phase and continuing into later ones (DW VI and DW V), where some examples may be residual. Fig. 2:2 belongs to either a carinated or an s-profiled bowl. It is made of well-levigated clay and is well fired. Similar rims appear in Aphek Phase 2 Stratum B Vc (e. g., Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.12: 7).

Cooking pot: Fig. 2:3 is a rounded, wheel-made cooking pot with a sharply everted rim and a slight gutter. Wheel-made, rounded pots begin to appear in early–mid-MB I (e. g., Aphek Phase 1 Stratum BV d: Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.10: 7–9; Tel Poleg: Kochavi *et al*. 1979: Fig. 7: 13–15; Tel Burga: *ibid*.: Fig. 11: 5, 7; Kabri Stratum 4: Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Fig. 5.45: 12–16) and continue into its late stages and into the MB II (e. g., Megiddo Stratum XIII: Loud 1948, Pl. 22: 7; Akko Phase 3: Beeri 2008, Pl. 8: 1–8). They are the dominant MB cooking vessel in Canaanite sites, and, possibly, the only type on the Phoenician Coast during this period (see, also, Tell el-Burak: Kamlah and Sader 2003, Pl. 9–10; Sidon: Doumet-Serhal 2003, 194, Pl. 14: 3), which, to date, yielded only one known example of a handmade cooking pot (Tell Fadous-Kfarabida Phase VI: Genz *et al*. 2009: 78). At Kabri, sharply everted rims that are either straight and simple or guttered appear in all occupational MB strata (e. g., Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Figs. 5.45: 10, 12–16 for Stratum 4; Fig. 5.56: 2–4, 6 for Stratum 3), and are therefore not a good chronological indicator for this site.

Jug: Fig. 2:8 is a stepped/gutter-rimmed jug. While these can be found at several sites, they are usually red-slipped and burnished and have wide mouths in relation to their necks (e. g., Megiddo Strata XIV–XIII A: Loud 1948, Pl. 10: 2, 9, 10; Pl. 17: 2; Tell el-Burak: Kamlah and Sader 2013, Pl. 3: 20 [no slip]). The pre-palatial example from Kabri shows some significant differences: it is extremely delicate and thin walled; the neck diameter is not significantly smaller than that of the mouth; and it lacks surface treatment. An example from Shalem's excavations at Kabri (Shalem 2009, Fig. 11: 4) is similar in shape, and also lacks surface treatment, but its walls are much thicker than those of this pre-palatial vessel. A rim similar to that in Kabri belonging to a red-slipped juglet with a significantly narrower neck can be found in a MB I context at Tel Kisan (Abu-Hamid 2010, Pl. d.4.3: 24).

Storage jars: Jars with simple, flaring rims are predominant in this context. They come in different sizes, but are all made of well-levigated clay and are well fired. Only the best preserved example – of a large storage jar or pithos – is shown here (Fig. 2:6). Simple, flaring rims are found in abundance in all phases at Kabri and are therefore of no help in assigning contexts to specific phases. They may however have a regional significance, since, while they are rarely present in MB contexts elsewhere, they are the most common storage jar rim types in the nearby Nahariya temple (Ben-Dor 1950, 27, Fig. 19: a–g). At Akko, these rims seem to belong to large jars (based on diameter) and debut in Phase 4a (Beeri 2008, Pl. 11: 21–23). Several examples are also found in Tell ᶜArqa MB I niveau 14, where they belong to medium-sized, ovoid storage jars with large flat bases (Thalmann 2006, Planches 86: 2, 5, 7; 88: 1).

While simple-, flaring-rimmed jars were in use at Kabri throughout the MBA, and thus not considered much of a chronological indicator, their dominance here is notable, particularly when compared to the absence of folded rims in this context.

The folded and pinched jar rim shown in Fig. 2:5 is an early MB I form. At Aphek this rim type is associated with medium-sized handless jars (Beck 2000b, 116; Type SJ3), sometimes associated with LPW (Yadin 2009a, 120) and appears already in Phase 1 Stratum B Vd (Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.10: 12) and Phase 2 Stratum A XVII (Beck 2000a, 178; e. g., Fig. 10.1: 8). At Megiddo these rims are found in MB I Str. XIV (e. g., Loud 1948, Pl. 13: 2, 4–5). This type appears in very early MB I contexts also in Tell Ifshar Phase A Late (Marcus, Porat and Paley 2008, Fig. 9: 2) and Tel Bet Yerah (Greenberg and Eisenberg 2006: Fig. 5.105: 8–12 [jars]; Fig. 5.106: 5, 6, 9 [pithoi]; Str. A XVII). At Kabri this is an uncommon type and this is one of the few examples found of it.

The early pre-domestic assemblage is not rich enough to allow for precise dating within the MB I. Some predominant MB I types are missing here altogether, such as folded-rimmed jars and shallow open bowls. The assemblage does, however, display only MB I types, which can be seen in Aphek as early as in Phase 1 strata but mostly in Phase 2. Phase DW VII therefore correlates with Aphek's MB I Phase 2. The evidence in Canaan for the earliest phase in the MB I is generally limited, and restricted mostly to tombs (e. g., Maeir 2002: 262). It has been noted already that this phase, represented in Phase 1 contexts in Aphek and in Tell Ifshar, is not represented in Kabri (Kempinski *et al.* 2002: 120). However, in the framework of settlement archaeology, and specifically since DW VII

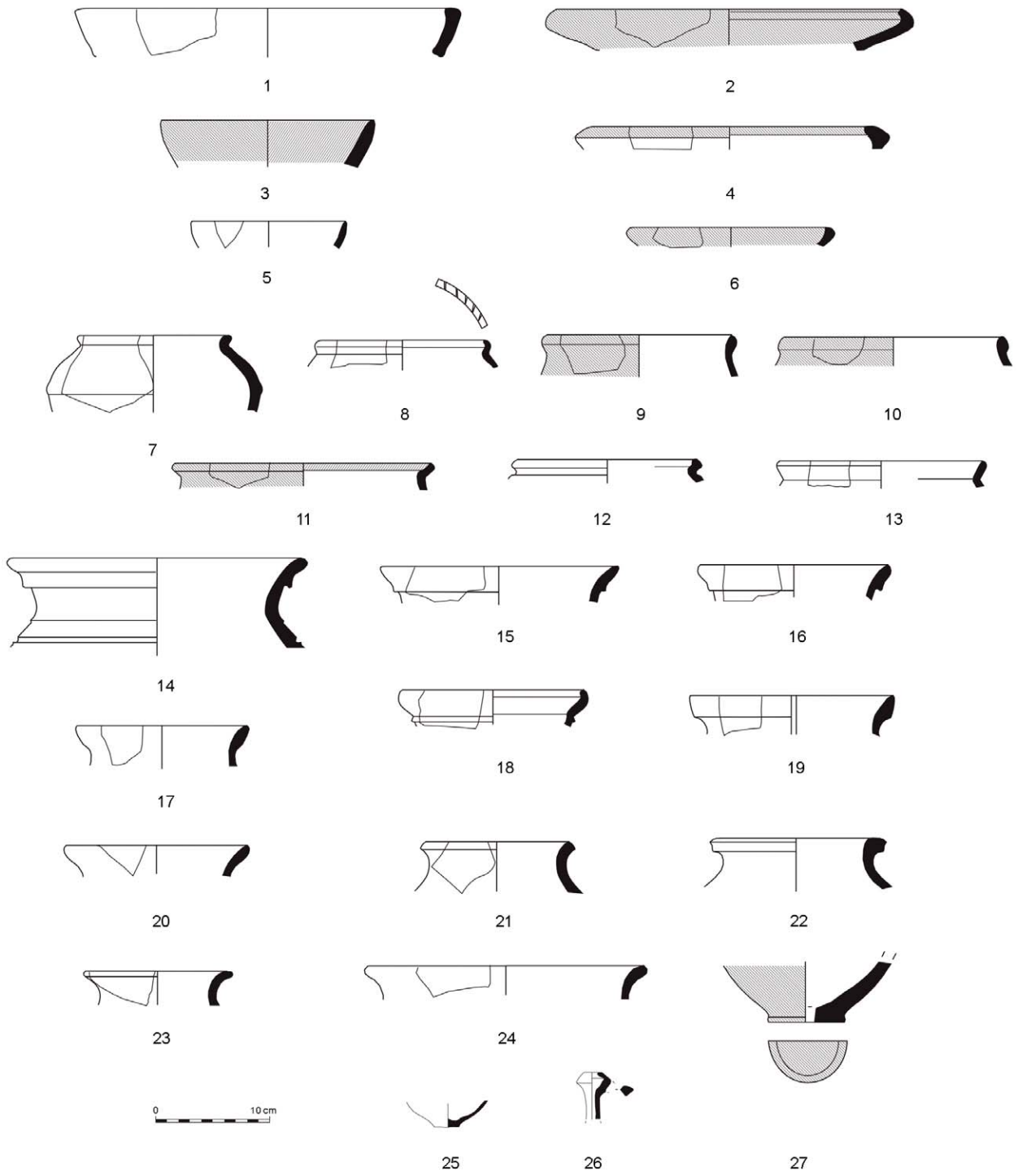

Fig. 3 Pottery from Loci 2056 and 2064; beginning of Phase DW VI.

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus	Comments
1	2056–2/1	Rounded open bowl	2056	
2	2056–2/6	Shallow open Bowl	2056	Red slipped and burnished inside and out
3	2056/1	Rounded open bowl	2056	Red slipped and burnished inside and out
4	2064–4/4	Shallow open Bowl	2064	Red slipped and burnished rim
5	2064–3/10	Rounded open bowl	2064	
6	2064–3/14	Shallow open Bowl	2064	
7	2064–1/9	S-profile/carinated bowl	2064	

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus	Comments
9	2056–2/3	Carinated bowl	2056	Red slipped and burnished outside
10	2056–1/6	Carinated bowl	2056	Red slipped and burnished outside
11	2056–1/9	Carinated bowl	2056	Red slipped and burnished outside and inside rim
12	2064–3/15	Cooking pot	2064	Miniature
13	2064–1/6	Cooking pot	2064	
14	2056–1/1	Storage jar	2056	
15	2064–1/5	Storage jar	2064	
16	2064–2/4	Storage jar	2064	
17	2064–2/3	Storage jar	2064	
18	2064–1/1	Storage jar	2064	
19	2064–3/8	Storage jar	2064	
20	2056–1/3	Storage jar	2056	
21	2064–3/4	Storage jar	2064	
22	2064–2/1	Storage jar	2064	
23	2056–2/4	Storage jar	2056	
24	2064–4/2	Storage jar	2064	
25	2056–2/5	Jug/juglet	2056	
26	2056–1/10	Juglet	2056	Candlestick rim
27	2064–3/11	Jug	2064	Red slipped and burnished

is followed by two additional MB I phases, though it is not the earliest MB I phase, we still consider it as *an* early MB I phase.

Phase DW VI: Early Palace (Loci 2077 and 2091; 2056 and 2064; and the Corridor)

The beginning of this phase, which was not reached by Kempinski's expedition in Area D, is marked by the construction of the first monumental edifice in the eastern zone of Area D-West.

Loci 2056 and 2064 (Fig. 3) represent fills laid in preparation for the construction of the early palace, excavated east of Wall 733, built during this phase, and south of later Wall 731 (Fig. 1; southern room). These loci are cut by the foundation trench for Wall 731 and sealed by a floor (L2052; see below) associated with the first palatial stage.

Another context assigned to the beginning of this phase is found in the northwestern part of the area, below massive palace Wall 673. It contains finds yielded from the top of an installation (L2091) and the fill poured over it (L2077) in preparation for monumental construction in this area. Installation 2091 is associated with a wall (W2093) of domestic nature running below Wall 673 and with the ashy remains of a *tabun*. This Phase VI context indicates that the palace core did not extend as far as the westernmost limits of Area D during the first palatial stage.

The end of Phase DW VI is best represented by the rich "Corridor" assemblage[5] (Fig. 4), excavated between 2008 and 2010 (see Yasur-Landau *et al.* in this volume). Formerly thought to be the floor of a stairwell (L694; Oren 2002: 59), the plaster floor in this area turned out to seal the top of a fill between two massive, stone walls (W679 and W706), over 1.8 m in height (see Fig. 1). These walls were constructed as part of the first palatial edifice in Area D and used until its final days. The narrow space between the walls yielded a substantial amount of restorable pottery deposited during a single event and then sealed by fill and by the last or penultimate palace floor in this specific area. The pottery seems to have been deposited into the Corridor from Room 690 through a predesigned passage (L2324) built into the top courses of Wall 679. In Room 690, four consecutive floors were excavated, that seal access to the passage. Below the four floors and under a 0.9 m thick fill (Fig. 5), plaster Floor 2346 was found – belonging stratigraphically to the palace's first construction phase and necessarily connected to the use of Passage 2324. Though only a small area of the floor was exposed, seven of eight indicative sherds found lying on it were slipped and burnished. A small sample as it may be, this ratio is overwhelming in comparison to most assemblages at the site.

[5] Excavated as Loci 2018, 2020, 2050, 2078, 2135, 2145, 2195, 2197, 2199, 2213, 2219, 2239, 2241, 2243, 2245, 2249, 2251, 2283, 2285, 2321, 2325, 2335, 2339, 2351 and 2359.

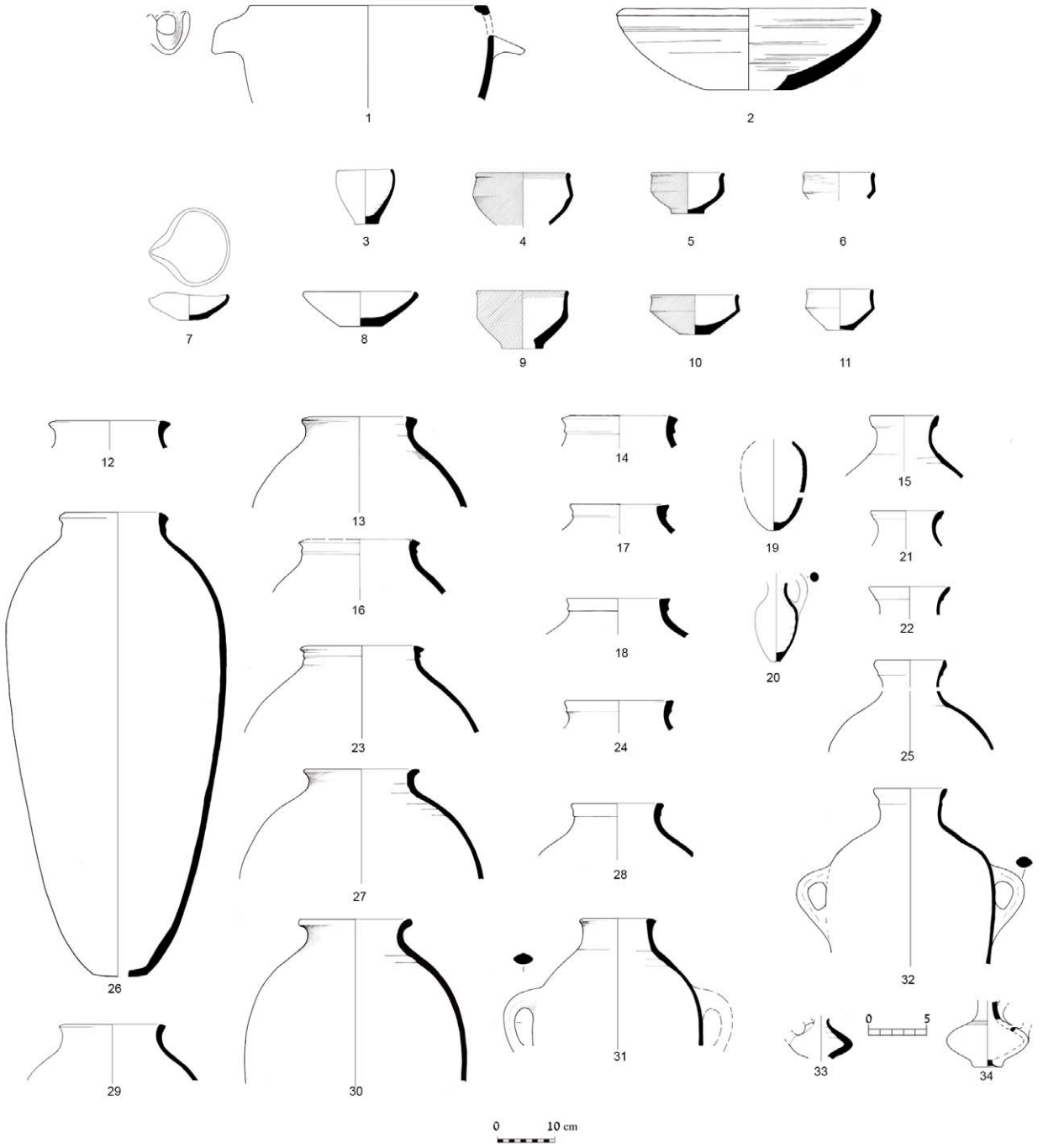

Fig. 4 Pottery from the "Corridor"; end of Phase DW VI.

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Loci	Comments
1	V2009-14	Spouted Krater	2283	
2	V2009-15	Large shallow open bowl	2285	
3	V2009-1	Cup	2197	
4	V2009-6	Carinated bowl	2213, 2251	Red slipped and burnished outside in inside rim
5	V2009-3	Carinated bowl	2251	Red slipped and burnished outside
6	V2009-7	Carinated bowl	2197	
7	V2009-50	Lamp	2335	
8	V2009-4	Shallow open bowl	2283	
9	V2009-43	Carinated bowl	2243	Red slipped and burnished outside in inside rim

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Loci	Comments
10	V2009-5	Carinated bowl	2283	Red slipped and burnished outside
11	V2009-9	Carinated bowl	2197	
12	V2009-19	Storage jar/pithos	2239	
13	V2009-16	Storage jar/pithos	2283, 2285	
14	2219–4/7	Storage jar/pithos	2219	
15	V2009-26	Medium-sized storage jar	2283	
16	2335–2/2	Storage jar/pithos	2335	
17	2135–1/9	Storage jar/pithos	2135	
18	V2009-11	Storage jar/pithos	2197	
19	V2009-46	Dipper juglet	2335	
20	V2009-48	Dipper juglet	2335	
21	V2009-29	Medium-sized storage jar	2339	
22	V2009-42	Medium-sized storage jar	2251	
23	V2009-40	Storage jar/pithos	2335	
24	V2009-47	Storage jar/pithos	2283	
25	V2009-27	Medium-sized storage jar	2339	
26	V2009-54	Storage jar/pithos	2283	
27	V2009-38	Storage jar/pithos	2335	
28	V2009-51	Storage jar/pithos	-	
29	V2009-32	Storage jar/pithos	2339, 2251, 2197	
30	V2009-39	Storage jar/pithos	2335	
31	V2009-25	Medium-sized storage jar	2917	
32	V2009-35	Medium-sized storage jar	2283	
33	V2009-45	Biconical juglet	2335	Brown, burnished, miniature
34	V2009-44	Biconical juglet	2335	Brown, burnished, incisions surrounding the neck

Loci 2077 and 2091

These loci yielded very few finds; however, these include a miniature biconical juglet with a double-stranded handle (Fig. 6) and an open-bowl bar-handle in the form of a duck (Fig. 7) – both red slipped and with a lustrous burnish. Both vessel types are attested in the earliest MB I tomb in Kabri, sealed by the rampart (Tomb 503; Kempinski et al. 2002, Fig. 5.21: 5, 11; bowl and juglet, respectively). Burnished bar-handled bowls are

Fig. 5 First palace Floor 2346 (center) and section cutting through thick fill and late palace floors (top); looking west.

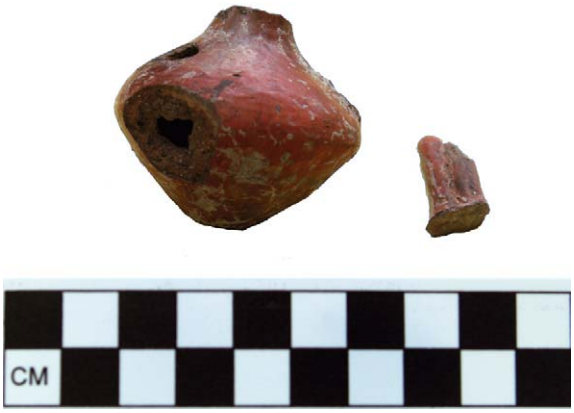

Fig. 6 Miniature biconical juglet with a double-stranded handle from L2091; Phase DW VI.

Fig. 7 Duck-shaped bar handle of open bowl from L2077; Phase DW VI.

also known in Phase 2 loci at Aphek (e. g., Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.4: 1, Stratum A XVII) and in Stratum XIV in Megiddo (Loud 1948, Pl. 15: 15). The peculiar duck-head finds no parallels as a handle and seems to be a local variant on MB I bar handles. Notably, however, duck heads as decorative motifs are well-known from MB Byblos (Levels VI to X) (e. g., Dunand 1950, Pl. 176: 9945 [Level 7], 11314 [Level 9]; Dunand 1954, Fig. 350: 9885, 9819 [on a bowl]), where some decorated bowls and others may have been part of zoomorphic vessels. These vessels arrived at Tell el-Dabᶜa later as imports (Forstner-Müller and Kopetzky 2006, 150, Fig. 9: 1–3). One duck head from Byblos (Dunand 1950, Pl. 176: 9945; 13/21, Level 7) is red slipped and burnished and its eyes are finely executed (Dunand 1954, 328), much like the example from Kabri. In none of the many examples from Byblos, however, did a duck head serve as a handle. This seems to have been the improvisation of a local artist.

Loci 2056 and 2064

Closed bowls: The bowls from this context are not sufficiently preserved to recreate full profiles, but the closed shapes in this assemblage are very fine and thin walled, made of well-levigated clay with lustrous red slip. The bowls with gutter rims (Fig. 3:8, 11) are probably carinated and compare with types originating in the early MB I. These debut in Aphek in Phase 2 Stratum A XVII (Beck 2000a, Figs. 10.1: 11; 10.6: 1) and appear in larger numbers in Phase 3 Strata A XIVb–a (Beck 2000a, Figs. 10.12: 1–2; 10.13: 1–4), and in Yoqneᶜam in the early MB I (Ben-Ami and Livneh 2005, 249). The top of the rim of Fig. 3:8 is decorated with delicate red tick marks and may belong to the Levantine Painted Ware (LPW) tradition. Though open LPW examples are rare (Bagh 2013, 165), a single example of a LPW carinated bowl with a gutter rim decorated with red tick marks comes from a late MB I, Phase 2 burial at Sidon (Bagh 2013, 268, Fig. 69b).

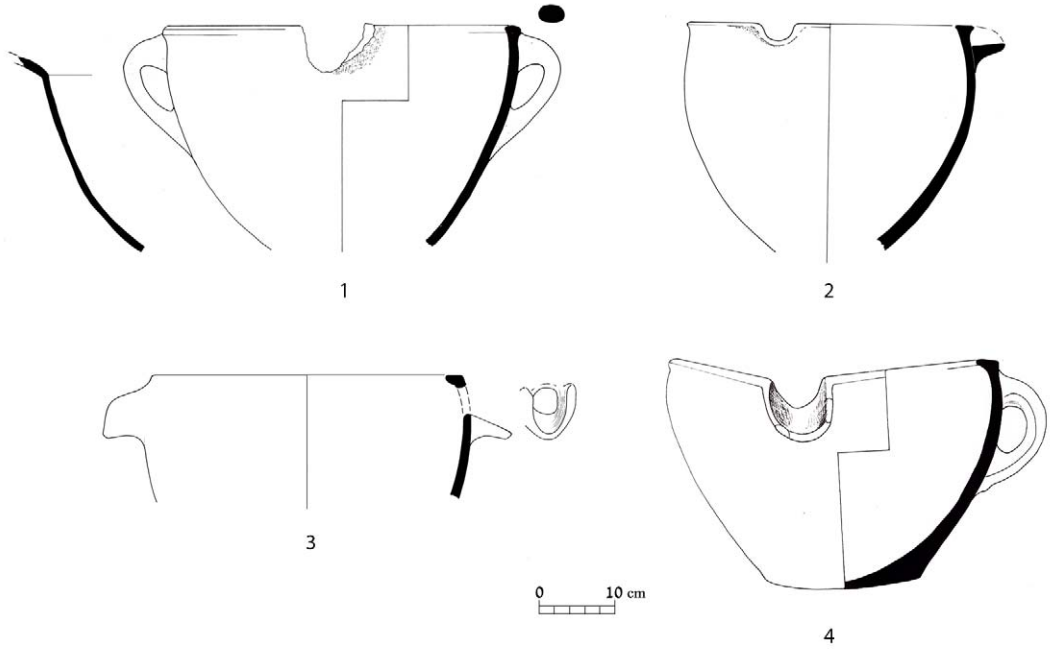

Fig. 8 Spouted kraters from Kabri; Phases DW VI–III.

No.	Reg. no.	Locus	Comments/Reference
1	2707	757	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.56: 1; Stage 3c (= DW III)
2	V2009-58	2304	Phase DW III
3	42013–02-01	42013	Palace floor in D-North. Phase DN IV or III
4	V2009-14	2283	Corridor assemblage, end of Phase DW VI

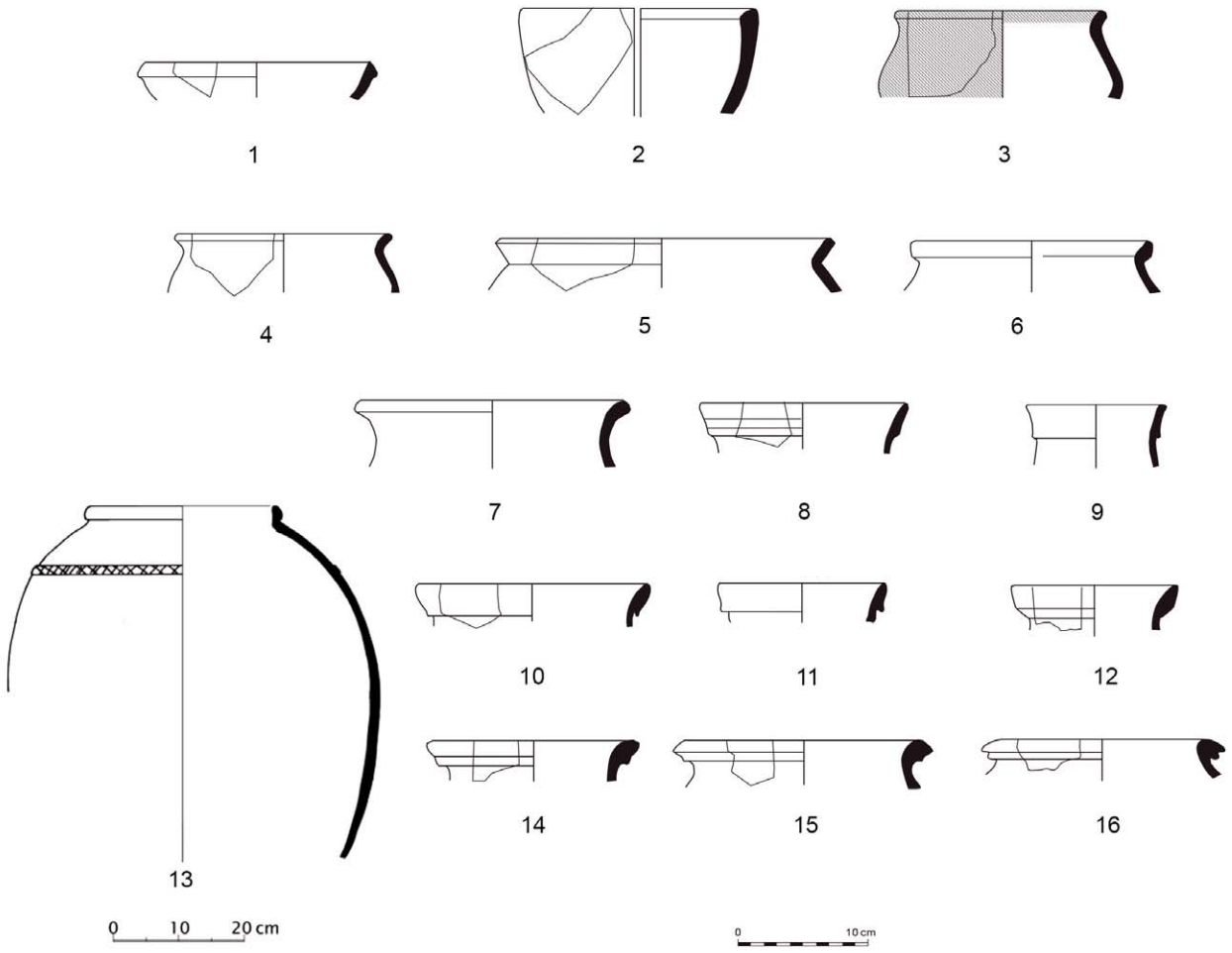

Fig. 9 Pottery from Loci 2046, 2052 and 2347; Phase DW V.

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus	Comments
1	2046–1/5	Shallow open bowl	2046	
2	2052–1/8	Deep open bowl	2052	
3	2052–1/6	Carinated bowl	2052	Red-slipped and burnished outside and inside rim
4	2046–1/7	S-profile/Carinated bowl	2046	
5	2046–1/1	Krater	2046	
6	2046–2/2	Cooking pot	2046	
7	2046–2/5	Storage jar	2046	
8	2046–2/1	Storage jar	2046	
9	2052–1/9	Storage jar	2052	
10	2052–1/5	Storage jar	2052	
11	2052–1/16	Storage jar	2052	
12	2046–2/9	Storage jar	2046	
13	2046–2/8	Storage jar	2046	
14	2046–2/11	Storage jar	2046	
15	2052–1/4	Storage jar	2052	
16	2347–1	Cooking jar	2347	

Bowls with rolled or bulbous rims similar to those in Fig. 3:9, 10 and red slipped above the carination are common in Kabri, beginning in the MB I (e. g., Kempinski *et al*. 2002: Fig. 5.44: 3–4) but were denoted by Peilstöcker (2005, 263) as a local family known in *late* MB I contexts in Kabri and Nahariya, though he brings no complete vessels of this type. Albright had already suggested a Syrian origin for the MB carinated bowls, imitating a Mesopotamian metal prototype (Albright 1932, 14–15; 1933, 69). Remarkably, these rolled rims, typical of Kabri, are the closest ceramic rendition of the rim of a metal bowl found in the Byblite Montet Jar (see Tufnell and Ward 1966, Fig. 9: 209).

Fig. 3:7 is a closed rounded bowl with a short everted rim and thick walls that compares in shape and robustness to a bowl from Stratum XIV at Megiddo (Loud 1948, Pl. 14: 27).

Open bowls vary in size, are generally deep/rounded with a simple or inverted rim and are either slipped and burnished outside and inside or lack surface treatment (Fig. 3:1, 3, 5). Rounded bowls are the common type in pre-Palace II (Phase 2) strata in Area A at Aphek (Beck 2000a, 174) and at Kabri, too, they become less common in later contexts, giving way to shallow bowls. Shallow open bowls in this locus are red slipped to some extent and have inverted rims. Fig. 3:2 and 4 are shallow bowls or platters with sharply inverted ledge rims; the former is slipped both inside and out, finding parallels in MB I Tel Poleg (Kochavi *et al*. 1979, Fig. 8: 14) and in late MB I at Yoqneᶜam Str. XXIV (Livneh 2005, Fig. II.9: 3) but seems to continue earlier EB traditions (e. g., at Kabri, Scheftelowitz 2002b, Fig. 5.8: 6–8; at Tell Fadous-Kfarabida: Badreshany, Genz and Sader 2005, Pl. 1: B1).

The rims of most deep bowls and jars found in contexts marking the beginning of phase DW VI stand out in their aesthetic qualities and finish in comparison to those appearing later. The well-textured clay of the jars is smoothed and then very finely combed. Deep (probably carinated) bowls are thin walled with delicate rims terminating in a gutter.

Juglet: Fig. 3:26 is a "candlestick" or "collarette" juglet rim – an attested early MB I type in sites such as Aphek (e. g., Ory 1938, 112 No. 38; slipped and burnished; Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.18; decorated) Megiddo (Loud 1948, Pls. 7: 18, Str. XV; 10: 16, 18, Str. XIV; all slipped and burnished); Yoqneᶜam (Livneh 2005, Fig. II.2: 41; Str. XXV; Fig. II.4: 33; Str. XXIVb); and Ginosar (Epstein 1974, Fig. 5: 9: Tomb 1).[6] In Tell el-Dabᶜa these rims are seen on one of the earliest forms of ovoid jugs (Aston 2004, Plates: Pl. 111: 361–363; Aston 2004, Text: Page 125: Group 119), of which some were imported from Lebanon (*ibid*., Text: 126).

Jars: Many of the jar rims found in these loci are flaring, simple and rounded, and come in various sizes, as can be seen in Fig. 3:20–21, 23–24. Other storage jar rims seen here also belong to the MB I repertoire. Folded rims with a ridge at the bottom (Fig. 3:14–16) appear in Aphek Phase 2 and onward (Beck 2000b: Fig. 8.13: 6, 7, Stratum B Vc; Beck 2000a: Fig. 10.2: 2, Stratum A XVI), as do elongated folded rims with a pronounced gutter (Fig. 3:18; e. g., Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.12: 22); ovoid (Fig. 3:17) or triangular (Fig. 3:19) in section (e. g., Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.12: 20). At Akko elongated folded rims are one of the earliest jar types, with a single example in Phase 5 (Pl. 11: 1), four in Phase 3 (Pl. 11: 2–5) with none in Phase 4. Phases 5 and 4 in Akko seem to be poorly represented with a considerably smaller number of finds in comparison with later Phases. We may assume therefore that many types seen in Akko only in MB I–II Phase 3, and known in earlier contexts at many other sites, may have appeared at Akko during the MB I and are simply misrepresented because of the low degree of exposure of earlier contexts.

The earliest example of a profiled or molded rim at Kabri appears here as well: Fig. 3:22 is a single specimen and may be the precursor (or an intrusive sherd) of the out-folded-rolled double-ridged rim that will be discussed below (Loci 2046 and 2052). This form evolves in the next phase where it appears in larger numbers.

Cooking pots: Fig. 3:12–13 are rounded cooking pots with everted rims. The rim of No. 12 has a pronounced gutter, whereas that of No. 13 is plain. Both have thin walls and were probably not very large in size.

[6] While Tomb 1 is dated by its excavator to MB I–transitional MB I–II, Beck mentions this vessel among the MB I vessels (2000a: 214).

The Corridor Assemblage

The Corridor yielded over two hundred partly restorable vessels and indicative sherds, of which a representative selection is shown here.

Carinated bowls: The delicate gutter-rimmed carinated bowls seen in pre-palatial loci are not found in this context. Instead, we see a preference to carinated bowls with simple rims that are rounded or slightly bulbous or rolled and sometimes very slightly everted (Fig. 4:4–6, 9–11). These everted rims are shorter than those of most parallels presented here from other sites. The carination on the bowls is mid-point the vessels or higher, and the wall above it is often slightly convex and either upright or only slightly turned in. Most examples are red slipped and burnished outside, and the rims are sometimes slipped on their inside as well. Where bases were found in the corridor, they were disc bases, and less frequently flat or concave; no evidence was found here for ring-based bowls. The only one non-slipped parallel from Kempinski *et al*. 2002 for a flat-based carinated bowl comes from an early MB I context (Fig. 5.21: 1; Tomb 503). At Akko these bowls became popular later than they did in Kabri, with only a single example in Phase 4 and several more in Phase 3 (Beeri 2008, Pl. 3: 43–47). In Qashish these carinated bowls are divided into two groups that appear in MB I–II Stratum IXC and do not continue into mid-MB II Str. IXA (Ben-Tor and Bonfil 2003, 200–201; Types CB II and CB III). A slipped and burnished carinated bowl with a flat base from MB I Tomb 1025 at Dan bears some resemblance to Fig. 4:10 (Ilan 1996, Fig. 4.104: 10). Flat-based carinated bowls at Megiddo appear in MB I contexts as well (Loud 1948, Pls. 14: 25–26, 31; 19: 2) with only a single exception from a MB II stratum (*ibid*., Pl. 36: 6) and in a tomb in Jatt (Getzov and Nagar 2002, Fig. 3: 9, 11). Similar bowls varying in size and in surface treatment appear also in MB I strata in Sharon sites: Aphek (Beck 2000a, 10.12: 3; Phase 3 Stratum A XIVb); Tel Burga (Kochavi *et al*. 1979, Fig. 10: 2–3); Tel Zeror (*ibid*., Fig. 18: 8–9); and ᶜAin Zurekiyeh (Gophna and Ayalon 1982, Fig. 7: 2). At Tell el-Hayyat they are predominent in all three MB I strata (Falconer, Magness-Gardiner and Metzger 1984, 58). Carinated bowls with relatively thick walls, flat bases, and no surface treatment, very similar in form to those from the Corridor, are characterised by Nigro as "Simple Ware" and come from the MB I Stratum IIIA1 at Tell Mardikh (Nigro 2002, 102, Pl. XLVI: 14–11). Some of the carinated bowls from Tell ᶜArqa Phase N (MB I) are generally comparable to those from the Corridor as well (e. g., Thalmann 2006, Planches 81: 14–15; 82: 20). Their bases are flat or slightly concave; their rims are out-turned and simple or guttered; the bowl proportions and the angle of the walls resemble examples from the Corridor; however, none of the ᶜArqa examples is slipped.

Open bowls: Many rims of shallow open bowls were found here (most of which are not illustrated), ranging in size from 16 to 45 cm in diameter. Their slightly convex walls flare from the base, terminating in a rim that is usually simple and rounded, or bulbous and slightly in-turned. The ratio of slipped bowls is lower than that in earlier loci (ca. 10 %). Since hardly any bowls were found with their bases, most are not very helpful as chronological indicators. Fig. 4:2 however is a very large open bowl with a sharply inverted rim tapering at its edge. Large open bowls are considered a MB I type at Aphek (Yadin 2009, 119). Fig. 4:8 is a small shallow bowl with walls and a base that are relatively thick for its size. A parallel of similar proportions originates in a late MB I tomb in Tell Fadous-Kfarabida (Genz *et al*. 2010, Pl. 4: 3).

Cup: A complete cup was found in the Corridor assemblage (Fig. 4:3). It has incurved walls, a simple, inverted rim and a flat, rope-cut base. This form finds no exact parallels in MB contexts elsewhere in Canaan, but bears similarity to earlier, Syrian EB III and IB forms, such as beakers from Ebla (Matthiae 1980, Fig. 15) and particularly cups from Tuttul/Tell Biᶜa (Einwag 2002, Fig. 6: 2–3) as well as a decorated cup from the cult cave at Qedesh (Tadmor 1978, 22, Fig. 8, Plate 9: C; and see Yasur-Landau, Cline and Samet 2011, 388, Fig. 4). Similar (though certainly not identi-

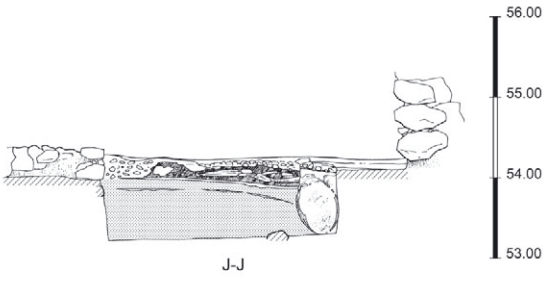

Fig. 10 Section through Floor 2346 and L2357 showing cooking jar embedded in floor; looking south.

cal) forms that may have evolved from the Syrian proto-type as well have been found at Tell el-Dab^{c}a (Aston 2004, Text, 199–200; Plates: Pl. 213; Group 220b). Aston draws parallels for the Tell el-Dab^{c}a examples to sites in northern Sinai and the eastern Delta (Aston 2004, Text, 199), and finds a similar, though slipped and burnished, form in Tell ^{c}Arqa (Thalmann 1978, Fig. 50: 5–7). The Canaanite production of vessels of which each stylistic component has typically a Syrian counterpart, but using local techniques has been long noted for IB ware (see Bunimovitz and Greenberg 2004, 23 with references there).

Kraters: Fig. 4:1 (also Fig. 8:3) is an open krater or basin with a semi-circular spout. Its body is rounded and it has an inverted horizontal ledge rim. The spout protrudes immediately below the rim and is otherwise open. The only parallels for this type, with slightly different rims, come from Kabri itself (Fig. 8), and exclusively from the palace. This type, which debuts at the end of Phase VI, continued into the final stages of the palace (Stratum 3 = Phase DW III). Two examples come from the final floor of the palace: Fig. 8:1 has been previously published (Kempinski *et al*. 2002: Fig. 5.56: 1) and Fig. 8:2 was unearthed during the renewed excavations and only restored recently. Fig. 8:4 was found on a palace floor in Area D-North and was part of an assemblage that hints to libation or liquid handling of sorts. Spouted kraters appear already in some early MB I assemblages (e. g., ^{c}Ain Zurekiyeh: Gophna and Ayalon 1982, Fig. 7: 3; Tell Ifshar Phase A: TI_930_5040_1[7]), and may continue earlier, EB and IB traditions (Yasur-Landau and Samet 2013). None, however, bears any resemblance to the Kabri type. Additional open kraters/vats, represented in the Corridor by rim fragments only, may have belonged to the same type, albeit no additional spouts were found to confirm this.

Jars: A dominant rim type in this assemblage is the simple flaring rim belonging to jars and pithoi (Fig. 4:27, 29, 30 and many more undrawn examples) and discussed above (see L2068, L2070), while the paucity of folded rim types that are found in abundance in both earlier and later loci is notable in the Corridor, and calls for a functional, rather than chronological, explanation. On the other hand, two new rim types appear here:

Fig. 4:12, 13, 16, 23 and 26 are large storage jars/pithoi with very short, straight necks. The top of the rim is thickened and beveled with its outer edge rounded or chamfered. The flattened rim is either horizontal or slants slightly outward. There is often a small ridge on the rim's top on the inside as a result of its flattening (compare with some forms from Aphek: Beck 2000a: 233: Fig. 10.31: SJ4A and SJ4B = handle-less medium-sized jars and pithoi with molded rims, both from Phase 3). The only parallel for this rim type found in previous excavations at Kabri comes from the Stratum 4 fill under the floors of palace Hall 611 (Kempinski *et al*., Fig. 5.57: 4). While there are no exact parallels for this rim type outside Kabri, there is some resemblance to Qashish type PIIIa that is attributed with uncertainty to Stratum IXC (MB I–II) (Bonfil 2003, 310–311). Another example of a thickened rim extending almost directly from the shoulder with a sloping beveled top, a small ridge inside and a ridge at the bottom of the rim comes from Khirbet Sitt Leila (Aharoni 1959, Fig. 3: 3). This pithos also has a combed shoulder. Based on its geographical setting in the Sharon Plain, Sitt Leila is likely to be a MB I site. In a study of MB pithoi, a pithos with this rim and neck is considered one of two earliest types of pithoi to appear in the MB I (Bonfil 1992, 27, 33 Fig. 8).

The jars/pithoi seen in Fig. 4:14, 17, 18, 24 and 28 have a rim that is flattened at the top and has a flange at its bottom. There are at least nine more rim fragments in the Corridor assemblage that are not shown here. While there is some congruence between these two types of rims, or perhaps a third subtype that falls between the two categories, most flattened rims with flanges belong clearly to a separate group from the thickened, beveled rims. No complete jars with these rims were found at Kabri, but by comparison of the mouth diameter and the neck and shoulders to other vessels, this was a long, ovoid, handle-less pithos. Two types with rims falling into this category are found at Megiddo: One, with a rim of an almost square section, resembling Fig. 4:18, is a handle-less, medium-sized ovoid jar that first appears late in MB I (Stratum XIV) and continues into the first MB II phase (Stratum XII) (Loud 1948, Pls. 12: 17; 27: 6). The second is a 90 cm tall pithos with handles, a relatively wide flat base and a mouth measuring over 25 cm in diameter (*ibid*., Pl. 18: 3). The rim here is

[7] I thank Ezra Marcus for giving me access to pottery plates from Tell Ifshar that are being prepared for publication.

more rectangular, resembling Fig. 4:28. Though some similarity can also be found between the Kabri specimens and sporadic examples of molded or profiled rims in Aphek Phase 3 Stratum A XIVa (Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.13: 26), MB I Tel Burga (Kochavi *et al.* 1979, Fig. 11: 17; Fig. 12: 1, 2) and Tel Poleg (*ibid.*, Fig. 8: 20), none of these display a striking resemblance. The profiled rims found in the Corridor assemblage seem to be have been the local profile rim, typical of Kabri, and brought into the palace in large numbers, if not manufactured exclusively for it. Its frequency in the Corridor assemblage may have resulted in the clearing of a palatial storeroom at the end of Phase DW VI.

Medium-sized jars in this assemblage also have several rim types. All elongated rims in this locus (Fig. 4:22, 25, 32) seem to have belonged to medium-sized storage jars with handles, based on comparison with the remains of Fig. 4:32. The first rim flares, the second is guttered and the third is nearly upright. These types are known at Aphek in Phase 2 and onward (see above; L2056, 2064). A similar representation of these three subtypes appearing together comprises the small assemblage from Tomb 637 at Tell Fadous-Kfarabida (Genz *et al.* 2010, Pl. 3: 1–4), where the MB phase is dated to late MB I or transitional MB I–II at the latest (*ibid.*, 249–252).

Other medium-sized jars in the Corridor have flaring, short rims with a triangular or ovoid section (Fig. 4:15, 21) and one has an uncommon straight neck with a thickened rim. Triangular- and ovoid-sectioned rims have been discussed above (L2056, 2064).

Juglets: A dipper juglet found in the Corridor (Fig. 4:20) belongs to a type that is represented in MB I–MB I–II Tomb 498 at Kabri (e. g., Kempinski *et al.* 2002, Fig. 5.38: 6–8, 10), where some juglets are slipped and some untreated. The best parallels in form and size, however, are from Phase 2 tombs at Aphek (Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.8: 3, 9; Strata A XVI–A XV) and are red-slipped. At Tell el-Dabᶜa similar juglets, found mainly in tombs, first appear at the end of the MB I and continue into the MB II (Aston 2004, Text: 154; Groups 134b–d; Plates: Pls. 147–148). The first juglets similar in shape and proportions to the Kabri example come from MB I–II Stratum F=b/3 (Kopetzky 2002, Fig. 2: 4754). In Akko most examples for dipper juglets derive from Phase 2 contexts (Beeri 2008, Pl. 16: 20–27), but the one most similar in shape to the Corridor examples was yielded from a Phase 4 locus (Beeri 2008, Pl. 16: 20).

Fig. 11 Cypriot Red on Red bowl spout from Locus 2046.

A puzzling find that sealed the Corridor assemblage were two biconical juglets (Fig. 4:33, 34) found resting atop the deposit in the passage/window in Wall 679, alongside a lamp (Fig. 4:7). A fragment of a closed alabaster vessel was found in the same locus with the juglets and lamp. Both juglets are grey/brown slipped and burnished, squat, with a double-strand loop handle from shoulder to neck and both are missing their rims. No. 33 is miniature and was found without its base. No. 34 has two grooves between the neck and shoulder, and a thick ring base. Remarkably, variants of biconical juglets found in abundance at Kabri feature *only* in tombs and are usually considered votive (Kempinski *et al.* 2002, 114). Exact parallels for No. 34 were found in Strata 4–3 Tombs 498 and 984 (Kempinski *et al.* 2002, Figs. 5.23: 3; 5.30: 2). Since they are considered to be part of the earlier assemblages in Tomb 498 (Kempinski and Scheftelowitz 2002, 53), they date to the MB I. Close, but not identical, parallels from Aphek and Megiddo also derive from tombs (Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.21: 4; Phase 4 Stratum A XII (transitional MB I–II); Loud 1948, Pl 11: 5; Str. XIV). Miniature biconical votive juglets of crude make were found in the temple in Nahariya, where they were also grey or brown slipped and burnished, and incised with rings surrounding the shoulder (Naeh 2012, 47, Fig. 3.21: 18–20). The closest parallels from Tell el-Dabᶜa are Canaanite imports in Phases b/3 and b/2 (transitional MB I–II and early MB II phases; Aston 2004, Pl. 138: 521, Group 128e; Pl. 141: 548, Group 128: q). The later, b/2 example has two circles incised around the shoul-

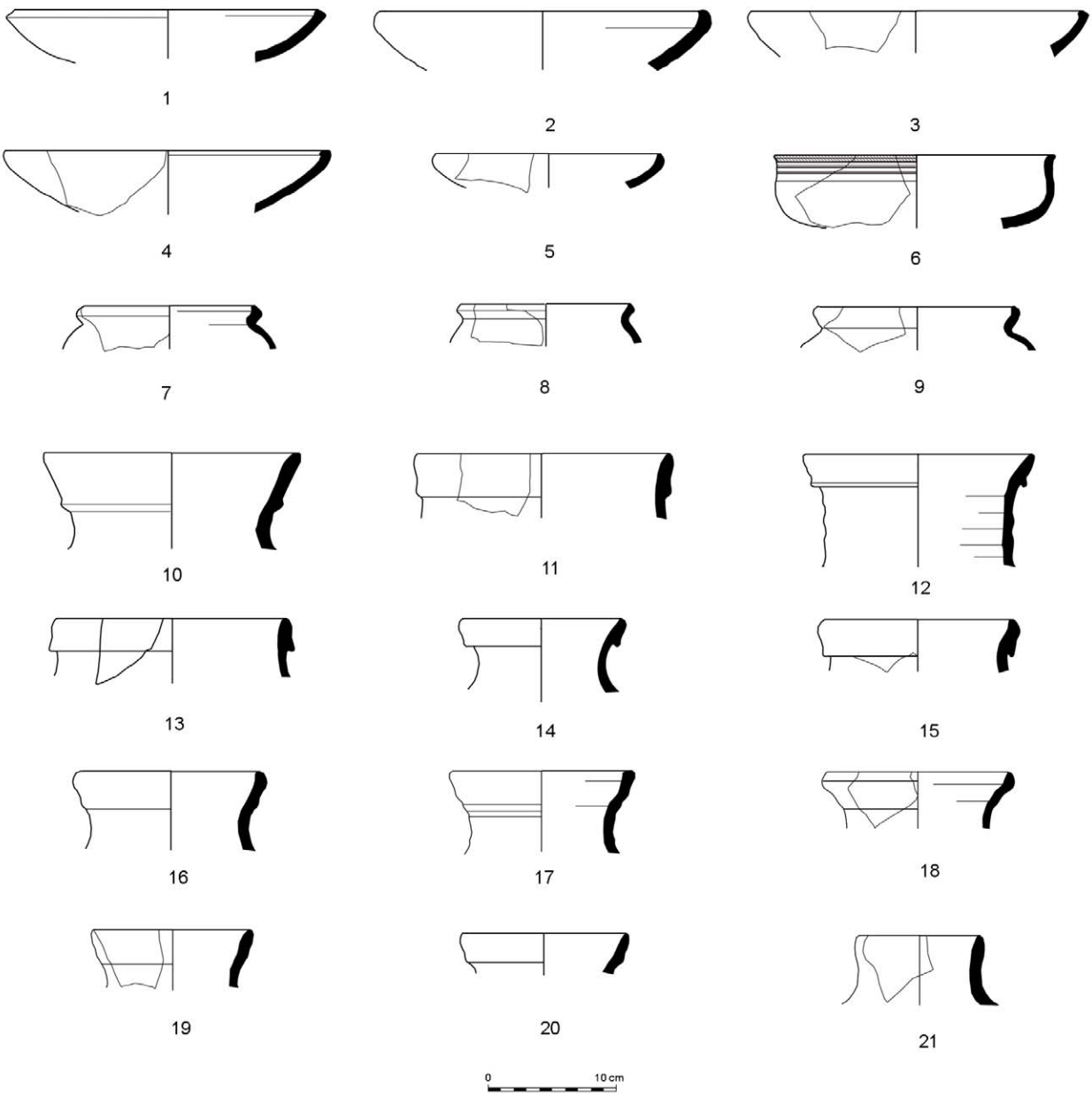

Fig. 12 Pottery from Pit 2071; Phase DW IV.

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus	Comments
1	2071–22/1	Shallow open bowl	2071	
2	2071–20/1	Shallow open bowl	2071	
3	2071–21/1	Shallow open bowl	2071	
4	2071–9/9	Shallow open bowl	2071	
5	2071–22/10	Shallow open bowl	2071	
6	2071–9/10	Shallow open bowl	2071	Red slipped and burnished outside; Incisions surrounding rim
7	2071–9/4	Cooking pot	2071	Miniature
8	2071–22/3	Cooking pot	2071	Miniature
9	2071–14/7	Cooking pot	2071	Miniature
10	2071–18/4	Storage jar	2071	
11	2071–10/4	Storage jar	2071	
12	2071–19/3	Storage jar	2071	
13	2071–10/6	Storage jar	2071	

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus	Comments
14	2071–19/8	Storage jar	2071	
15	2071–22/6	Storage jar	2071	
16	2071–19/4	Storage jar	2071	
17	2071–12/2	Storage jar	2071	
18	2071–12/1	Storage jar	2071	
19	2071–18/2	Storage jar	2071	
20	2071–15/5	Storage jar	2071	
21	2071–22/2	Storage jar	2071	

der. Both come from tombs (Aston 2004, 146, 149).

The presence at the top of this assemblage of two nearly intact, deliberately placed juglets of a type otherwise found almost exclusively in funerary or cultic contexts must be considered in fathoming the circumstances of this deposition.

A change is evident between contexts marking the beginning of this phase (L2064 and 2056) and those marking its end (the Corridor). The first present exclusively MB I forms, of which some are rarely seen in later phases. They also presents a similar ratio of storage to preparation and serving vessels, indicating mixed functions that would be expected in a domestic assemblage.

In the Corridor assemblage, the closed gutter-rimmed carinated bowl no longer appears, a criterion of transitional MB I–II, according to Kempinski (1988: 33). Alongside early MB I types that do persist, several new types are introduced that also hint to a date later in the MB I and possibly toward the MB II. Such are the more open carinated bowls and possibly the slender dipper juglet. New storage vessels are found here, unique to the Kabri palace, evincing, perhaps, a first step toward production regulation meant for larger scale storage. This part of the assemblage may represent the clearing of storage areas before the expansion of the palace. The importance of two additional specialised vessels – the spouted krater and the cup – has been discussed previously in reference to palatial banqueting and its political role in the formation of the palatial society in Kabri (Yasur-Landau et al. 2011, 388; Yasur-Landau and Samet 2013, 9). The rising elite in Kabri during the mid- to late MB I needed the compliance of non-elite members to carry out massive construction operations such as the earthen fortifications and possibly the building of the palace. One way of enhancing a mutual local identity among all inhabitants that would enable this was through mutual feasting. The specialised forms, unknown in other sites, incorporated into the banqueting setting, had a significant role in creating a symbolically imbued "Landscape of meaning" as has been denoted by Yasur-Landau (2008, 353–354). While the final form of the vessels was created uniquely for Kabri, the cup (and possibly the duck-handled bowl) may recall northern drinking traditions – possibly the ancestral origin of Kabri's inhabitants. The reliance on mutual past traditions contributes further to the forging of this local identity, differentiating this polity from neighbouring ones.

The biconical juglets found in the Corridor assemblage are encountered mostly (or only) in funerary or ritual contexts. Of five alabaster vessels found in MB contexts at Kabri four originate in Tomb 498 and one from the floor above it (L510) (Scheftelowitz 2002a, 373; Scheftelowitz and Kempinski 2002, 52). Based on this observation, and particularly on the intentional placement of the damaged juglets with a lamp on top of the deposit, suggesting an intrinsic value, we may carefully suggest that these were formerly part of a burial assemblage.

Phase DW V: Expanded Palace

Phase DW V represents a significant expansion of the palace to the west and to the south (see Yasur-Landau *et al.* in this volume). Thick fill was poured over Floor 2346, in the northeastern part of the exposed remains (Fig. 1), for a new, skimpier, plaster floor to be laid over. A large cooking jar (Figs. 9:13; 10) was set into this fill, its mouth protruding above the level of the plaster floor. It has a short, everted gutter rim and a plastic decoration around its shoulder incised with a crisscross pattern. Its closest parallels can be found at Sidon, where two similarly shaped vessels were used as burial jars in late MB I, Phase 2 Tomb 18 (Doumet-Serhal 2004a, Fig. 37: S/1874, S/3055). The first is round with an everted rim and its shoulder is decorated with two bands incised with rope patterns; the latter – similarly to the jar found in L2347 – is ovoid and has an everted, rolled gutter

Fig. 13 Some sherds from Pit 2071; Phase DW IV.

rim. Two rows of fingernail impressions decorate its shoulder. There is no indication in the Sidon report that these vessels were made of cooking pot ware. A similarly shaped gutter-rimmed jar from ᶜAin Zurekiyeh (Gophna and Ayalon 1982, 74–76, Fig. 6: 5) is made of regular ware rather than cooking pot ware. Other parallels, one smaller in size and the other without decoration, come from Phase 2 and Phase 4 tombs in Aphek (Beck 2000a, 176, Figs. 10.2: 14, 10.3: 2, Stratum A XVII; Fig. 10.25: 2, Stratum A XII). Beck discusses this type in length and suggests that it continues an earlier tradition (*ibid*., 176).

The practice of setting jars into floors is well-known in the Kabri palace (Oren 2002, 58–59), and possibly in domestic levels preceding it (*ibid*., 55). It has been suggested that this custom is related to cultic practice (*ibid*., 68), but it should be considered, due to the wide synchronic and diachronic dispersion, that these jars had a functional use, such as cold storage, rather than ritual. Fig. 9:13 is the only example found in Kabri of a vessel embedded in a floor made of cooking-pot ware.

Loci 2052 and 2046

Phase DW V is also represented by a beaten earth surface (Loci 2052 and 2546; Fig. 1: southern room) above Fills 2056 and 2064 in the southern room, which may have been a courtyard outside the expanded palace, or, alternatively, a street or part of domestic quarters before the expansion of the palace further eastward.

Bowls in this locus are very few in comparison to the earlier loci in this room. This may be the result of a change in the function of this space after the palace construction. It is also possible that, if this was indeed an open space outside the palace complex, this locus contains mostly sporadic residual material that hardly represents palatial activity.

Open Bowl: Fig. 9:2 is a rounded bowl. Fig. 9: 1 has an out-folded rim that creates a triangular section and the appearance of a collar surrounding the mouth of the bowl. At Megiddo this type first appears in early MB I Str. XV (see, e. g., Loud 1948, Pl. 9: 2, 3; red-slipped rim) and is limited almost entirely to the MB I, making sparse appearances after Str. XIII. At Yoqneᶜam these bowls are limited to MB I Strata XXV and XXIVb as well. Red-slipped specimens appear contemporaneously with non-treated rims (Livneh 2005, Figs. II.4: 15; II.3: 3; II.13: 5). A similar bowl with a red-slipped rim was found also at Tel Burga (Kochavi *et al*. 1979, Fig. 10: 11). A photograph of a white-slipped bowl with a similar rim appears in Ory's account of the excavations at Tel Aphek (Ory 1938, Pl. XXX: 23). Apart from an additional, poorly stratified specimen, this is the only appearance of this type at Aphek (Beck 2000c, 242).

A notable find in this context is the spout of a Cypriot Red on Red bowl (Fig. 11). Parallels from the Levant and from Egypt include three spouted Red on Black bowls from Tell el ᶜAjjul (Petrie 1932, 12, Pl. 27: 10U; 1933, 12, Pl. 30: 10W, 10W3) from which a notably large number of RoR and RoB vessels were found (Åström 1972, 226–227; Maguire 2009, 189–198); examples from a disturbed context in Tell el-Dabᶜa (Maguire 2009, 157, 154 Fig. 42: DAB 315); and from MB II Tomb LVI in Ugarit (Schaeffer 1938, 236–238, Fig. 31: T). The spouted bowl from Kabri is of the style we can expect to find in an MB I context, but may be one of the earliest specimens known in a Canaanite site abroad (Matt Spiegelman, personal communication). This has strong implications for the early date in which maritime connections between Kabri and Cyprus were established.

Closed bowls: Only two were found in this context (Fig. 9:3, 4). Fig. 9:3 is carinated and red-slipped with a flaring rim. Fig. 9:4 was probably also carinated, has a flaring rim and no surface treatment. Both rims are similar in shape to bowl rims debuting in the earliest MB I phases in Aphek (e. g., Yadin 2009, Fig. 7.2: 8, Phase 1 Stratum X18; Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.12: 7, Phase 2 Stratum B Vc). They have no gutters like specimens from Phase DW VI. Carinated bowls of the type prevailing in the Corridor assemblage are not represented here.

Cooking pots in these loci (e. g., Fig. 9:6) are rounded and have a short everted rim.

Krater: Fig. 9:5 is a rounded krater with a sharply everted rim. It is similar in shape to the rounded cooking pots, but distinguished from them in its fabric (see, also, Yadin 2009, 112). At Aphek similar kraters are found only in Phase 1 and 2 (Yadin 2009, 112, 118, 142).

Storage jars: Early MB I types known from earlier loci, such as the elongated folded rim (Fig. 9:8, 9), folded rims with a pronounced ridge (Fig. 9:10–11) and triangular-sectioned rims (Fig. 9:12) appear here too.

A new, profiled rim type debuts in these loci: It is rolled out and has a double-ridged rim (Fig. 9:14–16). Parallels are found mostly in MB I contexts. At Akko this type debuts in Phase 4a (Beeri 2008, Pl. 9: 5). At Tell Ifshar this rim type appears in Phases Late A and B (Marcus 2008, Fig. 8:11) and possibly into Phase C (Ezra Marcus, personal communication) – all within the realm of the first half of the MB I. Based on petrography, at least one of the jars from Ifshar originates in the vicinity of Ugarit (Ezra Marcus, personal communication). It is therefore significant that at Kabri, too, where almost all storage jars are produced locally, at least one of these rims (Fig. 9:16) is a northern import (David Ben-Shlomo personal communication). At Aphek this type is considered a pithos rim (though it seems that no complete vessels were found to support this assertion) and referred to as the "double ledge profile rim" (Yadin 2009, 150–151); it first appears in Aphek Phase 1, but examples that are similar to the examples from Kabri appear in Phase 2 Stratum B Vc (Beck 2000b, Fig. 8.12: 27–28) and Phase 3 Stratum A XIVb (Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.11: 12). A similar rim type is frequent in the nearby Nahariya temple (Ben-Dor 1950, 28, Fig. 20: a–f), [8] where some of the examples have a flattened top, resembling, to a certain extent, the profiled rims found in the Corridor (Fig. 4:14, 17–18). An example from Kempinski's excavations comes from a Stratum 3 fill in Area C, and published only in the preliminary report (Meiron 1987, Fig. 13: 10).

Much of the pottery yielded from the Phase DW V loci, such as the closed bowls and the folded-rimmed storage jars, belongs to types originating early in the MB I and may thus be residual. However, judging by the appearance of Cypriot Red on Red pottery and by the stratigraphy, these contexts, like that from the Corridor, must represent the very end of the MB I at Kabri or even the beginning of the MB II: the beginning of Phase DW V. The double-ridged rim, an early or mid-MB I type in many sites (Ifshar A, Akko 4a, Aphek 2), thus makes its appearance in Kabri only during the late MB I/MB I–MB II. Several examples of this rim type were found in Shalem's excavations and in unstratified top soil layers above the rooms north and south of Wall 731. The latter may have originated in DW V contexts that were disturbed by extensive Iron Age and modern activity. Other than this, this vessel type seems to have disappeared from the assemblages almost as abruptly as it entered them.

Phase DW IV: Pre-Renovation Palace Floors

Between the expansion of the palace and its final days there were several renovation stages represented by floor raising and repairing and by the addition of walls in different rooms and halls. These changes were first discerned in sections cut by Kempinski's expedition and recorded as Stage 3B (Oren 2002, 63), which produced no pottery. During the 2008 season, excavation through the final palatial floor of Room 740, northwest of central palace Hall 611 (Fig. 1), revealed a pit (L2071) that was dug into the penultimate palace floor and sealed by the third and last floor of the room (Floor 2023). Pit 2071, similarly to the Corridor assemblage, represents a single event of deposition that must have been connected to renovations carried out in the palace. While it yielded a great amount of pottery that seemed rather homogenous in appearance – both in terms of ware and in typological variance – no complete vessels could be restored from this assemblage. Among 23 buckets full of body sherds that were packed together in

[8] Material from the Temple at Nahariya has little chronological value for our comparison and is brought here mostly to demonstrate the typological affinities between the two proximate sites. In his report Ben-Dor offers no parallels for these profiled rims, and while generally attributing the bulk of pottery from the temple to the MB II, based, it seems, solely on the presence of Tell el-Yahudieh ware (Ben-Dor 1950, 40), the appearance of which has since been dated to the MB I (Bietak and Kopetzky 2000, 97). The contexts of most vessels appearing in the report are not mentioned and no evidence is presented to support the chronological attribution of any of the types to a specific MB phase.

this 1.8 m × 1.25 m pit, indicative sherds were limited to rims, with only scant remains of bases. There were however several partial vessel bodies reconstructed, and storage jar rim fractions ran as high as 60%. This, again, might hint at the origin of these discarded sherds as a cleared floor that still contained the remains of broken vessels.

Three main types of vessels dominate this assemblage: storage jars with folded rims; shallow open bowls; and miniature rounded cooking pots with short everted rims. The conspicuous absence of carinated bowls and red slip must be noted here. Also found in this locus were three small sherds of a Cypriot Red on Red open vessel (in basket 2071–23) and a sherd of Cypriot WP Ware (reg. 2071/9–3), its surface too worn to enable further classification.

Open bowls have either an inverted rim with a ridge inside (Fig. 12:2–5) or a cut/beveled rim (Fig. 12:1). None bear traces of red slip. A notable exception is an open, red-slipped bowl with concentric grooves surrounding its rim (Fig. 12:6). No parallel could be found for this bowl, but the grooves seem to be a recurring theme seen on jugs and juglets in the pottery of Kabri and Nahariya, and on the local "Kabri cups" (Peilstöcker 2005, 263; see, also, Yasur-Landau, Cline and Samet 2011). These were likely the trademark of a local workshop.

Cooking pots: Fig. 12:9–11 are miniature cooking pots with everted rims, two of which have a gutter. Guttered rims are generally more common in MB I assemblages, but appear in MB II contexts as well. At Aphek, they are considered a MB I type (Yadin 2009, 161) with the only complete example appearing, nonetheless, in an early MB II locus (*ibid*., Fig. 7.19: 10). None of the Aphek examples are miniature. At Akko large gutter-rimmed cooking pots are attributed to Phase 3 (MB I–II) (Beeri 2008, Pl. 8: 1–4). Gutter-rimmed cooking pots are preponderant at MB I/MB I–II Tell el-Burak as well (Badreshany and Kamlah 2013, 85), where some vessels are also very small (*ibid*., Fig. 13: 1, 9). Miniature cooking pots with everted and gutter rims feature prominently in MB I Yoqneᶜam contexts and continue into the MB II (e. g., Livneh 2005, Fig. II.18: 1–4; MB II Stratum XXIIIa); the particular taxonomy does not always allow to draw comparison between specific types at the site to those at Kabri; however it seems that most guttered types are MB I forms that continue into the MB II only in small numbers (Livneh 2005, 43).

The appearance of several miniature cooking pots in a single palatial locus, in the western wing of the palace in which cooking pots are otherwise rarely represented is notable. The uncommonness of cooking pots in most of the palatial assemblage should be attributed to the fact that a palatial food-preparation area has not been found yet. A larger concentration of cooking pots found in the eastern palace wing (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Fig. 5.56: 2–4, 6) may be a clue to where that area might have been. The peculiar appearance of four miniature cooking pots in a single deposit that is limited almost entirely to three vessel types is an isolated case that may be evidence of exclusive food preparation or a form of feasting that took place in the palace's western wing.

Jars: Another notable nuance is the folded rim with a tapering edge, a pronounced ridge at the bottom and slight concavity on its inside (Fig. 12:12, 14–15). While the commonness of folded rims throughout most stages of the MBA deems these types low in chronological value, this specific variation with its undulating rim and very pronounced ridge seems to become more common in Kabri's later stages. While it is not always possible to convey in drawing, the jars in this locus are significantly coarser in make than earlier examples (Fig. 13).

The jar rims in Fig. 12:17 and 18 look like a poorly executed, non-elegant, guttered-rim version of the MB I elongated rim. However, comparison with other sites shows that similar rims are indeed considered later than the elongated rims. This is the case in Tel Mevorakh (Kempinski 1984, Fig. 14: 11–12) where Kempinski lists these rims with the MB II types (*ibid*., 56). At Aphek similar rims first appear in Phase 3 (Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.13: 22–23) and continue into Phase 4 (*ibid*., Fig. 10.20: 9).

The L2071 assemblage from a pit in Phase DW IV gives us further indication of a progressive decline in the aesthetics of pottery production for the palace. While the limited number of types represented in this assemblage and the longevity of the forms hinder a significant chrono-typological discussion, and point mostly to a specific use of the spaces from which vessels from this deposit originated, the sharp decline in the aesthetic quality from earlier phases is glaring. We see, again, that while some pottery traditions in Kabri continued with only minor changes to form, there is an evident shift from fine finishing of the pre-palatial storage vessels to the coarse, at times nearly careless, finish typical of the palatial assemblage. One

reason for this could be that a rise in efficiency was required from the potters for the production of a larger number of vessels, which would come at the expense of meticulous, time-consuming finishing. Also, if indeed some production was made specifically for the palace by designated workshops, the typical distribution process would have been altered, and the stress put on making a product that is cheap and quickly made. Visual attractiveness, which is crucial in a market economy, would have become less important. This assemblage is dated to the MB II based on the decline in the quality in ceramic production; on the near absence of surface treatment; and on its stratigraphic location. Based on the low typological variability displayed in it, we cannot suggest a more accurate date within the MB II.

Phase DW III: Post-Renovation Palace

Only the remains of jars and pithoi were found on Floor 2411 of the back room of the Orthostat Building (Yasur-Landau *et al*. 2012, 12). Besides rims, also found here were round, very robust bases, and thick, nearly straight-sided body sherds. Judging from these finds, the vessels stored in this room were most likely (and exclusively) handleless, tall ovoid pithoi. By comparison with complete pithoi that were recovered in Kabri previously, these would have stood between 70 and 100 cm tall.

Fig. 14:1 is a thickened rim that finds no exact parallels. The closest comparison for it, is a rim with a larger diameter from late MB I Stratum XXIVa at Yoqneᶜam (Livneh 2005, Fig. II.12: 4), for which Livneh, too, found no parallels. A similar rim type may also be found in Sidon (Doumet-Serhal 2003, Pl. 9: 6), where it is tentatively dated to the transitional MB I–II. Given the date of these parallels, it is likely that our example is residual. Fig. 14:2–3 shows simple, flaring rims of jars and pithoi, appearing already in DW VII and thus insignificant chronologically. Fig. 14:6 is a rolled rim of a pithos with the bottom detached from the neck. I could find no exact parallels for it in MB assemblages. Fig. 14:8 is a flaring rim of a wide-mouth vessel with a relatively thin wall. Its profile is not sufficiently preserved to determine whether it was a storage vessel or a krater.

The best preserved rims in this locus (30–95 % rim fraction) are seen in Fig. 14:4–5 and 7. Parallels for jars with a robust rolled rim (Fig. 14:4–5) can be found within the palace of Kabri in Kempinski's latest Stratum 3 Stages 3c and 3d, including on the latest palace floors and in fills above them (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Fig. 5.57: 10–13). A similar rim was also found in the topmost MB II locus (L104) in Shalem's salvage excavations at Kabri (Shalem 2009, Fig. 11: 5). Most recently, pithoi with similar rims were found in the late MB II storage room discovered at Kabri in the 2013 season (Yasur-Landau *et al*. 2013) alongside pithoi with robust folded rims; however, these are yet to be restored and drawn. Parallels for these rims, however, do not appear in more variegated assemblages *preceding* the final phase of the palace, meaning that at Kabri this type marks exclusively the last, post-renovation phase of the palace, and was possibly limited to large-scale storage facilities.

Parallels for these two vessels can be found elsewhere in Canaan and Lebanon, primarily in distinctive late MB II contexts, including Akko Phase 2a (Beeri 2008, Pl. 10: 19) and Hazor Stratum 3 (Yadin et al. 1961, Pl. CXLIV: 5). At Sidon, similar rims (non-restorable; probably residual) were found in a Late Bronze Age pit inside a Middle–Late Bronze Age building (Doumet-Serhal 2004b, Pl. 9: 11–12).

Fig. 14:3 belongs to another pithos, with a 17 cm diameter mouth. It has a sharply everted rim, forming a ledge surrounding the mouth of the vessel, and a flaring neck with subtle ridges. I could find no parallel for this type inside or outside Kabri, apart from a single jar in Area D3 Str. VII in Hazor (Local Stratum 4) (Yadin *et al*. 1958, Pl. C: 10), dated to early-to-mid MB II (Maeir 2010, 78, Fig. 21).

In all, the pottery from the floor of the Orthostat Building, essentially all of which comes from the back room of the building, seems to represent a rather limited function—that of storage carried out in medium-sized and large storage vessels.

The dating of this material to the late MB II relies on sparse comparative material that resembles the Kabri examples but is not identical to them. Material found on newly exposed palatial floors during the 2013 excavation season awaits restoration and analysis, and material from the floors of the latest building in Area D-South (Phase DS IIIa) is sparse. I have therefore supplemented the DW III assemblage from the Orthostat Building with forms found on the last palace floors, and in fills and debris found over them, from Kempinski and Neimeier's excavations (Fig. 15). Since these have been published and analysed

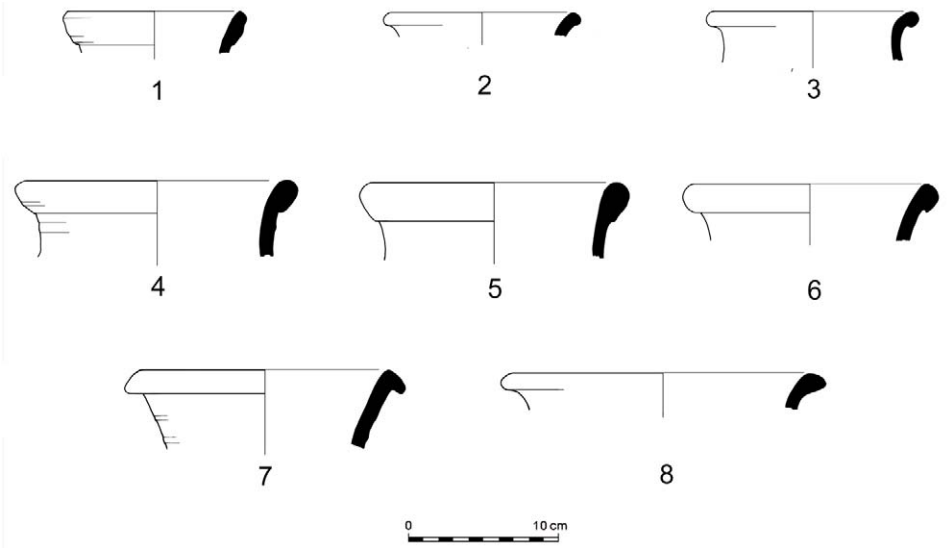

Fig. 14 Pottery from the Orthostat Building; Phase DW III.

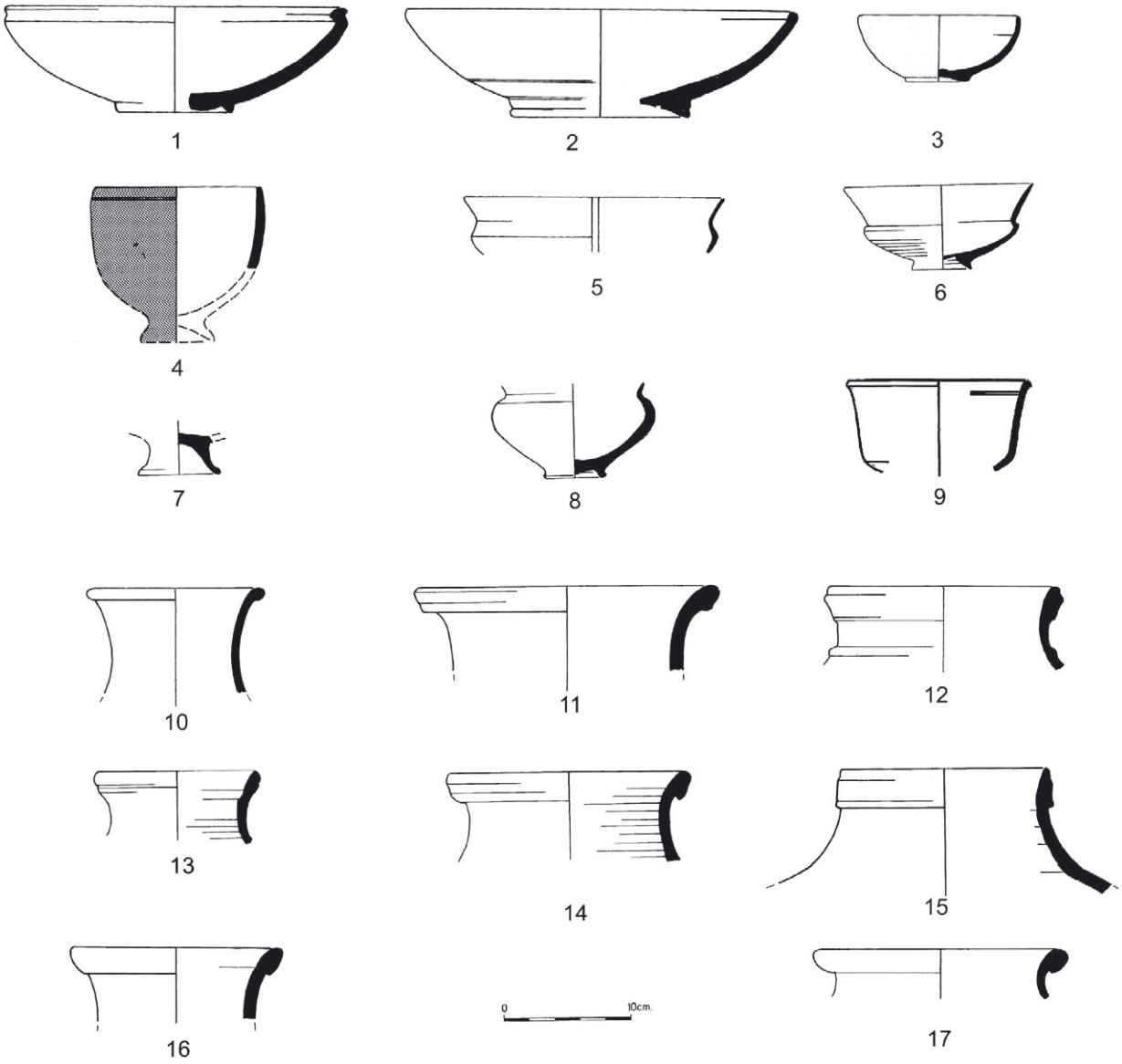

Fig. 15: Pottery from Stratum 3 floors and fills (based on figures in Kempinski *et al*. 2002).

Fig. 14: Pottery from Orthostat Building; Phase DW III

No.	Reg. no.	Vessel type	Locus
1	2410–29/1	Storage jar	2410
2	2410–3/6	Storage jar	2410
3	2410–29/2	Storage jar/pithos	2410
4	2410–24/1	Storage jar/pithos	2410
5	2410–22/2	Storage jar/pithos	2410
6	2410–4/7	Storage jar/pithos	2410
7	2410–20/1	Storage jar/pithos	2410
8	2410–21/1	Storage jar/Krater?	2410

Fig. 15 Pottery from Stratum 3 floors and fills (based on figures in Kempinski et al. 2002)

No.	Reg. no.	Locus	Reference
1	2562	728	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.49: 17
2	2719	757	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.49: 7
3	2732/100	751	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.47: 4
4	2718	757	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.47: 7
5	2726	759	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.48: 16
6	2919/100	1405	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.48: 14
7	2685	750	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.48: 18
8	9240	W1591	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.48: 11
9	2993	690	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.48: 8
10	2114	611	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 8
11	2075	608	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 9
12	2928	1411	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 16
13	2688	751	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 17
14	2117	607	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 13
15	2195	642	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 14
16	2075/1	608	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 12
17	9242	1581	Kempinski et al. 2002: Fig. 5.57: 11

(Kempinski et al. 2002), I will only review them briefly.

Pottery yielded from Stratum 3 contexts includes several MB II types that do not appear in Kabri's earlier phases: Ring bases are now dominant for both shallow and deep bowl types (Fig. 15:1–3, 6, 8). While there is a single shallow bowl with a low ring base in Akko Phase 4a (Beeri 2008, Pl. 1: 15) most examples for this type were found in Phase 2b contexts (*ibid*., Pl. 1: 12–14) Goblets with trumpet bases, also appear here (Fig. 15:4, 7; for Megiddo Stratum XI, see, e. g., Loud 1948, Pl. 37: 3; for Akko Phase 2b, see Beeri 2008, Pl. 4: 69, 71). Though the cup/goblet in Fig. 15:4, referred to in previous studies as the "Kabri Cup" (e. g., Yasur-Landau *et al*. 2011), is unique to Kabri and has no exact parallels elsewhere, a rounded bowl with a high ring base was found in Stratum XI in Megiddo (Loud 1948, Pl. 36: 9). Most carinated bowls are now open. Non-slipped bowls with flaring necks, simple rims and a sharp carination (Fig. 15:5–6), a hallmark of MB II–III (Amiran 1969, 94) are known from Megiddo beginning in Stratum XII (e. g., Loud 1948, Pl. 28: 13–18) and from Akko Phase 2b (Beeri 2008, Pl. 4: 68). Carinated bowls with a slightly flaring wall above the carination and an everted rim (Fig. 15:9) appear in Megiddo Stratum X (Loud 1948, Pl. 44: 10). A type with different proportions is found in MB II Aphek Stratum X16 (Yadin 2009a, Fig. 7.15: 5, 6, 20). A closed carinated bowl with the rounded body below the carination (Fig. 15:8) is also found in Stratum XII in Megiddo (Loud 1948, Pl 28: 12). At Aphek an earlier type with a disc base appears in Phase 4 (Beck 2000a, Fig. 10.21: 7; Stratum A XII). Storage jar rims are limited to several variations of folded rims, simple flaring rims and rolled rims, with no profiled rims. Other than the absence of the latter, no major change is recorded from previous phases.

To conclude, this assemblage can be dated to the mid- to late MB II based on parallels to Akko 2b, Megiddo XII–X and possibly Aphek X16, and does not introduce any types that are restricted to very late MB II or MB III strata elsewhere.

A large decorated amphora found on the floor of palace Hall 611(Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Figs. 5.15, 5.62) was denoted at first as a Chocolate on White vessel (*ibid*., 116). However, its shape being atypical of this family, and with no parallels, on its

own this amphora cannot be used as a chronological indicator for the demise of the palace (Cline, Yasur-Landau and Goshen 2011, 255).

The compelling evidence for setting the date of the palace's destruction remains the widely comparable mid-/late MB II assemblage rather than the limited, localised assemblage from the Orthostat Building and the singular decorated amphora.

Discussion and Conclusions:

Occupation at Kabri is attested already in the early MB I, slightly after the beginning of the MB I in a few Canaanite sites, as evidenced in tombs excavated by the Kempinski and Neimeier's expedition (e. g., Tombs 1045 and 1050; Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Fig. 5.22; Kempinski and Scheftelowitz 2002, 54). Domestic contexts yielding pottery that may also be dated to this period are represented in Phase DW VII in Area D-West (Loci 2068 and 2070). The earliest monumental edifice at the site was constructed over the domestic remains of Phase DW VII sometime between mid- and late MB I (Phase DW VI). The beginning of this phase is represented by Fills 2056 and 2064, laid in preparation for the palatial construction, and its end, by the rich Corridor assemblage, which also marks the expansion of the palace (Phase DW V). This assemblage contains forms that can all be found in early–late MB I phases in some sites, and yet, at other sites such as Akko and Tell el-Dabᶜa some of the types seen here appear only in the transition period between MB I and II. Other loci associated with Phase DW V (Floors 2046 and 2052) seem to contain mostly early residual material, but also Cypriot pottery that dates this phase to the end of the MB I at the earliest, and, more probably, to the beginning of the MB II. The expansion of the palace was followed by several events of renovation (Phase DW IV), most of which were not accompanied by the deposition of pottery. The exception is Pit 2071, dug into one of the palace's penultimate floors and filled with pottery. This assemblage is dated to the MB II based on the poor quality of its execution and the nearly complete lack of surface treatment, along with stratigraphic considerations, rather than on pure typological aspects. There is no evidence from this phase to allow any finer chronological conclusions. The last major renovation of the palace took place during the end of the MBA (Phase DW III). The Orthostat Building and the storage rooms (Yasur-Landau et al. 2013) west of it may have been annexed to the palace at this stage, and while the range of types originating in them is small, there is a marked difference in the storage jar assemblage yielded from them, that was now dominated by a new rim type known only from late MB contexts elsewhere. Pottery yielded from the palace floors during Kempinski and Neimeier's excavations includes several MB II types that do not appear in Kabri's earlier phases. All of these, however, can be dated to the mid-/late MBA based on parallels at Megiddo, Akko and Aphek.

Tomb 902 remains the latest context in Kabri, with Black Lustrous Wheel-made jugs (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Fig. 5.60: 6–7) and Chocolate on White bowls (*ibid*., Fig. 5.60: 13–16) dating it to the terminal MB phase (MB III) at the earliest (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, 120), and possibly even to the early LB (Bietak 2007, 272–275), and indicating that occupation at Kabri continued after the demise of the palace, which happened before the end of the MBA (see, also, Kempinski and Scheftelowitz 2002, 54; Maeir 2010, 114; Cline, Yasur-Landau and Goshen 2011, 255).

Generally, most MB pottery found in Area D-West, belongs to types that are ubiquitous in or common to sites in northern and central Canaan, Syria and Lebanon (see, also, Kempinski *et al*. 2002, 120). These include storage jars of different sizes with a variety of folded rims, rounded wheel-made cooking pots, carinated and open bowls, lamps and several forms of jugs and juglets. Of these, some types display local variations more than others. This phenomenon is attested mainly in palatial contexts: Carinated bowls found in the Corridor have rolled rims or very short flaring rims, as opposed to examples from other sites that have longer flaring rims. Most cooking pots found in the palace (e. g., in Pit 2071) are smaller and more delicate in comparison to the vast majority of pots found in MB assemblages at other sites.

The preponderance of locally produced wares at Kabri has been assumed based on typological observations (Meiron 1988, 28; Peilstöcker 2005, 263). Petrographic analysis that was carried out on a small sample of jugs and Tell el-Yahudieh vessels also points to an origin in the northernmost Canaanite and Phoenician coasts (Goren and Cohen-Weinberger 2002, 441–442). Generally, the MBA in Canaan is characterised by regionalism (e. g., Cole 1984, 95–96; Bunimovitz and Finkelstein 1993, 95; Maeir 2010, 63 with references to regional distinctions). The markedly local character of pottery, at times hindering comparisons with other sites, has been noted also by excavators of

Lebanese sites (e. g., Badreshany 2005, 61–62 for Tell el-Burak; Thalmann 2002, 366 for Tell ᶜArqa).

We can identify several trends in the production and consumption of pottery in the palace: The pre-palatial contexts presented here comprise a variety of vessel types with no predominance to one subtype over others. This is typical of domestic assemblages in which all household functions are represented. In several assemblages found in the palace, however, we find clear preferences to certain types or subtypes, while other vessel types are altogether missing. This gives us an indication of the function of the spaces from which these depositions derive.

In the case of the Corridor assemblage, for instance, many large storage jars/pithoi are presented, almost all with the two local rim types mentioned above. Other rim types are absent or scarce. Another notable fact is the outstanding absence of cooking pots from this large assemblage. This teaches us that at least one part of this deposit derived from nearby storage rooms containing similar vessels. We may further assume that the cooking area of the palace was farther away. The extraordinarily limited composition of Pit 2071 reflects the functions of storage and possibly that of exclusive feasting or dining.

This leads us to another aspect of consumption that is attested to in some palatial assemblages: while vessels in pre-palatial contexts easily find multiple parallels in the Canaanite corpus, new vessel types and subtypes appear after the construction of the palace, of which some are not only unique to Kabri but limited to its palace. In the Corridor we find many large storage vessels belonging to a single type along with the earliest example from Kabri of an open spouted krater and a cup, neither of which have contemporary parallels. It appears that new consumption patterns in the palace called for specialised vessels – either for the practical reason of bigger needs of this large-scale consumer, or because ritualistic behavior in the palace aimed at forging a local identity may have required a new set of message-conveying symbols, including banqueting vessels (see, also, Yasur-Landau and Samet 2013). Two additional drinking vessel types, not presented in this paper but discussed in length in a previous publication (Yasur-Landau, Cline and Samet 2011), are cups or goblets that are also exclusive to Kabri and were used by the private sector as well. These may be seen as attestations to the local evolvement of drinking traditions at the site after it entered the palatial phase.

Another chronological trend that can be established clearly from the palace's construction onward is a decline in the finish and aesthetic quality of some vessel types. Surface treatment of open bowls becomes increasingly less common after the expansion of the palace and thin-walled carinated bowls with delicate gutter-rims give way to courser, more open types with rolled rims. The striking example for this decline however is seen in storage vessels, which also show a large degree of uniformity in certain palatial assemblages, reflecting large-scale storage facilities in which many vessels of the same form and content were stored. We may assume that both phenomena are attributable to a growing degree of production regulation of these forms, which were probably manufactured exclusively for the palace. Some aesthetic aspects of pottery production that would be considered crucial in a market economy, would have been rendered less significant by production regulation focusing on cost effectiveness and efficiency; this, in turn, led to a decline in the production quality of the palatial storage vessels.

Cypriot pottery, which has been said before to appear in large quantities in MB II contexts in Kabri (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, 121) arrives at the site possibly as early as the MB I (see above; L2046, L2052) but is not nearly as common in palatial contexts as it is in domestic and private funerary contexts excavated by Kempinski's expedition. A considerable amount of Cypriot sherds was said to have been collected in the domestic courtyard in Area C (Kempinski and Scheftelowitz 2002, 39), but is not recorded in the report. Complete vessels were found mostly in intramural tombs excavated in this area (Kempinski *et. al*. 2002, 117–118; Tombs 309, 498, 984, late MB II Tomb 902),[9] with two restorable jugs found in its courtyard (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Figs. 5.17, 5.18), which is itself associated with the intramural burials mentioned above (see plan in Kempinski and Scheftelowitz 2002, Fig. 4.26). Cypriot pottery from Area C is all from closed vessels, except for a WP bowl rim fragment (Maguire 1987, Fig. 9:1; Kempinski *et al*. 2002, 119).

[9] Additional Cypriot WP Ware Cypriot jugs and juglets were found in tombs excavated by Ben-Yosef in 1969 in Area B. They remain at the IAA stores awaiting publication.

The finds of Cypriot wares from the palace are usually limited to sherds, with a single partially restorable juglet found in Stratum 3 (Kempinski *et al*. 2002, Fig. 5.55: 1). During our excavations, body sherds from only about twenty Cypriot vessels were collected in Areas D-West and D-South, most belonging to the WP family and almost all from small, closed containers. The Red on Red open bowl spout in early palatial Locus 2046 is a rare exception.

Almost all Cypriot vessels represented in Kabri are small, closed vessels, suggesting that they were traded for their precious contents (see also Maguire 2009, 53) and not incorporated into any local practices of serving and food consumption. Once the luxurious containers had been emptied (or less likely, when they were still full), they made their way into tombs as grave goods.

We also learn that despite its luxurious connotation, Cypriot pottery was not limited to the palace. In fact, given the evidence, it was considerably more common in the private sector. While maritime connections between Kabri and Cyprus (either direct or by agency) may have been established in the earliest palatial phase, they seem to have been the product of private enterprise (see, also, Kempinski and Scheftelowitz 2002, 54). Alternatively, the international connections fostered by the palace involved trade in other commodities, which is not manifested in the ceramic record. This requires a reevaluation of the role of imported pottery, specifically Cypriot ware, in the palatial economy of Kabri.

In a study assessing the manifestation and role of foreign cultural influences attested to in the palace of Kabri (Cline *et al*. 2011), it has been proposed that Kabri, despite its prominence in the Canaanite littoral, was a secondary player in the political arena to powers such Hazor and Tell el-Dabᶜa. Its rulers, therefore, did not have access to resources of similar magnitude and may have made different choices from their peers in electing investment venues to demonstrate their foreign connections and, subsequently, their power (*ibid*., 258). It is very possible that, given the limited resources, direct, organised trade with Cyprus was considered unlucrative by the rulers, as it would have required many resources, while not necessarily achieving the desired result of allowing the rulers to boast their cosmopolitanism through highly visible media. Resources were channeled instead toward lavish decoration of one phase of the palace with Aegean art (Neimeier and Niemeier 2002; Cline *et al*. 2011, 258). Cypriot vessels may have been purchased privately by elites and non-elites through "small business sailor's trade" (see Artzy 1985, 99) that did not involve a complicated, costly system.

From its foundation in the mid-/late MB I to its demise in the mid-/late MB II, the palace in Kabri grew increasingly self-sustaining. Local workshops controlled by the ruling elite produced both storage and serving vessels exclusively for the palace. The shift toward specialised production is evident in increasing typological localisation and in a decline in aesthetic quality of functional vessels, such as storage jars. New serving and drinking vessels, finding no parallels in other sites, were probably used for banqueting: the inhabitants of the palace, wishing to enhance a mutual local identity among elites and non-elites, adopted these new forms to create a "Landscape of meaning", differentiating Kabri from other polities and strengthening a form of local patriotism. International connections, manifested by foreign art that decorated the walls and floors of at least one phase of the palace, left almost no mark on the ceramic repertoire. Imported Cypriot pottery was found mostly in private sectors, meaning the rulers may have not controlled all or any aspects of Cypriot trade. The relative paucity of Cypriot ware in the palace may be another manifestation of the elite's preference for localised vessels and their reluctance to embrace some foreign forms that would affect local traditional behaviour. Alternatively, it may be the result of the rulers' economic priorities, dictating investment in more lucrative venues. In either case, this requires a new examination of the role of international trade in Kabri's palatial economy.

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